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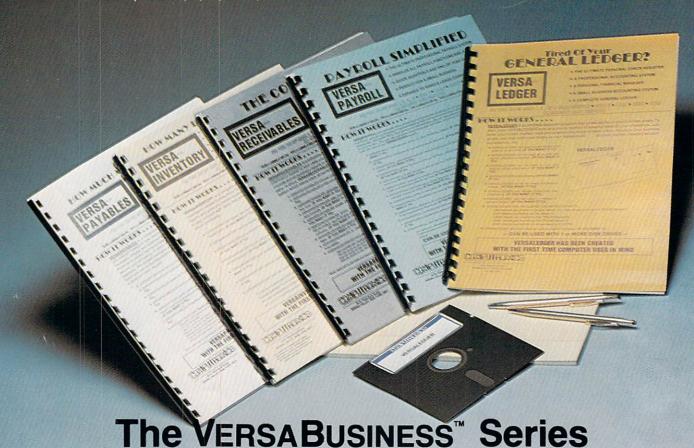
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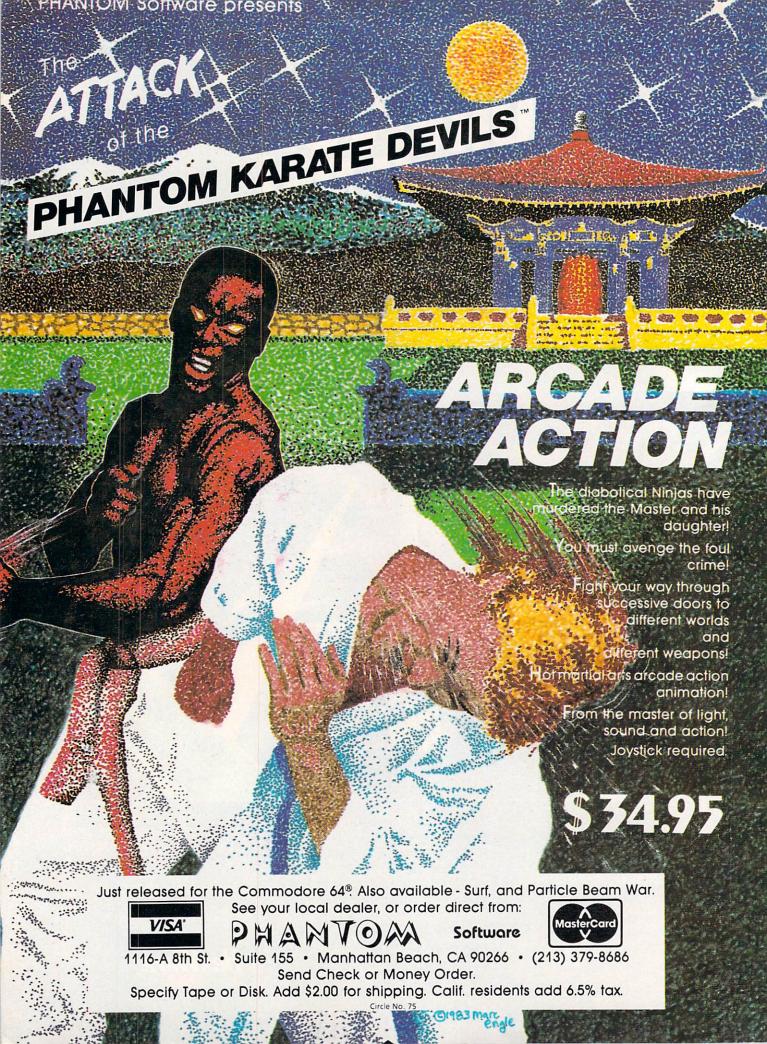
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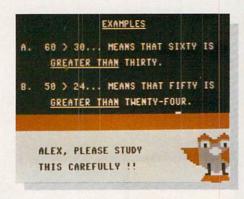
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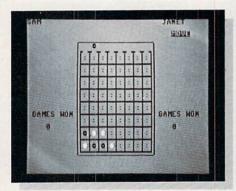
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This month's cover suggests that COMMODORE has built its reputation by producing out-of-thisworld products at down-to-earth prices. Soon we'll be able to say whether the new 16-bit "Z-128" (or whatever its official designation will be) is any more than pie-in-the-sky.

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WHAT'S NEW?

Since this issue of *COMMANDER* is scheduled to reach you shortly after the start of another year, there are many possible answers to the question posed above.

A BASIC programmer's response might be, "NEW is a mixedblessing command. Sometimes it can be used to cancel your errors with no telltale evidence. Other times, if invoked casually or unintentionally, it can wipe out the fruits of many hours' labor."

The mere passage of time can have much the same effect. We start each year with fresh plans and expectations, hoping to abandon our previous problems or weaknesses. Yet, if we embark upon such a new path that the past is totally cut off, we may lose all the benefits of experience and could be doomed to repeat mistakes.

These lessons would certainly apply to organizations that manufacture small computers, such as Commodore, as well as those which serve the needs of the computer marketplace, including *COMMAN-DER* Magazine. Over the next year we'll be taking a close look at the new Commodore products that are becoming available about now—the "Executive" (Is it any more than a C-64 with a disk drive and tiny monitor stuffed into a suitcase?), the B-128 (Shall we shed a collective tear for the last PET to come off the assembly line?), and that tantalizing new machine with which Commodore promises to make the leap to a 16-bit computer at 8-bit prices (Will it be called the "Z-128" as speculated on our cover, or will some other letter or number be more appropriate?). In any event, we hope and trust that Commodore's NEWest endeavors are not destined to repeat some of the supply problems that have developed in the past.

The new year also brings a number of changes at *COMMANDER* that we believe will improve our service to you. To name a few, there are new personnel (see adjacent masthead), a new publication schedule (we are now available *early* in the month preceding the cover date), a new program listing standardization (explained elsewhere in this issue), and a new article organization. For example, we have a regular "education" section devoted to educational software, applications, and programming instruction. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Finally, as we move into the year of Big Brother, it appears that Orwell's vision of electronic instruments becoming the tools of tyrants has been overshadowed by the reality of computers for the masses. To our readers we wish a very HAPPY NEW YEAR, and pleasant computing in 1984. May all your resolutions be high, your inputs acceptable, and your syntax error-free.

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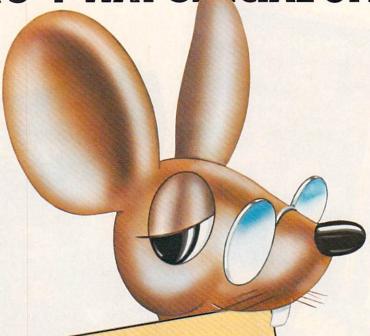
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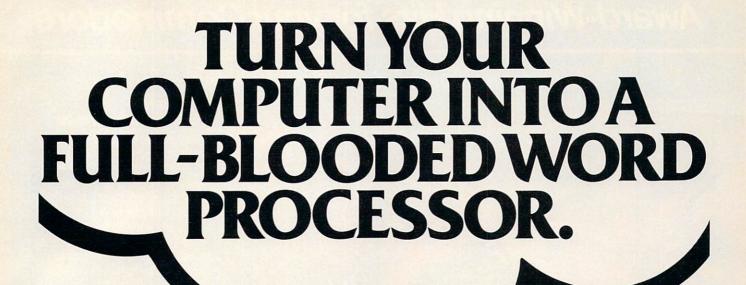
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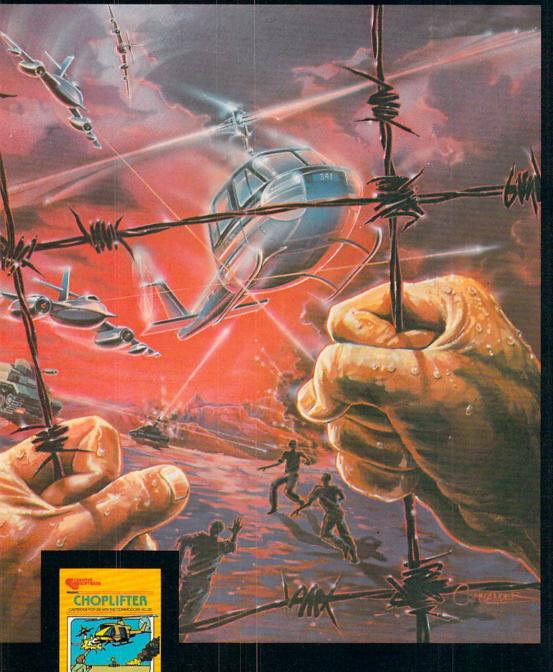
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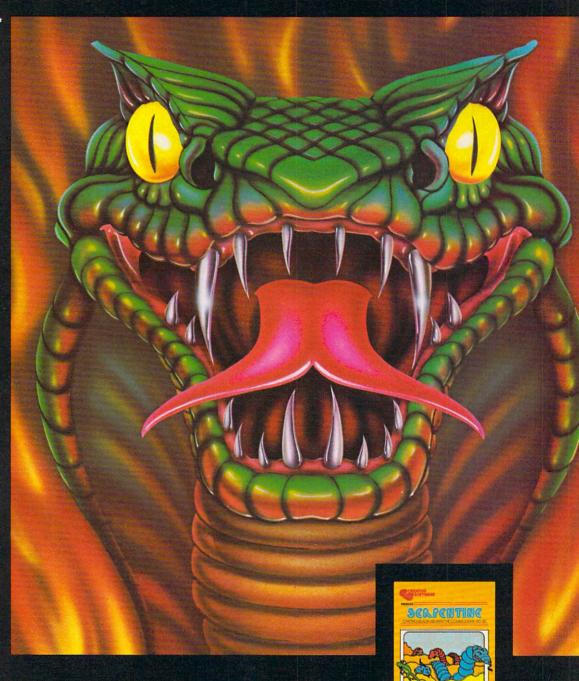
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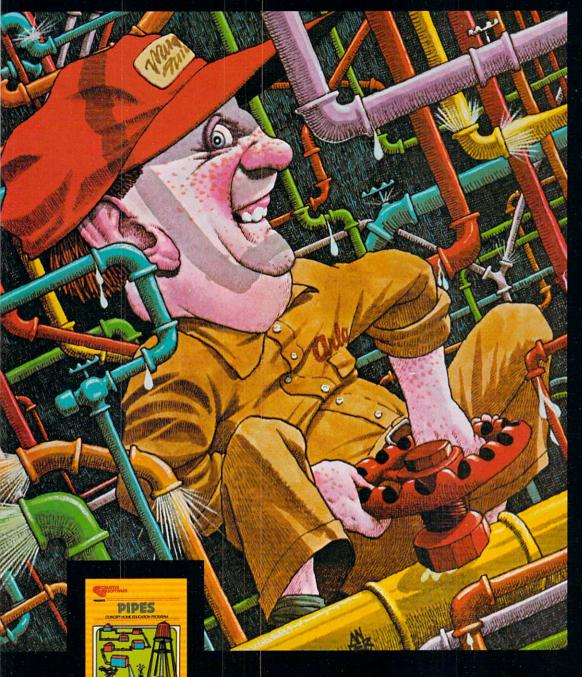




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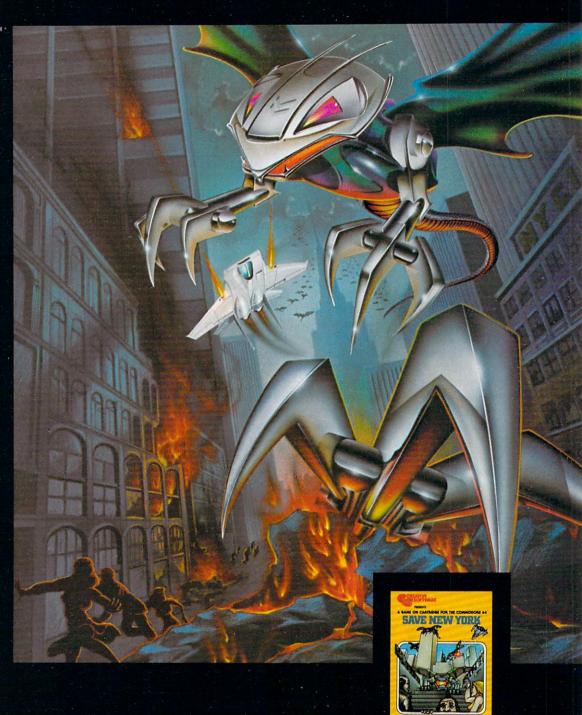
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went dark and a monstrous droning
noise filled the air. Hordes of
grotesque aliens were swooping
down from all sides, biting into the
Big Apple as if they hadn't eaten
for days. They were laying eggs, too.
Horrible slimy things that got down
into the subway tunnels and began
clawing their way up. If anyone
was going to save the city, it would
have to be me. I leapt into my
rocket and began blasting away.
I thought I stood a fighting chance,
but fuel's running low... another
wave of invaders on the horizon
...signing off...



SOFTWARE

Living With...

By Colin F. Thompson

1984. George Orwell was wrong. His chilling 1950's view of our present year did not materialize. Perhaps his speculations on the totally controlled society actually prevented Big Brother's birth. I hope so.

1984. George Orwell was right. The citizens of our planet have never been closer, more in touch and aware of each other's problems and triumphs. Part of Orwell's vision has born true—the computer. In the last 30 years digital technology has shrunk our world in a way that political and religious philosophies have not been able to do in thousands of years. This new awareness is due directly to the application of computer technology to every level of our lives. Big Brother turned out to be beneficial, not smothering.

1984. Big Brother turned out to be Little Brother. Anyone with about \$75 can own a Little Brother. 1983 saw the VIC come of age. Three years after its birth it blossomed and immediately began the rapid descent into obsolescence. VIC is being dragged from its pedestal by its own offspring, the Commodore 64.

1984 will be the year of the C-64. Many top level Commodore programmers have turned their attention from the VIC to the high resolution, musical genius of the C-64. As a VIC software reviewer, my future in these pages has come full circle. At first there was little to write about, then too much to write about, and now almost nothing. Change is inevitable, so change I must.

1984. Do I adore my 64? Not really, but perhaps that will change also. I'm hoping that a few software authors out there will dazzle me with programs that will make my life easier. When that happens, I will report the results in this column.

1984. It will be a year of change and growth in the Commodore community. The long awaited model 128 should rear it's business-like head and roar. I will acquire one of these machines when they become available and review the best products made for it. If Commodore rolls out a lap-sized computer like the Radio Shack 100, I will get one and wring it out.

1984. I'm excited by the changes. The world of microcomputing is running wild and I'm happily giving chase. When I reflect on the past year, my most vivid memories are not of technology, but of the human experience. I have made many new friends through this column. My thanks go out to all of you who have taken the time to put your thoughts on paper and send them to me. I sense your excitement and gather energy from it. Your letters keep my direction on target.

NEW BUSINESS IN THE NEW YEAR

I live within walking distance of three Radio Shack stores. Although I've resisted the temptation of buying a TRS-80 Model "Anything", I find myself brousing their shelves in search of something that might enhance my many Commodore computers. Last month I hit the jackpot. I'd been searching high and low for a six outlet, switched, filtered power strip. The power strip of my dreams would have each outlet isolated from the rest. I needed this strip for three reasons. My Smith-

Corona TP-1 has a nasty habit of resetting the computer when I turn on the TP-1. Power line spikes cause the problem. My two Commodore disk drives cause the same problem. When one is turned on, the other one locks up. (The MSD drive does not seem to be affected). And finally, I wanted to be able to turn on and off the entire system with one switch.

Several months ago I bought a Panamax 6 outlet line filter but found it did not solve my problem. The six outlets were isolated and filtered against any interference from the AC Line but not from each other. The Radio Shack line filter meets all my stringent requirements.



There are eight outlets on the back of the unit, with the master power switch on the top. This is a great arrangement. It lets me put the filter under my monitor, with the various line cords snaking in from the rear of the desk. The switch is very easy to reach. Best of all, each outlet is isolated from the rest. The TP-1 has been rendered harmless, and the maze of power cords has been brought under control. I couldn't be happier. The Radio Shack Part Number is 26-1451 and it costs only \$50.00



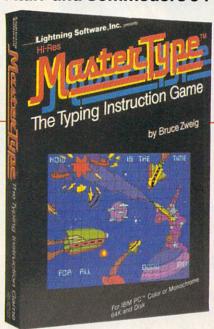
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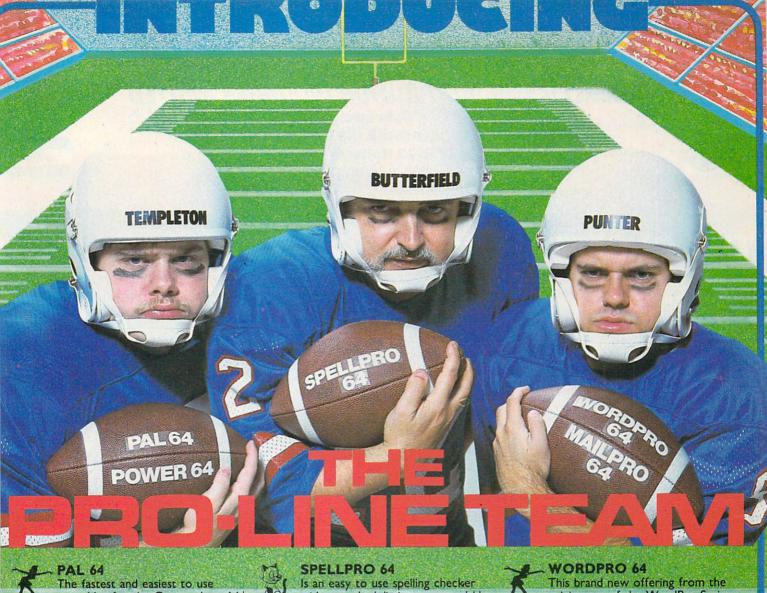
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"my only copy gone."

Circle No. 55

MEAN GREEN VIEW SCREEN

While we are on the subject of non-Commodore products, I should mention my NEC video monitor. Why do I use a green screen monitor on my colorful VIC and 64? Only one reason, really-so I can see 80 columns. The Data-20 Display Manager puts 80 columns of data on the screen. This is the best way to process words. I use it with Quick Brown Fox for all my writing. The word processing program that comes with the Display Manager-Word Manager-also uses the 80 column format. WM is a very nice package. Its strength is in its simplicity. However, to use either word processor, you will need a high resolution monochrome (one color) monitor. Neither the Commodore 1701 color monitor nor a TV set will display 80 columns clearly enough to use.

Fortunately for us, there are many low cost monochrome monitors on the market. They display a full 80 columns with vivid clarity in either green or amber letters. I won't dredge up the old argument of green versus amber. I picked green simply because it was about half the cost of amber. The NEC Display Monitor, model JB1260M(A), cost me an even \$100 over the counter.



The NEC has a 12-inch screen. This yields a usable viewing area about 7" wide and 5" high. For me, this is a big improvement on the 9-inch PET monitor. 80 columns printed on this 12" screen are clear, sharp and highly contrasted. The letters are green (of course) and the background and border are solid black. The unit is light weight (6.5kg), and has a built in carrying handle. An RCA jack in the rear is used to connect the monitor to the computer through an appropriate cable (not included). Like most monitors, it doesn't have an audio circuit. The on/off switch and brightness controls are located on the front panel for easy adjustment. Adjustment knobs for contrast, vertical hold and horizontal hold are in the rear.

ONLY ONE COLOR?

The VIC's normal video output is in vivid color. The NEC displays the colors in various shades of green. I think the best

looking color screen is achieved by poking the screen to white and the characters to black.

The NEC really enhanced the video appearance of my C-64. At a very small cost (14 of 16 colors are missing) the normally illegible screen on my 64 is now legible. All the characters are clearly represented, not just every other one, as before on the 1701. I'm pleased with the performance of the monitor. You may contact the manufacturer at 1401 Estes Avenue, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007.

vicCOMM

Another "newsletter sized" publication, chock full of VIC and C-64 information, is being published in North Carolina. Editor Ed Cox has put out the first three bimonthly issues and is now working on the fourth. I've read all the issues and believe the bulk of the articles are aimed at the user who has a fair grasp of BASIC and is looking for projects to stretch himself. vic-COMM has already covered graphics, word processing, videotext, amateur radio, and slow scan TV for the VIC and 64. I rate the contents equal in quality with the twice-a-month Journal/20. vicCOMM is \$9 a year, and is available on tape or disk for \$36 and \$48 respectively. Box 5491, Duke Station, Durham, NC 22706.

OUEUED UP

Next month's menu includes an indepth look at the DYNAX DX-15 letter quality printer and two disk copy utilities—one for the VIC and one for the C-64. Perhaps in a month I will have thought up a new name for the column. Your suggestions are welcome. Happy New Year!







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By Jim Grubbs!

The computer revolution continues as 1984 dawns bright. To those of you joining us for the first time, a hearty welcome! A "Little Bird" tells me that most of our new readers are sporting C-64 computers, and most of you have bought disk drives to go with them. This certainly has implications for the future, but be assured that we have plenty of room to accomodate both the VIC and the 64 in our discussions.

With the joys of the holiday season recently past, let us continue taking a look at some accessories to help you get the most out of your machine in the ham shack.

WHERE NO ONE HAS GONE BEFORE

The Kantronics interface was one of the first amateur radio-to-computer interfaces available. Consequently many of them have found their way into the homes of active radio and computer enthusiasts. Of course a good many people purchase the Kantronics Interface when they buy their software, but a surprisingly large number of them have been purchased separately by those of us more inclined toward programming than hardware.

Making the first anything is a tough job. You're not entirely sure what the marketplace is looking for. You don't really know what the competition will be like. You don't really know what people are willing to spend. So you take your best shot at what you think makes the most business sense. It would appear that is exactly what Kantronics did with their original interface.

The Interface does an adequate job for amateur applications. Although I was somewhat surprised by the small size of the unit, it was a welcome surprise since

my hamshack always seems to look like it is about to burst through the walls at any moment. Don't let the size fool you though, it is a good performer.

It seems the general practice these days not to include a power source with equipment. I suppose it does keep costs down, and allows those of us who power everything off of one big 12-volt supply not to have a bunch of extra power packs around. Anyway, you need a separate source of power for the Interface, as none is provided.

I found the unit to be of top-notch construction, a glass epoxy board and good clean wiring. Operationally it uses active filters to lock onto the CW or RTTY tone. Notice the singular, particularly for RTTY. This interface decodes RTTY and ASCII (both use the same keying method) by copying only one of the two tones present. If you are not familiar with frequency shift keying demodulation, suffice it to say that a mark and a space tone are rapidly shifted. Many inexpensive terminal units make use of only one of these tones. The Interface is in this category. Lest this appear all bad, there are proponents of the single tone system who maintain that phase differences when using both tones cause more problems than they cure. I am not one of these proponents. I have used everything from a homebrew 567 PLL decoder to some of the more sophisticated HAL demodulators and I have always found the dual tone demodulation technique to work better.

I was pleasantly surprised at the performance of the Interface. It copied signals that sounded like they were too weak to produce good copy. It did have a problem dealing with interference though.

There is a switch located on the front of the unit to flip from CW to RTTY reception. All this switch does is move the center frequency of the filters from 2295 hertz for RTTY down to 750 hertz for CW. I found that with my particular transceiver (an FT-101) even the RTTY copied better in the CW position. Many SSB filters start to cut off just about two kilohertz and will not reliably pass the normal RTTY tones. Others report similar problems. Not everyone owns either a very new or very old receiver with special provisions for shifting the bandpass of the filters.

When I tried the Interface on some commercial teletype transmissions (many are 67 wpm, 425 hertz shift) I had a great deal of difficulty in tuning the signal to get any kind of reliable copy at all. Keep in mind though that the Interface is designed only for 170 hertz shift as normally used on the high frequency amateur bands. It does not claim to be designed for use in copying commercial stations.

On transmit, only 170 hertz tones are generated, 850 hertz shift is not available.

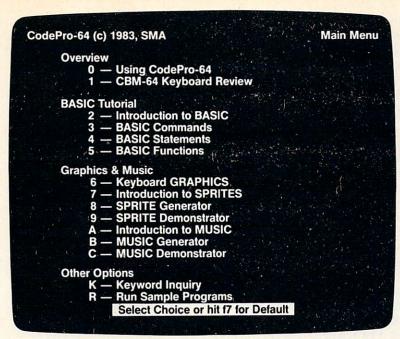
Idid find the bar graph tuning aid, along with another single LED, to do a good job in helping me tune signals. If you are trying to copy signals with inverted shift (mark and space tones reversed) there is no provision on the unit to accomplish this. With the Hamsoft or Hamtext package this can be accomplished by software options.

The instructions included were very thorough. At approximately \$150, the Interface does a good job at what it claims to do.

A PATCH FOR YOUR COMPUTER

Not only do the folks at AEA sell an excellent software package in the AEA-

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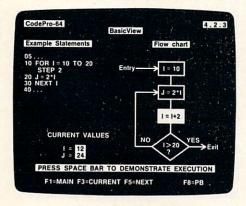
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EXTENSIVE TUTORIAL

CodePro-64's extensive tutorial guides you through each BASIC command, program statement, and function. You get clear explanations. Then you enter program statements as interactive examples. Where appropriate, you invoke BasicView to see examples execute and watch their flow charts and variables change.

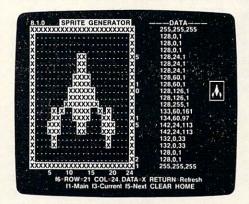
By seeing graphic displays of program segment execution you learn by visual example. You learn faster and grasp programming concepts easier with CodePro-64 because you immediately see the results of your input.

You control your learning. You can go through the tutorial sequentially, or return to the main menu and select different topics, or use keywords to select language elements to study. You can page back and forth between screens within a topic at the touch of a function key.

CodePro-64 lets you follow your interests and practice with interactive examples. But you can never get "lost". F1 will always return you to the main menu. Once you have practiced and mastered the BASIC language elements you move on to more advanced concepts. You learn about sprite and music programming.

SPRITE GENERATOR & DEMONSTRATOR

CodePro-64's sprite generator lets you define your own sprites on the screen. You learn how to define sprites and what data values correspond to your sprite definitions. (You can then use these values to write your own programs.) You can easily experiment with different definitions and make changes to immediately see the effects.



We also help you learn to program with sprites by giving you a sprite demonstrator so you can see the effect of changing register values. You can experiment by moving your sprite around in a screen segment, change its color or priority, and see the effects of your changes. You learn by visual examples.

MUSIC GENERATOR & DEMONSTRATOR

To teach you music programming CodePro-64 gives you an interactive music generator and demonstrator. First we help you set all your SID parameters (attack/ decay, sustain/release, waveform, etc.). Then you enter notes to play and we show your tune graphically as it plays, note by note, on the scale. You learn by seeing and hearing the results of your input.

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MBATEXT, they have an excellent computer terminal unit in their Computer Patch, or CP-1.

The CP-1 follows the tradition of excellence in products associated with the AEA name. They have been making code and RTTY readers for some time. They have employed this knowledge with good results in the CP-1.



The AEA CP-1 "Computer Patch"

This excellence shows in the superior construction techniques and the just plain good looks of the CP-1. It also requires an external power source, but the adapter is provided.

Like the Kantronics unit, the AEA filters are tuned to a lower frequency for CW. On RTTY the 170 hertz shift position is switch selectable. You are not limited to only this shift however. Included is a variable shift position that will cover everything up to approximately 1000 hertz. My experience with this option showed it to be an improvement over the original Kantronics unit when copying commercial stations. I did find it somewhat difficult to determine the best setting for other than 170 hertz shift. The transmit side provides only 170 hertz tones, so that will be a problem for the VHFers.

Scope outputs are available so that a real RTTY tuning scope can be used if you have one. Over the years I have used a scope and found that it's a bit like having a cruise control on your car-very nice to have, but far from a necessity.

The adjacent signal rejection is truly impressive using the CP-1. Numerous times I would carefully tune (I thought) to the stronger of two signals very close together and get perfect copy. I became truly impressed when the stronger signal disappeared and I found that I was actually tuned to the much weaker signal and getting perfect copy.

With the dual tone detection and variable shift features of the CP-1, I found that I got very good copy on all modes, including commercial "press" transmissions. Hook one of these up and you can show the kids what the US Information Service 100 wpm French newswire looks like, or get around the world weather data from one of several stations!

The CP-1 has excellent documentation and comes with a ninety day warranty. It is priced at \$239, but is being offered at special savings if bought in a package with the MBATEXT software. It's a hard combination to beat.

SON OF INTERFACE

One of the nice things about a good company is that they listen to their customers. Kantronics has gotten a lot of feedback from owners of the original Interface, and they have incorporated virtually all of them into a new super interface, the Interface II. The unit has just begun production as I write this, so a hands on test was not possible.

Kantronics has joined AEA in providing a true dual tone RTTY receive system. Secondly, switch selectable 170, 425, and 850 hertz shifts are available. There's no guessing with this one! On the amateur bands you set it for 170 hertz shift just as before and forget it. On the commercial bands, 425 is the usual rule (the Navy still likes to use 850, but most of their transmissions are encrypted anyway). For the VHF operator 850 hertz is available. This shift is also available on transmit, a feature not found on other units.

The Kantronics folks have gone the extra mile in providing dual hook ups on the back side. You don't have to rearrange the shack to switch from the low bands to VHF. Separate connections are provided for two transceivers, a very nice touch.

There are scope outputs and a much improved tuning indicator. Suggested price for the Interface II is \$259. I'll let you know how it performs in a future issue.

STUFFING YOUR OWN STOCKING

If you were fortunate enough to get everything you wanted for Christmas, like a new computer, one of the excellent software packages we reviewed and a top notch interface, I still have a suggestion to make. One of the most interesting things to me about having an RTTY terminal available is printing the commercial frequencies. So many of the transmissions are at "odd" speeds and shifts that it can be very frustrating trying to tune the signal. Since many of these services are in languages other than English, this makes things even more difficult.

I've discovered at least one solution to many of these problems in a book titled, "Guide to RTTY Frequencies", by Oliver P. Ferrell. If the name rings a bell, Mr. Ferrell was the editor of Popular Electronics in its heyday. He is now Chief Executive Office of Gilfer Associates. This guide includes an excellent introduction to tuning the commercial bands. The main course consists of

two lists, one by frequency and another by call sign, listing many teletype services from around the world. It's always difficult to keep the accuracy high in such a publication, but my own experience showed this one to be right on the mark (and space!) most of the time. I highly recommend it as an operating accessory. Reading Perry's introduction took me back to my early days in amateur radio. Does anyone remember the "Adventures of Carl and Jerry"? Guide to RTTY Frequencies is available for \$9.95 from Gilfer Associates, PO Box 239, 52 Park Avenue, Park Ridge, NJ 07656.

ETCETERA

Kantronics also recently announced a package for the short wave listener (SWL) that will allow your VIC or 64 to be used with your receiver to copy not only CW, RTTY and ASCII, but also will allow you to "break" certain simple encryption techniques! An "on screen" tuning indicator is included to help you measure the timing of signals and then change the baud rate to print non-standard speed signals. RADIOTAP is the name of this package with a suggested price of \$199.95.

Have you been looking for a good program to track OSCAR or any satellite for that matter (including the Space Shuttle)? Look no further. Tony Parise, WA3HRL has written AMS-2064 which works on either a VIC or 64. The way he handles formatting it for the right machine is really slick. The program is sold by AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, PO Box 27, Washington, DC 20044. The price is \$10 for the cassette version, with proceeds going to support the amateur satellite effort.

MID-WINTER MADNESS

Winter got you down? No money left for you computer after buying Smurfs and Jedi Knights for the kids? Next time, a cure for the winter doldrums that costs next to nothing, particularly if you own a VIC Modem! You might "eye" the modular cord on your telephone (the one that connects from the base of the phone to the handset) in the meantime. If you think someone may be upset if you cut it in two, you better look for an extra one. 73 for now.





I designed Taxpack so you could do something really practical with your Commodore VIC 20.

Peter Lambert, MBA Vice-President, Product Development Cosmopolitan Software

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*The cassette also includes an expanded version of Taxpack with enhanced display features, for the Commodore VIC 20's with 8k+ memory expansion.

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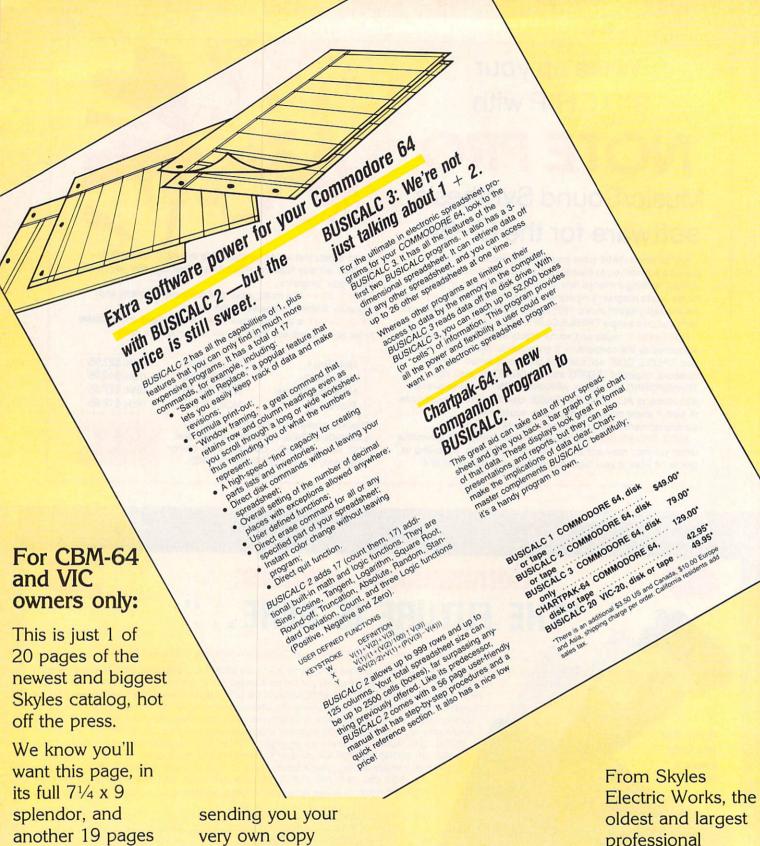
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Duplicating

Data Cassettes

By Jim Grubbs !

