

at your command

# **QL DRIVER**

under review

# AMSTRAD LANGUAGE

**Compiled Pascal puts** power in your CPC

# **BIG BROTHERS**

**New printers with** something extra







**CROWTHER'S CRAZY CAVERNS** A superb 64 program from the author of Suicide Express



# MAY WICO BE WITH YOU



Wico<sup>®</sup> joysticks work directly with the Commodore 64,™ Vic 20,™ all Atari® Home

Computers and Atari® Video Games. Add an interface, and you can connect into a Sinclair Spectrum or Apple II\* and IIe.\* If you have a new MSX computer there's the just released MSX Grip Handle for you.

What do you get? A man-sized handle on a virtually unbreakable shaft. Tough, ultra-sensitive Wico\* switchgear. A heavyweight base. A year's guarantee. And more sheer But if you want to have less trouble fighting your controls, and more power for fighting the

forces of darkness . . . only Wico\* is worthy of your hand.

IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE





# **COVER STORY**

The spiralling price war between Sinclair and Acorn threatens to drag all micro manufacturers into another damaging price-tag battle, from which the only winner to emerge will be the end user.



# OUTPUT

## Going underground with a 64

We're proud to present the first part of Crazy Caverns, an arcade style games listing for the Commodore 64, written by Tony Crowther of Potty Pigeon and Suicide Express fame.

### **BBC** out and about

We'll show you how to use your Casio pocket computer as a remote terminal for your Beeb.

# Spectrum graphics creations

Our Screenart utility will have you drawing away merrily on your Spectrum.

### 64 down to business

Serious upgrade possibilities for the Commodore 64: how much of a professional system can it be made into?

# HARDWARE

### Brother's Law

Two latest releases from Brother: the BP30 graph plotter and TC600 Teleprocessor,

# PERIPHERALS

### 8300000000

QL disk 29 Cambridge Systems Technology goes further along the road to

# making the Sinclair QL what it was always intended to be. SOFTWARE

# Gameplay 31

Our experts take on the challenge of another week's games for the popular micros, weeding out the good 'uns from the outright rubbish.

# Pascal fruits

The Amstrad comes further of age with Amsoft's Pascal 4T package, a Pascal compiler.

# REGULARS

### Monitor

Price war flares up, this page; Oric uber alles, page 2; Basicode faces BBC axe, page 3; RML aims high with Nimbus, page 4; Home Front spells out the BBC's micro message, page

### PCN Charte

We list the best selling games software of the week, plus machine sales charts.

Random Access	7
Routine Enquiries	9
Microwaves	10

Your programming hints and tips aired for all.

# Dungeon

A flying visit to Upper Gumtree, the setting for Richard Shepherd's latest adventure game.

### Software Pre-View

News of the latest software to arrive in *PCN*'s offices, and some recommendations.

# Billboard

Unwanted Christmas pressies amicably disposed of or acquired — in our free service.

# Quit/datelines

All the gossip that's fit to print, plus PCN's datelines for what's on both here and overseas.

# ONITOR

# Sinclair Plus cuts spark price war

Sinclair has set the cat among the pigeons by slashing the price of the Spectrum Plus, and as a result a full-scale price war is on the way.

Acorn responded immediately by taking £70 off the cost of a Electron. Commodore said last week that it was 'watching the situation closely,' but it had no immediate plans to alter the price of the 64. MSX prices are continuing to fall in ones and twos—Mitsubishi is the latest and a special offer that

— and a special offer that brought the Amstrad below £200 over Christmas is another sign of the way the wind is

blowing.

The Spectrum Plus and the Electron now match each other stride for stride at \$129\$. But if you already own a Spectrum it will cost less to turn it into a Plus —\$20 for a kit, \$30 for the Sinclair service, as opposed to the \$30 and \$50 prices of three weeks ago. At the same time Sinclair announced that it would stop building and selling the Spectrum in the UK.

