

MAY 1983 VOL. 1 ISSUE 6

The Monthly Journal for Commodore Computer Users



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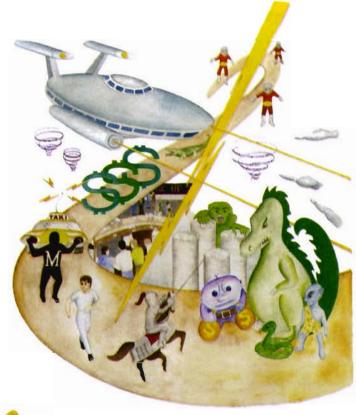
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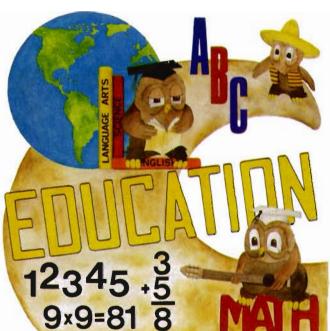
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GROW WITHUS.

VIC 20™ and Commodore 64™ expansion products from Micro Systems Development.

A The Interbus Series. Three interfaces for the VIC 20 and Commodore 64: one for IEEE 488, one for RS 232 and one for Parallel.

The VIE and CIE are IEEE 488 interfaces for the VIC 20. When plugged into the expansion port, the cartridge is "transparent," that is, the user can still attach other peripherals without any interference. Devices such as 4040, 8050, 2031, 2032, 4022 and 8023 can be controlled. The IEEE software can be called by using the 'SYS' command, even in the middle of a BASIC program.

The V232 and C232 are serial interface cartridges which

The V232 and C232 are serial interface cartridges which allow connection of various input/output devices such as printers, modems, plotters, etc. to VIC 20 or Commodore 64 computers. Features include: positive and negative voltage swings to meet full EIA standards, straps and jumpers to allow reconfiguration to meet pinouts for any RS232 device, and software selectable reconfiguration such as baud rate, parity, and duplex mode.

The VPI and CPI are parallel interfaces for the VIC 20 and

The VPI and CPI are parallel interfaces for the VIC 20 and Commodore 64. These interfaces provide direct BASIC use of the parallel printer bus and give "invisible" access to the bus. The VPI can be used only on the VIC 20 and uses the expansion port. The CPI will work with both the VIC 20 and Commodore 64 and does not use the expansion port. The CPI also has switches for setting insertion or deletion of line feed, conversion of Commodore ASCII into standard ASCII or visa versa, addresses printer to device 4, 5, 6 or 7, and allows normally unprintable Commodore characters to be printed in a recognizable form.

B Expandoport Series. Expandoport 3 and Expandoport 6 are three- and six-slot expansion boards for the VIC 20. Each slot on the Expandoport 6 has a switch for controlling power to that connector. The switch allows the use of cartridges which respond to the same memory space. The Expandoport 6 also has a fuse and reset switch. The fuse prevents excessive current drain from the VIC 20 and protects it from 'shorts'. The reset switch allows the user to 'Restart' the VIC 20 without turning power off. This feature allows RAM, which is located in the ROM expansion area, to be protected during 'Restart'.

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C Terminal Pak Series. The VTE 40 Terminal Emulator (VTE 40) is a hardware and software package which converts the VIC 20 into a 40-column communications terminal. The VTE 40 cartridge is complete. Various set-up parameters such as baud rate, parity, duplex, and bits per character can be selected through a 'menu' format. VTE 40 features are: 40 x 25 text display, user definable communication specs, smooth or normal scroll, print information to printer or disk, generation of control codes, selective omission of data, continuous status line.

The CTE/VTE Terminal Emulator (CTE/VTE) is a software

The CTE/VTE Terminal Emulator (CTE/VTE) is a software program which converts the VIC 20 or Commodore 64 into a terminal. The user can 'software select' the baud rate compatible with the modern used. Full upper and lower case characters are supported.

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A Interbus Series.



B Expandoport Series.



C Terminal Pak Series.



D Audio Link

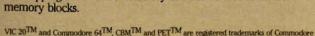


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Printed By GRANGE PRINTING

COMMANDER is published monthly by: MICRO SYSTEMS SPECIALTIES, PO Box 98827, Tacoma, Washington 98498

Subscription Rates (U.S. Funds)	Per Year
U.S.	\$22.00
Canadian, Mexican	\$26.00
Surface Rates	\$37.00
Air Mail	\$54.00

For back issues, subscriptions, change of address or other information, write to: COMMANDER PO Box 98827 Tacoma, Washington 98498 (206) 584-6757

BACK ISSUES— 2 months old-\$4.50

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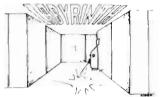
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All of the Adventures in this ad are in Basic. They are full featured, fully plotted adventures that will take a minimum of thirty hours (in several sittings) to play.

Adventuring requires 16k on Sinclair, TRS-80, and TRS-80 Color. They require 8k on OSI and 13k on VIC-20. Sinclair requires extended BASIC. Now available for TI99.

TREK ADVENTURE by Bob Retelle - This one takes place aboard a familiar starship and is a must for trekkies. The problem is a familiar one - The ship is in a "decaying orbit" (the Captain never could learn to park!) and the engines are out (You would think that in all those years, they would have learned to build some that didn't die once a week). Your options are to start the engine, save the ship, get off the ship, or die. Good Luck.

Authors note to players - I wrote this one with a concordance in hand. It is very accurate and a lot of fun. It was nice to wander around the ship instead of watching it on T.V.

DERELICT by Rodger Olsen and Bob Anderson - For Wealth and Glory, you have to ransack a thousand year old space ship. You'll have to learn to speak their language and operate the machinery they left behind. The hardest problem of all is to live through it.

Authors note to players - This adventure is the new winner in the "Toughest Adventure at Aardvark Sweepstakes". Our most difficult problem in writing the adventure was to keep it logical and realistic. There are no irrational traps and sudden senseless deaths in Derelict. This ship was designed to be perfectly safe for its' builders. It just happens to be deadly to alien invaders like you.

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Authors note to players — This is a very

entertaining and very tough adventure. I left clues everywhere but came up with some ingenous problems. This one has captivated people so much that I get calls daily from as far away as New Zealand and France from bleary eyed people who are stuck in the Pyramid and desperate for more clues.

MARS by Rodger Olsen - Your ship crashedon the Red Planet and you have to get home. You will have to explore a Martian city, repair your ship and deal with possibly hostile aliens to get home again.

Authors note to players - This is highly recommended as a first adventure. It is in no way simple—playing time normally runs from 30 to 50 hours — but it is constructed in a more "open" manner to let you try out adventuring and get used to the game before



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Circle No. 1

VIC-20

Telecommander

by Donald L. Stoner Mercer Island, WA

After the novelty wears off and you've typed in the simple programs in the user guide, what do you do with your new computer? You can (and should) study the commands and learn how they relate to the programs you've entered. In a very short time, you'll acquire a very respectable knowledge of BASIC and how it operates.

However, if you are a typical new VIC or C-64 owner, "byte boredom" takes over at some point. Few newcomers realize it, but the acquisition of a computer can unlock the door to an exciting new world. I am not referring to programming or playing computer games.

Rather, the "new frontier" is telecommunications. In other words, connecting your computer, by means of the telephone network, to another computer. You can interact with tens of thousands of others just like yourself. The craze is sweeping the country just like CB did a few years ago (in fact, there are some remarkable similarities). You can communicate with another "good buddy," clear across the country simply by making a local telephone call. There are also free dial-up bulletin boards and inexpensive national data bases (collections of information) at the other end of your telephone wire. More about these later.

My command of the English language is simply inadequate to convey the thrill of computer-to-computer communications. While I consider myself a jaded computerist, I still get a "kick" out of keyboarding and trading programs with someone thousands of miles away. If you have any doubt about whether computer telecommunications is for you, locate someone who is already "telecommunicating" and ask for a demonstration. I have yet

to find anyone who doesn't like to show off his communications setup. Check with your user group or local computer store. They will refer you to someone who will be glad to get you "hooked."

How Does Computer Telecommunications Work?

To explore this exciting new world, you will require two items. The first is called a modem. This device is used to interface your computer to the telephone line. The word is a contraction of the terms modulator and demodulator.

The purpose of the modem is to slow down and convert the data bits racing around inside your computer to a form that can be sent over the telephone line. This is accomplished by converting the ones and zeros into standardized tone pairs, similar to what you hear when you press the keys on your telephone.

The telephone spectrum (300 to 3000 cycles) is divided up into two sections in order to keep your tones separated from those of the computer you are talking to. One pair has a frequency of 2225 cycles (a one) and 2025 cycles (a zero). A second pair is established at 1270 cycles (a one) and 1070 cycles (a zero). Thus, you send one pair of tones, while the computer you are "talking" to sends the opposite pair. The electronic circuitry to convert the ones and zeros to tones is called the modulator. If you haven't already guessed, the circuit to convert the incoming tones back into ones and zeros is called the demodulator. The box which combines both these circuits is called a modulator-demodulator or modem.

There are two principal types of modems presently in use. The older type is called an acoustic coupler. As the name implies, the incoming and outgoing tones are coupled into the telephone line acoustically. This is done by placing the telephone handset into little rubber cups. Below the cups (inside the black box) is another microphone and earphone very similar to the ones inside your telephone. While they are now obsolete, acoustic couplers were quite popular. They do not connect to the telephone line and, therefore, did not require approval of the Federal Communication Commission.

Because they use acoustics, these modems are extremely noisy. You can always hear the whistles and in a quiet room, the noise is very distracting. Further, they pick up noise (such as a clacking typewriter) which produces "garbage" in the transmission.

The shortcomings of the acoustic coupler were overcome with a more modern type called a direct connect modem. This device couples to the telephone line electronically and does not depend on sound waves. Direct connect modems are far more sensitive and reliable than the acoustic type. Fortunately either type uses the same tone frequencies as those just discussed. Thus, if you have a direct connect modem, you can still communicate with someone using a "whistle box." As long as both modems are Bell 103 (or 113) specification compatible, they can communicate with each other.

There is another technical detail that you should be familiar with. If you are telecommunicating with a friend, you must use the proper tone pairs. For example, if you both send on the high band pair, the signals will "butt heads" and no communications will result. One modem must send the 1270/1070 pair and receive the 2225/2025 pair. A modem sending and receiving these

pairs is said to be in the "originate mode." The other modem must send the 2225/2025 pair, while receiving the 1270/1070 pair and is therefore in the "answer" mode. The terms have nothing to do with who originates or answers the telephone call. The data bases you call will usually be in the answer mode. Most of the time you will leave your modem in the originate mode.

Incidentally, I should point out that when one is able to transmit and receive data at the same time, he is considered to be operating in the full duplex mode. There are some universities and colleges that utilize the half duplex mode (only one way at a time). While these are rapidly being replaced, the modem user must be aware of what type of system he or she is "talking" to.

Another term that you may have heard of is called the baud rate, or you may have seen advertisements describing 300 baud modems. All Bell 103/113 modems operate at 300 baud. While the definition of the term baud is somewhat complex for the beginner, it is sufficient to say that it is approximately equal to a transmission speed of 30 characters per second. Obviously you cannot type this fast. However, if you were to transfer programs from say a disk file, this is how fast the characters would transfer over the telephone line. Most good readers can follow a 300 baud transmission without slowing it down or pausing the transmission.

What Do I Need For Telecommunications?

The Commodore Modem—Obviously you will need a modem. Presently, the Commodore modem provides the best price performance ratio for your money. For approximately the cost of 2-3 game cartridges, you can purchase the Commodore modem. Their little brown box lacks the "bells and whistles" that are found on other modems and it could use a bit more sensitivity. However, at a discounted price of approximately \$89, it is a real bargain. The folks with more "pricey" computers pay two to six times as much for a modem. Personal-

ly, I feel that \$89 is a small price to pay for the key that opens the door to the exciting new world of telecommunications.

Software —Earlier, I mentioned that you will need two items in order to connect your computer to the telephone network. The second item you will require is, of course, the software to make the modem function properly. You can pay anywhere from \$10.00 to \$150.00 or more for communications software. However, to permit you to keep your communications below \$100, I've included a "dumb" terminal program along with this month's column. The term "dumb" means that you can only communicate from your keyboard to another computer. There is no provision for transferring files or programs. This type of software is called a "smart" terminal program.

How Do I Get On-Line?

Making The Connection— Interfacing your computer to the telephone network is called going "online." Connecting the modem to your VIC or C-64 is extremely simple. The device plugs into the user port card edge connector at the left rear corner of your computer. The interface to the telephone line is made by unplugging the cord from the handset. The procedure is to dial the computer with which you wish to communicate. When you hear their high pitch whistle, unplug the cord from the handset and plug the free end into the modem. At this point the little red light should illuminate, indicating you are receiving the carrier from the other computer. Generally, you will want to be in the "originate" mode, since the majority of computers you "call up" are in the answer mode.

Adapters—A word of caution is in order. If you are in the General Telephone system, or are serviced by one of the independents, you may have a problem using the Commodore modem. Many telephone handsets have the cords "hardwired" and they are not removable. If this is the case in your home, you will need to purchase an adapter that allows you to interface the modem directly with the telephone line.

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By the way, if you would like to use another type of modem, you can buy an adapter for this too. You may want a more elegant modem than the Commodore device or, better yet, may be able to "scrounge" one from a friend or pick up a bargain acoustic type at a computer "flea market." Bytesize Micro Tech (Box 21123, Seattle, WA 98111, telephone (206) 236-BYTE) makes an adapter that plugs into the user port and interfaces with most modems. The adapter provides the necessary level shifting and polarity changes to make most modems compatible with the VIC or C-64. It also supports the autodial-autoanswer functions of the MicroConnection modem made by The MicroPeripheral Corp. of Redmond, Wa.

The Dumb Terminal

In order to make your Commodore work properly in conjunction with the modem, you will require software or. as it is commonly called, a terminal program. The listing in Figure 1 is about as simple as the program can be made. You should be able to enter it on your keyboard and save it on cassette in approximately 5-10 minutes.

Line 10 opens the communications channel to the modem. The 38 sets the baud rate at 300, while the 224 selects a seven bit word, even parity and one stop bit. The 14 in line 20 switches to upper/lower case and the 147 clears the screen and homes the cursor. To keep the program simple, I did not optimize the screen color. If you would like to experiment, you can add a POKE 36879,137 on this line. Try other numbers instead of the 137 for different arrangements.

The GOSUB in line 40 branches off to the input/output buffer setup routine between lines 1000 and 1060. Commodore does not use the standard ASCII computer code and it is necessary to establish translation tables to convert Commodore to ASCII (output) and ASCII to Commodore (input). Line 1045 is rather important and you should understand its significance. The CONTROL key on the VIC-20 does not permit sending control characters as one might expect. These

characters are very important when communicating with various data bases. Line 1045 redefines function keys F1 through F4 to transmit Control C (03), S (19), Q (17) and P (16). Next month, when we discuss one of the popular information services, you'll see why these keys are so important. You can add additional control characters for the F5-F8 keys. For example, if you wanted to make the F5 key send a bell character (Control G), you would simply add 0%(137) = 07.

Once the tables are established, the screen again clears and prints the ready indication. The terminal portion of the program is contained between lines 210 and 320. Line 210 checks the modem to see if there is an incoming character. If none is found, the program branches to 300 and checks the keyboard to see if you want to send a character. If none is found, the program bounces back to 210. If a modem character is found, it is printed by line 220. If a keyboard character is found, it is printed by line 310.

Note that the CHR\$(187) in lines 200 and 220 determine the cursor character. This number can be changed if you would prefer a different type of cursor. By the way, the program will leave a cursor marker each time a line feed is received.

I've used more than my allocated space this month and it's time to shut down the word processor. Next month, we'll take a guided tour through CompuServe Information Service, one of the nation's largest information utilities.

OPEN2,2,3,CHR\$(38)!CHR \$(224)

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Logic Gates:

A Light Technical View

by Howard Rotenberg Ontario, Canada

Most of us, at some time have used the logical operators AND, OR and NOT in our programming. To use these operators we of course must know what function it is that they perform. This is an obvious deduction; however, many people who use these operators have no idea what the actual technical aspect of them is. It is because of this that I have decided to write this article. It will deal lightly with logic gates to give the non-technical programmer more of an insight into what actually occurs within any circuit when these operations take place.

The three logic gates (as I will now refer to them) that I have chosen to deal with are the AND, OR and NOT gates, as stated earlier. The role of logic gates is somewhat similar to that of the role of bricks, concrete and wood to the building of a house. In both cases these can be considered the fundamental building blocks of a complete system. We may implement a complete computer system using only these three building blocks. This, however, is not feasible, but it remains a reality. I will not get into semiconductor theory, however we will touch upon a bit of the electronics behind these gates. First, we will just deal with the mechanical aspects of them.

The OR Gate—Let us consider turning on a car's dome light. We all know that this may be done by two methods. The first way is to open the front door and the second is by actually turning on the switch on the instrument panel. In this case there are two switches involved. If we look at Figure #1 we can see a simple circuit diagram which shows this operation. We can see that there are two switches that are connected in parallel to a lamp. If we close switch A or we close switch B the lamp will be supplied power and turn

on. The key here is of course the choice of switch A OR B. This setup of parallel switches is referred to as an OR gate. Along with the OR circuit I have shown a few other small diagrams. The one I will start with is probably the most familiar to you. This is the truth table. I have represented a closed switch with a T for true and an open switch with an F for false. By examining the truth table we can see that the lamp will be on if either switch A (OR) switch B is closed. The only condition that will not actuate the lamp is #1 where both switches are open or false.

This is a representation of a two input OR state, however we are certainly not confined to any particular number of inputs. The use of switches has been used to easily show the operation of the gate. Shortly I will show the electronic way of doing this, that is used in today's modern electronic circuits.

The other two small diagrams above the truth table are the accepted ways to show this particular gate. It would be highly impractical to draw the other diagrams for every gate you wanted to show. The first diagram is the industry standard that you would see on most schematics. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc. approved the symbol shown beside the more familiar one. You probably recognize the term IEEE on the diagram that is the short form for the above mentioned institute.

The AND Gate—The second gate that I will discuss is the AND gate. Once again I will show a mechanical representation of this gate. The use of T for closed swtich and an F for an open one remains constant. If we consider a condition that we want two switches to be pressed for operation,

Figure #2 shows this. Once again we see two switches connected to a lamp and a power source. The big difference this time is that the switches are connected in series. In order for the lamp to be turned on both switch A (AND) B must be closed. If we once again look at the truth table for the AND gate we can see that the lamp will be on only if both switches are pressed. If only one switch is closed the circuit is still open and the lamp will not be turned on.

The logic symbols that represent the AND gate are shown along with the mechanical circuit. These two symbols show a two input AND gate and may be expanded also to any number of inputs to accommodate the users requirements.

The NOT Gate—The NOT gate (Figure #3) is very often referred to as an inverter. This is because the output of a NOT gate is the opposite of the input. That is to say, if the input is high (TRUE) then the output is false. I have shown a circuit that contains what is called a normally closed switch. This means that when the switch is NOT pressed there is electrical contact and the circuit is closed. We can further interpret the circuit as follows. The lamp will be on if the switch is NOT pressed. The opposite is true when the switch is pressed. This will break the electrical circuit and turn the lamp off. We can state this one more way. The NOT gate will complement the input. The truth table provided shows the two possible conditions for our circuit. With the input false, the output is true and with a true input our output is false.

The logic symbols are once again shown. This gate is restricted to one input and one output for normal use.

Electronic Gates—While the three mechanical circuits I have shown may

certainly have their useful applications, they are highly impractical for any complex electronic design. Can you imagine building a computer with mechanical switches? The speeds and reliability demanded from today's computers or other electronic devices would certainly call for electronic logic circuits. The most basic ideas of electronic gates may be realized by the use of diodes. To go one step further we should consider the diode as nothing else but an electronic switch. Without going into semiconductor theory. I would like to show how the diode is used for this method and why it works.

We will be referring to Figure #4 and Figure #5 for the following description. A diode is a semiconductor device that will pass current only one way. This is when it is forward biased or anode positive with respect to the cathode to put it another way. When this condition is met the diode acts like a closed switch. The other situation we may have is when the diode is reverse biased or anode negative with respect to the cathode. When this is the case the diode acts like an open switch. The diode cannot pass current unless it is forward biased so it is an ideal switch. There is a very big difference however. since our diode switch is no longer physically opened or closed. It is now done by electrically applying a forward or reverse bias. This brings us a very large improvement in the switch's operating speed since the input signals are no longer mechanical, but electrical. Figure #4 shows a diode that is forward biased. The voltages needed to do this are indicated. The diode as shown will act like the closed switch. In Figure #5 the reversed biased diode is shown along with its mechanical representation. As you can see it will now act like an open switch. More practically, transistors are used in a small silicon substrate chip that is put into a small package. Most integrated circuits are a combination of diodes, resistors, transistors and other components fabricated onto a single chip. We will stay with the diode for most of our purpose since it is the least complicated of the two devices.

A Two Input Diode OR Gate-If

we look at Figure #6 we see a two input diode OR gate along with its corresponding truth table. We will assume that our two inputs A and B may be either 0 or +5 volts and nothing else. If we apply +5 volts to either A or B. this will forward bias that diode and current will be able to flow in the circuit. This in turn will cause a voltage drop across the resistor R. It doesn't matter which diode the voltage is applied to since either will cause a voltage drop across the resistor. If both inputs are 0 volts there will be no voltage drop across the resistor. This circuit is operationally exactly the same as the two parallel switches in Figure #1. I have now started to use H and L for the voltage levels in the truth tables since they will not always be +5 volts.

We may add as many diodes to the circuit as we want, depending on our needs. We can summarize our example by saying that a two input OR gate will produce a high output when one input OR the other input OR both are high.

A Two Input And Gate—As before we will use two diodes and the same rules for their biasing stand. I would just like to mention that to put the input at Øvolts we must ground it. Leaving it open (or floating) does not satisfy a low input.

We will refer to Figure #7 for this next part. If we put both inputs at a 0 volt potential (ground them) then the diodes will be forward biased. This, as we said before, means that they will conduct or act like two closed switches between the output and ground. This will put the output at nearly our ground potential which will be low. This is shown by the truth table. If we follow the truth table down, we see that for the second and third case only one diode is forward biased. This will still place the output at ground potential still giving us a low at the output. In the last case only we find that neither diodes is forward biased, turned on or if you want to think of their switch counterparts, closed. Since the output is not shorted, but rather connected to the power supply, the circuit will now produce a high output.