You've had your computer for a while and you've gotten pretty good at writing programs. Now you think you would like to share your programs with others, either by selling them, putting them in the public domain, or maybe just sending them to Uncle Joe for him to use on his machine. Of course you can load the program into the computer from cassette and then copy from the computer on to another blank cassette. This is probably the best way to make a single copy. There is an easier way for making multiple copies or making copies of tapes with multiple programs on them. First a few basics about magnetic recording in general and data recording in specific.

YOU TAKE THE HIGH TONE

When you record music using a tape recorder you are actually placing magnetic patterns on a thin piece of plastic coated with a metal oxide. These patterns consist of many waveforms over a wide frequency range. To hear what you have recorded you use the process in reverse, changing the magnetic patterns back into an electronic signal which can be amplified and fed to your speakers. When you record a computer program on cassette you are doing something very similar. Your computer generates two tones, sometimes called (in old teletype terms) mark and space. By switching rapidly between the two tones, binary (on/off) data can be represented on the tape. This is known as AFSK, audio frequency shift keying. In the case of the VIC and some other machines, some processing of this signal takes place.

Unlike recording music with its complex waveforms of many instruments playing at the same time, for data we can record square waves or something very close to pure square waves to represent our binary ones and zeros. Square waves are what

they sound like. Rather than changing amplitude in a gradual fashion or decaying slowly as some instruments do, they rise almost instantaneously and fall just as sharply when completed. This is exactly what we need for data storage, on and off, or high and low tones, with no "twilight zone" region in between them.

Even though we have done a specialized version of recording to best suit the needs of our computer, the end result is still audio frequencies recorded on a cassette tape. Take one of your programs and put it into any cassette recorder used for regular tapes. What you hear when you play it will usually start with a single tone and then a buzz saw sound, followed by another period of single tone at the end of the program. This may be a new experience for many VIC owners who do not normally have the option of hearing their tapes since the Commodore Data Cassette was designed specifically for use with the computer and has no speaker built in. If you have the opportunity to view your tape signal on an oscilloscope, you will see square waves. With a good scope and a lot of patience you can actually freeze a portion of the data and translate it into the contents of the tape at that point.

ALL IN AN EIGHTH OF AN INCH

Let's talk about the format of your data cassette for a moment. The VIC and most other machines record standard "half track" monophonic signals. This means that on a cassette tape, which is an eighth of an inch in width, something a little less than one-sixteenth of an inch is magnetized with the data transmission from your computer. This will leave the bottom half of the tape blank, which means when we finish recording on side one the tape can be flipped over, placing that blank portion

on the top side. If everything is in proper alignment on your data cassette and you play back a tape made from your computer on a high quality stereo cassette deck with VU meters you will notice two things. One is that the meters will probably be pinned, that is, indicate maximum level. The other is that the meters should be pretty much at the same level. If one is significantly lower than the other, or the levels waiver back and forth between channels, one of the tape heads is out of alignment, the tape has warped, and/or you are using cheap tape. If you suspect that the tape head on your data cassette is out of alignment, servicing should be obtained from a technician familiar with tape head alignment. It is not something the novice computerist should attempt. Special alignment tapes are used and the head is adjusted to a standard so that it will be in alignment with all tapes that have been recorded properly.

One source of errors in data recording is noise. By keeping the level as high as possible the signal-to-noise ratio can be kept high, reducing the likelihood of noise mutilating the data. Additionally, at full saturation magnetic recording media will tend to clip, that is, the peaks will be flattened out. In this case, that is a desirable effect. After all we want either a high or a low, not something in between. In normal music recording this clipping would be perceived as distortion, but for our purpose a bit of clipping can be helpful. We don't want to overdo it though. After a certain point other nasty things can begin to happen and we end up with undesired signals on our tape.

MASTER AND SLAVE

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music tape on another recorder. The taping should always be done with patch cords. Holding a mike to the speaker creates too much background noise and will no doubt result in a copy that will not load. Small portable units can be used as well as high quality stereo cassette decks, but there are some cautions.

If you are using two mono cassette recorders you are pretty much ready to go at this point. If the recorder has a meter on it, set the recording level so that it sits in the red—not against the pin but above the normal level. If you have a tone control, set it to the position that allows maximum high frequency response. A little experimentation may be necessary but you will be on your way to duplicating any program that is stored on cassette.

If you are using two stereo cassette decks, some additional points should be considered. In stereo recording two channels are packed into the space occupied by the single channel in a mono recording. This really starts splitting that eighth inch tape pretty thin with four separate channels being recorded on it. The logical step would be to allow both channels to be recorded at equal level. DON'T DO IT!

"Unlike recording music, for data we can record square waves to represent binary ones and zeros."

Keep in mind that we are dealing with rapidly changing high and low signals representing our binary data. These are being received by the computer at a relatively high speed. Theoretically we have two signals, one on each stereo track, that are absolutely identical. In practice those two signals may be slightly out of step or synchronization with each other. This is guaranteed to drive your computer bonkers. The solution is very simple. Turn down the right channel in the recorder you are using to make the copy. In other words, record left channel only. This will decrease the signal to noise ratio ever so slightly but will eliminate the phasing or sychronization problems mentioned. Use the left channel because it is on the outside of the tape, mimimizing cross talk between the two sides.

ALL IS NOT LOST

Tapes that will not load on your machine due to improper recording may be salvageable using your home stereo system, particularly if you have an equalizer or some method of controlling the tone from one recorder to another. By adjusting the frequency response, usually

boosting the high frequencies and/or changing the level, sometimes a bad tape can be saved. Remember the waivering signals mentioned earlier? Look to see which channel, left or right, consistently stays at the highest level and re-record that one, even if it is the right channel. This too, will cure many problems encountered with tapes received from others.

CARE AND FEEDING

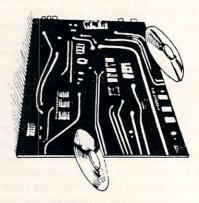
Regular cleaning of the tape head in your recorder is a must. The oxide on the tape will clog the tape head which could lead to not being able to load a cassette at all. Periodic cleaning will eliminate this problem. Using a good tape will help even more. Stay away from the three-for-adollar variety that you find at the checkout counter in many stores. Check the ads in COMMANDER. You will find many high quality cassette tapes specifically formulated for data recording at very reasonable prices.

Another item that many people overlook is a tape head demagnetizer. Continually running a magnetized tape over the tape head is just like running a low power magnet across the heads. After a while the head will become magnetized also, causing more load errors. It may even harm your previously recorded tapes. See your recorder's instruction manual for the proper way to clean and de-magnetize tape heads.

If you have a program that you want to save forever be sure and remove the safety tab in the cassette. There are two of these, one for each side. You will find them on the back edge of the cassette. Removing them will keep you from accidentally recording over your favorite program. If at any time you do want to use the tape to record again, just put a small piece of tape over the hole.

Data storage is a very important part of computing. With the methods described you can record multiple copies of your programs with minimal effort and time.





Introduction to Assembly Language Programming

Part XIII: Wedges

By Eric Giguere

Last month we took a look at the IRQ vector and how to use it to add certain features to the computer. This month we look at a similar concept, involving a routine at the very heart of the BASIC interpreter.

CHRGET

CHRGET is the name for a small machine language routine located from \$0073 to \$008A in memory. Notice it is located in page zero of memory. Being in page zero allows it to run faster than otherwise possible if it were anywhere else. This is because zero page instructions (ones that access only page zero of memory, such as LDA \$02) take less time to execute than absolute (non-zero page) instructions. Refer to Figure 1 for the disassembly of the CHRGET routine.

What is CHRGET used for? Basically, it is used to get a value or 'character' (hence the name) from memory. This may sound trivial, but the fact is that CHRGET is used by most of the BASIC ROM routines. By setting the pointer at \$7A and \$7B to the start of a BASIC program in memory, the interpreter can retrieve each byte in a line one at a time and process them as needed. CHRGET is also used in the IMMEDIATE or DIRECT mode. This is the mode the computer is in when it isn't running a program, but is waiting for you to enter a command (it displays the famous 'READY.' prompt). When you enter something on the screen, the line is transferred to the input buffer, a section of memory from \$0200-\$0258 used to interpret commands in immediate mode. Here, too, the BASIC interpreter uses the CHRGET routine to fetch each character from the input buffer, one at a time. CHRGET is truly one of the crucial routines in memory.

CHRGET is also a very efficient piece of code, as you may have surmised by taking a look at Figure 1. Notice the LDA \$FFFF in line 9. This is the instruction that retrieves the next character from memory. In this

example \$FFFF is simply a dummy value; the real value (which we can refer to as POINTR) is always changing. The neat thing about CHRGET is that each call to it increments the POINTR by 1, by incrementing the bytes pointing to the location themselves. Note that if you access the routine starting only at CHRGOT (\$0079) you will load the current character being accessed because you haven't increased the pointer. This self-modification feature of CHRGET supplants the need for fancy indexing routines using the X or Y registers.

Besides getting the next character in memory, CHRGET also sets certain status flags depending upon certain conditions. If the character loaded is a colon (ASCII \$3A) or a null-byte (\$00, indicating the end of program line), the Z flag is set, and a BEQ after a JSR CHRGET will succeed. This checks for end-of-statement/end-of-line. If instead the character happens to be a numeral (0-9, ASCII values \$30 to \$39), the carry bit will be cleared, thanks to the intriguing code from lines 14 to 17. Otherwise the carry will be set. CHRGET also uses the code at lines 12 and 13 to skip

FIGURE 1

FILENAME: CHRGET. OBJ

| LI | NE | ADDR | 9 | ODE | | LABEL | OPC | OPERAND | COMMENTS |
|----|-------------|----------------------|----------|----------------|-----|--------|------------|----------------------|--|
| 98 | 102 | 0073 0073 0073 | | | | | | IN VIC AND | C64 |
| 99 | 104 | 0073 0073 | | | | , | ORG | \$0073 | |
| 98 | 106 | 0073 0075 0077 | DØ | 7A 02 7B | | CHRGET | BHE | CHRGOT+1 CHRGOT+2 | ;INCREMENT LOW BYTE ;CHECK FOR NEW PAGE ;INCREMENT HIGH BYTE |
| 90 | 109 | 0079 0070 | AD C9 | FF 3A | FF | CHRGOT | LDA | \$FFFF #/: | GET CHARACTER (*FFFF=DUMMY VALUE) CHECK FOR COLON |
| 98 | | 007E 0080 0082 | 09 F0 | | | | CMP | #32 CHRGET | FIF COLON OR GREATER EXIT CHECK FOR SPACE SKIP SPACES |
| 00 | 15 | 0084 0085 0087 | | 30 | | | SEC SEC | #\$30 | THIS WILL SET THE CARRY BIT |
| 98 | 917 | 0088 0088 | E9 | DØ | | EXIT | | #\$DØ | ;WHEN ACC. IS NOT #\$30 TO #\$39 |
| 99 | 120 | 008B 008B 008B | | | | NOTE | | | ES FOLLOWING CHROOT ED TO AS 'POINTR' |
| | PARTICIA CO | 1BLY (| COME | PLE" | TE. | | | | |

SYMBOL TABLE:

CHRGET-\$0073 CHRGOT-\$0079 EXIT---\$008A

PROGRAM START: \$0073 PROGRAM END: \$000B

over any spaces (ASCII \$20). Any routine calling CHRGET can easily tell if it has reached the end of a statement or if the character retrieved is a numeral (perhaps indicating a program line number). This feature is used in Figure 3, which we'll get to later.

WEDGING INTO CHRGET

Because CHRGET is in RAM we can easily make changes to it. It's possible to intercept characters retrieved by CHRGET and make use of them somehow. Programs such as DOS AID or my very own VICDOS (formerly named DOSPLUS-see the February 1983 issue of COMMANDER) actually do this. By slightly altering CHRGET these programs can search for a certain flag character, such as '@' or '>' and if encountered jump to some other routine to execute something (such as sending all characters following the flag to the disk drive as a command). What you use CHRGET for is up to your imagination. But how do you alter CHRGET in the first place?

The solution is to place a 'wedge' right in the middle of CHRGET. A wedge is basically a JMP or JSR instruction 'wedged' into other code to temporarily divert the microprocessor to another piece of code. A wedge is used when there isn't enough

Figure 2

PROGRAM START: \$033C

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memory or it's very awkward to rewrite the whole routine we're wedging into. The wedge can also be referred to as a 'patch', though this is used more often as a reference to corrective code use to improve or correct programs.

Figure 2 is a general CHRGET wedge program, complete with explanations as to what each line of code does. It should be noted that there are several spots to put wedges into CHRGET, but I prefer placing it in line 10 of Figure 1, right after the LDA instruction. Going quickly through Figure 2, lines 10 to 16 initialize the wedge by placing a 'JMP \$0349' in the CHRGET routine. This routine is called by a SYS 828 (from BASIC) or a JSR \$033C and returns when finished. The CHRGET routine will now jump to \$0349 each time it is called. Your initialization routine may make it point somewhere else, but make sure you have the proper code in place. I'll be referring to specific memory locations in my examples but please remember they can refer to anywhere you wish to place them.

Lines 18 to 27 form the wedge routine. Here the character is pushed onto the stack and then examined to see if it is an ampersand ('&'). If not, the routine branches to EXIT. Another check is then made to make sure the computer is in im-

mediate mode. If it is, location \$7B will equal 2. A final check is made to make sure 'quote mode' is off, and that this isn't part of a PRINT statement. If everything is OK the original character is pulled off the stack (even though we don't need it) and the routine branches to PROCES. EXIT is a routine that replaces the code we destroyed in CHRGET by placing the wedge. It mimics what happens in lines 10 to 18 of Figure 1.

PROCES is the start of your own processing routine. What you place here is entirely up to you. When you've ended your code you should leave in one of two ways: 1) via a JMP (\$0302), or 2) via a JMP \$0073. The former will ignore whatever is left of the input line after you processed it, while the latter can be used to let the computer process the rest of the line normally. The choice depends on your program. You should also notice that even though Figure 2 is my 'standard' wedge program. there is still considerable room for change. You can simply change the CMP statement in line 19 to check for a different character, or you could add multiple CMPs for several different functions. Simply keep the same logic shown in Figure 2 and everything should be all right.

MULTIPOKE

As an example of using a wedge in CHRGET, I have included a program I call MULTIPOKE. Loaded into the cassette buffer, MULTIPOKE is basically an extended POKE statement that lets you poke values into successive memory locations without a whole string of POKE statements. To use MULTIPOKE, type in the BASIC loader program for your computer (Figures 4a or 4b) or use an assembler to assemble the listing in Figure 3 and load the code directly. Once in memory the code is activated by a SYS 828, and deactivated by a SYS 919.

The command format for MULTIPOKE is as follows:

&address, value (,value,....,value):

'Address' is the starting memory location to be POKEd while 'value' is a value from 0-255. The command must be in a program line (it won't work in immediate mode) and must end with a colon (':'), even if it's the only thing in the line. What it will do is POKE the first value into memory location 'address', and then POKE the second (if any) into address + 1, and so on until it reaches the end of the statement. Each value must be preceded by a comma. As an example, the line:

10 & 53280, 3, 1:

would POKE 3 into location 53280 and 1 into 53281. MULTIPOKE will also work

Continued on page 132

| FILENA | | EDGE | .OBJ | | | | |
|--|--|--|------|---------|--|--|---|
| LINE A | DDR | COD | E | LABEL | OPC | OPERAND | COMMENTS |
| 0001 0 0002 0 0003 0 0004 0 0005 0 | 330 330 330 | | | ; FOR I | JSE (| GIGUERE | ROGRAM C OR C64 |
| 0006 0 | | | | 1 | | | |
| 0007 0 0008 0 0009 0 | 330 | F | | 1 | ORG | \$033C | PROGRAM STARTS IN CASSETTE BUFFER |
| 0010 0: 0011 0: 0012 0: 0013 0: 0014 0: 0015 0: | 33E 85 340 A5 342 85 344 A5 | 7C 9 49 5 7D 9 03 | | | STA LDA STA LDA | #\$40 \$70 # <wedge \$7D #>WEDGE \$7E</wedge | ;PLACE THE OPCODES FOR 'JMP' ;AND THE WEDGE ADDRESS INTO THE ;CHRGET ROUTINE |
| 0016 0 | 348 66 | 3 | | , | RTS | *15 | ; WEDGE IS ACTIVATED, RETURN TO BASIC. |
| 0019 0: 0019 0: 0020 0: 0021 0: 0022 0: 0023 0: 0024 0: 0025 0: | 34A C9 34C D6 34E A5 350 C9 352 D6 354 A5 | 9 26 9 0D 5 7B 9 02 9 07 5 D4 | | | CMP BNE LDA CMP BNE LDA | #/& EXIT \$7B #\$02 EXIT \$D4 EXIT | CHECK INCOMING CHARACTER ON WHAT WE WANT, SO LEAVE CHECK TO MAKE SURE THERE ISN'T A PROGRAM RUUNING IF SO, LEAVE CHECK TO SEE IF QUOTE MODE ON IF SO, LEAVE |
| 0026 0 0027 0 0028 0 0029 0 | 358 68 359 D8 35B | 09 | | EXIT | BHE | PROCES | GO TO BHE PROCESSING ROUTINE |
| 0030 0 0031 0 0032 0 | 35C C9 | 9 3A 9 01 | | | CMP | #/: JUMP | |
| | | 89 | 99 | JUMP | JMP | \$0080 | CONTINUE CHRGET |
| 0034 0 0035 0 0036 0 0037 0 | 364 El 365 | a | | PROCES | HOP | | ENTER YOUR CODE STARTING HERE |
| | 365 6 | 02 | 93 | ENDPRO | JMP | (\$0302) | RETURN TO BASIC WHEN FINISHED USING ABOVE LINE |
| ASSEMB | LY CO | MPLE | TE. | | | | |
| SYMBOL | TABL | Ε: | | | | | |
| SETWDG ENDPRO | | | WEDG | E\$034 | 9 1 | EXIT\$ | 35B JUMP\$0361 PROCES-\$0364 |

PROGRAM END: \$0368

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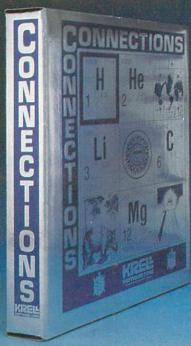
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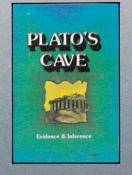
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Electronic Blackboard

Reviews of Educational Software

■By Maryanne Dodd ■

This month I will focus on software designed for computer assisted instruction (CAI) in mathematics. There are probably more educational programs written for math than all of the other academic areas combined. This is because math is a highly structured, precise discipline, and lends itself to computer instruction more readily than most other subjects.

When using CAI, the teacher must always keep in mind the individual needs and abilities of the children using the program. Some programs may be perfect for one child while another child will be bored or frustrated. Also, certain programs assume no prior knowledge in an area and teach whole concepts, while others act as drill or reinforcement of previously learned skills. The programs in this month's review vary in the amount of initial instruction of concepts and the range of skills covered.

COMPARING WHOLE NUMBERS from Creative Equipment is a CAI package that provides initial instruction of concepts as well as drill. The program is designed around one very specific objective—teaching the relative value of whole numbers.

PINBALL MATH by Taylormade is designed to provide tutoring and drill in the four basic arithmetic operations after the student has had initial instruction.

FLOWER POWER by Softwave provides no teaching of concepts, but does involve multiplication drill at various skill levels.

TITLE: COMPARING WHOLE NUMBERS

FORMAT: Diskette and Cartridge

PRICE: \$79.95

MODEL: Commodore 64
AUDIENCE: Third grade

SUMMARY: CAI program that teaches

the comparison of whole

numbers.

SOURCE: CREATIVE EQUIPMENT

6864 West Flagler Steet Miami, FL 33144

(305) 261-7866

Robin the wise old owl personally invites all third graders to join her for fun and adventure as they learn to compare whole numbers together. This is accomplished through a new software package, COM-PARING WHOLE NUMBERS by Robin F. Brown from Creative Equipment.

EXAMPLES

A. 60 > 30... MEANS THAT SIXTY IS

GREATER THAN THIRTY.

B. 50 > 24... MEANS THAT FIFTY IS

GREATER THAN THENTY-FOUR.

ALEX, PLEASE STUDY
THIS CAREFULLY !!

COMPARING WHOLE NUMBERS is designed to teach the concepts "less than," "greater than," and "equal to" as they relate to whole numbers, on the third grade level. The program is contained on a diskette and cartridge which are loaded into the computer together with an automatic boot. The menu has a choice of four different types of lessons: numbers 0-99, numbers 0-999 and word problems.

After selection is made, Robin the owl says "Hi" and invites the student to type his or her name and age. The program then personalizes the lesson by making a comment about the child's age and referring to the student by name. The comparision symbols and place values are then introduced, followed by several screens of examples. The student's name is used frequently, and Robin draws attention to details on the computer blackboard by pointing with her wing. Follow-up instructions are offered if the initial directions are not fully understood.

The student then answers comparison questions by using the function keys and keyboard. Correct responses receive

positive reinforcement sentences which include the student's name. Incorrect responses bring gentle reminders to check the place value or to remember the symbols. After three consecutive incorrect responses, Robin suggests that the student review the concepts again. Then the computer will automatically present a short review before any new questions are given.

At the end of each lesson there is a summary stating the number correct, the number incorrect and the percentage correct. The computer then tells the student either to proceed to the next lesson or to review the concepts and do the same lesson again.

Also accompanying the program is a loose leaf binder containing complete documentation, specific behavioral objectives for each lesson, and worksheets with pre-tests and post-tests. The documentation is undoubtedly the most complete I have seen for any program. The program is truly "user friendly." Complete instructions are given, including a chart that explains what to do if the program fails to load

I feel that COMPARING WHOLF NUM-BERS is an excellent piece of software for classroom use. The positive interaction with Robin the owl would provide a pleasant learning experience. The program is broad enough that children with a wide range of abilities would benefit from its use. Some students might be able to master comparisons by using just the program a few times, while others might need to use both the program and the worksheets. There is enough to provide everyone with sufficient and varied practice. Even though the program is of such high quality I hesitate to recommend it for home use because of the cost and limited scope. It would be an excellent program to use at home if you have access to a software library, or if a child is having difficulty with the relative value of numbers.

TITLE: PINBALL MATH

FORMAT: Diskette or Cassette PRICE: Cassette \$19.95

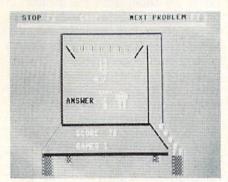
Diskette \$24.95 MODEL: Commodore 64

SUMMARY: CAI tutorial and drill of basic

arithmetic operations.
TAYLORMADE SOFTWARE

SOURCE: TAYLORMADE SOFTWARE

P.O. Box 5574 Lincoln, NE 68505 (402) 464-9051



PINBALL MATH from Taylormade is a math tutorial and drill involving the four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). The program centers around a replica of a pinball machine drawn on the screen with math problems displayed inside of it. If the student enters the correct solution the pinball machine lights up, flashes, and produces typical pinball sounds. If an incorrect response is entered a pinball man gobbles up the wrong answer. After three incorrect responses the correct one is displayed.

There are three levels of difficulty for each operation. The easiest level focuses on drill of the basic facts for that operation. During the easy level the child can count the number of balls before they change into numbers on the screen. The remaining two levels provide tutoring and drill of procedures unique to the specific operation.

During the medium level of addition, three-digit addends are used with regrouping occurring randomly. The hard level of addition presents column addition with three addends. A question mark prompts the student to make a keyboard entry, one digit at a time. Responses are entered from right to left and the computer checks and corrects (if necessary) each digit before another one can be entered.

The medium level of subtraction consists of a three digit minuend and a two digit subtrahend with no regrouping. The hard level of subtraction contains problems that may or may not require regrouping. As in addition, the solution is entered from right to left with each digit being individually checked.

The medium level of multiplication has a three digit number multiplied by a single number. At the hard level, a three digit number is multiplied by a two digit number. The student is expected to work the problem on the screen. The program uses question mark prompts to keep place values straight.

The medium and hard division levels are very similar to the multiplication segments in that the medium level has a three-digit number that is divided by a one-digit divisor, and the hard segment has a three-digit number that is divided by a two-digit divisor. The method used to solve the

problems is standard long division, similar to that taught in most classrooms. The student enters the quotient and the computer does the multiplying. The student then subtracts and brings down the next number. If an incorrect quotient is entered the computer will prompt with "Too small" or "Too large", and multiply the number that the student entered to demonstrate the error.

Points are recorded on the pinball machine according to the amount of time taken to enter a response. The easy games consist of five hundred points, medium games are one thousand points and hard



games are two thousand points. After game points are attained the points roll over and another game at the same level begins. When the student wishes to end the practice he pushes the "f1" key, and an evaluation consisting of the number of problems, number of games, amount of time taken, and the percentage of first answers correct is given.

PINBALL MATH is built around sound education principles. The methods of solving the problems is the same sequential method found in many elementary school curricula. The numbers are large and presented on a contrasting background that is easy for young children to read. Mistakes are recognized instantly and the student is shown exactly where each mistake occurred. I especially like the nonthreatening way the ball gobbles up mistakes so that they are erased and forgotten quickly. Pinball math would definitely be beneficial to a child who is just learning a new math operation such as long division, or to a child who vaguely knows how to do an operation but needs review and practice to achieve mastery.

TITLE: FLOWER POWER

FORMAT: Diskette PRICE: \$39.95

MODEL: Commodore 64
AUDIENCE: First grade through junior

high school.

SUMMARY: CAI math drills involving

whole numbers, fractions, decimals and the four basic

arithmetic operations.

SOURCE: SOFTWAVE

156 Drake Lane

Summertown, TN 38483

(615) 964-3537



FLOWER POWER by Softwave presents an almost unlimited supply of math drills. There are a total of thirteen different problem categories. The student chooses the type of number (whole, fraction, or decimal), and then the basic arithmetic operation (addition, subtraction, multiplication or division). Alternatively the student may choose to practice fraction-decimal conversion.

After the student has entered his or her name and chosen the type of practice, a problem appears on the screen "landscape." For each correct response a flower grows in the garden and "right" is flashed on the screen. If an incorrect response is given a weed grows among the flowers and the statement "No, that's not it. Try again" is flashed on the screen. After three tries the correct answer is given. After ten problems a summary is given of the number of correct responses on the first try, as well as a final score based on the number correct and the time taken to enter each response.

FLOWER POWER has the capability of charting students' progress and storing separate data for up to thirty names. The first time the student chooses a type of drill, the program starts at level one. Thereafter, the computer will automatically place each student at the same level attained the last time that he or she used the program. When a series of correct responses are given the computer automatically advances the student to more difficult skill levels. After an incorrect response the computer drops back to a less difficult skill level and gives five practice problems, then gradually increases the difficulty level.

Also included on the diskette is a separate utility program called REPORT. This program lists the skill level of each student for each operation and the high score attained at each level attempted. Individual student's scores may be examined on the screen, and a hard copy of scores for all users may be obtained with a printer.

FLOWER POWER is not a teaching program. There are no explanations or prompts that explain procedures or analyze errors. All problems are presented horizontally and the responses are entered from left to right. There is no provision for the student to work the problems on the screen. In fact, after level five the student will not be able to solve the

problems mentally and will need to use paper and pencil. FLOWER POWER is a good program for drill after a student has obtained an understanding of the basic rules governing a given arithmetic operation, but has neither achieved an acceptable level of speed nor a high degree of accuracy. The multiple skill levels allow for utilization by a class or family with a wide range of math abilities. The time factor is present but its effect is subtle. Although points are based upon the duration of time taken to enter a correct response, there is no pressure or penalty. The problem does not flash or disappear when a student takes longer to enter an answer.

The graphics and sound used in the program are simply done. An unobtrusive sound accompanies the growing flowers. The landscape and flowers are shown in bright colors that do not distract from the math. Young primary students will enjoy the immediate reinforcement of flowers growing on the screen. The short segments of ten problems followed by an evaluation will provide the immediate feedback that young students need. Older students may be unimpressed by the flowers and weeds, but will find the multiple levels challenging. With calculator in hand I tried to find the upper limits of the levels but I gave up after reaching level twenty-six. However, I am sure that many sixth graders would try to find the highest level just to prove that it is there.



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BASIC Education: Programming for Learning Part II: The Quiz

By Andy Van Duyne

Perhaps we all remember with a small amount of terror those days in school when a message would appear on the blackboard saying "Quiz tomorrow", or the teacher would walk into the room armed with freshly dittoed papers for a pop quiz. For many of us the word "quiz" has both bad and humorous connotations-it is a rather funny sounding word, but often one suffered through a quiz as if it were a form of punishment. These short tests, though, can provide valuable information for the teachers (or these days, "learning facilitators") as to the progress of the students in their charge and the identification of individual strengths and weaknesses.

A quiz is used not to teach, but to assess knowledge. It can take several forms, including fill-in-the-blank, writing a short sentence or paragraph, connecting two elements with lines, true/false, or multiple choice.

Of these, several are difficult to "computerize". Fill-in-the-blank would require string inputs, and the evaluation routines would have to be able to handle the vagaries of spelling, spacing, capitalization, or perhaps an answer that is correct but not the teacher's intended response. (This embarrassing situation occurs more frequently than most teachers would like to admit.) These same problems are compounded for sentence input. (Jack bought some magic beans - The beans bought by Jack were magic-Jack purchased some beans that proved to be magic in nature.) Connecting elements with lines would be nice if a light pen were involved, or if the Commodores had a little more sophisticated high resolution ability and the students were proficient with cursor movement.

This leaves true/false and multiple choice on our list. Although these forms of quiz are very easily programmed, they both have their detractors. True/false, some argue, does little to define the student's ability level, and is conducive to guessing. Since an equal distribution of answers is usually a goal in formulating a guiz or test, a student could answer TRUE to every question on a "well designed" true/false test and still score fifty percent correct, even with no knowledge of the subject matter. Critics of multiple choice testing say that it also fails to assess subject knowledge accurately, as the answer is presented to the student (along with the bogus responses) and the student needs only to recognize it instead of hauling the answer up from the depths of the mind.

As mentioned, true/false and multiple choice tests are easily adapted to the computer's binary brain because only a simple entry needs to be made from a limited list of precisely defined choices. Either it is right or it isn't, and no partial credit need be considered. The more common of the two is the multiple choice test.

If you will be testing the same information many times, it might behoove you to write a specific program to administer that specific test. However, writing a whole new program for each multiple choice test soon becomes tedious and more trouble than it is worth. Another approach is illustrated by the two programs listed here. QUIZZER will present a multiple choice test in a standard format. It can include as many questions as the instructor wants. The question is written, followed by four possible responses. Performance analysis is given at the end of the program, with reports on the number of correct and incorrect responses, and the total percentage correct.

The OUIZ WRITER program is used to create files for QUIZZER. Using this system, a teacher can create several different tests by creating several files, each of which can be used by the same testing program. The two programs are designed to run on either the VIC-20 or the C-64, and files created on either machine can also be used on the other one. This is very handy if you shuttle between both computers from home to school, as I do. The interchangeability is achieved by formatting a routine in the QUIZZER program that is used to print all strings. After specifying which computer you are using at the beginning of the RUN, the formatting will take effect so that words are only very rarely broken in the middle. More on this later. Neither program is long or complicated, but by using the tape file technique, the amount of tested material is limited only by the length of the tape used for the

THE QUIZ WRITING PROGRAM

Here is an outline of QUIZ WRITER: Lines 10-70 give program title, secure the number of questions and file name, open the file, and record the number of entries to be made. Lines 100-110 get the guestions and four choices for answers. Lines 115–117 record which response is correct. Line 120 prints the question, responses, and correct answer to the tape, then loops for the next question. Lines 130-199 close the file and end the program. Lines 200-207 is the string input routine. The string is built using GETs, and your guestions and answers can be up to 255 characters long. You may also include commas in your strings. However, when the commas are stored on tape, they are stored as the English pound sign. Otherwise, the comma would be interpreted as

the end of the entry and the information on the tape would not be read correctly on playback. A 'cursor' is represented by the check mark–CHR\$(186) in upper/lower case. The delete key is also enabled by using the subroutine at line 220.

The QUIZ WRITER program is rather easy to use. Just have your questions ready and follow the prompts on the screen. You need to supply the file name and number of questions, each question with four choices, and the correct choices, and the correct choice number for each. That's it!

