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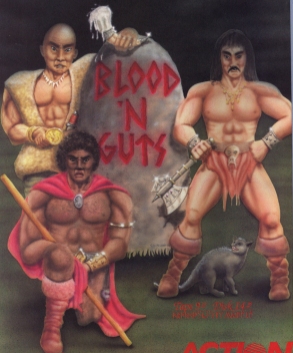


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DATA STATEMENTS

APS at School

Argus Press Software is soon to release the official Orange Hill game, entitled *Strange Hill - the Computer Game*. Set on off of the long running TV series about a comprehensive school, the game casts you in the part of Luke 'Gonak' Gardner.

The scenario is the darkened school, closed for the night. However, within the confines of the staff room, lies your Walkman, confiscated earlier during class. You cannot return without it for fear of the wrath of your teacher. So, you have to get it back. What better idea than to break into the school after everyone else has left, find your way to the staffroom and claim your lost property? Well, it may sound a little far-fetched but that's the general idea.

With the aid of your pal, Hullo Holloway (presumably supporting this scheme because he has even less brains than you), you aim to complete your dirty deed by midnight otherwise your stains will go spare.

This adventure has a large number of locations and contains arcade elements as you guide the characters with the keyboard or joystick. It should be in the shops now and is



fully available

£9.95 on cassette.

Also look out for these other titles, coming soon on APS labels: *Wizards*, *Apes*, *Orange Circus Maximus*, *World War One*, *Stellar Harvestment*, *Roundheads* and *The Hunt for Red*

Overlord. All are for the C64.

Touchline

Argus Press Software, Pirney House, Littleport Place, London WC2N 6PR. Tel 01 479 0440.

Miscellaneous Software

Finally a look at a few games winging their way to your local shops even as we speak.

Embarked is releasing a new level 9 adventure for the C64 entitled *Knight One*. It casts you as an oppressed one intent on getting your own back on the humans who have subjugated your people for generations. State of the art digitised graphics are an impressive visual feature of the new adventure. Out soon.

Academy, from CKL, is due to be launched for the C64 in the spring. Continuing the theme of *Tom Crib*, Academy sends you in the top secret training school of the Galoopa for skimmer pilots. You have to learn to design your own space ship, and participate in all the classes needed to qualify to become a full fledged skimmer pilot. It will be available on



cassette and disk at £9.95 and £14.95 respectively.

Nightshift has a bargain package for the C16. *Fold Runway* and *Holdfire* is a two-games-in-one cassette for only £8.95.

Also from Ariolasoft is *Julie King*, the latest Tony Crowther game on Commodore 64 cassette (£8.95) and

disk (£12.95). The inlay card features a special recipe for K-Ring cup cakes.

Blitzkrieg, a C64 game based on the Lee Deighton thriller of the same name, will also be available for the C64 from Ariolasoft in the near future. Based on the assault against Britain in World War Two, you lead the German forces in a game of strategy and action.

C16 users are still being supported handsomely by Greenlit, and a new release for this machine is enits way to the shelves. *The Way of the Tiger*, based on the fighting fantasy series of books of the same name, combines strategy, action and unique animation. It features three action packed levels (super sound effects and inspiring backdrops). Yours for £9.95.

Touchline

Rabbits First Floor, 74 New Oxford

Street, London WC1A 9PS. Tel: 01 240 8838.

CEB: CLF House, 9 Kings Ford Coppeners Road, London E13 2DD. Tel: 01 320 2981.

Adelphi: 45 Long Arch, Crown Garden, London WC2E 6NW. Tel: 01 831 5411.

Granville Alpha House, 35 Carfax Street, Steyford SJ 4PS. Tel: 0742 759425.

Links On Line

Who says computer owners aren't romantics at heart? News has recently come in of the first online engagement on *CompuLink*.

The couple are Paul Harrell and Margaret Marthey. They were introduced by Carol, Margaret's mother. She said "I was chatting to Paul on Party-Line at Christmas and he sounded a bit drowsy, so I thought Margaret-online to cheer him up".

A five hour party line session led to a phone call and then Paul made the journey from his home town in Winterbourne near Bristol, to Leeds, Margaret's home, where they met face to face for the first time. Soon afterwards Margaret surprised her family with a diamond and sapphire engagement ring. The couple plan to marry in about two years.

Margaret's father Chris said: "When I bought a modest, I didn't bargain for a wedding".

Paul summed up the couple's feelings about their romance: "It's thanks to *CompuLink*. Living 240 miles apart, we'd never have met if it hadn't been for Party-Line".

On to the more serious aspect of communications. BT's Electronic Yellow Pages (EYP) went live in early January, allowing most online communicating terminals in the UK and abroad free access to a database of Yellow Pages advertisements.

Initial information covers the whole of London, Reading, Guildford, Woking and St Albans.

In areas where the 1987 edition of Yellow Pages are not available until later in the year, users interested should ring the EYP Helpline (see Touchline) for a free copy of the user instructions.

Touchline

CompuLink: 01 945 8866.

EYP Helpline: 0747 566256.

Sports Pick

New from Activision is an America's Cup game, simply and appropriately named *Solfero*.

It's a game of strategy and simulation designed to capture the thrill of competing in top level sailing competitions. Even before you start making you have to design the boat that will get you across the finishing line first.

You can choose overall length, waterline length, freeboard and mast length as well as adding wings to your keel and changing the hull material. Once you've sorted this out and made your allegiance to a particular nation then you're ready to compete.

The display is split into two halves, the top shows the view out over the sea, so that you can see if your

opponent is ahead. The bottom contains your gauges which you need to monitor closely to get the best from your boat. It's available for the Commodore 128 at £9.99 cassette and £14.95 disk.

Four sports games in one are available from Advance Promotions in the form of a new release entitled *Indoor Sports*. The four sports featured on the cassette for C64 are *15 Pin Bowling*, *Air Hockey*, *Table Tennis* and *Darts*. The Commodore 64 version is £8.85 and Advance claims that all the games could stand alone at full price.

Touchline

Activision: 23 Ford St, Harpenden, London, NW3 2PN Tel: 01 431 1800
Advance: 17 Staple Tie, Harlow, Essex CM9 7LE Tel: 0279 412447.



Andrew Sports

Pocket Money

A new range of budget games has recently been launched by Midas Marketing. There are two initial releases on the new label: *K29 Fighter Mission* for the C64 and *Space 2* for the C16. Both are priced at £2.99.

K29 Fighter Mission is essentially a flight and combat simulator. Your fighter must be flown with skill and dexterity to avoid the constant onslaught of enemy fire and heat seeking missiles. At the same time you must concentrate on destroying the enemy craft.

Space 2 is a combination of shoot 'em up action and skill and nerve in manoeuvring a large space craft through dark caverns. There are two programs on *Space 2*, the first *Galaxy*, involves a test stardship trying to return to the mothership. However, there are the inevitable galactic mutations trying to hinder your journey.

Alien Z is the second program where you must guide your large flat supply vessel to stranded scientists on the planet Yagoo. They are situated deep underground so you need to negotiate the treacherous course through cavernous streets with strange obstacles.

Mastertronic is also launching a new label named *Buildings* (list of titles).

The company claims to have commissioned some startling original products for the new label which will have a distinct identity to complement the existing Mastertronic £1.99 and £2.99 ranges. The first title, already in the shops, is *Prod*, at £1.99.

Recently formed Budget House, Code Masters, has just announced a competition for buyers of Code Masters games. Anyone buying a Code Masters game will get an entry form to the BMX competition. All you have to do is spot the fall on rider which has been deleted from a screen shot of the Code Masters game *BMW Simulator*. Entries are only limited to the number of Code Masters games you buy. Hurry, because the competition closes on 31 March 1987 and the prize is a 20" Sony Trinitron colour TV.

Other new pocket money priced games are *Wildcat Fusion* on the *Firebird Silver* £1.99 label and *Cyber I* on the *Supersporters* label from CDS at £2.99. Both are for the C64.

Touchline

Midas Marketing: 33 West Hill, Daventry, Northants NN11 5JF. Tel: 0327 82311.

Mastertronic: 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4WE. Tel: 07 737 6865.

Code Masters: 1 Junction Business Centre, Beaumont Close, Rushby, Oxon OX10 3JZ.

Firebird: First Floor, 74 New Oxford Street, London, WC2A 1PE. Tel: 01 240 8838.

Supersporters: CDS, Unit A11, Armstrong Mill, Southwood, Somers Chase, Southwood, Leamington, North, CV34 0NP. Tel: 0272 322268.

The system works in the following way: a small slot is cut in the case to allow the datafinder adjuster to move forward and backwards as play and stop are required. A knob is attached to a threaded shaft which replaces the antenna screw allowing an adjustment of 180 degrees. Sound is also fitted for the Commodore let allowing the user to adjust to the clearest data signal. For the technically minded there is a DDT kit available if you're interested, then contact the address in Touchline for more information.

Touchline

Touchline: 61 Bridge Street, Exmouth, Devon EX11 4JF. Tel: 0398 47680.

Lead-In: 15 Sycamore Road, Shirley, Solihull, W Midlands B36 3ET. Tel: 021 745 4976.

Notes on Utilities

Supersoft, the company which has recently supported the PET series from the beginning, has now fulfilled a recent promise to continue to provide software for these machines.

Fast Copy is a disk copying facility for the 8002 and 8296 drives which can drastically reduce the time it takes to make vital backup copies of data disks. It saves time by omitting the formatting process on an already formatted disk and by copying only those blocks that have been used. Available at the low cost of £15 (ix VAT).

Blitz is a Basic compiler for the 8032, 4032, 8096 and 8296 computers. *Blitz* has been available in Europe for some time and has now been licensed to Supersoft in the UK. Compiled programs run five, 10 or even 20 times faster with *Blitz* and since they are impossible to alter by anyone who hasn't got access to the uncompiled original, they are also more secure.

Blitz costs £59 (ix VAT) and comes with a comprehensive manual. Additional versions on the same disk are only £30 extra, so for example the 8032 and 8096/8296 version would be £129 altogether.

Fast Copy and *Blitz* are available from Supersoft or on order from your local computer store.

Staying with utilities but moving to

Drives and Data Recorders

The *Enhancer 8066*, the only available alternative to Commodore's own series of disk drives, although stable and reasonably priced, has always suffered from compatibility problems. Now Evesham Motors claims to have solved this.

Evesham claims that on the enhanced version of the *Enhancer*, all disk surfaces and virtually all disk protection schemes can be handled without a problem.

Priced at £148.95 (fully inclusive) and an option to purchase with *Finance Frame Mk.3* and 10 disks for £178.95, Evesham reports high demand from all quarters.

At the moment supply is restricted



Lead-In

to mail order, unless you call in at one of Evesham's two branches. However, Evesham hopes to expand availability to other retailers in the near future.

For those still struggling with data recorders, you may be interested in the *Lead-In* system.

the CMI, Systems software has recently published *Oxford Asic*. This is a complete CMI Basic programming environment and gives the user a full library of powerful utilities including: *Oxford Analyser*, a report optimisation utility; the *Comprocriser* which eliminates time consuming spaces and REM; the *Toolkit* which introduces new commands; *Dr-Cheap* a fast fully compatible Basic compiler to give you the speed and professionalism of machine code without an assembler. The all-inclusive price is £34.95.

Toolkit

Software: Windows Mouse, Coming Road, Woodlands, Harrow, Middx HA7 5JL. Tel: 01 861 1186.

Systems Software: MR Windows Plus, Oxford City 24W. Tel: 0467 34797.

Potential Millionaires Wanted

American software company MicroProse, which has recently established a UK base, is looking for

Console software writers with the potential to become millionaires overnight.

The man behind the hunt is Simon Barnard, MicroProse software development manager. He said: "We believe that the UK has the best Console software writers. Analyzing job is to find them and offer them, not only money, but international recognition".

MicroProse in the US spends in excess of \$1 million in developing its software programs. However, Simon is not just looking for simulation specialists, he also wants programmers of top-quality arcade games.

Simon revealed his reasons for believing that successful applicants may soon gain millionaire status: "MicroProse titles remain at the top of the US charts, literally for years. And that translates into a lot of royalties, besides substantial advances. So I don't think it would be unfair to claim that if we can find someone who can write simulation like *Silent Service*, they could be a millionaire almost

overnight".

MicroProse has an extensive list of simulation programs, the latest of these, due for imminent release, is *Gunship* for the CMI-128, £14.95 cassette, £19.95 disk.

Gunship is an accurate simulation of the Hughes AH-64A Apache combat helicopter - one of the most lethal weapons in the modern military arsenal.

Gunship is the result of extensive research and the collaboration of the many years of programming and games design. It was held back from release until military helicopter pilots had actually test flown *Gunship* themselves. Now the US army uses it to train test pilots, attaching sensors to their bodies to measure reactions. It

Toolkit

MicroProse, 3 Market Place, Twickenham, Gloucestershire GL2 0AD. Tel: 0603 34338.

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I.Q.

More and more people are turning to games which need grey matter rather than thumb power on a joystick. Here's another exciting selection to tax your mind.

Adventures can sometimes seem rather daunting to the uninitiated. Apart from the necessity of learning adventurespeak and the all important mapping technique, there's the bigger problem of mind bending puzzles to solve. All this could easily turn away the average player, however we've decided to have a look at a couple of programs from Amsoftsoft which may help to break you in gently so that you can cultivate the adventure bug.



THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE

Commodore machines aren't the exclusive preserve of Britishers and our US Buddies. Europe is a land of Commodore enthusiasts and Germany is perhaps the heart of this trend. It is fitting then that this game from Amsoftsoft originally started life there. Actually called *Lep's Philosophem*, but translated for non-classicists, this is an ideal starting point for new adventures and an interesting diversion for more experienced addicts, unfortunately only available for C64 and 128 disk users.

The basic storyline concerns a medieval king, High Grandeur, whose stepson has been systematically poisoning him. The only hope left to the old boy is the Philosopher's Stone which has the fantastic power of turning base metals into gold and curing all ills to boot.

Your character is that of an ageing alchemist. You have found clues to the whereabouts of the fabulous stone in a

book in your loft (where else?). So you set out to get hold of it. Make sure that you explore your home town thoroughly first. Leaving town may be a problem as the prince has discovered the nature of your quest and the guards are ordered to detain you, however, with the right object you can negotiate them into letting you pass.

One distinct advantage for new initiates are the HELP messages placed in strategic parts of the game. Read them well as these cryptic clues may prove invaluable.

Most items which are available are included in the location description, however, if you go to the market there's more choice but you have to think hard about what you may need later on. Remember to SAVE your game position in the early stages so that you can go back for anything you may have omitted to collect.

The graphics are clear, colourful and reasonably detailed. Disk access is at the usual slow speed.

If you are surfing between locations the format N.N.W.N.E.GET STICK can speed up progress. The interpreter understands basic verb/noun formations but an occasional little more detail may be needed. One retrograde aspect is the necessity to enter all words in full with very few single letter entries understood. Two that you can use are I for Inventory and L for look to repeat a location description.

There is no RAM SAVE facility but there are seven named positions saved to disk. You will need these as in several places death will follow the wrong move, for instance if you lose a game of Hangman with a troll!

Although a most enjoyable game with lots to find and plenty of puzzles to solve. There are said to be seven different ways to complete the game so perhaps experienced players will appreciate that challenge. Definitely fun for all levels of player.

P.F.

NECRIS DOME

Due to limitations of room and resources, the Earth's dead are no longer buried or cremated as used to happen, but are transported into *NECRIS*. There, a huge space cemetery called the Necris Dome circles around. Run by a group of maniacs, they in turn are controlled by an Arch-manifold who is rumored to be trying to create something of a powerhouse for himself.

As weapons have been banned on Earth for a few

centuries, it is really bad news when it is discovered that the Arch-mandrill has filled the Necris Dome with various potential forces and got smuggled into the dome in the next batch of coffins. Your mission is to seek out and destroy the Arch-mandrill at all costs.

Necris Dome is a somewhat simplistic adventure which starts with you in your coffin. The first illogicality strikes you straight away. Although you can see nothing in the coffin either now or when you open it, if you return to the coffin and close the lid, a pair of rubber gloves has mysteriously materialised. Nothing is guaranteed to put off an adventure player (or at least this reviewer) than such nonsense.



The atmosphere created by the game is minimal. Location descriptions are terse - 'you are in the reception level chamber three as opposed to chamber two or four'. The graphics likewise have a feeling of similarity to them. Even at a budget price, I cannot recommend Necris Dome G.R.H.

As promised in our IQ, pages, we're not just trying to publish a run of the mill adventure column, so for those of you who want something a bit different, read on to check out some other original games.

TASS TIMES

If your idea of style is a infra red diameter switch then you'll relish this ludicrous graphic adventure from Activision.

The game is set in the ultra tan (tacky) world of Towntown that exists in another dimension. Your favourite old fogey, Grampa has built an inter-dimensional machine and has got himself lost in Towntown and it's up to you to find him. Helped by Grampa's dog Spot who is really Elvis the Legend in Towntown you must search this strange land trying not to look too much like a total tourist.

There's nothing weird about the excellent adventure system used to play this game. The screen display is split into areas including a graphic display of your current location, a text display (for text only freaks) and alongside them a series of large icons through which you can quickly generate the commands look, enter, hit, buy, get, drop, talk to, tell me

about as well as north, south, east, west, up and down. You can also enter standard text commands use the predefined function keys to repeat commands and shortcuts and load game positions. You can even examine and get objects illustrated in the pictures by simply pointing a cursor at them.

The villain of Towntown is an ugly green brute called Franklin Saarl who would love to get his claws on you in between his attempts to buy up the town. His notice to class and other essential clues are packed into the latest edition of the Towntown Times that also includes adverts that will help you become tan and the usual collection of curious small ads.

Tass Times is undeniably a unique adventure featuring the most peculiar settings, characters and descriptions but it is also very good and will be Activision's best non Infocom adventure. Remember Towntown welcomes visitors but not total tourists.

T.B.L.



THE STANDING STONES

This is the second Arielsoft title which holds a challenge for the beginner without being too complicated. Set in the ground beneath an ancient stone circle, the idea is to locate the long, lost Holy Grail.

When you begin play you must create a knight. Go carefully here, as it is important. A list of attributes appears with random ratings of up to 18. If you don't like the numbers assigned, you can try again. The instructions suggest that you only accept a character with at least three attributes in double figures. In which case, why do they give so many with less than 10? The attributes are: vitality, intellect, hitness, agility, and initial hit. These can be roughly translated as strength, magical attack, peaceful spells (such as 'heal' and 'teleport'), agility is self-explanatory and initial hit indicates your ability to withstand attack.

Once you've settled your character, it's time to enter the 3D maze, where you must explore, fight monsters and collect treasure.

The maze must be mapped for you to stand any chance of success. On the first level a series of arrows points the way to the exit. It is best to use this over and over again so that you build up your experience. Leave it at your peril.

Apart from the monsters there are many useful items, including magical bottles, chests, potions, rings, weapons and armour. Unfortunately many of these articles are booby-trapped so it's not all plain sailing.

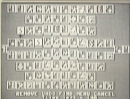
When you encounter a monster you have several courses of action: fight, goot, hide or run away. Fighting is usually the best option, however, elves and gnomes will sometimes return a greeting and give you a gift as well.

Throughout your quest you have a companion named Lancelot. Most of the time he is swooning or sharpening his sword but occasionally he bursts into action and dispatches your present foe.

The deeper you go the harder the game becomes. Further down there are caves which will restore drained strength but they're not always in the same place.

The graphics consist of simple line drawings for the maze and fairly basic shapes for the enemies. You may leave the dragons at any time to save your character.

Not a bad game if you choose your character carefully before setting the traps. Even then you should not expect to stay alive long unless you map your route and this can be difficult due to secret doors and one way passages. The *Swampy Swamp* calls for a lot of patience, a will to live and a lot of luck. **P.F.**



SHANGHAI

A variation of the card game pairs doesn't sound like the usual fodder for a computer game but it's surprisingly addictive.

This variation uses the 144 tiles found in a Mah Jongg set (the ancient Chinese game) arranged in a set pattern that is supposed to represent a dragon. The pattern rises in the middle to a height of five piers (the head) and down to rows of single tiles.

To complete pairs that are then removed from the game the player can only match tiles that aren't surrounded by others which usually means from the head and tail. By this method you must try and remove all of the tiles or at least as many as possible either on your own, in solitaire play or against other humans in a tournament game against the clock.

Matching pairs can be a strain on the eyes as you stare into the screen at an average of 80 tiles that are in view for most of the game. The others are hidden from view in the piles in the centre of the pattern which you must gradually whisk away.

Mah Jongg sets contain 144 tiles split into three major suits and crabs, bats and spots (also known as diamonds, bamboo and circles) three dragons, four winds and an odd collection of flowers and seasons. As there are four of each piece you would think that matching pairs would be easy but you'd be surprised at the number of times you'll have a choice between three pieces and have to work out which one to leave.

Options at the bottom of the screen allow you to undo moves you want to play again and even peek at hidden tiles once you've given up.

At last an additive strategy game. **T.H.**

DODGY GEEZERS

The big day has arrived. Your stay, courtesy of Her Majesty is about to end. It was only supposed to be for two years, but you got time added on for bad behaviour. You have been looking forward to this day for some three years now, not least because you have a small amount of unfinished business to attend to. You were stashed up something rotten over that Long Dons spaghetti supper and a spot of revenge would not go amiss.

Dodge Geezers is an adventure in two parts. In part one, you must find a crime to commit and assemble a team to help you do it. Part two involves pulling off the actual crime. The game is set in the East End of London, presumably because everybody knows that that is where all the real criminals hang out. There is the usual collection of madhouses you make your way round dark alleys, seamy pubs, a dockland area and the dog track. Crimes are being committed all round you, judging from the number of wanted posters about, but can you actually find the men required for your team? And who is the shadowy figure with the white Guard shoes who turns up everywhere? And why are there several crates hidden in the warehouse full of two inch nails when they are clearly marked Banco di Palamotto? All you have to get on a telephone number (have a colleague who was released on the same day as you. All you want now is a working phone.

Dodge Geezers is a reasonable enough game without being outstanding. The parser is fairly crude, being for the most part verb/noun input. There are a few spot graphics, usually the wanted posters which brighten the place up but the jargonised atmosphere and jokes don't quite work. **G.R.H.**

Touché

Philosopher's Stone, Standing Stones, Aristotle's 68 Long Arcs, Crown Games, London WC2E 9AM
News News Club, Movers, 1 Beckett Business Centre, Beckett Close, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9PT
Tom Ewers, Shanghai: Activision, 23 Pond Street, London WC2J 9PH
Dodge Geezers: Melbourne House, 60 High Street, Hampton Wick, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT7 4DP **TD**

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Football Fortunes

Polish up your football boots, get your mum to wash your strip and sit down to a game of soccer with Brian Clough.

By Tony Hetherington

Brian Clough has always been known as an unusual football manager. Now the game that carries his name is a computer game with a big difference because it's also a board game!