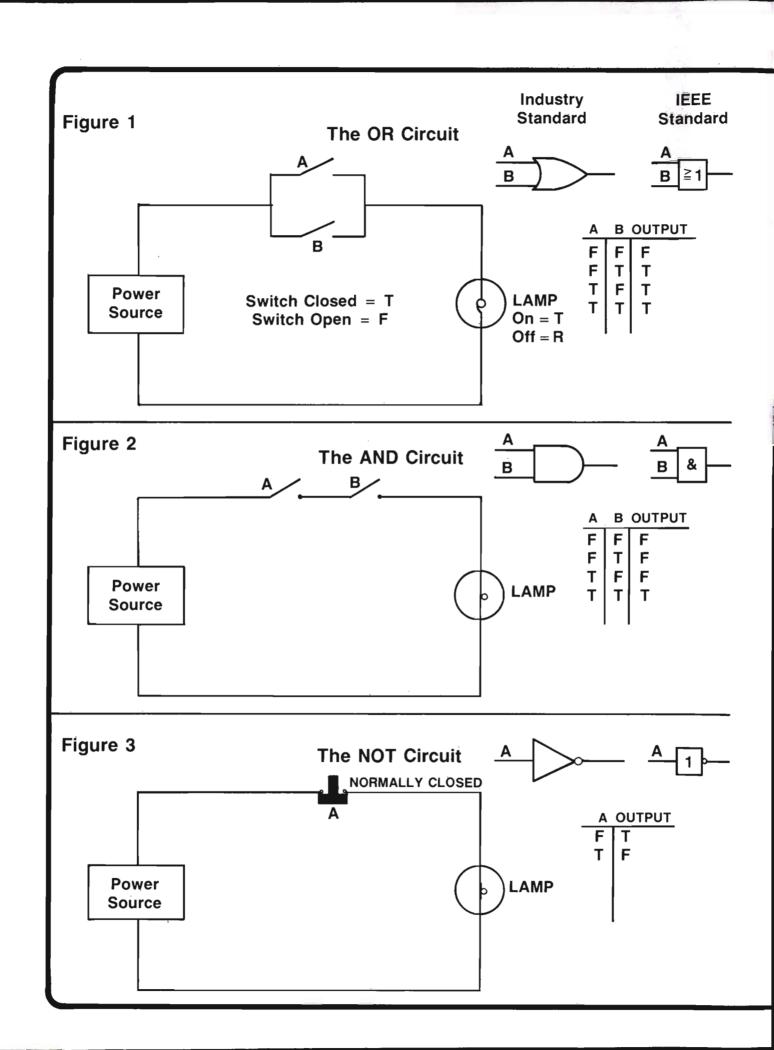
Once again we may add as many

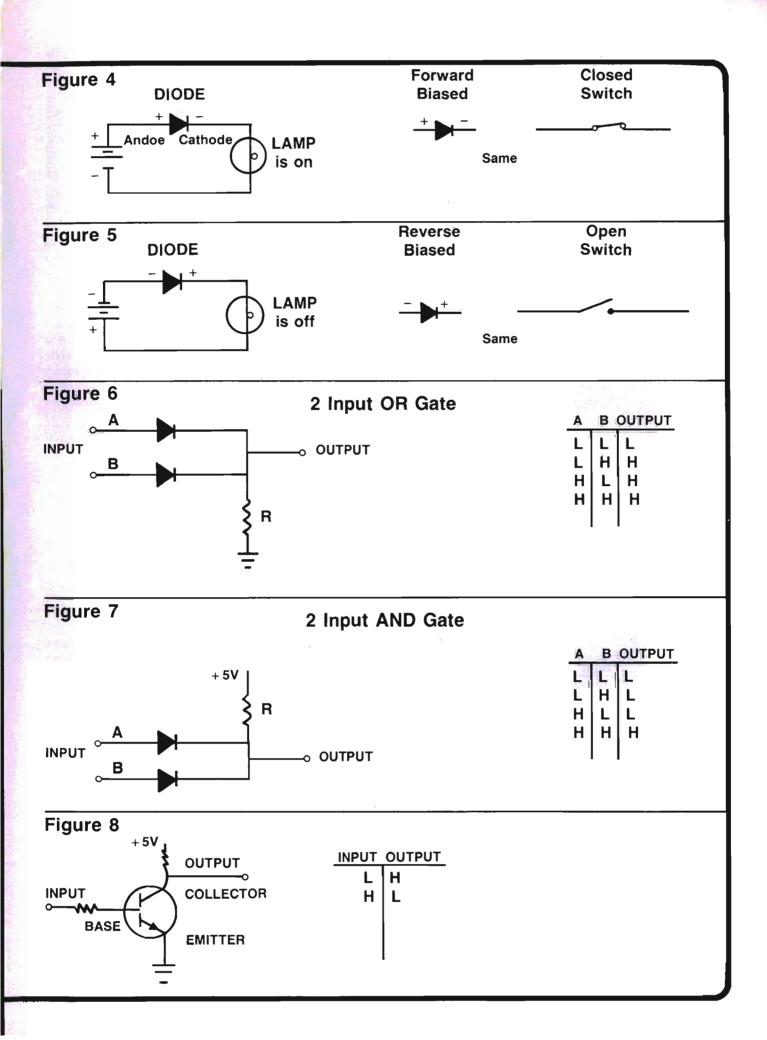
diodes to the circuit as we want. In summarizing this two input AND gate we may say that a 2 input AND gate will only produce a high output when BOTH inputs are high.

A NOT Gate—We finally come to the last basic gate shown in Figure #8. This is the NOT gate that will be demonstrated by the use of a transistor. The function is to complement the input. i.e. When the input is low the output is high and when the input is high the output is low. Since I have used a transistor it will be a little more difficult to follow but you may think of the transistor as two diodes back to back. If we apply 0 volts to the input, there will be no base current or no collector current. This means that the transistor will act like an open switch. This in turn means it has no effect on the output which we have connected to five volts, therefore it will remain at five volts or high. The other case we may look at is when we apply +5 volts to the input. This will forward bias the transistor and the output will be connected to ground through the collector-emitter circuit. This will now act as a closed switch leaving the output at ground level or low. In actuality there will be a very small voltage drop across the base emitter junction (.6 volts), however this is not relevant to our example.

To summarize the NOT gate we may say that the inverter will produce a high output when the input is low and a low output when the input is high.

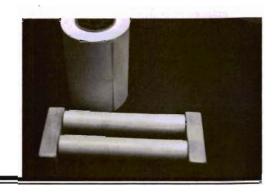
Summary-I believe that a little knowledge of what goes on inside the computer or logic gates may be useful to a non-technical user. If nothing else I hope it will bring the user a little closer to what is actually happening in there. At best I hope it will open some doors that may inspire you to look into a little bit of hardware and who knows, maybe even put together or design some little peripheral for your computer. Although it seems unreal, the fact remains that with just nearly the three logic gates a complete system may be implemented. The rest is all up to you.





Universal Roll Paper Holder

by Louis F. Sander Pittsburgh, PA



Most printers which take 8½" x 11" sheets will also work with roll paper of the sort that is widely available for Teletypes and other machines. In many applications, the roll paper's low cost makes it a better alternative than fanfold or individual sheets. But the add-on adapters to hold the roll and feed it to the printer are often costly, and many dealers don't stock them. When they are installed, changing back and forth between rolls and other types of paper can be a troublesome chore. This article describes an

using a hand drill can build it in less than an hour, and the materials should cost less than \$8.00 at any store with a housewares department.

The picture shows the finished roll holder. The two rollers are nothing more than standard kitchen rolling pins. The ones I used are made by Ekco, and have a steel center rod with nylon sleeve bearings; they turn easily and smoothly, with no bumps or vibrations. To construct the roll holder, just make two of the end

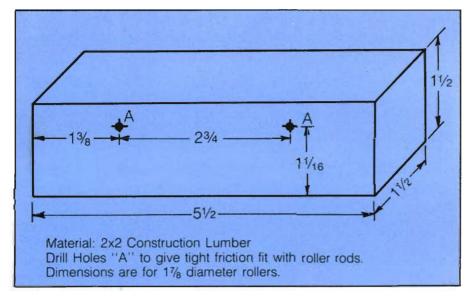
lumber. If you are not comfortable sawing wood, ask the man at your lumberyard to cut the pieces to length for you, and he should oblige. If he doesn't, take your business elsewhere. If your rolling pins have a different diameter than mine, you may have to alter the dimensions of the end pieces accordingly. Just be sure the rollers clear the table and the top surface of the end pieces, so your paper will be able to turn freely.

That's all there is to the construction of the roll holder, and there's not much more to its use. Just set the holder in the proper place behind your printer, lay the paper on it, and feed the end into the printer. If the holder is parallel to your platen, nothing should bind up or get out of line. Changing rolls could not be simpler, and the holder can handle rolls of any width or diameter—am currently using a very large roll that was intended for an obsolete copy machine.

The inertia of a heavy roll of paper may cause an occasional line feed problem, as it did with my Selectric—the line feed mechanism just wasn't designed to pull a ten-pound roll, even if it **is** supported on a low-friction holder. I overcome that problem by manually unwinding several feet of paper and letting it drape off the desk behind the roll holder. Every five pages of printing I have to repeat the process, but that is by no means a burdensome chore.

All in all, this holder has been a perfect solution to my need for roll paper capability, and I hope it will be the same for yours.

At the very least, it will be a nice new piece of furniture for your computer room, built without glue, screws, or nails, and handcrafted entirely by you.

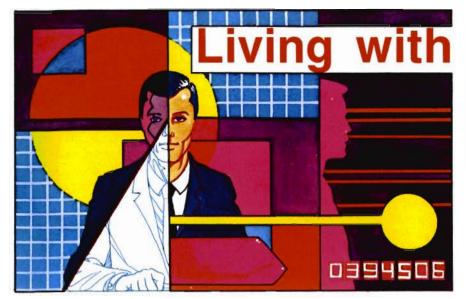


elegant and inexpensive home-built roll paper holder which works perfectly with my Epson MX-80FT and IBM Selectric printers, and which should work just as well with many other machines.

One day a friend offered me a dozen rolls of printer paper in different widths, just when I needed to buy another ream of paper for my Selectric. My natural cheapness, and a reluctance to look a gift horse in the mouth, combined to inspire the design of the universal roll paper holder described here. Anyone capable of

pieces shown in the drawing, pull the handles off the rolling pins, and tap the center rods into the holes in the end pieces, leaving 1/16" clearance between the rollers and the ends. Pulling off the handles takes only a minimum of force and twisting, snce they are held in place by a friction fit. If you want a finely finished appearance, as I did, use a hacksaw to shorten the steel rods so they don't protrude from the end pieces.

The end pieces are made from scraps of standard 2 x 2 construction



with Quick Brown Fox

by Colin F. Thompson Santa Monica, CA

Business software for a game machine? A contradiction in terms? Yes, for some other brands of computers. Not so for the VIC. The VIC is a powerful computer, whether you use it for games or business. You don't have a business, you say? Think of your home like it's a small business. You have bills to pay, letters to write, taxes to file, and a budget to figure. That's exactly the kind of work the computer is best at. You can use business software in your home to manage your money and paperwork. Many high quality, low cost business programs are released each month. I'll be reviewing the best of them, and telling you, in plain English, how they work, how I use them in my office and what I like and dislike about them.

Business software can be divided into four general catagories: Word Processing, Money Management, Spreadsheets, and Data Base Management. Your VIC can do all these functions and more. This month we will look into word processing and see what life is like, Living With a Quick Brown Fox.

QUICK BROWN FOX (QBF) was originally developed three years ago for the Ohio Scientific microcomputer. While residing there, it was debugged, groomed, and perfected. The OS and VIC have one thing in common: a 6502 microprocessor chip is the heart of each. This allowed the OS version to be modified for use in the VIC and C-64. So you see, QBF is a mature piece of software. That maturity

first attracted me to QBF. I hoped it would be bug free. It nearly is.

After opening the sturdy cardboard shipping container, I was delighted to see a professionally produced instruction manual. This is the best looking, most comprehensive manual I have seen for VIC software. As an ex-Apple user, I learned to expect manuals like this with the \$300 software packages I used. I like the size. It's a full 81/2x11 inches, in a three ring binder. I wish all manuals were this size. The binder comes in a heavy cardboard housing, similar to housings for fine books. Inside is a sealed envelope, containing QBF, which tells you to read the manual before breaking the seal. If, after reading the manual you find QBF is not what you want, you may return it for a full refund. This excellent policy is one I would like to see other companies offer. QBF comes as a cartridge, which plugs into the expansion port on the right rear of the VIC. I didn't plug it in right away. I read the manuals first, and then try it. I've had too many adventures doing it the other way around.

By the Book

The manual is divided into two parts. The pocket notes are six pages long, outlining the difference between the VIC and C-64 versions. They also explain the "File Clerk" functions. The File Clark is the part of QBF that talks to the disk drive and Dataşette, allowing you to easily save your Text Files. Text Files are a clever way to describe

the documents you write on QBF. Text Files can be letters, forms, manuscripts or any kind of document that you generate. The rest of the manual runs 50 pages and is written in the style of a tutorial. It assumes you have no prior knowledge of either the VIC or word processing. Accompanying the manual is a cassette tape with training files for you to practice on. After reading the pocket notes, I began the tutorial on page one.

Firing It Up

Though QBF needs no extra memory, it can use up to 16K of RAM memory, if you have it. Mega-memory buffs will find that QBF resides in block 3 (\$6000 to \$7FFF). What that means, in English, is that a 24K RAM card can't be used. Guess who has a 24K card. Right. For serious business use. I recommend adding an 8K or 16K card. Since I like having as much memory as possible, I plugged in my 4K RAM card, made by OEM, Inc., and fired it up. It's very easy to get running. You pull the Fox's tail by typing SYS 24576 and hitting return. The program uses only 1024 bytes of your precious memory. QBF then asks how many columns are displayed on your screen. Like most of you, my screen has 22 columns across. If you have added a Video Pack, expanding your screen to 40 or 80 columns. QBF will handle that nicely. The screen turns black, and in white letters, the Fox greets you.

The main menu displays a list of 12

Commander May 1983/15

options. Each option is activated by a single keystroke. As I worked my way through the tutorial. I found myself chuckling. This was the word processor I had been looking for. I rarely get excited when trying out new programs. This one out-performed my expectations. I have used many word processors on my VIC, and found they ranged from awful to acceptable. From the start, I knew QBF was light years better than others I'd tried. Why? Three reasons come to mind: Speed, speed, and more speed. QBF doesn't keep me waiting when I ask it to perform. It doesn't get in the way of writing. Since I was already familiar with word processing. I had no problems learning its powerful features. For those of you new to word processing, the manual will step you through the learning process guite rapidly. I say this with some certainly because I gave the manual to my secretary, Dawna, and turned her loose on the VIC. She immediately found an error that I missed on page four of the manual. On that page, wherever it says Left-Arrow, it means Cursor Left. The left arrow located at the top left of your keyboard has a completely different function under QBF. It is used as the Escape Key. Pressing this Key allows the user to change functions or change his mind. It's very handy. After this minor snag, she progressed quickly.

Letters from the Editor

Besides speed, the most noticeable difference between QBF and other word processors I've used is the editor. The editor is the part of the program that looks at the keystrokes you enter and then acts on them. It's like a referee. The editor checks to make sure you type in legal commands, or valid data, and then causes the rest of the program to act on the commands or store the data. Most editors come in one of two flavors: line editors and full screen editors. The VIC has a full screen editor built in. When you are writing a program, the cursor can be moved to any position on the screen to make changes. That is a full screen editor. If you could make changes only on the line that cursor resides, you

would have a line editor. There are advantages to both types. Editing on QBF requires placing the cursor over the character you want to change and hitting one key. (I for Insert, R for Replace, D for Delete, etc). Besides having line editor, QBF also has Global Editor. It allows you to search and replace any word or letter in the text. After you read the manual, and learn the commands, you will realize that the editors are the most powerful features of QBF. There is an advantage to expanding your screen past the 22 column standard. C-64 users will find they have nearly 40 characters they can edit without leaving the editor. VIC users have about half that. I tried a VIC running a Data-20 80 column board with QBF at COMDEX last year. Those extra 58 columns are helpful in many respects. The biggest advantage of having 80 columns is in the View mode. QBF allows you to view your document on the screen, formatted as if it was being printed on the printer. With 80 columns, you get a clear picture of how your text will look on paper. If you take your word processing seriously, you should consider an 80 column board.

Earning Its Keep

The first useful document I produced on QBF was a list of the control codes that make my trusty NEC 8023A printer turn on its bells and whistles. I suggest you do the same thing when you get QBF running. It saved my sanity. QBF works with any printer, and doesn't care which channel the printer is attached to. You can easily insert printer control codes into the body of your text. If you use QBF and an NEC 8023A printer on your system, I'll send you that control code list. Just send a SASE and mark "NEC" on the envelope. I believe I've mentioned how fast QBF is. That lightning speed continues when printing. It drives my 100 cps printer flat out.

OK. So it's a great word processor. But what does it DO? It saves a lot of time, that's what. A typical business letter requires me to write it out in longhand, have Dawna type a rough draft and then I correct it. With QBF, I type the letter directly into the com-

puter, make all the changes it needs and print it on the printer. Dawna only sees the finished letter exactly as I want it. She never has to decypher my handwriting, and only types the letter once, not 2 or 3 times. On a letter quality printer, she could print the letter directly onto letterhead and retire the Selectric. Personal letterwriting also benefits. I find myself writing many more letters to my friends, simply because it's so easy.

Each month our office sends out hundreds of form letters. When a reader marks a magazine "bingo card," asking for information about our products, we send him a form letter telling him how wonderful our wigits are, and direct him to the nearest retail dealer. Our dealers love the sales leads and our sales rise, just because we use QBF. I'm a Tech Rep in a hightech industry. One of my jobs is to write training manuals. These manuals have an average lifetime of three months. Fast moving technology reguires them to be frequently updated. QBF is making that dreaded job a breeze.

I promised to tell you what I like and dislike about QBF. The dislike list is mercifully short. When Viewing my document on a 22 column screen, QBF sometimes forgets that I have only 23 lines on the screen and flashes up all 66 lines. I tend to use the printer instead of View mode to see how the document looks. The 80 column VIC Viewed perfectly. My biggest gripe is about the manual's index. There isn't one.

Entering the Fox's Lair

Curious as to why this well done manual lacked an index, I called Ed Moran, National Marketing Manager of QBF. He quickly assured me that an index is being prepared and the miscues on page four are being rectified. The manual is going through a minor revision and will soon be indexed.

"What about that Viewing problem?", I asked.

"What Viewing problem?", he replied.

It seems I'm the first one to complain. He promised his Tech Support people would look into it. I'll let you know what they find.

The Fox works on the C-64 much as it does on the VIC. There are three advantages using the C-64 version. After loading the program, the C-64 has nearly 38K of working storage. The 40 column screen is a little easier to edit, and the File Clerk allows disk copying. The Copy feature is one I wish the VIC version had. Both versions work with disk or tape, and can send files to another QBF/VIC via modem. At \$65. I heartily recommend it.

Next month we examine the chicken that laid the golden egg as we raid the TOTL Software henhouse. Oh yes, there is one thing I do with Quick Brown Fox . . . Write this column. □

Companies mentioned: Quick Brown Fox, 548 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, (212) 925-8290; OEM, Inc., 2729 South US 1, Suite 12, Fort Pierce, FL 33450, (305) 465-9363; Data 20 Corporation, 20311 Moulton Parkway, Suite B10, Luguna Hills, CA 92652, (714) 770-2366.

Printer Codes for Quick Brown Fox & NEC 8023A

Dot Printer		
#n027N	10 cpi Pica	ABCDEFghijkl12345
#n027E	12 cpi Elite	ABCDEFghijkl12345
#n027Q		ABCDEFghijkl12345
#n027P		ABCDEFghijkl12345
#n027!		ABCDEFghijkl12345
#n027"		ABCDEFghijkl12345
#n014		ABCDEFghijkl12345
#nØ15		ABCDEFghijkl12345
#n027X	Underline	ABCDEFghijkl12345
#n027Y	Underline off	ABCDEFghijkl12345
#n027A	6 Lines per Inch	
#n027B	8 Lines per Inch	

Printing Sizes

Ch/Line	Ch/Inch	Remarks
13617		Condensed
68 8.5.	Cor	ndensed Enlarged
8010		Pica
40 5		Elite Enlarged
9612		Elite
		rged, Proportional

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Packing

The Commodore relative file format is somewhat easy to use; that is, if you're working with strings. Storing numeric data can become somewhat cumbersome since they must be converted to strings beforehand then concatenated with commas as delimiters. Reading the record fields back to numeric data can become even more of a headache as the strings must be separated properly and converted to real numbers. When the size of the records exceeds 80 characters it becomes even more painful to read them from the file. Here is a small machine language routine which will help overcome most of these problems.

Basically what this routine will do is either write or read a single dimension array of numbers to or from a previously opened relative file. The numbers are basically written to the file in floating point format. Since each number requires only 5 bytes we can write up to 50 numbers on a single record with a maximum length of 254. When a record is read from the file it transfers directly to the memory assigned to the designated array so no further manipulations are required.

Care must be taken however that the record length is long enough to hold the array. With a record size of 254 a dimensioned array of 49 is maximum allowed.

NOTE: This program is designed to work with BASIC 4.0 only.

Another limitation is that the entire array must be read or written at once. Trying to write a smaller array where a larger array was previously written will cause all of the old data to be lost so one should take care to read and write the same size array to a given file. Reading only the lower portion of an

Arrays Into Relative Files

by Paul Donato Sudburg, Ontario, Canada

READY.

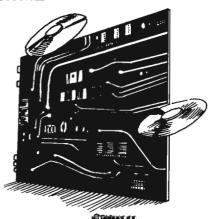
```
5 REM POKE MACHINE CODE INTO FIRST CASSETTE BUFFER
10 FORI=634T0745: READX: POKEI, X: NEXTI
20 DATA32, 245, 190, 32, 152, 189, 165, 68, 133, 0, 165
30 DATA69, 133, 1, 56, 165, 68, 233, 1, 133, 68, 165, 69
40 DATA233, 0, 133, 69, 160, 0, 177, 68, 133, 2, 24, 42, 42
50 DATA101, 2, 133, 2, 32, 245, 190, 32, 152, 189, 32, 45
60 DATA201, 165, 18, 240, 3, 76, 0, 191, 165, 17, 133, 210
 70 DATA170,96,32,122,2,32,201,255,160,0,177,0,32
80 DATA210, 255, 196, 2, 240, 4, 200, 76, 192, 2, 32, 204, 255
 90 DATA96, 32, 122, 2, 32, 198, 255, 160, 0, 32, 228, 255, 145
 95 DATAO, 196, 2, 240, 4, 200, 76, 217, 2, 32, 204, 255, 96
 98 REM NOW CHECK THE PROGRAM
 99 REM
 100 DIMA(49), B(49)
 110 FORI=OTO49:A(I)=RND(O):NEXTI
 120 DOPEN#1, "TFLE", DO, L254
 130 RECORD#1,1:5Y5696,A(0),1
 140 RECORD#1,1:SYS721,B(0),1
 150 FORI=OTO49:PRINTA(I),B(I):NEXTI
 160 DCLOSE#1
READY.
    C*
              IRQ SR AC XR YR SP
         B780 724D 3A 9E 35 34 FA
         027A 20 F5 BE 20 98 BD A5 44
    . :
         0282 85 00 A5 45 85 01 38 A5
    .:
         028A 44 E9 01 85 44 A5 45 E9
    . :
         0292 00 85 45 A0 00 B1 44 85
    . :
         029A 02 18 2A 2A 65 02 85 02
    . :
         02A2 20 F5 BE 20 98 BD 20 2D
    . :
         02AA C9 A5 12 F0 03 4C 00 BF
    . :
         02B2 A5 11 85 D2 AA 60 20 7A
    . :
         02BA 02 20 C9 FF A0 00 B1 00
    . :
    . :
         02C2 20 D2 FF C4 02 F0 04 C8
        02CA 4C CO 02 20 CC FF 60 20
    . :
    .:
        02D2 7A 02 20 C6 FF A0 00 20
         02DA E4 FF 91 00 C4 02 F0 04
        02E2 C8 4C D9 02 20 CC FF 60
         02EA FF 00 FF 00 FF 00 FF 00
```

array, however, should present no problems.