- 10 REM QUIZ WRITER
- 20 PRINT''[clr][down, 2 times]**QUIZ[sp]WRITER**''
- 30 INPUT''[down, 2 ti mes]#[sp]UF[sp]QUE STIONS[sp]'';HM\$
- 40 INPUT''[down, 2 ti mes]NAME[sp]OF[sp] FILE[sp]'';F\$
- 50 PRINT''[clr]''CHR\$ (14)
- 60 OPEN1,1,1,F\$
- 70 PRINT#1, HM\$
- 100 FORN=1TOVAL(HM\$)
- 102 PRINT''[clr][down]
 [shf-Q]UESTION[sp]
]#''N
- 104 GOSUB200: A\$(1)=Q\$
- 106 FORZ=2T05
- 108 PRINT''[shf-A]NSWE R[sp]#''Z-1
- 110 GOSUB200: A\$(Z)=Q\$: NEXT
- 115 INPUT''[down][shf= W]HICH[sp]IS[sp]CO RRECT'';C\$
- 117 IFC\$<//1/*ORC\$>//4
 //THEN115

- 120 FORZ=1T05:PRINT#1, R\$(Z):NEXTZ:PRINT# 1,C\$:NEXTN
- 130 CLOSE1
- 140 PRINT''[clr][down, 2 times][shf-Y]OU R[sp]FILE[sp]IS[sp]NOW''
- 142 PRINT''[down]ON[sp
- 199 END
- 200 REM GET STR
- 201 Q\$=''':PRINTCHR\$(186);
- 202 GETA\$: IFA\$='''THE N202
- 203 IFAS=CHR\$(13)THENP RINT:RETURN
- 204 IFR#=CHR\$(20)THENG OSUB220:GOTO202
- 205 PRINT''[left]''A\$C HR\$(186);
- 206 IFA\$='',''THENA\$='
- 207 D\$=0\$+A\$:GOT0202
- 220 Q#=LEFT\$(Q\$,LEN(Q\$)-1):PRINT'[left, 2 times]''CHR\$(18 6)''[sp][left]''; RETURN

GIVING THE QUIZ

QUIZZER presents the quiz that was created...Just load and run the program, and use the file tape generated with QUIZ WRITER. Here is the outline: Lines 10–40 start the program and secure the screen width (SW) by asking for which machine is in use. Lines 50–70 get the file name and open the file. Lines 80–96 advise the user how many questions are involved and wait for a RETURN before continuing. Lines 100–112 read the questions

and choices from the tape and put them on the screen. Line 112 checks to see if the response is out of range. (This type of string input is used in both programs—it is very easy to check, and will not cause unwanted occurrences if a 'q' is accidentally entered instead of a number). Lines 120-122 check the accuracy of the response and call the appropriate subroutine. Lines 150-199 give the report on the performance of the user and end the program. Lines 200-252 make up the string printout routine. Notice the re-introduction of the commas in line 204. Line 206 is the heart of the formatting procedure. The line is broken whenever the line has reached within 10 characters of the screen width and a space is encountered. This is sufficient for practically all the questions I have tried. If you find that you are using long words frequently, you may wish to change this parameter. The subroutine at 250 takes care of breaking the line and resetting the character count. Line 260 is a general purpose delay routine

The correct and incorrect response routines begin at lines 300 and 400, respectively. The steps here are very skeletal, and are certainly open to further modification. Remember, the purpose of a quiz is to check knowledge, not to entertain. Any rewards or other feedback should not detract from the task at hand—the quiz. Further installments of BASIC Education will discuss reward systems in greater detail.

A few comments and tips:

- Even though the programs are interchangeable between the VIC and C-64, keep in mind that the VIC has a much smaller screen capacity. Long questions and answers may cause the VIC to begin scrolling the screen, so that information at the top might be lost.
- Remember that entries are made in the upper/lower case mode. Adopt a standard for yourself and pupils. File names should either be capitalized always or never. Never is easier.
- I have little direct experience with the PET, but as far as I can tell, the 40 column format should work on a 40 column PET.

Some future modifications of this program might include a hardcopy performance report, or a report to a tape or disk file. In these cases, the student's name and the use date should be secured at the beginning of the QUIZZER program. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please send them to BASIC Education c/o COMMANDER. Enjoy yourself!

Continued on page 43

"PURE MAGIC FROM
THE MOMENT I PLUGGED IT IN."

"...I BUY YOUR SOFTWARE
JUST BY YOUR NAME."

"A PERFECT '10'."

"...MY HUSBAND
WON'T COME TO DINNER."

"I NAMED MY DOG SHAMUS..."

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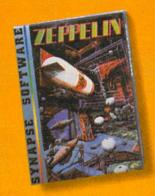
Maybe you've played pinball before, but not like this! No time to think, no room to make even one mistake. Just quick reflexes, light body armor and a whole lot of luck between you and the end of the game. SLAM BALL!





Very hot air

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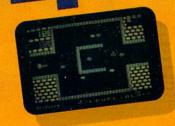




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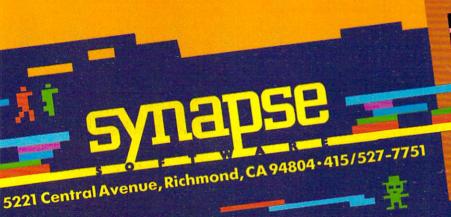




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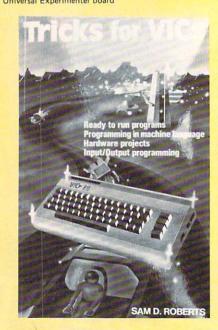
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- 10 REM QUIZZER
- 15 PRINTCHR\$(14)
- 20 INPUT''[clr][down, 3 times]1=[shf-V][s hf-I][shf-C][sp]2=6 4'';W\$:IFW\$<''1''OR W\$>''2''THEN20
- 30 IFW\$=''1''THENSW=22 :00T050
- 40 SW=48
- 50 PRINT''[clr]''TAB(S W/2-6)''**
 Ulshf-I][shf-Z, 2 times][shf-E][sh f-尺]**''
- 60 INPUT''[down, 3 tim es][shf-W]HICH[sp][shf-F]ILE'';F\$
- 70 OPEN1, 1, 0, F\$
- 80 INPUT#1, HMS
- 90 Q\$=''[clr][shf-T]HI
 S[sP]QUIZ[sP]HAS[sP
]''+HM\$+''[sP]QUEST
 IONS.'':GOSUB200
- 95 PRINT''[down][shf-T JOUCH[sp][rvs-on][s hf-R][shf-E][shf-T] [shf-U][shf-R][shf -N][rvs-off]...''
- 96 GETR\$!IFR\$<>CHR\$(13)THEN96
- 100 FORN=1TOVAL(HM\$)
- 102 FORZ#1T05: INPUT#1,A \$(Z): NEXT: INPUT#1,C \$
- 104 PRINT''[clr][shf-Q]
 UESTION[sp]#''N''[
 down]''

- 106 Q\$=A\$(1):00SUB200
- 108 FORZ=2T05:PRINT''[d own][left]''Z-1''[l eft].[sp]'';:Qs=As(Z):GOSUB200:NEXT
- 110 INPUT''[down][shf-W]HICH[sp][S[sp]CDRR ECT[sp][[eft]'';G\$
- 112 IFG\$<''1''ORG\$>''4"
 ORLEN(G\$>>1THENPRIN
 T''[up, 2 times]'';
 :GOTO110
- W/2-6)''*#[shf-Q][s 120 IFC\$=G\$THENGOSUB300 hf-U][shf-I][shf-Z, :GOTO124
 - 122 GOSUB400
 - 124 NEXTN
 - 150 REM DONE
 - 152 Q\$=''[clr][down, 2 times][shf-T]HAT'S[sp]THE[sp]LAST[sp]Q UESTION.'':GOSUB200
 - 154 Qs='([down][shf-T]H E[sp]QUIZ[sp]INCLUD ED[sp]'(+HM\$+'([sp] QUESTIONS.'(:GOSUB 200
 - 156 CO=VAL(HM\$)-WR:CO\$= STR\$(CO):CO\$=RIGHT\$ (CO\$,LEN(CO\$)-1)
 - 157 WR\$=STR\$(WR):WR\$=RI GHT\$(WR\$,LEN(WR\$)~1
 - 158 SC=INT(CO/(VAL(HM\$))*100+.5):SC\$=STR\$(SC):SC\$=RIGHT\$(SC\$, LEN(SC\$)-1)
 - 160 Q\$=''[down][shf-Y]O U[sp]CORRECTLY[sp]A NSWERED[sp]''+CO\$+" .'':GOSUB200

- 162 Q\$=''[down][shf-Y]0 U[sp]MISSED[sp]''+W R\$+''.'':GOSUB200
- 164 Q\$=''[down][shf-Y]D UR[sp]SCORE[sp]WAS[sp]''+SC\$+''%.'''GD SUB200
- 199 END
- 200 REM PRINT STRING
- 202 CC=0
- 204 FORB=1TOLEN(Q\$):B\$= MID\$(Q\$,B,1):IFB\$=" £''THENB\$='',''
- 205 PRINTES:
- 206 CC=CC+1: IFCC>SW-10T HENGOSUB250
- 210 NEXT : PRINT : RETURN
- 250 IFBs=CHRs(32)ORBs=C HRs(160)THENPRINT:C C=0
- 252 RETURN
- 260 FORP#1TO2E3:NEXT:RE TURN
- 300 REM RIGHT
- 302 PRINT''[down][rvs-o n][shf-C][shf-O][sh f-R, 2 times][shf-E][shf-C][shf-T]|||
- 304 GOSUB260: RETURN
- 400 REM WRONG
- 402 WR=WR+1:PRINT''[dow
- 404 Q\$=''[shf-N]O,[sp]T HE[sp]ANSWER[sp]IS[sp]''+C\$+''.''
- 406 GOSUB200:GOSUB260: RETURN

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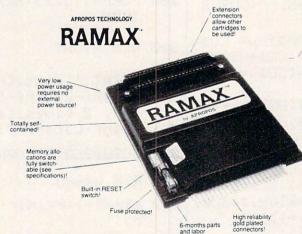
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The Pro Gram

"IN THE BEGINNING THERE WERE FILES..."

By Jerry B. Byrd •

This month I am going to depart from our standard approach of dividing the article into a philosophical and a practical section. Because the philosophy part for this topic is longer than usual, I am deferring the practical discussion until next month in order to give it the full attention it deserves.

Let me first say that I am going to approach the subject of files from a slightly non-standard point of view. If you are a new reader of *COMMANDER*, let me encourage you to get all the back issues you can. Each of my installments has built on what has gone before. While it is not mandatory that you look at older columns, I have a feeling that it might be helpful to see where I am coming from.

FILES, FILES AND FILES

When I was in the Air Force, there was one particular term that had great potential for confusion. It was the word, "airman." This word has three distinctly different definitions. First, it means all Air Force personnel, as opposed to swabbies of the Navy or footpounders of the Army. Second, it means enlisted personnel, as opposed to officers. Last, it can mean a particular rank, that of airman, versus sergeant. Due to this multiplicity of meaning, the word was almost unusable.

"Some manufacturers use the word 'file' to mean anything attached to the processor."

A similar situation exists in the computer world with the term "file." Some books and manufacturers use the word as a reference to anything that is attached to the processor. Terminals are files, disk drive units are files, printers are files, and sometimes even co-processors and banks of memory are files! This rather global definition of files is not what Commodore

has used, so our requirements dictate that we can press on to other definitions.

A second definition of "file" is any information that is semi-permanently stored on some media for future use. The media most often imagined are disks and tapes. But the list doesn't end there. A more complete list of possible media would have to include punched cards and paper tape, magnetic cards, and even paper print-outs. Add to that the more esoteric possibilities of bubble memory, battery supported ram, off-line central data banks (read modem), and even direct computer-to-computer connection, where each computer becomes a "file" for the other(s).

I/O DEVICES

In our discussion, we will mainly pay attention to the more mundane files of this genre, the disk and tape. Commodore does not call the actual units a file, however, but rather calls them devices. I like this distinction, since there is now a clear break between the storage medium itself and that which is stored on the medium. This makes conceptualization far easier. Before we can proceed into our discussion of files, I think there is merit in digressing for just a moment and looking at the concept of devices, as used by Commodore. In our three definitions of files above. Commodore has opted for the second as their basic definition of device. Really, any device carries a connotation of I/O (input/output).

Input occurs when the computer receives something from the outside world (usually an operator or a file), and output occurs when the computer sends something to the outside world (again, usually an operator or file). Let me give you a quick list of the devices of Commodore computers:

- 0 = keyboard
- 1 = tape drive
- 2 = second tape drive (PET and
 - = CBM machines)
 - = user port (VIC and C-64)
 - = RS232 port ('B' models)
- 3 = screen
- 4 = printer
- = modem (CBM8010)
- 8 = disk drive
- 14 = special device of interface (MuPet II, TNW 103 modem, etc.)

This list is not exhaustive. Additional devices of the same type usually are numbered one higher than the standard (second disk drives are thus usually numbered 9).

Of the above listed devices, most cannot support more than one division of itself simultaneously and independently. For example, the printer, while it might have two separate sheets of paper in it, cannot be told to independently print to paper 1 or paper 2. (Yes, I know how to do it, too, but the printer doesn't.) The exceptions to this are the disk drive. Consequently, it is not mandatory (in some cases, not allowed) to name a particular file on any device except the disk drive; and there it is mandatory to name which particular file is being addressed.

GETTING INTO FILES

We now come to the third definition of our word, "file." This is a specific set (grouping) of information to be I/O'ed by the computer. This is the more normal use of the term "file." At this point, things may get a little confusing. We can treat all of the devices listed above as if they were a file (with the exception of the disk drive).

In order to work with a file, it must be opened. BASIC has the command OPEN for this purpose. The OPEN command tells the computer all it needs to know about

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the file to be accessed. We will look at a couple of OPEN statements later to see exactly how they operate. While not always mandatory (sometimes it is), the CLOSE state tells the computer that we are through with a particular file. Since the Commodore computer can have only 10 open files at once (don't complain, the IBM PC can have only 3), not closing unneeded files limits the total number we can access. Commodore disk drives can only have 5 or fewer open disk files at one time. More on that later.

There are 3 more commands that are used with files: INPUT#, PRINT#, and GET#. If you have done much programming at all, you will recognize at least part of these commands. Each of them has been used to INPUT, PRINT, and GET from the default devices. When your computer first is turned on, it sets the screen (device 3) as the default output device and the keyboard (device0) as the default input device. These values are in RAM and can be POKEd to change to some other device. For output, BASIC gives us a command to do this, CMD plus the file number (I'll explain file numbers next month) to change the default output to the selected file (and, by extension through the OPEN statement device).

Let's spend a moment talking about the various types of files. Not all of these will apply to all devices, and most of you probably don't have all devices, but if you are really tracking toward a career in programming, or if you are a typical computerist, you have your sights set on more and more equipment.

Commodore uses and recognizes four types of files. (Some would say, five, and, in fact, I am going to look at five.) They are PGM (program), SEQ (sequential), REL (relative), and USR (user). In turn, each of these, except relative, are further divided into input (read) and output (write) files.

PROGRAM FILES

Program files may be written to and read from both tape and disk. There are two ways to input the files for both, and two ways to write the file to disk, but only one way to write it to tape. You are probably familiar with the SAVE and LOAD commands (plus DSAVE and DLOAD for BASIC 4 users). These are one method of reading and writing programs. SAVE is the only method to write to tape. Program files can be read, one byte at a time, by opening them with the proper para meters. This is helpful to check one program against another, but is extremely slow. This is because the GET# command operates very slowly in BASIC. There are some other things that this capability can

be used for, such as copying programs from one disk unit to another, etc.

Programs are just files that contain instructions to the computer. Most often, these files are not actually read, in the traditional sense of the term, but are loaded into memory for various operations. In fact, one program can load another into memory and it will then automatically begin operation. This process is called "chaining." One note: the first program which loads another program in such a fashion, on all Commodore computers except the new 'B' series, must be larger than any subsequent program, or must make the computer think it is larger by making it look bigger than it is. I will have a whole column about this in the future.

SEQUENTIAL FILES

Sequential files are the easiest files to use. This is why most software makes such great use of them. It is the reason for their use in the earlier installments of this column. There are three things you can do with sequential files: read, write, and append. Append means to add to the end. You can always make a sequential file longer, but you can neither make it smaller nor re-arrange it to better suit your needs. There is one other problem with it: if, for any reason, a program neglects to close a sequential file that is being written or appended to, the disk will be left with an open write file. This can be recognized on the directory by an asterisk next to the file type (e.g., *seq.). If this occurs, and the disk has not been removed from the drive, it is possible to close the file by one of two options.

"Commodore uses four types of files: program, sequential, relative, and user."

You can use the DCLOSE command on BASIC 4 or CLOSE the command channel to the disk drive in BASIC 3. (See previous columns for a discussion of the command channel.) If this doesn't do it, then one last chance exists: OPEN the command channel and CLOSE it. (Syntax:OPEN15,8,15: CLOSE15.) If this doesn't fix it, then nothing will. You are in a position at this point of losing your entire sequential file. Wrong action at this point may also cause a loss of the entire disk! Proceed carefully.

The open write file must not be left on the disk. It indicates a basic confusion in the DOS (disk operating system) that may be made even more pronounced later. The open file may be removed from the disk very safely with the COLLECT or VALIDATE commands. Be aware that use of these commands on a disk with ran-

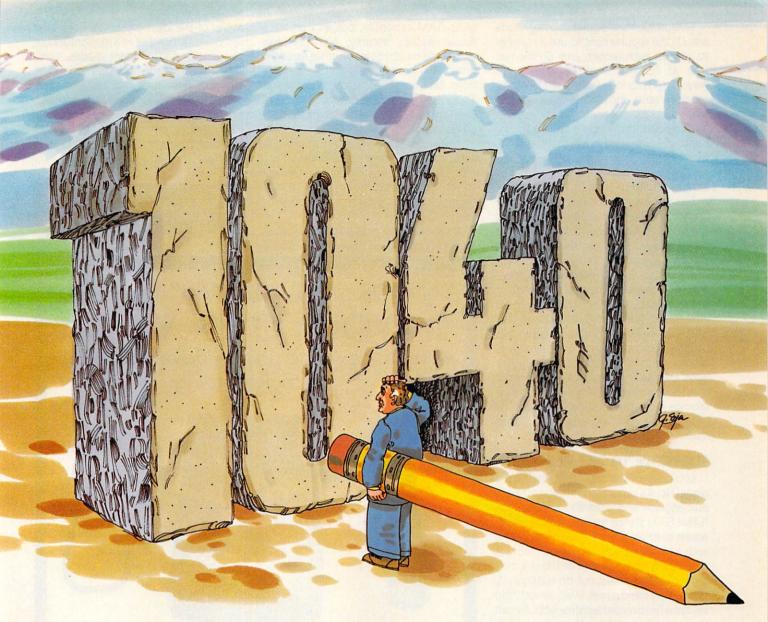
dom access files may cause the loss of that random access data if more data is added to the disk. The only safe thing to do is copy the data to another disk using the copy routines found within the specific software package. The COLLECT and VALIDATE commands cause the DOS to check each file for a complete chain of all the blocks it uses and then release all other space on the disk to be used for later storage. Some random files are not chained the normal Commodore way. Good software will provide copying routines to move data from one disk to another, if direct access files are being used.

The obvious relationship among the pieces of information in a sequential file is that of being in a tunnel, end-to-end. It is impossible to read the information in the middle of the tunnel without reading all the information ahead of that which is desired. This limitation represents the greatest problem associated with sequential files. If the information stored in a sequential file is to be manipulated in any way (sorted, portions deleted, modified, etc.), then the entire file must be moved to memory and then back to the disk, a process that is severely limited by memory and relatively slow.

RELATIVE FILES

Relative files address the need to change, modify, delete, etc. the contents of a particular piece of information without the need to read through the large, unrelated portions of the file. Relative files allow nearly instant access to a particular piece of information. This means that you can get the address of a particular person from a mailing list file and change just that without the need to read all the people on the file ahead of the desired name. The exact methodology for doing that will be discussed next month. This great boon to programming for information management is not without its problems, however.

The problems associated with relative files are, for the most part, minor. Fixed record length, which means that you must reserve empty disk space for the longest possible name, is of consideration with small disk sizes and/or overly generous expectation for record lengths. For example, if most of the people on a mail list have last names like Jones and Smith, with only one named Anistoskiostisis, insuring that the longest name fits the space means significant wasting of disk space on all the other names. The fact that fewer relative files may be open on the disk at one time is also of some consideration in some circumstances.



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Two problems of significant magnitude are: (1) the requirement to use a number to address each record; and, (2) the fact that all records must be contiguous (touching). Let's look at the last, first. Commodore (and most, if not all, other manufacturers supporting this file structure) require that if you want 2 records, number 1 and number 500, to be on file, then records 2 through 499 must be created and put on the disk, even if they are not ever to be used.

Can you imagine the chaos that would be created if the postal service announced tomorrow that henceforth there would be no more street addresses but just numbers (did they already do that?)! That is exactly the situation when the records may have only numbered addresses. No more is there a Mr.Smith or inventory item R4T568D2. There is only a 342 and part 3126. Notice how this nomenclature tells us little about anything. There are ways around both these limitations, but the ways themselves raise other problems. If there is a need (and there always is) to rearrange (sort) the information in one or more orders, that becomes a problem also.

SUPERFILE TO THE RESCUE?

Look, up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's super file! Onto the scene of our anguish and frustration comes the ISAM! ISAM stands for indexed sequential access method. Think of it as a relative file with a twist: the address can be numbers or letters. Records are put on the disk only if needed; they need not be contiguous. Voila! Every need is met. Well, almost. You still have fixed record lengths. Not only can the record address be alphanumeric (with numbers and letters), but it may also be read sequentially in record address order: automatic sorting. The address of the record is usually called a key. Some systems allow identical keys, others don't, and still others inform of duplication but still allow it.

Why don't we always use ISAM files? Well, there are several reasons. The most obvious is simply that Commodore doesn't have it. Secondly, we can simulate this capability with two files, a key file and a record file, with the key file in memory for manipulation and the data file on the disk. A rather obvious reason not to use ISAM files is that in many circumstances they are really not appropriate. Another reason they are often not used is that people are not aware that Commodore and other outside vendors have such a capability available as an add-on program.

Commodore's ISAM is called CMAR. I think that the very best one is 'The Master' from Canadian Micro, since it not only

gives ISAM capability, but also provides screen layouts, security, high precision math, and much more. Another excellent one is, I think, no longer available, but was from Paul Zuzello at Creative Software. There have been some others. Many have been colossal failures, and each one usually has some limitation(s). Why the makers of microcomputers have not given this capability as standard equipment firmware, I don't know, It seems that the first to do so will score a major market triumph, from a programming point of view.

A lot has been presented about files. Next installment I will give some actual examples of the ideas presented here, and then put it all together in a random access program to store student grades. Until then, I pray that the new year will represent more than a renewal of old broken resolutions, but will be a time of renewal of mind, body and spirit. "Be not conformed to the world, but be transformed by the reNEWing of your mind...." The best of New Years to each of you!



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Data Organization for the VIC-20: Part III

■By Arthur J. Dudley **■**

Last month's article ended with a problem concerning floating point real numbers. You were given the information below and asked to provide the variable name and its value.

| Byte #1 65 | Variable name |
|------------|------------------|
| Byte #265 | variable flaffle |
| Byte #3135 | Exponent |
| Byte #4200 | MSB , |
| Byte #563 | |
| Byte #646 | Mantissa |
| Byte #773 | LSB |

Variable names for floating point reals are represented by straight ASCII code (no modification is performed); therefore, the number 65 represents the character "A" on the ASCII chart. Since bytes one and two both contain the number 65, the variable name is AA.

To determine the actual value represented by bytes #3 through #7, it is best to use the five steps covered in Part II of this series.

- Step: 1: Convert the mantissa into its binary configuration. (See Figure 1)
- Step 2: Number each bit from 1 to 32. (See Figure 1)
- Step 3: At this point using the mantissa conversion program will simplify calculations (see Part II).

 Program Instructions:
 - a) Enter the number 15 for the amount of bits set to one. Remember not to include the first bit.
 - b) One at a time, enter each bit number, not including the first bit, that is set to one. (2, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 29, and 32)

The mantissa should have the value of .782214063.

Manual equation:

 $\frac{1}{2}$ (implied) + $\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 + $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 + $\frac{1}{2}$ 13 + $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 + $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 + $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 + $\frac{1}{2}$ 19 + $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 + $\frac{22}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$ 23 + $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 + $\frac{1}{2}$ 29 + $\frac{1}{2}$ 32 = .782214063.

| Figure 1 | | | | | | | | 306 | alley | - Balling Company |
|----------|------|------|----|------|------|-------|------|-----|-------|-----------------------|
| Byte no. | | | В | inar | у Сс | onfig | urat | ion | | Decimal Equivalent |
| 4 | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 0 | 200 (MSB) |
| | Bit# | . 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| 5 | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 63 |
| | Bit# | .9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | |
| 6 | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 46 |
| | Bit# | . 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | |
| 7 | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 73 (LSB) |
| | Bit# | . 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | MA JOYON AU TUAC |

Step 4: Subtract the number 128 from the contents of byte three to obtain the true exponent.

Step 5: Multiply the fraction obtained in step three by the number 2 raised to the true exponent.

Determined in step 4
$$.782214063 \times 2^{7} = 100.1234$$
Determined in step 3

Because the leftmost bit of our MSB (Byte #4) is set to one, the value must be negative.

Variable AA = -100.1234

So far, I have covered integers and floating point real numbers. What remains are string variables. Before you continue reading, LOAD and RUN your memory dump program. After entering your name, press the SPACE BAR once to display the contents of memory locations 4923 through 4929.

String variables occupy a total of seven bytes in memory, the same amount occupied by integers and floating point reals (refer to Figure 2). Bytes one and two are used to represent the variable name. The first character is represented by straight

ASCII code: the second character has the number 128 added to the ASCII code representation. Referring to Figure 2, you will see the letter "E" represented by the number 69 (ASCII code), and the null character represented by the number 128 (ASCII code for a null character + 128 = 128). Bytes six and seven are not used, leaving bytes three, four, and five to store the string. You might wonder how three bytes can store a string of more than three characters. The answer is, they cannot. Instead of storing the string itself, bytes three through five store the string's length and the address where the string is actually stored.

Byte three stores the string length (string E\$ = "XX" is two characters in length), and bytes four and five store the actual address. Byte number four (LSB) represents the "units" or "ones" of an address, byte number five (MSB) represents multiples of 256. An MSB of 16 and an LSB of 90 represents an address of 4186 [(16 × 256) +90.] The MSB LSB

largest address which can be represented by this technique is 65535 [(255 \times 256) + 255], and the largest string possible is 255 characters. Since a program line cannot exceed 88 characters in length, you must use the process of concatenation ("adding to") to circumvent this limitation. (Refer to your Programmer's Reference Guide for information on concatenation.)

To display the contents of address 4186, press the "J" Key on your keyboard. You should then see a prompt requesting an address to be entered. Type 4186 and press RETURN. You may have noticed address 4186 is in the program section of memory (refer to Figure 1 of the first article). The statement E\$ = "XX", located in line 6 of the memory dump program, begins at address 4182, with the string stored at addresses 4186 and 4187 (refer to Figure 3).

String assignments via INPUT statements are handled a little differently. Since they are not inherent to the program, the VIC must reserve a section for them in memory. This section is located at the bottom portion of user RAM. For a 5K VIC, the end of user RAM is at address 7679. The first string assignment will be located at the bottom of user RAM and each consecutive string input will be placed on top of the previous one.

Figure 4 shows the configuration of the variable NA\$. This variable will contain your name as input at the beginning of the program. The length and contents of this string will vary depending on your input. Using my name as an example, the string length (byte #3) is 9, with the string being stored at address 7671 [(29 \times 256) + 247].

This completes the section on string variables, but before concluding, a few practical uses for the memory dump program are in order. The first and most obvious is program debugging; however, the memory dump program should be customized as follows prior to its use:

- 1. Eliminate lines 5, 6, 7 and 8. These lines are used to set up test variables and are not needed for program execution.
- 2. Renumber the memory dump program so as not to interfere with your main program. It is best to use the memory dump program as a subroutine and branch to it when necessary.
- 3 After your main program has been executed, and you wish to check memory variables, branch to your memory dump subroutine with a GOTO keyword. Do *not* use a RUN keyword for this will clear all your variables prior to execution.
- 4. You may wish to conserve memory by condensing the memory dump program by using multiple statement lines.

The next article in this series will include an append program to facilitate merging the memory dump program with your main program, and a customized memory

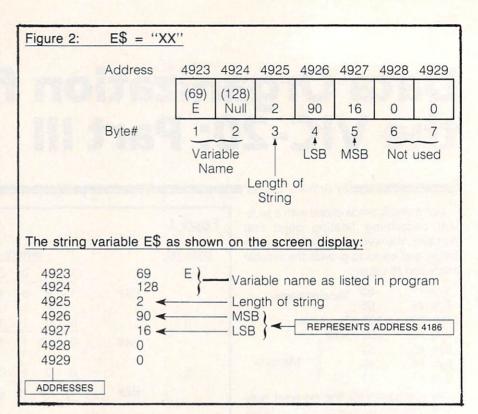


Figure 3: Statement E\$ = "XX"

Note: To obtain the below display, press J on your keyboard and enter address number 4182.

| 4182 | 69 | E | Column #3 was intended only to |
|------|-----|-----|---------------------------------|
| 4183 | 36 | | display variable names. If |
| 4184 | 178 | 2 - | you branch out of the variables |
| 4185 | 34 | | section, you will receive some |
| 4186 | 88 | X | superfluous information in |
| 4187 | 88 | X | column #3. |
| 4188 | 34 | | |

Program instruction breakdown:

| Decimal Representation | Program Statement | Chart* |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 69 | E | ASCII (pg. 272) |
| 36 | \$ | ASCII (pg. 272) |
| 178 | See a man | Program Tokens (pg. 178) |
| 34 | APPROPRIATE MARKET AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY | ASCII (pg. 272) |
| 88 | X | ASCII (pg. 272) |
| 88 | X | ASCII (pg. 272) |
| 34 | all and | ASCII (pg. 272) |

*The program section uses two sets of codes, ASCII and program tokens. The Chart column refers you to the proper conversion chart in your Programmers Reference Guide.

dump program. To gain familiarity with the memory dump program, try the following exercise.

- 1. Enter the additions below to the memory dump program exactly as shown:
 - 1 X = 296:Y = 98:Z = INT((X/Y)*100 + .5)/100:PRINTX;"/";Y;" = " 2 INPUTA
 - 3 IFA = ZPRINT"CORRECT":END
 - 4 PRINT"INCORRECT": END

The above program is a simple division program. You are required to input the answer to 296 divided by 98.

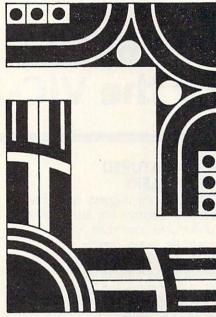
- 2. Enter RUN
- 3. Enter the answer rounded to two decimal places (3.02) and press RETURN.
- 4. The word "INCORRECT" should be displayed. Enter PRINT Z and RETURN then PRINT A and RETURN in the immediate/direct mode.
- 5. If both variables have the value of 3.02. why then is the condition in line 3 false. thus preventing the word "CORRECT" from being displayed? (The answer will be in the next installment.)

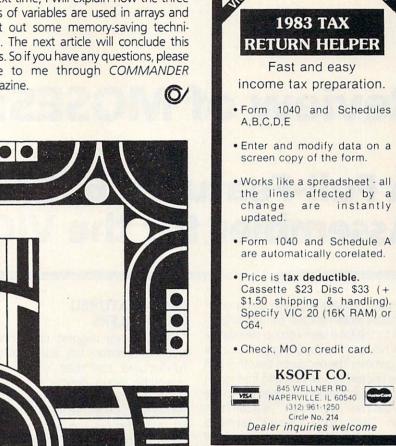
Note: To determine the cause, utilize the memory dump program to inspect the variables in question. Enter GOTO 7 to execute the memory dump program.

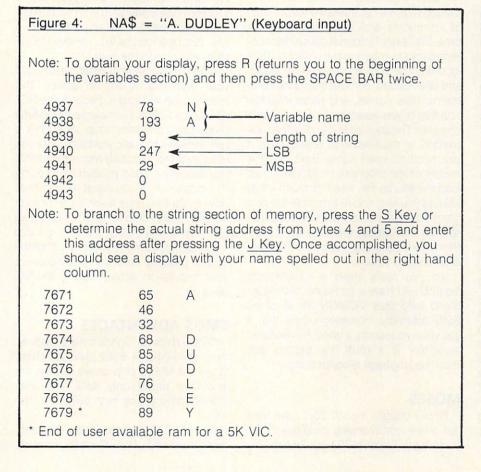
Finally, I'd like to mention two other uses for the memory dump program. They are (1) to easily obtain a listing of all variables for documentation purposes, and

(2) to explore VIC's memory. You can display any address with this program.

Next time, I will explain how the three types of variables are used in arrays and point out some memory-saving technigues. The next article will conclude this series. So if you have any questions, please write to me through COMMANDER magazine.









Review of MOSES:

A Full-Featured 65C02 Assembler for the VIC-20

By Glen Colbert

A strange thing has been going on at my house since I started contributing articles to the local user's group newsletter. At all hours of the day (and night) strange calls come in. The people on the other end of the line seem to be suffering from great agony and frustration. "It goes out to the disk, but I can't get it back," is a common refrain. "Why didn't it work?" seems to have replaced "What is the meaning of life?" as the world's most difficult question

At 10:30 one Sunday night, I received a call from one of these poor, agonized wretches. It seems that he was writing a terminal program for his new auto dial/auto answer modem. "It works great except I need to add a timing loop from \$31E0 to \$31F2 and there isn't any room. How can I move everything up 18 bytes without rewriting the whole program?" When I asked what assembler he was using, the problem became quite clear. He had taken on a large project with the tiny assembler provided in his monitors.

Tiny assemblers like those provided in machine language monitor (e.g., VIC-MON or HESMON) are fine for jobs which are smaller than, say, 100 bytes, but anything larger (particularly if it might reguire changes later on) really needs a "full featured" assembler. A tiny assembler's primary role is to make small changes in existing code as an aid to debugging machine language programs. References made with a tiny assembler must be made to a specific address (i.e., the use of labels is not supported), and operands cannot contain calculations. Also, there is no provision in most tiny assemblers for entering ASCII data without first converting it to hexadecimal.

FULL-FEATURED ASSEMBLERS

Probably the biggest difference between a monitor's tiny assembler and a full-featured assembler is that a tiny assembler works directly on the code which is to be executed (object code), whereas a full-featured assembler keeps a list of instructions and addresses (source code) which are later "assembled" into object code. Because the source code is not directly executed, it can contain information which is not intended to run, such as comments and labels. At assembly time, this "extra" information is either converted into numbers in the object code or ignored. The source code can be saved, and later loaded, without losing the comments, label names, and other information that makes assembly language a little bit easier. The source file can be edited, expanded, or modified with relative ease. If you need to insert some code into the middle of the program, no problem. Just load the source file, insert as much (or as little) as you like, and re-assemble the program. So long as you have used labels consistently throughout the program, no further modification is needed. The new code is ready to run.