Acom's reply was intended as much to reassure the money men in the City of London as to boost its challenge in the home micro market. Apart from the scything cut to the Electron, it opened a trade-in deal under which any micro will be worth £50 to you when you buy a BBC.

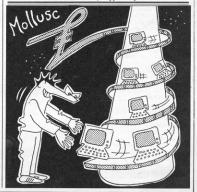
The MSX price cuts started before Christmas, when Toshiba led the way and Goldstar brought MSX below £200 for the first time. The Mitsubishi models are going in the same direction — its 32K unit now costs £225, down from £249. In firing the opening shot Sinclairs and that strong sales of its machines had made it possible to take advantage of economies of scale in production, and so to cut prices. But it's difficult to avoid the conclusion that it do not be conclusion that it was down a corn't sales of Electrons over Christmas were below target and the BBC, although its price has been steady, is not getting any younger.

Sinclair will also be looking over its shoulder at MSX, and, since Las Vegas (issue 95) at Atari. Few people argue now with the suggestion that MSX machines will eventually cost about £150. Atari's new systems promise much more, pound for pound, but they have yet to deliver.

Meanwhile the company that shares the lead in the UK with Sinclair is keeping its powder dry. Commodore has the C128 on the way, the Vic 20 on the way out, the 64 well established, and the C16 apparently in danger of being still-born.

Atari, which is partially responsible for the outbreak of price-cutting, doesn't rule out a further drop in the price of the 800XL. In the US the recommended retail price is \$100 with some shops discounting it to \$89, so there is clearly scope for further cuts in the UK price.

We haven't finalised our UK pricing yet,' said Robert Harding, Atari's sales and marketing manager. We have a worldwide pricing strategy so we don't react to something that happens in just one market.'



# ONITOR

IN BRIEF

Apple found the answer to its critics last week by announcing record sales and profits for its last three-month financial period. It may surprise you to learn that Apple has gone into selling records but there must be something to account for its profits of \$46 million.

Still on the Apple bough, one of 1983's most attractive names has finally made it into the RIP column. The Lisa is no more. Fromnow on it will be known as the Macintosh XL. It will cost \$3,995; ordinary Macintoshes, which are still excelling and, more to the point, selling, are reduced by \$700.

MSX Working Group members are opening their doors to MSX users. They have set up a special MSX Help Line for anybody with inscrutable questions about the Japanese micro standard that they cart find answers for anywhere else. If you need help, ring 01.799811 and ask for John Locke or Georgie Gibbs.

Alligata Software has re-released Rocket Roger in an easier version. Admitting that the Commodore 64 game launched last autumn was extremely difficult to master, its new commosur level. May we look forward to more difficult versions of some of the two-minute wonders now on sale? Only time will tell.

The Scottish Council on Disability has been given a BBC B with DFS, amonitor and a printer, to use on its mobile information unit; it would like to hear from anybody using a similar system so that you can pass on information and ideas on adaptations and means of putting such systems at the disposal of disabled ecoole.

The award-winning Prism VTX of the ward-winning Prism VTX of the price by about 30 per cent, from £99.95 to £69.95. It is designed specifically for Spectrum owners and the price cut aims to appeal to the growing band of Sinclair followers.

Metaemoc (0272-428781) has cut the price of its much fined QL Assembler to £39.95 white enhancing the package by the addition of a linker. The price change brings Metaemoc in line with the 'official' Assembler for the QL written by GST. Existing users of the Metaemoc Assembler can upgrade to the enhanced version on payment of a nominal sum'.

# Stratos pops up in Germany for debut

Oric's dream-machine, the Stratos, will now make its debut in Germany at the International Microcomputer Fair this week.

Originally, the 64K Stratos was due to make an appearance in March — to make a clean sweep of the French market. But, yet again, the company has changed course and the French must wait another month or so.

As for the UK, it's still unclear whether the Stratos will be available under another name. Oric says it will wait to see how the UK home computer market progresses before it

makes any commitment.