The basic program shown pokes the machine language routine into the first cassette buffer at 027a. Line 100 dimensions a and b to their maximum permitted size for a file of recordsize 254. It is important that the numbers are dimensioned correctly or the program will fail. Line 110 creates 50 random numbers in the array A(49) and line 120 opens a relative file called 'TFLE' which is set up with records of 254 bytes. Line 130 writes the array a(49) to record #1 of the file. Line 140 writes that same record into the array b(49). Line 150 prints out both arrays to see if they are equal.

The syntax of the machine language call is SYS696,A(O),1. The first member of the array we wish to transfer must appear after the first comma. It must always have a zero in the brackets. The 1 following the next comma is the logical file number that is open and that we wish to transfer to. This can be any valid value. The read portion syntax is identical but is called at location 721.

You will find that any limitations in using this routine are more than offset by the speed at which the transfers will occur. □



An Introduction to Assembly Language Programming on the VIC-20

Part V-Branches and Comparisons

by Eric Giguere Peace River, Alberta, Canada

Last month I introduced you to the concept of loading and storing the 6502's registers. Let's review these concepts. LDA, LDX and LDY are the instructions that tell the computer to load a value into the accumulator, Xregister, and Y-register, respectively. The opposites of these are STA, STX and STY, which will store the values of the registers into memory. Along with each of these instructions there must be either a value of an address, so that the computer knows where to get (load) or put (store) the specified register. This is the addressing mode discussed in Part III. (See Example 1)

when programming from monitor, as the computer could jump to the wrong address if you store it in high-byte, lowbyte format. Of course, those of you with an assembler (like my EDIT/ASM) or at least a one-line assembler/ disassembler (like the VIC-MON cartridge) don't have to worry about this. as it is done automatically.

Comparisons: The IF of Assembly Language

Now that we can load values into the registers, it'd be nice to be able to do something with it other than storing it. This is where the comparison instructions of the 6502 come in. There are

This example will load the accumulator from \$3F and then compare it to the value \$0D. The space is left for a branch statement, which we'll discuss later. We could have made the example different by using LDX...CPX or LDY... CPY. It would have had the same effect, but would use the X- or Y-register instead. As it is written, the CMP will set or clear some flags depending on whether or not certain conditions are present. These flags are then used by an appropriate branch statement, for which I left a space. The LDA \$F6 is there for no particular reason other than to show that the program continues if the branch is not taken. So basically, the compare instruction acts like the IF in BASIC. It checks to see if a branch (like THEN GOTO) can take place or not.

LDA #\$01—loads the accumulator with the value \$01

STA \$E2—stores it in memory location \$E2

LDX \$7F—loads the X-register from location \$7F

STX \$8000-stores it at \$8000(32768)

LDY \$IEBF,X—loads the Y-register with the value it finds at location (\$1EBF + value of X-reg.)

STY \$00-stores it at location \$00

On their own, these commands cannot do very much, except change the values of some locations, as was explained last month. But this month we'll learn about branches and comparisons, and how we can use them for practical things.

Addresses

Before going on with this month's topic, I want to make a comment about the way memory addresses are stored in memory, because it confuses people. The 6502 chip (and 6510) stores addresses in reverse order from which they're read. This means that the address \$1E2F will be stored in two bytes of memory as 2F 1E, instead of 1E 2F. This is often referred to as low-byte, high-byte format, as the lower (rightmost) byte—in this case \$2F—is stored before the higher byte (\$1E). This should be remembered

three of them: one for each register. CMP is used for the accumulator, while CPX and CPY are used for the X- and Y-registers (CMP is the most powerful—it has the most addressing modes). What these instructions do is compare the value of the specified register against that of a memory location. It sets some flags in the status register against that of a memory location. It sets some flags in the status register (explained below) according to the results of the comparison, while leaving the register itself intact, which means that you don't have to reload the value into the register. (See Example 2 for comparison sample.)

The Status Register

In Part III I mentioned that the 6502 also had another register, called the status register, that was useful in making comparisons. This register (abbr. P-for Processor Status Register) is really nothing but a single byte wired to use its bits as flags (indicators). Figure 1 gives a representation of the status register and what each bit represents.

The status register reflects the "condition" of the last operation performed by the microprocessor, if it was capable of changing the P register. If there was a carry, the C flag (bit 0) is set. If the last operation resulted in a zero, the Z flag (bit 1) is set—otherwise it is reset to 0. Going through the rest: the I flag enables or disables inter-

LDA \$3F—load accumulator from location \$3F CMP #\$0D-compare to the value \$0D (13) -space for branch statement LDA \$F6—continue with program

rupts; the D flag indicates the decimal mode; the B flag that a break (BRK) instruction was executed; the V flag that there was an overflow; and the S flag that the byte is negative or positive. Only the S, V, Z and C flags are used by branch instructions; the rest represent conditions. Don't concern yourself with what each flag is used for—it will all be explained in due time. All you have to understand is the idea behind the status register.

Branches: Powerful THEN Statements

Now that we can set flags in the status register, we need to use them somehow. This is where **branches** come in. A branch is an instruction to the microprocessor to jump forward or backward a specified number of bytes **if a certain condition in the status register is met**. That condition depends on the branch instruction itself, of which there are eight. (See Example 3 for listing.)

BCC—branch on carry clear
BCS—branch on carry set
BEQ—branch if equal (Z flag = 1)
BNE—branch if not equal (Z flag = 0)
BMI—branch if negative (minus)
BPL—branch if positive (plus)
BVC—branch on overflow clear
BVS—branch on overflow set

As you can see, each branch has an opposite, such as BCC and BCS. An instruction like BNE \$03 would cause the chip to jump three bytes ahead **if** the last comparison was between two unequal (not equal) values. We could use the opposite if we wished—it would then be BEQ \$03—but this would cause the chip to jump three ahead only if the last values compared were equivalent. Thus you can program branches for any number of possible situations.

Signed Numbers

As I mentioned, a branch instruction allows you to either jump backwards or forwards. Alas, the range is not unlimited, and must be able to fit inside on byte. (Each branch takes two bytes—one for the instruction itself, and the other for the value to jump). So we could assume that the most it could jump was 255, or \$FF—right? (A

byte only holds up to 255). This would normally (isn't there anything normal?!) be right, except for one small problem: there is no way to tell if you want to go backward or forward. So some smart person came up with the idea of using one bit of the value to jump as a flag to indicate this. The leftmost bit (bit 7) was chosen to do so. This means that the range of a branch instruction is limited to + 127 to - 128. This should be kept in mind, otherwise your system could crash.

Right now you're probably wondering how we can represent negative values in binary so that the computer could understand what we mean. Lets examine a byte:

Bit 7 is our positive/negative flag. and since it is zero, we will exclude it from our calculations. Thus the byte represents the number 127 decimal $(2^6 + 2^5 + 2^4 + 2^3 + 2^2 + 2^1 + 2^0 = 127).$ This is the limit of our positive numbers since adding one would clear bits 0 to 6 and set bit 7, which would mean the byte is negative. In any case, the numbers 0 to 127 (0 is considered positive in assembly language) take up the first 128 possible combinations in a byte. Since a byte can hold from 0 to 255, there are still another 128 positions left unfilled (0 to 255 = 256 positions, minus 128 = 128). These are negative values since they all have the high bit (bit 7) on, and thus also represent a value of 128 or greater (ignoring the sign). Following the pattern of positive numbers, you'd probably expect

to represent -0 (negative zero) since the sign bit is the only one on. In fact, that's quite wrong. The value 10000000 binary represents -128, not -0. How did we get this? You simply take the negative number and add it to 256. Doing this with -128, we show it as:

The resultant is \$80, or %10000000. The number – 20 could then be calculated as:

The whole range of signed numbers goes something like this:

I realize that this may be confusing, but it is probably the easiest way to represent signed numbers in one byte.

It's Relative

One nice thing about branches is that they are **relative**, which means it will execute properly no matter where it's put in memory (some instructions must always be changed). For example, if you put a BEQ \$0F at location \$033C (the cassete buffer), and then moved it to \$03FC, it would still cause the chip to jump 15 (\$0F) ahead, regardless of its present position. It's all relative to the chip's present position, which is why branches are also called "relative branches."

Using Branches with Assemblers

Using branches on an assembler is a lot easier than with a monitor. All you have to do is specify the target label of the line you wish to go to, and the branch will be automatically calculated if within the correct range. The same sort of thing is done with the VICMON cartridge. You specify the target address (such as BNE \$1201), and if it's within the proper range (-128 to +127), it will automatically place the

0000000000000

proper value into memory. When you disassemble it, it will also give you the address, just so that you don't have to figure out that BNE \$AD means to jump back 83 bytes. I just wanted to make this clear so that you don't get confused.

Branch if Equal . . .

The first branch we'll look at is BEQ, meaning branch if equal. Upon receiving this instruction, the chip checks to see if the Z flag in the status register is set. If it is, it branches; otherwise it continues with the next instruction. An example of this would be:

START LDA #\$03 CMP #\$FF BEQ SKIP LDX #\$2D SKIP LDY \$FD

The accumulator will be loaded with \$03 and then compared to \$FF (255). Since they are not equal, the Z flag is set to 0, and the BEQ test fails, and it executes the LDX #\$2D. Naturally, this is bad coding, since the accumulator will never contain \$FF, but I just wanted to give you a demonstration of using the branch after a compare.

Setting the Z Flag

The Z flag is probably the one set most often. Loading or affecting the contents of a register in any way whatsoever will either set or clear the Z flag, depending if the new contents of the register equals zero or not. Thus if you do a LDA #\$00, the Z flag will be set, since the register now holds a value of zero. A compare also sets the Z flag if both items being compared are equal—otherwise it is cleared to zero. So testing for a zero value does not necessarily need a compare, since a BEQ statement would work just as well without it.

Branch if Not Equal . . .

The opposite of BEQ is BNE, branch if not equal, and this is usually the more common of the two since it is used in loops, explained below. BNE tests to see if the Z flag is **cleared** (0), and if it is, causes the chip to branch to the specified address. An example would be:

LDA \$3B CMP #\$EB BNE CONTINUE

CONTINUE LDA #\$FF

If the value in \$3B **does not equal** \$EB, then it will branch to the code with the label CONTINUE. Otherwise it will continue with the code after the branch.

Loops

Loops in assembly language are not very hard to program, and can be very handy. The following is an example of a loop:

LDY#\$FF LOOP1 DEY BNE LOOP1

Here you are introduced to a new instruction. DEY decreases the present value in the Y-register by one. A similar statement is DEX, which operates on the X-register. And the opposites of these statements are INY and INX, which increase the appropriate register by one. They come in very handy for loops. In the example, the Yregister is first loaded with \$FF, and then decreased by one with the DEY instruction. A test is then made to see if Y does not equal zero. Since Y only equals \$FE (254), the test is positive (the Z flag is clear) and the computer backtracks to LOOP1, where it encounters the DEY statement again and repeats the process of checking to see if the register is not equal to zero. Finally, after 254 loops, the Y-register equals zero, and the test fails. The computer continues on with its work, after having been delayed a few milliseconds.

The following is another example of a loop. It uses the X-register instead of the Y, and uses INX statements along with BNE:

LDX #\$00 LOOP2 INX BNE LOOP 2

Looking at this, you're probably thinking that the computer will be caught in an endless loop, since X will never equal zero, and so be able to leave the loop by failing the BNE test. Normally, this would be correct, but not here. A byte can be compared to a score counter in a game: if it gets past a certain number, the whole

counter rolls over back to zero, as such:

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 (255) + 1 (1) 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 (256)

As you can see, the new number is %100000000. But since this is a 9-bit number and the registers can only hold 8 bits (a byte), the extra digit (1) is ignored, and thus the register now holds %00000000, or zero. If we apply this to our example, we can see that once we get to \$FF and increment that, we'll get \$00, after which the BNE fails and the computer goes about executing whatever follows this simple loop. It isn't that hard to understand, is it?

Next Month...

I'm running out of room here, so I'll leave the rest of my explanation about loops until next month, at which time I'll include some practical examples, including a routine to scroll the screen to the left. If you have any problems in the meantime, feel free to contact me at Box 901, Peace River, Alberta, Canada TOH 2X0

(P.S.—A note to the VIC owners who typed in that lengthy monitor listing last month—if you did it right, you should have put the words "HI THERE!" at the top corner of the screen. I realize that it was quite a tedious and useless task to type all that in, so next month I'm also presenting a routine to print any message to the screen using the loops.)

Figure 1:

Bit Position

7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 S V B D I Z C

S: sign status V: overflow flag

B: break flag
D: decimal mode flag

I: interrupt enable/disable

Z: zero flag C: carry status

(bit 5 is unused)





Peek & Poke A USR Instruction Sheet

by George Gaukel Tacoma, WA

This program provides a set of USR instructions to allow direct BASIC access to the SID and VIC chips and for some graphic functions. The program is stored in the RAM area of 49152 (\$C000) to (\$CED1).

The program is self-initializing and once run, a machine language version may be saved using a monitor. If a machine language version is loaded, you need to initialize the program as in lines 130 and 140 of the listing. This sets the USR vector to \$C100.

Note that USR(0) only initializes the program's internal tables and pointers. USR(1) will execute the mapping sequence. USR(1) stores the current VIC map and installs the preset map. This allows toggling between two VIC maps, as USR(2) returns to the map that USR(1) stored. If USR(1) is executed twice in a row then the current and previous maps will be the same and you will be locked into the preset map until a new USR(0) and USR(1) are executed.

The RESTORE key will not allow for a proper recovery to the BASIC map, as it does not clear the BMM, ECM and MCM bits. I usually add the following line to a program:

60000 A = USR(0), O, 1, 4: A = USR(1): A = USR(17): A = USR(19): A = USR(21)

If I crash, I CLR-HOME and enter GOTO60000. This is easier than trying to enter all of the above without a video display.

All numbers passed to the USR program must be positive and in the range of 0-65535 (decimals will be truncated) or there will be an illegal quantity error. If the expected number of variables is not present, there will be a syntax error. In the instruction list I have indicated byte and flag types. All this means is that the high byte is

```
100 REM 'USER. DATA'
110 FOR AD=49152T052946: READ DA
120 POKE AD DA NEXT AD
130 POKE785.0 : POKE786,193
140 A=USR(0),0,1,4 : A=USR(1)
150
    END
160 DATA 36, 193, 33, 194, 98, 194
170 DATA 132, 194, 154, 194, 177, 194
180 DATA 209, 194, 227, 194, 239, 194
190 DATA 38, 195, 56, 195, 144, 204
200 DATA 144, 204, 144, 204, 144, 204
210 DATA 144, 204, 87, 195, 96, 195
220 DATA 105, 195, 114, 195, 123, 195
230 DATA 132, 195, 141, 195, 150, 195
240 DATA 159, 195, 168, 195, 177, 195
250 DATA 186, 195, 195, 195, 220, 195
260 DATA 48, 198, 144, 204,
                            227, 195
270 DATA 235, 195, 243, 195, 62, 196
280 DATA 80, 196, 101, 196, 122, 196
290 DATA 140, 196, 165, 196, 224, 196
300 DATA 238, 196, 244, 196, 250, 196
310 DATA 2, 197, 10, 197, 18, 197
320 DATA 26, 197, 34, 197, 42, 197
330 DATA 59, 197, 67, 197, 144, 204
340 DATA 144, 204, 144, 204, 144, 204
350 DATA 75, 197, 97, 197, 123, 197
360 DATA 156, 197, 175, 197, 194, 197
370 DATA 213, 197, 191, 198, 195,
380 DATA 213, 199, 217, 199, 254,
390 DATA 2, 201, 39, 201, 69, 201
400 DATA 116, 201, 144, 204, 144,
410 DATA 144, 204, 144, 204, 144,
420 DATA 144, 204, 144, 204,
                             144.
430 DATA 144, 204,
                  144. 204.
                             144.
440 DATA 144, 204, 144, 204,
                             144,
450 DATA 144, 204, 144, 204, 144, 204
460 DATA 188, 201, 246, 201,
                             253.
470 DATA 27, 202, 56, 202, 87, 202
480 DATA 116, 202, 183, 202, 210, 202
490 DATA 21, 203, 40, 203, 59, 203
500 DATA 85, 203, 117, 203, 131, 203
510 DATA 137, 203, 144, 204, 144, 204
520 DATA 144, 204, 143, 203, 151, 203
530 DATA 159, 203, 167, 203, 207, 203
540 DATA 214, 203, 221, 203, 228,
550 DATA 14, 204, 18, 204, 52, 204
```

cleared. Where byte values are less than the range of 0-255 are indicated, I have masked for the value. When values are returned they will be double byte, signed or unsigned as appropriate.

For those with a relocating monitor, the first page (\$C000-\$C0FF) of the program is an internal word table in the range of \$C000-\$CFFF. The code starts at \$C1000 and is continuous to the absolute tables which start with \$FF, which should abort most relocators.

The X-Y and line plotting will allow for positive wrap-around. X-Y may be any value in the range of 0-65535 and the routines will rescale the values.

The SID routines maintain an image of the write only latches. This allows for simplified commands such as voice on or off.

The USR program is not designed to replace the awareness of how the chips operate. It is designed to provide programmer access to the chips using a systematic format and allow limited time (for most of us) to be better spent in program applications, rather than trying to do something in BASIC which should be done in machine language.

With a 4K limit I have included only those commands I find most useful. There are many things that can be done to the bit map, using standard library calls, such as character rotation and simplified scrolling in both axes. Send in a wish list, and if there is enough interest I will publish a supplement

The example programs should be self-explanatory.

USR Command List

X = USR(90), 1, 0, 0, 0

,B 0 To 255 BYTE
,DB 0 TO 65535 DOUBLE BYTE
,FL = 0 FLAG OFF/CLR
,FL 0 FLAG ON/SET
A = USR(32),B
A = USR(9),DG
A = USR(90),B,FL,FL,FL

SYNTAX:
A = USR(0),0,1,4
B = USR(1)
B = USR(BB(6)))