Inside a packed video size cassette box is the game tape on disk, a folded game board, five coloured counters, 112 player cards, currency cards and a heap of game money and, of course, an extensive instruction booklet. As the game loads the players just have time to sit out the board, ready and pieces and sign up as a top manager in a super league of 80 teams. Between two and five teams can be managed by humans the rest are controlled by computer and one of four skill levels. There's no great mystery here, the higher the skill level the stronger the computer teams that you'll face.

In fact the whole game is remarkably simple and after only a few minutes you'll be wheeling and dealing with the best of them. Indeed the hardest part of the entire game is persuading the game board to stay flat after being folded up inside the box.

Once the game has loaded you have to choose your team from the list available or you can overweight one if your favourite's not included in the initial line up. After a brief



pause, the computer displays the line up for each team in turn including two reserves. This line up consists of a series of numbers, between one and five that represent the skill levels of your goalkeeper, defenders, midfielders and attackers that form your initial squad of players. You then take the corresponding cards from the pack of playing cards to start the game. Those cards also feature names for every player that are sure to cause rows particularly if you're favourite's only a level one and not an international standard level five. The names aren't important to the game but vital to football fanatics as a few blank cards are included to correct these "mistakes".

The game plays as alternate rounds of moving the pieces around the board and football fixtures on the computer although the computer is active throughout.

By choosing the computer they players move their counters around and land on squares that contain the problems and crises that make up a manager's job. These range from the Manager's Luck and Selection Problem Cards that are displayed randomly on the computer screen to the dreaded Blagues that are paid out and depend on the size and skill levels of your squad.

The Manager's Luck cards are a bit of a lottery, and can cost you £25,000 to install extra-curricular gain you £100,000 by



using the reserves' training ground. The same is true of the Selection Problems cards but most are bad news and can cost you a crucial player for a match through injury or suspension but the occasional one may get you a free transfer.

The most exciting squares generate player auctions in which the manager bid for the next card in the player pack.



At some stages in the game bidding can get desperate as players out bid each other particularly if a level five player is involved. Occasionally a manager gains the advantage if he bids on a 50%. Auction squares as he only has to pay half of his final bid!

Before each match the players must enter their total attack and defence strengths that are calculated from their selection card team. A few seconds later having contemplated these and factors such as home advantage and league position the C64 teleprompter displays the results and the goal-scoring that the players receive.

The season consists of only nine matches as each team plays each other but a big league matches (featuring giant killers such as Yeovil Town, and, from the second season European matches, although your squad has to be good to live with the likes of Bayern Munich and Juventus).

Throughout the game your achievements and results are noted and are converted into game points and at the predetermined end (a number of seasons or a time limit) the player with most game points will be "over the moon" as he has won the game.

One final piece of advice is keep off the Crisis Square! This suicide space (renamed the "back in a parrot" square) costs you £50,000 and your best player!

A fascinating mix of computer strategy and board game fun that combine to form the football favourite. **TT**

Touchline

Title: Brian Clough's Football Fortunes. **Supplier:** CDS Software. **CDS House, Broken Road, Daresbury, 2062 44th, Macclesfield, Cheshire, C64. Price:** £14.95 (tape) £17.95 (disk). **Originality:** 3/10. **Playability:** 10/10. **Graphics:** N/A. **Value:** 10/10.

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You think you've got problems?

Well, I remember when I banked behind my desk for a \$200 hour. Then I found money in the bank - Continuum of Deposit at \$100,000 a week.

I remember the day my bank dealer got a little nervous because I was a regular of \$1 million behind in my payments - and responded my way. Now I own a Bank Royal. I paid \$10 million a week.

I remember the day my wife phoned screaming, because the landlord had done major the house, demanding his rent - and we didn't have the money to pay it.

Now we own the house. You say on the occasion in California if we are in my office. One is a bankrupt "crazy" in Washington State who is on parole for the state prison - looking, talking, maintaining and selling. This is a condominium on a very beach in Mexico. Another is engaged right on the best beach of the best island in Hawaii - Maui.

Right now I could sell all of these properties, pay all the mortgages - and - without breaking any of my other investments - walk away with over \$70,000,000 cash. But I don't want to do that, because I don't think of my assets as "investments." I've got other real estate - automobiles, bonds, and cash in the bank - for that.

I remember when I had my job. Because I was headover heels in love, my lawyer told me the only thing I could do was divorce her. He was wrong. I paid off every cent.

Now, if I have a million-dollar bill of credit, I will still have a job. Instead, I get up every weekday morning and do whatever I want to go to work or not. Sometimes I do - for 5 or 6 hours. But about half the time, I decide to read, go for a walk, or sit on my porch, or ride my bike.

I know what it's like to be broke. And I know what it's like to have everything you want. And I know that you - like me - can do anything you're capable of. It's really in you all the time. That's why I call it "The Lazy Man's Way to Riches."

So I'm going to ask you to read me

PROOF:

Don't take my word for it. Here are excerpts from articles in newspapers and magazines:

Times

"The only words, half the year in his stunning office on California's Sunset Beach, and where there he's done his best in short bursts. In other words, says Kader, 46, is the pastime he - "The Lazy Man's Way to Riches."

Roman Herald-American

"The bank has drawn hundreds of letters from persons who have profited by it."

Los Angeles Herald-Examiner

"An impressive millionaire, the Kader of Huntington Harbor is a classic being unadorned to his intellectual, pragmatic conviction."

Money Making Opportunities

Maybe the Kader has the secret. Don't you think you want to be as rich as he is? Well, it's all yours - I just finished it - and it's off on a vacation myself. Get the idea?

something I don't need money. I'm to be paid. Why? Because I want you to pay attention. And I figure that if you're not interested, you'll look over what I told you and decide whether or not to look at it. And I don't want you to keep it unless you agree that it's worth at least a hundred times what you invested.

In the material "wealth" I tell you - if you think of it as paper and gold, but that's not what I'm selling. What I am selling is information. More information than I give when I'm paid \$1000 on a given speaker. More information than I give in a one hour consultation \$100.

But you're really not taking anything. Because I can't cash your cheque or money order for 14 days after I've sent you my material. That'll give you plenty of time to decide if it's worth the \$100 - and I'll send back your cheque or postal order - unopened.

Here do you know I think it? Well, if you really want to be on the only side, positive your cheque for a month tomorrow - just a additional reason. That'll give you plenty of time to decide if it's worth the \$100.

I know what your thinking. "It's got to be telling people how to get rich." The truth is - and this is very important - the man before I showed "The Lazy Man's Way to Riches," my net worth was \$200,000. And after you tell me you know I made that kind of money - working a few hours a day - almost weekly most of the year.

I don't require "education." I'm a high school graduate.

I don't require "capital." Remember I was a poor man, including when I started. I don't require "luck." I had more money than my dad. But I'm not promising you that you'll make as much money as I have. And you may do better. I personally know one man who earned three properties, worked out a deal, made a million dollars in 10 years, lost money on it - everything.

I don't require "luck." But enough because I know what to look for. And I'll tell you that.

I don't require "wealth." And when I worked with a guy in New York that the world was mad, making all the money he thought, doing only what I taught him.

I don't require "experience." A widow in Chicago had been managing \$25,000 a year for 40 years, using my method.

What do you require? Well, enough to take a chance. Although not always to be paid you. Enough to get the principles into action. If you do just that - nothing more, nothing less - the results will be hard to believe. Remember, I guarantee.

Who don't have to give up your job. But you may want to be making an amount money that you'll be able to live again - I guarantee.

I know you've copied. Well, here are some names from other people. I think they have been used to protect the writer's privacy. But the names are in my files. I'm sure that, like you, these people didn't believe my offer when they dropped the money. Unless they figured that, since I wasn't going to deposit their cheques for at least 30 days, they had nothing to lose.

They were right.

And here's a real money maker.

"Thanks to your method I'm a half millionaire."

"Thanks to your method I passed about \$50,000. Nobody else before but you at this time was doing anything for money."

G.C., Toronto, Canada.

"\$100,000 in 45 days."
- received \$20,000.00 in the mail within 45 days.

"Thank you."

John, Chicago, Ill.

"It's been suggested to me, I wouldn't be before it. A few years ago, I had nothing to lose, I was unemployed and broke."

"Now, thanks to you and the Lazy Man's program, I have a bank cheque for \$100,000 in 45 days in my hand."

B.S., Huntington Beach, Calif.

"There's no stopping me."

"Since I've got your Lazy Man's Way to Riches in July, I've started 4 companies - there's no stopping me and I'm doing it now."

M.T., Portland, OR.

"Wow, wow, wow!"

"I don't know, I purchased Lazy Man's Way to Riches some six months ago, or so, and it - and really did nothing when I tried. About three weeks ago, when I was really getting desperate about my financial situation, I remembered it, so I read it, studied it, and this time, just in a week and 'WOW' it does work! There's value much more other - I purchased it just before to be a career point of desperation before we became the ultimate success, gratification."

Mr. J.R., Anaheim, CA.

"Made \$100,000"

"A \$100,000 thanks to you for telling me the Lazy Man's Way to Riches. There's been much for me."

"I use this extra income for all of the good things in life, exotic vacations, exotic automobiles, etc. There's a hope to make money to get the regular job sidekick but the time is making money the way you."

Mr. D.M., Newport Beach, CA.

"\$100,000 in seven months"

"Two years ago, I started you ten dollars in short dependence for a better life... One year ago, just out of the blue, you, my father and returned me a postcard... I ground over \$100,000 cash business in seven months. You are a God sent miracle to me."

B.P., Pasadena, Minn.

"Finally opened my eyes!"

"I ordered Lazy Man's Way to Riches. In September, my bank cancelled and has gone steadily up ever since."

Mr. B.A., Walnut Cr.

"\$1,000 in five days!"

"I'm thinking about what I earned a \$1,000 in 5 days. I had no idea at all in fact that once had five days in a week."

M.D., Tampa.

What I'm saying is probably one that you've heard from your friend, family, your teachers, and maybe in many other places.

I can only ask you one question: many of thousands of millionaires?

So it's up to you.

I mean from today, you can be a millionaire in 30 days - or you can stay poor as getting rich. You decide!

The worst case I ever knew of is someone I never knew - who got so busy trying to get a living to be broke.

Don't take it too long as I did to find my right.

It never it is you. If you'll come, suggestive my published in me. I've no "points" before me. But by \$100,000 all you've lost is a couple of minute postage stamps. But what if I thought?

Some have called it a Miracle. See why? My name is Kader. See why?

At my own Adam-Glad-Charity-Philanthropy-Kader-Club, for all our work on "The Lazy Man's Way to Riches" about your, which is to be sent to you.

Seven Statements:

"On the basis of my private relationship on his account, I find that Kader's net worth is over one million dollars."

Neal A. A.

Chartermark Ltd.
11 Broadfield Street,
London E1M 7JL

You may get a bill of items, but what have I got to lose? Send me the Lazy Man's Way to Riches, but also include my cheque or postal order for at least \$100.00 in the mail. If I return you material - but my account - within that time, I have returned cheque of postal order to me.

On that basis, here's my ID
ID Please charge my credit card.

Mr. _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____
Phone (Area Code) _____

Please check if I should include _____

Shepherd's View

Nigel Shepherd, boss of Commodore US, explained his recipe for Commodore's future success to our globe

travelling reporter,

By Peter Chandler

L In this business, shows are always worth a look since they provide a general gathering of the big wigs of our industry. The CES Show in Las Vegas in January was no exception, and that's where I managed to track down Nigel Shepherd, General Manager of Commodore North America, concerned on the splendour of Commodore's stand.

The Venue

The CES Exhibition is held twice a year in the USA. The summer show is staged in Chicago and the winter extravaganza takes place in Las Vegas. It was to the latter venue that I wended my way this year.

The Las Vegas show is the largest of its kind in the world and this year's event was no exception with a record attendance of over 100,000 visitors. The show is open only to trade visitors, made up largely of representatives from retailers, manufacturers and the media, pouring in from the USA and all over the world. Exhibitors consisted mainly of audio, video, satellite, photographic and most importantly from my point of view, computer companies.

There were four venues: the Las Vegas Hilton, the Convention Centre, the Sahara Hotel and the Riviera Hotel. The home computer companies were all based in the MGM Hall, a huge building which is just one of many which form the Convention Centre.

Commodore was there in force and exhibited its products from a massive and very impressive stand. It was a fortunate sight to see Commodore taking such an aggressive approach at

the largest show of its kind in the world. Commodore launched three C64/128 products at the show: the



Nigel Shepherd

1880 3½" disk drive, 1764 RAM Expansion card and the US1 mouse. A number of software companies were exhibiting from the stand including Byte, Byte, Quantum and Asante Research.

The Man Himself

Nigel Shepherd, a man of presence, very charming and charismatic, is the General Manager of Commodore US and North America. He reports directly to Tom Rattigan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Commodore USA. The other individual in the sales and marketing hierarchy who also reports direct to the President is Harald Speyer, based in Frankfurt, Germany and responsible for European operations.

Nigel Shepherd is Scots by birth and Australian by commerce and has been involved with Commodore since 1977, initially as an Australian Commodore distributor. Commodore later set up an Australian subsidiary and in 1979 Nigel Shepherd became the General Manager for the Asia Pacific Region (all countries from Australia to Hong Kong). In January 1986, he moved to the US to take over North American responsibilities.

Tripartite Aim

Nigel Shepherd sees Commodore as active in three sections of the computer industry.

Firstly, he sums up the C64/128 as the "classic definition of the home computer". His authoritative view is that 90% of all C64/128 purchasers are first time buyers, also many 128 buyers are people upgrading from a C64.

He also sees Commodore playing an important role in the large educational market in the US particularly in the primary school sector known in the States as K1 to K12. To back this up Nigel also reminded me that in the USA, Germany and Australian markets Commodore are leaders with the C64/128 in home computers. He sees the C64/128 as a common product line which will be around in 1990 and Commodore will continue to support the machines with peripherals software etc.

The much appraised Amiga machine, only recently launched, is seen by Nigel as the future of Commodore both in the home and business markets.

Being Frank, Nigel commented that "probably the single largest criticism aimed at the Amiga is that the consumer is unsure whether or not the machine is for the home or is a desk top computer - a computer too highly priced to be accepted as a home computer and the lack of productivity

continue and there is still a great demand for productivity software. The buyer who has grown up with a C80 or even a Spectrum, and is looking for a second purchase will appreciate better sound, graphics and top class games - Amiga technology lends itself to this market.



COM'S 2000 clone

software makes it difficult to accept it as a business machine."

Commodore's answer to this criticism is to launch three different versions of the Amiga and attack both home and business markets in terms of price and quality.

Nigel explained that the first version, the Amiga 1000, has fantastic user loyalty and it will be followed in the next few months by two new Amigas, the 500 and the 2000 to expand the product line.

Nigel explained the thinking behind this strategy. He envisages that the C54/128 will be purchased as a family machine by first time buyers with a main use for children aged five to 12 years old. The machine is not too expensive but Commodore cannot be sure that the family will continue to use it. The answer is upgrading combined with continued brand loyalty is the Amiga 500 - the low cost version, described by the enthusiastic General Manager as "the ultimate home computer". On top of this the high demand for computer learning will

2000 Amiga

The 2000 Amiga will be a desk top or business computer and will also be the home overlay machine. Nigel Shepherd believes that "the home is a location". Although traditionally used for learning and entertainment, many small businesses are now being domestic locations as cottage industries. The 2000 will lend itself both to the home/office and new business application.

As we go to press, both the 500 and the 2000 are scheduled for launch in the Hannover Fair in Germany at the end of March.

Nigel also sees the Amiga gaining acceptance in tertiary education. He claims that it is ideal for universities as its price combined with its sound and graphics capabilities are not found elsewhere. He quickly pointed out that the Apple Mac has neither the sound or colour of the Amiga and also stressed that neither the Mac or the Atari have MS DOS Capability.

Purely for Business

Commodore's third section of interest in the computer market at the moment is inevitably the business and due to the Amiga's PC AT, XT and MS DOS compatibility. Commodore has also launched the PC19 and 20. The PC10 was only recently launched in the US so it's still early days for these machines.

Waxing Philosophical

Nigel Shepherd explained the Commodore philosophy in the following terms. "Commodore will continue to design and manufacture machines that are competitive and will enable both Commodore and resellers to make money. We will continue to be in the MS DOS market place. There will always be a home market and Commodore's original forte is serving that market. Commodore is moving up market to desk top publishing and corporate type machines. We are committed to today's and to future market places."

He added: "The difference between today and two years ago is that now a machine can be suitable for all of the markets - home, personal and business - all in one box whereas before there were three distinct machines. Commodore has one major advantage - the Amiga chip set."

Asked specifically about Commodore's UK outfit, Nigel replied: "Commodore North America has been through tough times in the last 18 months and like Commodore UK, had to rationalise the business and start all over again." However, Nigel believes that the corner has now been turned. He sees Commodore UK consolidating and budding in this country. Absence of major promotion was evident in the past but the company has fought for survival and we will now see a much more aggressive approach. Nigel Shepherd is confident that Commodore will return to being a major player in the UK marketplace.

Your Commodore certainly hopes so and we'd like to thank Nigel Shepherd for taking time to express his view of Commodore North America.

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Sport on Channel 64

Futuristic sports games are all the rage at the moment. Try your hand at these out-of-this-world titles.

By Tony Hetherington

Sport in the future (according to the software houses) is to be fast, furious and will usually involve a steel ball. There obviously won't be any grass left in the world as not a blade is in sight as an average of 1.8 humans battle or race droids, robots and spacecraft in purpose built tracks, planets and tracks.

Futuristic sports games are inevitably influenced by science fiction films, notably *RoboCop* and *Death Race 2000*, and are often developed from existing sports to bolster flagging telecast ratings.



Racing Destruction

Herzog's *Alien Invasion* leads off the future races as you compete in a bizarre set of challenges known as the Alien Invasion races. Written by Unidisk author, Andrew Bayntwood, the races must compete in contests such as the Moon Open, Astro Classic, Galactic Open and Mad-Max Search. He pilots a custom built convertible racer that can swap from high speed, skidding single racer mode to a slower twin laser craft for maximum destructive power. The races are run over a variety of planet surfaces that range from the fragile



dusttrack and the holy Astoria to the indestructable hardwood which will destroy a racer on impact.

The object of the game is to amass points by winning races and prize money so that you can enter more races to gain more points. Points are won by completing the race last achievement is itself, by shooting the laser firing robot spacecraft that are thrown in to break things up and by



scoring bonus points that depend on the race type. In time trials bonus points are linked to your time, in endurance races it's surviving that matters and in destruction races you must destroy the landscape.

On the Ball

Gamma's *TrafficBlower* is, by comparison, a far simpler game in which you must bounce a ball down a track that narrows out of the screen at you at breakneck speed. Again staying on the track is a major task in itself without your opponents' efforts to push you off into oblivion. Bouncing from square to square you must plan your route along the narrowing platform avoiding the traps that slow you down, reverse your controls or send you plummeting out of the contest. Thus you're ready to gently push your opponent over the edge to gain those crucial seconds to win the race.

Ballblazer (Activision) sets two *Blazers* in competition with each other as they race around a bevelled pitch chasing a steel ball. Their aim is to fire the ball into one of two moving goals.

In a limited game the balls that are controlled by either human or chess pawns can catch or fire the ball using their positive forcefields. The outcome is decided on points with a goal being worth more if it is scored from a distance. A fast and furious game that's incredibly addictive to play.

The same could also be said of *Odin's HyperBall* which features the battle for the Super Cup between two three-man teams, the Hawks and the Vipers. Before the match you can choose your players from the 18 men signed to be your opposition minus one and two and fourthousand grounds. After a quick appearance by the chorreadors the players take their positions either side of the central pole on which the goal globe travels on its relentless path up and down making goals even harder to get.



Thanks to a force field net work the players are trapped in zones in between which the ball bounces and rebounds until captured by a player. However he has only two seconds (otherwise he incurs a penalty) to pass the ball or shoot at goal.

After 18 grueling minutes of play the result is reported in the popular newspaper the *Edin*.

Bouncing Out

Rain 10 is an entirely spin off from CRL's *Tow Car* and is

found in the Gal-corps leisure complex. Described as a mixture of *Ballblazer* and *Pong* the game features a split screen battle two giant bats to knock a ball behind their opponent to score points.

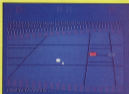
Knocking a ball into a goal is the aim of *Argus Procs* Software's *Two and* is a futuristic development of classic halfpenny football. The two contestants must fire their own ball to intercept and knock the ball into the goal to score in front of a capacity crowd.

Finally, the bizarre *Beaters* from Beyond defies description as two armour clad knights, called Eric and Ashley fire a steel ball at each other and into holes in the roof to score match winning points.

Touchline

Review: 268 *Alpha Trading Estate, Milton, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4NE, Tel: 0215 852939*

Address: 22 Pond Lane, Hampstead, London NW1 2PH, Tel: 01 437 7191



Gamma: Alpha House, 10 Carter Street, Sheffield S1 4PS, Tel: 0747 735423

Odin and Beyond: First Floor, 74 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 4PS, Tel: 01 240 8838

CRL: 9 Kings Road, Corporation Road, London E15 2ED, Tel: 01 531 2938

Argus Procs Software: Victory House, Leicester Place, London WC2E 7JH, Tel: 01 439 0666



Basic Memory

Programming in Basic can be a headache especially if you start running out of space. These routines should ease the situation.

By Allen Webb

The 64 has a full complement of 64K of RAM, but the designers, in their infinite wisdom, made only about 32K available to Basic. For those able to use machine code, the RAM behind the ROMs is easily used but, to most others, it's forbidden fruit. There is nice lamp of 4K between the ROMs, however, which can be used. Basic keeps track of storage of variables in a collection of zero page pointers. These pointers, along with their starting values, are listed in Table 1.

Pointer Variations

The values of these pointers are changed as program lines or variables are added or removed. By setting these pointers to the RAM between the ROMs, we can have a second variable area. Listing 1 gives a short routine which will do this task for you. The routine lives in the cassette buffer so that it doesn't pinch any memory. The routine has three entry points:

SYS 836: This sets up the table which saves the pointer values to some default values pointing to the spare RAM. This table is switched in when you want to use the extra RAM and is updated when you return to the normal RAM. This command effectively performs CLR on the extra RAM. Since using this command when the extra RAM is active messes things up, it checks which RAM it is in use and

sets accordingly. Calling it when normal RAM is active gives the required result. Using it with the extra RAM active simply results in a flashing border as a warning and nothing else. As far as I can see, CLR will not

correctly on the extra variables when they are active.

SYS 835: This switches in the extra RAM. The border turns red to warn you about it.

SYS 836: This switches back to normal RAM. The border is set the light blue to show it.