Not only has Oric changed tactics with the Stratos, it's also trying to organise a management buy-out.

At the moment Oric is a subsidiary of a company called Edenspring. Edenspring rescued Oric from financial difficultyin October 1983 (issue 33).

Oric had debts of £1.01 million at the time. Edenspring bailed it out by issuing 25 million new Edenspring shares which raised £750.000.

But since the financial rescue operation Oric ran into difficulty and at one time one of the creditors threatened to take court action for the sum of £100.000 owed to it.

At this moment Oric is talking to City institutions to organise the buy-out. If successful the buy-out would almost certainly involve Tansoft — Oric's software arm.

The upheavals at Oric will not help the company with its ambitious plans to release various other new machines this year, but it has at least taken the first step by moving its offices to Cambridge where it will be virtually next door to Tansoft.

The other new machines are supposed to include an IBM compatible system, a unit akin to ICL's One-Per-Desk, and possibly an MSX-standard micro.



TOUCHING — After touch-screens (from Hewlett-Packard, Microvitee and others) come touch switches, so far only from Computers and Peripherals of Sheffield. Its Autoswitch has touch-sensitive or remote control, depending on how far away you want to be from it. According to the manufacturer this increases its reliability and life expectancy, Incidentally, it is an RS232 T-Switch, but the principal could well be extended. Computers and Peripherals can be reached on 0742-352612.

# Hard copy proof that printers are cheaper

The DX-85 from Samleco is hard copy proof that printers are definitely becoming cheaper. For £189, it features 120cps over 80 columns, friction and tractor feed, a nine-pin print head, and optional interfaces for Centronics, RS232, and Commodore 64.

Commodore 64.
Readers who have been browsing through recent Rotronies advertisements may recognise the serial number (DX-85).
This is because Rotronics is one of the distributors for Samleo 
and will be selling it for £199.95 
— this price is inclusive of the 
RS232 interface.

An unusual feature of the DX-85 is that the basic machine comes with no interfaces. These are available separately as plug-in cartridges. The RS232 will cost 241.40, the Centronics 223, and the Commodore 64 connection £51.75. This makes the printer with the Commodore 64 interface £240.75 — still cheaper than the opposition the printer with the Commodore 64 interface £240.75 — still cheaper than the opposition.

Samleco has not produced an interface for the Spectrum because it reckons the cost would have matched the Interface 1. Since this interface has a pseudo RS232 that works with the RS232 cartridge there should be no problems.

The DX-85 will be available in April or May by mail order

and is due in the high street stores soon after. The Rotronics version is currently advertised as available, but don't be fooled, it won't be out for a month or so yet.

For more details, contact Samleco on 07353-54717 or Rotronics on 0494-452757.

# Thorn-EMI steps on to lapheld MAT

Thorn-EMI is to step into the portable market with a lapheld computer codenamed Mat (Management Aid Tool).

At the moment technical details of the Mat are a bit thin, as Thorn is tight-lipped about its creation. The launch date is sometime before March.

Matwill weigh less than 4lbs, be A4 sized, and batterypowered with a liquid crystal display. It will probably fall somewhere between the Data General One and Tandy, NEC and Olivetti portables. It will cost less than £700.

Ian Milne, marketing manager, said: 'Unlike the personal computer market, where there's a clear and dominant leader, the portable market does not have one clear leader.

It's still quite a new market and no-one knows where it's going. So, companies such as Thorn-EMI can step in and try and get a slice of the market.'

As far as Thorn is concerned Matcould be the start of a range of computers. Mr Milne said: 'We have the facilities and capabilities.'

Thorn, one of the UK's biggest electronics companies, certainly has a finger in almost every pie. The company is involved in software production, maintenance, electrical goods, entertainment and produces micros for other hardware suppliers. On another front it has re-

on another front it has recently been active in the US. With the aim of becoming the world's largest software supplier (outside the US) it is busy acquiring software houses.