Do you really need a full-featured assembler? I have a computer technician friend who uses VICMON for all of his 6502 assembly. However, I think that if you value your sanity, a good, full-featured assembler is a must for getting into machine language programming.

MOSES

Since I bought my VIC-20, I have tried out three commercially available 6502 assemblers: Develop 20 from French Silk, 6502 Professional Development System from Human Engineered Software, and Moses from Century Micro. Although this is primarily a review of the Moses assembler, I will make occasional comparisons to the other two assemblers.

NCR 65C02A

Included with the Moses package is a new microprocessor for your VIC. The new CPU must be installed before Moses will run. The 6502 inside your VIC is socketed (like a wall plug with 40 slots) so there is no need to pull out your soldering iron. Just open up the VIC, remove the old chip, and plug in the new one.

A few cautions are in order here. First, if your warranty is still in effect, this modification will void it. Second, the NCR 65C02 is a CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) chip. As such it is very sensitive to static electricity until you get it installed. I strongly recommend that you properly ground yourself while doing the installation. If you are at all unsure of how to do this, have a service technician install the new chip for you. Third, make sure that all the legs of the chip get into the proper holes in the socket and that the chip is properly oriented. Double check your installation before closing the VIC back up.

CMOS ADVANTAGES

CMOS chips use significantly less power than conventional 6502 (NMOS) chips. While the NMOS chip draws 400ma the new chip draws only 8ma. This may reduce some of the heat buildup in the VIC.

The 65C02A is more "crash resistant" than the 6502. Not all code numbers

represent valid instructions to the microprocessor. These invalid instructions are called "unimplemented opcodes". With the 6502, some of these unimplemented opcodes cause the machine to "hang up" when one is encountered. The VIC would have to be turned off or reset to recover from it. The CMOS version treats these as NOPs (no operations) thus making it easier to recover from program errors. Additionally, the CMOS version is more "noise resistant" than the old chip.

The most significant difference between these two chips is the addition of 27 new opcodes in the CMOS version (see Table 1). Most of these are useful enough that they soon become a necessity to the programmer. All of them can result in a reduction in program size. Storing the registers gives a good example of this.

| 6502 | 65CØ2 |
|----------|---------|
| STA TEMP | PHX |
| TYA | PHY |
| PHA | PROCESS |
| TXA | PLY |
| PHA | PLX |
| LDA TEMP | |
| PROCESS | |
| STA TEMP | |
| PLA | |
| TAX | |
| PLA | |
| TAY | |
| LDA TEMP | |
| | |

It should be noted at this point that there is another 65C02 microprocessor presently available. This other chip, made by Rockwell, has still more commands. Either one should run code written on Moses, but Moses only supports the NCR version's opcodes.

Existing programs written for the standard NMOS 6502 run without modification on the new microprocessors. Additionally, the documentation that comes with Moses has the NCR data sheet for the new chip.

GETTING STARTED

Moses comes in a cartridge. While it is located in high memory (\$A000-\$BFFF), it is not an "auto start" program. This is particularly handy if you don't like the idea of wearing out your expansion port's edge card connector by constantly plugging and unplugging cartridges. It is written (100%) in machine language. This is a refreshing change from my experiences with the HES and French Silk assemblers, which are mostly in BASIC. Not only does Moses assemble code faster, but it is also quite a bit more difficult to "crash" by an input error.

THE EDITOR

The editor is the part of the program that controls the input, modification, and deletion code. In Moses, the editor checks the syntax of all entries. If any errors are detected, the line is ignored and an error message is displayed. It can not, of course, check for missing labels, branches which are too long, or duplicate labels. These errors are found only at assembly time.

Except when code is being entered, the command menu is always on the screen. The menu options are:

| I)nsert | X)it |
|-----------|--------|
| D)elete | B)asic |
| M)odify | R)eset |
| P)rint | T)able |
| A)ssemble | N)ew |

Individual instructions (i.e., [label] opcode [operand]) are identified by the editor with the use of "line numbers." Commands from the menu that are used to edit the source file make reference to these line numbers. For example, to add a timing loop into the source code at line 125, one would type "I 125 (return)" from the menu. This puts Moses in the insert mode, and whatever is entered is placed between the old line numbers 124 and 125. Enter as much code as you like and Moses will move everything else back to make room for it. Type the left arrow and press return and you are back at the menu. The command "D 5" will delete line #5 and move everything else up to fill in the space. "D 5,10" would delete lines five through ten. The syntax for print, modify, and delete are identical. If (I)nsert is selected without a line number, all subsequent code will be added to the end of the file.

Moses stores the source code in an intermediate form. This reduces the amount of memory that it takes up as well as reducing the time for loading and saving. It is also one of the reasons that Moses can assemble the code as fast as it does. Some of the assembly is done as the code is input.

LIMITATIONS

Unfortunately, nothing in life is perfect. Moses has some flaws. I would like to get them out of the way now because, I feel, they are far outweighed by the good points. The likely reason for them is that the whole package had to fit into an 8K ROM.

An observant reader may have noticed the absence of save and/or load functions in the menu. The monitor must be used for saving or loading source code files. The start and end addresses of the file can be obtained with the editor's (R)eset command. Then the monitor is entered through the (X)it command and the block of memory which contains the source

code is saved (or loaded). This is a rather awkward way of going about things, but it does have at least one advantage. The load and save times are much faster (particularly with tape) than the sequential method used by French Silk and HES.

The machine language monitor that comes with Moses is one of my favorites, Micromon by Bill Yee. It has been modified to integrate better with Moses, but there are still two problems. First, its disassembler doesn't support the new opcodes. I've been told that this is being worked on and should be corrected soon. Second, while the screen display has been improved, it still doesn't have the neat appearance of HESMON. Those of you who have used other monitors will have to spend a little time relearning the particular syntax of this one.

Unlike other 6502 assemblers that I am familiar with, Moses does not generate a printed listing of the code as it is assembled. However, as I stated before, Moses is fast (about 250 lines per second). Waiting on a printer would slow it down dramatically. A printed listing of the source code can be made by exiting to BASIC (B command), opening the printer as the command output device (OPEN4,4:CMD4: SYS40965) and then typing P (print) to print the source file and/or T (table) to print the label table and its values. (There is a slight bug in the program here. When the output is diverted to the printer, all commands must be preceded by a space.)

It is up to the programmer to allocate memory when using Moses. The storage areas for the source code, label table, and object code have to be reset (R command) if the object file is going to be any larger than 511 bytes. It is only fair to point out that this is not an uncommon requirement with assemblers which assemble directly into memory, and that the method used here is easier than that used with the HES assembler.

I would have really liked to have seen an option to assemble directly into a disk program file. This would have made memory management much easier, at least for programmers using disk-based systems.

CO-RESIDENT EDITOR/ ASSEMBLER/MONITOR

The first major advantage that Moses has over the other VIC-20 assemblers that I have used is that it has a co-resident editor/assembler/monitor (available as an option on Develop 20). In anything to do with computers, the error state is the normal state. Having all of the necessary tools together would make no difference to a programmer who always gets things right the first time (but I have yet to meet Him). A lot of time in machine language pro-

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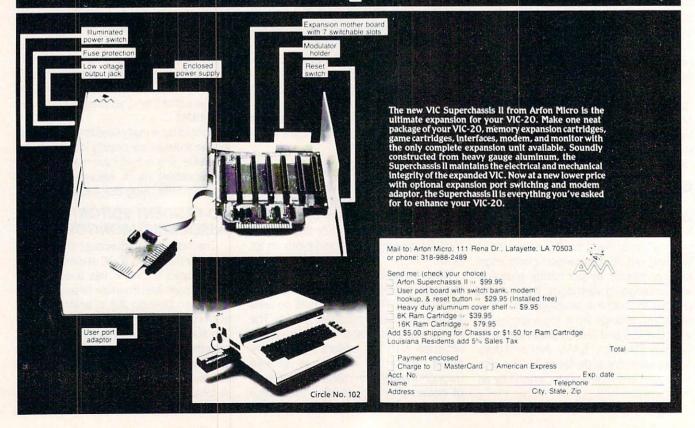
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gramming is spent making small changes to the code (e.g., forgot the # in LDA #\$00). If an error is made and the editor and assembler aren't co-resident, a long, drawn out correction process must take place. First, the editor has to be loaded. then the source file. After this the modifications can be made and the source code (and sometimes an intermediate file) can be rewritten to the disk or tape. Then the assembler can be loaded, the source file re-assembled, and the hunt for bugs can continue.

With Moses, however, I have found that with small programs I can have not only the editor, assembler, and the monitor in RAM, but the source and object code as well! Minor changes (or even major ones) can be made immediately to the source and, just as fast, re-assembled. The advantage of doing it this way is not only a great savings in time, but the source code always remains true to the object code. I can't stress too strongly how much of an advantage I think this is-particularly for someone who is just starting out with machine language.

THREE-PASS ASSEMBLER

Moses is a three-pass assembler. Develop 20 is a two-pass assembler, and the HES assembler is a one-pass that can be modified to make two passes. The number of passes is the number of times that the assembler goes through the source code looking for information. Generally, the greater the number of passes, the more forgiving the assembler is when it comes to defining information within the code. For example, the HES assembler (in its one-pass configuration) cannot process a label which has not yet been assembled.

With Develop 20, a two-pass assembler, forward references to labels work fine, but labels that are defined by the EQU pseudo op can only be used after the label has been defined. A problem with this approach is that if something is overlooked until it comes time to code it, the programmer must remember to go back and enter it into the equates area of the source code

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TABLE 1

Assembly Language Functions Unique To NCR 65C02 Chip

NEW INSTRUCTION MNEMONICS

| HEX | MNEMONIC | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|----------|---|
| 80 | BRA | Branch relative always (Relative) |
| 3A | DEA | Decrement accumulator (Accum) |
| 1A | INA | Increment accumulator (Accum) |
| DA | PHX | Push X on stack (Implied) |
| 5A | PHY | Push Y on stack (Implied) |
| FA | PLX | Pull X from stack (Implied) |
| 7A | PLY | Pull Y from stack (Implied) |
| 90 | STZ | Store zero (Absolute) |
| 9E | STZ | Store zero (ABS, X) |
| 64 | STZ | Store zero (Zero page) |
| 74 | STZ | Store zero (ZPG, X) |
| 10 | TRB | Test & reset memory bits with accumulator (Absolute) |
| 14 | TRB | Test & reset memory bits with accumulator (Zero page) |
| ØC | TSB | Test and set memory bits with accumulator (Absolute) |
| 04 | TSB | Test & set memory bits with accumulator (Zero page) |
| 89 | BIT | Test Immediate with accumulator (IMMEDIATE) |

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTION ADDRESSING MODES

| HEX | MNEMONIC | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|----------|--|
| 72 | ADC | Add memory to accumulator with carry [(ZPG)] |
| 32 | AND | "AND" memory with accumulator [(ZPG)] |
| 3C | BIT | Test memory bits with accumulator (ABS, X) |
| 34 | BIT | Test memory bits with accumulator (ZPG, X) |
| D2 | CMP | Compare memory and accumulator [(ZPG)] |
| 52 | EOR | "Exclusive Or" memory with accumulator [(ZPG)] |
| 7C | JMP | Jump (New addressing mode) [ABS(IND,X)] |
| B2 | LDA | Load accumulator with memory [(ZPG)] |
| 12 | ORA | "OR" memory with accumulator [(ZPG)] |
| F2 | SBC | Subtract memory from accumulator with borrow [(ZPG)] |
| 92 | STA | Store accumulator in memory [(ZPG)] |

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Copycalc is an affordable electronic spread-sheet which turns your video screen into a window on a matrix of numbers. Cursor around the matrix, enter numbers; the totals reflect the changes. You can save the matrix to disk or tape, or print it or your printer. For \$20 (\$15 with another program), this program might justify the cost of your computer. Requires 6k RAM; smaller version available for a standard VIC.

Word Processor Plus was not designed to be an expensive toy; it was designed solely to facilitate, correspondence, for a wide range of personal and business uses, quickly and easily, with a minimum of training and frustration on the part of its user, and at the least possible cost, both in hardware and software. The most thoroughly tested, useable word processor available at anywhere near the price, \$25; 10k RAM, printer req'a.; RS-232C version available for VIC and 64.

Also available: Baseball Manager, a sports-documentation program; and Inventory, a perpetual inventory control program for a small retail business (various reports, multiple vendors); \$30 each; 10k RAM req'd., printer suggested.

All programs will load and run on any Commodore computer; all support tape, disk, and printer.

Prices include documentation and shipping; Calif. residents add 6%. Please specify hardware configuration when ordering. Sorry, no games available.

William Robbins, Box 3745, San Rafael, CA 94912

Circle No. 21

or an error will be generated.

Moses, being a three-pass assembler, has none of these problems. However, while labels can be defined anywhere in the source, it is still good technique to keep them properly grouped together.

CONCISE PSEUDO OPS

The fact that Moses uses more pseudo ops than the other assemblers does not, in itself, make Moses better. For example, the EQU, ADR, OBJ, and DFS ops are replaced in Develop 20 by just one (EQU). However, while more opcodes have to be learned for Moses, their conciseness makes the code easier to follow.

I especially like the way that the DAT (BYT on the other two) pseudo op is installed with Moses. It will allow decimal, Hex, or ASCII data on the same line. For example:

12 MESSAG DAT 13, "HI THERE", \$0D, 0 This makes it much easier to code messages which are to be printed, as well as a lot of other routine chores.

ADDRESSING MODES

All three of these assemblers support the standard addressing modes of the 6502. However, there are two things that set Moses apart from the others. First, it is smart enough to tell when it should use the zero page addressing mode without the programmer having to specify it. In addition to the normal use of labels in the immediate addressing mode, Moses supports the immediate addressing of the high/low byte of a label.

DOCUMENTATION

The instruction manual that comes with Moses is above average for VIC documentation. It comes in a nice three-ring binder. There are three basic sections to the manual. The first is an explanation of the editor/assembler. It also has two lessons to help get the programmer familiar with the system. The second section is an explanation of the machine language monitor. This includes demonstrations and syntax examples of most of the monitor's commands. The third section is the appendices. It includes detailed illustrations of the usage, syntax, and features of the assembler. It also contains the data sheets for the new microprocessor as well as sample uses for some of the new opcodes.

The manual is not intended to be a guide to 65XX machine language programming. There are several good books out which adequately fill this need. With one of them in the right hand and the Moses manual in the other, you should have few problems getting down to the machine's level.

SUMMARY

Moses is everything that many people thought they were getting when they bought VICMON. It is well written and relatively easy to use. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to anyone who is thinking about getting into machine language. I strongly recommend it to those of you who are tired of growing grey while your program is being assembled. There is no doubt in my mind that Moses is fully worth its price. It even gives me time to answer those strange phone calls.

Product Name: MOSES,

The 65C02Assembler

for the VIC-20

Manufacturer: Century Micro

1832 Tribute Road,

Suite 213

Sacramento, CA 98515

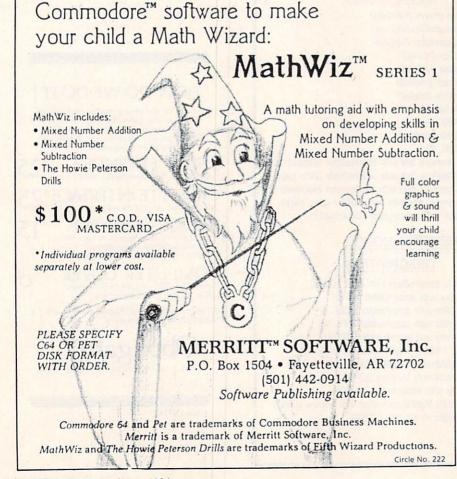
(916) 920-3656

Retail Price: \$59.95 including car-

tridge, manual, and

65C02 chip.

[According to the manufacturer, versions of MOSES for the conventional VIC (6502) with 8K expansion, and for the C-64 will be available on disk or tape for \$39.95.]





Business Software for the C-64

■ By William L. Simon, Ph.D.**■**

"When the 64 was first announced, programmers thought it was just another game machine, and didn't pay much attention. But then, they started finding out that it's really a very powerful machine.

That's how one executive at a leading software house explains the flood of business products for the 64 now beginning to pour onto the market, some of them capable of giving the small or notso-small business a computing capability that you would expect to find only in a

much larger system.

But of course, this plethora of product brings with it a dilemma for the buyer. When there are so many competitive packages to choose among, what do you base your selection on? Often we don't even know the right questions to ask. One attractive word processing package will only single space; a very powerful accounting package requires you to input not one but two six-digit account codes for every check you enter.

What follows is a comparison of packages in three categories-word processing, data base, and (briefly considered) accounting-intended to help you narrow the field to the one or two packages of a particular type that sound closest to your needs. The comments are offered mainly for the Commodore 64 owner who is running a small business or a parttime business from the home.

The information will also be helpful to anyone looking for software for handling personal chores (letter writing, home

bookkeeping, etc.) Whatever your need, you should ask your dealer to let you try the software before deciding, to be sure it really answers your requirements. If you have dealers as helpful as mine they'll be glad to cooperate as their time permits.

WORD PROCESSING

NOTE: Unless otherwise mentioned. the software included here offers the features expected in the more powerful word processing packages-page numbering: headers and footers: underlining: italics and bold (when used with a printer that supports these functions); mail merge (which permits you to send individualized letters to a list of addressees); and full editing capabilities including insert, delete, block move, and global search/replace.

Also note: if you will want to use special characters and functions such as italics, superscripts, expanded print, or ASCII characters not on the keyboard, you should insist that your dealer demonstrate that the software/printer combination you have in mind will produce them easily. While the better software can support these functions, and many dot-matrix printers can provide them, the particular combination you have in mind may not be very good partners. The fine Gemini 10 printer on the system I use balks when asked for italics, bold or the like; with one software package, the printer requires nine (!) control strokes to provide each superscript numeral.

WordPro 3 Plus

(Professional Software Inc.: \$89.95)

WordPro reached the market well ahead of most other word processing packages for the 64, based on their earlier versions for other Commodore systems, and WordPro 3 has become the standard against which other offerings tend to be measured.

The 125-page User's Guide is thorough, well organized and easy to use, complete with a table of contents and an index.

WordPro 3 is probably not the best package, however, for any office where a number of different people will be using the system, or where staff turnover requires that new users be trained with some frequency, since many of the operating procedures are not readily remembered. (Directory is called by pressing f7 and the zero key; a stored text is recalled by holding Shift and pressing Clear/Home, letter r, and the text name.) Although the Commodore provides eight function-key modes, WordPro 3 makes use of only two.

One other small annoyance: a series of questions on the peripheral equipment must be answered each time the software is loaded; there is no provision for storing the answers. (In fact, a short-cut procedure is sometime available-indicate your printer type and then press f7 for default answers to the other questions; this procedure was provided to me by PSI, and does not appear in the User's Guide.)

Overall, WordPro 3 is an admirable package, well worth considering.

Easy Script

(Commodore: \$49.95)

Ditto most of the above: Easy Script and WordPro 3 Plus are twins-not identical but (to stick to the analogy) at least fraternal, even to the extent of using many of the same format commands (cn; to turn on centering; hd for heading format, etc.)

Both Easy Script and WordPro 3 Plus provide the capability of preparing individualized form letters from a mailing list, with the additional capability of inserting unique details in each letter (amount owed, time of an appointment, or the like).

Easy Script, however, provides a number of convenience features not found in its look-alike; among them: before printing a text, you can obtain a display on the screen that shows you where the page breaks will occur when you print it out. There are also a number of extra cursor control features (scan normal, scan fast, jump to end of text, etc.) And Easy Script makes a more extensive use of the function keys.

The User's Guide is well thought out, considerably better than average.

Though it will never earn high marks for convenience, for a full-capability word processing package, Easy Script will be hard to beat.

Script 64

(Computer Marketing: \$139:95

Here's an eye-opener: word processing that includes a dictionary to check your

The dictionary, included at no extra cost, is in effect an empty container which you fill with words in the course of using the system. This will slow down your operation initially; and even when your dictionary is built up, you will find that a document of any appreciable length takes considerable time for the program to check, with the operator remaining at the terminal throughout the process to respond each time a word is flagged.

Other dictionary programs for the C-64 are becoming available; we're still waiting to see one that can meet demanding requirements.

The Script 64 operates on a different approach than the above programs. Instead of text scrolling as if on one very long piece of paper, each screen is treated separately, with the user having to give a specific command to move from one screen to the next. You may find this annoying, especially if you like to be able to look at what you've just written while you compose the next bit. But moving from screen to screen can be done very readily using the function keys, and the text is joined from one screen to another automatically when printing.

Three "Help" screens are provided (although you must reload the program disk to access them). Text is in some cases automatically saved to disk, a very desirable feature not found in other systems; (anyone who has ever lost the document he was working on, through forgetfulness, hitting the wrong key, or power failure, will appreciate the value of this.) Also, deleted material can sometimes be restored to the screen (another feature especially welcome to those who have ever had second thoughts after a deletion). Keys can be redefined, so that, for example, the "equals" sign is replaced by "n", or any other ASCII character supported by your printer. You can print out any screens you selected, rather than having to start your printing with the first screen of the text. You can global search/replace several different words or phrases simultaneously. And two common French characters (c and e) are directly available on the keyboard.

One major drawback of Script 64 is that, once a disk has a number of dif-

TELSTAR 64

Sophisticated Terminal Communications Cartridge for the 64.

PFO 10D 00D CP D1 D2 BELL 12:30:00 (TELSTAR's Status Line)

10:14:36

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- · Similar to our famous STCP Terminal package.
- Works with Commodore Modems and supports auto-dialing.

The best feature is the price — only \$49.95 (Cartridge and Manual)

Machine Language Monitor Cartridge for the CBM 64

More than 20 commands allow you to access the CBM 64's Microprocessors Registers and Memory Contents. Commands include assemble, disassemble, registers, memory, transfer, compare, plus many more.

Someday every CBM 64 owner will need a monitor such as this.

Cartridge and Manual - \$24.95

Circle No. 14

8K in 30 Seconds for your VIC 20 or CBM 64

If you own a VIC 20 or a CBM 64 and have been concerned about the high cost of a disk to store your programs on worry yourself no longer. Now there's the RABBIT The RABBIT comes in a cattridge, and at a much much lour strice. worry youtseir no longer. Now there's the KABBIT. THE KABBIT comes in a cartridge, and at a much, much lower price than the average disk. And speed ... this is one fast RABBIT. With the RABBIT you can load and store on your CBM datasette an 8K program in almost 30 seconds, compared to the current 3 minutes of a VIC 20 or CBM 64, almost as fast as the 1541 disk drive.

The RABBIT is easy to install, allows one to Append Basic Programs, works with or without Expansion Memory, and provides two data file modes. The RABBIT is not only fast but reliable. The Rabbit for the VIC 20 contains an expansion con \$39.95 nector so you can simultaneously use your memory board, etc. \$59.95



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ferent items on it, you may find it difficult to locate the one you are seeking. The Directory is not created automatically as with other systems, but must be filled in manually; users who do not take the trouble to do this may find themselves playing hunt and seek throughout the disk's 999 screens.

Insta-Writer

(Cimmaron Corp.)

Yet another distinctly different approach, Insta-Writer is a 40-column software that indicates how the line-breaks will occur in a 60- or 80-column printout: on the display, the two lines that will produce a single printout line are highlighted separately.

Insta-Writer is handy in another way, as well: the program is on a plug-in chip, rather than on disk, so that it is ready to use the instant the computer is turned on

Also unique: each time you finish entering a line, the text shifts, so that you are always looking at the same place on the screen; however, this feature makes it difficult to review more than a few lines of what has been written, so it is a drawback for anyone who composes at the keyboard (as opposed to a secretary who is simply typing rough copy provided to her).

A more severe drawback that makes this package usable in many applications is that it will only print out single-spaced text; it is not possible to double- or triplespace.

Menus for control commands (storing, printing, margins, etc.) are provided on screen, but many users will find the display contains so many "convenience" elements that it is distracting to work with. No merge, italics, bold, or page numbering is provided.

Copy-Writer

(Microtech)

If you'd like to be able to enter your text, and then have it printed out in two columns, ready for reproducing as a newsletter, manual or what-have-you, Copy-Writer will do it for you. In the two-column mode, the program counts characters before printing each page, determines where the column-ends should be, and then prints it all out in a single pass, in a smaller than usual typeface (which your printer must be capable of for this to work).

Another especially attractive feature: you do not have to go through the annoying process of giving your hardware parameters each time you start up. You go through the procedure once when first using the system, and do not have to

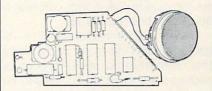
repeat it unless you change some hardware. Also, the program, after being configured to your system, can be stored on your data disks, avoiding the business of having to swap disks after loading the program each time you start up the system.

People who do a lot of on-screen editing will admire Copy-Writer's Block Move feature, which is extremely simple to use, and quite fast—a good model that programmers of the other word-processing systems would do well to copy.

The system also makes good use of the function keys. Two caveats, one dealing with the correction of typing errors when inputting text, which is awkward; and the other with an unfortunate situation that the creators of this system should not have permitted to exist. It's covered by a warning in the manual that says-"If you have spent the entire day typing and you hit 'I', too bad . . . its gone." (The two grammatical errors in the single sentence are theirs, not ours.) Why the programmers couldn't have provided an "Are you sure?" or similar to avoid this situation may never be known, but it's enough to make one think twice about a purchase.



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TYPE BY POINTING AT AN "IN-VISIBLE KEYBOARD SUSPENDED IN AIR".

In addition to its already proven uses, the computerized version of this device might possibly be used for invisible joy-stick and game paddles, or perhaps even an invisible no-touch keyboard. A programmer could lie in bed and program his Commodore computer by simply waving his finger in the air, since this device can accurately measure the location of his finger tips to less than two tenths of an inch from 10 feet away.

Ranging module and manual....\$99.95

VIC-20/C64 Interface kit & tape. .\$99.95

Manual and extensive

documentation\$19.95

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80-COLUMN WORD PROCESSORS

Word Manager

(Data 20; word processing and mailing list software included with purchase of 80-column board, \$179.95)

The key word here is convenience. This package won't do many of the things that sophisticated word processing packages are expected to handle. But what it does, it makes so easy for the user that you may bless it despite the shortcomings.

Word Manager comes with a plastic strip that you place on the keyboard, just above the row of number keys. The strip tells you at a glance that you can underline by hitting f1 (the #1 function key) and 7 center by hitting f1 Shift-2, save to tape or disk with f1 Shift-1. And you set margins, not by embedded codes that you must memorize or look up each time, but simply by typing f1 and Zero. In all, 30 different operations are commanded in this engagingly simple manner. It is the height of what computer people like to call "user friendly".

A separate mailing list program, included on the same disk and required for sending customized letters to a list of addressees, was not functioning on the advance version provided to us for evaluation

But while this package is very attractive, note the limitations: maximum of five pages per text, no headers or footers, no justification, block move limited to three lines at a time. If having these capabilities is not important to you, and your needs justify the cost, you will find Word Manager to be a program you can be comfortable using within minutes of loading. It gives the operator a freedom from function codes that makes it a pleasure.

The Word

(Pacific Coast Software: \$295 including 80-column board; data base and mail

merge programs planned to be included on same disk).

As powerful a word processing program as you're likely to want, with the added advantage of 80 columns. The Word is a snap for anyone familiar with WordPro, since many of the commands are the same. But a number of refinements to the control operations, and additions to the capabilities list, make this a program that will be hard to beat.

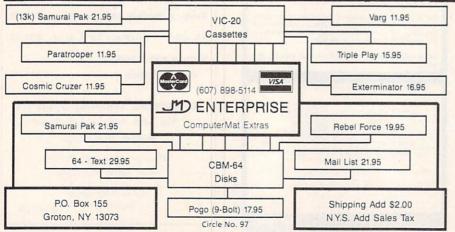
Just one example of the unexpected benefits: The Word will, on command, display on screen exactly what the printout will look like—showing not only the page breaks, but the precise page layout as well, allowing you to correct format errors in advance of printing.

What is there in life that has no draw-backs? With The Word, some operations—such as the insert and delete modes—are quite slow; and an annoying flicker (too slow a refresh rate?) occurs during some operations. There were, as well, a few other minor problems in the pre-release program we tried—corrected, we hope, by the time the package is available on store shelves. For demanding word-processing applications, The Word is a first choice. (And my first choice: it's the software I'm now using for my own word processing on the Commodore.)

A WORD OF WARNING: Both of the 80-column programs make use of a board that plugs into the cartridge slot in the back of the keyboard. Unfortunately, Commodore provided no way to lock the board securely into place, and it does not take much of a tap or accidental push to jar the board loose—which destroys all text in computer memory that you have not yet stored to disk, and could possibly ruin the chip in the board as well. Caveat emptor.

DATA BASE PROGRAMS File Pac and Inquire Pac

(Pacific Coast Software: \$39.95 and \$69.95, respectively)



Both of these packages provide a handy filing capability for small-business or home use. They can each hold up to 200 records, with up to 15 fields of information in each record.

Fields to be sorted may contain up to 30 characters; all other fields may be as long as desired, with the only limitation that the total number of characters in all fields cannot total more than 250.

Records can be sorted on the basis of alphabetic or numeric information—arranging the files in order by customer number or zip code, for example, or by a date or a name.

The price difference between the two packages lies in the search capabilities. File Pac provides a somewhat limited ability to search for a particular record or item. With Inquire Pac, two additional types of searches are available: threshold, and conditional. The former allows searching a particular field in all records for any number between the designated values (for example, all customers who made a purchase between the first and the last of July). The latter allows you to search one or more fields for a particular series of alpha-numeric data ("People named Jones living in ZIP Code 20036.")

Only one type of file can be maintained per disk, and the new user will find some difficulty following the instructions in the User's Guides, which leave much to be desired.

Mini-Jini

(Jini Micro-Systems: \$89.95)

This is a scaled-down version of the powerful JinSam data base program used by the NASA Kennedy Space Center for a number of functions including the handling of real-time transducer data from the Space Shuttle.

Mini-Jini can handle 250 records with 10 fields in each, or as many as 500 records with a smaller number of fields. It accommodates records up to 750 characters in length. All fields can be sorted alphabetically or numerically, and the system offers the user wide flexibility in designing the format for report printouts. Mini-Jini interfaces with WordPro, so that a mailing list can be readily maintained, sorted and kept up to date on the data base program, and merged with word processing for customized billings, promotion letters or the like.

But the most noteworthy feature about Mini-Jini lies in its ability to perform calculations. You can add, subtract, multiply or divide any field with a constant, or any two fields with each other, and you can obtain the sum and average of any field. Thus you can subtract the Paid field from the Due field, then total

the results to find your gross accounts receivable.

The software conveniently comes on a chip rather than disk, and the accompanying documentation is thorough, easy to follow and well organized. MiniJini is a hard worker that will handle many data base/filing requirements for Commodore 64 owners and is a likely candidate for the best seller list.

Data Base Manager

(Mirage Concepts; \$99.95)

A new entry (relatively speaking) which we have not yet had a chance to run, this program provides up to 200 fields per record, with as many as 250 characters per field (limited to 2,000 total characters per record). The system provides conditional sorts, multiple sorts, and powerful variety of arithmetic manipulations. If you have need for a powerful DBM, this one sounds like something worth looking into.

ACCOUNTING

ACCOUNT PAC

(Pacific Coast Software; \$29.95)

Designed for home and small— (very small—) business use, Account Pac has a capacity of 99 accounts. As with most computer accounting packages, Account Pak is a "double entry" system, which means that, in accordance with standard bookkeeping procedure, each transaction must be entered in two places—for example, a deduction for your checking account and an equal amount added to the expenditures in your Postage account. This software simplifies the task by making an automatic entry in you checking account in many cases.

Printouts are limited to a bank-account listing for the current period, and balances of each account for the month and year to date, along with totals of incom items, expense items, etc.

Business Pac General Ledger

(Pacific Coast Software; \$59.95)

Any company too small to have a regular bookkeeper or accountant, but eager to computerize its financial records, will want to consider Business Pac. The software has been well designed with the user in mind, so that entries can be made with a minimum of keypressing. Yet it will provide all of the most needed reports: Trial Balance; Income Statement; and Balance Sheet.

The User's Guide is brief but quite clearly written, although sample accounts and pictures of the report format would help.

The system handles up to 99 accounts with a flexible, three-digit numbering system. A greater variety of user needs will be supported when the planned accounts receivable and accounts payable packages become available.

Info Designs General Ledger

(Info Designs; \$199)

This is the big one. General Ledger will handle 300 accounts, 1,500 transactions a month, and dollar amounts so large that you will fantasize about your company growing large enough to challenge the system (by which time you would probably be on the *Fortune* list.)

One of a series of interfaced accounting programs, General Ledger is well suited to companies that are concerned about the possibility of outgrowing a less sophisticated package. In addition to its large capacity, the system maintains account balances for present month, quarter to date, year to date, previous quarters and previous year. It will print a wide variety of routine and special reports, including all the usual ones plus a General Journal, Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements Journals, Update reports, and several others.

The system is so sophisticated, in fact, that it may be unnecessarily complex for anyone who does not have bookkeeping or accounting experience. Also, the account numbering system—which requires entering six digits and a decimal point for the debit entry of each transaction, and an equal number for the credit entry—may seem more cumbersome than justified for a small business. CPA's and Corporate Treasurers will applaud the program. Others may get more than they were looking for.

The 77-page User's Guide gives detailed explanations, and is well illustrated with sample reports and examples. The volume suffers, however, from poor organization that does not present the information in the form or order needed by a user trying to learn the system.

Still, if you are looking for a do-everything general ledger program that your company is unlikely to outgrow, look no further.

FUTURES

Here's a short list of some programs that software houses say they expect to release soon for the 64.