PROGRAM LISTING 1

```

10 1000 FOR=OTDR:CD=>:FOR=OTDR
11 HEAD=CD-CC-L:FOR=OTDR:LD=
  4-C, A-NEXTD
20 2010 @RAM:IF=>:OTDR=OTDR:
  @RAM IS LINE:1040-1218:LD
  300
30 3020 NEXT=800
34 3030 @PTR18,21,5,18,148,3,76
  184,3,175,188,1,160,18,147,
  8,3440
40 3040 @PTR179,12,208,141,208,
  2,348,8,148,31,348,330,308,3
  55,171,388,3400
44 3050 @PTR145,171,308,2,340,3
  8,358,80,160,8,161,112,1,310
  158,1,187
50 3060 @PTR140,129,3,152,188,2
  180,181,15,188,129,98,3,140
  1,181,3080
64 3070 @PTR3,392,8,308,8,8,8,2
  88,3,8,3,8,3,8,3,160,800
67 3080 @RAM:8,8,168,171,308,2
  348,3,76,18,3,160,8,185,61,
  133
70 3090 @RAM:110,188,2,180,148
  2,170,61,5,300,181,15,168,2
  38,388,1417
74 3100 @PTR178,141,308,2,149,2
  141,31,308,48,175,188,1,188
  3,76,1804
78 3110 @PTR6,3,348,8,180,61,0
  170,168,1,188,188,1,171,61,0
  8,3040
87 3120 @PTR180,181,12,308,218,
  308,8,141,308,2,149,14,341,3
  1,308,80,1812

```

Attempting to activate a variable set when that set is current may corrupt the pointer tables. Consequently, the routine won't let you take such action.

Once you have the extra RAM switched in, the operating system updates the pointers as required. So that the extra variables are protected, the pointer values are remembered each time you switch to normal variables.

Listing 2 gives a simple demo to show how the routine works. Line 10 performs CLR on the extra RAM and switches it in. Since FREE uses the variable pointers, you will see that it works correctly on both sets of RAM. The routine shows you that two variables sets of variables with the same names can be used.

One word of warning. You must not perform actions which change the pointers or use software which depend on them when the extra RAM is in use — always switch the normal RAM back in first. Such operations include adding or deleting program lines and using assemblers which use the variable pointers to assist storage.

Alternative Process

An alternative method of adding to your available memory is the use of random access on disk to provide virtual memory. Some serious

Pointer location	Function	Starting value
45,68	Start of variables	2850
47,68	Start of arrays	2850
49,50	End of arrays	2850
51,51	Bottom of storage	40960
53,56	Top of variables	40960

Games Reviews

There are some fast and furious games this month and some more leisurely titles for you to dip into.

CLASSIC SNOOKER

Here's a chance for budding Jimmy Whites to try and emulate their great ballies heroes and all from the comfort of their own home. Classic Snooker has enough options to keep even the most devoted fan quiet during the odd hour when, due to some unfortunate error in the programming schedule, there isn't actually any of the real stuff on the box.

There are three skill levels and you can choose to play either against a friend on the computer, Control of the game is simplicity itself. Position the cueball in the 'D' if necessary, select the angle of the shot, decide what, if any, spin you want to impart on the cueball and finally select the power required. If you get a red, you are prompted for a colour and this is simply a matter of moving the cursor over your choice. Details of the scores, current break and highest break, to date are displayed below the table. There is an edit mode included in the program so you don't have to play a full game if you don't want to or you can set up and practice all those fancy trick shots.

The only problem with the game, and unfortunately it's a major one, is that the balls are far too active when hit. You

only have to break into the pack at half speed and you are treated to balls whizzing all over the table in the most amazing flouting of Newton's Laws of Motion. You certainly have more than enough time to chalk your cue between shots.

All this is a pity because it totally ruins the playability of what is otherwise a well presented game. A brave effort but one that has sadly miscued. **A.R.H.**

Touching

Title: Classic Snooker, Microsoft, £64, Sapphire Aveo, JJ Bray Ltd, Daresbury, Kent DA1 2EE.

Developer: J/SO, *Graphics:* G/18, *Playability:* G/18, *Value:* G/18.

KNUCKLEBUSTERS

By the year 2000, more than one in three of the adult population was in prison after years of riots and civil disobedience. Overcrowding was overcome by the simple



expedient of using chemistry on the surgeon's knife to remove any offending part of mind or body. This is how produced thousands of socially useful androids who were used to patrol the less serene sections of the city and who had instructions to kill on sight any escaping prisoner. Not as you might imagine by the simple method of blowing their brains out, but rather by hand-to-hand combat which at least afforded the prisoner a fighting chance. But who am I to argue as without such far-fetched plots as these, computer games would be so much the poorer?

As it happens, one such prisoner was trying to escape (I bet that surprised you). You play the part of Deter in this latest beat-'em-up from Melbourne House. In order to gain your freedom, you must assault through six zones of the city, hitting or avoiding the androids as you see fit. The zones include the cell block, guard area, prison wall, city, street town and the outer wall. Available actions are run left and right, jump and drop, punch and kick. There are five different types of android to encounter as well as potentially useful items hidden behind doors and in barrels. All this must be done against the clock as you managed to sabotage the prison computer causing the entire city to self-destruct. As a hint as to how much time you have got, it may be coincidental that Ron Hubbard's sound track lasts for 17 minutes.

And that's all there is to it. The graphics are *aw-wa*, the gameplay dreadful. Save your money. **G.R.H.**

Touchline

Title: *Encounterhouse Machine Gun Sapper*; Melbourne House, 40 High Street, Hampton Wick, Middlesex-upon-Thames, Surrey KT7 4JH.

Originality: 2/10. **Graphics:** 6/10. **Playability:** 1/10. **Value:** 2/10.

DANDY

Try this storyline for size. One or two players working as a team rush like mad through 12 dungeons, knocking the stuffing out of an enemy nasty, and whenever as possible and pausing only to pick up treasure, keys and the odd hint to keep your strength up. Sound somewhat familiar? Yes, it's *Game ...* says Dandy, a Gauntlet clone from Electric Dreams.

The two characters are Thor and Shiba, two not very nice characters, all brains and no brains. They can withstand a considerable amount of damage before even they succumb to the forces of evil. Unfortunately, the vast hordes of nasties are intent on turning you to ribbons, a slice at a time. What is worse, these creatures of dark seem to come in an unlimited supply thanks to the fact that there are massive generators scattered liberally around each dungeon. If you can destroy every creature on a particular screen, you can also destroy the generators so that they plague you no longer.

Food is only one of the vital goodies for pick-up on your travels, resting as it does you by the weary body. Keys are just as important as they are required to allow you access to other parts of the dungeons. Beware as they can be destroyed by shooting them and if you are not careful in the thick of battle, you may well find yourself cut off! Spells can be found and these be to the random effect of killing, disorientating or



paralyzing the enemies. Treasure has no real function apart from being something to make your journey worthwhile. In an emergency, you can trade your treasure for energy. The are teleports to be used and completion of a set of dungeons gives you a clue to solving a riddle.

All the backgrounds are bright and colourful and there are plenty of creatures standing round the screen at a given point but the overall effect is to make the screen look very messy. Compare this to Gauntlet where the screens are a lot simpler but look a lot better for it. Not a bad game, by any means but certain speak that makes it a great one. **G.R.H.**

Touchline

Title: *Stanley Machine Gun Sapper*; Electric Dreams, 1 Carlton, Coventry, Southampton SO1 2JH.

Originality: 6/10. **Graphics:** 6/10. **Playability:** 7/10. **Value:** 7/10.

RED MAX

All you have to do to complete the game and save the Astronoid is to deactivate 25 fusion reactors on the surface, find the lift and turn on right backup make-over mode, systems in the engineering area, shut down four power plants and finally re-arm more mine crew members in the laboratory complex? This shouldn't be a problem as you're riding Red Max!

The Astronoid is one of a group of anti-gravity vehicles sent out to engage the Sun as it begins an unexpected Super Nova cycle. Sadly past the Sun the mission went bad, wrong when members of the Ravagade Death Lords landed and sabotaged the power plants. The alarm sounded and now you must ride Red Max to the rescue.

The game plays like a sequel to Blastarion's The Last V8 as you drive your bike around the planet's surface in the top half of the screen while monitoring controls in the bottom half.

The planet surface is packed with traps to hinder and deroute your efforts. These include laser fences and gas biological mines as well as the buildings that destroy you or

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contact. My favourite scenes are in the underground caverns in which you must drive through lakes and rivers that try to drag you along with the current.

Red Man is yet another highly addictive budget game that drives you back for another game, again and again.

T.H.

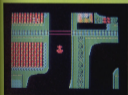
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...ons G.R.88

FourKine

Title: Red Man. **Supplier:** Code Masters, 1 Rosemount, Borehampton, Gloucestershire. **OS:** ZX Spectrum, Commodore 64, Atari 5200. **Price:** £7.95. **Originality:** 4/10. **Graphics:** 7/10. **Playability:** 5/10. **Value:** 5/10.

...Dennis, J.

.../10. Fisher



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STREET MACHINE

Yet another racing simulation game. You control a high-powered turbo-charged chassis automatically although you would not think it to look at the screen which depicts an overhead view of you and the other seven cars as you drive round a scrolling track. The cars look like swooped-down Datsuns.

Your race is split into three sections - normal conditions, explosion and icy. Control is straightforward. Accelerate, decelerate, left, right and brake. The usual objective is to get

round the course as fast as you can but there is no indication of how well you were doing before you wrote off your vehicle. Even a simple 'You have travelled x miles' on a high score table would help considerably.

Major crashes result in your car exploding and game over time. Minor bumps and general wear and tear can be fixed although it costs you time. A two-page menu is presented showing all the various bits of your car and the amount of damage that they have assessed. Anything that is more than 80% damaged must be fixed. This involves moving the cursor to the right a bit and wasting. Damage is repaired with time and you are limited as to how much time you have available. This part of the game is dull in the extreme - it is just a case of looking down the list for high numbers. The name of the part is irrelevant.

This game is neither original nor addictive. It would have been reasonable if it had come out in 1983 but now, it looks very dated. In the computer game Grand Prix, Street Machine barely makes it over the starting line. G.R.H.

FourKine: Fisher. **Street Machine, Supplier:** Software Innovation. **Price:** £7.95. **Originality:** 2/10. **Graphics:** 3/10. **Playability:** 3/10. **Value:** 3/10.



BLOOD 'N GUTS

Decathlon barbarian style is the subject of the latest game from Swedish software house American Action. The game that promises all of the violence and brutality you've ever dreamed about features 80-second contests in which the loser literally loses his head (thanks to a handy on position guideline!)

You can select your athlete from the motley collection of Knave, Hawk, Nag and Dog who does battle against either a human or computer opponent in challenges where the ancient art of jousting juggling is crucial to victory.

The contestants are tested to the fall by events that examine their strength, accuracy and coordination in front of a critically silent crowd.

During the contest they compete in a tug of war which the loser ends up in a river, the tower jump where a successful leaper must land on his head and the polefight over a massive

when the beer takes a dive!

A barbarian in stacks flows the live target for the human hit event in which the player must hurl rocks at his nose, arms and legs. In the one throwing the barbarians get a chance to throw axes at each other and in the end throwing a poor soggy bundle through the air and lands dangerously close to a hungry looking crowd.

My favourite event is the beer drinking in which our heroes must quaff three barrels of beer without spilling a single drop. A mixture of timing and wiggling are required to drain the barrel and deliver the victory belts before your opponents drained the froth. Finally, three rounds of arm wrestling end the contest with a signal delivering the final blow to the loser.

Each event is supported with "Tut" graphics such as a cross section of a barbarian head so that you can control the flow in the beer drinking and insert of the player during the mountain walk to reconstruct any loss of balance.

Overall the game is good fun to play despite it's low appearance and makes a welcome change from the slopes, fields and tracks of the more serious sports simulations.

T.H.

Touchline

Title: Blood 'n Guts, Supplier: American Action, Box 10866, 260 41 Midway, London, Machine: C64.

Originality: 8/10, Graphics: 8/10, Playability: 9/10, Value: 8/10.

HYPA-BALL

It's the day of the Delta Super Cup and a triatic clash between the Hawks and Vipers. You captain the Hawks in the ultimate team game in the Universe - Hypa-Ball.

Before the match can begin you must choose your team from the pool of 18 players knowing that the computerised vipers are just as eager to snap up the stars. You can judge a players abilities from his strength, speed and agility ratings as you scroll along the likes of Alex Grant, Frodo Flange and Stu Clobbering.

After a few disastrous games you're slaughtered in the 10 minute matches, you'll begin to see which are the best

players in the computer will pick these ones. However as you get first pick you should soon be in with a chance.

The Hypa-Ball stadium is split into two halves by a central pole along which the goal ball relentlessly moves up and down at a constant rate. At either edge of the screen the pitch is bounded by a force field that teleports the star playing ball into the other half.

After a quick twist from the cheerleaders the players take their position. The striker ones and team boss on either side of the pole and are restricted to that half of the field, who run the grounds are free where he wants to as long as he keeps his feet on the ground. The match begins as the ball is fired into play.

Joystick controls never one write and the grounds are at any one time. This takes a while to get used to but soon you'll be chasing ball. Once you catch it you have to think quickly as you've only got 2.5 seconds to get rid of it otherwise you'll concede a penalty and a certain goal.

Goals are scored by firing the ball at the goal but since it's a moving target this isn't easy. In a 10 minute match against a good computer opponent your concentration must be total as the slightest lapse will let him in to score.

A fast and furious, futuristic sports game supported by super sounds and speedy gameplay.

T.H.

Touchline

Title: Hypa-Ball, Supplier: Delta, 74 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PS, Machine: C64.

Originality: 8/10, Graphics: 8/10, Playability: 9/10, Value: 8/10.

ROBOT RASCALS

Robot Rascals is the latest game to be released by Electronic Arts (through Aristonsoft) and is a game that's half computer game and half card game!

Basically, the game is a multi-player treasure hunt with a hand of cards deciding what the players are looking for. Four cards are dealt as the program is loaded in. Then the players select one of the 10 robots that would suit best at home in Electronic Art's classic game M.U.L.E. Although they are vastly different, there doesn't seem to be any difference in their strengths or abilities.

Each turn, each players gets to move his robot around the alien world of Laxarwood seeking out their selected artifacts. Moving through rocks or trees costs more energy than strutting through plains. Either way this energy is deducted from the robots main allowance. When all the energy has gone the turn is over. As well as moving a robot can soon for one of the 24 items that range from a denim disk to a digital atom. The robot then spins around if he quivers the spin the closer you are to the object and finally points in the direction you need to go in. Collect all four objects and return home (in the centre of Laxarwood) and you've won the game.

Unfortunately, it isn't that simple as the other players are out to snag you. There's another pack of cards, the luck cards, that can force you to show your hand to the others, allow you to swap one of your cards for somebody else's or get everyone to swap with the descriptor "pass the trash





card". All this wheeling and dealing is necessary as some cards (and the objects they represent) are better than others such as the Super Shield and Velocity Vitamin that add to your robot's powers whereas the Energy Eater and Atomic Anchor slow you down. There's even a killer card that stops you from winning unless you can pass it on to someone else. The card gets passed around a lot.

The mischief doesn't end with cards as you can also get your robot to go and snag the other players by removing them and the stealing what you want but you can also use energy to build shields to protect yourself from snaggers.

Finally just as you thought you had things under control the game alerts one of its global factors such as slowing down all movement or increasing the energy and stoppers your plans.

A fun game for all the family that is best played with the maximum four players to allow maximum scolding glory. Believe me this can get vicious as people have been known to drop objects that I've wanted at the bottom of takes just to postpone my victory celebrations but don't worry I'll get revenge. **T.H.**

Touchline

Title: *Robot Soccer*. **Supplier:** Electronic Arts (Artsdata 01), 49 Long Ave., London WC2E 9AW. **Machine:** C64 disk. **Price:** £16.95.

Originality: 3/10 **Graphics:** 7/10 **Playability:** 8/10 **Value:** 7/10

LIGHT FORCE

Posing a lone Lightforce fighter craft, here is yet another attempt giving you the chance to put the wrongs of the Universe to right. This time, the object of your mission is simple as you attempt to wipe out an alien force that has stolen a Terra-nuked system on the edge of the galaxy. You think it's another above-on-up.

Why is it that whenever there is any sort of trouble, you are the only person around capable of sorting it out? This time, the 'trouble' comes in the form of a few thousand alien

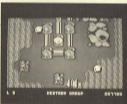
ships and ground defenses spread over such divergent landscapes as jungles, asteroid belts and ice-planes.

Despite the unoriginal storyline, Lightforce plays very well indeed. The graphics, while not quite as stunning as the Spectrum version, are still noteworthy. The game itself is basically one of learning the patterns of the airborne aliens while at the same time, manoeuvring yourself into a position whereby you can blast the ground targets. Your task is made more tricky as these need several hits to destroy them. They are vital though. Take out four control centres and you earn yourself a most welcome extra life. Apart from your twin lasers, there are other special weapons to be found and activated as you continue your aerial Rambo act.

Faster Than Light, the company producing Lightforce has managed the one ingredient that makes shoot-'em-ups stand out from the crowd. This game is incredibly addictive. Couple that with the on screen effects and Lightforce becomes an essential purchase for anyone who enjoys a fast blast. **G.R.H.**

Touchline

Title: *Lightforce*. **Supplier:** *Faster Than Light*. **Supplier:** *Acad Eas, Zipem, West Midlands DY4 2JL*. **Machine:** C64. **Price:** £9.95. **Originality:** 2/10 **Graphics:** 8/10 **Playability:** 8/10 **Value:** 8/10

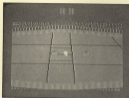


Xeno

Developed from a game played by platinum miners, back in the 13th century, Xeno was originally a game with few rules and considerable wackiness. The basic idea was a fairly traditional one - try to hit a pack into your opponent's goal more times than he managed to do the same to you. If the pack or you happened to hit the opponent, tough luck!

In today's sanitised version, the game has become a huge spectator sport, the rules have been tidied up somewhat and champions become legends overnight. Xeno is your chance to become one of the sporting heroes of the galaxy.

The game is a sort of space age ice hockey. Each player controls a disk and takes it in turn to fire it anywhere on the lozenge shaped rink, the ultimate objective being to knock the pack into your opponent's goal. You can try and hit the



kick direct, knock your opponent's disk out of the way or try to block his shot. The game is played over four quarters and the person with the highest score is the winner.

Playing Xeno is simplicity itself - you simply move a small arrow around the pitch, press fire and your disk travels in the appropriate direction. The game can effectively become more difficult as there are a number of variables that you can fiddle with: one or two players, the length of each quarter, the amount of time between shots and a hand-capping system for the computer. In practice, the default values work as well as any others and lead to a fast and furious game although not one in which you will be beaten out of sight by the computer.

Xeno is a well implemented, simple game that is great fun to play.

G.R.H.

Touchline:

Title: Xeno. **Supplier:** S&S, Victory House, Leicestershire Place, London WC2V 7BA. **Tel:** 01 439 0968. **Machine:** C64. **Price:** £9.95. **Originality:** 5/10. **Graphics:** 6/10. **Playability:** 8/10. **Value:** 6/10.

THE DOUBLE

Every football manager's dream is to achieve the 'double', by winning both the league and FA Cup in one season. This achievement has only been done five times in the history of English football but here you can try and make it six with this new football simulation game from Seaman.

Being a football manager myself I can honestly say that this is by far the most realistic game of its kind I have come across. All the usual gameplay features are included with this type of game, but this particular one has many bonus features that its rivals.

Included among the options are ones that allow you to employ scouts to report on any team or player from any division and a physiotherapist to help cure your injured players. As well as coping with the team problems you are asked to deal with the running of ground improvements, sackings, wages and even estimating your attendance. Underestimating the crowd can result in terrace battles

while over estimating can result in huge policing bills and lecture from your chairman.

Except for cup matches, watching games is optional and if your side is having a particularly poor spell then you may wish to watch another game from another division. The simulations are rather lengthy and take about 15 minutes if all but commentary of the game helps identify the quality of your players.

After each game you are given the scores, scorers and attendance figures for all matches. The attendance figures and playing squads were selected from the 1985-86 season and add a very up to date dimension to the game.

Overall 'The Double' is an exceptionally realistic game and an absolute must for any football fan but it is of time rather slow and time consuming.

S.K.

Touchline:

Name: The Double. **Price:** £10.95. **Machine:** C64. **Supplier:** Johnson System Ltd, Tel: 0634 25664/47 7788. **Originality:** 4/10. **Realism:** 9/10. **Playability:** 6/10. **Value:** 6/10.



CHAMELEON

In what Electric Dreams describes as a "strange" arcade adventure, you are Chameleon. Made from Man and Flea, the fabric of limbo, you must master the four realms of Fire, Earth, Air and Water and do battle with the demons that now rule there. These demons were created by an evil man to master the powers of nature and so wreak havoc on to the Earth with freak storms, blizzards and dust storms.

Using your flux you can master the demons and defeat them in combat while repairing the damage caused by the tainted flux.

During your quest you must journey through these strange realms and seek out the tainted flux that can be found only in a certain place and a specific time of day. Luckily, you are fitted with warning beacons that sound when you meet one of the criteria, then it's merely a matter of lighting off the demon onslaught until you can progress to the next realm.

The game features a similar mock 3D display as found in Gremlin's Way of the Tiger as the Chameleon travels past an assortment of energy draining pools and holes and



background deserts, pyramids, trees and mountains.

Constant attacks from the demon flames, rockslabs, water, lightning and deathballs drain your flux energy lifeflow which can be replenished by collecting the sparklers that are left if you blast the Super Demons.

Underneath this surreal coat of rustles, flux and Limbo lies a surprisingly easy, shallow and ordinary arcade adventure. **T.H.**

Teacher

Title: Classroom. Supplier: Electric Dreams, 17 Carlton Circus, Southampton SO1 2EF. Ref: 075 27684. Machine: C64.

Originally: 5/18. Graphics: 5/10. Playability: 5/10. Value: 5/10.

HEARTLAND

The strangest things can happen when you read a book that you found in the attic. This one was all about an overwight wizard that saved a magic land from the evil eyes of the Warlock Midean. As you near the end of the book you realize that the last six pages are missing! Thus to your honor you find yourself in the land you were reading about and dressed in the wizard's outside clothes and armed only with a self-repairing top hat.

Your mission is to search the strange platforms and portals of the Heartland for the missing pages so that the very land Heartland has a happy ending. However Midean knows of your presence and has sent his minions to get you. These consist of the spinning wizards and the indescribable goobies that chase you even after you've blasted them into a pile of bones.

Your mission is further hampered by the energy draining stars and bubbles that float above the platforms and six dark pages that detail a different end to the book involving lots of C64 for you and the Heartland.

Help is at hand in the more powerful weapons that you can find such as swords and fireballs as well as other wares that give you temporary immunity and a hat that transports you from one scene to another. Despite this the hand of Midean isn't far away and gets even closer every time one of

his minions or spells reach you until his face appears at the top of the screen ending your game.

Heartland is an excellent arcade adventure featuring some exceptional graphics particularly of the crumbling minions as they disperse into a pile of bones. **T.H.**

Teacher

Title: Fractional. Supplier: Ode, First Floor, 74 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PS. Machine: C64.

Originally: 5/10. Graphics: 5/10. Playability: 5/10. Value: 5/10.



SKY RUNNER

By the 21st Century man was spread throughout the galaxy and at last the governments had found a drug to control him.