Printers going cheap — the DX-8

# **BBC** axe hangs over Chip Shop Basicode

Chip Shop listeners who download software with their Basicode kits could be brought down to earth with a bump.

The word is that Basicode, the attempt at a cut-down transportable form of Basic, could be for the chop. Trevor Taylor producer of the BBC radio programme said: 'There



BBC - Basicode on the way out? are no immediate plans to

continue to broadcast Basicode. The BBC is cutting back in various areas - and the cost of hiring a programmer to pro-

duce the programs to be transmitted over the air is rather expensive.

Although the future of Basicode is still in the air, the Chip Shop programme is definitely

on schedule for more dates later on in the year.

The programme, which started in 1983, introduced the Basicode kit for users to get hold of the free software transmitted on the radio. The kit translates software for home computers such as the Spectrum, MSX range, the Electron, the Dragon, and the Oric — in total 19

machines. This feature of Chip Shop has proved popular and there's no doubt that many computer users who've forked out £3 95 for the kit, eager to download free software will be justifiably peeved if BBC radio decides to

drop the facility. But Basicode is very limited, having to make allowances for so many different Basics on different machines.

The BBC also made the mistake of asking for programs from listeners but not offering

to pay for them. Hands off micro broadcasts! See Home Front (page 5) for the full story of the BBC's problems.

# Competition prizes head for the winners

Two readers of PCA can look forward to a year full of computing. They are the winners of two of our recent competitions. First is D Kendrick, of competitions. First is D Kendrick, of Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln, who will be receiving an Apple IIc very shortly. The second winner is David Bhatoolaul, of Purley in Surrey. A complete Toshiba MSX system is on its way to him.

If you were among the thousands of entrants who failed to win, you've still time to enter the Spectrum disk drive competition run in last week's issue, and there'll be more great prizes on offer in the next few weeks.

# Now you see it . at a budget price

Most of us saw our first compu-ter processed images on television: shots of the earth, the moon and Mars taken by US space vehicles. The enhancements were major, and the computers employed were mainframes. Since then engineers, designers and moviemakers have become very familiar with the technology; however, they are still working with mainframes.

Now image processing is coming into the micro price range. Before long, the image processing ability/capacity of a micro may well be its most important selling point. Last year some US companies, like Wang and Datacopy, brought out high resolution image processors/computers in

\$10,000 range. This year there are all sorts of very much less expensive devices that bring image processing, image filing and even computer camera work into the reach of everyone from IBM PC users to Commodore 64 experimenteers.

In the executive suite there can be a General Parametrics Videoshow machine, a \$3,499 hi-res graphics computer with 1,000 colours, and about that many variants on a graph. The 256K 8086-based computer can store images on floppy disk, slide or directly to video cassette.

Of course you also need an IBM PC and the Picture-It software package with which to enter your data into the Videoshow. The software offers almost unlimited assistance in chart-making, having 25 graph formats, including five for pie-charts. However, the big advance is Macro-vision Technology, which effectively triples resolution by addressing individual phosphor dots on a colour monitor screen, not the three-dot pixels. Using micro-dot control, Macro-vision produces images as sharp as those made by machines in the minicomputer range

There are other approaches to image processing, the micro as camera for one. For Mac users Koala Technologies has brought out Macvision, a \$399 image processor which hooks up through a serial port to any standard video camera or recorder. The software translates images from video form to digital form in five seconds. the image can then be transferred into MacWrite or Mac-Paint applications.

**EW FROM THE US** 

Another device is MicronEye fron Micron Technology of Boise, Idaho, for the Mac, the PC, the Apple II and even the Commodore 64. MicronEve is an electronic camera that takes pictures through a normal lens on to an optic RAM which converts the light into digital impulses. Software then sorts it out on a 'grey scale'. Although optic RAM is a threshold device that sees things as black or white the unit takes four shots of each photo at different exposure times, and then merges them to produce a roughly shaded

picture. For a price tag below \$2,900 there is the Photobase system for the PC from Chorus Data Systems of New Hampshire. This consists of a video interface board for \$500 called PC-Eye and two pieces of software Photobase (\$235) which files images into dBase II (and certain other database s tem), and Imigit (\$250), which connects the hardware to graphics programs.