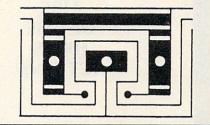
*A 40-column word processing package with the operating convenience of Word Manager (see above), enhanced with a number of features not provided on that program; from Data 20.

*A C-64 version of the best-selling Home Accountant, tailored for small business use; and C-64 version of the popular Tax Advantage personal income tax program, from Continental Software.

*A C-64 version of one of those incredible programs that asks you a series of questions in English, then writes out the complete code in Basic for the program that will do the task you have in mind; from Computer Marketing.

In an upcoming issue, we'll cover spreadsheets and more of the accounting packages now reaching the market.

WILLIAM L. SIMON is a full-time freelance writer of documentary films who holds a Ph.D. in communications but indulges his fascination with computers by writing on the subject whenever he finds a chance. He lives in Rancho Sante Fe, California.



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You pay only \$209.00 when you order the Comstar T/F deluxe line printer that prints 8 1/2 x 11 full size, single sheet, roll or fan fold paper, labels etc. 40, 66, 80, 132 columns. Impact dot matrix, bi-directional, 80 CPS. LESS the value of the SPECIAL SOFTWARE COUPON we pack with your printer that allows you to SAVE OVER \$100 off software sale prices!! With only \$100 of savings applied your net printer cost is only \$109.00.

80 COLUMN BOARD \$99.00

Now you program 80 COLUMNS on the screen at one time! Converts your Commodore 64 to 80 COLUMNS when you plug in the 80 COLUMN EXPANSION BOARD!! List \$199 SALE \$99 PLUS-you also can get an 80 COLUMN BOARD WORD PROCESSOR with mail merge, terminal emulator, ELECTRONIC SPREAD SHEET. List \$59.00 SALE \$24.95 if purchased with 80 COLUMN BOARD!! (Tape or Disk)

80 COLUMNS IN COLOR **EXECUTIVE WORD PROCESSOR \$69.00**

This EXECUTIVE WORD PROCESSOR is the finest available for the COMMODORE 64 computer! The ULTIMATE for PROFESSIONAL Wordprocessing application! DISPLAYS 40 OR 80 COLUMNS IN COLOR or Black and White! Simple to operate, powerful text editing with a 250 WORD DICTIONARY, complete cursor and insert/delete key controls line and paragraph insertion, automatic deletion, centering, margin settings and output to all printers! Includes a powerful mail merge. List \$99.00 SALE \$69.00. 20,000 WORD DICTIONARY - List \$24.95 SALE \$19.95. EXECUTIVE DATA BASE - List \$89.00 SALE \$59.00. (Disk only)

SPECIAL SOFTWARE COUPON

We pack a SPECIAL SOFTWARE COUPON with every COMMODORE 64 COMPUTER-DISK DRIVE-PRINTER-MONITOR we sell! This coupon allows you to SAVE OVER \$100 OFF SALE PRICES! \$200-\$300 savings are possible!! (example)

PROFESSIONAL SOFTWARE **COMMODORE 64**

| Name | List | Sale | Coupon |
|--|---------|---------|----------|
| Executive Word | | | |
| Processor | \$99.00 | \$69.00 | \$59.00 |
| Executive Data Base | \$89.00 | \$59.00 | \$46.00 |
| 20,000 Word Dictionary | \$24.95 | \$19.95 | \$14.95 |
| Electronic Spreadsheet | \$89.00 | \$59.00 | \$46.00 |
| Accounting Pack | \$69.00 | \$49.00 | \$32.00 |
| Total 5.2 | | | |
| Word Processor | | | |
| Tape | \$69.00 | \$56.00 | \$37.00 |
| Disk | \$79.95 | \$63.00 | \$42.00 |
| Total Text 2.6 | | | |
| Word Processor | | | |
| Tape | \$44.95 | \$39.00 | \$26.00. |
| Disk | \$49.00 | \$42.00 | \$29.00 |
| Total Label 2.6 | | | |
| Tape | \$24.95 | \$18.00 | \$12.00 |
| Disk | \$29.95 | \$23.00 | \$15.00 |
| Programmers | | | |
| Helper (Disk) | \$59.00 | \$39.00 | \$29.95 |
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| (Tape/Disk) | \$29.95 | \$24.95 | \$15.00 |
| Sprite Designer (Disk) | \$16.95 | \$14.95 | \$10.00 |
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| Professional Joy Stick | \$24.95 | \$15.95 | \$11.00 |
| Light Pen | \$39.95 | \$19.95 | \$16.95 |
| Dust Cover | \$ 8.95 | \$ 6.95 | \$ 4.60 |
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(See other items in our catalog!)
Write or call for

Sample SPECIAL SOFTWARE COUPON!

EXECUTIVE QUALITY PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS SOFTWARE

The Cadillac of business programs for Commodore 64 Computers

| Item | List | *SALE |
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This 25K VIC-20 computer includes a full size 66 key typewriter keyboard color and graphics keys, upper/lower case, full screen editor, 16K level II microsoft basic, sound and music, real time floating point decimal, self teaching book, connects to any T.V. or monitor!

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Now you can get 40 OR 80 COLUMNS on your T.V. or monitor at one time! No more running out of line space for programming and making columns! Just plug in this Expansion Board and you immediately convert your VIC-20 computer to 40 OR 80 COLUMNS!! List \$129. SALE \$59.00. You can also get an 80 COLUMN BOARD WORD PROCESSOR with mail merge, terminal emulator, ELECTRONIC SPREAD SHEET!! List \$59.00. SALE \$24.95 if purchased with 80 COLUMN BOARD! (Tape or Disk).

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This cartridge increases programming power over 8 times!! Expands total memory to 57K (57,000 bytes). Block switches are on outside of cover! Has expansion port!! Lists for \$199 (OUR **BEST BUY!)**

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Sixslot — Switch selectable — Reset button — Ribbon cable — CARDCO. A must to get the most out of your VIC-20 Computer!

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Excellent quality GREEN PHOSPHOROUS VIDEO MONITOR with antiglare, 1920 characters (80 characters x 24 rows). Save your TV! a must for 80 column word processors. PLUS \$9.95 for VIC 20 or Commodore 64 Cable.

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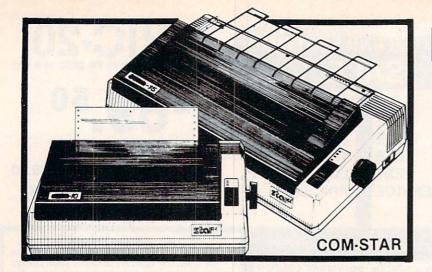
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• 15 Day Free Trial - 180 Day Immediate Replacement Warranty

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| | 80 COLUMN TRACTOR-FRICTION PRINTER — 80 CPS Bi-directional, dot matrix, impact, prints single sheets, continuous feed paper, adjustable columns, 40 to 132 characters! Roll paper adapter \$32.95. (Serial or Centronics parallel interface) | \$399 | \$209 |
| | PREMIUM QUALITY 10" CARRIAGE T/F PRINTER — 120 CPS Bi-directional, impact, 9 x 9 dot matrix with double strike for 18 x 18 dot matrix. High resolution bit image (120 x 144 dot matrix) underlining back spacing, left and right margin settings, true lower decenders, with super and sub scripts. Prints standard, italic, block graphics, special characters, plus 24 of user definable characters and much more!! Prints single sheets, continuous feed and roll paper! (Centronics parallel interface) | \$499 | \$289 |
| | PREMIUM QUALITY 15½" CARRIAGE PRINTER — 120 CPS Has all the features of the Premium Quality 10" Carriage T/F Printer above plus a 15½" carriage and more powerful electronic components to handle large business forms! (Centronics parallel interface) HIGH SPEED PREMIUM QUALITY T/F | \$599 | \$379 |
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| 1 | T/F 15½" PRINTER — 160 CPS Has all the features of the 10" Carriage high speed printer plus a 15½" carriage and more powerful electronics to handle larger business forms! (Serial or Centronics parallel interface) | \$799 | \$599 |

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NOTE: Other printer interfaces are available at computer stores!





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VIC 20

40-80 COLUMN BOARD



only \$5900





Now you can get 40 or 80 Columns on your T.V. or monitor at one time! No more running out of line space for programming and making columns. Just plug in this board and you immediately convert your VIC-20 computer to 40 or 80 columns! Comes in an attractive molded case with instructions! List \$129.00 Sale \$59.00

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80 COLUMN

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Just like a record needle, disk drive heads must travel hundreds of miles over disk surfaces. Unlike other floppy disks the Loran smooth surface finish saves disk drive head wear during the life of the disk. (A rough surface will grind your disk drive head like sandpaper). The lint free automatic CLEANING LINER makes sure the disk-killers (dust & dirt) are being constantly cleaned while the disk is being operated. PLUS the Loran Disk has the highest probability rate of any other disk in the industry for storing and retaining data without loss for the life of the disk.

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- 60% of all drive downtime is directly related to poorly maintained drives.
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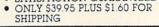
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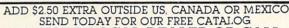
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INVENTORY MANAGER SOFTWARE - \$99.95 • Having trouble keeping track of your inventory or hobby collections? If so, our "inventory Manager" will solve your problems. The Inventory Manager is designed to work with either the Commodore 64 or the VIC 20 with 16k & 40/80 Column expander. It gives you complete control of 2500 separate item files with 99,999 items per file. Generate reports by vendor or department, 1000 vendor possibilities, one-step posting process.

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The Video Pak 80 and the Z-80 Video Pak are designed for the Commodore 64, giving you all the above listed features, also including the FREE Wordmanager Software and integrated Mail List Program. The Z-80 Video Pak includes all the standard features, but adds a Z-80 microprocessor and a CP/M compatible operating system.

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If you want your 64 to do more than play games, The Computer Network has what you want!!

Support Your Local Programmer

By Jim Grubbs

You finally entered the world of the home computer. That sale at the local flashing blue light store sure gave you a good price on your VIC. Then the rub comes. As they say, there's no such thing as a free lunch. First you've got to have some way to load and save programs. Bang-\$65 for a cassette recorder that you can't even listen to! Next you find that it's very difficult to debug anything other than a simple program without a paper copy of the listing. Bang-\$300 for an inexpensive printer, and that doesn't even come close to being a letter quality unit. So much for your dreams of cheap processing. As time goes on you find that the cassette recorder really is slow and wouldn't it be nice to have a disk drive. Well, the story goes on and on, but there is one common factor. Your new hobby needs some financing.

For at least some of you there is a way to get all those goodies and even deduct some of the expense from your income tax, all the while letting someone else pay for the expansion of your system. As mentioned though, there is no such thing as a free lunch. The cost to you will be a taxing of your creative ability and some of your valuable free time.

The answer is a simple one and a time honored one. Go into business for yourself. This is not a get rich quick scheme, but it could very well work out that you never have to spend another dollar of your regular income on your hobby.

The actual form of your small computer business can take several forms. We will discuss each of them, though your personal approach will most likely be a combination of several of these techniques with your own personal perspective added.

BE A CHEAPSKATE

Do not spend a fortune on your beginning system! If Aunt Mary is in the appliance business and can get you a \$2000 system for \$498 but you have to buy it all right now, then by all means do it. But if you are like most of us and are doing this on a budget, enter the field cautiously. Remember the idea here is to let somebody else buy the goodies for you.

You will probably find that the basic computer will keep you quite busy for several months just getting used to its personality and oddities. If you have never programmed before, or have done very little of it don't despair. The beauty of BASIC is that you start thinking in simple BASIC operations almost immediately. The next step involves realizing that you can perform the same operation using half as much memory space. As time goes on your programs become more concise and more complicated. You start to realize the potential of the machine at your fingertips. If there is a particular thing you are trying to do, look around at the software in the public domain, read COMMANDER, look at the listings of your friends' programs. Somewhere,

someone has used a routine to accomplish something similar to what you have in mind. Make a note, mental or physical of how they did it. This is not to suggest you plagiarize, but rather get a feel for how something is done. Then write it your own way. It will probably be better suited to your application than if you try and force someone else's subroutine into your program anyway.

RIGHT IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD

You are now beginning to feel comfortable with your machine. Your friends are noticing the redness in your eyes from your midnight staring at the TV or monitor screen. It's time to think about your first money making project.

Do you have other hobbies? Are you particularly interested in energy conservation, fishing, sunspots, astronomy, satellites, or any other specialized area? Is there a void of program available in your subject of interest? Almost without exception the answer will be yes. Here is where we begin to make our hobby pay for itself. Choose something in your subject area that lends itself to a computer program of reasonable proportions and write one yourself. You may find that the subject you are interested in has been covered by someone else, but not for your computer. Do it! Then put it away for a while. Repeat this process until you are reasonably sure that you have the product you set out to produce or an

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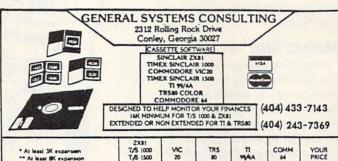
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even better one. I think you will find that the hard part will be keeping your hands off the program. Any program can always be made better, but there reaches a point of no return.

You can and should expect to spend many hours in this portion of the process. This is the blood and guts portion, you can't scrimp here and expect to be successful.

At this point you need to bring your documentation together. The best program in the world isn't worth much if the user can't figure out how to use it, or understand what it's supposed to do. From your documentation will come information for your instruction sheets, advertising flyers and possibly a magazine article. The best answer of course is to make your program very interactive. One learns quickly, however, that print statements use up a lot of memory. It is probably advisable to try and write your program to run on a bare, unexpanded machine. For the VIC this only gives us about 3.5K to play with. One answer to this problem is to write two versions of the same program. One can be a bare bones program, the other with all the amenities additional memory allows. You then offer the end user both programs on one tape at no additional cost. You make a lot of points here. You give them the chance to have a nice program that will run on their machine now, and gets even better when they expand their system.

MARKETING 101

Marketing your product may be one of the most frustrating parts of this project. How do you let people know what you have without spending a fortune? Nearly every hobby has a national magazine or newsletter associated with it. Most hobbies have many of these publications and usually offer space for advertisements in a classified section. The rates for these vary widely from probably 25 cents per word to several dollars per word. Place your ad or ads where they will most likely be seen by your intended audience. Keep your ad brief, but appeal to the interest of your audience. For example, say you are marketing a program to track star paths, and you are placing the ad in an amateur astronomy magazine. You might place this ad:

Star Tracking Made Easy! Computer program allows you to compute viewing times using your VIC computer, \$10. SASE for further details to Jim Grubbs, PO Box 3042, Springfield, Illinois 62708.

Or this one:

VIC-20 Software makes star tracking easy, computes viewing times, \$10 com-

plete. SASE for details Jim Grubbs, PO Box 3042, Springfield, IL 62708.

The first ad is clear enough, and if you were advertising in a magazine that was aimed only at VIC users who are also astronomers it would be great. But there are probably many ads for tracking information in the ads, some of them even for computers, others for scientific calculators, some just printed charts. What makes yours unique is that it is for a VIC-20. That is who you want to attract, readers who own VIC-20s. Regardless of their interest in your program, if they don't own the needed tools to use it, it will be useless. Anyone with a VIC-20 though will continue reading, and even if they weren't looking specifically for such a program may be interested to know what is available.

Keeping in mind that we also want to keep down the price, use abbreviations where they will be clearly understood, forget punctuation unless it's necessary, and KISS, keep it simple stupid!

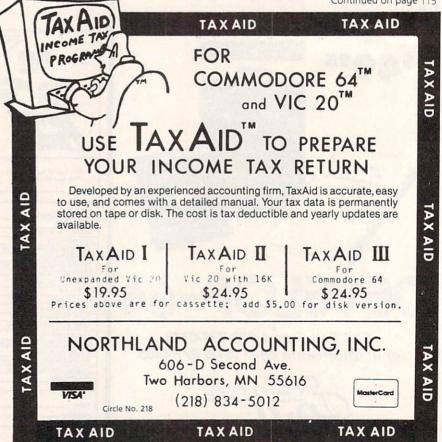
Now for the bad news—you have to do all of this 45 to 120 days before you expect the ad to appear! This is part of the frustration, but due to editorial and printer's deadlines, you have to know usually two to three months before publication that you want to run the ad. There is a good news and bad in this. The good

news is of course that it gives you an additional cushion to get your program ready to go out the door. You must avoid the temptation though to commit yourself to advertising a product that is not in a marketable form. Use the extra time to sweeten it up a bit, perhaps make it look a bit better, get your instructions printed, buy shipping envelopes and so on. The bad news is of course that you will drive your friends crazy waiting for the day your ad sees print.

PLEASE MR. POSTMAN

You are in print! You find this out after searching through pages of classifieds and not finding yours. You panic, they didn't publish it, or it has become so microscopically small no one can see it. Calm down and look again. It is there and ready to do its job. You wonder how you ever let me talk you into this. With resignation to gloom you wait for the mail carrier to bring at least one inquiry. The best thing to do now is to take a vacation to Kitt Peak for the next few weeks, but that is unlikely to happen. Remember, depending on where you live, you may have gotten your magazine or newsletter days or even weeks before others do. This can be particularly true of publications printed on the East Coast with readers on the West Coast.

Continued on page 115



TAXAID IS A TRADEMARK OF NORTHLAND ACCOUNTING, INC. VIC 20 & COMMODORE 64 ARE TRADEMARKS OF COMMODORE ELECTRONICS, LTD.



A DAZZLING 3-D GAME FOR THE 5K VIC-20 (Joystick required)

By Alan L. Keyser

Looking for hours of enjoyment? First type in this program, then immerse yourself in a world of exciting sound, flowing 3-D colors, and thrilling challenges to your space-piloting skill. Remember, the future of the universe depends on you!

HOW TO PLAY

Don't forget to plug in your joystick before turning on the computer. After you RUN the program, the screen lights up with color and motion. As you hurtle down a narrow channel in the massive

20 POKE36879,8: POKE36

30 PX=8174:FX=0:DIMAX

(1,2):A%(1,2)=1:A%

(Ø,2)=-1:AX=8:A1X=

10 PRINT' [clr]'

878,8:SCU=0

AZ:HEROZ=4

surface of the Deathstar, enemy ships will appear over the horizon. You can either manuever around them with the joystick, or shoot with the fire button. You receive points for each hit, but be careful to avoid running into debris from the destroyed enemy ships. Be especially alert for the squad leader's ship, as it flies much faster than the others.

PROGRAM NOTES

Here is a general outline of the program structure:

Lines Function 20-30 Set Up Variables 40-230 Set Up Screen 250-260 Read in M.L. Routine 300-330 Read Joystick 332-390 Move Hero 400-450 Move Missle 500-790 Alien Movement 800-860 Hero has been hit 900-985 Bonus Routine 1000- Main Control Routine

40 PRINT'/[home][aown
, 12 times][rea][r
vs-on][sp, 8 times
][shf-N][rvs-off][
sp, 4 times][rvs-o
n][shf-M][sp, 8 ti

mes]'';

50 PRINI''[rvs-on][wh
t][sP, 7 times][sh
f-N][red][sP][rvsoff][sP, 4 times][
rvs-on][sP][wht][s
hf-M][sP, 7 times]

60 PRINT'/[rvs-onj[pu r][sp, 6 times][sn f-N][wht][sp][red] [sp][rvs-off][sp, 4 times][rvs-on][
sP][wht][sP][pur][
snf-M][sP, 6 times
]'';

70 PRINT'(irvs-onjire d][sp, 5 times][sh f-N][Pur][sp][wht] [sp][red][shf-N][sp, 4 times][shf-M][wht][sp][red][shf-M][sp] [red][shf-M][sp, 5 times]';

The flowing colors are created by a machine language subroutine that rapidly alternates the red and white colors on the screen. The data for this routine, contained in lines 5000-5020, are POKEd into memory through lines 250-260. The assembly language code is listed in the accompanying box. This routine is called by SYS850 throughout the program, and barely slows down the rest of the action.

Have a thrilling flight!

80 PKINT' irvs-onliwn
tlisp, 4 timeslish
f-Mliredlisp][Pur]
isp][wht][snf-M][
sp, 6 times][shf-M
][Pur][sp][red][sp
][wht][snf-M][sp,
4 times]';

90 PRINT'(irvs-on)[Pu r][sp, 3 times][sn f-N][wht][sp][red] [sp][pur][sn+-N][sp, 8 times][snf-M][red][sp][wht][sp][pur][shf-M][sp, 3 times]'';

100 PRINT''irvs-on][re
d][sp, 2 times][sn
f-NJ[pur][spJ[wnt]
[sp][red][shf-N][
sp, 10 times][snfM][wht][sp][pur][s
p][red][shf-M][sp,
2 times]'';

- 110 PRINT''[rvs-on][wht][sp][shf
 -N][red][sp][Pur][sp][wht][s
 hf-N][sp, 12 times][shf-M][p
 ur][sp][red][sp][wht][shf-M]
 [sp]'':
- 120 PRINT('[rvs-on][Pur][shf-N][
 wht][sp][red][sp][Pur][shf-N
][sp, 14 times][shf-M][red][
 sp][wht][sp][pur][shf-M](';
- 130 PRINT''[rvs-on][Pur][sP][wht
][sP][red][shf-N][sP, 16 tim
 es][shf-M][wht][sP][Pur][sP]
 '';
- 140 FORI=8166TO8183:POKEI,160:PO KEI+30720,1:NEXTI
- 142 POKE8165,206:POKE8184,205:PO KE38885,1:POKE38904,1:POKE38 884,4:POKE8164,160
- 144 POKE38905,4: POKE8185,160
- 150 PRINT''[home][rvs-on][wht][d
 own]SCORE:[rvs-off]''
- 160 PRINT''[down].[sp, 3 times].
 [sp, 2 times].[sp, 3 times].
 [sp, 4 times].[sp].[sp, 2 times].'';
- 170 PRINT''[down, 2 times][sp].[sp, 2 times].[sp].[sp, 9 times].[sp].[sp]. 2 times].'';
- 230 POKE8174,241:POKE8175,95:POK E8173,105
- 250 FORI=850T0897
- 260 READJ:POKEL, J:NEXTI
- 265 POKE36877, 200
- 278 GOTO1888
- 300 POKE37139,0:POKE37154,127:SX =PEEK(37137):SN=(SXAND4)/4:S S=(SXAND8)/8
- 305 SW=(S%AND16)/16:F=(S%AND32)/ 32
- 310 SX=PEEK(37152):SE=(SXAND128) /128
- 320 POKE37154,255:POKE37139,128
- 330 IFSNC>0THEN340

- 332 IFP%-22(80410RPEEK(P%-21)=20 50RPEEK(P%-23)=206THEN390
- 334 GOSUB375:P%=P%-22:GOTO380
- 340 IFSSCOUTHEN350
- 342 IFP%+22>8182THEN390
- 344 GOSUB375:P%=P%+22:GOTO380
- 350 IFSWC>0THEN360
- 352 IFPEEK(P%-2)=206THEN390
- 354 GOSUB375:PX=PX-1:GOTO380
- 360 IFSEC>00RP%+2>81830RPEEK(P%+ 2)=205THEN390
- 362 IFPEEK(P%+2)=205THEN390
- 364 GOSUB375:P%=P%+1:GOTO380
- 375 POKEP%, 160: POKEP%+1, 160: POKE P%-1, 160: RETURN
- 380 IFPEEK(P%)=1270RPEEK(P%+1)=1 270RPEEK(P%-1)=127THENGOSUBB 00
- 382 IFPEEK(P%)=2190RPEEK(P%+1)=2 190RPEEK(P%-1)=219THENGOSUB8 00
- 384 IFPEEK(P%)=2180RPEEK(P%+1)=2 180RPEEK(P%-1)=218THENGOSUB8 00
- 386 IFPEEK(P%)=420RPEEK(P%+1)=42 ORPEEK(P%-1)=42THENGOSUB800
- 390 POKEP%,241:POKEP%-1,105:POKE P%+1,95
- 400 IFF=0ANDF%=0THEN408
- 401 SYS850
- 402 IFFC>0ANDF%=0THEN450
- 404 GOTO410
- 408 F%=P%-22:POKE36878,15:FORZ=1 TO70:NEXT:POKE36878,8:SYS850
- 409 IFPEEK(F%)=1270RPEEK(F%)=219 ORPEEK(F%)=170THEN420
- 410 POKEFX,160:FX=FX-22:IFFX<801 90RPEEK(FX)=2050RPEEK(FX)=20 6THENFX=0:GOTO450

| 420 IFPEEK(FX)=1270RPEEK(FX)=219 THENE1X=PEEK(FX):GOSUB700:GO SUB770:GOTO450 | 695 POKEGW, 160: GX=GX+RX(I,2)+22: IFGX)8184THENRX(I,1)=0: GOTO6 10 |
|--|---|
| 440 POKEF%, 158 | 696 IFPEEK(G%)=1410RPEEK(G%)=950 RPEEK(G%)=105THENGOSUB800:GO |
| 450 RETURN | T0610 |
| 500 FORI=0T01 | 697 POKEG%, 127: GOTO 610 |
| 505 GX=AX(I,0) | 699 GOTO610 |
| 510 IFRX(I,1)=0THEN650 | 700 POKE36878,15:FORZ=1T080:NEXT |
| 520 IFA%(I,1)=90THEN680 | 702 IFE1%=219THENSCO=SCO+50 |
| 530 IFAX(I,1)=127THEN695 | 704 IFE1%=127THENSCO=SCO+10 |
| 540 X=RND(1):Y=RND(1) | 710 PRINT''[home][down][wht]'';T AB(6);SCO |
| 545 POKEGX, 160: POKEGX-22, 160 | 730 POKE36878,8 |
| 550 IFY>.5THENGX=GX+22:IFGX>8182 THENGX=0:AX(I,1)=0:GOTO610 | 735 81%=81%-1: IF81%=0THEN900 |
| 560 IFX>.5ANDPEEK(GX+2)<>205THEN GX=GX+1 | 740 IFE1%=219THENE1%=127:RETURN |
| 570 IFXC.5ANDPEEK(G%-2)<>206THEN | 750 IFE1%=127THENE1%=0:RETURN |
| G%=G%-1 | 760 RETURN |
| 580 IFPEEK(G%)=2410RPEEK(3%)=950 RPEEK(G%)=105THENGOSUB800:G0 TO610 | 770 SYS850:FORP=0T01:IFA%(P,0)=F %THENA%(P,1)=E1% |
| 590 IFPEEK(G%)=158THENGOSUB700:G OTO610 | 780 NEXTP:IFF%>0THENPOKEF%,160:P OKEF%-22,160:F%=0 |
| 600 POKEGX,219:POKEGX-22,218 | 790 RETURN |
| 610 AX(I,0)=0% | 800 HERD%=HERO%-1:POKEP%,160:POK EP%-1,160:POKEP%+1,160 |
| 615 SYS850 | 805 POKE36878,10 |
| 617 GOSUB300 | 810 FORD=8TO255:POKE36879,D |
| 620 NEXTI | 830 POKE36877,260-D |
| 630 RETURN | 840 NEXTD |
| 650 AX(I,1)=90:AX(I,0)=7998 | 850 POKE36879,8:POKE36877,200:PO |
| 660 POKEAX(I,0),AX(I,1) 670 GOTO620 | KE36878,8:PX=8173:IFHEROX=0T HENPRINT//[clr]SCORE=//SC:GO TO2000 |
| 680 POKEGX,32:GX=8043:POKEGX,219 :POKEGX-22,218:AX(I,1)=219 | 860 RETURN |
| 690 GOTO610 | 900 PRINT' [home][down, 6 times] [right, 9 times][yel]BONUS: |
| | |



The Banner Machine

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VIC-20 Programs Also Available. Ask for Catalog.



910 PRINT' [home][down, 8 times] '';TRB(10);''[yel]1000''

920 POKE8020,42:0=8020

930 GOSUB300

935 IFPEEK(FX+22)=420RPEEK(FX+44)=42THENSCO=SCO+1000:GOSUB70 Ø:00T0975

940 IFPEEK(Q+22)=158THENSCO=SCO+ 1000:GOT0980

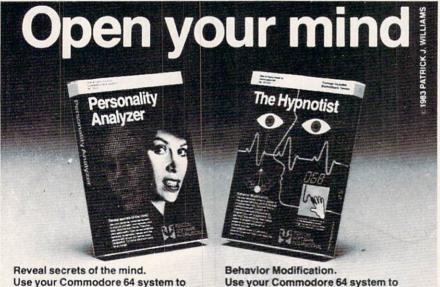
945 IFQ+22>8182THENPOKEQ,160:Q=0 : GOT0980

950 IFPEEK(Q+22)=2410RPEEK(Q+22) =1050RPEEK(Q+22)=95THENGOSUB 800:GOT0975

960 POKEQ+22,42:POKEQ,160:Q=Q+22

970 GOTO930 975 POKEQ, 160

980 PRINT' [home][down, 6 times] [right, 9 times][sp, 6 time s]'':PRINT''[home][down, 8 t imes]''; TAB(10);''[sp, 4 tim es] //



Use your Commodore 64 system to analyze yourself, your spouse, your date, relatives and friends. Discover your personality type, career potential, behavior tendencies, values, and the people with whom you will be most compatible. This program requires the use of a "joystick" Price \$32.95 Disk (\$27.95 Cassette).

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PHP : Store Registers PHA TXA PHA TYA PHA LDX #\$08 ; Start Routine LDA \$97.X AND #\$0F : What Color is it? CMP #\$02 : Red? BEQ \$09 CMP #\$01 : White BEQ \$ØA LDA #\$01 ; Change Colors JMP \$0373 LDA #04 JMP \$0373 LDA #\$02 STA \$97,X INX CPX #\$FA ; Done, No then Return BNE \$DF PLA ; Restore Registers TAY PLA TAX PLA PLP RTS

985 AZ=AZ+1:A1Z=AZ:RETURN

1000 SYS850

1010 GOSUB300

1020 SYS850

1030 GOSUB500

1040 GOTO1000

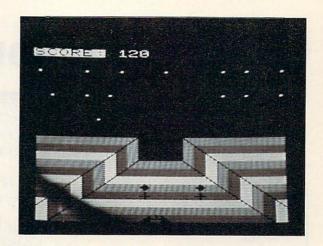
2000 POKE36878,0:END

5000 DATA8,72,138,72,152,72,162,8 ,189,0,151,41,15,201,2,240,9 ,201,1

5010 DATA240,10,169,1,76,115,3,16 9,4,76,115,3,169,2,157,0,151 ,232

5020 DRTR224,250,208,223,104,168, 104,170,104,40,96





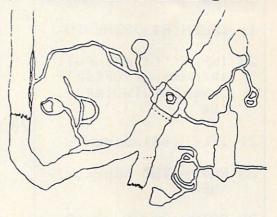


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GAMES HON 6 GAMES HON 6 GAMES HON 6

Connect-4 for C-64

By Mark Daily

In this two-player game for the C-64, your goal is to get four tokens in a row (any direction) before your opponent does. Instructions will appear on the screen. Have fun!