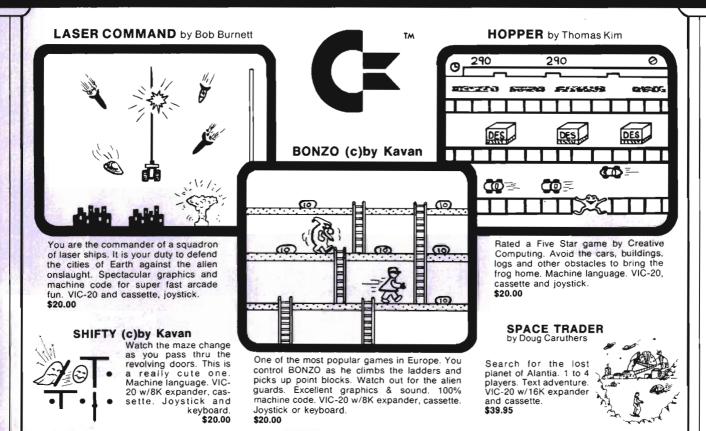
```
560 DATA 56, 204, 60, 204, 64.
570 DATA 147, 204, 28, 207, 28, 207
580 DATA 35, 207, 42, 207, 32, 247
590 DATA 183, 201, 0, 208, 27,
600 DATA 10, 207, 152, 201, 123, 176
610 DATA 19, 10, 170, 173, 247, 192
620 DATA 72, 173, 246, 192, 72, 189
630 DATA 1, 192, 72, 189, 0, 192
640 DATA 72, 96, 76, 73, 188, 32
650 DATA 62, 206, 173, 188, 206, 41
660 DATA 3, 141, 20, 207, 173, 190
670 DATA 206, 41, 15, 141, 18, 207
680 DATA 173, 192, 206, 41, 14, 141
690 DATA 16, 207, 169, 8, 141, 0
700 DATA 207, 169, 0, 141, 1,
710 DATA 169, 64, 141, 2, 207, 169
720 DATA 1, 141, 3, 207, 169, 0
730 DATA 141, 4, 207, 169, 4, 141
740 DATA 5, 207, 174, 20, 207, 189
750 DATA 172, 206, 141, 249, 206, 141
760 DATA 7, 207, 141, 8, 207, 169
770 DATA 0, 141, 6, 207, 141,
780 DATA 206, 169, 8, 45, 16, 207
790 DATA 240, 9, 24, 169, 32, 109
800 DATA 7, 207, 141, 7, 207,
810 DATA 62, 160, 253, 32, 39, 205
820 DATA 162, 0, 165, 253, 157, 189
830 DATA 207, 232, 165, 254, 157, 189
840 DATA 207, 232, 134, 2, 162, 253
850 DATA 160, 74, 32, 175, 205, 166
860 DATA 2, 224, 31, 144, 229, 173
870 DATA 18, 207, 10, 170, 189, 189
880 DATA 207, 141, 252, 206, 189, 190
890 DATA 207, 141, 253, 206, 173, 16
900 DATA 207, 10, 170, 189, 189, 207
910 DATA 141, 250, 206, 189, 190, 207
920 DATA 141, 251, 206, 162, 76, 160
930 DATA 253, 32, 39, 205, 162, 0
940 DATA 165, 253, 157, 55, 207, 232
950 DATA 165, 254, 157, 55, 207, 232
960 DATA 134, 2, 162, 253, 160, 72
970 DATA 32, 175, 205, 166, 2, 224
980 DATA 51, 144, 229, 162, 0, 134
990 DATA 253, 134, 254, 165, 253, 157
1000 DATA 107, 207, 232, 165, 254, 157
1010 DATA 107, 207, 232, 134, 2, 160
1020 DATA 70, 162, 253, 32, 175, 205
1030 DATA 166, 2, 224, 81, 144, 229
1040 DATA 24, 169, 248, 109, 252, 206
1050 DATA 141, 254, 206, 169, 3, 109
1060 DATA 253, 206, 141, 255, 206, 96
1070 DATA 173, 136, 2, 141, 22, 207
1080 DATA 173, 24, 208, 141, 24, 207
1090 DATA 173, 0, 221, 141, 26, 207
1100 DATA 173, 253, 206, 141, 136, 2
1110 DATA 173, 18, 207, 32, 241, 204
1120 DATA 13, 16, 207, 141, 24,
```

```
A = USR(Z), A, B, C
  B = USR(X\%)
  B = USR(X(Y))
USRO PRESET/VIC GENERATE
MAPS
  ,B,B,B
 BANK 0-3; VIDEO MEMORY 0-15;
    VIDEO BASE 0-14 STEP2
USR1 GO VIC PRESET SETUP
USR2 RETURN PREVIOUS SETUP
USR3 PRESET BIT MAP
  ,B
  SET THE 8000 BYTES TO B
USR4 PRESET COLOR RAM
 SET ALL COLOR NIBBLES
   TO VALUE 0-15
USR5 PRESET POINTER RAM
  ,B,B
 HI NIBBLE 0-15: LO NIBBLE 0-15
USR6 SET BGC REGISTERS
  ,B,B
 BACKGROUND REG 0-3;
   COLOR 0-15
USR7 SET BORDER COLOR
 COLOR 0-15
USR8 COPY CHAR ROM 0 OR 1
  ,B,B
 CHARACTER ROM 0-1;
   STORAGE POINTER 0-14
   STEP 2
USR9 CHANGE END BASIC MEM
  ,DB
 0-65535
USR10 CHANGE START BASIC
MEM
 .DB
 0-65535
USR16 SET BMM BIT
USR17 CLEAR BMM BIT
USR18 SET ECM BIT
USR19 CLEAR ECM BIT
USR20 SET MCM BIT
USR21 CLEAR MCM BIT
USR22 SET 38/40 COL BIT
USR23 CLEAR 38/40 COL BIT
USR24 SET DIN BIT
USR25 CLEAR DIN BIT
USR26 SET 24/25 ROW
USR27 CLEAR 24/25 ROW
USR28 SCROLL Y
 .B
 SCROLL 0-7
```

```
1130 DATA 173, 2, 221, 72, 169, 3
1140 DATA 120, 141, 2, 221, 173, 0
1150 DATA 221, 41, 252, 13, 20, 207
1160 DATA 73, 3, 141, 0, 221, 104
1170 DATA 141, 2, 221, 88, 96, 173
1180 DATA 22, 207, 141, 136, 2, 173
1190 DATA 24, 207, 141, 24, 208, 173
1200 DATA 2, 221, 72, 169, 3, 120
1210 DATA 141, 2, 221, 173, 26, 207
1220 DATA 141, 0, 221, 104, 141, 2
1230 DATA 221, 88, 96, 32, 47, 206
1240 DATA 169, 64, 133, 253, 169, 31
1250 DATA 133, 254, 162, 76, 160, 251
1260 DATA 32, 39, 205, 32, 165, 204
1270 DATA 96, 32, 47, 206, 173, 188
1280 DATA 206, 41, 15, 141, 188, 206
1290 DATA 169, 0, 133, 251, 169, 216
1300 DATA 133, 252, 32, 157, 204, 96
1310 DATA 32, 53, 206, 173, 188, 206
1320 DATA 32, 241, 204, 133, 251, 173
1330 DATA 190, 206, 41, 15, 5, 251
1340 DATA 141, 188, 206, 162, 66, 160
1350 DATA 251, 32, 39, 205, 32, 157
1360 DATA 204, 96, 32, 53, 206, 173
1370 DATA 188, 206, 41, 3, 170, 173
1380 DATA 190, 206, 41, 15, 157, 33
1390 DATA 208, 96, 32, 47, 206, 173
1400 DATA 188, 206, 41, 15, 141, 32
1410 DATA 208, 96, 32, 53, 206, 173
1420 DATA 188, 206, 41, 14, 10, 170
1430 DATA 189, 189, 207, 133, 253, 189
1440 DATA 190, 207, 133, 254, 169, 0
1450 DATA 133, 251, 133, 20, 169, 8
1460 DATA 133, 21, 169, 208, 133, 252
1470 DATA 173, 190, 206, 41, 1, 240
1480 DATA 4, 169, 216, 133, 252, 32
1490 DATA 217, 204, 32, 12, 206, 32
1500 DATA 234, 204, 96, 32, 107, 206
1510 DATA 173, 188, 206, 133, 51, 133
1520 DATA 55, 173, 189, 206, 133, 52
1530 DATA 133, 56, 96, 32, 107, 206
1540 DATA 24, 173, 188, 206, 133, 43
1550 DATA 105, 2, 133, 45, 133, 47
1560 DATA 133, 49, 173, 189, 206, 133
1570 DATA 44, 105, 0, 133, 46, 133
1580 DATA 48, 133, 50, 96, 173, 17
1590 DATA 208, 9, 32, 141, 17, 208
1600 DATA 96, 173, 17, 208, 41, 223
1610 DATA 141, 17, 208, 96, 173, 17
1620 DATA 208, 9, 64, 141, 17, 208
1630 DATA 96, 173, 17, 208, 41, 191
1640 DATA 141, 17, 208, 96, 173, 22
1650 DATA 208, 9, 16, 141, 22, 208
1660 DATA 96, 173, 22, 208, 41, 239
1670 DATA 141, 22, 208, 96, 173, 22
1680 DATA 208, 9, 8, 141, 22, 208
1690 DATA 96, 173, 22, 208, 41, 247
```

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```
USR29 SCROLL X
  SCROLL 0-7
USR30 COPY SPRITE TO BIT MAP
 X 0-39; Y 0-24; SPRITE MAP 0-255
USR32 SPRITE ON
  SPRITE 0-7
USR33 SPRITE OFF
  SPRITE 0-7
USR34 MOVE SPRITE
  ,DB,B,B
 X POSITION; Y POSITION;
   SPRITE 0-7
USR35 SET SPRITE COLOR
  SPRITE 0-7; COLOR 0-15
USR36 SET SPRITE MCM BIT
 SPRITE 0-7
USR37 CLR SPRITE MCM BIT
 SPRITE 0-7
USR38 SET SPRITE MULTICOLOR
REGS
  ,B,B
 REGISTER 0-1; COLOR 0-15
USR39 CHANGE SPRITE MAP
 SPRITE 0-7; MAP 0-255
USR40 COPY SPRITE MAP TO MAP
  ,B,B
  MAP 0-255; MAP 0-255
USR41 KILL & HOME SPRITES
USR42 READ BACKGROUND
COLLISION REGISTER
USR43 READ SPRITE COLLISION
REGISTER
USR44 SPRITE HORZ ON
  B,
 SPRITE 0-7
USR45 SPRITE HORZ OFF
 SPRITE 0-7
USR46 SPRITE VERT ON
 SPRITE 0-7
USR46 SPRITE VERT OFF
  ,B
 SPRITE 0-7
USR48 SPRITE/BACKGROUND
SET
```

```
1700 DATA 141, 22, 208, 96, 173, 17
1710 DATA 208, 9, 16, 141, 17, 208
1720 DATA 96, 173, 17, 208, 41, 239
1730 DATA 141, 17, 208, 96, 173,
1740 DATA 208, 9, 8, 141, 17, 208
1750 DATA 96, 173, 17, 208, 41, 247 1760 DATA 141, 17, 208, 96, 32, 47
1770 DATA 206, 162, 17, 173, 188, 206
1780 DATA 41, 7, 141, 188, 206, 189
1790 DATA 0, 208, 41, 248, 13, 188
1800 DATA 206, 157, 0, 208, 96, 32
1810 DATA 47, 206, 162, 22, 208, 229
1820 DATA 32, 47, 206, 160, 21, 76
1830 DATA 86, 196, 32, 47, 206, 160
1840 DATA 21, 76, 107, 196, 32, 98
1850 DATA 206, 173, 21, 208, 141, 194
1860 DATA 206, 174, 192, 206, 189, 132
1870 DATA 206, 45, 21, 208, 141, 21
1880 DATA 208, 138, 10, 170, 173, 188
1890 DATA 206, 157, 0, 208, 173, 190
1900 DATA 206, 157, 1, 208, 173, 189
1910 DATA 206, 240, 15, 174, 192, 206
1920 DATA 189, 124, 206, 13, 16, 208
1930 DATA 141, 16, 208, 24, 144, 12
1940 DATA 174, 192, 206, 189, 132, 206
1950 DATA 45, 16, 208, 141, 16, 208
1960 DATA 173, 194, 206, 141, 21, 208
1970 DATA 96, 32, 53, 206, 173, 188
1980 DATA 206, 41, 7, 170, 173, 190
1990 DATA 206, 41, 15, 157, 39, 208
2000 DATA 96, 32, 47, 206, 160, 28
2010 DATA 173, 188, 206, 41, 7, 170
2020 DATA 189, 124, 206, 25, 0, 208
2030 DATA 153, 0, 208, 96, 32, 47
2040 DATA 206, 160, 28, 173, 188, 206
2050 DATA 41, 7, 170, 189, 132, 206
2060 DATA 57, 0, 208, 153, 0, 208
2070 DATA 96, 32, 53, 206, 173, 188
2080 DATA 206, 41, 1, 170, 173, 190
2090 DATA 206, 41, 15, 157, 37, 208
2100 DATA 96, 32, 53, 206, 173, 188
2110 DATA 206, 41, 7, 133, 2, 162
2120 DATA 68, 160, 251, 32, 39, 205
2130 DATA 164, 2, 173, 190, 206, 145
2140 DATA 251, 96, 32, 53, 206, 162
2150 DATA 4, 32, 87, 205, 162, 4
2160 DATA 160, 251, 32, 39, 205, 162
2170 DATA 251, 160, 64, 32, 175,
2180 DATA 160, 5, 162, 2, 32, 87
2190 DATA 205, 162, 2, 160, 253, 32
2200 DATA 39, 205, 162, 253, 160, 64
2210 DATA 32, 175, 205, 32, 200, 204
2220 DATA 160, 63, 177, 251, 145, 253
2230 DATA 136, 16, 249, 32, 228, 204
2240 DATA 96, 169, 0, 141, 21, 208
2250 DATA 162, 16, 157, 0, 208, 202
2260 DATA 16, 250, 96, 173, 31, 208
```

USR49 SPRITE/BACKGROUND CLR **USR50 MOVE CURSOR** B,B X 0-39: Y 0-24 **USR51 RETURN CURSOR X POS USR52 RETURN CURSOR Y POS** USR57 SET COLOR NIBBLE ,B,B,B X 0-39; Y 0-24; COLOR 0-15 **USR58 SET VIDEO PTR NIBS** .B.B.B.B X 0-39; Y 0-24; COLOR 0-15; LO COLOR 0-15 USR59 SET B7&6 VIDEO PTR ,B,B,B X 0-39; Y 0-24; BIT PAIR 0-3 USR60 UNSIGNED EOR RETURN DB.DB 0-65535 **USR61 UNSIGNED AND RETURN** ,DB,DB 0-65535 USR62 UNSIGNED OR RETURN ,DB,DB 0-65535 USR63 COPY CHAR BLOCK TO BIT MAP ,B,B,B,BX 0-39; Y 0-24; STORAGE PTR 0 - 14STEP2; CHAR INDEX 0-255 USR64 SET X Y HIRES .DB.DB X 0-65535; Y 0-65535 USR65 CLR X Y HIRES ,DB,DB X 0-65535; Y 0-65535 **USR66 SET LINE** ,DB,DB,DB,DB X1 0-65535; Y1 0-65535; X2 0-65535; Y2 0-65535 **USR67 CLR LINE** ,DB,DB,DB,DB X1 0-65535; Y1 0-65535; X2 0-65535; Y2 0-65535 USR68 PLOT LINE - SET .DB.DB X2 0-65535; Y2 0-65535 USR69 PLOT LINE - CLR ,DB,DB X2 0-65535; Y 0-65535 **USR70 SET POINT** ,DB,DB,B X 0-65535; Y 0-65535; BIT PAIR 0-3 USR71 LINE - POINTS

,DB,DB,DB,DB,B

2270 DATA 76, 25, 205, 173, 30, 208 2280 DATA 76, 25, 205, 32, 47, 206 2290 DATA 160, 29, 76, 86, 196, 32 2300 DATA 47, 206, 160, 29, 76, 107 2310 DATA 196, 32, 47, 206, 160, 23 2320 DATA 76, 86, 196, 32, 47, 206 2330 DATA 160, 23, 76, 107, 196, 32 2340 DATA 47, 206, 160, 27, 76, 86 2350 DATA 196, 32, 47, 206, 160, 27 2360 DATA 76, 107, 196, 32, 53, 206 2370 DATA 174, 190, 206, 172, 188, 206 2380 DATA 24, 32, 240, 255, 32, 36 2390 DATA 234, 96, 56, 32, 240, 255 2400 DATA 152, 76, 25, 205, 56, 32 2410 DATA 240, 255, 138, 76, 25, 205 2420 DATA 32, 62, 206, 32, 243, 205 2430 DATA 32, 46, 197, 173, 192, 206 2440 DATA 41, 15, 164, 211, 145, 243 2450 DATA 32, 254, 205, 96, 32, 71 2460 DATA 206, 32, 243, 205, 32, 46 2470 DATA 197, 173, 192, 206, 32, 241 2480 DATA 204, 13, 194, 206, 164, 211 2490 DATA 145, 209, 32, 254, 205, 96 2500 DATA 32, 62, 206, 32, 243, 205 2510 DATA 32, 46, 197, 173, 192, 206 2520 DATA 10, 10, 32, 241, 204, 133 2530 DATA 251, 164, 211, 177, 209, 41 2540 DATA 63, 5, 251, 145, 209, 32 2550 DATA 254, 205, 96, 32, 113, 206 2560 DATA 173, 188, 206, 77, 190, 206 2570 DATA 168, 173, 189, 206, 77, 191 2580 DATA 206, 76, 28, 205, 32, 113 2590 DATA 206, 173, 188, 206, 45, 190 2600 DATA 206, 168, 173, 189, 206, 45 2610 DATA 191, 206, 76, 28, 205, 32 2620 DATA 113, 206, 173, 188, 206, 13 2630 DATA 190, 206, 168, 173, 189, 206 2640 DATA 13, 191, 206, 76, 28, 205 2650 DATA 32, 71, 206, 32, 17, 198 2660 DATA 162, 8, 160, 3, 32, 87 2670 DATA 205, 173, 192, 206, 41, 14 2680 DATA 10, 170, 24, 189, 189, 207 2690 DATA 109, 194, 206, 133, 251, 189 2700 DATA 190, 207, 109, 195, 206, 133 2710 DATA 252, 162, 24, 160, 253, 32 2720 DATA 39, 205, 169, 8, 133, 20 2730 DATA 32, 200, 204, 160, 0, 32 2740 DATA 37, 206, 76, 228, 204, 162 2750 DATA 2, 160, 3, 32, 87, 205 2760 DATA 162, 4, 160, 3, 32, 87 2770 DATA 205, 162, 2, 160, 36, 32 2780 DATA 63, 205, 162, 4, 160, 38 2790 DATA 32, 63, 205, 32, 222, 198 2800 DATA 96, 32, 62, 206, 32, 17 2810 DATA 198, 162, 6, 160, 6, 32 2820 DATA 87, 205, 24, 173, 189, 207 2830 DATA 109, 192, 206, 141, 192, 206

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4610 DATA 207, 172, 49, 207, 76, 28

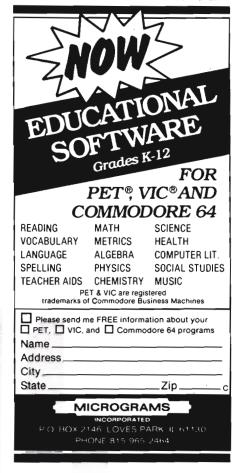
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4580 DATA 190, 206, 41, 7, 141, 21

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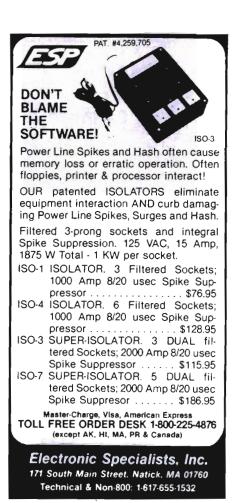
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5820 DATA 206, 189, 187, 206, 153, 187
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5840 DATA 0, 181, 1, 153, 1, 0
5850 DATA 96, 30, 186, 206, 62, 187
5860 DATA 206, 136, 208, 247, 96, 94
5870 DATA 187, 206, 126, 186, 206, 136
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5890 DATA 189, 186, 206, 121, 186, 206
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5910 DATA 187, 206, 133, 21, 162, 20
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5970 DATA 205, 56, 181, 0, 249, 186
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6050 DATA 206, 152, 253, 187, 206, 157
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6070 DATA 133, 205, 173, 187, 206, 48
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6150 DATA 234, 96, 160, 0, 165, 21
6160 DATA 240, 15, 177, 251, 145, 253
6170 DATA 200, 208, 249, 230, 252, 230
6180 DATA 254, 198, 21, 208, 241, 165
6190 DATA 20, 240, 9, 177, 251, 145
6200 DATA 253, 200, 198, 20, 208, 247
6210 DATA 96, 162, 2, 32, 16, 205
6220 DATA 96, 32, 47, 206, 162, 4
6230 DATA 32, 16, 205, 96, 32, 53
6240 DATA 206, 162, 6, 32, 16, 205
6250 DATA 96, 32, 62, 206, 162,
```

6260 DATA 32, 16, 205, 96, 32, 47 6270 DATA 206, 162, 4, 32, 246, 204 6280 DATA 96, 32, 107, 206, 162, 4 6290 DATA 32, 16, 205, 96, 32, 89 6300 DATA 206, 162, 6, 32, 16, 205 6310 DATA 96, 162, 2, 32, 246, 204 6320 DATA 96, 32, 107, 206, 162, 4 6330 DATA 32, 246, 204, 96, 255, 255 6340 DATA 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 6350 DATA 64, 128, 254, 253, 251, 247 6360 DATA 239, 223, 191, 127, 128, 64 6370 DATA 32, 16, 8, 4, 2, 1 6380 DATA 127, 191, 223, 239, 247, 251 6390 DATA 253, 254, 63, 63, 207, 207 6400 DATA 243, 243, 252, 252, 0, 85 6410 DATA 170, 255, 16, 32, 64, 128 6420 DATA 0, 64, 128, 192, 0, 212 6430 DATA 0, 212, 7, 212, 14, 212 6440 DATA 67, 79, 80, 89, 82, 73 6450 DATA 71, 72, 84, 32, 49, 57 6460 DATA 56, 50, 32, 71, 46, 82 6470 DATA 46, 71, 65, 85, 75, 69 6480 DATA 76, 170, 170, 170, 170,

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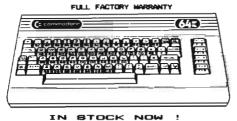
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```
100 REM 'XDEMLO'
110 A=USR(0),2,0,8
120 A=USR(1): A=USR(16)
130 A=USR(3),0
140 A=USR(5),1,0
150 A=USR(7),0
160 A=USR (20)
170 A=USR(6),0,0
175 :
180 P=160 : Q=64
190 XP=144: XR=1.5*3.14159265
200 YP=56: YR=1: ZP=64
210 XF=XR/XP:YF=YP/YR:ZF=XR/ZP
220 FOR ZI=-Q TO Q-1
230 ZT=ZI*XP/ZP:ZZ=ZI
240 XL=INT(.5+SQR(XP^2-ZT^2))
250 FOR XI =- XL TO XL STEP2
260 XT=SQR(XI^2+ZT^2)*XF:XX=XI
270 YY=(SIN(XT)+.4*SIN(3*XT))*YF
280 X1=INT((XX+ZZ+P)/2)
290 Y1=INT(199-(YY-ZZ+100))
300 A=USR(70), X1, Y1, 1
310 IF Y1=199THEN330
320 A=USR(71), X1, (Y1+1), X1, 199,0
330 NEXTXI
340 NEXTZI
350 GETIN$: IFIN$=""THEN350
360 A=USR(2):A=USR(17):A=USR(21):A=USR(6),0,6:A=USR(7),14
370 :
380 END
390 REM RUN TIME ABOUT 1:30
400 REM BIT MAPPING - POINT PAIRS
410 REM RESIDES UNDER BASIC ROM
420 REM SAME AS XDEMHI ONLY HALF
430 REM THE HORIZONTAL RESOLUTION
```





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```
Listing 1
                                      Listing 2
100 REM 'XDEMHI'
                                      100 REM 'XGT5'
110 A=USR(0),2,0,8
                                      110 A=USR(9),32767 : CLR
120 A=USR(1): A=USR(16)
                                      120 A=USR(0).2.2.8
130 A=USR(3).0
                                      130 A=USR(8),0,0
140 A=USR(5),1,0
                                      140 A=USR(1): A=USR(16)
150 A=USR(7).0
                                      150 A=USR(3).0
160 A=USR(19): A=USR(21)
                                      160 A=USR(5),1,0
170 :
                                      170 A=USR (66), 10, 10, 189, 189
180 P=160:Q=100
                                      180 A=USR (68), 309, 10
190 XP=144: XR=1.5*3.14159265
                                      190 A=USR (68).10.10
200 YP=56: YR=1: ZP=64
                                      200 A=USR(35),0,1
210 XF=XR/XP: YF=YP/YR: ZF=XR/ZP
                                      210 A=USR (32).0
220 FOR ZI=-Q TO Q-1
                                      220 A=USR (34), 180, 100, 0
230 IF ZI<-ZP OR ZI>ZP THEN 350
                                      230 FORI=0 TD255:FORJ=0TD550:NEXT
240 ZT=ZI*XP/ZP:ZZ=ZI
                                      240 A=USR(30),20,12,I
250 XL=INT(.5+8QR(XP^2-ZT^2))
                                      250 A=USR (39), 0, I
260 FOR XI =- XL TO XL
                                      260 A=USR(63), 3, 23, 0, I:NEXT
270 XT=SQR (XI^2+ZT^2) *XF: XX=XI
                                      270 GETIN#: IFIN#=""THEN150
280 YY=(SIN(XT)+.4*SIN(3*XT))*YF
                                      280 A=USR(2): A=USR(17)
290 X1=XX+ZZ+P
                                      290 A=USR (41)
300 Y1=YY-ZZ+Q
                                      300 :
310 A=USR(64), X1, 199-Y1
                                      310 REM SHOWS CHARS TO MAP
320 IF Y1=OTHENTHEN340
                                      320 REM AND SPRITES TO MAP
330 A=USR(67), X1, 199-(Y1-1), X1, 199
                                      330 REM THE REAL SPRITE IS
340 NEXTXI
                                      340 REM THE TOP ONE
350 NEXTZI
                                      350 REM SPRITE MAPS ARE NOT
360 GETIN#: IFIN#=""THEN360
                                      360 REM ALWAYS SAME AS SPRITE
370 A=USR(2):A=USR(17):A=USR(7),14
                                      370 REM SEES CHAR ROM
380 :
                                      380 REM AND USR SEES ALL RAM
390 END
400 REM RUN TIME ABOUT 3:00
410 REM BIT MAP - PIXELS
420 REM RESIDES UNDER BASIC ROM
430 REM A DESIGN SEEN VERY OFTEN
             100 REM 'XGT4'
Listing 3
             110 A=USR(9).32767 : CLR
             120 A=USR(0),2,0,8
             130 A=USR(1):A=USR(16)
             140 A=USR (66),0,0,0,0
             150 A=USR(3), INT(RND(1) *255)
             160 A=USR(5), INT(RND(1)*16), INT(RND(1)*16)
             170 A=USR(7), INT(RND(1)*16)
             180 FORJJ=0T020
             190 A=USR(69), INT(RND(1) *320), INT(RND(1) *200)
             200 A=USR(68), INT(RND(1)*320), INT(RND(1)*200)
             210 NEXT
             220 A=USR(8),8,0
             230 A=USR(8),12,1
             240 FOR I=OTO 1000 : NEXT
             250 GETIN#: IFIN#=""THEN140
             260 A=USR(2):A=USR(17)
             270 1
             280 REM SOME RANDOM LINES
             290 REM ON RANDOM BACKGROUND
             300 REM AND COPY CHAR ROM
             310 REM TO MAP FOR TEST
```

Array Assignment Sort

by David Steffes and Art Dudley Bremerton, WA

Most efficient sorting routines are lengthy and too complex for a beginner to understand. The listed program is just the opposite. It is short and simple almost beyond belief with an added advantage of being relatively fast. Before this article goes any further, we want to mention that this is not a miracle sort. It does have limitations. but its simplicity warrants its mention.