In addition to a PC you'll need a high resolution graphics adaptor (\$700 and up), a composite monochrome monitor (\$600), and a video camera (\$300) - plus dBase II, of course. PC-Eve will digitise any picture or video frame you want, with Imigit you can modify an image and insert it into another graphics program such as Lotus 1-2-3; with Photobase you can add images to records in dBase II.

The potential market for such devices is huge. At the moment most executive suites get their slide presentation artwork done outside, which can cost between \$25 and \$125 per transparency, depending on location and quality. Many companies are now finding the hi-res graphics display era surprisingly expensive, as each boardroom presentation may require something like 30 to 50 slides. At \$100 a go, this mounts up.

As for inexpensive Photo-bases that can run on a micro, the possibilities are endless. X-rays and patient records can be married in one file, fingerprints, signatures and ID photos are on another; security conscious America will doubtless be keen to put all of this to use. Whether it's a good use depends on your point of view. Chris Rowley



animated, of course - you can play it in a state of complete torpor if you

like. But seeing off computerised foes as well as your opponents round the

The game, for up to four players, costs £7.95 and is due to be released on March

screen could raise the temperature

# DNITOR

# Nimbus set to cloud competitors

Research Machines (RML) is reaching for the sky with a new machine called the Nimbus that promises to take it out of its traditional educational foxhole

RML, known for its 380Z and 480Z, has moved away from its usual styling to produce a machine that will appeal to a wider market. Mike Fischer. managing director of Research Machines, said that: 'Schools and colleges are just about ready to upgrade from their 8-bit machines to 16-bit,' he added that 'timing is ideal for use of the new 80186'.

The RML Nimbus has an incredible specification for a machine with a price starting at £1,395. The machine has an 80186 running at 8MHz, 192K of RAM (including graphics), graphics up to 640 × 250 with four colours (16 colours available), a minimum of one 3.5in built-in disk drive giving 720K of storage. Expansion is also well catered for; memory can be expanded up to 1Mb, four internal expansion slots are included as well as a sub-system called Piconet.

Piconet allows up to 30 devices to be connected to the Nimbus through one port. Units that can be connected to this port range from RS232 and Centronics interfaces to modems. This method of expansion saves the user from running out of expansion space inside the machine.

Numerous facilities are included as standard with the machine. There is an RS232 socket, mouse/joystick socket, two cartridge sockets, softkey (dongle) socket, three channel sound device, and voice output. A network also provides the facility of linking the machine to other systems.

Research Machines is expect-



Nimbus - silver lining for RML.

ing to sell quite a number of machines to education, and is trying to get as much compatibility with the 480Z and BBC B as possible. At the moment an external disk drive will allow you to read and write 480Z disks, while software to emulate BBC Basic is under development.

# Joysticks designed for heavy duty

Hot-shot games players have a choice of new joysticks to waggle to destruction. The Gunshot and Harrier joysticks from Vulcan are described as durable and tough - which would be a welcome change from the cheap models that tend to come apart in your hands.

The Gunshot costs £8.95, and plugs directly into the Com-modore 64 and Atari micros. It features dual fire buttons and suction pads on the base. The Gunshot can also be used with the Spectrum through Vulcan's own interface which is Kempston-compatible, and costs

The £10.95 Harrier is tailor made for the BBC micro and again features suction pads on the feet. Vulcan also has a joystick interface for the Beeb costing £12.95, that allows you to use Atari type joysticks. Software on tape allows you to convert keyboard software for use with a joystick.

The joysticks are available through Lasky, Rumbelow, and independent retailers.