- 1 POKE53280,0:POKE53 281,12:PRINT/'[com -4]''
- 2 RESTORE:GOSUB850:C
- 8 KY=198: YY=0
- 9 CR=54272
- 10 INPUT''[clr]INPUT[sp]NAME[sp]OF[sp]P LAYER[sp]ONE[sp]''
- 11 IFLEN(A\$)>9THEN10
- 20 INPUT'([clr]INPUT[sp]NHME(sp]OF[sp]P LRYER[sp]TWO[sp]'(; B#
- 21 IFLEN(B\$)>9THEN20
- 25 FORY=1TO8:READE(Y) :NEXT
- 26 DATA2,80,78,82,-2, -80,-78,-82
- 27 W=1196:Q=1210:V=80 :P=32:D=2:U=64
- 30 N\$=''[down][left, 4 times][rvs-on]MU VE[rvs-off]'':A=10 :PRINT''[home][clr][down, 2 times]''

- 51 Ws=''[down, 5 time s][rvs-on]WINNER'' :C1=81:C2=87:K=126
- 54 PRINTSFC(A)//[sp][com-@, 17 times][s p]//
- 55 PRINTSPC(A)''[com-M][sp, 17 times][c om-G]''
- 60 PRINTSPC(A)''[com-M] com-A][sp][com-R][sp][com-R][sp][com-R][sp][com-R][sp][com-R][sp][com-R][sp][com-R][sp] [com-S][com-G]''
- 65 PRINTSPC(A)''[com-M][shf--]:[shf--]: [shf--]:[shf--]:[s hf--]:[shf--]:[shf --]:[shf--]:[sh
- 70 PRINTSPC(A)''[com-M][com-Q][shf-*][s hf-+][shf-*][shf-+][shf-*][shf-+][sh f-*][shf-+][shf-*] [shf-+][shf-*][sh f-+][shf-*][shf-+] [shf-*][com-W][co m-G]'':Z=Z+1:IFZ(7 THEN65
- 75 PRINTSPD(A)''[com-M][shf--]:[shf--]:[s [shf--]:[shf--]:[s hf--]:[s

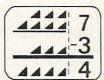
- 80 PRINTSPC(A)''[com-M][com-Z][shf-#][c om-E][shf-#][com-E][sh f-#][com-E][shf-#] [com-E][shf-#][co m-E][shf-#][com-E] [shf-#][com-X][co m-G]''
- 81 PRINTSPC(H)''[sp][com-Y, 17 times]'' :Z=0
- 85 GOSUB680:PRINT//[h ome]//A#:PRINT//[u p]//SPC(30)8#:FORA #1TOU
- 86 FORCX=W+VTOQ+VSTEP O:IFPEEK(CX)=C1ORP EEK(CX)=C2THENPOKE
- 87 NEXT: IFA/O=INT(A/O
)THEN91
- 90 GOTO92
- 91 GOSUB700:D=C2:GOSU B810:GOTO93
- 92 GOSUB700:D=C1:GOSU B800
- 93 IFD=C2THEND9=U:OUT 095
- 94 119=1
- 95 B1≠W+54272:B=W:POK EB.D:POKEKV,VY:POK EB1,D9
- 96 Ms=''':GETM\$:IFM\$ =CHR\$(13)THEN300

- 97 IFM#=CHR#(52)THEN150
- 98 IFM\$=CHR\$(54)THEN200
- 100 GOTO96
- 150 POKEB1, D9: POKEB, P: IFB-OCWTHE
 - NB=Q:B1=CR+Q:GOTO160
- 155 B=B-0:B1=B1-0
- 160 POKEB1, D9: POKEB, D: IFPEEK(B+V /O)>PGOTO150
- 165 GOT096
- 200 POKEB1, D9:POKEB, P:IFB+O)QTHE NB=W:B1=CR+W:GOTO210
- 205 B=B+0:B1=B1+0
- 210 POKEB1, D9: POKEB, D: IFPEEK(B+V /0)>PGOTO200
- 215 GOT096
- 300 IFPEEK(B+V)=C10RPEEK(B+V)=C2 THEN96
- 305 POKEB,P:B=B+V:B1=B1+V:FORX=1 TO7:IFPEEK(B+V)=C10RPEEK(B+V)=C2THEN365
- 310 B=B+V:B1=B1+V:NEXTX
- 365 POKEB, D: POKEB1, D9: FORY=1TO8: N=E(Y): G=PEEK(B)
- 370 IFG=PEEK(B+N)ANDG=PEEK(B+(O*N))ANDG=PEEK(B-N)THEN400
- 371 IFG=PEEK(B-N)ANDG=PEEK(B-(O*N))ANDG=PEEK(B+N)THEN410
- 385 NEXTY:FORY=1T08:N=E(Y):FORJ= 1T03:IFG=PEEK(B+(J*N))THENRG =1:G0T0387
- 386 RG=0:IFPEEK(B)<>PEEK(B+(J*N))
 THEN395
- 387 NEXTJ: GOTO420
- 395 NEXTY, A: GOT0830
- 400 I=B:I1=B+N:I2=B+(0*N):I3=B-N :GOTO600
- 410 I=B:I1=B+N:12=B-(0*N):I3=B-N :GOTO600



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- 420 IFRG=0THENI=8:I1=B-N:I2=B-(0*N):I3=B-(3*N):GUT0600
- 430 I=B:I1=B+N:I2=B+(O*N):I3=B+ (3*N):GOT0600
- 600 IFD=C1THENPRINTSPC(3)W\$:GUT
- 610 PRINTSPU(30)W\$
- 630 1FD=C1THENW1=W1+1
- 631 IFD=C2THENW2=W2+1
- 632 GOSUB680
- 633 PRINT''[home][right, 10 times][com-0, 19 times]'
- 635 POKEB-V/O,U:PRINT''[home][d own][ri9ht, 10 times][rvs-o n][sp, 2 times]PLAY(sp]AGAI N(Y/N)'';
- 640 GETG\$:IFG\$=''''| HENGUSUB650 :GOTU640
- 645 IFG#= ' Y' THEN27
- 646 PRINTCHR\$(147):CLR:END
- 650 PRINT''[sp]?[left, 2 times]
 '';:GOSUB820:PRINT''?[sp]L
 left, 2 times]'';:GOSUB820
- 655 IFA-1=UTHENRETURN
- 660 POKEI,D+K:POKEI1,D+K:POKEI2 ,D+K:POKEI3,D+K:FORG7=1T015 0:NEXT
- 665 POKEI,D:POKEII,D:POKEIZ,D:POKEI3,D
- 666 FORG7=1TO75: NEXT: RETURN
- 680 PRINT('[home][down, 15 time s][ri9ht](';
- 681 PRINT/'[sp, 9 times]''(SPC(2.0)''([sp, 9 times]''(PRINT'' [sp, 2 times]''(PRINT''(LUP) ''(SPC(29)''([sp, 3 times]''
- 683 PRINTTINOMedicdown, 15 time sufrightim;
- 685 PRINT/1GHMES[sp]WON/1SPC(19)/1GAMES[sp]WONEdownJ/1:PRI NT/1[sp] 3 times]/1W1:PRINT /1[up]/1SPC(31)w2:RETURN

- 700 PRINT' (Lhome][down, 2 times][sp, 38 times]"
- 750 PRINTSPC(U-1)''LsP, / times
]'':PRINT''Lupl''SPC(F)''Ls
 p, 4 times|Lup, 5 times]'':
 RETURN
- 800 PRINTSPC(6)N#: KETURN
- 810 PRINTSPC(P+4)N\$: RETURN
- 820 FORFV=1T0175: NEXT: RETURN
- 830 PRINT' [home] down, 2 times][ri9ht, 15 times][com-@, 9 times]'
- 834 PRINT'[home][down, 3 times][right, 15 times][rvs-on][IE[sp, 2 times]UHME[rvs-off]'':GOTO633
- 850 PRINTY/[clr][down, 13 times][right, 13 times]CONNECT[s P]FOURY
- 851 PRINT''[ri9ht, 13 times][co m-Y, 7 times][sp][com-Y, 4 times]''
- 853 FORA=1T01000: NEXT
- 859 PRINTY (cir]DOLSPJYOUISPINE EDESPJINSTRUCTIONSISPJ(Y/N) [SPJY4]
- 860 GETR\$:IFR\$=1111THENGOSUB650 :GOTO860
- 870 IFR\$=''Y''THENPOKE198,0:GOT
- 880 POKE198,0: RETURN
- 900 PRINT''[clr]WELCOME[sp]TOLs P]CONNECT[sp, 2 times]Fuur''
- 910 PRINT/'[down][ri9ht, 13 times][up][left, 2 times][com-Y, 7 times][sp, 2 times][com-M-Y, 4 times][left, 14 times][down]A[sp]TWO[sp]PLAYER[sp]GAME(/
- 920 PRINT''[down, 2 times]THELS PloBJECT[sploF[sp]THELSP]GH ME[sp][S[sp]TO[sp]GE][sp]FU UR''

- 930 PRINT 'OFISP YOURLSP IP IECES LSPJINESPJHESPJKUW, ESPJHIES PITHE[SP] //
- 940 PRINT 'SAME(sp)TIME(sp)PREV ENTINGESP JYOURESP JUPPONENTE SP JFROM'
- 950 PRINT' DOINGISPITHEISPISHME
- 960 PRINT WHEN ESP 1400 ESP, 2 to mes JDROP[sp JYOUR[sp] HIEUELs PJITESPJFHLLS[SPJTUESP]"
- 970 PRINT THEESPIBOTTOMESPIOFE SPITHEISP IBOARDISP JORISP JOH [SP]TOP[SP]OF'
- 980 PRINT 'ANOTHERISPIPIECE.LSP JYOU[SP ICANNOTESP] RETAKELSP
- 990 PRINT "ALSP IMOVELSP JORESP JC HANGE (SP) PIECES. "
- 991 PRINT' [down, 2 times]HITLS P][rvs-on]RETURN[rvs-off][s PITUESPICONTINUE //
- 992 GETF\$: IFF\$=CHR\$(13)THEN995
- 993 GOTO992
- 995 PRINT''[clr]TO[sp]MOVE[sp]Y OU[sp]USE[sp]THE[sp]FOLLOWI NG "
- 1000 PRINT ([down]#4[sp]KEY[sp] O[sp]MOVE[sp]LEFT'
- 1010 PRINT' [down]#6[sp]KEY[sp] OLSP IMOVELSP IRIGHT **
- 1020 PRINT ' (down) [rvs-on] RETURN [rvs-off][sp]KEY[sp]TO[sp]P LACE[SP]YOUR[SP]PIECE/
- 1030 PRINT' [down, 2 times] THE [s PJGAME[SPJISISPJOVER[SP]WHE NISP JONE ISP JPERSUNESP JUETS!
- 1040 PRINT 'FOUR[SP]IN[SP]H[SP]R DW[SP]EITHERESPJUP-DUWN, "
- 1050 PRINT / LEFT-RIGHT, [SP]UR[SP JDIAGONALLY. "

- 1060 PRINT" IF[sp]BOTH[sp]OF[sp] YOU[SP]FAIL[SP]IN[SP]DOING [SP]SO[SP]AND[SP]ALL
- 1070 PRINT 'MOVES (SP) HRELSP J TAKE NISP THEISP TOAMELSP JENDSISP JIN[SP]A[SP]TIE''
- 1080 PRINT' [down, 2 times, HITEs PJ[rvs-on]RETURNLrvs-off][s PITOLSPIBEGIN'
- 1090 GETF\$: IFF\$=CHR\$(13)THENRETU RN
- 1093 GOTO1090





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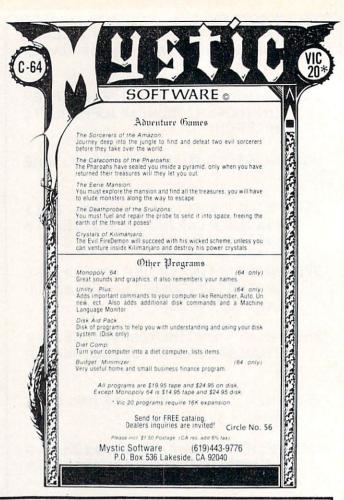
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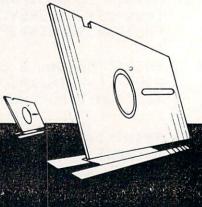
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"Portable" **Screen Control Symbols**

■By Noel Nyman

The Commodore special graphics commands provide an easy way to move the cursor and change screen format. However, a hard-copy listing of your program may be difficult to interpret by some one else. For example, the Commodore "clear screen" command is PRINT "[SHIFT—CLR/HOME]" which appears on the screen as a reverse heart. If you have a Commodore printer, it will print a reverse heart, although the character may be hard to read if you don't have a new ribbon. If you have another brand of printer, it probably won't print the Commodore symbol. Some intelligent interfaces will print a special code, but someone reading your listing must know what the special codes mean. My printer/interface will "lock up" and refuse to print anything when it finds a reverse heart in the program!

To make your program more readable to others, you can avoid the special graphics characters and use their CHR\$ equivalents. The shifted CLR/HOME key is ASCII code 147, and the command PRINT CHR\$ (147) will clear the screen. But this requires typing six more characters each

You can keep your typing to a minimum and still use the CHR\$ codes by using the program shown in Listing 1 to start each program you write. Type in the program and SAVE it using the name "FORMAT." (If using a VIC-20, follow note in line 51.) Then, before you start to write a new program, LOAD FORMAT. Begin your new program with line 100. The FORMAT program assigns string names to all the special format commands and color changecodes.

The balance of the program defines a series of two character strings for cursor control and screen formatting. These 67 S1\$=''[sP, 10 time string names are grouped by function in Table 1 and listed alphabetically in Table 2 to avoid duplication. The two character strings can save a lot of memory space

LISTING 1

- POKE53281,1:POKE532 50 80,1:POKE646,0
- 51 REMARKETOR THE VIC-20 THE PREVIOUS LI NE SHOULD REHD: 50 POKE36879,25
- 60 CS\$=CHR\$(147):CM\$= CHR\$(19):RV\$=CHR\$(18):RO\$=CHR\$(146): CT\$=CHR\$(20)
- 61 CI\$=CHR\$(148):CU\$= CHR\$(145):CD\$=CHR\$ (17):CR\$=CHR\$(29): CL\$=CHR\$(157)
- 62 UC\$=CHR\$(142):LC\$= CHR\$(14):SP\$=CHR\$(32)
- 63 WH\$=CHR\$(5):RD\$=CH R\$(28):GR\$=CHR\$(30): BL\$=CHR\$(31): BK\$ =CHR\$(144)
- 64 PR\$=CHR\$(156):YL\$= CHR\$(158): CY\$#CHR\$ (159)
- 65 D2#=CD#+CD#: D4#=D2 \$+D2\$:D6\$=D4\$+D2\$: D85=D45+D43
- 66 U2\$=CU\$+CU\$: U4\$=U2 \$+U2\$: U6\$=U4\$+U2\$: UB\$=U4\$+U4\$
- sj'': S2\$=''[sp, 20 times] ' : REM 10 A ND 20 SPACES

when used for cursor control. For example, to clear the screen and move the cursor down 16 lines normally requires 21 characters. Using FORMAT, you can do it with 14.

To illustrate some of the ways you can use FORMAT, type in program Listing 2. Don't forget to load FORMAT first. Once you've experimented with FORMAT, you'll find it's an easy way to save some program writing time and make your programs more "portable" to non-Commodore printers and other program users as well.



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Answer: g bencil



100 PRINT CS\$;SP\$;RV\$; 'THIS[sp]IS[sp]HL sp]HEHDER''

110 PRINT D8\$; "YOULSP JCANLSPJUSELSPJALS PJ2-STRING";

120 PRINT SP\$; 'COMMAN DISPITOISPIGETISP, 3 times]HERE'

130 PRINT D25;SP5;SP5;
''YOU'SPICANISPIOV
ERWKITEISPIALSPIST
ATEMENTISPIERSILY-

135 PRINT SPS; "FURISP

140 PRINT CD#;SP#; ''PR ESS[#P]H[#P]KEY'' 150 GET A≱:Ir A≨≈′′′′ GOTO 150

160 PRINT CU\$;SP\$; //YO U[sp]TYPED[sp]/(;A \$;S2\$

170 PRINT D2s;Rvs; "PR ESS(sp]Any(sp]KeY(sp]TO(sp]GO(sp]ON"

180 GET AS: IF AS=****
GOTU 180

190 PRINT CS\$; SP\$; 1100 LORESP 1 CHANGES 11

200 PRINT D4s; BLs; ''BL UE[sp]CHARACTERS''

210 PRINT CYS; "CYANES
PJCHARACTERS"

220 PRINT GR\$; ''GREEND splonnrhoters:'

230 PRINT PR#; "PURPLE ISPICHARHOTERS"

240 PRINT RD#; "TREDISP JCHARHCIERS"

250 PRINT YLS; "YELLOW ISPICHHRACTERS"

255 GOSUR 500

260 PKINT BK\$; CM\$; D8\$; D4\$; ''YOU[sp]CANIS PJUSELsp]THE''

265 PRINT ("HOMELSPIC URSOR"[splcommHND"

270 PRINT ''TOISPILEHY EISPISOMEISPITEXII SPIIN''

275 PRINT ('PLACEISPIW HILEISPICHANGING'

280 PRINT ('OTHERISPIS CREENISPIRKERS'

285 GDSD8 500:GDSD8 50

290 PRINT CM\$;D8\$;D8\$; D4\$;^^FOR[sp]ZXHMP LE^^;GOSUB_SUU

TABLE 1

CONTROL STRING NAMES

Cursor Commands

CD\$ - Cursor Down
CL\$ - Cursor Left
CM\$ - Cursor Home

CR\$ - Cursor Right

CU\$ - Cursor Up

D2\$ - Two Cursor Down Commands D4\$ - Four Cursor Down Commands

D6\$ - Six Cursor Down Commands
D8\$ - Eight Cursor Down Commands

U2\$ - Two Cursor Up Commands

U4\$ - Four Cursor Up Commands U6\$ - Six Cursor Up Commands

U8\$ - Eight Cursor Up Commands

Line Controls

Color Commands

BK\$ - Black Characters

BL\$ - Blue Characters

CY\$ - Cyan Characters

GR\$ - Green Characters
PR\$ - Purple Characters

RD\$ - Red Characters

WH\$ - White Characters

YL\$ - Yellow Characters

CI\$ - Insert CT\$ - Delete

WH\$ - White Characters

YL\$ - Yellow Characters

S1\$ - Ten Blank Spaces

S2\$ - Twenty Blank Spaces SP\$ - One Blank Space

Screen Commands

CS\$ - Clear Screen

LC\$ - Switch to Lower Case

RO\$ - Reverse Off RV\$ - Reverse On

UC\$ - Switch to Upper Case

TABLE 2

CONTROL STRING NAMES IN ALPHA ORDER

BK\$ - Black Characters ON - Basic Command BL\$ - Blue Charactets PR\$ - Purple Characters CD\$ - Cursor Down RD\$ - Red Characters RD\$ - Reverse Off CIS - Insert CL\$ - Cursor Left RV\$ - Reverse On CM\$ - Cursor Home S1\$ - Ten Blank Spaces S2\$ - Twenty Blank Spaces CR\$ - Cursor Right SP\$ - One Blank Space CS\$ - Clear Screen CTS - Delete - Commodore Reserved Word ST - Commodore Reserved Word CU\$ - Cursor Up TI CY\$ - Cvan Characters TIS - Commodore Reserved Word D2\$ - Two Cursor Down Commands TO - Basic Command D4\$ - Four Cursor Down Commands U2\$ - Two Cursor Up Commands D6\$ - Six Cursor Down Commands U4\$ - Four Cursor Up Commands D8\$ - Eight Cursor Down Commands U6\$ - Six Cursor Up Commands - Basic Command U8\$ - Eight Cursor Up Commands - Basic Command UC\$ - Switch To Upper Case

GR\$ - Green Characters

OR - Basic Command

LC\$ - Switch To Lower Case

- 300 PRINT CMs;D85;D85; D45; '(YOUISPICHNIS PICHRNGEISPI'';GOS UB 500
- 310 PRINT CMS;D8s;D8s; D4s;''R[sp]mESSHGE [sp]LIKE'';LEFIS(S 2s,7):DOSDB 500
- 320 PRINT CMS;D8S;D8S; D4S; "ACSP DREADER(SP DBOARD. ";LEFTS(S2S,6):GDSUB 500:G OSUB500
- S30 PRINT CM#;DH#;UH#; U4#;''THE(sp]LINES Lsp]DF(sp]TEXT'';L EFT#(S2#,4):GUSUB 500
- 340 PRINT CM#;D8#;D8#; D4#; ''CHN[#P]VHRY[#P]IN[#P]LENGTH''; LEFT#(82#;3):G08UB 500
- 350 PRINT CM\$; D8\$; D8\$; D4\$; '(BECHUSE [sp]T HE[sp]STRINGS''; LE PT\$(S2\$; 2): GOSUB 5
- 360 PRINT CM\$; D8\$; D8\$; D4\$; ''OFIsP JSPACES IsP JCAN(sP JBE''; LE FT\$(82\$,5); GOSUB 5
- 370 PRINT CM#; D##; D##; D##; 'ADDEDESPITOL SPIBLANKESPIOUT''; LEFT#(82#,3): GOSUB 500
- 380 PRINT CM\$; D8\$; D8\$; D4\$; ''ANY[SP]PREVI DUS[SP]TEX1.''; LEF T\$(S2\$,3): DUSUB500
- 390 PRINT CMS: DZS: END
- 500 FOR A=1TU1500 NEXT



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INVASION A VIC-20 GAME

By Gene Buckle

In this section we present selected programs from our younger contributors, whose developing computer skills should encourage all aspiring programmers to keep at it.

Your task is to defend your planet from invaders in the sky. You may fire only one missile at a time, and the enemy may drop only one bomb at a time.

Press "Z" to move left, "C" to move right, and "B" to fire. You'll receive 3 base ships per game, and will score two points for each alien destroyed. May the program be with you!

- 1 REM INVASION! BY G. BUCKLE
- 2 POKE36879,10
- 5 OF=30720
- 6 VA=9*16*13+14:VN=9* 16*13+13
- 8 POKEVA+1,40
- 9 PRINT''[clr][down,
 28 times][sp, 3 t
 imes][shf-E, 16 ti
 mes][sp, 2 times]''
- 13 IFPEEK(197)=35ANDB =0THENB=1:C=8079+A :L=1:P=15:POKEVN,1 58:POKEC,160:POKEC +OF,4:GOTO170
- 20 PRINT'([home][sp, 4 times]##[sp]INVH SION[sp]##''
- 21 PRINT''Z-LEFT, C-RI OHT, B-FIRE''

- 100 PRINT''[home][down 18 times]''
- 101 FORA=38400TO38400+ 22*23 :POKEA,0:NE XT:8=0
- 105 PRINT''[9rn][sp, 3 times][shf~-]''
- 110 PRINT''[sp, 3 time s][shf-W]''
- 115 PRINT''[9rn][sp, 3
 times][shf-W]''
- 120 PRINT''[up, 3 time s]'';
- 125 IFPEEK(197)=34THEN GOSUB300:A=A+1:GOT 0220
- 130 IFPEEK(197)=33THEN GOSUB300:A=A-1:GOT 0220
- 135 IFPEEK(197)=35ANDB =0THENB=1:C=8079+A :L=1:P=15:POKEVN,1 58:POKEC,160:POKEC +0F,4:GOTO170
- 136 IFL=0THEN140
- 137 POKEVA,P:P=P-1:IFP =-1THENL=0:POKEVN, 0
- 140 IFB=0THEN170
- 141 FORH=1T02
- 145 POKEC, 32: C=C-22

- 150 IFPEEK(C)=600RPEEK (C)=420RPEEK(C)=62 THEN600
- 155 IFCC7746THENB=0:GO TO170
- 160 POKEC, 33
- 161 NEXT
- 170 IFD=0THEN800
- 172 IFD=0THEN180
- 174 POKEE,32:POKEE-1,3 2:POKEE-2,32:K=K+1
- 176 IFE=ITHEND=0:GOTO1 80
- 178 E=E+J:POKEE,62:POK EE-1,42:POKEE-2,60
- 179 IFJ=1THEN182
- 180 IFINT((8098-E)/22) =22-KARNDF=0THENF= 1:G=E+21:M=21:GOTO 183
- 181 GOTO183
- 182 IFINT((8098-E)/22) =A-KANDF=0THENF=1: G=E+23:M=23
- 183 IFF=0THEN125
- 184 POKEG, 32:G=G+M
- 186 IFPEEK(G)C)32THEN7 00



Battle Hymn

A C-64 MUSICAL INTERLUDE

By Harry Metz

Although the C-64's sound chip is suitable for a wide variety of video game noises, it is also capable of generating rather sophisticated music. "Real" music is much more than simply a single-note melody line. It consists of at least 3-part harmony, and a careful balance of waveform tonal colors and dynamic (loud-soft) variations.

This program presents a familiar song written with 2- and 3-note chords. Each lyric is displayed on the screen at the moment the appropriate note is sounded. The programming technique used here is known as the "time division method" because each separate 3-tone chord is played for a specific duration according to

the tempo and the relative length of each note.

The structure of this program should be fairly easy to follow by anyone familiar with the basic principles of C-64 sound generation. Essentially, the computer has 3 separate "voices." At any given moment, each of the three voices can be set to produce a different musical note, or made silent. To produce a given tone on one voice, two numbers must be POKEd into memory. A table in the User's Manual lists which pairs of numbers correspond with the standard musical notes.

Each set of two DATA statements contains information about the duration, pitches, and lyric for each chord in the song.

For example, line 310 is used in the following way. The first value, 20, indicates the duration of the note. (If 20 represents a quarter note, then 10 would be half as long, or an eighth note.) The next two numbers, 38 and 126, set the first voice to the highest note of the chord. The second pair, 19 and 63, set the middle note, and the last pair set the low note. The next line, 315, contains the lyric that is printed to the screen when the chord is sounded. If a pair of numbers is 0,0, as in lines 300 or 330, then the corresponding voice is silent for the duration of that note.

I hope you enjoy the results of this exercise, and feel inspired to program your own favorite tunes.

| 100 | PRINT''[clr][down, |
|-----|--------------------------|
| | 4 times][wht] 'TAB |
| | (7) / BHITLEISP JHYM |
| | NESP JOF LSP J THE ESP J |
| | REPUBLIC |

- 105 PRINT:FOR T≈1 TO 3 000:NEXT
- 110 L1=54272:L2=54279: L3=54286
- 115 POKE53280,2:POKE53 281,6
- 120 H1=L1+1:H2=L2+1:H3 =L3+1
- 130 V1=L1+4:V2=L2+4:V3 =L3+4
- 140 POKE 54296, 15
- 150 POKE V1+1,9:POKE V 2+2,0
- 160 POKE V2+1,36:POKE V2+2,36

| 170 | POKE | V3+1,18:POKE |
|-----|-------|--------------|
| | V3+2, | 170 |

- 180 T=TI
- 200 POKE V1,16:POKE V2 ,32:POKE V3,16
- 210 READ S:IF S=0 GOTO 290
- 220 READ X1,Y1,X2,Y2,X 3,Y3,A\$
- 225 PRINT(([sp](()A\$)
- 230 IF X1 THEN POKE H1 ,X1:POKE L1,Y1:POK E V1,17
- 240 IF X2 THEN POKE H2 ,X2:POKE L2,Y2:POK E V2,33
- 250 IF X3 THEN POKE H3 ,X3:POKE L3,Y3:POK E V3,17

260 T=T+S

- 270 IF TOTI GOTO 270
- 280 GOTO 200
- 290 FORJ=L1 TO 54296:P OKE J,0:NEXT J
- 300 DATA 10,38,126,0,0
- 305 DATH MINE
- 310 DATA 20,38,126,19, 63,12,216
- 315 DATA EYES
- 320 DATA 10,38,126,19, 63,12,216
- 325 DATA HAVE
- 330 DATA 20,38,126,0,0
- 335 DATH SEEN

340 DATA 10,34,75,0,0,12,32 345 DATA THE 350 DATA 20,32,94,19,63,10,205 355 DATA GLO-360 DATA 10,38,126,19,63,10,205 365 DATA RY 370 DATA 20,51,97,0,0,9,159 375 DATA OF 380 DATA 10,57,172,0,0,9,159 385 DATH THE 390 DATA 20,64,188,19,63,12,216 395 DATA COM-400 DATA 10,64,188,19,63,12,216 405 DATA ING 410 DATA 20,64,188,0,0,9,159 415 DATA OF 420 DATA 10,57,172,0,0,9,159 425 DATA THE 430 DATA 30,51,97,17,37,6,108 435 DATA LORD; 440 DATA 20,51,97,0,0,8,23 445 DATA HE 450 DATA 10,48,127,0,0,8,23 455 DATA IS 460 DATA 20,43,52,14,107,8,147 465 DATA TRAM-470 DATA 10,43,52,14,107,8,147 475 DATA PLING 480 DATA 20,43,52,0,0,8,23



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485 DATA OUT 490 DATH 10,48,127,0,0,8,23 495 DATA THE 500 DATA 20,51,97,14,107,7,53 505 DATA VIN-510 DATA 10,48,127,14,107,7,53 515 DATA TAGE 520 DATA 20,51,97,19,63,9,159 525 DATA WHERE 530 DATA 10,43,52,19,63,9,159 535 DATA THE 540 DATA 20,38,126,25,177,12,21 545 DATA GRAPES 550 DATA 10,43,52,25,177,12,216 555 DATA OF 560 DATA 20,38,126,0,0,8,23 ''[sp, 2 times]WRATH'' 565 DATA 570 DATA 10,32,94,0,0,8,23 575 DATA ARE 580 DATA 30,38,126,19,63,9,159 585 DATA STORED. 590 DATA 20,38,126,19,63,12,32 595 DATA HE 600 DATA 10,38,126,19,63,12,32 605 DATA HATH 610 DATA 20,38,126,19,63,12,216 615 DATA LOOSED 620 DATA 10,38,126,19,63,12,216 625 DATA THE 630 DATA 20,38,126,0,0,12,32 ''[sp, 3 times]FATE-'' 635 DATA 640 DATA 10,34,75,0,0,12,32 645 DATA FUL 650 DATA 20,32,94,19,63,10,205 655 DATA LIGHT-660 DATA 10,38,126,19,63,10,205 665 DATA NING 670 DATA 20,51,97,0,0,9,159 675 DATA OF 680 DATA 10,57,172,0,0,9,159 685 DATA HIS 690 DATA 20,64,188,25,177,12,21 6 695 DATA TER-700 DATA 10,64,188,25,177,12,21 6 705 DATA RI--710 DATA 20,64,188,24,63,10,60 715 DATA ''[SP]BLE'' 720 DATA 10,57,172,24,63,10,60 725 DATA SWIFT 730 DATA 30,51,97,21,154,10,205 735 DATA SWORD. 740 DATA 30,51,97,21,154,10,60 745 DATA HIS 750 DATA 30,57,172,24,63,8,147 755 DATA TRUTH 760 DATA 30,57,172,24,63,7,53

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| 770 | DATA | 30,51,97,19,63,9,159 | 1040 | DATA | 20,51,97,21,154,8,147 |
|------|-------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 775 | DATA | MARCH- | 1045 | DATA | HRL |
| 780 | DATA | 30,48,127,19,63,9,159 | 1050 | DATA | 10,43,52,17,37,10,205 |
| 785 | DATA | ING | 1055 | DATA | LE |
| 790 | DATA1 | 20,51,97,19,63,6,109 | 1060 | DATA | 60,38,126,19,63,6,108 |
| 795 | DATA | "ONESP, 40 times]." | 1065 | DATA | LU |
| 800 | DATA | 45,38,126,16,48,6,108 | 1070 | DATA | 60,32,94,19,63,6,100 |
| 805 | DATA | GLO- | 1075 | DATA | 'JAHIESP, 8 times].'' |
| 810 | DATA | 10,34,75,12,32,7,53 | 1200 | DATA | 45,38,126,16,48,6,108 |
| 815 | DATA | RY | 1205 | DATA | GLO- |
| 930 | DATA | 20,32,94,12,32,8,23 | | DATA DATA | 10,34,75,12,32,7,53 RY |
| 935 | DATA | GLO- | 1220 | DATA | 20,32,94,12,32,8,23 |
| 940 | DATA | 10,38,126,14,107,7,53 | 1225 | DATA | GLO- |
| 945 | DATA | RY | | DATA | 10,38,126,14,107,7,53 |
| 950 | DATA | 20,51,97,16,47,6,108 | | | 20,51,97,16,47,6,108 |
| 955 | DATA | HAL | | DATA | |
| 960 | DATA | 10,57,172,17,37,7,53 | The state of the s | DATA | 10,57,172,17,37,7,53 |
| 965 | DATA | LE | | | |
| 970 | DATA | 60,64,189,19,63,6,108 | | | 60,64,189,19,63,6,108 |
| 975 | DATA | LU | Charles of the Control of the Contro | DATA | LU 30,51,97,16,47,10,205 |
| 980 | DATA | 60,51,97,16,47,10,205 | 1275 | DATA | 'JAHI[sp, 8 times].'' |
| 985 | DATA | <pre>//JAH![sp, 8 times].''</pre> | 1300 | DATA | 30,51,97,16,47,7,53 |
| 1000 | DATA | 45,43,52,17,37,7,53 | 1305 | DATA | HIS |
| 1005 | DATA | BLO- | 1310 | DATA | 30,57,172,10,205,8,147 |
| 1010 | DATA | 10,48,127,16,47,10,60 | | | TRUTH 30,57,172,10,205,8,147 |
| 1015 | DATA | RY | 1325 | DATA | |
| 1020 | DATA | 20,51,97,17,37,10,205 | 1335 | DATA | MARCH- 30,48,127,17,37,9,159 |
| 1025 | DATA | GLØ- | 1345 | DATA | ING |
| 1030 | DATA | 10,48,127,20,100,9,159 | 1355 | DATA | |
| 1035 | DATA | RY | A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR | DATA PRIN | T:PRINT:PRINT |
| | | | | | |



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HIGH RESOLUTION SCREEN DUMP FOR C-64

By Robert Parr

What is a screen dump? A screen dump is a program that allows you to draw a graphic picture on your computer's screen, and then have the printer make an exact duplicate of the picture.

For a screen dump program to work, you must have a dot matrix printer with dot-addressable graphics. Although a hires screen dump is fairly easy through a Commodore printer, accomplishing it with other common dot-matrix printers is more difficult. I have included listings for both Epson and Prowriter printers, because most brands of dot-matrix printers are compatible with one or the other.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Because I was interested in creating a program that would be organized in a simple manner and could easily be altered, I spent a little time trying to design a detailed input routine. The one I included (contained in lines 10-40) lets you enter your design from the keyboard, and then tell the computer that you are finished by pressing the <f1> key. It is cumbersome, but does get the job done.

Before I can explain how the rest of the program works, you need to know how a matrix printer works. Instead of printing an entire character at once as a type-writer does, it forms letters from individual dots, similar to newsprint. The print head that slides from side to side in your printer creates the dots by striking the printer ribbon with various combinations of eight "pins". These "pins" are arranged vertically within the print head.

During normal operation, the dot patterns for the ASCII character set are already stored in the printer's memory. Whenever the printer receives an ASCII code for a particular character, it instructs the "pins" to fire in the appropriate pattern, which in turn forms the character. However, it is possible for control of the print head to be transferred directly to the computer. By doing so, high-resolution graphics from the printer may be obtained.

A computer monitor is operated in much the same manner. The letters or graphic characters you see on the screen are created by numbers that correspond to horizontal rows of dots. These numbers are in binary notation, and are stored in the computer ROMs.

The principle behind this particular screen dump program is this—if you can take the numbers that are used by the screen to form character images, and convert them to numbers that can be utilized by the printer to make the same character, you can print any character available from the Commodore character set

Here is how the dump routine works. Lines 100–130 copy the character ROM into RAM. This allows the program to read the eight numbers that the computer uses to create its characters on the screen. Lines 140-160 dimension the variables that will be used in the conversion, and set up the printer for regular-density dot-addressable graphics. Lines 170-190 determine what character is to be compiled next, and store the values from the copied character ROM for that letter in variables H(0)-H(7). Lines 200-260 take care of the actual conversion, and lines 260-320 instruct the printer to print the characters one row at a time

One more note about program operation. Because it is written in BASIC, the program is very slow. It will take about one and one-half minutes after you press the <f1> key before the first line is printed, and approximately 30 minutes to copy the entire screen. Therefore, try to keep smaller pictures centered in the top portion of the screen, and then press the <run/stop> key once your picture is printed. This will cut down considerably on wasted run time.