The structure of the program is based on using two one-dimensional arrays. The first array is used for the sort procedure and the second for keeping track of duplicate numbers. The sort in actuality is nothing more than a FOR-NEXT loop used to set up an array; however, when values are assigned, they must correspond to their array element's subscript (i.e. A(5) = 5, A(1) = 1, A(10) = 10...). To list the values in order involves nothing more than displaying the contents of the array using a separate FOR-NEXT loop.

To best explain this sort program, an example will be used. For simplicity's sake, say we input a 4 (variable N) for the amount of numbers to be sorted with a 5 (variable Z) as the highest number. Array "A" may look like this:

Unsorted Numbers

- A(1) = 5
- A(2) = 1
- A(3) = 5
- A(4) = 2

Note: Remember the numbers are generated at random.

Lines 90 to 130 will set up two arrays like so:

B(1) = 1	C(1) = 0
B(2) = 2	C(2) = 0
B(3) = 0*	C(3) = 0
B(4) = 0*	C(4) = 0
B(5) = 5	C(5) = 1

(Meaning we have one duplicate number. This is accomplished in line 110.)

*Line 160 will prevent the zeros from being printed.

Lines 150 to 180 will then print out the contents of the array. Now since C(5) = 1, the program will print out the contents of B(5) one extra time. This is accomplished in line 170.

You may have already noticed the shortcomings of this program. The two we noticed are as follows:

- 1. Variable Z is used to dimension both arrays "B" and "C"; therefore, the largest number one can use is based on memory size. For example: A 1000 as the largest number will set up an array of 1001 elements. If there are 4 bytes per element, this will take up 4004 bytes of memory for each array or a total of 8008 for both.
- 2. Since the program will print out only numbers greater than zero, unsorted values cannot contain a zero.

There is no need for array "A" in practical situations. Also array "C" is used to keep track of duplicate numbers. So if there are no duplicate numbers, array "C" can be deleted. These two techniques should save a considerable amount of memory.

Since time is an important aspect of any sort, we have constructed the below table listing sort times in relation to the amount of numbers to be sorted and the largest value. The total sort time includes not only the time it takes to sort but also the time necessary to display the sorted numbers. The actual time devoted to sorting is but a small fraction of the total time.

Program Runs Performed on the Commodore VIC-20

As a final note, even though this program does have its shortcomings, we believe this sort can be a useful tool in some applications as well as in displaying another function of an array to beginners.

Program Details			
Line 10	Input the amount of numbers to be sorted (variable N).		
Line 20	Input the largest number to be sorted (variable Z).		
Line 50	Dimensions the three arrays. Array "A" uses the subscript N, and arrays "B" and "C" use subscript Z. Note: Array "A" is not used in the sorting process but instead as storage for the random numbers.		
Line 60 to 70	Sets up array "A" with random numbers.		
Lines 90 to 130	Sort routine:		
	Line 110 keeps a count of duplicate numbers. Line 120 assigns a value to its proper array element.		
Lines 150 to 180	A simple FOR-NEXT loop that prints out the array in the order of its subscripts. Line 170 displays duplicate numbers.		

Largest Number to be Sorted

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	50	100	200	400
50	2 sec.	4 sec.	9 sec.	17 sec.
100	3 sec.	5 sec.	9 sec.	18 sec.
200	4 sec.	6 sec.	10 sec.	18 sec.
300	5 sec.	7 sec.	11 sec.	19 sec.

5 REM *******ARRAY ASSIGNMENT SORT*****

- 10 INPUT"MUMBER OF ITEMS TO BE SORTED";N 20 INPUT"LARGEST VALUE TO BE SORTED";Z
- 40 REM **DIMENSION AN ASSIGN RANDOM VALUES TO ARRAY**
- 50 DIM 8(N),8(Z),C(Z)
- 60 FOR J=1 TO N
- 70 A(J)=INT(RND(1)*Z):PRINTA(J)
- 80 NEXT J
- 85 REM**BEGIN SORT**
- 90 FOR J≈1 TO N
- 100 X=8(J)
- 119 IFX=8(X)THEN C(X)=C(X)+1;REN##TALLY OF DUPLICATE NUMBERS##
- 120 B(X)=X
- 130 NEXTJ:PRINT:PRINT
- 140 REM##PRINT OUT SORTED NUMBERS##
- 150 FOR J=1 TO Z
- 160 IF B(J)>OTHEN PRINT B(J),
- 170 IF C(J)>OTHEN P=C(J):FOR Q=1 TO P:PRINT B(J), NEXT Q

- 180 NEXT J
- 190 END

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Build Your Own Computer Table

by Spike Bickel Chicago, IL

After spending about three months puzzling over which personal computer to buy, I decided on a Commodore 64. My only problem was a place to put it in my apartment. My desk was not deep enough to hold both the computer and the monitor in a position that I could see the monitor while typing on the keys.

I then made the rounds of furniture stores to locate a table. Either they were too shallow or too high, I wanted a table of typing height so my hands would not be level with my chest. I finally found a table made of plywood with an oak veneer for \$160. I couldn't see paying that much since I planned to paint it. I decided to build my own. The cost? \$29 plus paint, which I already had.

The materials I needed were: 1-4x8x3/4 particle board cut as in diagram; 4-31/2 corner irons; 31-11/4 flat head wood screws; 1 pint primersealer; 1 quart paint.

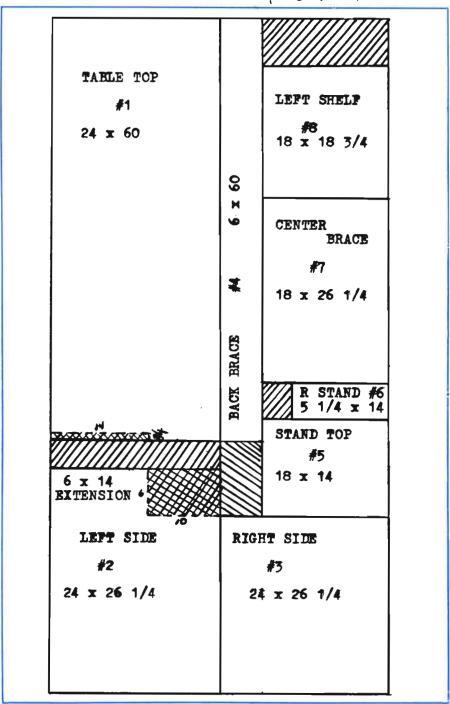
The tools I used were a jigsaw, drill (for starter holes and counter sinking), and a screw driver.

Procedure:

- 1. Have the lumber yard make the cuts in the sheet of board. Make sure they cut them in order numerically.
 - 2. Cut the notches in pieces 1 and 2.
- 3. Attach piece 1 to 2 then 1 to 3. 1 sits on top of 2 and 3.
- 4. Attach 4 to the back of the table so the top edge is 12 inches from the floor.
- 5. Attach 5 to 6 then this to 1 and 2. This makes a monitor stand.
- 6. Attach 7 to the bottom of 1 and front of 4. Use 8 as a spacer.
- 7. Lay 8 between 7 and 3. Rest the back on 4. Level and attach to 7, 3 and 4.
 - 8. Prime and paint.

I am not a carpenter, but was able

to assemble this in about two hours with the help of a friend. It is sturdy, large enough to hold a future printer, and is perfect for me (and I hope for you, too). Now, if only the postman would bring my computer. □



Formatting and Error Checking— A Time Saving Algorithm

by Tony La Martina Pittsburg, PA

Due to an error in our March/April issue the program was deleted. We apologize for the inconvenience.

The Editor



```
READY.
5 PRINT""
 10 INPUT" ";A$
 20 A=VAL(A$)
 30 PRINTSPC(20)"]"::INPUT" ":B$
40 B=VAL(B$)
 50 DEFFNA(C)=INT(C*100+.5)/100
 60 C=A/B
 70 C$=STR$(FNA(C))
80 X$=RIGHT$(C$,2)
 90 IF LEFT$(X$,1)="." THEN C$=C$+"0"
 100 IF C=INT(C) THEN C$=C$+".00"
 110 PRINTSPC(60-LEN(C$))"]"C$
 120 GOTO10
 130 END
READY.
```

```
READY.
5 REM FORMATTING DEMO W/ERROR CHECKING, AUDIBLE ALERT
7 REM AND INVALID ENTRY ERASURE
10 PRINT""
20 INPUT"
             眼睛看";白李
30 K=LEN(A$)
40 FOR J=1TOK
50 IF ASC(MID$(A$,J,1))<45 OR ASC(MID$(A$,J,1))>57 THEN J=K:GOTO1000
55 IF LEN(A$)>7 THEN1000
60 NEXT
70 A=VAL(A$)
80 PRINTSPC(20)"]";:INPUT"
                              IIIIII";B$
90 K=LEN(B$)
100 FOR J=1TOK
110 IF ASC(MID*(B*,J,1))<45 OR ASC(MID*(B*,J,1))>57 THEN J=K:GOTO1050
115 IF LEN(B$)>7 THEN1050
120 NEXT
130 B=VAL(B$)
135 IF B$="0" THEN C$=".00":GOTO200
140 DEFFNA(C)=INT(C*100+.5)/100
150 C=8/B
```

```
160 C$=STR$(FNA(C))
 170 X$=RIGHT$(C$.2)
 180 IF LEFT$(X$,1)="." THEN C$=C$+"0"
 190 IF C=INT(C) THEN C$=C$+".00"
200 PRINTSPC(60-LEN(C$))"]"C$
210 GOTO20
999 REM INVALID ENTRY ERASURE
 1000 GOSUB5000:REM AUDIBLE ALERT
 1010 PRINTCHR$(22)
 1020 PRINT"1 :GOTO20
 1050 GOSUB5000:REM AUDIBLE ALERT
 1060 PRINTTAB(10); CHR$(22)
 1070 PRINT"]":GOTO70
4999 REM AUDIBLE ALERT SUBROUTINE
 5000 FOR I=1T03
 5010 POKE59467,16:POKE59464,50:POKE59466,100
 5020 FOR T=1T0100:NEXT T
 5030 POKE59464,75:POKE59466,175
 5040 FOR T=1T0100:NEXT T
 5050 NEXT I:POKE59467,0:POKE59464,0:POKE59466,0
 5060 PRINT"
 5070 RETURN
READY.
```

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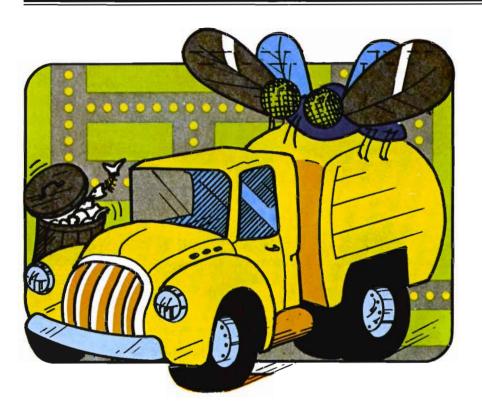
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Game—CONTEST



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Karen Dantes, Milford, MI

2nd Prize:

Eric Pefley, Seattle, WA

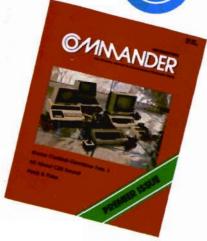
3rd Prize:

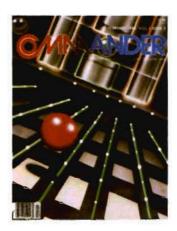
Kelly Shackleford,

Tacoma, WA

Final tune was "Stars & Stripes Forever."

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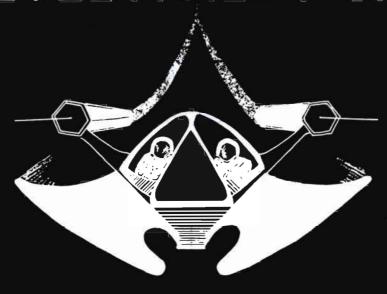
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Circle No. 17

Win A FREE Commodore 64™ Computer Can You Beat PARATROOPER?

10 Prize Winners

A New Commodore 64 will be awarded to the person with the highest score. The winning entry must contain a photograph of the highest score of the game.

PARATROOPER By Nic Dudzik

REALISTIC SMOOTH ACTION AND TRUE HI-RES GRAPHICS



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PARATROOPER a High Resolution game that doesn't let you make any mistakes. You are in command. Helicopters fill the sky, (and we mean fill the sky!), dropping paratroopers. Your mission is to keep 3 paratroopers from hitting the ground on either side of your gun. But that's just the beginning. You score by hitting the helicopters or the paratroopers, but if you miss a shot it subtracts from your score. Therefore, you must make every shot count to make a high score! IT HAS FOUR FAST ACTION LEVELS TO CHALLENGE THE BEST PLAYER. The High Resolution graphics helicoptors are fantastic. They look exactly like helicopters! The paratroopers are super realistic. Their chutes open and then they drift down to earth. If this weren't-enough the sounds are fantastic. There are helicopter blades whirring and you can hear the howitzer pumping shells. This game really show off the sound and graphic capabilities of you VIC. PARATROOPER IS OUR #1 SELLING ARCADE GAME, you've got to see this game to believe it.

Order your copy today or see your dealer.
Will you get the top score?

RULES

- All entries must be mailed, as postmarks are required to determine the earliest winning entry. In the event of a tie the postmark will determine the winner.
- 2. Deadline for entries is July 31, 1983.
- Proof of purchase must be provided. Return your entry with package front and proof of purchase slip and photo.
- 4. ENTRIES MUST BE MAILED TO: PARATROOPER CONTEST, P.O. Box 388, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
- 5. Game contest void where prohibited.
- Contest begins April 2, 1983. All entries must be postmarked by July 31, 1983. Contest ends July 31, 1983.
- Winners will be notified by mail. Public notice of winners will be printed in this and other computer magazines.
- 8. Only one entry per person please -- all duplicates will be discarded
- 9. There will be 10 winners for a 1st, 2nd & 3rd prize. Prizes for 4th 10th will be for software.
- 10. Contest is limited to U.S.A., Properties and Canada only.

ComputerMat . P.O. Box 1664T . Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403

Game Reviews

Trashman

by Robert L. Foster Salt Lake City, UT

Creative Software 230 East Caribbean Drive Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (408) 745-1655



Now I know this will sound a bit strange, but Creative Software has developed a fun and exciting computer game called Trashman. With a name like that, I was curious to say the least!

It turned out to be a fun game for all ages, easy to play, but difficult to describe. There are various skill levels which makes it adaptable for younger children.

As the "trashman" you are allowed three garbage trucks, but only one at a time. When the game starts you are in your yellow truck ready to go. You must maneuver your truck across the screen picking up dots of litter, while you are being pursued by four "evil" flies. Spaced at intervals are six trash cans. If an evil fly touches you before you reach a trash can you get "canned," if you'll pardon the pun!

However, if you reach a trash can, you can turn on your pursuers and gobble them up! Your truck has two arms with which it picks up the trash. While you and the flies battle each other, little worms in the center of the

screen regenerate into flies, which will come in pursuit.

At the beginning, when you first turn on the game, the "William Tell Overture" starts off the game. When all three of your trucks lose their battle against the evil flies, you will hear a mournful "taps" being played.

Despite the bizarre name, this game is fast moving, requires skill, and will provide many hours of family fun, especially for younger members. We let some younger relatives, girls and boys, ages 7 through 12, play the game and they were thoroughly entranced by this unusual video game and had no difficulty with it at all.

When a rainbow has been completely destroyed, a leprechaun does a lively jig and the pace of the game increases a full skill level.

This game has about the best sound of any available for the VIC. The graphics are good also. The rainbows are quite colorful, the pots of gold glitter like the real thing, and the snakes slither like snakes.

Skibbereen rates very well in sound quality, and the graphics are good. The skill levels are well defined so that almost all could play and enjoy this game. Even if you don't play the game and just listen to the lilting Irish music, you'll enjoy it very much.

Skibbereen

by Robert L. Foster Salt Lake City, UT

United Microware Industries 3503-C Temple Avenue Pomona, CA 91768 (714) 594-1351

For a change of pace, let's go to old Ireland, land of rainbows, pots of gold, and leprechauns. As the old Irish tale goes "At the end of the rainbow, there a pot o' gold will be," so also with this new game developed by Joanne Lee for United Microware Industries.

The object is to break through the rainbows and get to the pot full of gold. While trying to get to the treasure, snakes appear in front of the two rainbows and try to eat the ball which you are using to break through.

The fascination of this game lies in its unusual sound. A series of Irish jigs play during the entire game. A bit distracting at first, you come to realize that the music is what makes the game lively and fun.

Skibbereen has nine skill levels, each progressively more difficult.

Astroblitz

by Robert L. Foster Salt Lake City, UT

Creative Software 230 East Caribbean Drive Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (408) 745-1655

Earth is being taken over by hostile aliens! You are the only one who can stop them. Their spaceships patrol the sky, red and green lights flashing from their windows. Bullets from the alien craft plaster the sky trying to find and destroy your cruiser as you fire back, dodging left and right, up and down. You must stay alert so you do not run into an occasional enemy bomb.



WARNING: Keep your distance when shooting at the bombs. The debris from the explosions shower the sky and a stray piece of shrapnel may just find your ship. While shooting at the aliens, dodging their bullets and bombs, alien guntowers riddle the sky hoping to find you. If you think the action is fast and furious, wait until the aliens unleash their guppies! That's right, guppies! But don't let the name fool you. These guppies are flying, fish-like creatures that become relentless assassins from which there is no escape. They will pursue you until you are destroyed or you destroy them. Oddly enough, these deadly creatures carry the lowest points possible!

Since aliens have captured most of the cities, they have put deadly force fields or charges around them. Touching these force fields means death.

While cruising through space fighting these deadly perils, you have the aid of a radar scanner which permits you to see UFO's, guntowers, guppies, cities and buildings before reaching them. There are brackets like gunsights allowing you to zero in on enemy targets.

Astroblitz is a suspenseful, fast moving game. Perhaps those with heart conditions should leave it alone. But for you other space adventurers, this is the game for you. You will thrill to this action packed game.

Tom Griner who developed the game for Creative Software, has nearly outdone himself this time. The color, sound, and detailed features are absolutely excellent. To some, the game may seem a bit difficult to master, but anyone over twelve who has fast reflexes and a little free time can thoroughly enjoy Astroblitz. A good game pays off! You get to put your initials up on the built-up "top ten" scoreboard.

At the start of the game, you receive five ships. This doesn't seem near enough firepower to save the earth. But after scoring 2200 on the scoreboard, the screen turns brilliant green, and you get a new squadron; after five thousand points you get another new ship to join your attack force.

Take it from an Astroblitz addict; this

new game will provide many hours of fun and excitement on your VIC.

Choplifter

by Robert L. Foster Salt Lake City, UT

Creative Software 230 East Caribbean Drive Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (408) 745-1655

The enemy has taken sixty-four of your citizens hostage! Your mission:



Fly your chopper into enemy territory and rescue the captives. This is a most dangerous assignment. The enemy has tanks, planes and satellites bent on knocking your chopper out of the air or destroying it on the ground. While you are in the air you are able to defend yourself and can destroy tanks, planes, and satellites. However, once you have landed and are loading the hostages enemy tanks can destroy you, your chopper and the people you are trying to rescue! You can carry only sixteen hostages per trip.

The hostages are in separate buildings, sixteen hostages in each building. If an enemy plane bombs a building the hostages are free to run-but enemy tanks are all about waiting for them! You must demonstrate your skill as a chopper pilot to stay alive, gather the captives and get back to your base! If you escape with the first load you must return to rescue the others. You must do this three more times until all sixty-four have been rescued or otherwise accounted for. In the event you get shot down, you have two more choppers waiting to go. So you actually have three choppers to help get the job done.

Enemy planes become more numerous as the game intensifies. They will try to bomb you on the ground and even while you are in the air trying to get back to your base. Enemy satellites also try to destroy you by chasing you.

Because of the superb sound and tremendous graphics you actually feel like you are on a combat mission. Your chopper sounds exactly like a real chopper. It responds to the joystick exactly as a real helicopter would. The hostages scurry about, the enemy tanks and planes are very real.

This excellent game was created by Tom Griner for Creative Software and has arcade quality features. The only minor disadvantage is that the game isn't overly difficult to master. Perhaps that isn't a disadvantage! Choplifter is always a fun and exciting game even when you've mastered it. The entire family can enjoy many hours of exciting fun with the new Choplifter game.



Product Reviews

Spritemaster 64™ Program Description

The SPRITEMASTER 64™ animation program is designed as a sprite generator and editor for use by programmers or as a fun and creative playmate for children or adults.