This was the result of years of research and countless failures as previous drugs had left galactic pigs in a hairless daze. Then on a single planet called Numbolose they actually found it growing on trees. Seventy per cent of the planets man had tried containing the drug Sky.

Fleets of Sky Runners riding their Sky Bikes were dispatched to harvest the drug protected by the laser firing towers that were built to protect them.

Although necessary (normal policing methods didn't work) control drugs were still illegal. You are part of the Runner Squad that was formed to sabotage the Sky running on the forested world.

As you're paid by results you set off to trash as many bikes as possible. The game begins as your skimmer lands on the planet.

Your first problem is to take out the laser towers that protect the Sky collecting bikers. With your single skimmer you must out-gain the towers by blasting them in high speed attack runs. Only then can you land and drop your first of three bikes.

Charging through the trees (that are as deadly as the towers if you crash into them) you must track down and

destroy the Sky Bikers but you must take care not to destroy your fellow rescue squad men.

Unfortunately, even the eight different threat or skill levels do nothing to save a game that is bland and reminiscent of a four-year-old Spectrum game! **T.H.H.**

Touchline

Title: Sky Runner, Supplier: Cascade Games, Harrogate, HV17 5SU, Machine: C64.

Originality: 4/10, Graphics: 6/10, Playability: 5/10, Value: 5/10.



STARGLIDER

Starglides, the game that features vector graphics arcade action, comes in a box with a 64-page novel, poster and key guide and uses every possible accolade in its previous versions, is at last available on the C64.

The Star Glider in question isn't the craft that you fly by peering at its on-screen controls but giant birds that lead to the downfall of the planet Noxonia. These birds migrated through space to Noxonia and were fired by the planet's Socialist "zap anything" defense system until an attack of



conservation reprogrammed the Noxionics. Unfortunately they also let in the Star Glider-shaped Ergon attack fleet that devastated the defenceless planet. Luckily, you were on a nearby moon and have found an ancient airborne ground attack vehicle (AGAV) and have gone to the rescue.

There's no great strategic aim to be fulfilled as your job is simply to destroy all you can before they finally get you. You find you can use the planet's initial, warm and rapid facilities that should improve your chances.

Using a combination of keyboard and joystick controls you must fly your AGAV and do battle with a collection of alien craft that include the Star Wars inspired walkers and stompers, tanks, mines, missile launchers and the Hopping Star Gliders. Most take more than one shot to kill and some such as the stompers can only be destroyed by firing a missile that you must guide to the target through a separate display.

An excellent game that has been ruined by poor programming. **T.H.H.**

Touchline

Title: Touchline, Supplier: Rainbow, Le Floor, 74 New Oxford Street, London WC2A 1PS, Machine: C64, Price: £14.95.

Originality: 6/10, Graphics: 7/10, Playability: 6/10, Value: 6/10.

10th FRAME

Ten pin bowling is the name of the game in this latest sports simulation from the Access/US Gold stable. 10th Frame allows up to eight players to have a go at knocking over as many skittles as possible on either a league or one-off basis.

For the uninitiated, ten pin bowling involves rolling a huge ball down an alley as you attempt to knock over 10 skittles. You get two attempts to do this. If you succeed in knocking them all down with only one ball, this is known as a strike. Take two balls and it becomes a spare. The score of a high score is to make sure of getting your spares.

In order to launch a ball, you must first select an aiming point and position your man on the lane. Keeping the fire button pressed will start a bar moving up a scale as you determine the speed of your release. Two small markers determine the safe upper and lower limits for an accurate throw. The bar then slides quickly down the right hand side of the scale and you must press again to stop on one of the three markers - straight, slight hook and maximum hook. If so your pins and your ball is likely to make an early exit into the nearest gutter.

Graphically, the game is a little disappointing. The effects of the skittles falling down is well done but the lane is small - one fills the width of the screen. The worst part is the sliding scale. Yellow on orange proved very hard to see, especially under artificial light.

10th Frame is a highly accurate simulation of 10 pin bowling but lacks a little in additive qualities. **G.R.H.**

Touchline

Title: 10th Frame, Supplier: US Gold, Dares 2/1, Millfield Way, Hopton, Stroudham BS 74E, Machine: C64, Price: £9.95.

Originality: 5/10, Graphics: 6/10, Playability: 7/10, Value: 7/10.

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Cribbage

If you've ever played cribbage then you'll know just what an addictive game it is and if you haven't then try our Plus/4 version of the game

By Hugh McGhee

Cribbage is one of the most popular pub card games in this country, but have you ever considered trying to beat your computer instead of hunting against the champ down at your local? Now's your chance, if you've got a Plus/4.

Introduction

It is assumed that the player knows how to play cribbage. The rules are exactly those given in *Wyle's Rules of Games*. Since some aspects of scoring points vary from region to region, the points scored in this version will be indicated in this introduction. The following points should thus be noted.

- 1) Due to the layout of the cards X is used to represent a 10.
- 2) Input is handled by means of a joystick in port two. When asked to play or discard a card, simply move the marker which appears above the cards to the required position and press the fire button. When entering your points, moving the joystick < right > and < left > increases and decreases the points counter respectively. Once again pressing fire enters your response. The program is protected against attempts to discard or play the same card twice. Attempts to claim too many points produce an error message. The Plus/4 always claims the correct number of points for itself but, if you don't claim all your points, the Plus/4 will steal them.
- 3) Each player is dealt six cards and must discard two cards into the crib. The Plus/4 plays a simple strategy choosing its best four cards after consideration of the two cards it is discarding. The cards are shuffled after every hand but only cards are shuffled out of the pack to save time. The program differentiates between dealer and non-dealer. The player who doesn't have the crib always receives the first card.
- 4) The Plus/4 runs the cards for the initial crib. The lowest card wins. Note that in this game the ace always counts as one. Illegal combinations are not allowed so two aces of spades, for example, will not be displayed. This however, such as both players entering a two of different suits, are permitted, in which case the crib will be performed again.
- 5) The first player to obtain 121 points or more wins.
- 6) Note that in the run up the Plus/4 will check your cards if you say you can't go. This is the only time the Plus/4 examines your cards but it does not cheat. Any discovery of an ability to play after entering 'can't go' will produce an error message, as will an attempt to play a card that would result in a total excess of 31. The Plus/4 does not play a strategy in the run up except that it will always make the total 30 if it can. It will not, however, always make the total 15 even if it can.
- 7) The cradling of a go in the run up has proved the most tricky operation in practice. If the player plays last the Plus/4 does not know that the player cannot go unless the total is 31 on the last card has been played. Otherwise the player must enter 'can't go' before entering the last point.

Points are scored as follows:

- A) Two points for any pair, six points for three cards of a kind and 12 points for four cards of a kind.
 - B) Two points for any combination of cards totalling 15, counting picture cards as 10.
 - C) For any run of three or more cards, count one point for each card in the run.
 - D) For obtaining a total of 15 or 31 in the run up, score two points.
 - E) For playing the last card in any go in the run up, score one point.
 - F) For a flush of four cards in your hand, score four points. Note there are no points for a flush or four in the crib.
 - G) For a flush of five, either in your hand or in the crib, score five points.
 - H) If the starter card is a jack, and it is your crib, add two points when counting your hand in the main game.
 - I) If you have a jack either in your hand or in the crib of the same suit as the starter card, count one point.
- 3) The game is played on the high resolution screen to facilitate the different background colours.

Variables

The array CASH(4) has four rows and

14 columns. Columns one to 13 hold both the denominations of the cards from ace through to king. The zero element of each row holds the suit for that row. The suits are, in order, spades, hearts, clubs and diamonds.

The 13 cards shuffled out of the pack for each hand are placed in the SHUFF array. This has two rows of 13 columns, row zero holding the denomination of the cards and row one their respective suits.

The array C8(m,n) has four rows and six columns. This holds the initial six cards dealt to each player. The Plus/4's denomination and suits are in rows zero and one respectively, the denominations and suits of the player's cards are in rows two and three respectively.

The array P5(m,n) is used after the discard has taken place. It has six rows of five columns and is the major card array used in the game. The first four elements in rows zero, two and four hold the denominations of the four cards in the Plus/4's hand, player's hand and the crib respectively. The associated suits are stored in the first four elements of rows one, three and five. At the commencement of the main game the fifth element of each relevant row will be occupied by the denomination and suit of the starter card, which is used by all hands.

The face values for the deck of cards are stored in the array F5(m,n) row zero holding the values one (for

The major scalar variables are as follows:

MP—	Plus/4's points
YP—	Player's points
TP—	Used in run up to indicate number of cards played in the current go.
T—	Used in total the points in the points count routine. Also used in the run up to hold the total face values in the current go.
PO—	Used in the main game to hold the total points count being the sum of T above and the result of check or bluff, jacks etc. Also used to hold points scored in the run up as T is otherwise engaged.
ML—	Flag used to indicate who played the current card in the run up. If ML is one then the Plus/4 played last, and if ML equals two the player did.
IC—	Flag used in the run up to indicate whether or not the Plus/4 can play a card. The Plus/4 is able to play a card whilst IC is equal to one and unable to go if equal to zero.
YC—	Serves the same purpose as IC for the player.
MCL, YC—	These two variables hold the number of cards played in the run up by the Plus/4 and the player respectively.
WC—	Signifies who holds the crib. If set to one then the Plus/4 has the crib and if set to two the player has the crib.

the ace) to 13 (for the King), whereas row one holds the values one to 10 (for the purpose of counting 15).

The respective values of the shuffled cards are placed in the array SHUFF(n,i) after shuffling. The values are transferred to C5(m,n) after dealing the cards and are finally stored in the Y5(m,n) array after the discard. The arrays SHUFF(n) and Y5(m,n) have exactly the same format as the SHUFF(n) and F5(m,n) arrays described above.

The array R5(m,n) is used by the sorting routine for run checks. The

sorted cards are placed in row one and after transfer by the sorting routine into row zero. That row is sorted into ascending order.

The arrays M5(m) and Y5(m) are row vectors each containing four elements. These arrays are used in the run up, and a non-zero element indicates a played card. As is general in this program, any variable prefixed by the letter M indicates a value used by the Plus/4, whereas variables associated with the player are prefixed with a Y.

TE

PROGRAM DECLARATION

```

1000 DEF F5(2)=1570888(1)*21+1
1010 SORS(26)=081884180
1020 SORS(27)=081884180
1030 S0
1040 C5(8)(3)=718
1050 C5(8)(4)=C5(8)(6)+C5(8)(7)
1060
1070 IFP=1208877+1207881888
1080 C5(8)(1)=0+C5(8)(18)
1090 C5(8)(2)=1187+1208877+128
1100 SORS(30)=0
1110 TP=4+18+2+18+9+08+89940,LE=5
1120 L=884(1),L2=C5(8)(2)
1130 F5(8)=F5(8)+TP
1140 TP=718,47+48+718+1,41+88+71
1150 L,47+718,121+718+1,41+718+1,12
1160
1170 NEXT
1180 TP=0+TP+L2
1190 L=L+TP+1+8+88888333+377+128
1200 L=0
1210 S=8+18+08+24+0+88888833
0
1220 S=7+88888833
1230 S=8+8+8+8+8+8+88888888+8+1
6+8+8+8+8+8+8888883333
1240 SORS(8)=1
1250 IFP(4,1)=7+7788888+8+3
1260 S=1+88+718+1,1
1270 FORS(1)=8
1280 IFP(4,1,1)=8+718888+8+1
1290 NEXT
1300 IFP=4+888888(1+1,41)+8+778888
+8+4+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1
1310 FORS(2)=8
1320 IFP(4,1,1)=7+7+888888(1+1,8)+
8
1330 SORS(7,12,08)
1340 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1350 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1360 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1370 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1380 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1390 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1400 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1410 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1420 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1430 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1440 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1450 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1460 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1470 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1480 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1490 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1500 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1510 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1520 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1530 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1540 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1550 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1560 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1570 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1580 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1590 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1600 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1610 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1620 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1630 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1640 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1650 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
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1700 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1710 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
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1730 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1740 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1750 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1760 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1770 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1780 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1790 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1800 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1810 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1820 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1830 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1840 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1850 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1860 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1870 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1880 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1890 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1900 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1910 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1920 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1930 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1940 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1950 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1960 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1970 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1980 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
1990 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)
2000 SORS(7,12,08)+SORS(7,12,08)

```


Diskit 4

To continue our special series for disk users, we bring you a routine which will foil those would be hackers from stealing your thunder.

By Les Allen

How often have you written a utility as program routine, given it a "friend" only to discover at a later time that somebody else has "gone in" and taken the credits. Annoying isn't it?

Also there are a certain number of users that take delight in corrupting software by changing the text routines of it.

This program routine provides the user with the facility to scramble code thus making the would be hacker's job that much more difficult as the scrambled code disguises any text.

Getting It In

Make sure that sufficient room exists on the disk prior to "booting" up "PROGRAMMABLE", occasionally one extra disk block is used on the saved file. Press any key on the keyboard to enter the assembler code, over the filename of the program to be scrambled and press RETURN to start the operation.

The program is then loaded, scrambled and saved back to disk as "FILENAME" where filename is the name of the program.

The routine adds 70 bytes to the saved code so the only limitation on this routine is that the original program must exist between 0000 and 0200. Even if 202 blocks are used there still may be sufficient room on

the disk. As I am sure you are aware, each block is allocated 256-bytes but all may not be used.

Once the save process is completed the program exists in memory as the finished product and can be compiled as successful by entering RUN.

The program must be typed in

exactly as listed and saved prior to running. Error trap routines are included to ensure that the data as read is correct. The program, when run, stores the relevant code at a temporary address of 0000 and when prompted collects the working program to basic (0000) and saves the program to disk.

PROGRAM: SCRAMBLER CODE

```

00 10 01-0000-00-0000-00-00 04 00 PRINT" CODE BACK TO THE
01 01 PRINT"FROM THE SOURCE FILE" AREA OF MEMORY PAGE"
02 10 FORN=1,100:FORM=1,100:FORM 05 00 PRINT
03000,15:PRINTFORM,10 06 00 PRINT" WHICH IT WAS FOR
04 PRINT 07 00 PRINT" SURELY DESTROYED."
05 01 PRINT,PRINT
06 00 PROCEEDS
07 10 PRINT"PO#000000100"00,00,00 08 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
08 00 00,00,00 09 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
09 10 PRINT"PO#000000100"00,00 10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 11 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 10 PRINT"PO#000000100"00,00 12 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,0-0 13 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
11 10 PRINT"PO#000000100"00,00 14 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 15 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 10 PRINT"PO#000000100"00,00 16 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,0-0 17 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
11 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 18 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 19 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 20 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 21 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 22 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 23 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 24 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 25 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 26 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 27 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 28 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 29 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 30 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 31 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 32 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 33 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 34 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 35 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 36 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 37 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 38 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 39 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 40 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 41 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 42 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 43 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 44 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 45 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 46 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 47 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 48 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 49 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 50 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 51 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 52 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 53 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 54 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 55 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 56 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 57 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 58 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0 59 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
10 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00 60 00 00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00-00
1000,00:PRINTFORM,0-0

```


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By Paul Eves

DIAMOND MINE

Diamond Mine is one of those games that is difficult to get to grips with at the start, but for some reason you have to keep having 'just one more go'.

The idea is to guide your pipe through the mine to reach the diamonds. You have to avoid contact with the walls and bags, otherwise you lose that much pipe and you have to start all over again. On each level, the length of pipe you have to start with gets less and less, this is shown at the top left of the screen.

Movement of the pipe is one of those infuriating types of control. Once you start to move, you cannot stop. Therefore you not only have to be accurate, you must also have quick reflexes.

Although this looks a very simple game, there is quite a lot of hidden strategy involved in actual play. Pick the shortest route to a diamond, not the easiest, for example.



Although the graphics are simple, most of the screens is comprised of wall, I quite liked them. Overall, a difficult game to master but well worth the effort.

Touchline

Title: Diamond Mine. **Company:** Blue Ribbon Software Ltd. **CDS Name:** Bookers Road, Demerston, South Yorks. **Price:** £1.99.

Difficulty: 3/10. **Playability:** 7/10. **Graphics:** 5/10. **Value:** 5/10.

MAGICIANS CURSE

Gordin Graphics has produced one of the better games for the C16/Plus/4 for some time, with Magicians Curse. 'Long ago, this land was inhabited by an evil magician. The land is now uninhabited etc.', so the story informs you. It's surprising how many evil magicians used to exist.

The prime object is to search this land of 48 screens and score for yourself a golden statue. Before you achieve the goal however, you must also collect seven talismans. These can be found in various places just lying around.

While you are busy ransacking these screens to screen, your magic is quite understandably getting less and less. To counteract this, you need to either drink some potion, or eat some food. A couple of the locations will need a key to gain entry, while the background screens will need some light source to navigate.

Naturally, it is not quite this simple. There are the odd vampire bats lurking around, and falling apples to dodge. In



oneful which poisons you eat, one of them is poisoned (I had the antidote quick).

Considering the limitations in programming the CIB, this is quite a good game. I especially liked the animation of the bats, no flukes to be seen anywhere. Also the stars twinkling in the night sky is pleasing. Well done Greenin.

Touchline

Title: Marble Madness. **Company:** Gamlin Graphics. **Alpha Drive 30 Carver Street, Sheffield, S1 4PS. Price:** £6.95. **Originality:** 4/10. **Playability:** 6/10. **Graphics:** 7/10. **Value:** 5/10.

DIAMOND MINE II

Having completed Diamond Mine, you have now mined all your new found wealth into opening an even bigger mine. Diamond Mine II is virtually the as its predecessor except that there are a couple of variations.

In this version you have an assistant that keep your watch money going. This time you can push the marbles up into your pipe, however after a time they will re-appear, so watch out.

If you try to cross over your path, or go back the same way, a life is lost. You can however retract your pipe by pressing the return key. This feature of the game makes it a lot better to play than the original. You now have the ability to plan your tactics a lot better. Allow the 10th level the mines become 'invisible', making your task that much harder.

Touchline

Title: Diamond Mine II. **Company:** New Release Software Ltd. **CIS House, Buxton Road, Doncaster, South Yorks. Price:** £10.99. **Originality:** 5/10. **Playability:** 6/10. **Graphics:** 7/10. **Value:** 7/10.

PINPOINT

For those of you that have seen Marble Madness, Pinpoint will hold no mystery. The concept is the same. You have to reach the white flag with your spinning top. Having achieved this, you go on to the next level.

Amos has here produced a game that should be very popular. I say should be, but I have my reservations. The main problem, is that the game is just too difficult to play and enjoy fully. Control of the top is via the joystick, and you need to be very precise in your movements.

There are the usual steep slopes to climb, and chasms to leap. The downward slopes need to be tackled very slowly otherwise you lose your top off the edge. Understandably, sound is somewhat lacking, and I fear you will soon tire of the 'dit, dit' everytime you lose a top.

The inlay card informs you that there are 10 levels of difficulty, but I must confess to only reaching the fourth one before abandoning the play. The graphics are fairly good, being the two colour variety.

Lovers of Marble Madness and Spinzitty will obviously love this one, as for the rest of you, I have doubts.

Touchline

Title: Pinpoint. **Supplier:** Amos Software, 4 Westgate House, Spital Street, Dartford, Kent. **Price:** £3.95. **Originality:** 3/10. **Playability:** 4/10. **Graphics:** 6/10. **Value:** 6/10.



SPIKY HAROLD

Forlind has come up with some real winners in the past, but I don't think that Spiky Harold will be one of them. It's a nice enough game, but I think it lacks that acceptable quality of 'noveltyness'.

The idea is that you have to help Harold collect as much grub as possible, to help him hibernate for the winter. The grub in question consists mainly of apples, grapes, pineapples, (What so nuts?) and wine. (Beware not too much).



You have to visit various caverns to collect the said gems, each is filled with nasties of varying types. All the nasties have one thing in common, that is, they kill you on contact. This isn't too big a problem seeing as you start off with 19 lives.

The animation of the nasties is done very well. My only gripe is the "Character Detect" routine. It takes some time before you can really judge safe distances.

In your wanderings you will, from time to time, come across a coin. Picking this up will give you extra lives. Just one point, the wizard here has predicted a severe frost in the next 24 hours. This would obviously kill our Harold, so you must succeed in your task before the time runs out.

Spiky Harold, is basically a platform game, which we either love or hate. Overall not a bad attempt.

Touchline

Title: Spiky Harold. **Company:** Festival, 34 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PS. **Price:** £1.99.
Originality: 4/10. **Playability:** 3/10. **Graphics:** 4/10. **Value:** 7/10.

DANGERZONE

There is no escaping the fact that some people enjoy the idea of blasting anything that moves. It must be an inbuilt desire that humans suffer from. Dangerous lets you do just that.

As test pilot for the XE-99 Fighter come reconnaissance ship, you have to blast your way through 20 levels of toxicoid bats. The higher the level, the faster they come at you. There are also the odd wave of alien craft to blast as well, so you need to keep your mind on your flying or else.

The scrolling is definitely smooth, and on the higher levels fast as well. My only real criticism, is that you can only move in one of two directions (up or down).

Your ship is equipped with rapid fire lasers. However constant use of this facility soon depletes your weaponry, so use this with caution.

Flying without firing will increase your fire-power but

watch out. The action is fast and furious, but I feel that a couple of hours play is more than enough of this one.

Touchline

Title: Dangerous. **Company:** Codemasters, 1 Brunton Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, Bournemouth, Dorset, BA1 1ST.
Originality: 3/10. **Playability:** 4/10. **Graphics:** 4/10. **Value:** 3/10.

ASTRO PLUMBER

You can be forgiven for thinking that you have seen the game before. The truth is, you have. I know this is because I Super Pipeline and Super Pipeline II by Taskan on the 64.

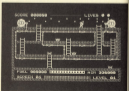
I am not putting this down though. It's very good indeed. You are the maintenance man just arrived from Earth. Your job is to repair the leaking air pipes that serve Colony II on the moon. (The underground caverns are inhabited by the usual nasties that have to be avoided. To aid you in this task you are wearing a jet pack, which I couldn't quite master.)

You use your Plasma laser to repair the pipes. But exercise care drains your supply, so use with caution. You can leave a screen without completing all repairs, but when you return to that screen, the leaks have re-appeared.

You can use the air tanks on the surface of the moon to replenish your supply, but unfortunately you cannot use the jet pack while on the surface. When the pressure indicator for the level you are on shows full, you will be awarded a bonus score, and you then progress to the next round. ☺

Touchline

Title: Astro Plumber. **Company:** Blue Ribbon Software Ltd, CDS House, Beekes Road, Doncaster, South Yorks. PA16 2JF.
Originality: 3/10. **Playability:** 3/10. **Graphics:** 3/10. **Value:** 3/10.



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Diskit 5

Disk users take heart. Here we provide a handy disk routine to convert memory to data statements.

By Les Allen

There are occasions when it is desirable to convert a section of memory from machine code to a Basic program containing a re-basis and set of data instructions that represent the original machine's memory.

This program provides the user with the facility to "read" sections of machine memory to do just that! In fact the Basic loader for this program was produced from the very same routine.