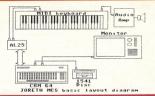
# **Mac integrated** software soon

Software-starved Macintosh users will be pleased to hear that a full set of integrated applications software from Lotus (the company responsible for the best-selling Lotus 1-2-3 and Symphony) should be here by April.

Jazz is a close relation to Symphony consisting of word processing, spreadsheet. graphics, database, and communications software. The package has been completely re-written for the Mac so that it makes full use of the mouse, pull-down menus, and icons.

This cheery prospect is somewhat compromised by price: not only will Jazz cost £495, it also requires the expensively-expanded 'Big Mac' to run, involving an upgrade to 512K and the addition of the external floppy disk drive. This means the user unloading about £2,000 to get a standard Mac to run the package. Even so, the arrival of Jazz is

just as important an event for Apple as it is for Lotus. Apple



FOOD OF LOVE - Music, that is, and Joreth Music (0386 831615) aims to make your Commodore 64's heart sing with its AL 25 MIDI-link. The AL 25 is a composer's tool that sits between a MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) keyboard and a 64 with a disk drive. Its features will probably make musicians drool - the one that Joreth is most proud of is the unit costs £250: a complete system, with computer, disk drive, keyboard, amp and software could be put together for about £1,000.

desperately wants to build up a credible applications software library, to tempt potential users away from the ubiquitous PC/MSDOS standard. One of the Mac's target groups is the corporate business area where Lotus and Apple obviously hope the customers are less priceconscious.



Macintosh — to be Jazzed up.

# Servicon doubles up on Spectrum drives Not content with launching one

Spectrum disk drive, Servicon Dynamics (0594-542021) is launching two, both under the Crescent name.

The cheaper and more interesting is the Crescent 128 range, which starts with the Crescent 128i, an interface unit incorporating a BBC-style RS423 interface and an RGB monitor output. This comes with a single 128K drive and costs £150.

The unit can be expanded with the Crescent 128, which is a 128K single drive unit costing £115. The whole lot is due on the market by April.

The system's capacity is considerably below that of the newer disk systems now coming on to the market, but obviously the RS423 and RGB interfaces will increase its attractiveness to users.

Servicon also produces the Crescent 401 series for the Spectrum, which gives 200K

storage (100K per side) on a 3in disk. The 401 interface plus a 200K DFS costs £230.

# Cheetah stalks further peripherals

Rat-catcher specialist Cheetah, committed to make the joystick redundant, is taking on other familiar peripherals.

In the next eight weeks it plans to put out speech units, games, a joystick interface, an adaptor, and an extension cable for the most popular home micros

Its speech synthesis module will be for the Commodore 64. Priced below £30, it employs your old friends the allophones to make its gargling sound intelligible. The joystick interface is planned for the Spectrum, as is the extension cable set to cost £10. The games will be for both the Commodore and Sinclair micros, but possibly the most interesting item in the pipeline is the simplest; a twoway aerial adaptor for computer/TV input. That will set you back a mere £2

# **Ariolasoft charges** its batteries

More US software is on its way to the UK thanks to a deal between Ariolasoft and a company with the unlikely name of Batteries Included.

The deal will bring personal productivity software that has been among the best sellers in North America. The titles include such familiar names as Paperclip and The Consultant. here will also be Homepak,

for those whose management talents lie in the home, and Home Organiser.

Ariolasoft opened up in the UK last October with a portfolio of US 'entertainment' prognic Arts and Broderbund.

# **OMEFRONT**



# Hands off micro broadcasting

While the fight between television stations for the US soap operas reaches its climax, another set of forces are limbering up behind the BBC's microphones.

The BBC's popular radio computer programme Chip Shop could have its Basicode section chopped, and on the education front computer-synchronised radio programmes could get the axe.

It all boils down to a lack of funds. At the moment the BBC is in a turmoil over its licensing fees — and if unsuccessful in getting the £65 it's asking for, its cut-back axe is likely to fall on computer-oriented prog-

On the whole BBC Radio has a good track record in producing computer-type programmes. But it's expensive, so it says, to take on a full-time programmer producing the right type of software to go with the radio coverage.