Sprites are moveable object blocks which, through the power of the new Commodore 64 computer, can be made to imitate almost any moving object.

SPRITEMASTER™ helps you build your sprite, then copy and modify it to produce a sequence of pictures which represent the object in motion. The ANIMATE command will then put each picture on the screen in rapid succession to create the animation. This is similar to what takes place in a movie projector where still photographs, each a slightly different picture, are rapidly projected one after another onto the screen to produce a "motion picture."

SPRITEMASTER™ lets you modify your sprite picture sequence to produce colors, shapes and sizes which give the best effect. In addition, you may change the speed of animation (the rate at which the still frames are displayed) or the speed of travel (the vertical or horizontal movement across the screen).

Once you have created your animated figure, you can save the information to tape or disk for retrieval at a later time. You may want to refine several figures for use in a game program.

Although SPRITEMASTER™ is not a game program, it is a program to create game objects. For example, it cannot display a pitcher throwing a baseball to a catcher. It can, however, be used to create the pitcher as a separate sprite, including the throwing

motion, then the baseball as another sprite, and then the catcher as the final sprite. Each object is created separately and then transferred to other programs for interaction and movement as desired. The programmer's reference section provides guidance on how to manipulate sprites in your own programs.

As a learning companion for children, SPRITEMASTER™ helps teach artistry and creativity. Children can experience the excitement of first visualizing the still picture sequence involved in motion and then seeing their creations spring to life on the screen.

Access Software Inc., 925 East 900 South, Salt Lake City, (800) 532-1134.

Circle No. 74

Current Product Review 8000 Series & Commodore-64

Legal Plus

This is an enhanced version of Legal Time Accounting with TRUST and RETAINER tracking. LTA has sold more than 800 copies. CALENDAR/80 can be integrated.

CALENDAR/80

A Calendar/Scheduling module for legal, medical and dental packages. This module is also available as a stand alone product.

MAS

More than 400 sold. Designed for the small medical office.

DAS

An open item, treatment plan oriented dental accounting system for the small dental office. More than 150 sold.

ULTRA

WordCraft ULTRA, the supreme word processing package.

EXECUTIVE

Combines THE MANAGER with

ULTRA in one interactive package. **CMAR**

A machine code file handling program for sophisticated programmers. **Comp-U-Cost**

The most comprehensive job costing program available.

INSTA-WRITER

A simple to use CARTRIDGE based word processing package for the COMMODORE-64.

ULTRA CALC

New for the 8096 series and the soon to be released 500 and 700 series computers is **WordCraft ULTRA CALC.**

Built into ULTRA is a full function calculator with MEMORY, CONSTANT, PERCENTAGES, MIXED CALCULATIONS and 0 to 9 DECIMAL PLACES.

All calculations are performed on the **4th** line and then transferred anywhere in text. Horizontal and vertical calculations are simple two key functions.

SPREADSHEET work can now be accomplished after a 10 minute training period.

DISPLAY BRACKETS LAST OP
[] []
MEMORY CONSTANT
[] [] []

Invoices, purchase orders, sales orders and other business forms can all be done easily and automatically.

Fill File Selection

Also included in ULTRA CALC is field selectable sort and **wild card** search features.

Much of the DATA BASE work that people need to perform is served by this kind of capability.

By building **TEMPLATES**, the user can establish **ARGUMENTS** that are equal to, greater than, less than, not equal to, less than or equal to, greater

52/Commander May 1983

than or equal to or within a specified range.

This is an extremely powerful capability and adds a dimension not approached by any competitive word processing package on any micro system.

MORE...

A KEYWORD SECURITY system for "secret" documents, cursor movement between pages, filling form alien files, disk directory print out, communications for different modems and support for parallel printers are also included.

HYDRA

HYDRA is a true Local Area Network (LAN) system for the Commodore 8000 series. Up to 128 computers (autonomous nodes) may operate within the network. The basic configuration for each computer is a printed circuit card, a twisted pair cable and resident ROM microcode.

HYDRA allows any network site to access disk units or printers at other sites. Any number of disk units may be accessed by each computer on the network. A multi-user DOS (MUDOS) supplied with each HYDRA allows each disk unit to handle 50 relative files simultaneously.

System speed is 250K baud (30,000 characters per second) at a maximum distance of 3000 feet. Smaller network configurations allow for longer distances.

Typical uses are education, resource sharing, electronic mail and multi-user applications development.

SYSTEM 96

SYSTEM 96 is a language system for the 8096. It allows programs of up to 80K-bytes to be run and supports an enhanced version of BASIC 4.0.

It operates in a dual mode in that BASIC code can either be interpreted or compiled (DTL-BASIC compiler). By using powerful OVERLAYS, programs up to two and half times larger than before can be run.

64K Board

Available in March from Cimarron is a compact and versatile 64K add on board for the 8032. It is 100% compatible, very small and cool running and includes provision for up to 4 ROMS or EPROMS on the board itself.

DTL Compiler

This is a two pass compiler that is currently available for the 8000 series and soon to be released for the 500. 700 and Commodore-64 series computers.

It is fully compatible with BASIC programs including machine code routine. The compilers run smaller and faster than their competitors.

Approximately 55 times faster than interpreted code.

INSTA SERIES

Following INSTA-WRITER are five additional Commodore-64 cartridge/disk based products for release over the next three months.

All are professionally packaged with point of sale exciters such as posters and placards.

The MAIN LINE PUNCH of these products are "INSTANT" operation and ease of use. The products will carry the same message and indentity throughout, whether a graphing package, a spreadsheet package or personal finance.

All will stress personal productivity as their hallmark.

WordCraft 64

Due for April release is WordCraft 64 featuring all the capabilities of the 80 column version.

META MUSIC

Just finished and released to Commodore is META MUSIC I. This program fully exploits the features of Commodore's SID chip in the 64.

With META MUSIC I, the operator can score, orchestrate, compose, program custom sounds and single/multipart record.

EDIT mode will include keyboard notation, step sequencing, auto tempo generation and 3 pseudo voices for special effects and pitch blending and sweeping. The user may score in muscial notation with run time options including voices, passages, tempo, and measures. Video scanning will also be available.

PLAY mode will assemble all of the above options operationally.

For more imformation about these and other Cimarron products, please contact us direct or drop us a line: CIMARRON, 666 Baker Street, Suite 319, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, (714) 641-1156 Circle No. 75

VIC 20/PET/CBM OWNERS

WALLBANGER - Blast your way through the dodge'm, blast'm, and attack modes. If you destroy the bouncing balls before they destroy you, the walls close in for the next round. WALLBANGER is written in machine language, has great sound, and encourages complex strategies.

CASS/5K/VIC 20

ALL 40/80 COLUMN PETS & CBMS

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CHICKEN CHASE - Help your hapless hen avoid hungry chicken hawks, sneaky coyotes, and fiendish zompys. If your chicken gets into trouble, "hyper-hen" to a new spot on the maze. If your chicken travels the entire maze, you advance to the next level where the action is faster and the predators more numerous. Hi-res graphics, great sounds, and machine language help make CHICKEN CHASE a hilarious fun-filled game for the whole family.

CASS/5K/VIC-20

(Includes Shipping/Handling) \$19.95 [CALIF. RES. ADD 6% SALES TAX]

ROADTOAD - Hop your toad across 5 lanes of traffic, avoid deadly snakes, and dodge the dreaded toad-eaters. Cross a raging river full of logs, turtles, alligators, and park your toad in the safety of a harbor. Each time you park 5 toads, you enter a tougher level where the action is faster and the toad-eaters are more numerous. ROADTOAD is written in machine language and uses high resolution graphics. The sound effects are excellent and you can use a joystick or the keyboard to control your toad. CASS/5K/VIC 20 (Includes Shipping/Handling) \$19.95

[CALIF. RES. ADD 6% SALES TAX]

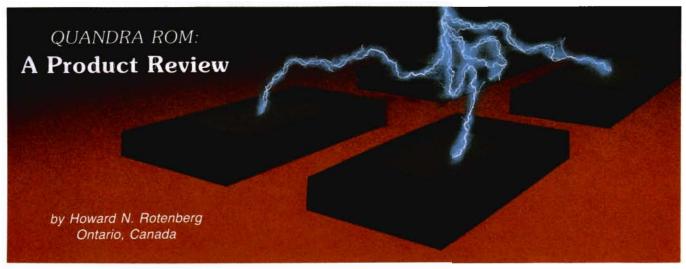
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Write For FRFF Catalog

WARNING! These games cause high panic levels!

VIC 20/PET/CBM OWNERS



About two years ago I found myself in an awkward position that many other people have also experienced. I had three Roms that all resided at the same address. This is really no problem since swapping the Roms was not at all a hard task. The problem arises because the pins on the Rom and the actual socket started to take a beating after a number of insertions. I found that if the pins were not breaking off then some of the contacts on the COMMODORE motherboard were not making proper electrical connection. One thing led to another until I decided to get A QUADRA ROM and solve the problem once and for all.

Multiple ROMs Reside at the Same Address

The QUADRA ROM is a small board for the COMMODORE computer that allows four Roms to reside at the same address. It is manufactured by a company called MICROM in TORONTO. This is very handy since now I could have all my Roms present in the computer at the same time and choose the one I needed at the time. This seemed all fine and dandy until my collection of roms grew to six. I was very happy to know that the QUADRA ROM could be stacked therefore allowing seven Roms to reside at the same address. I placed the second QUADRA ROM into the first socket of the first one I had installed. Now I could select the second board just as if it were a Rom and then select the Rom I wanted to use on board number two. There was no need for any buffering since the seven Roms will not draw enough current to warrant it. The

QUADRA ROM is flexible in that it will allow both 2k (2716's) and 4k (2532's) to be used whereas some other similar products will not. A friend of mine is using his QUADRA ROM so that he may use more than one character generator in his 8032.

Choice of Switches Available

Installation of the board is extremely simple although well documented nevertheless and I am sure that anyone could install one without any trouble. (IF YOU ARE REALLY SQUIR-MISH I AM SURE YOUR DEALER WOULD INSTALL IT.) It sits on a component platform that plugs into the Rom socket that you wish to use it for. The platform has small but sturdy insertion pins so your main socket will not be damaged by the device. The board itself consists of four empty sockets, one dip switch, an integrated circuit, three resistors and the component platform with a standoff. The Roms may even be switched in and out without powering down your computer which in itself is a big time saver. An exception to the last statement is a rom that uses the IRQ unless you choose to reset it yourself before switching the Rom out. It has been completely reliable for me and many friends that I know are using it.

I mentioned dip switch because the board that I have uses an internal switch for the selection of the Roms. The board is also available with an external switch for the people who don't like to peek under the cover of their computers. A lot of business men choose the external switch over the internal. The integrated circuit is being

used to decode a binary number from 0 to 3 for the selection of the Roms. Since the decoder really doesn't care how it gets it's information you could very easily hook up two wires to your parallel port and select the Rom you want via software. I choose not to do this since I am not sure what some of the Roms are doing for the software. I would hate to find out that after spending an hour or so with any given program that the Rom toggles the control line and switches in another Rom. If you are using your own software then this could not inadvertently happen.

When we get to the bottom line I guess the price is the real seller of this device. It lists for \$39.95 which is a bargain any way you look at it. Other similar devices on the market have sold for as much as \$106. There have been a few that also sold for approximately the same price but only allowed two Roms or only allowed you to use 2k chips. It seems that most of these have slowly disappeared but the QUADRA ROM lives on.

I believe that the QUADRA ROM was only available in Canada before but some good resources have told me that it has just been picked up by a new marketing company and will be available in the States very shortly. I would keep my eyes open for the future ads, especially in magazines such as this one since it seems an obvious place that a company would want to advertise a product for COMMODORE use.

In summary I highly recommend this well built device for any one who uses software utilizing Roms and for just \$39.95—THE PRICE IS RIGHT.□



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W B

PEDISK II FLOPPY DISK SYSTEM:

A Product Review

by Louis F. Sander Pittsburgh, PA

The PEDISK II is an inexpensive and expandable disk drive system for Commodore PET/CBM computers. If you're thinking about a disk drive for one of those machines, you ought to look into PEDISK II.

Unlike the Commodore drives. which use the IEEE port, the PEDISK Il plugs into a ROM socket inside the PET/CBM. To install the PEDISK II, you remove one of the Commodore ROMs and plug it into the PEDISK II controller board (Figure 1). The board then plugs into the vacant ROM socket, and a cable connecting the drive or drives plugs into it. Four additional connections inside the PET are made by highquality clip connectors. The PEDISK manual gives clear, step-by-step instructions for fitting everything together, and none of the steps are difficult at all. The controller board also contains a ROM of its own, which must be matched to the ROMs and memory size of the host machine.

Either 51/4" or 8" drives can be used with the controller board, and it is a simple matter to expand from one to three drives on a system. All you do is get the proper cable and plug in the extra drives. The PEDISK system is also available for SYM and AIM computers, and disks made on one type of computer can be easily read on any of the others. If you have 8" drives, a standard IBM format is used, allowing you to exchange disks with many other machines.

The DOS, or Disk Operating System, provided with the PEDISK is designed for simplicity and speed. It has all the most useful features, with few frills, so if your ambition is to explore and work with the DOS itself, your task is a relatively easy one. Reading and writing information to the PEDISK are considerably faster than

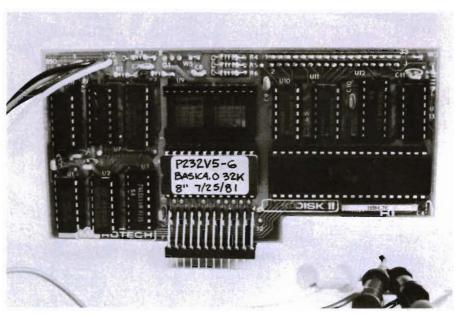


FIGURE 1—PEDISK II Controller Board

the same operations with Commodore drives. For those who want to use data files, the PEDISK supports both the sequential and the relative varieties.

To activate the disk, you do a simple SYS 59904 from your keyboard, which is rewarded by a short welcome message. At this point you have eight BASIC commands available to you, for performing the most commonly needed functions. !SAVE saves a program to disk. !LOAD loads it, and !RUN loads and runs it. !LIST gives a directory of all programs on the disk, while other similar commands are used for file handling.

The !SYS command moves the system into the so-called "PDOS Mode," in which you have more direct control over what is going on, at the machine language level. In PDOS mode, single keystrokes can be used to save or load machine language programs, to examine memory or disk sectors, etc. Using this mode, I have worked out several disk utilities that

were rewarding to write and helpful to use.

Like most manuals for computer hardware, the one with the PEDISK is somewhat difficult to fathom at first. The functions of some commands and operations are not immediately obvious, and the first-time user is likely to spend some time scratching his head. But with effort comes understanding—most of the mystery soon disappears, and the manual quickly becomes a useful guide to working with the system. There is a very useful PEDISK Newsletter, published several times each year, which gives further hints, programs, and instructions.

Other documentation, available at nominal cost, is a Programming Manual, essential for machine language dabblers, and DOS Source Listings, handy for those who **really** want to become expert.

Lots of software is available in PEDISK II format, including the famous MAE 6502 assembler, VISICALC,

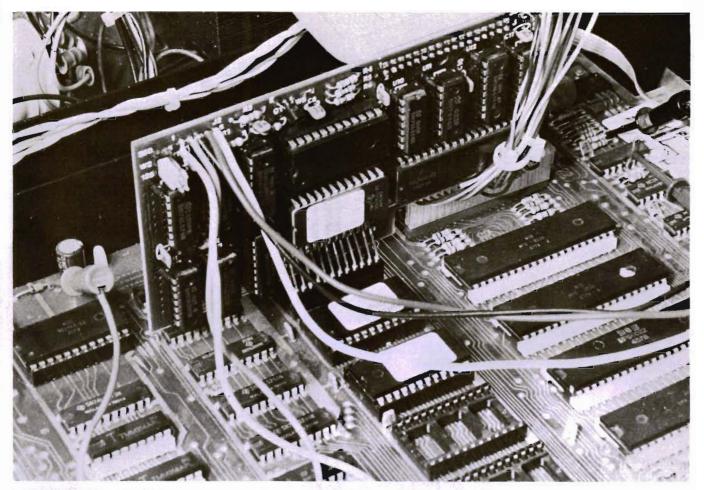


FIGURE 2—PEDISK II Controller board Installed in PET Logic Board

word processors, various utilities, etc. There is also an informal user group whose activities include software swapping. But if you plan to swap software with Commodore disk owners, you won't be able to do it by swapping disks, since Commodore and PEDISK formats are incompatible. I get around that problem by swapping on cassette tapes, which has been quite satisfactory for my purposes.

In summary, the PEDISK II is a very nice way to move beyond the cassette stage, especially if you want to save money on a multi-drive system, or if you want to learn about disk operating systems in an easy and straightforward way. Its only real shortcoming is its incompatibility with Commodore diskettes, but for me, at least, that is more than outweighed by its advantages. I'm glad I bought my PEDISK.

The PEDISK II is available in several configurations from dealers or from Microtech, P.O. Box 102, Langhorne, PA 19047.□



FIGURE 3-PEDISK II with 8" Disk Drive

Parachute Landing

by K.T. Adkins Mt. Sinai, NY

Parachute Landing is a very easy game to play, but can become rather frustrating. It is a game well suited to the screen size of a VIC-20 and can certainly be modified for use on other computers. It was created using an unexpanded VIC-20.

The theme of the game may be simply stated. As the character * the player lands in the middle of a forest, presumably by parachute. He must then find his way out of the forest without stepping on one of the 15 randomly placed land mines. Points are scored for the most steps taken to leave the forest without getting blown up.

The version shown here is intended for keyboard control. When RUN, the title appears followed by instructions for the player. The construction of the program is as follows:

As one can see from the PRINTed version accompanying this article, lines 4 to 19 will display the title followed by the instructions.

Lines 99 to 140 fill the screen with green spades used to simulate trees.

Lines 150 to 180 determine the random location of the 15 land mines. Of course, more or less land mines could be used.

Lines 190 to 290 determine one of four random locations in the center area of the forest where the parachute lands. This may be modified if the reader would prefer to have the parachute land anywhere in the forest.

Lines 300 to 360 display the moves made by the player, adding 100 points to the score each time a successful move is made without hitting a land mine. As noted earlier, if the player escapes from the forest by a longer route, the scores achieved will be higher. However, taking a longer route

increases ones chances of hitting a land mine, in which case, all score points are lost.

Lines 400 to 420 allow the player to choose another game.

Lines 500 to 509 check to see if a move resulted in hitting a land mine.

Lines 510 to 520 check to see if a move resulted in a successful escape from the forest.

Lines 600 to 613 display the escape message together with the current score and the high score.

Lines 700 to 705 create the explosion which results from hitting a land mine.

Lines 706 to 710 display the appropriate message resulting from the explosion mentioned above.

The program is by no means complex nor is it difficult to understand. It is presented primarily for the beginning programmer as an illustration of what can be accomplished by someone who has had a VIC-20 for only three months. As one can see, only a small amount of color and sound are used, but additional color and sound can easily be added. Try, for example, replacing line 10 with the instructions GOSUB 1000 and then adding the following lines to the program:

```
1000 T = 36876: V = 36878

1010 POKE V,15

1020 READ P: IF P = 1 THEN POKE V,0: RETURN

1030 READ R

1040 POKE T,P: FOR N = 1 TO R: NEXT

1050 POKE T,0: FOR N = 1 TO 20: NEXT

1060 GOTO 1020

1070 DATA 215,250,215,250,225,250

1080 DATA 228,250,231,500,231,125

1090 DATA 231,125,232,250,219,250

1100 DATA 219,250,228,500,1
```

```
Z=0:X=0:S=42:CL=144:HS=0
  DIMA(15), AA(15)
 PRINT"
             李承承李承承李承承李承承
5
 PRINT"
6 PRINT"
            * PARACHUTE
7 PRINT"
               LANDING
8 PRIMT"
            康康康康康康康康康康康康康康 : PRINT:PRINT"
  BY TOM ADKINS"
10 FORZZ=1TO4000:NEXTZZ
11 PRINT"D
             AS THE CHARACTER */
   YOU PARACHUTE INTO THEMIDDLE OF A FOREST."
            YOU MUST FIND YOUR WAY OUT OF
12 PRINT"
   THE FOREST."
```

```
WHEN THE BOARD IS COMPLETE, YOU MAY HIT ANY KEY";
13 PRINT:PRINT"
14 PRINT" TO BEGIN THE GAME."
                  TO MOVE THE *, USE THE FOLLOWING KEYS: "
15 PRINT: PRINT"
                        Y=UP"
16 PRINT:PRINT"
17 PRINT"
            G=LEFT
                    H=RIGHT"
                B=DOWN "
18 PRINT"
                                     ARE 15 LAND MINES."
19 PRINT: PRINT"
                 BE CAREFUL! THERE
20 FORKK=1T011000:NEXTKK
99 PRINT"3":PRINT"6"CHR$(147);
100 FORI=1T023
110 FORJ=1T022
115 IFI=23ANDJ=22THENPRINTCHR$(157)CHR$(148);
            CHR$(97);
120 PRINT
130 NEXTJ
140 NEXTI
150 FORM=1T015
160 W=INT(RND(1)*16):P=INT(RND(1)*16)
170 A(M)=W:88(M)=P
180 NEXTM
190 GETB$: IFB$=""THEN190
200 P=11:W=11:T=INT(RND(1)*4)+1
210 ONTGOTO220,230,240,250
220 W=W+1:GOTO260
230 W=W-1:GOTO260
```

THE QDI 40/80 VIDEO CARTRIDGES

Quantum Data, Inc. produces two 40/80 Video Cartridges for the Commodore VIC-20 computer. The Video Cartridge which does not contain memory, and the Video Combo Cartridge which contains 16K RRM composed of eight 6116 CMOS memory chips.

The 40/80 Video Cartridge or the 40/80 Video Combo Cartridge is the means to upgrade the VIC-20 computer to a 40×24 or an 80×24 character display. This provides a wealth of new uses for the VIC-20 and with the appropriate software you can now accomplish quality word processing and various business functions that previously were difficult to achieve with only the VIC's standard 22 character video display. Both Cartridges feature a screen printing routine and a terminal emulator routine which are written in BASIC so that you can add these capabilities to your programs.

Either Cartridges can be plugged into the memory expansion port of the VIC-20 or an expansion chassis. The 40 character mode may be easily viewed on most standard T.V. sets but a monitor is required for the 80 column mode to provide the necessary additional resolution.