Using the Program

Start and end addresses are entered to control the range of memory to be converted. These are POKE'd into the machine code routine resident at 8000 which re-locates the Basic loader and performs the operation of "reading" each byte to provide two-digit hex number in the data statement e.g.

```
8000 00 98 00 90 43 42 4D 80
:8 DATA 00,98,00,43,42,4D,80
```

This process is repeated for every byte within the range as previously specified. The completed data listing is then saved to disk as DATA and should be re-loaded prior to running to establish start of variables which begin at the end of the Basic loader.

The SYS address contained in the Basic loader is the warm start address and should be modified to that required by the nature of the area of memory being converted.

The program must be typed in exactly as listed and saved prior to running. Error trap routines are included to ensure that the data entered is correct. The program, when run, stores the relevant code at a temporary address of 8000 and when prompted relocate the working program to Basic (8000) and saves to the program to disk.

PROGRAM: MEMORY 8001

```

80 10 PRINT "DISKIT 5 (C) 1980, L.A.A."
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```


Split Sprite

Many programmers find that sprite manipulation can be hard work. Perhaps this program will make things a little easier.

By S.J. Chance

While developing a machine code program recently, after the initial paperwork I thought it might be constructive to do a "rough sketch" of it in Basic. Slow it might be, but it's a good way to flush out a few errors in logic and structure, which might otherwise only be uncovered after hours wasted producing redundant code.

I immediately ran into a problem. I intended to use more than eight hardware sprites in the program, and of course it is quite impossible to write a master-interrupt routine in Basic. For the sake of thoroughness, I shall explain the nature of master interrupts for the uninformed.

The image on your monitor screen is drawn by an electron beam scanning across the screen in a series of horizontal lines, each line starting just below the previous one. This pattern of lines is called a raster.

Now as we all know, the VIC chip in a 64 supports eight hardware sprites. However, if you put your sprites at the top of the screen, and then use a raster interrupt to find out when the raster has reached the enough down the screen to have drawn these sprites, you

can then reposition them further down the screen so that when the raster gets to their new location, it draws them all over again. And when you reposition the sprites you can also change their colour and definition.

I decided to write a routine which would make master-interrupt sprites available from Basic. This was quite easy to do, but created a new problem. I had settled on a screen format of five zones, (see Fig. 1) which meant that my routine was being called 256 times per second. With all that going on, Basic was running at about 1/4 of its normal speed. With potentially 48 sprites to manipulate in addition to whatever else it was doing, it became clear that Basic would need helping out.

I extended Basic with a set of extra commands to set sprite parameters and move them around. Although this slowed down the interpreter even more, the new commands were more efficient and therefore resulted in a net increase in speed. These commands are listed in Figure 2, and I will say more about them later.

Returning to Figure 1, you will see that it shows the screen divided into zones 0 to 4, and link spaces 0 to 3. The

zones are the areas in which the top edge of an unexpanded sprite can be positioned such that the sprite is clear of the master-interrupt divisions above and below it.

If a sprite is positioned in link space, part of it will be across the master-interrupt line and will be drawn with the sprite parameters for the adjacent zone. To prevent the sprite from looking as if it has been torn in half, it must be "linked" to the equivalent sprite in the next zone, so that sprite moves share the same parameters. If that all sounds a bit of a headache, it will become clearer later on.

Understanding the Commands

Looking again at Figure 2, all the commands are prefixed by the $\{$ symbol. This is not intended as a source of inspiration, but rather to divert handling of the commands away from the normal interpreter. You will see that many of the commands use the syntax:

[zone][sprite]

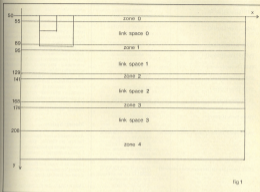


Fig 1

when zone=0 to 4 and sprite=0 to 7. From now on I shall refer to a specific sprite by these parameters e.g. sprite 3,6 is sprite number 6 in zone 3.

Having said that, the Basic command supports a far easier way of specifying a sprite. Consider the command `TYPO` in Figure 2. When positioning a sprite with this command, it is important that the co-ordinates fall within the specified zone. This is easy enough to do using Figure 1, but there is an alternative option. This is to assign an integer array element to the sprite, replacing [zone], [sprite] in the syntax. For instance, suppose I give the command

`TYPO 2,6,130`

positioning sprite 6 in zone 2 at y=130. This is correct as y=130 falls within zone 2. However, if I give the command

`TYPO C7(6),130`

the sprite will be positioned exactly as

before, and the correct zone number will be written into `C7(6)`, i.e. `C7(6)` will now equal 2.

`TYPO C7(6),150`

will move the sprite into link space 2, so it will automatically be 'linked' to sprite 3,6 i.e. its parameters will be

copied into sprite 3,6. `C7(6)` will still equal 2.

`TYPO C7(6),170`

moves sprite `C7(6)` into zone 1. Sprite 3,6 will automatically be disabled, and the value of `C7(6)` will change to 5.

Using this system, it is quite

Figure 2

<code>TVIS [zone],[sprite]</code>	enable sprite (i.e. make sprite visible).
<code>TOFF [zone],[sprite]</code>	disable sprite.
<code>TXPO [zone],[sprite],[x co-ordinate]</code>	set X Position.
<code>TYPO [zone],[sprite],[y co-ordinate]</code>	set Y Position.
<code>TPRM [zone],[sprite],[definition no.]</code>	set pointer to sprite definition (i.e. PRAMs)

IMNO [zone][sprite]	set sprite to hi-res mode (i.e. MOVN).
IMUL [zone][sprite]	set sprite to MULE-colour mode.
ICOL [zone][sprite]	set sprite COLvar.
IMCO [zone][colour]	set MultiColour 0.
IMCI [zone][colour]	set MultiColour 1.
ISTX [zone][sprite]	Stretch X.
ISTY [zone][sprite]	Stretch Y.
IPRT [zone][sprite]	set priority: sprite in FRONT.
IBAK [zone][sprite]	set priority: sprite at BACK.
IACT [zone][sprite][integer array element]	returns 1 in ARRAY% (SPRITE) if sprite is on (i.e. ACTIVE); returns 0 if sprite is off.
ICHT [zone][sprite][integer array element]	returns 0 in ARRAY% (SPRITE) if no collision; 1 if sprite to sprite; 2 if sprite to data; 3 if both.
IMOV [sprite integer array][x offset], [y offset],[number of moves][x integer array], [y integer array]	MOVs sprite through (x,y) for set number of moves, storing the new co-ordinates in XARRAY%(SPRITE), YARRAY%(SPRITE).
IP [prio]	sets the Prio of BASIC relative to the movement of sprites, from 0 to 200. 0 BASIC slow/sprite fast 200 BASIC fast/sprite slow.
IR	stops all sprites being MOV'ed, and clears LINE table. (i.e. Resets).
IQ	Quits split sprite.
SVS 4015	cold start.
SVS 4015	warm start.

pointless to move sprites vertically about the screen, as long as the relevant sprite in the next zone is available. A sprite expanded in the y mode (i.e. ISTY) will always need to be linked. EYPO takes this into account but the sprite must be expanded before EYPO is called.

This alternative sprite can be used with all the commands with the [zone][sprite] parameters, in which case these commands will affect the 'linked' sprite also. However, please note that the INTEGER ARRAY must be declared before it is referred to by one of these commands. This often occurs naturally when an initial value is assigned to an element in the array, but if not, an "undef'd statement" error message will be given.

Moving Sprites

A command which takes this idea even further is IMOV. This command moves a sprite by hooking it on to what I call an 'intercept' routine, which is like an interrupt routine, but more polite, as it waits for Basic to finish its present command before taking over a sort of multi-tasking.

IMOV C%(7),JA,HCX%(7),CY%(7)

will move sprite C%(7) from (x,y) to (x-2,y+4) 10 times, each time storing the new co-ordinates in CX%(7),CY%(7). The frequency of these moves against the speed of Basic is controlled by the IP[para] command whose para can have any value between zero and 200. Again, the relevant arrays must be declared before the command is used. Up to 20 sprites may be IMOV'ed at any one time.

Other commands which pass values to an array are IACT and ICHT.

The Demo

Listed with the SPLIT SPRINT ECARDER is a demonstration program using many of the new commands. It is probably most constructive to RUN this while following the listing, which I have tried to make as clear as possible. The program waits between the main sections so you can work out what is going on.

Before loading the demo program, make sure you have run the one line

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1 74 00 00 00 78 00 0000
2 7500 0000 00 00 00 00 00 00
3 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
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9 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
10 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
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PROGRAM: DEMO SET-UP
00 10 DEMO*****
01 80 DEMO DEMO SECTION OF BASIC
02 30 DEMO*****
03 90 FIELDS: 1-FIELDS, 10-POINTER
    80, 0-800

```

```

PROGRAM: SET-UP DEMO
43 100 DEMO*****
44 110 DEMO DEMO IN BASIC DEMO
45 120 DEMO*****
46 130 DEMO DEMO DEMO
47 140 DEMO*****
48 150 DEMO DEMO DEMO
49 160 DEMO*****
50 170 DEMO DEMO DEMO
51 180 DEMO*****
52 190 DEMO DEMO DEMO
53 200 DEMO*****
54 210 DEMO DEMO DEMO
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56 230 DEMO DEMO DEMO
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59 260 DEMO*****
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62 290 DEMO DEMO DEMO
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64 310 DEMO DEMO DEMO
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66 330 DEMO DEMO DEMO
67 340 DEMO*****
68 350 DEMO DEMO DEMO
69 360 DEMO*****
70 370 DEMO DEMO DEMO
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72 390 DEMO DEMO DEMO
73 400 DEMO*****
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90 570 DEMO DEMO DEMO
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92 590 DEMO DEMO DEMO
93 600 DEMO*****
94 610 DEMO DEMO DEMO
95 620 DEMO*****
96 630 DEMO DEMO DEMO
97 640 DEMO*****
98 650 DEMO DEMO DEMO
99 660 DEMO*****

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00 780 DEMO DEMO DEMO
01 790 DEMO DEMO DEMO
02 800 DEMO DEMO DEMO
03 810 DEMO DEMO DEMO
04 820 DEMO DEMO DEMO
05 830 DEMO DEMO DEMO
06 840 DEMO DEMO DEMO
07 850 DEMO DEMO DEMO
08 860 DEMO DEMO DEMO
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21 990 DEMO DEMO DEMO
22 1000 DEMO DEMO DEMO
23 1010 DEMO DEMO DEMO
24 1020 DEMO DEMO DEMO
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29 1070 DEMO DEMO DEMO
30 1080 DEMO DEMO DEMO
31 1090 DEMO DEMO DEMO
32 1100 DEMO DEMO DEMO
33 1110 DEMO DEMO DEMO
34 1120 DEMO DEMO DEMO
35 1130 DEMO DEMO DEMO
36 1140 DEMO DEMO DEMO
37 1150 DEMO DEMO DEMO
38 1160 DEMO DEMO DEMO
39 1170 DEMO DEMO DEMO
40 1180 DEMO DEMO DEMO
41 1190 DEMO DEMO DEMO
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Arcade Action

Maps, tips and programs to help in writing your own arcade games

games

By Tony Crowther

Producing your first arcade game need not be the difficult chore that many people believe it to be. All that is required is a good strong idea as to the basis of the game and an understanding of how all of the different parts are going to work.

In order to produce a quality game then it should of course be written in machine code. It is a lot harder to write a program in machine code than Basic, however, the increased speed of execution is essential to a good program.

It is outside the scope of this series to actually teach you about machine code. Should you be interested in learning then you could take a look at a series *Welcome to the Machine* that started in the March *Wissen of Four Commodore* and finished in December, '88.

I am aware that many people will not be ready to tackle the rigours of machine code just yet. Don't let this put you off. Many good programs are written as a mixture of Basic and machine code.

During this series I will be presenting a series of small programs that you can use yourselves, either as part of a larger machine code program or simply called from within your own Basic program.

The series will be concentrating on programming with the C64, if you are a C16 or Plus/4 owner don't worry, whenever possible I will provide programs that will work on these machines.

What's to Come

So what will we be looking at? For a start I will be discussing the use of User Defined characters within your programs, how to use them and move them. Sprites will be dealt with in detail complete with routines to animate them and move them around your screen. Many games use backgrounds that are larger than the screen. The screen acts as a window over the larger playing area. I will be explaining how this is done and again provide routines to do this in your own programs.

A number of miscellaneous routines will also be provided for your use. These will include routines to scroll messages on the screen, print and increment scores, character editors, music programs and many more.

Presentation

Most of the programs that are presented in this series will be in machine code. I will be giving both the source code for the program and a Basic loader for those of you who don't want to tackle the assembly.

The assembly language programs have been produced using the Commodore Macro Assembler. I have tried to keep the assembly language as simple as possible so should you use a different assembler you should be able to adapt the programs with very few changes.

Starting Out

In this month's article I am afraid that I am going to make you jump straight in at the deep end and deal with something that is extremely important

```

10 REM * C16 IRQ DEMO ROUTINE *
20 FOR A=818 TO 842:READ C:K=K+C
: FOR A,C: NEXT
25 IF K<> 2577 THEN PRINT "ERROR
IN DATA":STOP
30 DATA 120,169,63,141,20,3,169,
3,141,21,3,88,96
40 DATA 162,0,147,25,255,202,208
,250,76,14,206,0
50 PRINT"[DOWN][DOWN] SYS 818 TO
START"
```

```

3 REM * C64 INTERRUPT DEMO ROUTE
SE *
10 BL=1      |LN=50   |SA=49152
20 FOR I=0 TO BL:CK=0:FOR D=0 TO
15:READ A:CK=CK+A:POKE SA+L*16+
D,A:NEXT D
30 READ A:IF A>=CK THENPRINT"ERR
08 IN LINE":LN=(L*10):STOP
40 NEXT L
50 DATA 130,149,13,141,20,3,169,
192,141,31,3,88,96,162,0,142,148
0
60 DATA 32,208,202,208,250,76,49
,234,5,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1264
70 PRINT"[CLEAR][DOWN][DOWN][DOWN
8]SYS 49152 TO START FOR C64"

```

FIGURE 1

is a game writer — interrupts.

In the coming months I will be going back to simpler subjects, however many examples that I will be giving will require a knowledge of interrupts and use the IRQ program that I am going to give this month.

Let Me Interrupt

So, just what is this thing that is so important to games writing? Well it's really as simple as its name suggests it is an interruption of whatever the computer is doing. Let me illustrate what I mean with a simple everyday example.

Let's suppose that you are having a conversation with someone and interrupts your conversation. You leave the conversation and go and answer the telephone. If the call is for you then you would now hold a conversation with the person on the other end of the telephone. When you had finished you would put the telephone down and go back to and continue your original conversation.

What has happened is that the ringing of the telephone simply interrupted and placed your original conversation for a short while and you carried on where you left off upon returning.

So what about interrupts in programming?

Let's take a look at a practical example. If you were to write a program that required you to move a

sprite across the screen you may write a routine that went along the following lines:

1. This is the main program.
2. The main program becomes interrupted by the routine that moves the sprite.
3. The sprite is moved by the routine.
4. Once the sprite has been moved we go back to step (1) and continue where we left off.

This is of course an over simplification but should give you an idea of what an interrupt can do.

FIGURE 2

```

10      ;*****
20      ;+ INTERRUPT / PENDING +
30      ;+ BORROW IDENTIFICATION +
40      ;+ CALL VECTOR +
50      ;*****
60      $=BORROW          ;BORROW PROGRAM STARTS IN BORROW
70 BORROW=BORROW        ;IRQ VECTOR
80 BORROW=BORROW        ;ADDRESS OF BORROW VECTOR
90 BORROW=BRAND         ;VALUE NORMALLY STORED IN IRQ VECTOR
100
110      ;THIS IS SECTION 1 THE SETUP ROUTINE
120
130      BRN
140      LDA $PENDING%    ;+INTERUPT OFF
150      JSR $IRQ_VECTOR  ;CALL THE IRQ VECTOR
160      STA IRQ%         ;TO OUR NEW PROGRAM
170      LDA $PENDING%
180      STA IRQ%+1
190      CLT              ;INTERUPT% BACK IN
200      RTS              ;AND RETURN TO BASIC
210
220      ;THIS IS SECTION 2 THE ACTUAL PROGRAM THAT CHANGES THE IN
230      ;BORROW VECTOR
240      JSR $IRQ        ;STORE 1 REGISTER IN BORROW VECTOR
250      JSR $IRQ%      ;CALL NEW PROGRAM
260      BNE LOOP
270      JMP $BRN%      ;CONTINUE NORMAL IRQ PROGRAM

```

Before it or not your computer is actually being interrupted every 1/30th of a second by the computer's hardware. Everytime an interrupt occurs the computer takes a look at a memory location which holds information about where the interrupt program is stored. These couple of memory locations are referred to as the interrupt vector. In normal use whenever an interrupt occurs the interrupt vector holds the address of the general routines which last after the general running of the computer. These routines are items such as scanning the keyboard to see if a key has been pressed etc.

The interrupt vector is stored at the following memory locations:

768 and 769

These locations are the same on all the Commodore machines so are using.

So how do you use this in your own program?

In Practice

Let's take a look at a practical example. Figure 1 gives a basic loader for a machine code program that uses interrupts. Note there are two versions of the program one for the C64 and one for the Plus/4 and C16.