10 PRINT ((clr)";

20 GET AS:PRINT ('[rvs-on][sp][left][rvs-off](';:IF AS=(''' THEN 20

30 IF A\$=CHR\$(133) THEN PRINT

40 PRINT A\$; : GOTO 20

100 POKE 56334, PEEK (56334) AND 2 54: POKE 1, PEEK (1) AND 251



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- 110 FOR I=0 TO 127:FOR J=0 TO 7: POKE 32768+I*8+J, PEEK(53248+ I*8+J):NEXT J:NEXT I
- 120 POKE 1, PEEK(1) OR 4: POKE 563 34, PEEK(56334) OR 1
- 130 POKE 55,255: POKE 56,127
- 140 DIM B(63):DIM V(39,7):S=0:OP EN 4,4,4
- 150 PRINT#4, CHR\$(27) / A / CHR\$(8)
- 160 PRINT#4, CHR\$(27) CHR\$(75) CHR\$
 (64) CHR\$(1);
- 170 FOR CL=1024 TO 2023:C=PEEK(C L)
- 180 L=(C*8)+32768
- 190 FOR X=0 TO 7:H(X)=PEEK(L+X): NEXT X
- 200 FOR Z=0 TO 63:B(Z)=0:NEXT
- 210 N=128:Q=0:FOR X=0 TO 7:M=128 :FOR Y=0 TO 7
- 220 IF H(X)=>M THEN B(Y+Q)=N:H(X) >=H(X)-M
- 230 M=M/2:NEXT Y:Q=Q+8:N=N/2:NEX T X
- 240 FOR Y=0 TO 7
- 250 V(S,Y)=B(0+Y)+B(8+Y)+B(16+Y) +B(24+Y)+B(32+Y)+B(40+Y)+B(4 8+Y)+B(56+Y)
- 260 NEXT Y: S=S+1
- 270 IF SK40 THEN 320
- 280 FOR S=0 TO 39:FOR Y=0 TO 7:P RINT#4,CHR\$(Y(S,Y));:NEXT Y: NEXT S
- 290 S=0
- 300 CLOSE 4,4,4:OPEN 4,4:PRINT#4,CHR\$(13);:CLOSE 4,4:OPEN 4,4,4
- 310 PRINT#4, CHR\$(27) CHR\$(75) CHR\$
 (64) CHR\$(1);
- 320 NEXT CL: CLOSE 4,4

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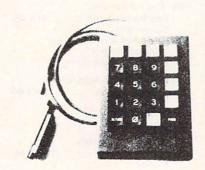
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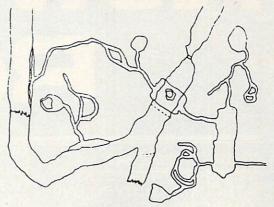
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Releases

CORD'S "SUPERCORD" INTERFACE AWARDED U.S. PATENT FOR ABILITY TO LINK **COMPUTERS AND TYPEWRITERS**

Santa Ana, CA-A new era of expanded possibilities for both computers and word processors has been opened with the granting to Cord Ltd. of Santa Ana, CA of the first United States Patent for a computer-typewriter interface. The design patent is for the Supercord, an interface that links nine different brands of electronic typewriters with at least twenty different brands of computers.

The use of Supercord overcomes a major obstacle in the purchase of either a personal computer or a typewriter. Personal computers either lack a printer or have had to utilize expensive printers which were restricted to use with the computer. Supercord combines the best of both computer and typewriter worlds.

Every popular brand of computer, including Commodore, can be used with the Patented Supercord for connection to a typewriter. The list of electronic typewriters able to use the newly Patented Supercord is equally impressive: Adler, Brother, Royal, Smith-Corona, Silver-Reed, and others. Supercord is offered in a variety of combinations to enable its attachment to specific computers and typewriter models. Whether the computer calls for an RS-232C, an IEEE-488, or a Centronics Parallel interface, there is a Patented Supercord to meet the need. There is even a Supercord II which contains a 4K memory, enabling the computer to receive data input while the typewriter is typing the previously entered data.

Available from Cord Ltd., 1548 Brookhollow Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92705, (714) 545-1643

96/COMMANDER • February 1984

MICRO-ED WILL DONATE **EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE** TO PROMOTE HOME/ SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL COOPERATION

Micro-Ed Incorporated, a Minneapolisbased publisher of educational software, will donate up to ten thousand dollars worth of educational programs to any elementary school library system that can meet certain standards for strengthening home/school cooperation in the area of computer-assisted instruction.

Micro-Ed's President, Thorwald Esbensen, who in 1980 was named by Executive Educator Magazine as one of the one hundred top school executives in North America, had this to say about his company's proposed grant:

"One of the persistent problems for educators and parents has been the development of effective communication channels between home and school. Confronted now with the growth of the home computer market, it behooves boards of education and their administrators to respond vigorously to the challenge of helping families make informed decisions with respect to the proper use of educational software.

"Consider the present situation. Although the initial impetus for purchasing a home computer may have been entertainment value, parents also know that micros can teach, and they want their children to benefit from that fact. What they often don't know is how best to proceed. At this point, the local school system can either offer some helpful guidance, or stand back and let events run their fragmented and spasmodic course.

"Micro-Ed's proposed software grant is designed to encourage the development of an orderly and comprehensive program for dealing with this problem. In part, it envisions the establishment of a free lending library of educational software for families. Important guidance components related to the regular school curriculum would need to be established as well."

Inquiries concerning specific qualifying standards for this grant should be directed to Thorwald Esbensen, President, Micro-Ed., P.O. Box 24156, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55424. The toll free telephone number is 1-800-MICRO-FD

FREE COMMODORE 64/PET **CATALOG OF EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE**

K-12 MicroMedia's new 28-page Fall 1983 catalog of critically selected educational software and books for the Commodore 64 and PET computers will soon be available. Over 175 recommended items are described and offered on a free 30-day approval basis.

The catalog also contains full details and an official entry form for K-12 MicroMedia's latest \$5,000 Software Give-away Contest. All 22 prizes, ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 gift certificates, will be awarded from a random drawing. No purchase is required, but all entries must be postmarked by May 1, 1984 to qualify.

The catalog is available free, upon request. Write: K-12 MicroMedia, Dept. CM, 172 Broadway, Woodcliff Lake, N.J.

07675.

PUBLIC DOMAIN EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

The 1983-1984 Educational Public Domain Software for Commodore Computers was released in September by the Ontario Educational Software Project. These programs were provided mainly by educators. The co-ordination was by a volunteer committee of teachers and board computer co-ordinators. This set includes 796 programs on 58 disks which are vastly improved over the previous public domain programs. Machine language is used where necessary for a faster response. Programs with sound perform on the 64 as well as the PET, 4032 and 8032.

Some programs are similar to the original set released last year but improved with machine language routines for speed. Over 15 subjects are covered with the following major categories.

Administration
Computer Science
French
Geography
Logic and Problem
Solving
Music
Science
Utilities

Business
English
Games
Language
Mathematics
Physical and Health
Education
Technology

Seven grade levels are covered from early childhood to college. Programs are menu driven using drills, simulations and games to provide a fun and interactive path to learning.

These Public Domain Programs are available free through user groups or friends. If you are unable to locate these programs through a user group or other source, they are available from dealers that supply Public Domain Programs and companies specializing in Public Domain Software.

Individual disks or the complete set of 796 programs on 58 disks with documentation are available from: Software Crafts, 405 Fairhaven Dr., Hurst TX 76054. Phone (817) 656-1805.

This set of 58 disks is priced at \$325.00.

COMMODORE AND MECC COOPERATE ON QUALITY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

West Chester, PA –Commodore Business Machines, Inc. has finalized an agreement with the Minnesota Educational Computing Consortium (MECC) for conversion and marketing of MECC software for the Commodore 64.

MECC will convert one hundred programs in the following subject areas: Biology, Music, Earth Science, Social Studies, Math, Reading, Nutrition, Language Arts, English, Spelling, and Computer Literacy.

MECC is an organization originally established to assist Minnesota schools and colleges in implementing computer based learning. Over the past ten years, it has developed an expertise in the educational computing field while working with educators worldwide. It has applied that expertise to the development of instructional computer programs that are now part of the curriculum in thousands of American schools.

Adaptation of the MECC programs for use with the Commodore 64 will effectively make high quality, educational software available nationwide. For the first time, home users of Commodore com-

puters will be able to obtain the same software that is being used in their schools. The programs are expected to be available on floppy diskettes beginning in the winter of 1983. They will be marketed by both Commodore and MECC through their regular distribution channels.

SCHOLASTIC CREATES A "SOFTWARE HOTLINE" TO KEEP EDUCATORS "SOFTWARE SMART"

New York, NY, –In an effort to keep gradeschool teachers up to date on the latest software packages, Scholastic Inc. has created a unique toll-free hotline for educators to provide instant access to new software by way of a computer hook-up. The hotline will supplement Scholastic's 1983-84 Microcomputer Instructional Materials Catalog which is published annually and mailed to more than 100,000 educators.

The hotline, which is called the Scholastic Selectronic[™] Catalog, provides a computer menu of new educational software offerings. It can be accessed with any microcomputer and modem by dialing 800-222-0093. This special Selectronic[™] Catalog is in operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Contact Susan Salzman, Publicity Manager, (212) 505-3477.





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Software Reviews

FORM MAKER FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Reviewed by Dennis Kelley

Form Generator, as the name implies, is a program to make and calculate forms. It can create mail lists, sales receipts, statements, invoices, etc. Any form can be produced, calculated and printed—one copy or many.

The program operates in much the same way as a spreadsheet. It is organized by defining "cells" which contain Constants, Inputs or Formulas. Cells can also be repeated.

The format for each cell can be selected as either numeric or text. The cell is then positioned simply by assigning a number, for example, entering the number 50.12 will print the information on line 50 at column 12. Labels such as "Quant * Price" are applied to the numeric cells and are used for formulas. The program can multiply, divide, add, subtract and sum.

A master menu of commands makes the program easy to use, and Technical Notes are available which help the user enhance and customize it.

Control of print format is limited to setting margins, number of columns, lines per page and number of copies. Non-Commodore printers can be used with a compatible interface, but features such as doublestrike or condensed print are not supported. Adding a printer set-up routine is a good place for the user to start modifying the program.

Once a form has been designed it can be saved to either tape or disk. Forms can be retrieved, and data that had been saved with the form can be retained on default.

Documentation consists of seven pages of instructions and examples, along with two sample files, Pricetag and Invoice. Pricetag is simply a pricelist with a retail price and a calculated discount price. Invoice is noteworthy because the instructions say it demonstrated every feature of Form Generator.

Sim Computer Products offers this program on each cassette/disk for both the Commodore 64 and the VIC-20 + 8K (16K expansion is recommended).

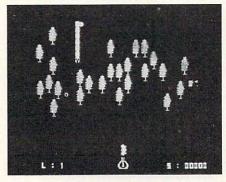
Performance is outstanding for such an inexpensively priced program.

"Form Generator"
SIM COMPUTER PRODUCTS, INC.
1100 E. Hector St.
Whitemarsh PA. 19428
Commodore 64/VIC-20+8K
Tape \$29.95 Disk \$34.95

A DEBUGGER GAME

Reviewed by Robert T. Parr

Killer Piller is a high-resolution arcadetype game from Castle Software. It comes on tape or disk for the Commodore-64, and requires a joystick.



The theme of Killer Piller is similar to that of the arcade game Centipede. You control a "bug sprayer" that moves horizontally and vertically along the bottom of the screen. The "killer piller" moves across the screen, eating as many of the trees that make up your "orchard" as it can. As it eats up trees, its body gradually gains segments. Every now and then, it will lay

eggs in the orchard, which eventually turn into moths that attack your sprayer. By pressing the fire button on the joystick, you are able to "spray" the bugs. If you "spray" the piller in one of the middle segments of the body, then it will split. You can eliminate the moths by hitting them with a shot from the sprayer. If the piller eats up all of your trees, or you get hit too many times by the moths, then you lose.

There are 7 screen levels and 2 difficulty levels. You are given 3 sprayers per level while in the Novice setting, but the Advanced level allows only 3 sprayers per game. However, bonus sprayers are awarded at 20,000 and 70,000 points. I like the difficulty option, as it allows beginning players to achieve some success, but maintains a challenge for more skilled players.

The game will pause if any key is pressed, then restart with another keystroke. Player movement is very responsive. The bright graphics and sound effects are some of the best I have seen for the C-64.

Overall, I feel that Killer Piller is a very well written game that should provide entertainment for many Commodore 64 owners.

"Killer Piller"
CASTLE SOFTWARE
P.O. Box 350
New Castle, DE 19720
Commodore 64 (Joystick required)
Cassette \$9.99
Disk \$12.75

A DAY AT THE RACES

Reviewed by Dennis Kelley

Kentucky Derby is a new game which takes you and your friends (up to three) to the track. You make your bets to win, place or show after examining the odds. If you are undecided, the program even has

February 1984 • COMMANDER 199

a help feature where you can get advice from Hot Tip Sam.

When all the bets are down, you hear the familiar "Call to the races" trumpeted and then the six horse field is off with a gallop.



The sound and graphics realistically simulate a horserace with the jockeys changing lanes and some horses falling back while others advance. Heading into the fourth turn, you begin to anticipate your horse making his move for the final stretch. As the horses cross the finish line you start doing the mental arithmetic on how much you won or how much you'll have to bet in the next race to get even.

Your math doesn't have to be perfect, since the program automatically calculates your winnings (or loses) at the end of every race and adjusts your bank. You start



FLIGHT SIMULATOR GAMES

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| Runway 20 (16K VIC-20) | \$25.00 |
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| Micro-Pilot (EPSON HX-20) | \$18.00 |

ADD \$200 FOR DISK VERSION



Submarine Battle Games 8K VIC-20 or Commodore 64 **\$25.00**

SUSIE SOFTWARE

709 Wilshire Dr. Mt. Prospect, IL 60056 (312) 394-5165

Circle No. 149

the game with \$100 and you can borrow from the track, but be forewarned that Hot Tip Sam is not the most reliable of touts

An unusual feature of this Inside Basic series of programs from Sim Computer Products is a promise to mail you Technical Notes when you send in the owner registration card. Armed with a program overview, suggested changes, user instructions and variable charts, you are encouraged to customize and expand the program.

Graphics and sound are nicely implemented and are very similar for both the

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| IN SEARCH OF THE MOST AMAZING THING: Graphic adventure for kids | |
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SYNAPSE SOFTWARE

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| SHAMUS: Four Levels of 32 Rooms, Adventure Game, Vic/64 | \$29.99 |
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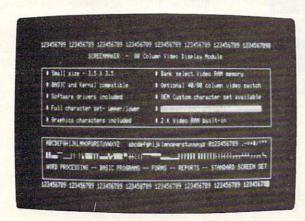
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DON'T LAUGH

Silly Industries of Sherman Oaks, California, announces the release of its new "Silly Software" line. Silly Software is "non-functional, non-competitive and non-useful—its only purpose is to entertain," according to Silly Executive Tom Hensley.

Hensley, who doubles as a pianist, arranger and songwriter for singer Neil Diamond, described the firm's first release "Silly 64", as "a sort of Silly Sampler of what the silly people here are up to."

It includes such options as "Sillypoem", which creates random poetry using operator input; "Silly data", which screens a series of meaningless but impressive graphs; "Sillycrisis", which simulates the destruction of the computer; and "Annoying Repetitious Message", which is just what the name implies.

Hensley declined to elaborate on future Silly Software releases, because "there may be people out there who are silly enough to want to steal our ideas," but indicated that "we intend to get stranger as we go along."

He also stressed that Silly Software isonly available for the Commodore 64. "Anyone who would buy an Apple or one of the other overpriced dinosaur computers in this day and age has reached a transcendental level of silliness that's way beyond anything we have to offer," he noted.

Silly 64 is priced at \$19.95 and is exclusively distributed on this planet by DES-SOFT, a division of DES Data Equipment Supply, 8315 Firestone Boulevard, Downey, California 90241.

Hensley pointed out that many companies were screened before the choice of DES was made. "We wanted a company located in a silly-sounding town, and Downey was a logical choice," he pointed out.

Circle No. 250



PRACTICALC PLUS™ FOR VIC-20

Computer Software Associates of Randolph, MA has announced the availability of PractiCalc Plus, a spreadsheet program for the VIC-20. Requiring a 16K RAM expander, this second generation of PractiCalc offers the advanced functions of high resolution graphics and an inherent data base manager.

PractiCalc Plus allows the user to have numbers instantly converted into histograms (bar graphs) by depressing a single key

The built-in data base manager allows for sort and search routines, arranging data in numerical or alphabetical order, maintaining and searching files of customers, phone numbers, recipes, etc.

PractiCalc Plus is useful for preparing budgets and business projections; keeping track of expenses, investments and inventory; detailing salespersons' activities, etc. It carries a suggested retail price of \$49.95 in both tape and disk formats. For additional information contact:

Micro Software International, Inc. The Silk Mill 44 Oak Street Newton Upper Falls, MA 02164 (617) 527-7510

STOCK BRIEF-64

A disk-based filing system for recording securities transactions on C-64, CBM 4032 and 8032 has seven User Friendly commands: BUY-SELL-VALUATE-EDIT-LIST-DIRECTORY-QUIT, with automatic file updating and hard copy available on all transactions. It supports multiple files with easy disk directory, computes dividend yield, and allows current stock prices to be entered to see "results if" shares were to be sold.

Price: \$50.00 Post Paid. Available from: MYSTIC SOFTWARE P.O. BOX 25 Circle No. 252 MYSTIC, CT 06355

PASCAL FOR C-64 FROM ABACUS

For those C-64 owners who have been waiting for the popular Pascal language, Abacus Software brings you ZOOM Pascal 64.

This version is fast running because it produces 6502 machine language, not P-code, and gives you the programming convenience of a structured high-level language. Data types include floating point reals, integers, strings and scalars. You can access conventional text files on disk or tape.

The ZOOM Pascal 64 package consists

- EDITOR so you can create, save and modify your Pascal source language statements
- COMPILER to translate the Pascal source language statements into intermediate code
- TRANSLATOR to translate the intermediate code into actual 6502 machine language
- Comprehensive user's manual

104/COMMANDER • February 1984

 Sample programs to show you how to get the most from ZOOM Pascal 64

ZOOM Pascal 64 only on diskette for \$39.95. Available from your local dealer or directly from:

ABACUS Software P.O. Box 7211 Grand Rapids, MI 49510 (616) 241-5510

BEHIND THE 8K BALL

POOL brings the billiard parlor to your home without the smoke-filled room. Written for either the C-64 or VIC-20 (with 8K expander), POOL uses high resolution graphics, and allows you to play either nine-ball or straight-pool. You control the speed and angle of the cue ball from the keyboard. Take your shot, watch the balls roll and then listen to the clatter as they hit each other.

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BOOK FOR THE COMMODORE 64

The ANATOMY OF THE COMMODORE 64 is aimed at Commodore 64 owners who want to better understand micros. It is a 300-page, detailed guide to the lesser known features of the C-64.

Here's an outline of the contents:

- 1. Machine Language Programming on the Commodore 64.
- The Next Step-Assembler Language Programming
- 3. A Close-Up Look at the Commodore 64
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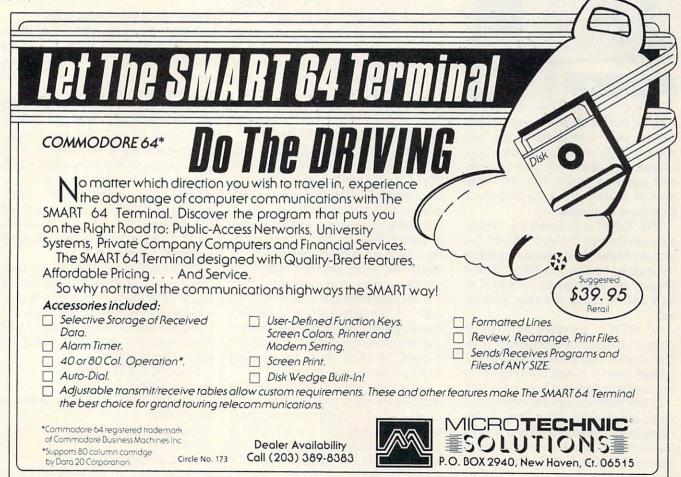
VARIETY FROM ARFON

Arfon Micro announces the release of three new programs for the VIC-20 and Commodore 64.

MicroBase is a data base and mailing label/report generator for the VIC-20 and Commodore 64. It allows up to 12 fields per record, up to 80 characters per field, and up to 176 characters per record. It allows you to sort by any field using any of seven different alpha, numeric, or character match parameters. With MicroBase you will be able to print mailing labels, reports, inventories, and more. Suggested retail prices are \$29.95 for cassette and \$34.95 for disk.

Microterm 64 is a terminal communications program for the Commodore 64. With Microterm 64 you will be able to download incoming files to disk, tape, or printer, and upload and transmit files from tape or disk. Suggested retail prices are \$39.95 for cassette and \$44.95 for disk.

Baldor's Castle is a fast-moving real time graphic adventure for the VIC-20. Can you fight off nine different types of monsters with just your bare hands, or will you need bow and arrow, magic sword, potions and more to steal Baldor's gold? The castle contains more than 70 rooms on three levels. Fast on-screen graphics make this the adventure of a lifetime (if you live!). Program is on cartridge and is more fun with a joystick. Suggested retail price is \$29.95. An advanced version for the Commodore 64 is scheduled for release in



the fall of 1983 and will have more than 250 rooms with 10 levels and the option of designing your own castle. It will be available on disk.

Programs may be ordered directly from Arfon Micro, 111 Rena Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, (318) 988-2478. Dealer inquiries are welcome. Circle No. 256

COMPUTER SOFTWARE ASSOCIATES INTRODUCES LINE OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE VIC-20

"Reading and writing and 'rithmatic Taught to the tune of a silicon chip . . ."

That old schoolroom ditty will never be the same again now that microcomputers have become as much a part of the classroom as chalk dust. In keeping with this trend, Computer Software Associates (CSA), a Massachusetts-based publisher of home and entertainment programs, is offering its initial line of educational software designed especially for preschoolers and elementary school pupils. Programs include Math Duel, Tiny Tutor, Vic Sketch and Composer, all on cassette tape for the unexpanded VIC-20.

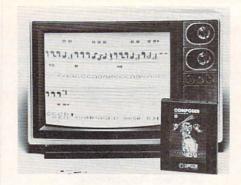


MATH DUEL is designed for grades one through six. The program teaches basic number skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) by pitting the student against a dragon in a den. Three levels of difficulty permit the program to be enjoyed by all ages.

TINY TUTOR is designed for toddlers between the ages of two and seven. The program features mathematical problems delivered via "trollies on a track." Correct answers are rewarded by fun sound effects and the arrival of a new "problem train."

VIC SKETCH, a versatile etch-a-sketch program, enables the user to draw in any one of seven colors. All drawings can be printed, saved or erased. Drawings can be executed with keyboard keys or a joystick.

COMPOSER teachers the rudiments of music, enabling the user to compose simple melodies, using the computer to key in the notes and rests. The melodies can be stored on the Datasette recorder for later playback.



MATH DUEL and TINY TUTOR carry a suggested list price of \$19.95; VIC SKETCH and COMPOSER, \$14.95.

For additional information contact, Micro Software International, Inc., 44 Oak Street, The Silk Mill, Newton Upper Falls, MA 02164. Telephone (617) 527-7510.

Contact: Sue A. Robbins Paul Kaufman Associates 149 Madison Avenue New York, N.Y. 10016 circle No. 257 (212) 685-6161

DOWN ON THE FARM

Cyberia, Inc. announces the fourth volume of the Farm Manager series for Commodore 64, dedicated to production and marketing of grain. The three previous volumes include: Volume 1–General Business, Volume 2–Beef Production, and Volume 3–Pork Production. Each volume of the series retails for \$49.95. Available from: Cyberia, Inc., Box 784, Ames, IA 50010.

HARD-HITTING SOFTWARE

Phantom Software presents... "The ATTACK of the PHANTOM KARATE DEVILS" for the Commodore 64. This is an action-packed, arcade-style martial arts game—the first animated karate simulation of its kind. The player uses the joystick to control the animated actions of the hero. Ferocious punches, flying kicks, and spectacular jumps are used against the relentless onslaught of marauding ninjas. The hero gains strength by surviving each wave of computer-animated attackers, thereby gaining entry to the Netherworld and new challenges. Fighting sticks, flying daggers, shooting stars, and scrolling scenery make the play more exciting.

The game features an eye-attracting demo mode with a spectaculer animated karate match in a twilight temple garden setting. The suggested retail price is \$34.95. Available from Phantom Software, 1116A 8th Street, Suite 155, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 Circle No. 259

CHARTPAK-64

CHARTPAK-64 is a comprehensive package that gives you professional quality charts in high resolution graphics without any programming.

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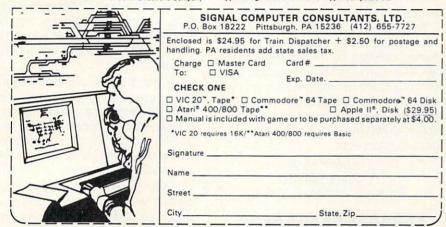
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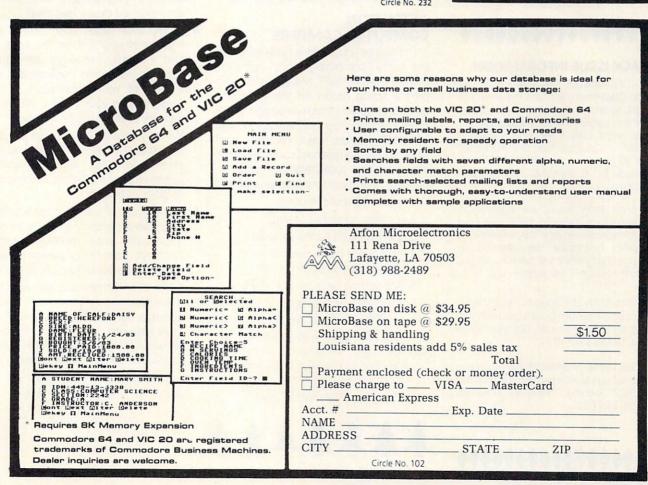
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- 1. age and sex of camper(s)
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- 3. software and hardware used
- 4. number of hours per day in computer instruction or labs
- 5. Sponsoring organization, if any
- 6. Day camp or overnight

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Submitted materials should follow these guidelines;

- Articles must be typed double-spaced, in upper and lower case on 8½" × 11" paper, with at least 1½" margins on all sides. Good quality printers may be used if the output is clear and dark. Two copies of each article should be included.
- 2. Programs must be provided in both hard-copy listing and machine-readable form (tape or disk). Where feasible, please include both C-64 and VIC-20 versions. If not accepted for publication, materials can be returned only if a SASE is enclosed.
- 3. On each page should appear your name, the title of the article, the date submitted, and the page number. Any accompanying listings, photos, graphs, etc., must be clearly identified.
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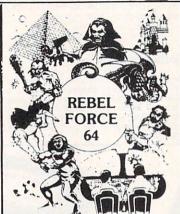
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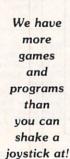
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UPDATES, CLARIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MATERIAL

SLOT MACHINE FOR C-64, OCTOBER 1983, p.32

If you've experienced any confusion over how to run this program, here are some step-by step instructions:

- 1. Type in Listing 2 and save on disk as "SLOT.BOOT"
- 2. Type in Listing 1 and save on disk as "SLOT-DATA"
- 3. Type in Listing 3 and save on disk as "SLOT"

The order of steps 1, 2, and 3 is not important, but at this point you should have three separate files stored on one disk. Be sure to proof the listings before going any further.

- 4. LOAD and RUN "SLOT-DATA"
- 5. LOAD and RUN "SLOT.BOOT"

If all goes well, you should now be ready to play!

(Some readers may have noticed on p. 117 that DATA lines 2230-2320 were printed twice. It won't hurt to repeat them as you type the program, but it won't help either.)

For those of you who prefer to LOAD and RUN without going through the typing, Mr. Gaukel has sold this program to Superior Graphics Emporium, who commercially distributes it on tape or disk.

SPECIAL CHARACTERS IN PROGRAM LISTINGS

In the October 1983 issue of COM-MANDER, some of the BASIC program listings include numbers such as <192> and <196> to indicate special characters that should be typed between quotation marks. (See pages 57 and 92 for examples.) In case you are wondering what to do at that point in the program, the answer can be found in the CHR\$ index listed in the User's Manual of your VIC-20 (pp. 145 - 147) or C-64 (pp. 135 - 137). If the bracketed number is between 192 and 223, subtract 96 before looking in the

table. If it is between 224 and 254, subtract 64. The symbol \$\(\)192\(\) , for example, means press the key which represents the graphics character "-", or [Shift-*] which is the same as CHR\$(96).

ENDING, ENDING, WHO'S GOT THE ENDING?

In our November issue, Jerry Byrd's column "The Pro Gram" was really longer than it may have appeared at first glance. At the bottom of page 54, we inadvertently omitted the statement "Continued on Page 102." However, we are pleased to note that those who read *COMMANDER* backwards would have experienced no problem, since the top of page 102 clearly says "Continued from page 54."

RESET THE VIC CLOCK

The article titled "Vic Clock" published September, 1983 has two errors in the program listing on page 97. Lines 9510 and 9930 should be corrected as follows:

9510 CHAR 0, 15,"XX.XX":

AC = AC + 1

9930 GRAPHICO:IFCH\$ > "2"THEN PRINTAC:"RIGHT":PRINTW;
'WRONG":FOR JJ = 1TO1000:NEXTJJ

BASICMON CORRECTION

In our last issue (December/January, Vol. 2, No. 1) the program entitled BASIC-MON in Eric Giguere's article, "Using a Machine Language Monitor" had one line that was accidentally cut off. On page 132, program line 50 should read:

50 MA = 0:IFPEEK(806) = 202THEN MA = 1:REM MA = 0 FOR VIC, MA = 1 FOR C64

COMMAND POST RX FOR C-64 OCTOBER 1983, p. 62

The following information should help you adapt the Command Post RX program in our October issue to the C-64.

| 1 | ۷ | ı | C- | 2 | 0 |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| | | | | | |

C-64

| Joystick Port | User Port | User Port | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|--|--|
| R=4 | R=1 | R=1 | | |
| DR=37139 | DR=37138 | DR=56579 | | |
| JS=37137 | JS=37136 | JS=56577 | | |
| Pin 8-ground | Pin A-ground | | | |
| Pin 1-input | Pin C-input | | | |

Note: No Joystick connection is shown for the C-64 since this port is handled differently than on the VIC-20

Substitute the values in this chart for those in line 200 of the listing.

- 187 IFG>7680+22*21THENF=0:GOTO50 0
- 189 POKEG, 81: GOTO125
- 220 IFRCOTHENS=0
- 221 IFA>15THENA=15
- 222 PRINTTAB(A)''[sp, 3 times][s hf--]''
- 225 PRINTTAB(A)''[sp, 3 times][s hf-W]''
- 230 PRINTTAB(A) ''[9rn][sp, 3 times][shf-W]''
- 235 PRINT''[up, 3 times]'';:GOTO 135
- 300 PRINTTAB(A)''[sp, 4 times]''
- 305 PRINTTAB(A)''[sp, 4 times]''
- 310 PRINTTAB(A) / [sp, 5 times] //
- 315 PRINT''[up, 3 times]''; RETU
- 400 PRINTPEEK(197): GOTO400
- 500 POKEG,66:POKEG+1,78:POKEG-1, 77:POKEG-20,46:POKEG21,46:PO KEG-22,46
- 510 POKEG-23,46:POKEG-24,46
- 520 FORRA=1TO100:NEXT
- 530 POKEG,32:POKEG+1,32:POKEG-1, 32:POKEG+20,32:POKEG-21,32:P OKEG-22,32
- 535 POKEG-23,32:POKEG-24,32
- 590 GOTO125
- 600 POKEC,42 :POKEC+1,42 :POKEC+ 22,42 :POKEC-22,42:GOT0605
- 601 L=0
- 605 POKEC, 42: POKEC-1, 42: POKEC -2 2, 42: POKEC+22, 42: POKEC-1, 42
- 610 POKEYN, 128+100
- 611 FORGG=15TO0 STEP-1:POKEYA,GG :FORGH=1TO70:NEXT:NEXT

- 615 B=0:D=0
- 616 POKEC,32:POKEC+1,32:POKEC-1, 32:POKEC+2,32:POKEC-2,32:POK EC+3,32:POKEC-3,32
- 617 POKEC-22,32:POKEC+22,32
- 640 E=E+22+J:POKEYA,15:POKEYN,0:
- 645 POKEE,62:POKEE-1, 87 :POKEE-2,60
- 646 FORO=248T0253:POKEVN-1,0:NEX T:FORO=253T0248STEP-1:POKEVN -1,0:NEXT
- 647 POKEE,32:POKEE-1,32:POKEE-2, 32
- 650 IFEC7680+20*22THEN640
- 651 E=E+J
- 652 POKEE+22,62:POKEE+21,87 :POK E+20,60:POKEE+0F,4:POKEE+0F-1,4:POKEE+0F-2,4
- 653 POKEE+22+OF,0:POKEE+21+OF,0: POKEE+20+OF,32
- 654 POKEVN-1,0:POKEVN,128:FORQ=1 TO20:POKEVA,15-INT(Q/1.33)
- 655 POKEE,223:POKEE-1,223:POKEE-2,223:FORO=1TO80:NEXT
- 656 POKEE, 169: POKEE-1, 169: POKEE-2, 169: FORO=1T080: NEXT
- 657 NEXT: POKEE, 32: POKEE-1, 32: POK EE-2, 32: POKEE+22, 32: POKEE+21, 32: POKEE+20, 32:
- 658 PRINT' [home][down, 2 times]
- 659 DU=DU+2:DU\$=STR\$(DU):PRINT''
 [home][down, 2 times]SCORE''
 DU\$:PRINT''[down, 15 times]''
 :IFDT>5THEN806
- 660 GOTO125
- 700 POKEYN, 128:L=0
- 701 A=A+1:FORKL=1TO200:POKEVA,15 -INT(KL/13):

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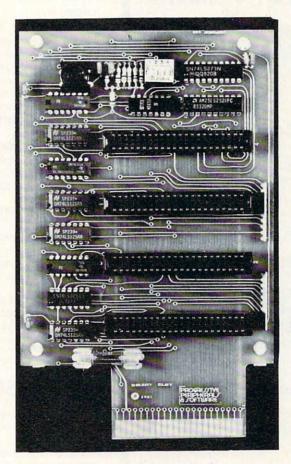
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- 725 PRINTTAB(A) ''[pur][shf-f, 3 times]'
- 735 PRINT''[up, 2 times]'';
- 740 NEXT
- 745 PRINTTAB(A)''[sp, 4 times]''
- 750 PRINTTAB(A)''[sp, 4 times][9 rn] '
- 751 PRINTTAB(A-1)''[sp, 5 times]
- 752 PRINT''[up, 3 times]'';
- 756 PRINT' [home][down, 2 times]
- 757 DT=DT+1:PRINT' [home][down, 2 times][right, 12 times]BAS ES''DT:PRINT''[down, 15 time 4]//
- 758 IFDT25THEN806
- 760 F=0:A=0:GOTO105
- 800 D=1:E=7702+INT(RND(1)*14)*22 +88 : I=E-20:K=0:J=-1:IFRND(1)>.5THENE=E-21: I=E+20: J=1
- 805 GOTO172
- 806 IFDU>HSTHENHS=DU
- 807 PRINT' [clr][down, 4 times][sp, 3 times]YOUR[sp]SCORE[sp]="">1="">1
- 808 PRINT' [SP, 3 times] HIGH[SP] SCORE[SP]='';HS
- 820 PRINT' [down, 2 times][sp, 2 times]TRY[sp]AGAIN[sp](Y/N)
- 830 POKE198,0: INPUTF\$: IFLEFT\$(F\$,1)=''Y''THEN1
- 840 END



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Continued from page 72

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After several additional weeks the orders should start coming in. If not try and find out why not. You have been keeping a mailing list of all those who answered your ad haven't you? Perhaps your price is a bit stiff, consider discounting. The amount of leeway you have of course depends on what your price was to begin with and what your time is worth to you. Remember also, if your program is priced reasonably most people will not go to the trouble of stealing it, but the higher the price the more you invite pirating.