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240 P=P+1:GOTO260 250 P=P-1 260 IFP=11ANDW=12THENX=7934:V=38654:POKEV,CL:POKEX,S 270 IFP=116NDW=10THENX=7932:V=38652:POKEV,CL:POKEX,8 280 IFP=12ANDW=11THENX=7955:V=38675:POKEV,CL:POKEX,8 290 IFP=10ANDW=11THENX=7911:V=38631:POKEV,CL:POKEX,S 300 GETC\$: IFC\$=""THEN300 305 POKE36878,15:POKE36876,220:POKE36876,0 310 Z=Z+100 320 IFC\$="Y"THENV=V-22:POKEV,CL:X=X-22:POKEX,S:P=P-1:GOT0500 330 IFC\$="G"THENV=V-1:POKEV,CL:X=X-1:POKEX,S:W=W-1:GOTO500 340 IFC*="B"THENV=V+22:POKEV,CL:X=X+22:POKEX,S:P=P+1:GOTO500 350 IFC*="H"THENY=Y+1:POKEY,CL:X=X+1:POKEX,S:W=W+1:GOT0500 360 GOTO300 400 FRINT"WANT TO TRY" 401 PRINT"AGAIN (Y OR N)"; 402 INPUTES 410 IFE = "Y"THEN99 420 END 500 FORL=1T015 501 IFP=AA(L)ANDW=A(L)THEN700 509 NEXTL 510 IFP=00RW=00RP=230RW=22THEN600 520 GOTO300 600 PRINT"CE" 610 PRINT"YOU'VE ESCAPED!":PRINT:PRINT 611 IFZQHSTHENHS=Z

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(206) 236-BYTE

DEALER INQUIRIES WANTED

612 PRINT"YOUR SCORE IS"Z 613 PRINT"HIGH SCORE IS"HS 614 Z=0:00T0400 700 POKEY-23,28: POKEY-22,28: POKEV-21,28 701 POKEV-23,28: POKEY-22, 28: POKEY-21,28 702 POKEV-1,28:POKEV +1,28:POKEV+21,28 703 POKEY, 28: POKEY+ 22,28:POKEY+23,28 705 GOSUB900 706 PRINT"CM" 710 PRINT"YOU'VE BEEN BLOWN AWAY": Z=0:GOTO400 900 POKE36877.220 FORO=15TO0STEP-1 POKE36878,0 910 920 930 FOROO=1T0300 940 NEXTOO 950 NEXTO 960 POKE36877,0 970 FOKE36878,0 980 RETURN

News Releases

The Mail List

The most powerful mailing list program available for the VIC-20 and Commodore 64 has just been released. Galactic Software presents The Mail List! This program has numerous capabilities, and it is menu-driven to allow for easy use of all this capabilities. To name just a few of its features: it allows for both sorting and searching on any of the 10 fields; its multiple printing capabilities allow the user to print single labels, multiple labels, labels for the whole list, printouts of the whole list and much more; it also allows for printing of business or personal mailing labels; and all these printing capabilities can be done on almost any printer. To top all that, this program performs all these activities very quickly. The Mail List is available from Galactic Software in both a cassette and a diskette version. both at an economically low price.

For more information, call (408) 247-4434 or write: GALACTIC SOFT-WARE, PO Box 10516, San Jose, CA 95157. Circle No. 49

Payroll System—New from GAAP Software

This is a comprehensive payroll system designed exclusively for the Commodore 64. This system maintains an employee master file, generates reports for management and tax purposes, calculates and prints computerized payroll checks with full deduction detail. It's designed and developed by professional accountants. Dealer demo diskette avail-

· Gross wages calculated by regular, overtime, double time, holiday, vacation, sick hours, other pay taxable,

other pay non-taxable, and temporary rate.

- 7 fixed voluntary deductions and 3 miscellaneous.
- 4 digit employee number.
- 100 employees per disk. (1541) (500 to 1000, 8050-8250 respectively.)
- 7 different pay and deductions frequencies.
- Departmental recapping of all deduction and expenses.
- All routines menu driven.
- YTD and QTC 941 reporting.
- Password projected master files.
- Federal and State tax tables. (User maintainable)
- Check reconciliation.
- Void/Manual check entry. Contact GAAP Software, PO Box 1343, Waukesha, WI 53187 or call

(414) 544-5249. Circle No. 50

CCI Mini-Retailer 64™

CCI will make this same package available for retailers with fewer transactions and limited number of inventory items. This software will run on one or more of the 1541 disk drive at about 1000 inventory items per 1541. This configuration does not require an IEEE-488 adapter. This will provide small businesses and home/business operations with a TOTAL SYSTEM COST UNDER \$3,000 including cash drawer. Available in mid-1983.

Clockwork Computers, 8704 Bradgate Road, Alexandria, VA 22308, (703) 780-6010. Marketing: 4612 Hólly Ridge Road, Rockville, MD 20853, (301) 924-5509 or (301) 924-4157. Circle No. 51

CCI Bottom Liner™

Written for 64/1541

This package is intended to aid individuals, families and businesses to account for a variety of INCOME; such as straight sales, installment sales, real estate capital gains, dividends, interest, reimbursements by employer. and reimbursements by health insurer and EXPENSES; such as stock purchases, contributions, utilities, medical, dental, unreimbursed business expenses, entertainment, interest, travel, parts, supplies, mailing/postage, labor, materials, automobile, rent, and tax deductable life insurance. Summary totals from this system can go directly to provide profit and loss, net work, and data can go directly to the IRS forms. Suggested list price is \$98.75. Now accepting orders for mid-1983 delivery.

Clockwork Computers, 8704 Bradgate Road, Alexandria, VA 22308. (703) 780-6010. Marketing: 4612 Holly Ridge Road, Rockville, MD 20853, (301) 924-5509 or (301) 924-4157. Circle No. 52

Avalon Hill Fires 3 More Inter-Ballistic Missiles

Avalon Hill has expanded its line of IBM P.C.® computer software to eleven titles with the release of three new explosive programs. From the company known as "The Thinking Man's Gamemaker," these new microcomputer games promise to fireup your New Year's Sales.

For Armchair Quarterbacks

Avalon Hill has announced the addition of COMPUTER FOOTBALL STRATEGY to its line of IBM P.C.® software. A challenging game of professional football that pits your skills against the computer, or a live opponent. You can be either the offensive or defensive play caller in this all-skill strategy game. FOOTBALL STRAT-EGY is a computerized adaption of Avalon Hill's popular board game of the same name.

Nearly sixteen years ago before Avalon Hill became the exclusive game maker for "Sports Illustrated," the magazine had this to say; "An honest-to-Pete challenge to the man who knows he would have been a great pro quarterback if only he had had the chance."

FOOTBALL STRATEGY is ready to run on the IBM P.C.® with 48K memory. The price of the diskette is \$21.00.

Combat in Vietnam

VC is the name of the game, based on the controversial war in Vietnam. You have been in 'Nam for 90 endless days. You are ready for a massive search and destroy mission. Under your command, is the air-mobile and heavily armed 1/509th Air Cavalry and the 9/15th Field Artillery. As advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam can you defeat the enemy, that can hide amongst the people, and where the politics of terrorism and friendship can turn the people you want to save, against you?

VC is ready to run on diskette for the IBM P.C.® computer with 48K memory. The price is \$25.00.

Future War

B-1 NUCLEAR BOMBER rounds out this New Year's bash. The IBM P.C.® version places you in the cockpit of a Supersonic Bomber, on a mission over the Soviet Union. You swallow hard, as your eyes scan the sky for another Russian MIG. You must fly the plane to the target city, bomb it, and return home. Your only chance to get through the stiff Russian defenses, is to rely on the superior technology of your ECM (electronic counter measures) and self-defense missiles.

B-1 NUCLEAR BOMBER is ready to run on diskette for the IBM P.C.® computer with 48K memory. The price of the diskette is \$21.00.

You are the target, with these 3 new IBM P.C. games from Avalon Hill. MIDWAY CAMPAIGN, COMPUTER STOCKS AND BONDS, DRAW POKER, VOYAGER, GALAXY and

ANDROMEDA CONQUESTS round out the line of AH's IBM P.C. compatible software, so arm yourself and enjoy the explosion.

The Avalon Hill Game Company, 4517 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21214, (301) 254-5300. ☐ Circle No. 53

VIC-20® Commodore 64® to Parallel Printer Interface

The SPI board provides the VIC-20/ Commodore 64 with direct BASIC use of the parallel bus. When pugged into the VIC-20/Commodore 64, the card gives "invisible" access to this bus.

The SPI has several features and flexibilities:

- A. The SPI requires no driver software on the VIC-20 or Commodore-64, making it compatible with virtually every program written for use with the 1515 or 1525 printers.
- B. The SPI will, if desired, automatically send a line feed with each carriage return printed. This satisfies the requirements of some printers that do not have automatic line feed. This mode can be selected with either software OR hardware control.
- C. The SPI will, if desired, automatically convert "Commodore ASCII" into standard ASCII. Most parallel interface printers today use standard ASCII, making this feature very desirable. This mode can also be selected with either software OR hardware control.
- D. The SPI will, if desired, automatically suppress its software selected conversion, via a hardware selection (a switch).
- E. The SPI will, if desired, automatically suppress line feeds that are sent after a carraige return. Some printers recognize line feeds and some software sends a line feed with every carriage return. This feature helps to prevent the double spacing that this may cause.
- F. The SPI connects directly to the VIC-20 OR Commodore 64, works directly through the serial port using the serial port driver software (already built

into the computer), and is completely interchangable between the two computers.

G. The SPI can be any of 4 device numbers (4,5,6 or 7) on the serial bus. This allows the SPI to be used with another printer or another SPI at the same time.

'Commodore 64' and 'VIC-20' are trademarks of Commodore Business Machines, Inc. MICRO SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT, INC., 11105 Shady Trail, Suite 104, Dallas, TX 75229, (214) 241-3743. ☐ Circle No. 54

Synapse Software Moves to New Facilities

Synapse SOFTWARE, leading designers of home computer software, have moved to new facilities. Due to skyrocketing sales, the quadrupling of their line with 32 new programs, and increases in sales and marketing staff, Synapse has relocated in 30,000 feet of combined office, production and warehouse space in Richmond, CA.

A relatively young company in the computer software category, Synapse accumulated early successes with such game programs as Chicken, Shamus, and Protector II. They rapidly garnered a position as a leading third party supplier of programs for Atari 400 and 800. Now, having amassed one of the largest stables of program designers in the industry. Synapse is poised to launch 32 dramatic new game, educational and utility programs, for all of the leading hardware systems (VIC 20, TI99/4A, Commodore 64, IBM-PC, Apple II, and the Radio Shack Color Computer). The slated new releases are to include Pharoah's Curse (a multi-screen Egyptian adventure), Fort Apocalypse, Necromancer (the game that allows your computer to cast spells) and Shamus: Case II (the long awaited seguel to the graphic adventure classic). New utilities will include Trend Manager, advanced renditions of FileManager + and numerous home management and business packages.

Contact: Synapse, 5221 Central Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804, (415) 527-7751. ☐ Circle No. 55

MSD Disk Drive

The MSD Disk Drive is a Commodore compatible disk drive designed to interface to the various Commodore computers such as the PET, VIC-20. and the C64. The disk drive is compatible to the model 4040, 2031, 1540, and 1541 disk drives and recognizes programs generated on any of these disk drives. The capacities disk drive recognizes the full instruction set of the Commodore drives. In addition to this compatibility the MSD Disk Drive offers more RAM area within the disk unit. both a serial and an IEEE bus interface, and more importantly, a software reconfigurable operating system capable of handling disk formats other than the Commodore format. The following technical specifications apply to the MSD Disk Drive:

Physical dimensions:

Height: 4.5"

Width: 6.0"
Depth: 12.0"

Disk Parameters:

5.25 inch single-sided, double density diskette media

Number of tracks-35

Number of sectros per track—17 to

21 (variable)

Sector size—256 bytes

Number of sectors per disk-683

Capacities:

User sectors per disk-667

Disk capacity—174,848

Data capacity-168,656

Relative data capacity-167,132

Program capacity-168,656

Directory capacity-144

Filenames

Electrical interface:

Power requirements:

Input voltage—120 volts +/- 10%

Frequency—50 or 60 Hertz

Power-30 watts

Computer interface:

Commodore type SERIAL bus or Commodore type IEEE bus

System features:

16K ROM based operating system

16K RAM area

6511Q Microprocessor

Power on self test diagnostics

External AC receptacle

Reconfigurable operating system for

other disk formats

PET, VIC-20, and C64 are trademarks of Commodore Business Machines. Inc.

Micro Systems Development, Inc. 11105 Shady Trail, Suite 104, Dallas, TX 75229. (214) 241-3743. □

Circle No. 56

ASERT® Overview Aid for Search and Retrieval of Test

ASERT® is an operator oriented, virtually crashproof information Management System that operates on the Commodore computer. The format for the record area of most commercial Data Managers consists of a number of FIELDS into which the required data is placed. The ASERT® program has gone beyond this limitation to include an area of Free Text for unusual, confidential, or other data, which cannot be categorized.

ASERT® also contains a section which allows for the creation of up to

180 **Searchwords.** This section permits the user to create **Search Criteria**, that is; to locate **Records** which "**Must Have**", "**Must not Have**" or "**Might Have**" a particular combination of characteristics that satisfy specific needs. In other words, all **Searchwords** as well as the **Variable Functions** are user determined.

ASERT® allows you to print Labels for identification or mailings. User Defined Reports is another feature of the ASERT® program. These reports can be printed on the basis of Entry Order, Sort Order, Success Lists, or any sub-set of these.

ASERT® creates a **Sequential File** which can be accessed by **Word- Processing** and **Accounting** programs.

ASERT® has Statistical capabilities. A report of totals, based on the Searchwords held by all your records or on records in your Success Lists, can be created. ASERT® gives the number of records that are coded with each of the Searchwords, the number of

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records that are not, as well as a **Percentage Ratio** is readily available through **ASERT**[®].

ASERT® has **Sort Routines**. This option will organize your entire file according to any of the thirty (30) **Record Fields**. You can **Sort** your file alphabetically or numerically (e.g. by name, payroll number, zip code, etc.).

All **Important Instructions** are displayed on the screen in what is known as a **Menu Format.** When **Critical** decisions are to be made, **Fail-Safe** commands minimize the risk of losing data.

ASERT® is sold with "Demo" records which allow the user to experiment with the system before setting up his Office File and Record Format.

Specifications

Hardware Requirements—COM-MODORE 8032, 8050 or 4040 Disk Drive. A full range of printer options. Plus COMMODORE 64.

Language—Compiled Basic 4.0 with Machine Code Sort Routines.
Number of Search Words—180.
Type of File Structure—Information Storage/Retrieval Method.

Sort—Any 30 Record Fields. **Search**—Logical 'And', Logical 'Not,' Logical 'Or'—In any combination.

For more information write or call Geneva Technologies Corp., 14 Commerce Drive, Cranford, NJ 07016, (201) 276-1144. ☐ Circle No. 57

older Commodore computers for over 2 years. If you are tired of the long wait to LOAD and SAVE programs from cassette, then you need the VIC Rabbit.

Since the Rabbit is an extension of the operating system, the normal VIC LOAD, SAVE and VERIFY commands can still be used. Think of Rabbit as providing an additional recording mode—thus you have two LOAD commands (Commodores and Rabbits) and two SAVE commands.

The VIC Rabbit also contains a connector on one end so that you can simultaneously use expansion memory or another cartridge.

The VIC Rabbit software is contained in a ROM on the cartridge. 12 Rabbit commands provide not only high-speed LOAD/SAVE but other useful

functions. The Rabbit commands are as follows:

12 Rabbit Commands

SS-Save with short leader

SL-Save with long leader

L —Load a program

V -Verify a program

E —Load and then run

T —RAM Memory Test

D -Convert decimal # to hex #

H —Convert hex # to decimal #

Z —Toggle character set

K —Kill the Rabbit

Go to monitor

G —Go to Machine Language Program

Example: L "STAR TREK", 2 or T 1,400,1FFF

VIC Rabbit and Comprehensive Manual—\$39.95. ☐ Circle No. 58



VIC ROM Add-On

The VIC Rabbit is a cartridge which plugs into the back of the VIC-20 Computer. No tools are required since it just plugs in. The VIC Rabbit contains software which provides for high-speed LOAD and SAVE on the VIC cassette deck. for example, the VIC cassette takes 2 minutes, 40 seconds to LOAD/SAVE an 8,000 byte program and the VIC disk drive takes about 22 seconds. VIC Rabbit requires just 32 seconds! Incredible isn't it—Cassette almost as fast as the disk and at only \$39.95. The Rabbit is very reliable and has been available for the

Protect Software with MODEL ISO-11

Severe AC Power Line Spikes, Surges and Hash are prevalent in many MicroProcessor installations. Program execution is plagued with unexplained crashes, memory loss or other glitches. Disks, printer and processor often interact, aggravating the problem.

ELECTRONIC SPECIALISTS recently announced MODEL ISO-11 is designed to protect software from these severe electrical problems. Complementing the popular SUPER-ISOLATOR line, the MODEL ISO-11 features two individually dual-Pi filtered

AC socket banks (6 sockets total). Heavy-duty spike/surge suppression is incorporated in the design. Equipment interactions are eliminated, disruptive or damaging line spikes and hash are controlled, and programs operate more smoothly.

The MODEL ISO-11 SUPER-ISOLA-TOR controls power line Spikes and Hash while providing ultra-smooth program operation. \$1 15.95.

Contact: ELECTRONIC SPECIALISTS, INC., 171 South Main Street, PO Box 389, Natick, MA 01760, (617) 655-1532.

Circle No. 59

64/Commander May 1983

J Systems Corp.

J Systems Corp. announces the immediate availability of its new PET Joystick Interface. This versatile interface card adds joystick/paddle capabilities to all PET/CBM computers. Device enables the PET to accept inputs directly from 2 Apple joysticks/4 Apple game paddles or 2 Atari joysticks. Interface is complete and ready to plus into the user port. All modes of operation are softwareselectable. The device features short access time (less than 10 milliseconds/ iovstick) and high resolution digitization (greater than 8 bits). This makes the interface ideal, not only for joysticks/paddles, but also, for connecting any four resistive sensors to the PET/CBM. Fast machine language input routines, callable from a BASIC program, are included.

The price of the PET Joystick Interface is \$69.95. This price includes the card, power supply, documentation and sample software. VISA and

MASTERCARD are welcome. The device can be ordered directly from: J Systems Corp., 1 Edmund Place, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (313) 662-4714.□

Circle No. 60

The Master Memory Map™

Commodore 64—\$14.95 VIC-20—\$9.95

People have come to expect quality products from Educational Software, Inc. April marks the release of the popular reference book, The Master Memory MapTM, for the Commodore 64TM and the VIC 20TM.

The book is a guide, for both beginners and experts, to most memory locations in the computer and their functions. By simply altering the contents of the locations with PEEK and POKE statements, you can get some very amazing and creative effects with your computer.

Written in a friendly and concise manner, the 300 page Master Memory Map covers a rainbow of subjects. The memory locations are grouped into several sections including: How to PEEK and POKE, Paddles and Joysticks, Color Locations, Single and Multiple Sound Registers, Graphics Registers, Sprites, Character Graphics REgisters and a host of others. There is also a section on how to make sounds and sprites. The manual is loaded with illustrations and plenty of examples written in BASIC and explained in "Earthling Language" not computerese.

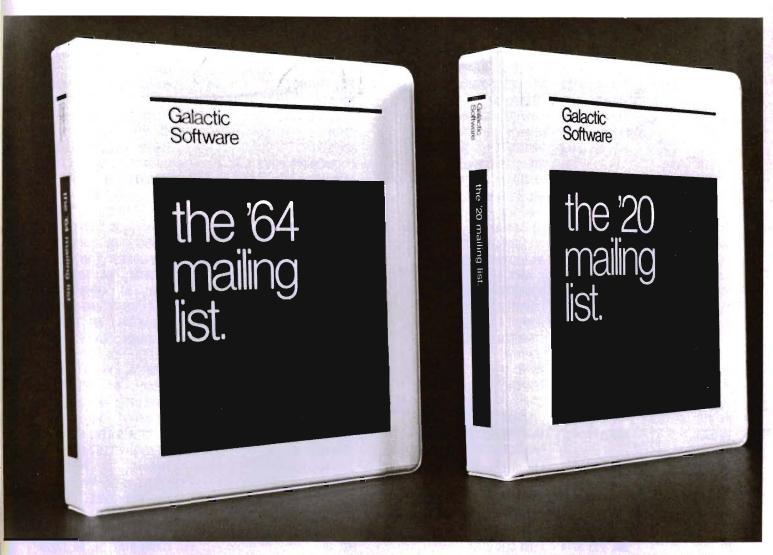
In addition, Educational Software will be putting out a series of Tricky Tutorials[™] for the Commodore 64. These lessons offer complete manuals along with many samples that are already typed in and running. Scheduled for release are: The Basics of Animation, High Resolution Graphics, a Sprite Tutorlal, and Character Graphics. □ Circle No. 61





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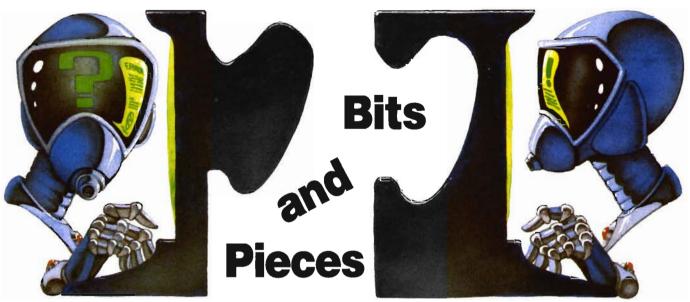
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Big Programs in your VIC/PET/64

Ron Gunn's article, "Big Programs In Your VIC/PET/64." is the most easily understood description I have seen on program overlays. An additional technique makes overlays even easier.

As Ron noted, string variables that are assigned within one program segment must be assigned anew when another segment is loaded. This is because the variable's pointer is pointing to the area of the program where the variable was assigned. When another segment is loaded, the pointer will still be looking for the string at the original address. The string will now be garbage, because the new program segment has other material in that

The following routines demonstrate a solution to this. Now the variables won't have to be assigned in later segments of the program.

100 DIM A\$(3)

110 Z\$ = "AARDVARK": A\$(0) = Z\$

120 Z\$ = "BABOON": A\$(1) = Z\$

130 Z\$ = "CAMEL": A\$(2) = Z\$

140 Z\$ = "DEER": A\$(3) = Z\$

or

100 DATA AARDVARK, BABOON, CAMEL, DEER

110 DIM A\$(3)

120 FOR K = 0 TO 3

130 READ Z\$: A\$(K) = Z\$

140 NEXT

In each of these routines, the pointer for Z\$ still points to the area where the latest Z\$ was assigned. However, the A\$(x) = Z\$ operation cannot assume that Z\$ will always be the same. So, A\$(x) is stored in string memory and pointers for A\$(x) point to those

locations—beyond the text area of any new program segment. (Remember, Ron said that the first program segment must be longer than any other.) Terrell D. Abendroth

114 Parker Court Fort Bragg, NC 28307

Editors:

Reference: Article Bytes, Bits & Binary in Feb. 83 issue. Location: top of 3rd column, p. 50.