```

1000 REM C64 IRQ DATA BASE LOADE
R
2000 FORL=0TO9:CK=0:FORB=0TO15:R
EADA:CK=CK+A:POKE49152+L*16+D,A:
NEXTD
2010 READA:IFA<=CKTHENPRINT"ERRO
R IN LINE":2040=(L*10):STOP
2020 NEXTL:END
2040 DATA120,162,0,169,0,157,63,
3,232,224,192,144,248,162,0,169,
2043
2050 DATA0,170,157,0,157,157,0,1
58,157,0,159,232,208,244,169,81,
2049
2060 DATA137,88,192,169,192,157,
69,192,232,232,232,224,30,144,23
9,169,2738
2070 DATA0,141,14,220,169,82,141
,20,3,169,192,141,21,3,169,0,148
,
2080 DATA141,18,208,169,27,141,1
7,208,169,1,141,25,208,141,36,20
8,1648
2090 DATA88,96,169,1,141,25,208,
32,0,0,32,0,0,32,0,0,824
2100 DATA32,0,0,32,0,0,32,0,0,32
,0,0,32,0,0,32,192
2110 DATA0,0,32,0,0,76,49,234,12
0,169,49,141,20,3,169,234,1296
2120 DATA141,21,3,169,1,141,14,2
20,169,121,141,25,208,169,340,14
1,1924
2130 DATA26,208,88,96,253,255,25
5,255,255,255,255,255,255,25
5,255,3478

```

FIGURE 3

When you run this program it simply POKEs a short machine code routine into memory. To start this machine code routine simply type the SYS instruction which is printed by the program.

What this program does is to change the border colors every time an interrupt occurs. Because interrupts occur extremely quickly the flash rate is so high that the different colors appear as a number of flashing bands.

You may notice that the border is still flashing even though the computer has returned to the READY prompt. You can list any program that is in

memory or even type in a new program and the border will continue to flash. This is because, as I stated earlier, the computer is always being interrupted every 1/50th of a second and our little screen flash routine is run every time an interrupt occurs.

The Machine Code

So let's have a look at our machine code program and have a look at what it does. Figure 3 gives the source code for the C64 version of the border flash routine. The C16 version is almost identical apart from the locations that

are used to change the border colors.

The program is actually in two separate parts. The first section actually alters the IRQ vector so that it holds the location of our border flash routine, section two of our list demonstration.

Taking the program line by line this is what it does:

1. We turn off the interrupts with the SES instruction. The reason for turning them off is quite simple. We are going to change the vector that is jumped to when an interrupt occurs. Since interrupts occur every 1/50th of a second, if we didn't switch off the interrupts then it is possible that an interrupt would occur before we had changed both memory locations. If this was the case then the computer would not jump to our routine but rather to some other location in memory and the computer would probably crash.

2. After turning off the interrupts we alter the IRQ vector so that it points to our border flash routine.

3. Now we turn the interrupts back on.

Of course the interrupt vector isn't changed until you execute the program with a SES instruction.

Our border flash program is extremely simple, all it does is to load the X register with the number 6. This is then stored in the border color location. The X register now has 1 subtracted from it. Note in machine code if you subtract a 1 from a memory location that contains a 0 it will become 255. The program then loops around until the counter gets back to zero when it jumps to the normal interrupt routine - keyboard scanning etc.

By normal interrupt routines what I mean is that we jump to the routine that is normally executed when an interrupt occurs. In other words we jump to the routine whose address is stored in the IRQ vector when the computer is switched on.

Going further

I hope that the above demonstration and supporting text makes it a fairly clear as to what an interrupt is. The interrupts we have been dealing with are hardware interrupts that are generated every 1/50th of a second.

There are other ways of generating interrupts, for example the raster interrupt which can cause an interrupt depending on the position of the raster on the TV screen. However, at this time we don't really need to go into the other types of interrupt as we will deal with them as required.

IRQ Database

As I have already stated we will be using interrupts quite frequently within this series. In order to make them easier to use with our numerous routines you will find in Figure 3 the

Basic loader for a C64 machine code routine which I call IRQ DATABASE. Figure 4 has the source for this for those of you who want to follow it through and see how it works.

This program functions by setting up a 'data base' of switches which are used to turn each routine on and off.

Each routine will be allocated a position in the database and can be turned on and off by simply POKING a 1 or 0 into the relevant location of the database. For example on the C64 should you enter:

POKE 838,1

then the Message Scroll routine will be enabled. Of course the Message Scroll routine needs to be present in memory and this will be printed in a later part of the series.

Next Month

Have you ever wondered how you get moving objects in programs? If any of you have seen either of my *Slinger* games then the moving conveyor belts and ladders are the type of things I mean. Well next month I will provide a routine that will allow you to perform this with ease in your own programs.

FIGURE 4		1550	18X
1000	*****	1560	CFR 470
1010	**** INTERRUPT BOOT ****	1570	BCC LOOP2
1020	*****	1580	LDA #0
1030	:	1590	STA TIMERA ;TIMER A OFF
1040	ROM TO USE FROM BASIC	15A0	LDA #PROG2 ;POINT IRQ VECTOR
1050	:	15B0	15B5
1060	: JSR 49052 IRQ ON	15C0	STA CTRV ;TO PROG2
1070	: JSR 49272 IRQ OFF	15D0	LDA #PROG2
1080	:	15E0	STA CTRV+1
1090	:	15F0	LDA #0
1100	ROM TO USE FROM BASIC	1600	STA REBRAG
1110	:	1610	LDA #27 ;CLEAR BIT 8
1120	: STX 49052 IRQ ON	1620	STA RASCON
1130	: STX 49272 IRQ OFF	1630	LDA #0
1140	:	1640	STA INTPLC ;TURN ON RASTER
1150	*****	1650	STA IOPAGE ;CONTROL
1160	:	1660	CLI
1170	CTR - 788 ;INTERUPT VECTOR	1700	FREQ
1180	CINERT = 3993 ;A IRQ ROUTINE	1710	BYS
1190	OTBASE = 831 ;START OF DATA BASE	1720	:
1200	KBDRAS = 33266 ;RASTER POSITION	1730	:
1210	RASCON = 33265	1740	PROG2
1220	TIMERA = 38234 ;TIMER 'A'	1750	LDA #1
1230	INTPLC = 33273	1760	STA INTPLC
1240	IOPAGE = 33274 ;INTERUPT MASK	1770	CHANGE
1250	" = 49152	1780	JSR 0 ;THESE ARE TO BE
1260	:	1790	JSR 0 ;RE-VECTORED
1270	:	1800	JSR 0 ;WHEN THE DATABASE
1280	PROG1 ;SET UP ROUTINES	1810	JSR 0 ;IS IN USE
1290	SET	1820	JSR 0
1300	LDA #0 ;CLEAR DATA BASE	1830	JSR 0
1310	LDA #0 ;BY PUTTING 0 INTO	1840	JSR 0
1320	LOOP1 ;831-1823	1850	JSR 0
1330	STA OTBASE,X	1860	JSR 0
1340	INC	1870	JSR 0
1350	CFR #193	1880	JMP CINERT
1360	BCC LOOP1	1890	:
1370	LDA #0 ;CHANGE NEXT	1900	:
1380	LDA #0	1910	PROG2 ;BACK TO NORMAL
1390	TAX	1920	SEC1 ;TURN OFF INTERRUPT
1400	LOOP5	1930	LDA #CINERT
1410	STA 40190,X	1940	STA CTRV
1420	STA 40448,X	1950	LDA #CINERT
1430	STA 40706,X	1960	STA CTRV+1
1440	INC	1970	LDA #1
1450	BNE LOOP5	1980	STA TIMERA
1460	LOOP2 ;PROGRAM TO	1990	LDA #123
1470	LDA #FREQ ;USE FREQ	2000	STA INTPLC
1480	STA CHANGE+1,B	2010	LDA #255
1490	LDA #FREQ	2020	STA IOPAGE
1500	STA CHANGE+2,B	2030	CLI
1510	INC	2040	BYS ;YOUR IRQ'S MSG OFF
1520	INC	2050	AND

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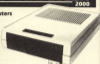
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Printmaster

Create your own headed paper, greetings cards or other forms of stationery with this program from Ariolasoft.

By Evelyn Mills

Printmaster by Ariolasoft is a very extensive program with an overwhelming selection of options which, in my opinion, give it a very high rating in the operative field of creating your own graphics stationery. Performance is smooth, impeccable and the program is dedicated to the user in every respect.

On loading, the main menu gives the following options: Greeting Card, Sign, Stationery, Calendar, Banner, Graphic Editor and setup. The latter is for printer output options; while Printmaster (PMS) is preset for the Commodore 1225/800, the printer output will allow conversion for Epson, Star, Okimate, Oki and C-line printers.

Editor

So what do we choose first from the main menu? I would suggest Graphics Editor to familiarise yourself with the graphics on the disk and also to experiment with creating your own graphics. Having highlighted this option, choose 'graphics by picture'... Here you will find 130 plus superb graphics for your inspection and use! Some of these graphics are relatively standard, a large proportion are very novel, but each and every one is very well designed for maximum graphic effect.

On display with your graphics, there is a side menu which allows you to edit, clear, invert, flip horizontally, flip vertically, save to disk or print (each graphic occupies three blocks on saving) inversion and flipping are shown very rapidly on screen. Editing

and creating both have four functions controlled by F1 which handles drawing, shading, toggling and erasing. Doubling gives solid lines, shading gives dotted lines while toggling draws and crosses where lines cross; the shading and toggling combination gives excellent 3D effects. All functions are joystick controlled, F1 writing the mode of operation for you.

Cards

Greeting Card: Here there are seven besides from which to choose, including a few unconventional ones such as 'wishing arts' - the programmer really enjoyed making this software. Eight fonts are available and there is space for seven lines of text (39 column width) so there is no need to stick to the usual conventional, cryptic greeting. Both upper case and lower case may be used. Naturally a graphics selection is available in either small, medium or large mode.

Now the program really gets interesting - you can stagger your graphics in a set manner or place them where you wish. At this point the direction keys 1, 3, 5 and 7 interplay with one another. F1 positions writing to left cross or right, F3 alters size, F5 alters style while F7 alters the font. Effectively then, you may interchange positions and change fonts within any one graphic; should you overflow with enthusiasm, the screen will say so and it can be sorted out with the delete key. While you are still creating a Greeting Card, there is a Front Page and an Inside Page for you to see.

What have you done?

Now keep moving along (obesity of screen prompts) and you will be given the chance to PREVIEW what you have done. This, I think, is an excellent option. If you don't like what you have designed, back-step with the key and change it all. For a really radical change go back to the Main Menu and start all over again. If you like it - save the whole thing to disk for use at a later date (change a few names around when you reload if you wish) or print it out directly. Now who could ask for more than that?

The F function is operative all through the program and allows you to back-step at any point for editing.

Making Signs

The SIGN Facility operates in a similar manner, and gives you a one page presentation with all the facilities described above including seven lines of entry.

Stationery naturally creates your own page heading. Here the graphics may be to the left, to the right, 'third' or a row of three. Both the top and bottom of the page are programmable; note - the RESTORE Key stops printer output - so don't go too far away or you will have multiple pages at your feet. On the other hand, try half a page if you want!

What's the date?

The CALENDAR: very good is this again choose your graphics, and font,

plus months and year. The 12 calendar months are listed and are selected by highlighting; the year is listed as 1988 which may be changed as desired; you are now asked for a monthly or weekly calendar.

The Monthly calendar selection gives the menu, continues, after loading, and enhance data.

With 'after loading' the font may be changed with F7 while the typed heading at the top may be altered with the delete key and input from the keyboard. Anyway assuming that you are quite happy with what you see, select 'enhance data'. From this option you can now enter three lines of five characters each for any one date to remind you of who's who and what's what. Again you get a preview of your monthly calendar picture.

Yes, if you choose any particular year, the calendar will start on the correct day and date of that year. Leap Years? - of course they are catered for.

If you choose the weekly option you will then be asked for generic or specific options. The GENERIC format is not dated and the output is full screen with Sunday to Saturday of any one week (of any one month), of any one year running downwards with blanked, fixed spaces running transversely for you to write on at a later date (in pen, pencil or what not). The SPECIFIC format is similar but dated. Again you may have a preview before printing. The Calendar also supports graphics.

Long Notices

On to the BANNER which gives you graphics, fonts and one line of writing up to 39 characters long. This also uses F7 for font changing thus allowing you to 'mix it up'.

All through the program upper and lower case may be used as can REVERSE MODE for both graphics and print. Fonts can be single, solid or 3D. The 3D effect can be a bit startling but what displeases my eye may well please yours.

Now if you cannot create with this program don't blame the back room boys. They have given you a disk full of powerful commands to implement plus excellent on screen instructions. The end result is very pleasing in the

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eye. The ability to back step, change fonts and words and preview your material before printing is an inspiration - plus the fact that, not only can you save graphics alone, you can save the whole card, calendar, banner or whatever. A five star epic.

Finalities

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Percussion Section

Building add-ons for your computer sounds like a daunting task, however Maplins Computadrum makes it possible for amateurs.

By Neil Day

My friend who knows about such things said I was crazy to try, but I wanted to build something to add on to my C64. I think I found the ideal beginner's project in a cheap drum synthesiser kit from Maplins, a large electronics chain and mail order firm.

Computadrum is supplied as a packet of components with a printed circuit board. The kit will work with a number of different cases including the C64 and Vic 20. It should also work on a C128 or C64 mode, but I haven't tried it.

The unit provides six separate channels, or different drum sounds. Each channel can be tuned for pitch and resonance by altering the setting of variable resistors on the circuit board with a small screwdriver. Software can be used to switch each channel on or off and to control the time between each beat. You might think this would give access to six sounds only. You'd be wrong. The six channels can be mixed in any combination. In effect, this gives you access to a large variety of sounds.

I'm told, by my friend who knows, that commercial drum synthesisers will do more, and the software provided is fancier. The Computadrum has one big advantage over these—you construct it yourself, and, in the process, learn a lot about the wonderful mysteries of the case past. That's what I now know to call the hole you can fall on the left hand side of the back of your C64!

Signals, controlled by the computer, come from this port and are

plugged into the Computadrum unit. Inside the unit these signals are used to generate the six drum sounds. The resulting signals emerge from a lead from the unit that has to be connected to the line-in or audio-in socket of an audio amplifier or monitor.

The packet supplied contains all but a box to house the unit and the leads. For the lead into the drum unit from the C64 computer you need a seven pin din plug, a couple of feet of seven way cable for the six lines plus ground, and a 24 way edge connector to plug into the computer. The output lead will depend on the type of amplifier or monitor or you are going to use. Most commonly a single RCA type plug is required. A very professional looking box to house the unit can be supplied by Maplins for about £5.80. Cheaper ones are available too, or you could probably improve one.

If, like me, you have never previously assembled electronic equipment, you may start out feeling a bit apprehensive. However, the process is easy. Maplins has a little brochure called *Component Guide* (ref. 68791). It costs just 25p and tells you how to identify resistors, capacitors and other such beasts. I used the magnifying glass out of my daughter's stamp collection to read the values off the tiny components. I noted the value (ohms for resistors and farads for capacitors) on to a scrap of paper and then swapped up the components of the same value together in the paper. This meant that I did all

the identification of components (probably the hardest thing of all for me) in one sweep.

Sticking the components into the printed circuit board reminds me of knitting to a pattern, except it's a lot easier than the lambsie sweater I laboured over for 18 months! Some items need to be orientated correctly so that the positive end goes through the correct hole in the PCB, but this is always indicated in the very clear lettering on the board itself.

You are advised to poke in a few components at a time, and then solder them into position. You use small wire-cutters to remove the excess wire, protruding from the bottom of the board, and repeat the process until all the components are installed.

The last time I used a soldering iron was to mend the spouting; that was harder than soldering the components in place. The detailed advice in the *Constructors' Guide* and the project instructions helped me here. Large lumps of blue tack secured the board, leaving two hands free for the soldering. The only items that were a bit tricky were the semiconductors because the pins on these are very close together. The finer the point on your soldering iron the easier it is.

Well, putting it all together takes a few hours, but in the process you read the excellent instructions and get a general idea of what each circuit does. Before long you've soldered the leads and it's time to test the unit.

Many didn't work! I checked both for whiskers of solder shorting the

marks on the pcb and the correct placement of components. These were all OK. My mistake was that I had assumed that the wire marked "ground" from the rear port would wind up attached to the metal shield round the stereo pin plug at the end of the input cable. I was informed by my friend, who knows about these things, that only a person with the brain of a small goat would do this but you still might appreciate the tip. The ground wire has to be connected to one of the seven pins. Mis-wiring the cable was the only construction error I made.

This fixed, I got some convincing drum sounds, but I couldn't work out which of the adjustable receivers stored which of the six voices. It turned out to be my misunderstanding of the short program you type in to run the drums. To turn a line on, or "set it high" as they say, you have to pulse the appropriate value into register 56277; for instance binary 00000011 turns on the first line and makes the first drum, called drum zero sound binary

0000011 turns on lines zero and one making those two channels of the synthesiser sound simultaneously. My problem was that when the program asked me to type in the drum number, I assumed that line would give me drum number five and so on. But five is, in binary, 00000101, so it turns on drum zero and two together. In other words you must tell the program to pulse in a binary equivalent of the binary value of the drum number. If you want drum three you need to type eight (2*2*2 or 2 to the power of 3). Similarly, drum four is indicated as 16, and drum five as 32 or two to the power of five.

All-in-all, building the Computadrum kit is very absorbing, and gives you a good understanding of how the computer can be used to control external equipment. Now I'm looking for a mail order DIY robot that will dance to the pulsating rhythms of my drum machine. He who knows about these things say I should get in touch with one of these smaller types of mail

order places that sell a special type of inflatable robot. He says that what I did when wiring up the cable would send me to gaol stand. You have to get used to opaque comments like this from electronics experts when you're an amateur hardware constructor! **W**

Touchline
Compadrum Construction Kit
Reference 23776
Cost £35.00

Constructors' Guide Pamphlet
Reference 23794
Cost 25p

Maplin Electronic Supplies Ltd
 P.O. Box 1, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 6LE
 Tel (0782) 332911
 Also branches in Manchester, Birmingham, London, Southampton, and Newcastle.

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The *Your Commodore Software Service* makes available all of the programs from each issue on both cassette and disk at a price of \$8.00 for disk and \$4.00 for cassette. None of the documentation for the programs is supplied with the software since it is all available in the relevant magazine. Should you not have the magazine from back issues are available from the following address:

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The Disk

Programs on the disk will also be supplied as totally working systems, i.e. when possible we will not use Basic. Loaders thus making use of the programs much easier. Unfortunately at the moment we cannot duplicate C16 and Plus/4 cassettes. However programs for these machines will be available on the disk.

What programs are available?

At the top of each article you will find a strip containing the article type, C64 Program etc. So that you can see which programs are available on which format you will also find a couple of symbols along this strip. The symbols have the following meaning:



This symbol means that the program is available on cassette.



These programs are available on disk.

Please Note

Since the programs supplied on cassette are total working versions of the program, we do not just disk only programs on tape. There is no sense in placing a program that expects to be reading from disk on to tape.

75

NOVEMBER 1986

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Device One

A printer interface is one of the most important items you may ever buy. Device One could be just what you're looking for.

By Stuart Cooke

When Commodore launched its range of home computers, the need to purchase Commodore products in the future was virtually built in. Should you require a disk drive then you would have to use Commodore's. If you wanted a printer then you would have to use Commodore's. All this is due to the fact that the computers have a non-standard interface.

Most of the popular printers such as Epson, Star and Citizen come complete with a customised interface making them unusable with a Commodore computer. To solve this problem many parallel interfaces have been built that enable you to use a parallel printer with a Commodore though none of these have been as powerful as the *Device One* from Precision Software.

The purpose of *Device One* is basically to link together a printer with a parallel interface to the Commodore computer. The computer talks to the printer in the normal way i.e. it thinks it is talking to a Commodore printer while the interface makes the printer behave as though it is a Commodore printer.

The actual casing for the interface is made from what appears to be a Vix2B cartridge case. The only reservations that I have about the interface are partly due to this. Only part of the circuit board is covered and a large proportion of it is visible to the outside world. I can't help wondering if a metallic object such as a paper clip could find its way into the interface through this opening and cause havoc to the chips inside.

The interface itself contains 128K of RAM and 128K of ROM, there are four built in character fonts, so you can print listings in different faces. There is also the facility to print out in your own fonts, print pictures, calendars and banners.

Documentation

The manual accompanying the interface was printed using *Device One* and its different from showing the flexibility of the interface. The manual is extremely clear with many examples used to illustrate different functions.

Many of the different commands are extremely difficult to remember, even though the manual does make it extremely clear how to use them, the interface therefore has its own re-built documentation. Hold down the reset button on the interface for more than three seconds and a brief summary of the available commands will be printed out for you.

In Use

Setting up the interface is extremely simple. The interface plugs into the Commodore serial port and the printer controls port. A third connection is made with a transformer to a convenient mains socket.

The interface will work with no less than 25 different types of printer, all of the popular types such as Epson etc. are available. Selection of the printer type is simply made by altering the position of three switches on the front of the interface. Other switches determine if you require an emulsion feed and the mode of operation of the interface. There are four different modes of operation, 1525 emulation is, as its title suggests, total emulation of a Commodore 1525 printer, you also have access to all of the *Device One* features such as fonts and calendars.

Semi-transparent mode passes all commands directly to the printer without any conversion, however *Device One* commands will still work.

Transparent mode passes characters straight through to the

printer. *Device One* commands will not work.

ASCII mode passes all codes straight through to the printer except for characters. Any characters are translated from Post-ASCII to normal ASCII so that they are printed correctly on your printer.

1525 Emulation

When using this mode all of the Commodore printer commands such as double size work as you would expect. This means that you can now use any program that requires a Commodore printer without any problems at all.

Device One Control

There are no fewer than 32 different commands that can be sent to the *Device One* interface. Commands can be sent to the interface in one of two ways. Either you can open a channel to the printer with a secondary address of 13 or 4.

OPEN 44,15

or you can send two escape codes (27) to the interface before a command.

Obviously there are far too many commands available to go into them all so I will concentrate on the main ones.

Custom Fonts

One command will allow you to select the font that you would like to use. There are no fewer than six variations of this command and for many of them you must have down-loaded into the *Device One* the font that you require, note this is not the same as one of the four in-built fonts.

You can select a low-res font which

is made up of 678 dots. You may select a medium font which is made up of 378 dots. A hi-res font may be selected which is made up of 1278 dots on an Epson type printer or 1678 dots on some others.

One of the four in-built fonts may be selected. Figure 1 gives examples of each of these. You can select your printers normal font and Underline can be switched on or off.

Downloading

In order to get fonts etc. into the interface you must select one of the seven download commands. Commands exist to download each of the different styles of font as well as

each line of the picture is printed. Should you wish text to be printed you could print this over an illustration.

Printing Calendars

There is an in-built calendar mode in the interface. This simply prints out a calendar for a specified month on your printer and can be printed in any font.

Barriers

This mode will allow you to print any message sideways on to your printer, each letter of your message being as high as the width of the paper.

The *Device One* does improve these dramatically by printing each character twice. This gives a more professional finish to any printers.

Software

Not only does *Device One* come complete with its own built in software, it also comes complete with a disk full of it for the Commodore included in:

Printerize - This allows you to convert pictures from most of the popular packages to *Device One* format.

Font Editor - This allows you to create your own fonts for use with your printer.

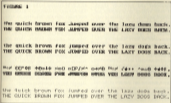
Dump All - This patches into your machine and allows you to get a screen dump at any time by holding down a few keys.

Dump Text - Similar to the above but this only prints text.

Drawit - A simple drawing package that allows you to create your own hi-res pictures.

Print Utility - A program that makes printing calendars, barriers or downloading pictures and fonts much easier.

Font Capture - This allows you to go through the memory of the computer so that you can capture any fonts that are used within your programs for use with your printer.



downloading a picture into the interface's RAM, sending a test file so that it is printed in transparent mode and downloading a disk drive to the printer. Downloading is extremely easy since once the interface is told to download it waits until you send it the necessary information. The easiest way to do this is to VERIFY the file that you require. This file isn't read into memory but is sent down the bus to the interface.

Printing Pictures

Pictures can be printed in either full-tone or half-tone. Full-tone simply means that the image is in black and white while half-tone means that the interface will use shading to print out the different colours. In order to print a picture it must be downloaded into the RAM in the interface. Then each time the interface is told to print a line

Laying It Out

Commands exist within the interface to set the page length of the interface and the left and right margins. For anyone who has a wordprocessor that doesn't have header and footer commands the inclusion of this in the interface will be a welcome addition. You could even use headers and footers to print messages at the top and bottom of any listings that you print out.

NLQ

Many people would love to have access to a daisy-wheel printer which prints extremely clear characters, however for most of us the price of these is far out of our reach and we are therefore stuck with the daisy products that our printers provide. The NLQ mode of

Verdict

Device One is the most powerful printer interface that I have come across for the Commodore range of machines.

The interface is easy to use and the manual is clear enough for even a novice computer owner to get to grips with the interface without any problems.

The interface is expensive but well worth saving your pennies for, and especially since there are interfaces in the market that don't do so much and cost more.

Final Word

Product: *Device One*.
Company: Precision Software, 8 Park Terrace, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 5SE. Tel: 01 338 7568. Machine: Commodore 64/128.

CP/M and the Commodore 128

CP/M, much neglected mode of the C128, is probably the most useful for the serious user. Here we examine the Commodore version of this phenomenon.

By Microsoft Appleby

There are differences between the definitive CP/M and the Commodore implementation, however this article should enable you to understand just what those differences are, plus I hope to give you an idea of the more common transient programs supplied with the CP/M+ system.

The Commodore Connection

If you read my article in *Four Commodore*, March 1987, you should remember that the CP/M system, as now defined, requires a 280 processor, 64K, an 80 column screen and one or two disk drives. The CP/M+ system, supplied with the C128, assumes 128K.

In the Commodore implementation there are a couple of changes made to this initial specification. The screen can be in either 40 or 80 column mode and, as most people can only have one disk drive, there is a software mechanism for treating it as two separate drives to make copying and various disk functions easier.

This is achieved through the use of drive 'U'. Normally to copy between two disks you need two drives, for instance 'A' and 'B'. The computer takes the information off drive A and puts it on to drive B. That works fine for dual drive systems, but most Commodores only have one drive, which makes things rather difficult. So Commodore came up with the drive 'U' system. Specifying a copy between drives A and U is like a single disk copy with drive A referring to the original and U referring to the copy. Although you can do it the other way around, the main point is that drive B doesn't exist. Only in the minds of the system's

programmer and everybody knows that most systems programmers are diverged anyway. This system is very good and simple to use and is a brilliant way around a rather tricky problem. It's much more useful for Commodore to leave something like that for the user to sort out.

On Screen

The other anomaly in the Commodore CP/M system is the ability to use a 40 column screen. This is for the legions of C128 owners who have no 80 column monitor but just one of the old composite colour monitors or TVs. It operates by having a 40 column window on a logical 80 column screen. Everybody must recognise this from a large number of wordprocessors that run on the C64. This is probably the most ideal solution and the only real way to get some of the software working. This said, it is probably better to find a cheap green screen monitor and use that instead. There are some very good ones nowadays for around £90 and it is worth the investment if you are going to use CP/M for any length of time.

Though CP/M+ was designed to have a certain amount of room in the OS for graphical links, CP/M 2.2—the operating system that most CP/M programs were written under—has none. So most CP/M programs are monochrome anyway. Other than that you are best sticking to software that will run under 40 column CP/M like languages or programs written for the old C64 version of CP/M 2.2.

On the Record

The other difference that is inherent in

all CP/M systems is the disk format. The disk format is the way that the disk controller talks the disk drive to write to the disk. As most people know, the process of writing to a disk is very similar to that of writing to tape. To take the analogy further, there are different ways of writing to tape and two distinct writing systems. One is 'Helical Scanning' as used in video recorders and the new Digital Audio Tape (DAT) systems. This is incredibly complex and is beyond the scope of this article. The other method is the straight linear recording system.

Using this method, a certain amount of tape will pass the tape head in a certain amount of time. In that time a certain amount of data will be written to the head. There can also be between one and nine tracks on the head. Now as we know, different computers have different methods of writing data to tape, on tape this is known as the tape format. But, on disk it is known as the sector format. Also, the way in which the head writes to the tape is different, effectively how the varying magnetic field of the head affects the tape.

All these differences also apply to disks. The amount of data packed on to a linear of a disk is called the sector density and can vary between five and 16 for CP/M disks or 16 and 32 for Commodore disks. The number of tracks on a disk can vary between 3,40, and 80. There are three main ways of writing data to the disk FM, MFM, and Commodore GCR. And there are one or two other differences as well.

So, now you see that there are a lot of differences between disks, even

though they are the same size (imagine post-old Atari/Amstrad users who even use different types of disks!) the C128 has to be able to read many formats as possible to be able to make the best use of CP/M. To do this a novel solution was found.

The Solution

In the past, Commodore computers used 35 (or 77 for older machines) tracks, GCR, 23 to 16 sectors per track and 256 bytes per sector. This format was designed from the start to be reliable, fast, and make the best possible use of disk space. And indeed the figure of 180K for a single sided, single density, 35 track disk has never been beaten. However, the rest of the world started with very low density disk drives and could only modify their system as the hardware got better.

As you can see, there is no way on earth that an old Commodore drive can read the more standard type of disk. So all you people with 1541s—hard luck. You can use Commodore specific CP/M programs (and there are quite a few available from KPM/GO but you won't be able to access any of the generic CP/M stuff).

Yes, to read CP/M generic disks you need to have either a 1570 or 1571. The difference between the two is that the 1571 will read and write to both sides of the disk and the 1570 is only a single sided drive. What this means is what you could read some CP/M disks in the single sided drive, you may have to get them specially written or only be able to read half the information. So get a 1571, this is the same drive as the one that is fitted internally into the C128D.

The 1571 is 40 track double sided, is capable of FM, MFM, or GCR, and can hold 200K, 400K, or 800K. This last mode is the double sided Commodore GCR format and is only really used by the C128 in Commodore basic mode and when booting CP/M. 200K is available in FM or single density mode and the 400K mode is MFM or double density mode. These two modes could make the C128 read 80% of all CP/M 2.2 disks ever written, but instead, the most popular one was provided. This will access the vast majority of CP/M disks, they are

IBM 9 sector 55
KayPro II
Osborne 55
IBM 8 sector DS
IBM 9 sector DS
KayPro IV
Osborne DS
Epson QM 10

The first four formats can be read by the 1571, all formats can be read by the 1571. It is interesting to note that the IBM 9 sector DS is the same format as used by IBM compatibles when using CP/M-86. This was the Digital Research answer to MS-DOS that never really took off. However, many IBM compatibles retain the ability to read or write disks in this format and so data only transfers are possible. Another side point is that the Atari/Amstrad machines (CPC 464 with disks and CPC 664) and CP/M+ machines (CPC 4128, PCW 8256, PCW 8212) can read and write disks in this format.

Transient Commands and Friends

Last month I explained the concept and purpose of the transient commands along with some of the simpler ones that are only really extensions of the *inhibit* or *residue* commands. After these come the utility programs that can either be considered as transient commands or as programs in their own right. They are usually used as commands when only one operation is needed, whilst for multiple operation the stand alone program mode is more useful.

The most commonly used, and indeed one of the most useful commands is known by the incredibly informative name of PIP. PIP stands for Peripheral Interchange Program, and has been called "the most powerful command ever written". This one of the definition of power that derives from making a list happens from the fewest keystrokes possible. However, this is naive to do with PIP's convoluted shorthand system than anything else. Effectively, what PIP does is to transfer a file from one device, perform some action on the file (or not as the case may be) and transfer it to another device.

This command is exceedingly useful, has to be included on the systems disk, and is rarely even documented in CP/M instructions supplied with any CP/M machine. So

here is the minimum you will have to know to get it going.

PIPPed at the Post

An mentioned earlier PIP is used to transfer files around. The transient way of using PIP is to be typed 'PIP src' where 'src' is the function that you want to happen. When this is completed or an error occurs you will then drop into the CP/M system prompt (A>). The programmed method of using PIP is just to type 'PIP' on its own. You then get the PIP prompt which is an asterisk (*S) followed by the cursor. To use the earlier example, if you typed 'src' after this prompt it will be acted upon. The difference is that after it is finished on a successful write condition occurs, you will drop back into the CP prompt ready for another command.

The format for the PIP instructions I will assume from now on that all instruction are following the 'S' prompt) is 'target becomes source operation'. Either the target or the source can be either a file name or a device and the operations will be detailed later. The file names can support all the wildcards and drive designations that the more complex transient commands have. For the most simple example of the PIP command is the disk copy 'A:1.2' = 'B:1.2' will copy the contents of drive 'B' on to drive 'A'. Single files, and groups of files can be copied or even renamed. 'read.txt = bit.txt' will change the text file 'bit' into the text file 'read'.

The main use of PIP is to transfer information between devices. 'temp.txt' will accept input from the keyboard and create a quick test file. 'LPT:=out.txt' will print out the text file and something like 'RMC:temp.txt' will read information from the serial port (perhaps from another computer) and create a file with it.

However, the most powerful function that PIP has is the operations at the end of each instruction. The examples above will do the transfer with no change to the file being transferred. However, the inclusion of a few letters after the instruction in square brackets can change everything.

Z : This copies the parity bit for 7 bit ASCII files.
W : Otherwise, this will

Keypad Modifier

Now you can use your numeric keypad to type in lists of data statements.

By Mahmood Hassan Merchant

The Commodore 128 comes with an excellent keyboard which is complemented by a numeric keypad mounted on the right. At first glance this would brighten any programmer's heart. You could be mistaken for thinking that it can be used for keying in data statements. But, on more careful examination, it becomes clear that the keypad has been primarily designed for accounting data entry with '+' and '-' keys. Normal Basic data statements cannot be entered with it. Or can't they?

I realized, that with a little effort, the keypad could be redefined to meet this need. Hence the birth of the Keypad Modifier.

Purpose

This is a machine language utility which resides at the unused RAM at 5000. This start location is defined in line 40 as variable AD. The value of this can be changed if required and a working version of the program will be POKEd to that location and onwards.

The program redefines the '+' key as DEL. This is useful when you make a mistake in your data statements. The '-' key is located on the top right of the keypad just like the DEL key on the normal keyboard, and this makes it very convenient to use.

The '+' key, when depressed, prints the word DATA on the screen. The

comma, required to separate the numbers in a data statement, is now available using the '=' key. The number and ENTER (or RETURN) keys act as usual.

Hints on Loading

The Basic loader accompanying the program POKES the data. If you own a disk drive, the loader will generate a binary file with the name you specify. Later, whenever you want to use this utility, just enter: BODK "FILENAME" to load and activate the modifier.

Tape owners can enter the built-in MONITOR and save the machine code with: S-FILENAME"01+5000,+3067. The machine code can then be loaded with: LOAD "filename".J.L. You should then type NEW and SYS 5000 to activate.

In Use

The best way to use this utility is to first use the AUTO feature of Basic. Type in the first line number and press space. Now you can forget the main keyboard! Just press the '+' at the beginning of a new line, the number of which will be automatically printed if you are using AUTO. Then enter the numbers pressing '=' to separate them and press ENTER to enter the line. If you make a mistake press '+' to delete. If

PROGRAM: 128 KEYPAD MOD