Everything is going well at this point, what do you do next? First of all make sure you have arranged to have your ad run in the next issue as well. Remember the needed lead time. In some cases you may have to initially place two ads at once in order to make the deadlines for both issues. Consider the same ad in another publication-your second choice based on readership. Usually the rates there will be a bit cheaper. Most importantly, start thinking about your next product. Your customers will want to know what else you have available. If you carry

a variety of programs you increase the chance of having something your customer wants, besides inviting repeat sales to the same customer. The process for your next project should be identical, the same amount of development and testing time, the same thoughtful attention to the documentation.

ONE MAN'S CALLING

But you are not a programmer, you say. You do not LIKE trying to keep GOSUBS straight from FOR/NEXT loops. Are you an electronics experimenter? Have you ever designed a printed circuit board or built simple projects? There is a definite lack of availability of simple interfacing hardware for the small home computers. Control of all kinds of things is possible and even simple with an interface between your computer and the outside world. Collaborate with someone to write your program, and you design the hardware.

THE GREAT AMERICAN PROGRAM

Your program is a success but you have saturated the market. Your program wasn't so successful but is still a good program that you would like to share with others and recover some of your time and money. You don't like building things. There is yet another avenue open to help finance your hobby. Write up your program and submit it for publication! Again, you won't get rich, but you will get a certain notoriety and will at least defer some of your costs.

I know, you told me before you don't like programming. Sometimes an "idea" article without a specific program can be saleable. Think of things that are related. An article I wrote on duplicating data cassettes was based on years of experience in the audio visual field, not on years of experience with home computers. Perhaps you are a telephone person, knowledgeable about connecting to the phone lines. You could write an article about modems, or about transmission errors encountered on landlines. Let's say you are a heating and cooling specialist. You could explain heat loss and discuss how the formulas you use could be used in an energy audit program.

Well, you've collected some bucks and are ready to make additions to your system. The nice thing about this cycle is that as your system grows you can develop software and hardware and articles that use these new pieces of equipment. Your customers are probably growing along with you making them likely candidates for your new products.

Additionally you may find that the type of program you are offering is not available for several small home computers.

Consider reinvesting some of your profit in a different small computer and adapting your program to that system. The Commodore VIC-20 and C-64 offer a unique opportunity in that although the software is not directly interchangeable, the peripherals are. So you can take your profits to upgrade to a 64 and offer software for both. Again you might consider collaborating with someone who owns a different machine in order to accomplish this same goal.

UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU (TO MAKE A PROFIT)

This is the clincher, folks. If you do it right, all of your development costs and new hardware can be deducted as business expenses for your small business. It is beyond the scope of this article to discuss the particulars of business deductions, but they are the same for this type of sideline as for any other. Basically as long as you keep receipts and are honestly trying to make money you should be OK. Under certain circumstances you may even be able to deduct the cost of the room where you do your computing. But don't try to deduct a new Atari game machine for the kids!

For anyone willing to use a little creativity your computer hobby can pay for itself. Of great additional value is the knowledge that you gain for yourself. I look forward to seeing your ad!



Key-Mander

HOW TO TYPE IN BASIC PROGRAMS FROM COMMANDER MAGAZINE

As you probably know, your computer has a limited vocabulary and responds to BASIC language instructions in an extremely literal way. Programs listed in COMMANDER are carefully pretested, and should run as intended on your computer if they are copied properly. The following guidelines should help to clarify some important points about entering programs through the keyboard.

WRAP AROUND

Every "line" in a BASIC program begins with a line number and ends when you press the [RETURN] key. If a line in the program contains more characters and spaces than can fit on the width of your screen, just keep typing and the computer will automatically continue on the next row of the screen. You should press [RETURN] only once before starting the next line number. A 40-column C-64 or PET will "wrap-around" a program line for no more than 2 screen rows, with a maximum of 80 characters per program line. The 22 column VIC-20 can wrap around up to 4 rows (88 characters) in a program line.

SPACES

In a BASIC statement, spaces are usually ignored by the computer but may be added by programmers to increase readability. However, when the "quote mode" is in effect (see below), spaces do count. Unless you have good reason to do otherwise, it is probably safest to type spaces as they appear in our listing. Please note, however, that wrap-around lines will not be indented on your screen the way they appear in our published listing.

PUNCTUATION

Pay careful attention to punctuation symbols. You may not think there's much difference between a colon and a semi-colon, but the computer certainly does. All commas, parentheses, and other special characters should be faithfully copied.

PLEASE NOTE: For technical reasons, quotation marks are listed as a double apostrophe. When you see that, press [Shift-2] for the quotation mark symbol.

ONES AND ZEROS

Among the most common errors of beginners (and even experts) is confusing the numbers 1 and 0 with the letters I, L, and O. You may have learned to type a lower case L for 1 on a typewriter, but most computers will not allow it. In our listings, pay close attention to the shape differences between the numbers 1 and 0 and the similar letters, I and 0.

SAVE IT WHEN YOU CAN

It is wise to SAVE a program on tape or disk before running it. That way, if the computer "locks up" or becomes inoperative because of an error, you won't have to re-type everything. For a very long program, it is advisable to save what you have entered after every 20 or 30 minutes of typing.

THE "QUOTE MODE"

Most Commodore computers incorporate an extremely useful, though tricky, feature called the Quote Mode. This allows you to program screen control functions, including cursor movement and character color changes, within a PRINT statement. Quote Mode is turned on whenever the quotation mark key [shift-2] is pressed. It is turned off when the quotation mark key is pressed again, or when the [RETURN] key is pressed.

When the quote mode is on, any time you press either a cursor control key, a color control key (such as [ctrl-wht]), or a reverse control key, you will see an inversed graphic character appear on your screen. These characters have no obvious meaning by themselves except as indicators that certain control functions have been inserted in the program. These inverse graphic characters also appear in normal, hard-copy (paper) listings of a program, but are nearly impossible to interpret in that form.

THE COMMANDER "QUOTE MODE" LISTING FORMAT

To make your task as easy as possible, COMMANDER has adopted a unique format for all control and graphic characters, as well as spaces, that occur between

quotation marks. In our listing, each special character is represented by an abbreviation that appears between a pair of square brackets. For example, [down] means to press the cursor-down key once. The abbreviation [com-G] means to hold down the Commodore logo key (at the far lower right of the keyboard) while pressing G. When you see [shf-W], hold the shift key and press W. The space bar is indicated by the symbol [sp]. When the same special key is to be pressed more than once, the number of repeats will be shown between the brackets, for example, [right, 8 times].

Here is a list of the most common special key abbreviations:

| Abbreviation | Key(s) to Press |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| [blk] | CTRL & 1 |
| [wht] | CTRL & 2 |
| [red] | |
| [cyn] | |
| [pur] | |
| [grn] | |
| [blu] | |
| [yel] | |
| [rvs-on] | |
| [rvs-off] | |
| [clr] | |
| [home] | |
| [inst] | SHIFT & INST/DEL |
| [down] | CRSR |
| [up] | SHIFT & CRSR |
| [right] | CRSR |
| | - |
| [left] | SHIFT & CHSH |
| [Shf-x] | SHIFT & X(or any |
| | key indicated) |
| [com-X] | |
| all and the second | right key) & X (or |
| | any key indicated) |
| | |



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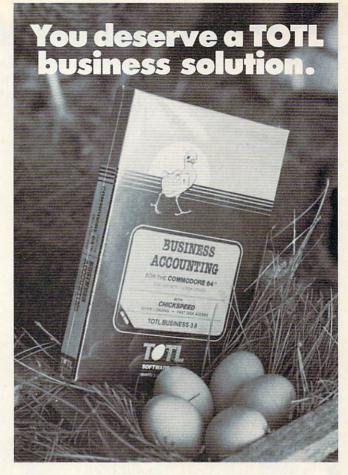
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★ 78,880 Richard Seemayer, Fresh Meadows, NY

Save New York from Creative Software

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Serpentine from Creative Software

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Sidewinder from Tronix

★ 792,726 Tony Freeman, Houston,TX

Snakman from Microdigital

★ 3,123,840 Michael Wampold, Seattle, WA

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* 250,685 Jake Larsen, Muncie, IN

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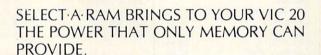
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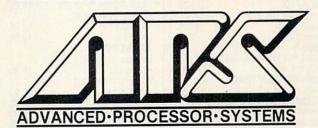
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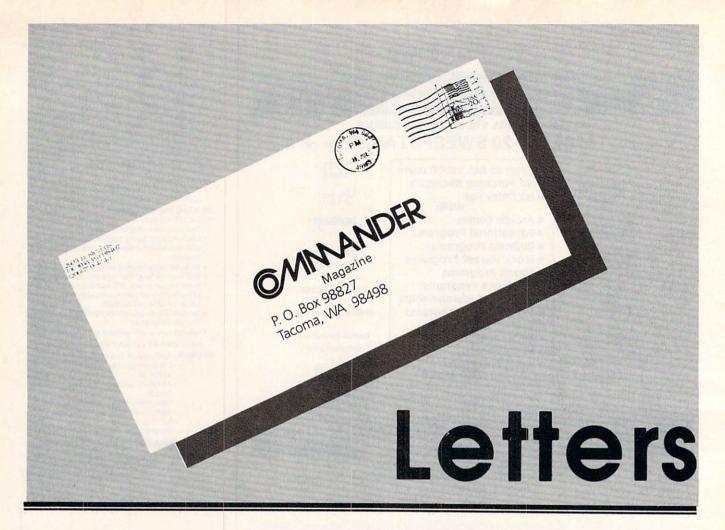
and The Alien said..."Let Commodore Speak... VOICEBO) and Sing!" Yes, the VOICE BOXTM from The Alien Group, the world's ONLY singing speech synthesizer, now grants the power of speech to the VIC 20TM and the Commodore 64TM A commented, all-BASIC demo program gets the VOICE BOX talking right away, and, since it can be "taught" to say anything, the VOICE BOX has an unlimited vocabulary! The voice speaks with natural speech inflection controlled either from the program or from the precise, built-in Pitch control. No other speech synthesizer has this feature! Want to add speech to a new or existing BASIC program! The VOICE BOX has FOUR ways to do it on VIC 20's of any memory size and on any Commodore 64: entirely from BASIC.

or using one of the three machine language programs readily added to other programs — English text-to-speech, the same with the lip-synch "Alien" face added, or use of the 64 basic phonemes as input. A challenging spelling quiz that accepts new words (expanded memory required with VIC 20) is provided on the cassette supplied.

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To the Editor:

I read with interest your editorial entitled "The Education Boom—Or Bust" (Sept. 1983). As an educator in a small (130 students) parochial school I can certainly relate to the problem of the shortage of educational computer programs that are both inexpensive and well-written. We also have teachers that are somewhat apprehensive to the idea of having that strange looking object sitting in their room. We are, however, looking to the future and see a strong need for computer literacy among our students.

We are currently retreating from the use of computer programs to tutor our children, with the exception of Mathematics, simply because of the high cost of software in the other fields of academics. We are instead turning to instructing our children to become computer literate.

In grades two through six we are instructing our children to program in the PILOT language. We realize that it is a language made especially for teachers, but for instructing children of that age to program, we feel it is second to none. The kids love graphics! We are currently using the VANILLA PILOT made by Tamarack Software and have written our own self-teaching manual so the children are pro-

gramming without the aid of a teacher most of the time.

In grades six through eight we instruct our children in the BASIC language. Our kids also use adventure games extensively in that grade level.

We will be introducing the LOGO language just recently released by Commodore within the next two months in our first and second grades. We will also be writing our own manual for that.

My point is that you do not have to be a well-funded organization to have what will look like a well-funded computer literacy program.

A little looking to the future will show you that tutorial-type programs are not necessarily the way to go. Teachers have been tutoring successfully for hundreds of years and kids should not be taught to turn to computers for the answers the rest of their lives when that three pounds of gray matter called the brain has been doing that job successfully for 6000 years.

Training the child to write programs, however, not only exercises that brain to its fullest potential through the building of logical and mathematical skills, but it also prepares the child for what will promise to

be a very competitive job market in the future.

DTD

Computer Use Coordinator St. Paul's Lutheran School

To the Editor:

In October 1982, I decided after some initial reading that a word processor had numerous advantages over replacing my old manual typewriter with an expensive electric version. Magazine ads for 80-column boards for the VIC-20. especially coupled with maximum memory expansion, led me to begin assembling a professional quality system. I first bought the VIC, then the Gemini-10 dot matrix printer, Cardco Card/? printer interface, C2N cassette unit, Data 20 64k 80-column Video Pak and their Micro Expansion Chassis, USI Pi3 12" amber monitor and the powerful Quick Brown Fox word processing cartridge. I eventually added the 1541 disk drive and the unusual, and probably rare, PRS remote keyboard.

The point is that I had to buy a lot of computer magazines, write letters to many companies and worried about each

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expenditure, for fear it wouldn't work as the literature implied. Then after I had all the above up and running, I discovered *COMMANDER*. Colin Thompson's columns for the VIC and Commodore 64 alone are worth the price of the subscription.

Thank you and keep up the good work. You are now my most valued computer magazine, especially because of Colin Thompson. I am not a programmer nor very interested in games. His "userfriendly" software and general articles have paid for my subscription several times over.

DB

Medford, Oregon

To the Editor:

I'm trying to track down a listing or catalog of available software packages that cover the routine statistical treatments compatible or written for the Commodore 64. Several thick catalogs for Apple statistic program packages exist, but I haven't had luck in tracking down a comparable listing for the 64.

Thank you,

IRH

Missoula, Montana

To the Editor:

Do you know of any commercially available software (cassette or cartridge) which performs diagnostics on the C-64 and peripherals to determine if all systems are operating as they should?

Thank you.

CC San Jose, California

To the Editor:

I felt you would like to know how much I am enjoying the magazine. Because I am an active amateur radio operator, the column by Jim Grubbs, (Command Post) has been especially informative.

Thanks for the good work . . .

RRS Rialto, CA

The editors of COMMANDER welcome your comments and questions about the magazine's content, software or hardware problems you have experienced, or ways to improve the use of Commodore computers and related products. Some letters that we print pose general questions, and we'd appreciate responses from readers who have relevant information. In all letters, please include your name, address, and phone number, and briefly describe both your computer equipment and your main uses of it.



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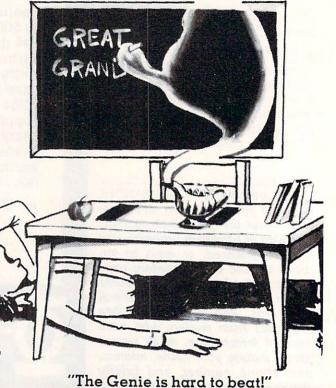
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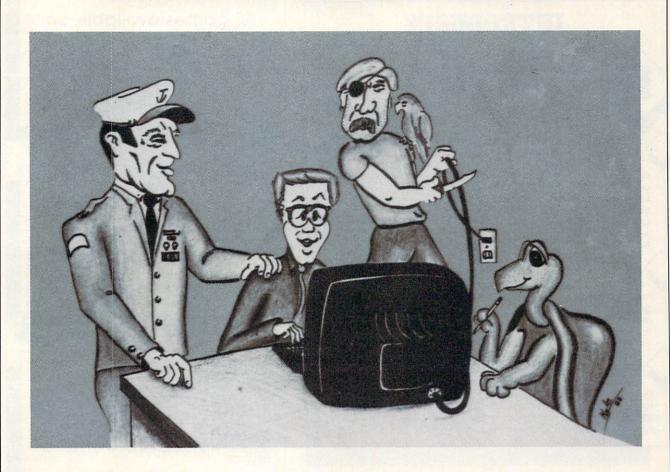
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GAME CONTEST



The contest will end March 15, 1984. Entries must be mailed to COMMANDER, Your Program in Pilot Contest, PO Box 98827, Tacoma, WA 98498. Your program must be on diskette or cassette, and include a copy of your sales receipt or invoice. All entries will become property of Tamarack Software, Inc., and will be nonreturnable unless accompanied by a self-addressed mailer with sufficient postage attached.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES MARCH 15, 1984

VANILLA PILOT or PILOT II may be purchased from any one of Tamarack Software's fine dealers.

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A new twist to the Game Contest. The time has come for you to try your hand at programming. Who can write the best program in VANILLA PILOT or the new PILOT II?

Stop! Don't try pressing the panic button—we hid it! Anyway, it's easy! People from kindergarten to grandpas are already using VANILLA PILOT and loving it. Now with our advanced Pilot, you get a double scoop—an easy to use Pilot language using virtually all the capabilities of the Commodore- 64 and an expanded manual to help you learn.

OK, got your thinking cap on? Here's the rules, You can write any kind of program that your mind can dream up. Make it innovative—we will be looking for the best idea and how well you programmed that idea. Anyone can enter,

except employees of Tamarack Software, Inc., and their families. The grand prize of \$150 will go to the best overall program. There are two first prizes of \$75 and two second prizes of \$50 to be awarded to two groups, one—Jr. High and younger, and two—High School and up.

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and VIC-20. Played with JOYSTICK or KEYBOARD.



Illustrations: Elizabeth Hauck

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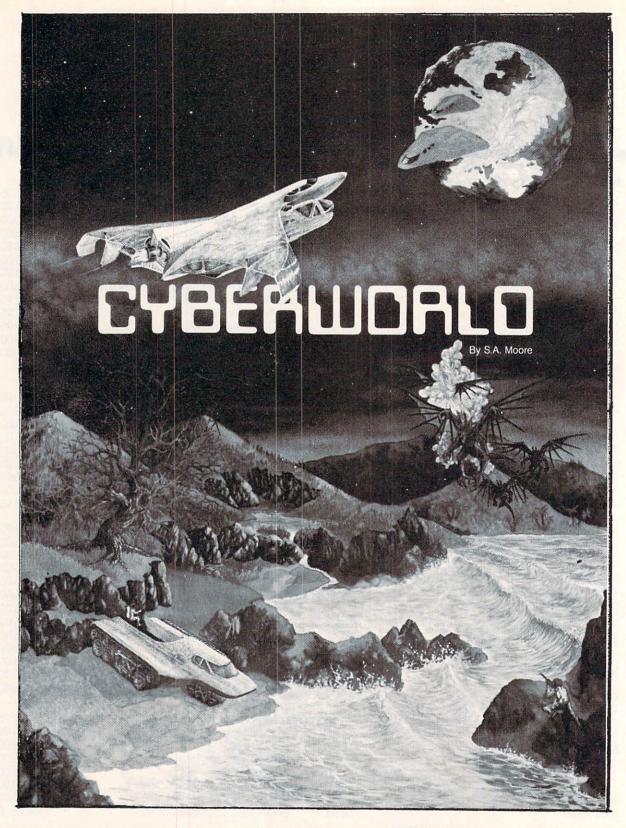
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FIGURE 3 FILENAME: MULTIPOKE.OBJ LINE ADDR CODE IAREL OPC OPERANT COMMENTS 9991 0002 0330 MULTIPOKE V1.0 * 0003 0330 ****** 0004 0330 (C)1983 BY 0005 0330 BY ERIC GIGUERE 0006 0330 0007 0330 CHRGET EQU \$0073 8998 0330 CHRGOT EQU \$0079 0009 0330 EQU \$FB LOC EQU \$FD 9919 0330 POINTR 0011 0330 EVAL EQU \$AD9E ;\$CD9E FOR VIC 9912 0330 CONVRT EQU \$B7F ; \$D7F7 FOR VIC 0013 0330 INT EQU \$64 0014 0330 0330 PROGRAM STARTS IN CASSETTE BUFFER 0015 ORG \$0330 0016 0330 0017 0330 0330 **89 40** SETWDO LDA #\$40 PLACE THE OPCODES FOR 'JMP' 0018 033F 85 7C 89 49 STA \$70 AND THE WEDGE ADDRESS INTO THE 9919 9349 LDA #<WEDGE CHRGET ROUTINE 0342 85 70 9929 STA \$7D 0021 0344 89 93 #>WEDGE LDA 0022 0346 85 7E STA \$7E 8823 0348 ;WEDGE IS ACTIVATED, RETURN TO 0024 9349 BASIC. 0349 9925 48 WEDGE PHR 0026 034A CMP #/& C9 26 CHECK INCOMING CHARACTER 0027 034C De gn BNF EXIT ; NOT WHAT WE WANT, SO LEAVE LDA \$7B 0028 034E 7B 0029 09 0350 #2 CMP CHECK TO MAKE SURE PROGRAM IS 0030 9352 FØ 97 BEQ EXIT RUNNING (IF NOT, LEAVE) 85 9931 9354 114 LDA CHECK TO SEE IF QUOTE MODE ON \$D4 0356 DO BS 0032 BNE EXIT IF SO, LEAVE 0033 0358 68 PIR 0359 0034 DØ 99 BNE PROCES GO TO PROCESSING ROUTINE 0035 035B 0036 035B EXIT PLA RETRIEVE CHARACTER 0350 9937 C9 3A CMP #1: CHECK TO SEE IF COLON 935F 0038 90 01 BCC JUMP IF C\$3A BRANCH TO JUMP 9939 9369 60 RTS RETURN 0361 80 00 TI IMP 9949 40 JMP \$0080 CONTINUE CHROET 0941 0364 0042 0364 73 aa JSR CHRGET PROCES GET FIRST CHARACTER EVALUATE EXPRESSION 9367 0043 20 9E AD JSR EVAL 9944 036A 20 F7 JSR CONVRT TO INTEGER 0045 DAED 85 64 LDA INT GET HIGH-BYTE FC 936F 85 9946 STA LOC+1 STORE IN POINTER 0047 0371 65 **A5** LDA INT+1 ; DO SAME FOR LOW-BYTE 85 9949 0373 FR STA LOC 0375 0049 89 00 LDA #0 CLEAR INDEX VALUE 0050 0377 85 FD STA POINTR 0051 0379 0052 0379 20 00 GET JSR CHRGET GET FIRST CHARACTER 037C 0053 FØ 16 BEQ RETURN ; IF COLON OR ZERO, LEAVE 0054 20 9E 20 F7 937F ATI ISR EVAL EVALUATE EXPRESSION 9955 0381 B7 JSR CONVRT CONVERT IT 0056 0384 A4 FD LDY POINTR HOAD INDEX 0057 0386 A5 65 LDA INT+1 LOAD LOW-BYTE ONLY STORE IN MEMORY 0388 (LOC),4 0058 91 FB STA 9959 038A INCREASE INDEX E.6 FD POINTR 20 79 F0 03 aasa 038C 90 JSR CHROOT PARE 9961 BEQ RETURN COLON OR ZERO, LEAVE 9962 0391 40 79 03 TMP GET CONTINUE LOOP 0063 0394 9964 9394 40 73 99 RETURN JMP CHRGET LEAVE ROUTINE 0065 0397 0066 0397 RESTRE LDA #\$C9 RESTORE ORIGINAL 7C 38 aasz 9999 85 STR \$7C ; VALUES IN CHROET 9969 Ø39B **A9** I TIA ##3A 9969 039D 85 70 STA \$7D 9979 039F 89 BØ LDA ##B0 03A1 85 \$7E 0383 9972 RTS RETURN TO BASIC ASSEMBLY COMPLETE. SYMBOL TABLE: EVAL---\$AD9E EXIT---\$035B CHRGET-\$0073 CHRG0T-\$0079 LOC----\$00FB POINTR-\$00FD CONVRT-\$B7F7 INT----\$0064 SETWDG-\$033C WEDGE--\$0349 TIMP---\$0361 PROCES-\$0364 GET----\$0379 RETURN-\$0394 RESTRE-\$0397 PROGRAM START: \$0330 PROGRAM END: \$03A4

Continued from page 30

with complex formulas and expressions as well as variables. The line:

20 & M*YL, Z+1, 13, X(3):

is perfectly acceptable providing all the values are within range. One caution: always deactivate MULTIPOKE before using the datasette in any way, or else move it somewhere else in memory.

HOW MULTIPOKE WORKS

I've included extensive comments in the disassembly of MULTIPOKE, so I'll only make a few additional ones here. Two special ROM routines are used by MULTIPOKE: EVAL and CONVRT. EVAL is a routine that evaluates (finds the value of) an expression pointed to by CHRGET and ending with a comma or a colon. CONVRT is a routine which takes the value found by EVAL and converts it into a two-byte integer found at \$64 and \$65 (in HIGH/LOW format, not the usual LOW/HIGH). MULTIPOKE uses these to get and store the values following the ampersand.

CONCLUSION

Wedges are definitely useful for adding extensions to BASIC, as in MULTIPOKE, and to explore the innards of the BASIC interpreter. I hope you find MULTIPOKE and the concepts presented here useful and practical. You may send your questions and suggestions to me in care of COMMANDER, P. O. Box 98827, Tacoma, WA 98498.

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FIGURE 48 - COMMODORE 64 VERSION

```
10 REM MULTIPOKE.DATA
20 REM C64 VERSION
25:
30 GOSUB800
35 FORI=0T015:FORJ=0T015:&53280,J,I:NEXTJ,I
40 &53280,3,1:PRINT" MULTIPOKE OK..."
45 PRINT" TO QUIT TYPE SYS 919."
50 END
800 FORI=828T0931:READJ:POKEI,J:NEXT:SYS828:RETURN
900 DATA 169, 76, 133, 124, 169, 73, 133, 125, 169, 3, 133, 126, 96, 72
910 DATA 201, 38, 208, 13, 165, 123, 201, 2, 240, 7, 165, 212, 208, 3
920 DATA 201, 38, 9, 104, 201, 58, 144, 1, 96, 76, 128, 0, 32, 115
930 DATA 0, 32, 158, 173, 32, 247, 183, 165, 100, 133, 252, 165, 101, 133
940 DATA 251, 169, 0, 133, 253, 32, 115, 0, 240, 22, 32, 150, 173, 32
950 DATA 247, 183, 164, 253, 165, 101, 145, 251, 230, 253, 32, 121, 0, 240
960 DATA 3, 76, 121, 3, 76, 115, 0, 169, 201, 133, 124, 169, 50, 133
970 DATA 125, 169, 176, 133, 126, 96
```

FIGURE 4B - VIC VERSION

```
10 REM MULTIPOKE, DATA
20 REM VIC VERSION
25 :
30 GOSUBBAR
35 FORI=0T0255: 036876 | I, I, I, I: NEXT
40 &36876,0.0.0,27:PRINT" MULTIPOKE OK..."
45 PRINT" TO QUIT TYPE SYS 919."
50 END
800 FORI=828T0931:READJ:POKEI,J:NEXT:SYS828:RETURN
900 DATA 169, 76, 133, 124, 169, 73, 133, 125, 169, 3, 133, 126, 96, 72
910 DATA 201, 38, 208, 13, 165, 123, 201, 2, 240, 7, 165, 212, 208, 3
920 DATA 104, 208, 9, 104, 201, 58, 144, 1, 96, 76, 128, 0, 32, 115
930 DATA 0, 32, 150, 205, 32, 247, 215, 165, 100, 133, 252, 165, 101, 133
940 DATA 251, 169, 0, 133, 253, 32, 115, 0, 240, 22, 32, 158, 205, 32
950 DATA 247, 215, 164, 253, 165, 101, 145, 251, 230, 253, 32, 121, 0, 240
960 DATA 3, 76, 121, 3, 76, 115, 0, 169, 201, 133, 124, 169, 58, 133
970 DATA 125, 169, 176, 133, 126, 96
```

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Briley Software has released five new, exciting programs for the Commodore 64.

In the Explorer Series are two new text adventures which are different each time the game is played. HIGH SEAS is a game of 19th century swashbuckling adventure, in which you try to rid the Atlantic Ocean of cut-throat pirates, and recover the gold that they have stolen. Seek out islands, ports-of-call, and buried treasure, while fighting off the murderous pirate ships. In FUR TRAPPER, you are gathering the pelts of animals in the high Rockies to make your fortune before the snows of winter set in. You will encounter breath-taking views, Indian trading posts (with breathtaking prices), lost Indian treasures, and a wide variety of ferocious animals.

In the Detective Series are three new games of deduction and reasoning. Each features a graphic map of the building in which the crime took place, a wide variety of cooperative (?) suspects, and a different solution every time! The object of each is to determine from your limited information the name of the criminal, and the hour at which the crime took place. In MANSION!, you must determine who stole a family heirloom during an elaborate dinner party. In PENTAGON!, you must find the traitor who has stolen one of some secret defense plans. MUSEUM! calls to report that the Gutenburg Bible is missing (among other possible treasures). Put on your gumshoes and find out who did it!

Each of these games is available on tape from: Briley Software, Box 2913, Livermore, CA 94550-0291. Price: \$14.95 each.

MOSAIC RAMMASTER 32 for the VIC-20

Mosaic Electronics introduces the RAM-MASTER 32 for the VIC-20 computer. The RAMMASTER 32 includes many features that before were only available on products costing much more.

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Features include a write protect switch which protects programs, utilities, etc. from interference from BASIC, a pause switch which halts any program in progress, and a port for a pause/reset cable for more convenient positions.

The RAMMASTER 32 also features complete easy, to understand documentation and a help line. For those who have any questions, call 1-800/2-ADD-RAM.

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TYPING GAME FOR C-64

Learn typing skills in a video game space war format with MasterType from Lightning Software, on C-64 disk.

MasterType consists of 18 progressive lessons allowing the user to develop mastery of the keyboard at an individual rate. Each row of keys is separately introduced, presenting individual keys first and building up to words. After each lesson, the game reports the number of words typed per minute and words misspelled or destroyed.

The MasterType package includes a manual with directions for running the program, descriptions of the options and educational implications, hints for winning the game, finger charts, suggestions for successful touch-typing, directions for customized lessons and description of the 18 preprogrammed lessons.

Price: \$39.95. For more information, contact Bruce Zweig, Lightning Software, 480 California Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 (415) 327-3280. Circle No. 264

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The DATA 20 Parallel Interface is an easy way to use a parallel printer with a Commodore computer. This device takes advantage of the same technology that produces LCD watches and calculators. There are no awkward ribbon cables or boxes to worry about. With the attractive packaging format it appears to be a cable.

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Retail price: \$49.95. Available from DATA 20 Corporation, 23011 Moulton Parkway, Suite B 10, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 (714) 770-2366. Circle No. 265

ZEPPELIN RESCUE

ZEPPELIN RESCUE, on disk and cassette for the Commodore 64, takes you through the five different cityscapes on your rescue mission. You must maneuver your way through the city, flying from the tops of buildings to the piers beneath suspension bridges to save the city dwellers before its too late. As you rescue the inhabitants of Los Angeles and your space-ship takes off, you then advance to progressively more difficult screens-starting with daylight, going through dusk, night and finally, dawn.

ZEPPELIN RESCUE is available for \$19.95 on cassette and \$24.95 on disk. For additional information, contact: Micro Software International, The Silk Mill, 44 Oak Street, Newtown Upper Falls, MA 02164 (617) 527-7510. Circle No. 266

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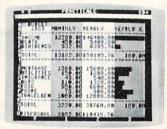
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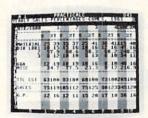
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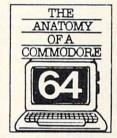








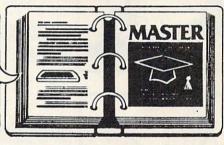




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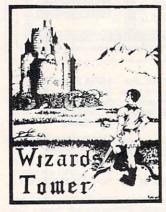
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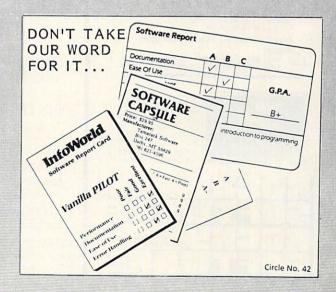
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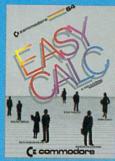
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