Reference is made to Hex number

The Decimal Counterpart (457) of the above number seemed low. Using my TI Programmer Calculator, I arrived at a 6933 value.

I believe the following notations confirm this:

> 163 16² 161 160 В 1 5

4096 + 2816 + 16 + 5 = 6933

I'm certain you received many comments about this.

> Respectfully. Lou Ferrara Camp Hill, PA 17011

RE: Debugging & Fixes of Programs, "Gobble," Feb. 83 issue.

Typographical error in line 100, should read: 100 if J0 AND PEEK(L+1) <> 160 THEN POKE L,32:L = L + 1:GOSUB600: POKEL,81

Omission and typographical error in line 9010, should read: 9010 POKE DD, 127: PEEK(P2)AND128: J0 = -(P = 0)l altered subroutine as follows: 8025

PRINT" {CLR} {HOME} SCORE = "; PT;''{HOME}''; SPC(12)'' HI = '';HS Changed 8030 to read: 8030

PRINT''{HOME}{3 DOWN} {2 RIGHT ANOTHER GAME?"

Make it more informative and challenging.

> H.H. Blakney 406-1535 Nelson Street Vancouver, BC V6G IM2

> > Commander May 1983/71

(Question???)

I have over 100 programs for the Commodore PET 2001 (all 2.0 basic). The first two programs that I converted manually took several hours each. With your short "Petsim" program (pg. 49 in the January issue of COMMANDER) I am able to run all of them that don't have Peeks and Pokes into places other than the screen.

This brings me to my question. When I load programs that have Peeks and Pokes into other locations using the "Petsim" program, I get one of the following with different numbers for different programs.

SYNTEX ERROR IN 17192

or

SNYTEX ERROR IN 4499

It seems like it is a different number for each program. The programs do not have these statement numbers. Thus my question is what are these numbers and how do I trace them to the statement number that is causing the problem?

I have tried a PET emulator program and it did not help at all.

Any help you can offer will be appreciated. Contact: John E. Hand, 405 Fairhaven Dr., Hurst, TX 76053.□

Subwar 64™ Loading Hints

When loading either diskette or cassette always load and run "SETUP 64" before other sections are loaded and run. **Do not attempt to load** "SUBCOM 64," but use the selections described in your owners manual.

Cassette for Subwar 64™

Some problems were experienced with loading cassette tapes onto the 64. We found the new Commodore cassette drive is more critical to tape alignment. Datasette alignment can be checked in accordance with Commodore's cassette head azimuth and gain adjustment and Commodore test tape (part no. 320142). In any event, CCI will immediately replace the cassette at no charge if it will not load properly. Just let us know, and please

return the deficient tapes. If the user contacts us we replace directly to the user, with notification to the dealer.

We are confident that we have corrected any previous problems and cassettes marked version 2 or greater should load correctly.

Clockwork Computers, 8704 Bradgate Road, Alexandria, VA 22308, (703) 780-6010. Marketing: 4612 Holly Ridge Road, Rockville, MD 20853, (301) 924-5509 or (301) 924-4157.

Laws of Computer Programming

- Any given program, when running, is obsolete.
- If a program is useful, it will have to be changed.

Clockwork Computers, 8704 Bradgate Road, Alexandria, VA 22308, (703) 708-6010.□

Screen Clean-up for the VIC-20 and the C-64

On screen clean-up for the VIC-20 and Commodore 64. Find a large ferrite loop (toroid), about 1" to 1½" in diameter. Loop the cable from your modulator three or more times through the ferrite. This will help reduce, interference from your computer to the TV. If the ferrites are hard to find, check Radio Shack for part #273-1571 (25 assorted ferrites for \$1.98).

Please don't get the wrong idea. Commodore machines are the best around, bar none! If you are new at using your computer, start out with software for YOUR system. Try to learn something from each program by changing things a little bit. Then try converting some simple programs from another system. Some of the best practice comes from entering a program from a non-Commodore program listing. Remember, your computer will aid you in learning at your own speed. There is no one pushing you except yourself. Enjoy!

Converting Programs Between PET, VIC-20 and Commodore 64

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On PET to VIC-20, VIC-20 to PET, PET to 64, VIC-20 to 64 and back again! What fun! There is no one rule-of-thumb to use. Anyone trying to convert programs between the various machines had better know each unit inside out. PET basic programs will LOAD in a VIC-20 and Commodore 64, but that doesn't mean the program will RUN

One of the major problems for VIC-20 owners trying to use PET or 64 basic programs is screen width, 23 columns vs. 40 columns. PRINT statements will "look funny" and some POKEs may bomb VIC's basic. Even VIC isn't compatible with itself! With its "floating" screen a program written with POKEs to the screen for a 3.5K system may not work with extra memory because the VIC screen will move from 1024 (\$0400 hex) in a "bare" VIC to 4096 (\$1000 hex) on an expanded VIC. Color memory also moves.

Commodore 64 users can use many of PET or CBM programs so long as simple basic is used. Screen PEEKs and POKEs are fairly easy to convert. PET's screen memory starts at 32768 (\$8000 hex) and end at 33767 (\$83E7 hex). 64's screen starts at 1024 (\$0400 hex) and ends at 2023 (\$83E7 hex). All you have to do is find all the basic statements using numbers between these ranges and subtract 31744 in each case. Then add color, sound, sprites and figure out what all those other PEEKs & POKEs are supposed to do. Easy, right?

PET owners trying to use 64 programs will, after finding the program, see what at first glance may seem to be many misplaced basic "words." This is the result of PET's basic trying to make sense of 64's basic tokens. The result is a fairly messed up program.



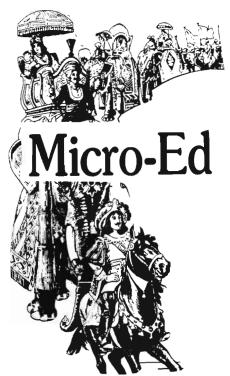
Back-up Copies

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Cassette fun. When making a backup copy of programs from tape or loading a program for the first time, make sure the program is loaded correctly. This can be done by typing: PRINT ST :followed by pressing the RETURN key directly on the screen without any line numbers. A number value will be printed. This number divided by two will tell you how many load errors your machine corrected during the loading of the program. A value of zero (0) means that the program in memory is a perfect copy of what is on the tape. A value of less than 32 means that the program was loaded, but corrections were made. If there are more than 32 errors, you will see: LOAD ERROR? :printed on the screen. When this happens, all you can do is rewind the tape and try LOADing again. The reserved variable: ST :is used in all LOAD, SAVE, READ and WRITE operations to tape, disk or other peripherals. So by PRINTING ST we can see if an error happened during the operation. This works with ALL Commodore machines. Place the cassette, or disk for that matter, as far from the TV or monitor as possible! Many load error problems are caused by placement of the cassette. Also, get and use a tape head demagnetizer. Clean the tape heads regularly. Some tape load problems can be solved by gently bending the little felt spring pad out, not much or the spring will pop out and ruin the tape. The extra pressure created will help. When you do get a good load, make a copy, quick! It may not work again. Buy and use some kind of tape, or disk, storage box. Dust, fingerprints, pop, hair and small children can help to destroy your programs. Protect them. Also, avoid power transformers, flourescent lamps, speakers, TV sets, screwdrivers or anything that even looks magnetic! Tapes and disks suffering from amnesia are useless.



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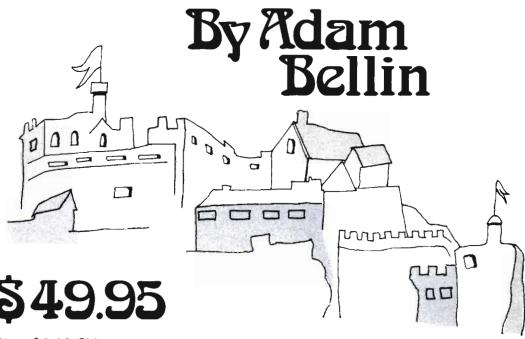


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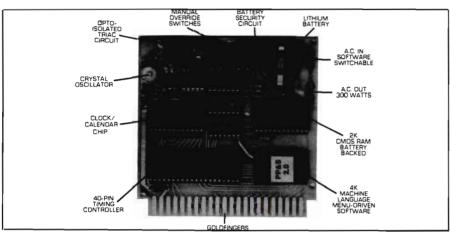
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Auto Clock

Retail Price: \$129.00 Compatable With: VIC-20

Manufacturer:

Progressive Peripherals & Software 6340 W. Mississippi Ave. Lakewood, CO 80226

Contact: Steve Spring (303) 934-1973

The manufacturer describes AUTO CLOCK (AC) as a Realtime Intelligent Controller. AC is a plug-in cartridge which has many functions. The device is powered by an onboard lithium battery, allowing it to operate independent of the VIC. It is menu driven and comes with a 20 page user manual which gives programming examples for each function. There is even a 3 page section devoted to machine language applications. The user may load a program of up to 2K in length into AC. After presetting the timing functions, the program can be downloaded and run. (Including calling other programs.) 19 subroutines may be called by the user program, including all time/date/calendar and alarm functions. AC can switch up to 300 watts of power under program control. It can even turn the VIC on and off. The date and time may be displayed anywhere on the screen, even while writing a program. The product is purported to be easy to use by VIC novices

The warranty period is 90 days covering parts and labor. Dealer inquiries are invited. ☐ Circle No 62

Luna Mailing List

Retail Price: \$37.95 Compatible With: C-64 Manufacturer:

Luna Software Box 26922

San Jose, CA 95159-6922 Contact: Lou Ryan, (408) 378-7793

LUNA SOFTWARE has announced a menu driven, full-featured mailing label program for the C-64. Two of its most powerful features are the ability to alphabetize all records, and sort on

any record in the data base. Other useful features include the ability to search on any criteria, print labels one or two wide, change colors on the screen, and add data into any of four comment fields. The user may print multiple copies of the same label. Up to 663 labels may be stored on each disk by using an advanced random access-like file structure. Data disks may be backed up on tape. A VIC-20 version is scheduled for release soon. Luna Mailing List comes on diskette with an extensive manual, and supports most printers.

Watch for a review of this product in an upcoming Commander. ☐ Circle No. 63

Discover "Moondust" on Retail Shelves

Creative Software is pleased to announce the release of "Moondust", by Jaron Lanier. This new Science-Fantasy game will be available for the Commodore 64 on May 1. VIC-20 owners can play "Moondust" after June 1

Authored by imaginative music and software composer, Jaron Lanier, "Moondust" takes game-playing to new heights with its fusion of hypnotic color graphics and mesmerizing computer-generated music. These aesthetic elements are incorporated into a challenging game theme: the player must drag trails of multi-colored moondust (dropped by the friendly spacewalker) through the heart of glowing concentric circles.

Creative Software, dedicated to publishing a full-line of consumer software programs, is in its 5th year on the

Commander May 1983/75

Peninsula. Contact Kari Curtis at 230 East Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94086, (408) 745-1655.

Powerbyte Software Releases Home and Business Hardware

Powerbyte Software is pleased to announce the release of its business and home application hardware for the Commodore 64, VIC-20 and TRS 80 color computer.

Over 60 applications are available for each computer ranging in price from \$8.95 to \$34.95 for cassette versions. Disc versions are also available. Programs titles include in part: The Accountant, Accounts Receivable/Payable, Business Inventory, The Order Tracker, The Bidder-My Profit Margin, Business Calendar, The Billing Solver, The Client Tickler, Vicky Calc, The Bar Chart. Taxman-Income and Expenser. New Worth Statement, The Stock Ticker Tape, The Mailman, Checkbook Booky, Home Budget, The Club Lister, Medical Records, Supper Shopper, Dear Diary, Mother's Recipes, Track My Weight, Jogger's Logger, Grade My Kids, Nuismatic Phanatic, Lightning Sort, Golf Scorecard, Math a Magician and many, many more.

Also available is "The Editor"—an advanced word processor for the Commodore 64 and 8K VIC-20.

A free catalog with description of software is now available by writing to Powerbyte Software, 2 Chipley Run, West Berlin, New Jersey 08091, or calling 609-346-3063. Dealer inquires are encouraged.

Creative Software to Release Four New Titles

Creative Software, the largest independent publisher of VIC-20 software in the U.S., is pleased to announce the release of four new titles. In keeping with its commitment to provide a full-line of software for entry-level computers, the four new programs expand the home application, home education and game categories:

gories:

RAT HOTEL—game cartridge for the VIC-20. You are the rat. And Waldo, the maintenance man at the Holen Paradisio doesn't like rats. Start on the top floor of the hotel and scurry to safety through the boiler room floor. Waldo will chase you on his atomic elevator. Sound confusing? Try figuring it out if you're a rat!

PIPES—home education cartridge for the VIC-20. Learning can be fun and PIPES is your proof. Try connecting all of the houses in Gilroy to the main water supply. Be frugal though, you only have so much pipe to use and so much money to spend. Sound easy? Only in your "pipe" dreams!

HOME OFFICE—home application cassette for the VIC-20. A word processor and data base on a beginner's budget! This economical software package will help you get organized by introducing you to the powerful applications of personal computing.

SPILLS & FILLS—home education cartridge for the VIC-20. How much is too much? How much is too little? Drill your perspective and ration skills by filling up and spilling out an accurate amount of liquid. Brilliant colors and bubbling sound effects make this learning experience a truly entertaining one.

Contact: Kari Curtis at 230 East Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94086, (408) 745-1655.

Business Software for Commodore Computer Legal Plus

Cimarron's LEGAL PLUS software package for the Commodore 8000 series computers is specifically designed to help manage the in-house operation of the law firm by reporting and storing information on the daily activities of the legal staff.

LEGAL PLUS automatically stores data from as many as ten lawyers, 1050 clients, and 1,100 matters on every disk. Information in these Client, Matter and Log files is processed to produce reports on both the firm's and the individual attorney's activities. Byproduct reports, including activity analyses, aging report, charges and payments journal, and client and matter listings provide detailed management information without additional effort.

LEGAL PLUS also features prebilling review of account status, and statements can be printed individually or *en toto*. Revisions and adjustments are completed quickly and easily, so information is always accurate and up-to-date.

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VIC-20

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Also available are Job Costing, Medical Accounting, Time Scheduling and Mail List Management.

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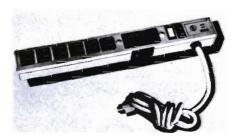
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True Multi-user action is just one of the innovations from Synapse as they launch 32 new home computer programs in early 1983.

SURVIVOR demo discs, sample boxes and free P.O.P. materials are available. Contact: Synapse, 5221 Central Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804, (415) 527-7751.



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Inventory Control—BPI's Inventory Control System allows you to know your exact inventory at any moment. It will:

- Cost your inventory by the FIFO, LIFO or AVERage methods.
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Payroll—This time-saving system handles payrolls with a mix of salaried, hourly, and commissioned employees. Its tax tables include federal, state (all 50 states), city (all U.S.) and District of Columbia tax rates. This system is designed to make payroll processing fast and easy. It allows you to:

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Job Cost—This job costing system works well for businesses that require individual job costing. It lets the user:

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- Print a completed estimate for review.
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 - · Provide automatic retainage.
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BPI Systems, Inc., 3423 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78705. (512) 454-2801. ☐ Circle No. 70

Micro Systems Development, Inc.

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All of these devices are actually interfaced to the VIC simultaneously through the use of various MSD peripheral devices!

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- 4. COMMODORE 4040 Dual Disk Drive.

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These and many more exciting applications await the computer user through the use of our peripheral devices . . whether your requirement is exciting games, personal computing, education, business, or software development, we have the peripheral devices for you.

Commodore 64 IEEE Interface Cartridge

The CIE Cartridge (IEEE-488 to COMMODORE 64) unit provides the COMMODORE 64 user with normal CBM/PET control over the IEEE-488 bus. When plugged into the COMMODORE 64 expansion port, the card is "transparent" to the expansion connector. This means the user can plug other peripherals into the "64" without interference. There are approximately 1K bytes of interface software on the board. When the interface is called it maps itself into a protected area at the top of the COMMODORE 64 memory.

VMC/CMC Monitor Cable

This cable assembly allows the VIC-20 and/or the COMMODORE 64 to interface with a monitor instead of a TV The VCM/CMC provides separate Video and Audio Output. This enables the sound output to go directly into a stereo system for unmatched audio quality. The VMC/CMC is great for music programs and applications where a TV is not desired (business, education, etc.). Our CMC allows the COMMODORE 64 user to have high quality resolution on black and white monitors.

VAC Audio Cassette Interface

Plugs directly into the VIC cassette port and provides input/output and remote control of a standard audio cassette recorder. Save and load pro-

grams using your own cassette unit. The VAC works with all existing VIC cassette programs . . . no modification to recorder required. All the VIC cassette commands are maintained.

VT40 Terminal Emulator

This is a convenient cartridge which allows the VIC-20 to display 40 columns of characters when used in conjunction with the RS-232 port. The VT40 is a complete cartridge that requires no additional memory. Just plug the cartridge in, turn on the power, and the VIC-20 becomes a terminal! By connecting the VIC-20 to a modem, the VIC-20 becomes a 40 column 'dumb' terminal capable of communicating with various bulletin boards and computer networks across the country. The VT40 can even be used to 'talk' to other computers! Various setup parameters such as baud rate. parity, duplex, and number of bits per character can be modified through a 'menu' format.

Micro Systems Development, Inc., 11105 Shady Trail, Ste. 104, Dallas, TX 75229. ☐ Circle No. 71

VIC-WRITER

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Tycom Associates 68 Velma Avenue Pittsfield, MA 01201 Manager-Owner: Dave Tyburski

Northshore News Co. 150 Blossom Street Lynn, MA 01902 (617) 592-1300 Manager-Owner: Tom Mulken, Jr.

Computech Ltd 214 Derby Street Salem, MA 01970 (617) 741-1724 Manager-Owner: Tim Bush

Omicron Corporation 1416 Providence Highway Norwood, MA 02062 (617) 769-6867 Manager-Owner: Steve Gavrilles

Rhode Island

International Computer Services 165 Oyerville Avenue Johnston, RI 02919 (401) 273-1001 Manager-Owner. Steve Lablanc

New Hampshire

Compu-Craft, Inc 17 Dunbar Street Keene, NH 03431 (603) 357-3901 Manager-Owner. Richard Bishop

Echo Consulting Services PO Box 1199 Conway, NH 03818 (603) 447-5455 Manager-Owner. George Epotien

Maine

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Vermont

Computeam 205 Dorset Street South Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862-2802 Manager-Owner: Mark Robinson

Market Place 1 Main Street Winoski, VT 05404 Manager-Owner Bob Howe

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Computer Workshop 1200 Haddenfield Road Cherry Hill, NJ 07013 (609) 665-4404 Manager-Owner: Charles Kolbe

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Manager-Owner: Frances Banks

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Compu-Tech 511 Hempstead Avenue West Hepstead, NY 11552 Manager-Owner. Jim Brewington

Software Emporium 151 Minola Avenue Rosyln Heights, NY 11577 Manager-Owner: Sheldon Ostroy

B.C. Communications, Inc. World Wide Electronics Dist. 207 Depot Road Huntington Street, NY 11746 (516) 549-8833

Computer Headquarters 1245 Middle Country Road Selden, NY 11784 (516) 698-9373 Manager-Owner: Dale Lack/Kathy Lyons

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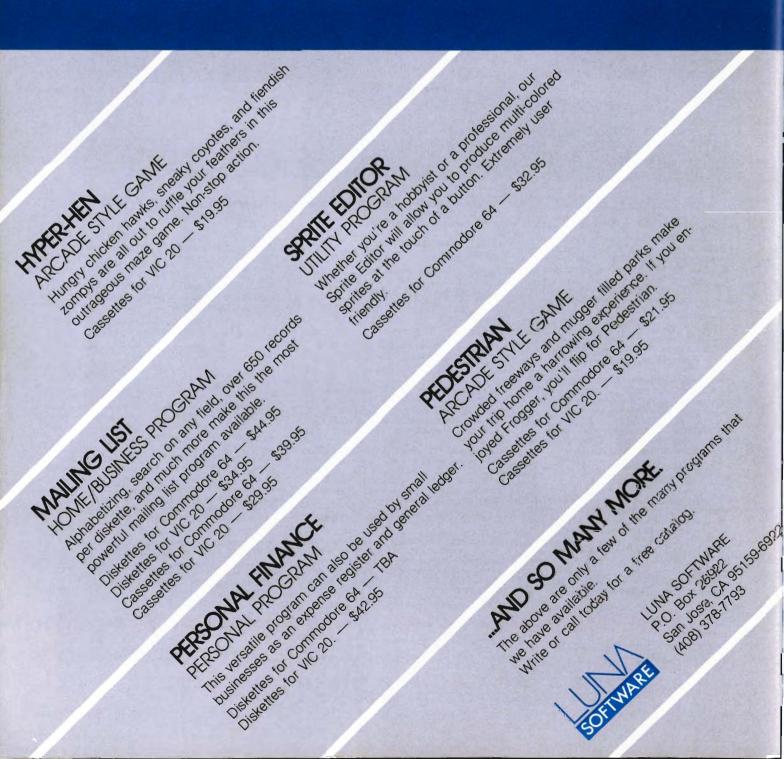
SUPER-10"

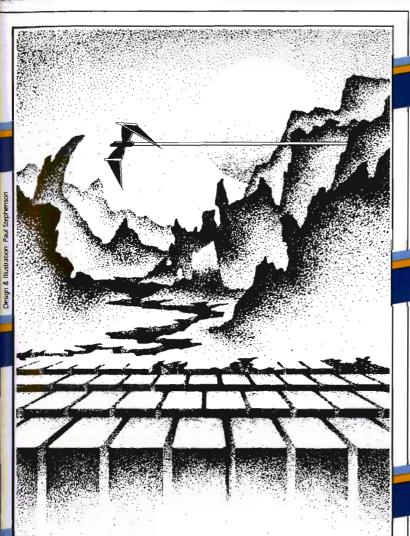
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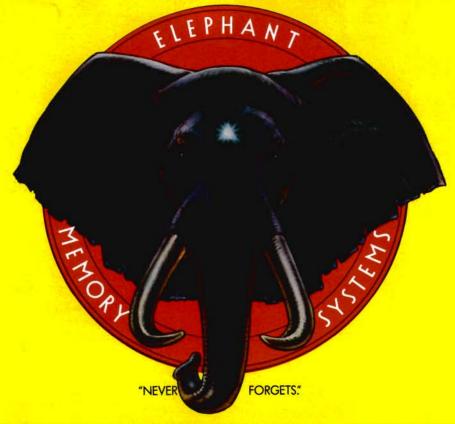
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REVIEWBER



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