It's on this front that the Microelectronics Education Programme (MEP) has given financial assistance to help produce educational computer-synchronised radio programmes — for example The Mole Concept, Computers at Work and Uniform Accelerated Motion.

However, MEP's help is being withdrawn by March 1985 and the only direction in which producers can turn is to BBC Publications which itself has limited funds.

Julian Coleman, producer of school broadcasting, said: The MEPhas allowed us to do things that are not quite the norm. For instance, with its help we've produced electronics kits and it has also paid for a programmer to help produce three of our computer-synchronised radio programmers.

Trankly speaking, there's not a developed market to sell educational software. The problem is that educational establishments have been putting too much money into hardware and not enough into software.

It's in this respect that the MEP has been able to give a helping hand, because one of its main objectives is to develop software.

Richard Fothergill, director of MEP, said: 'We provide BBC Radio with resources to show them the educational value of computer-synchronised radio.

We see computersynchronised radio programmes as a simple way of direct teaching — with interaction

between teachers and children.

T see no reason why BBC Radio couldn't pay for a computer programmer—in the same way they do for a producer, researcher or presenter. We have set the ball rolling, now it's up to them where it goes from here.

Across the Channel, the French government steamed ahead with its plan to put micros into its lycées. Millions of francs were spent on equipment, training courses and developing software but it has

fallen behind in broadcasting.
The UK was slow off the mark
getting a micro into every
school, but it wasn't long before
the BBC got its act together.

Now BBC Radio is streets ahead of France in producing educational programmes involving a micro. And in terms of television, the UK beats France hands down.

Today all four television stations have had or have some form of computer programme on BBC1 Using the BBC Micro, on BBC2 Micro Live, on ITV Database and on Channel 4 Me and My Micro.

But there's still room for improvement and the BBC should protect its audiences with sectional interests. Dynasty, Dallas, Coronation Street and Brookside may glue large audiences to their television sets — but shouldn't we be more concerned about quality

rather than quantity?

The BBC has always argued that the type of programmes it broadcasts shouldn't be decided by the number of people likely to tune in. In the past this has worked very well, particularly where computers have been concerned — BBC programmes introduced a lot of us to micros. It should stick to its guns. Hands off micro broadcasts!

There was 'a deep conviction that there ought to remain in Britain one sector of broadcasting in which programmas are not interrupted, one sector in which the numbers of listenors and viewers for a given programme are not decisively important.

BBC director-general Alasdair Milne in the *Mall* last week — but does he maan it?

# CHARTS

# **GAMES**

TW	LW	TITLE	PUBLISHER	MACHINE	PRICE
1	1	Ghost Busters	Activision	SP,C64	£9.95
2	4	DT's Decathlon	Ocean	SP, C64	£7.90
3	2	Match Day	Ocean	SP	£6.90
4	5	Knight Lore	Ultimate	SP	£9.95
5	7	3D Star Strike	Real Time	SP	£5.95
6	6	Elite	Acornsoft	AC	£15.00
7	9	HunchBack II	Ocean	SP,C64	£6.95
8	3	Airwolf	Elite	SP	£6.95
9	12	Select 1	Comp Records	SP, C64	£12.49
10	11	Doomdark's Rev.	Beyond	SP	£9.95
11	15	Booty	Firebird	SP, C64	£2.50
12	_	S Davis Snooker	CDS	SP, AC	£7.95
13	13	Staff of Karnath	Ultimate	C64	£9.95
14	17	Spy Hunter	US Gold	C64	£9.95
15	8	Skool Daze	Microsphere	SP	£5.95
16	_	Combat Leader	US Gold	C64	£9.95
17	-	Int Football	Commodore	C64	£14.95
18	-	American Football	Argus	SP, C64	£7.95
19	_	Beach Head	US Gold	SP, C64	£9.95
20	18	Impossible Mission	CBS/Epvx	SP	£9.95