```

50 PRINT(CLEAR)    100 KEYP
50 POKEDISK"
50 PRINT(LOAD)0+0 PRINT(0
500+PRINT%)+0 DELETES CMA
ACTORS"
50 PRINT(1,1 PRINTS C000+
+0 AD=5000,POKE-51000,SEACH+0
+0+0,POKE+00,0+NEXT
+0 PRINT(0+500) L=0+200+0+P
5000+0,1-10,POKE0+7,0
50 IF(0+500)PRINT(ENTER)1
50 DATA STATEMENTS"STOP
50 INPUT(0+0 OR DISK CLAS")
50 IF(0+1"00000
50 INPUT(0+0 FOR BINARY FILE
+0,0+0+0+0+0,00,POKE(0+0+0
+07)
50 PRINT(TYPE, BODK"+C000+0+0
+0+0+0+0+0) TO LOAD AND A
CTIVATE"END
50 PRINT(515+0+0 TO ACTIVATE"
END
100 DATA 100,100,100,100,100,0,0,0
100,100
110 DATA 101,01,1,00,00,001,0
0,000
120 DATA 11,001,03,010,11,001
00,010
130 DATA 11,70,173,100,100,01
000,010
140 DATA 100,00,000,010,100,0
00,100,00
150 DATA 107,70,1,000,100,00,
107,70
160 DATA 0,000,000,00,107,70,
0,000
170 DATA 100,00,107,70,0,000,
170,000
180 DATA 70,100,100

```

Go FORTH & *

Tired of your old programming language? Want to try something new and exciting? Then it's about time you checked out FORTH.

By Allen Webb

The title of this first article may at first appear odd but it is, in fact, a motto used by the FORTH Interest Group (FIG) meaning "Go FORTH and multiply". What I intend to do is propose some arguments in favour of the use of FORTH as the alternative programming language.

Basic Disadvantages

The majority of Commodore users are probably programming in Basic. While Basic adequately fills its original functions as an aid to teaching programming, it has various drawbacks which hinder its use for serious applications:

- 1) Basic lacks the structural constructs which ease the creation of logical and easily understood programs. If you've ever tried to understand, alter or debug a Basic program written by someone else, you'll know what I mean.
- 2) Being an interpreted language, Basic is both slow and uses memory inefficiently.
- 3) Basic is inflexible.

Two important points must be emphasized. First, the enhanced Basic's available to BBC and IBM clone systems are more efficient to use but are

obviously machine dependent. If you want to have a program which is transportable to other machines, forget it. Secondly, you can get compilers which will speed up routines and save space. They do not, however, make the job of programming easier.

For all these reasons, many people will eventually become dissatisfied with Basic and will seek an alternative. Those interested in arcade games will generally choose machine code. Those, however, who do not seek the highest speed execution will want an alternative high-level language. For the

CM/C128, the alternatives are limited to PASCAL and FORTH. Those of you who own an Amiga will also have the option of CPASCAL (and its derivative MODULA) a powerful and well structured language but for power, structure, speed and elegance, FORTH takes some beating.

Forth Advantages

I do not intend to describe the FORTH language in detail since the books listed later will do the job better than I can. Instead, I want to discuss the

```

Listing 1
HEX
DO20 CONSTANT SCREEN-COL-BEG
: COLOURCHANGE
  [ SCREEN-COL-BEG + ]
: FLASH FF 0
  DO
    COLOURCHANGE
  LOOP :
: MESSAGE FF 0
  DO
    "FORTH RULES OK" FLASH
  LOOP :
DECIMAL

```

FORTH philosophy and hopefully what your appetite.

The main difference between FORTH and other languages is its approach to defining instructions or words. In Basic, instructions such as MOVE, I, PRINT etc. have fixed and clearly specified functions or meanings. While FORTH uses a vocabulary of basic words (primitives), they are completely free file and may be changed at will. If, for example, you want the instruction 3 to meanly represent 11, it is a trivial matter to make the change. This ability to define your own words and add them to the vocabulary gives programming an added dimension. It also makes the creation and use of Procedures both primitive and awkward.

Consider the example in Listing 1.

Here I have defined three words, COLOURCHANGE, FLASH and MESSAGE. Each definition is held in the section between the : and . COLOURCHANGE increments the screen colour (in B&E) by one. FLASH uses a loop to increment the screen colour 250 times. MESSAGE uses the flashing screen effect in conjunction with a printed message to give a nasty effect. The three words are added to the vocabulary and can be used in any subsequent words. In other words, a completely user definable language.

If this flexibility wasn't enough, FORTH offers a combination of interpreter and compiler. When you write the program, you are in fact creating some form of text file using an editor. When any word is to be executed, the text is compiled. Since the primitives are efficiently defined in terms of simple machine code jumps, the compiled words are converted to a simple linked list of machine code instructions. This results in compact code which executes quickly.

Inside FORTH

Originally, FORTH was written using virtual memory held on disk. To do this, text is held in a series of screens each comprising of 1024 bytes. When these screens, the text can be laid out in almost any format allowing the use of

indenting and other tricks to give a well structured format as shown in Listing 1. Since many Old users don't own a disk drive, many FORTHS use a RAM-disk approach to storing screens. While the software is different, the perceived mode of operation is unchanged. This system of text input is extremely satisfying since the use of virtual memory on disk presents no penalty for using explanatory comments. Listing 3 shows what can be done.

In terms of capabilities, standard FORTH offers all of the structure you

Much of the speed and power of FORTH derives from its use of a stack to hold values currently in use. Not only does the stack allow the rapid manipulation of data, but values can be easily passed to words. The word DUP in Listing 2 is used to duplicate the value at the top of the stack. The functioning of the routine is as follows:

1. The routine is entered with the number on the top of the stack.
2. It is duplicated to preserve it and it is decremented.

Listing 2

```
: FACTORIAL (n = factorial)
  DUP 1-IF
    DUP 1- MYSELF *
  THEN ;
```

could ask for. The standard constructs are:

```
DO...LOOP
IF...ELSE...THEN
BEGIN...UNTIL
BEGIN...WHILE...REPEAT
```

CASE is not standard but can be easily implemented. Using such constructs with the unique "word" system, it is remarkably easy to develop a linear approach to programming without recourse to unsatisfactory constructs such as GOTO. In addition, the ability to nest words is conducive to the analysis of a problem by use of top-down design.

Here are a couple of further examples. Listing 2 shows a routine for the calculation of the factorial of a number. The routine is recursive in that it calls itself via the word MYSELF.

3. If the number is greater than one, the routine calls itself.
4. If the number is equal to one, the results of each call itself are multiplied together.

You might find it interesting to compare Basic routine to do the job in Listing 2.

Listing 3 also uses recursion. Can you sort out what it does?

Listing 4 gives a final example. This time I have a real application. Three example screens are shown for a menu system on a Tandy TRS-80M1 using an AY-3-8910. Don't try to understand how it works - simply consider how neat the lay out is and how unlike a normal program it is. The use of normal English gives a user-friendly program which is easily altered by another user.

Listing 3

```
: TEST (n = n)
  DUP <
  IF
    SWAP MYSELF
  ELSE
    DUP 0=
    IF
      DROP
    ELSE
      SWAP OVER MOD MYSELF
    THEN
  THEN ;
```

```
Listing 5
Screen 1
(Words for AY-3-9133 Programmable Sound Generator)
VOCABULARY MUSIC MUSIC DEFINITIONS BLK # 2- LOAD 1 PBC Words)
VARIABLE TEMPO 70 TEMPO !
: ON 124 ? +PBC ; : HOLDING 8+PBC ; 1 VOLUME
: PBCQ CREATE . WORDS # 124 PBCQ
      2 C flag for use by DOTTED ;
: DOTTED NOT ; DOTTED changes flag value left by a note ;
1499 PBCQ C5 1413 PBCQ C6 1339 PBCQ C6
1240 PBCQ B#8 1190 PBCQ C5 1113 PBCQ C5
1060 PBCQ F#8 1000 PBCQ C5 944 PBCQ A#4
871 PBCQ A1 840 PBCQ B#1 794 PBCQ B1
729 PBCQ C1 708 PBCQ C#1 667 PBCQ C#1
630 PBCQ B#2 594 PBCQ C1 561 PBCQ F1
529 PBCQ F#1 500 PBCQ C1 471 PBCQ A#2
445 PBCQ A1 420 PBCQ B2 394 PBCQ B2
```

What's Available

So you've had the sales pitch and you're looking to start hacking in FORTH. There remains the question as to what is available.

First, there is the software. The first point to make is that FORTH users are sensible for when it comes to making systems available and it should be a simple matter to get hold of a public domain system. Try contacting the FORTH Interest Group. Alternatively, there are a few systems which can be obtained for cash.

Probably the most powerful system is *White Lightning* from Oasis. This was marketed as a games package and consequently offers a large number of graphics extensions. Both virtual memory on disk and RAM disk versions are available. Highly recommended.

Melbourne House publishes Abernethy's *MC FORTH* for the 64. This offers some graphics extensions but is otherwise quite standard. Although it is simple to transfer it to disk, only RAM-disk is supported.

ROBIE (now defunct) offers no bells FORTH. This is quite a decent version and, if you sleep around, you may pick it up cheap.

There are also systems from MPE and FORTHWITH but I have not evaluated either.

If you're really cool, trendy and lanky, you might be able to pick up a

Juniper Ace. For you who haven't heard of it, the Juniper Ace was a FORTH based micro rubber in the mould of the ZX801 by Boldfield Ltd Computing.

Unfortunately, the instructions with most low cost FORTHs are poor and must be supplemented by booklets. The range of books is wide (the FORTH Interest Group has a

bibliography) but two are worthy of comment. Both are by the same author, Leo Brodie, *Steering FORTH*, Prentice Hall, ISBN 0-13-047822-7; *Thinking FORTH*, Prentice Hall, ISBN 0-13-017588-7.

Both are worthy additions to any serious computer user's library and cater for users of all abilities.

I hope you have found this brief summary of FORTH of value. Unlike many languages, FORTH has the power and flexibility to grow with your own abilities and provide an effective and elegant solution to your programming problems. ☺

Timeline

Boldfield Ltd Computing: Juniper House, Hildon St, Cambridge

FORTH Interest Group: Colton Walk, 54 Wild Bric, Walsingham, Norfolk NG7 4JL

FORTHWITH: 31 Rookley Moor Rd, Kesteven, Leicestershire GL7 7AE
Microprocessor Engineering Ltd, 21 Rookley Road, Skirby, Southampton SO7 3AP

Melbourne House: High Street, Harpenden Werts, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT7 4AH

Osni Software: 12 Waltham Rd, Weston-Super-Mare, Avon BS27 7DL

```
Screen 2
(Basic Vocabulary)
: NOTE CREATE      0 TEMPO # # (basic note duration)
  WORDS          2000 IF 3 2 ?) THEN OR ( adjust if dotted )
  1 +PBCQ 0 +PBCQ OR
  2 0 DO LOOP OFF
  10 0 DO LOOP ;

250 NOTE BRIVE          118 NOTE SEMI-BRIVE
64 NOTE B#1#1          32 NOTE CROTCHET
16 NOTE QUAVER         8 NOTE SEMI-QUAVER
4 NOTE SEMI-SEMI-QUAVER 2 NOTE SEMI-SEMI-SEMI-QUAVER

100 TEMPO !

#&2 DOTTED QUAVER      02 SEMI-QUAVER
#&2 QUAVER             #&2 QUAVER
01 QUAVER #&2 QUAVER  #&2 CROTCHET
F3 QUAVER 01 QUAVER #&2 CROTCHET
C5 QUAVER #&2 QUAVER  #&2 CROTCHET
#&2 DOTTED QUAVER 01 SEMI-QUAVER
#&2 DOTTED QUAVER 01 SEMI-QUAVER
#&2 QUAVER          #&2 QUAVER
01 QUAVER #&2 QUAVER #&2 CROTCHET
F1 CROTCHET #&2 CROTCHET
01 QUAVER 01 QUAVER ;
```

Expanding Systems

Many people who bought the Commodore Sound Expander may have found it too much for their novice status. Perhaps this Music Sales Composer Editor will help.

By S.J. Chance

Did you buy a Commodore FM Sound Expander Package (rather this year? Did you thrill to the Country Rarities vol and Tebabe demonstration? Did you then find that your key-board talents, no matter how great, would not allow you to produce anything sounding half as good as what the machine could play on its own? Discussed, did you give up your Learn to Play Keyboards course, and leave your £150 investment gathering dust under your bed? If you have answered 'yes' to any of the above questions, then here the good news: the long awaited Composer/Editor software for the Sound Expander has arrived, and even at the slightly painful price of \$24.95, it's a must.

At the time of writing, only the disk version was available, and that only with a photocopy of the instruction manual, but a cassette version should be with it soon.

The Composer

The disk contains two separate programs: the FM Composer and the FM Sound Editor. I will deal with the Composer first. This allows you to enter standard music notation on to a double staff, over nine channels. The notes can be input from the external five-octave keyboard, nothing new to MIDI fans, but to those of us who have struggled up through *Chry-Synth*, *The Music Studio*, *The Sound System*, etc., this is a new experience in terms of ease and speed.

Of course, if you don't have the external keyboard, notes can be entered from the computer keyboard, though this is a much more cumbersome way of doing things. Having the computer keyboard operating as a music keyboard does mean that a lot of other functions are relegated to the remaining keys.

Dotted notes, ties, triplets, dynamics, variations in tempo, all are supported by the program, but they are entered via a system of using the function keys to scroll through the options, which I found irritatingly clumsy.

Another minor gripe is that to move the cursor from the beginning of a music file to the end involves it hawking its way through all the music in between which, with a piece of any length, can take a couple of minutes. The thing to do here is to break the music down into smaller sections with the 'segment' option.

Repeats in the music are supported, including repeats with different endings, which enables one to make optimum use of memory space, not that the program doesn't leave plenty of RAM available.

Once entered, your music can be saved (only to disk from the disk version), edited, and dumped to a Printer. The Print-out is more readable than some, and doesn't have the problem of over-lapping quavers appearing to be semi-quavers which occurs with *The Music Studio*.

The music can be played back, in

whole or in part, at any stage, and in any of 64 different voices.

The Editor

Moving on to the Sound Editor, this does exactly what it says it does. The sounds from the existing library can be altered, or new ones created. There are quite a few parameters to mess about with, and you don't have to use a dial when you are doing to get some interesting results. If you are short on inspiration, there is also a Print Machine option which sets-up the Parameters at random.

The sounds can be played from the external keyboard, and it is possible to use a keyboard-split, in a similar way as with the original Sound Expander Package. There are also two extra sets of voices which were omitted from the cassette version of the original Sound Expander software.

Also within the editor program is a crude drum machine, using five drums over 32 program steps. This is not as sophisticated in sound or programming as dedicated drum machine add-ons, but is quite respectable nonetheless.

Both the Composer and Editor are MIDI compatible through a relevant interface. If nothing about MIDI has given you a headache in the past, using both these programs with the Sound Expander may well open your ears, and eventually your wallet, to the potential that MIDI provides. **TM**

72	748 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	81	768 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	91	81, 81, 7C, 00, 7E, 00, 00, 01, 0A
73	749 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	82	769 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	92	81, 81, 80, 00, 7F, 00, 00, 01, 7E, 00
	750 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	83	770 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	93	7C, 00, 7E, 00, 7E, 00, 00, 7C, 00
74	751 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	84	771 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	94	7F, 00, 7F, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 7F
75	752 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	85	772 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	95	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
76	753 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	86	773 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	96	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
77	754 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	87	774 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	97	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
78	755 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	88	775 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	98	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
79	756 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	89	776 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	99	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
80	757 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	90	777 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	100	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
81	758 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	91	778 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	101	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
82	759 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	92	779 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	102	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
83	760 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	93	780 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	103	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
84	761 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	94	781 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	104	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
85	762 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	95	782 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	105	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
86	763 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	96	783 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	106	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
87	764 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	97	784 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	107	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
88	765 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	98	785 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	108	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
89	766 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	99	786 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	109	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
90	767 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	100	787 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	110	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
91	768 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	101	788 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	111	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
92	769 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	102	789 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	112	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
93	770 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	103	790 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	113	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
94	771 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	104	791 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	114	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
95	772 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	105	792 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	115	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
96	773 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	106	793 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	116	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
97	774 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	107	794 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	117	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
98	775 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	108	795 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	118	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
99	776 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	109	796 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	119	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00
100	777 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	110	797 DATA 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00	120	00, 00, 80, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00, 00

INSTEAD OF TO SEND A LETTER, OR THROUGH ANY FORM OF COMMUNICATION, TO A FRIEND OR FELLOW C64 USER BY PROVIDING A PHYSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT TO A TELE-TEX TYPE FORMAT. SIMPLY TYPE IN YOUR LETTER FROM THE KEYBOARD USING ALL NORMAL PRINT CHARACTERS TO MAKE ALTERATIONS OR EMPHASIS PARTS OF TEXT IN DIFFERENT TEXT COLOURS.

IN FACT BY EXPERIMENTATION QUITE PLEASING RESULTS CAN BE ACHIEVED; THE ROUTINE CAN ALSO BE USED TO DRAW OR PROVIDE SIMPLE ANIMATION SEQUENCES.

1982/08

Red Boxes

Now there's a home control system available for the C64, which will switch on the kettle and the telly or even warn of intruders.

By Mycroft Appleby

Home control has always been promoted as one of the major uses of computers in the coming year. However, in the past home control systems were expensive, difficult to use, and were only available on micros with good, complex interfacing systems like the BBC Micro. More common computers like the Commodore 64 were not really used at all. One unsatisfied user put that doubled as an RS232, and an obscure custom serial system, isn't really the stuff that interfacing dreams are made of.

Finally, there is now on the market an easy to use home control system that is available across a range of micros including the Commodore 64. The starter pack for *Red Boxes* comprises the main controller — called 'Red Leader', and two control units — an infra-red detector (red box) and a plug actuator (red cone). The concept behind the *Red Boxes* is the controller unit 'talking' to all the other units via a modulated serial link via the mains.

Red Leader is a computer in itself. Comprising a 6582 derivative processor just like the C64, 96K of RAM, and a BBC-like control Basic. The Commodore 64 connects to this and is used as a terminal. The way this is done is extremely clever. A wire is connected on the C64. Press 'Run/Stop' and the Red Leader behaves just like a cassette player, sending cassette-type signals to the Commodore 64.

After a short time the terminal program is loaded into the computer and the link between the Red Leader and the Commodore 64 turns into a proper two-way serial link. You will then drop into the control program mode.

This mode is the simplest operating method on the *Red Boxes* system (the other being Red Basic, but more of that later). You are presented with a menu where you can log-on devices (i.e. tell Red Leader that they exist) type in their code addresses, turn them on or off and set them up to turn on or off at specific times. You can even relate the input of one to the output of another so that a movement on the infra-red detector will activate an alarm for instance.

This program, while being extremely simple, is also quite powerful and lets you perform all the major actions that you would want to in a quick and easy manner. However for complex, multi-unit, interactions you need to get down to some planning and programming. For this you need to use Red Basic and probably need to get hold of the Projects Manual (good value at £9).

Documentation

The manual supplied gives you some simple information on the Basic, but is really aimed at the experienced user so goes into more detail about the menu program. The Projects Manual

on the other hand, is one of the better tomes that I have read. Giving enough detail for the experienced programmer not to do something really flashy, or the beginner who is at fault with Commodore Basic and wants to get down to using Red Basic.

If you have ever used a BBC micro you will be immediately used to Red Basic as Red Basic is a subset of BBC Basic, with a lot of extra commands added to handle the control aspect of the system. If you think that Red Basic being the same as BBC Basic is a little strange, then you won't when you hear about the Founder of General Information Systems (the people who make Red Boxes), Chris Curry (for it is he) started Acorn many years ago and this is one of the first projects that he has embarked on since the Acorn shake up.

As well as most of the BBC Basic commands and instructions — which includes most of the structured programming aids (repeat, gobble, name, long variable names etc.) there are commands to log-on devices and manipulate them. As this Basic is a lot more advanced than the Commodore 64 Basic, you should have no trouble at all in telling units to do whatever you want, especially with the real-time commands. These are commands that are very similar to some commands on the Amstrad. Sections of program are executed when an external device instructs them. So if the timer section of your program is controlling the

hearing and a burglar trips the infra-red motion detector than the "alarm" section of your program can be activated.

SK may not sound like a lot, but try and think of the last time that you wrote a program that was actually SK in length. Remember, you don't have to worry about screen or colour memory, or sprites, or sound. The Commodore 64 handles all of that. And if Basic is a bit tight you can always switch to machine code.

The Red Leader uses a 6502 processor, and you can program it in machine code by poking code into memory and then executing it. The Projects manual carries a list of operating system functions which are very similar in a lot of ways to the Commodore Kernal system. The Basic has the same memory management as in the original BBC Basic with pseudo-variables like Page and Top to indicate when the Basic program is going to sit, and Locom and Hlines to reserve space for the machine code area. The operating system and memory areas are also very similar to the BBC, even down to where the system memory ends.

The Basic can also save any programs written under it to a tape connected to the Commodore 64. To do this, the Red Leader first transfers the contents of its memory to the C64. You must then disconnect Red Leader and connect up a tape recorder, and write to tape. Then re-connect everything up.

The main plugs of this system is that when you have a program debugged and working to your satisfaction, you can unplug the Commodore 64 from Red Leader completely and use it for something else or whatever. Yes, Red Leader will just sit there executing your program forever. However, you can leave your Commodore 64 connected if you want to — if you need to see information displayed on the screen for instance — though the power consumption over a period of time would be offsetting. The Red Leader on its own uses up very little power, and it is flexible to leave it switched on all the time.

Reds One and Two

The two units supplied with the starter pack are Red One and Red Two (sounds a bit like something out of *Apocalypse Now*). Red One is the

acessor. This is a unit that plugs into the mains at one end and then has a mains socket at the other. Anything you like can be connected to this and turned on and off from Red Leader. There is also a manual override on the unit to toggle it on and off as you see fit. An LED on the box tells you whether it is on or off.

Red Two is an infra-red motion detector. One end plugs into the mains (as usual) and at the other end is a small box about half the size of Red One and Red Leader. In this is a large window. If anything that is at a different temperature than the surrounding air moves within 10 feet of it then a signal is sent back to Red Leader.

All these units come with wall mounting brackets with all screws and Rawlplugs, though they don't need to be wall mounted, it is excellent that these are included. The cables are also very long, over six feet in most cases. This is just about the right length. Usually on systems such as these the cables are not quite long enough. I think that they got it right this time.

In the near future GIS will be releasing an alarm unit and an analog input unit. These will allow you to build up an alarm system more easily or control a thermostat for heating. Next in line are temperature probes and an RS232 link.

This last unit will allow your computer to talk to a printer in another room, or even another

building, by sending its information down the mains line. This could also be used in networking computers in a simple and easy manner.

If anyone is worrying about the mains system, don't. It is perfectly safe and very well worked out. Each unit has its own unique serial number and the Red Leader has to know what it is. So while you could control your next door neighbour's heating system, you'd have to know his encryption code first. However, if you wanted to communicate with a friend down the road, as long as you went on the same local ring main, and within a few hundred yards, you could do it.

Verdict

On the whole this is a brilliant system. One of my main interests in computers is in the field of real event control. And this is the nearest to use, safety, and most well thought out system that I have ever seen. This only obstacle in its path are public resistance to this sort of thing, and the price which, though low for a control system, is still high for the average Commodore owner. I will watch this with interest.

Teachin'

Company: General Information Systems, 1 White Hart Yard, London SE1 1RX. Price: £129 (starter pack).



Letters

Your opinions are what counts. Let us know how you feel about anything connected with Commodore computers.

Pat on the Back

May I congratulate you on the new layout and style of *Your Commodore*. It is a great improvement. I am glad to see you have stayed away from the crams in other magazines for catering for games players at the expense of the rest of us. The contents seem to me now to be just about right. The magazine is well laid out, with a good clear typeface and the type is legible in much clearer.

There is only one fault. Did your proof reader once work for *The Guardian's* Bank this as I have spotted a number of typographical errors throughout the magazine.

Your Commodore must now go to the top of the class for getting the format right. I buy most magazines for the Commodore including some American and Canadian ones. *Your Commodore* is now the best for lay out the content.

The free tape has gone into my collection of utilities. I already had most of the utilities but not in two such useful programs. I will be using them often.

As an ancient in my mid-forties, I find using my computer for letter writing and working on a novel (for enjoyment not for publication) very relaxing after a hard day's work on the roads as a council worker. Keep up the good work.

David Paszek, Plymouth

Thank you for your all too well deserved praise, David (well, why be modest). Our proof reader has been recently whipped and chastised to see why and what time as she sets the error of her ways!

Ed.

Labour of Love

Having recently received my copy of *Your Commodore* January '87, I was interested in an article by Stuart Cooke on Fault Finding. I am sure that a lot of readers will find it very helpful.

It was not long after purchasing my first computer that I came up against a problem which I found very frustrating. It was the difficulty of typing in listings without making mistakes. Although I can type about 25 words per minute when writing a letter, it is quite a different problem trying to read the listing and type at the same time. I have to see the keys and see where my fingers are going. Thus when constantly having to stop and read the listing, then remember it, the task could be quite infuriating.

After giving the matter some thought I devised a method that has worked perfectly for myself, and perhaps it may be of use to others.

I record the whole program on a tape recorder at such a speed that when played back, it allows me to sit comfortable and type merely away without having to take my eyes off the keyboard. If a foot switch is inserted in the control line for stop and start of the recorder it is possible to stop at once correct the mistake, or if the recording has got a little ahead of your typing catch up before operating the foot switch once more.

It does take time to record the listing, but the elimination of constant mistakes in typing and most of all the frustration of continually correcting them, has been a great boon.

I hope that this suggestion will be of value to other readers.

Flight Lieutenant C.Lee RAF (ret'd)
Harpenden.

If any other readers have suggestions that might help, perhaps they would like to pass on their pearls of wisdom for the enlightenment of the masses.

Ed.

Disillusioned

I refer to the letter from H. Jenkins in your January issue. I am afraid that I do not share his enthusiasm for the C64/Plus/4 User Club.

Having paid up subscription in mid-November, I am still waiting for the so-called 'magazine' for November, December and January. '20 User' did appear in August, September and October as very poor 8" X 8" pamphlets.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time I have lost out on clubs who start in a blaze of enthusiasm and disappear within a month or so. My experience is probably shared by hundreds of other computer owners whose cynicism is blunted by being ripped off in a similar fashion.

I can only suggest that your readers think twice before parting with their cash, particularly if the publication is not available at a newsagent like your own magazine.

David Jackson, Luton

If you would like to recommend to readers that they check out the reputation of computer clubs or, for as possible before parting with any money. If you have any reason or all to doubt the reliability of a club then don't read any money. ACPUG is probably the most well known Commodore club and they may be able to give you information as to specific groups or clubs which they have checked out themselves. Contact: ACPUG, 28 Brunstree Road, Newbury Park, Blyth, Essex SG2 7EP.

Double Print

If you want to attract someone's attention to something, then the bigger the better. This utility allows you to use double height characters on a C64.

By Bruce Drent

When printing text on the screen of a Commodore 64 you are normally stuck with the standard small size character set. Should you require to attract someone's attention to a piece of text then you can change the colour, inverse it etc.

This program, for the C64, makes it possible to highlight your text with double size characters (HCH) adding a new dimension to your text displays.

The program is written entirely in machine code. The version printed here is presented in the form of a Basic loader which POKs to the machine code and the new character set into memory.

Also printed here is a demonstration program which is automatically loaded by the machine code loader.

In Use

This program makes it possible to have both the new expanded character set and the normal C64 character set on screen at any one time. Switching between the two character sets is extremely easy. Insert a CONTROL-D character into a print statement and the text will appear in double size print. A CONTROL-N character will return things to normal. The demonstration program makes this a little clearer.

The machine code program has four sections.

a) A machine code routine that turns off the interrupts, wedges in the new vectors for the double height program and moves the new character set from \$0800 to \$1000.

b) The new interrupt routine. This looks for raster interrupts at pre-defined lines that correspond to the text lines. When the interrupt occurs the character set and text raster line get set.

c) The new print routine. This first establishes that output is to the screen, then it fixes the character set and outputs using the C64's INTERNAL print routine.

d) The new character set. This is initially stored at \$C300 to \$CA00

and moved by routine (a).

The whole program can be saved as a machine code routine from \$C000 to \$CA00 provided that any program that uses it moves the start of Basic up to \$1000. Use SYS 49052 to start the program. 11

PROGRAM:DLPRINT.LOADER

```

00 0 000 *****
01 000 *****
02 1 000 *
03 0 000 * DOUBLE PRINT LOA
04 000 *
05 3 000 *
06 1 000 * COPYRIGHT B.B.DRENT
07 1 000 *
08 5 000 *
09 0 000 *****
10 00 FORK0000,B:FORK0001,B:P
11 00"000,0000",PRINT:PRINT:
12"0000,PRINT:LOADER"
13 00 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
14 00 BASIC TO BASIC & TRAP
15 00 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
16 00 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
17 00 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
18 00 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
19 00 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
20 00 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
21 00 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
22 00 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT
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```


Contributions

So you own a Commodore? So you've written some programs? So why haven't you sent them to us?

Your Commodore is always on the look out for new programs, hints and tips, articles and even regular series. In fact if you have something that you think could be of use to other Commodore owners we want to hear about it.

So if you have got something which you think we may be interested in, how do you go about submitting it to us?

Below you will find a list of guidelines that will help us to deal with any item that you send us to us. We don't expect everybody to be the next William Shakespeare but if you do follow these simple rules then it will make our job a lot easier.

1) If possible all material sent to the magazine should be typed or printed out on a computer printer.

2) All text should be double spaced. i.e. there should be a blank line between each line of text. You should also leave a margin of about 10 characters around the text.

3) On the very first page you should put the following:

Name of the article
Machine that it is for
Any extras required - disk, printer etc.
Your name
Your address
Your telephone number

4) The top of every page should have the following information on it:

Abbreviation of the article title
Your name
The page number

For example, suppose you had submitted an article on C64 interrupts. You should put something like the following at the head of the page:

Interrupts/J.Smith/1

5) Please make sure that you do not make any additional marks on your text especially underlining.

6) Try and write in clear concise English, it does not have to be a work of literature but it must be comprehensible.

7) On the bottom of each page you should put the word MORE if there are more pages to the article or ENDS if it is the last page.

8) If possible, include a listing of all programs.

9) Under no circumstances use a staple to hold the pages together. Use a paperclip instead.

10) Programs should be included on either disk or tape. Make sure that you SAVE two copies of every program so that we have a better chance of loading them if problems occur.

11) Programs under 10 lines can be included in the text, if your program is longer than this you must enclose a disk or cassette.

12) If your article needs any artwork then supply clear examples of what is needed. We don't expect you to be an artist but we do need to see what is required.

13) Photographs, if necessary, must be either black and white prints or colour slides. We can take them ourselves so don't worry about this too much.

14) Submission of any length are welcome. If you have a five line routine that you think may be of use to someone else we welcome it just as much as a full blown six part series.

15) Payment varies quite a lot and depends on quite a number of factors, such as complexity of program, presentation of program, number of magazine pages it takes up etc. Payment is generally between £10.00 and £200.00.

16) All payments are made in the month that the magazine containing your article has appeared in print.

17) If we do find your submission suitable for inclusion in the magazine we will write to you giving the terms of publication, the rate of payment and an agreement form. Prompt return of this form will allow us to use your program as soon as possible.

18) If you want the program returning to you, should we find it unsuitable for publication, then you should enclose a stamped self addressed envelope.

19) The last and most important point to make is 'get writing', we are waiting for your articles. [E]

Listings

Get it right first time with our deluxe program system
for the C64.

You may have noticed that our listings are free of those horrible little black blinks which send you searching around the keyboard for a suitable graphic symbol. You may also have noticed the funny numbers by the side of each line of the listing. First no more, it's all part of our easy entry aid.

Instead of those nasty graphics and rows of countless spaces in PRINT statements and strings we use a special coding system. The code, or mnemonic, is always contained in square brackets and you'll soon learn to decipher their meanings.

For example, [SA] would mean type in a Shifted A, or an ace of spades in layman's terms, and [SA10] would mean a row of ten of those symbols.

[S+2] means hold down the shift key and press the plus key twice. It doesn't take a great leap of logic to realize that [C+3] means exactly the same thing except that the Commodore key (bottom left of the keyboard) is held down instead of the shift key.

If more than two spaces appear in a statement then this will be printed as [SPC4] or, exceptionally, [SPC4]. Translated into English this means press the spacebar four times or in the latter case hold the shift key down while you do it.

A string of special characters could appear as:

[CTRL N, DOWN], [LEFT], [BLUE], [FAC3]

This would be achieved by holding

down the CTRL key as you press N, press the cursor key down twice, the cursor left key five times, press the key marked BLUE while holding down the CTRL key, press the F5 key and, finally hold the Commodore key down while pressing the number two key (C2 would of course make the computer print in brown).

Always remember that you should only have a row of graphics characters on your screen with no square brackets and no commas, unless something like this appears:

[88][C*]

In this case the two characters should have a comma between them.

On rare occasions [REV T] will appear in a listing. This is a delete symbol and is created by sneering the line up to this mnemonic. Then type a closing quotation mark (SHIFT & 2) and delete it. This gets the computer out of quote mode. Hold down CTRL and press the number nine key (BVS90N), type the relevant number of inverted T's and then hold down CTRL and press zero (BVS0FF). Next type another quotation mark and delete it again. Now finish the line and press RETURN.

A list of these special cases is given in the table but remember that only one of these mnemonics will appear outside of a PRINT string (the symbol for pi. This may appear when its value is needed in a calculation so this may look something like:

[C-C][PI][P]R

Ignore the square brackets and just type in a shifted upward pointing arrow (ie. the pi symbol).

PROGRAM: SQAUX.D64

```

1 000 0000 00000000 = 000 0000
20 00 10 10000 00000000
30 000 010 00 0000 000 000 000 000 00
40 0000 0 07 00000000000000000000
50 00 000 0 00000 000000000000
60 00000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
70 00000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
80 0000 0 07 0000 0000000000000000
90 00 000 0 0000 0000000000000000
100 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
110 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
120 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
130 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
140 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
150 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
160 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
170 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
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960 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
970 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
980 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000
990 0000 0 0000 0000 0000000000000000

```

by Eric Doyle

Checksum Program

The hexadecimal numbers appearing in a column to the left of the listing should not be typed in with the program. These are merely checksum values and are there to help you get each line right. Don't worry if you don't understand the hexadecimal system, as long as you can compare two characters on the screen with the corresponding two characters in the magazine you can use our line checking program.

Type in the Checksum Program, make sure that you've not made any mistakes and save it to tape or disk

immediately because it will be used with most of the present and future listings appearing in *Your Commodore*.

At the start of each programming session, load Checksum and run it. The screen will turn brown with yellow characters and each time you type in a line and press the RETURN key a number will appear on the screen in white. This should be the same as the corresponding value in the magazine.

















If the two values don't relate to one another, you have not copied the line exactly as printed so go back and check each character carefully. When you find the error simply correct it and

















press RETURN again.

If you want to turn off the checker simply type SYS49153 and the screen will return to the familiar blue colour. You can then do whatever it was you wanted to do and if this doesn't use the area where Checksum lies you can go back to it with the same SYS command.

No system is foolproof but the chances of two errors cancelling one another out are so remote that we believe our listings are more reliable than any other magazine in the world. So get typing!

TD

Mnemonic	Symbol	Keypress
[RIGHT]		CTRL left/right
[LEFT]		SHIFT & CTRL left/right
[DOWN]		CTRL up/down
[UP]		SHIFT & CTRL up/down
[F1]		F1 key
[F2]		SHIFT & F1 key
[F3]		F3 key
[F4]		SHIFT & F3 key
[F5]		F5 key
[F6]		SHIFT & F5 key
[F7]		F7 key
[F8]		SHIFT & F7 key
[HOME]		CLR/HOME
[CLR]		SHIFT & CLR/HOME
[RVSON]		CTRL & 9
[RVSOFF]		CTRL & 0

Mnemonic	Symbol	Keypress
[BLACK]		CTRL & 1
[WHITE]		CTRL & 2
[RED]		CTRL & 3
[CYAN]		CTRL & 4
[PURPLE]		CTRL & 5
[GREEN]		CTRL & 6
[BLUE]		CTRL & 7
[YELLOW]		CTRL & 8
[POUND]		£
[LARBOW]		←
[UPARROW]		↑
[F1]		SHIFT & ↑
[INST]		SHIFT & INST/DEL
[REV T]		rev text
[Clear]		CBM + leave
[Store]		SHIFT + leave

B R E A K

Oops!

There is a slight correction required in our *Hex Data Entry* program, published March 1983 *Four Commodore*. This only needs to be changed if the start address ends in a one of 0400. Line 645 at present reads:

```
CH=CH+CA&8
```

The correct version should in fact be

```
CH=CH+CA&9
```

We hope that this will sort out any problems which you may have encountered whilst using this listing.

Adrian Antles

The Growing Pains of Adrian Male, is not only a popular book and TV series it is deemed also to enter the world of computer games published by the *Virgin Games*. If you've already currently experiencing the hell on earth, affectionately known as your room, then you may find a lot to identify with in this comedy game. If you left this phase of your life behind a long time ago, then it may serve to refresh your memory.

The game has been programmed by Level 9 in conjunction with Mosaic Publishing and will be available for the C64/128 at £9.95.

This month we've decided to run a caption competition in connection with Adrian's growing pains so have a good look at the accompanying picture (published courtesy of *Thames Television*) and see if you can come up with an apt witty caption to describe Adrian's obvious domestic bliss. The best caption will win £5.

**Bug Finder**

At *Four Commodore*, we try to publish high quality programs that are of benefit to as many readers as possible. This generally means that the programs are often very large and can be prone to typing errors. In order to make your life a little easier, we run a *Bug Finder* service.

If you have typed in one of our programs and despite much checking, you still can't get the program to run, then send us the following:

Two copies of your program on tape or disk.

A description of your problem.

If possible, a listing of your work (you may omit this).

A stamped, self-addressed envelope for

return of the program to you.

Should any of the above be missing then we will not be able to deal with your query.

We will try to point out where you have made any errors and place a corrected copy of the program back on to your tape or disk before we return it to you.

Do not send a program to us as soon as it stops working. Check it yourself first, if you don't, it only wastes valuable time that could be spent working on the magazine.

We do get a large number of queries in the office, so it may take a little time for yours to be processed.

Note: We can only deal with problems concerning programs published in *Four Commodore*.

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 Designer: Argus Design

Your Commodore incorporating *Four 44* is a monthly magazine appearing on the first Friday of each month.

Argus Specialist Publications Limited Editorial & Advertisement Office, 7th Floor, 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, Telephone: 01 477 8626 Telex: 8911866

Subscription rates upon application to Your Commodore Subscription Department, Inform Ltd, Three Buses, 175 The Blackmore, Strand, Hemstead, Herts, HP1 0ER.

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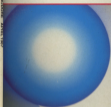
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