SPECTRUM		
TW	TITLE	PRICE
1	Ghost Busters	£9.95
	Match Day	£6.90
3	KnightLcre	£9.95
4	StarStrike3D	£5.95
5	Airwolf	£6.95
6	Doomdark's Rev	£9.95
7	DT's Decathlon	£7.90
8	HunchBack II	£7.90
9	Skool Daze	£5.95
10	SDSnooker	£7.95

COMMODORE		
TW	TITLE	PRICE
1	GhostBusters	£9.95
2	DT's Decathlon	£7.90
3	HunchBack II	£7.90
4	Staff of Karnath	£9.95
5	Spy Hunter	£9.95
6	Select 1	£12.49
	Booty	£2.50
8	Combat Leader	£9.95
9	IntSoccer	£14.95
10	Impossible Mission	£9.95

# **MICROS**

BELOW £1,0

TW	MACHINE	PRICE
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# Speedy solution gets approval

I must congratulate you on the speed and helpfulness of the reponse to my problem of linking QL to Brother M1009 printer. In the first possible issue, ie the next but one after my query was published, Stephen Horn's letter appeared, giving the pin connections between QL and Brother — precisely what I lacked. I have been in joyful print ever since.

As if Mr Horn's cornucopia were not enough, your next issue carried a splendidly comprehensive review of the problem by Allan Postgate. For my money Boots could do worse than employ Mr Postgate fulltime, studying the linking of home computers with the major peripherals and passing on the results to all branches.

Thanks to you all, I am able to

confirm Stephen Horn's view that the Brother M1009 is indeed an 'excellent little printer'.

Anyone wishing to marry the M1009 to the Spectrum with Interface 1 may be interested to know that the RS232 lead for this combination from Transform of Beckenham worked for me straight from plug-in.

GC Watson. Croydon, Surrey.

# **English micro that** reads my needs

I have just read Mr Tappy's letter (issue 95), and am forced to agree that the home micro market needs a machine to fill the Spectrum/BBC gap, I also look in the mirror and note my lack of vellow skin and slant eyes!

Mr Tappy, the micro you describe has existed for well over a year and, not only exceeds MSX and the majority of current machines, but is designed and manufactured in England.

It has an excellent Basic, an in-built assembler/disassembler, front panel, text-handling language, sprites, superb sound and you can plug your joystick, TV, monitor, printer, any old cassette player (no dedicated recorders here), hi-fi and ROMs into the standard sockets.

What about peripherals you ask? This micro can be upgraded to a full business system, but this is an expensive move for the home enthusiast. However, there are now available, two cheap disk drives, a dot-matrix printer that plugs straight in Epson-style, plus various other items soon to be available.

On the software front, there is a rapidly growing catalogue of quality games and utilities | Melksham, Wilts.

from both in-house authors, and other companies such as Hisoft, PSS, Xaviersine and Level 9.

Finally, what other micro has the support of a user group which, for £16 a year, produces a superb monthly magazine, markets members programs, and among many other benefits has the facilities of direct advice from the magazine editor, the venerated Keith Hook (sometime sage within the pages of PCN?

Oops! I almost forgot to tell you. This all-metal, professional keyboarded (wot, no mem-branes?) micro is a Memotech. So go all you patriots, forget about the invasion from the East, we have already got better machinery available. I've bought British (an MTX512) so now it's up to the rest of you.

CM Taylor

# **SPECTRUM DISK DRIV**

The good news for Spectrum owners is that PCN and Spectrum dealer Micro Interface have extended the date of PCN's competition. The not so good news is that it's only extended by one week, to February 8, Together we're offering three superb Timex disk systems worth £300 each. They're fast, easy to use and store 160K on each 3in disk - just the thing for yawning cassette users.

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All you have to do is complete the sentence on the right in the funniest or most entertaining (and printable) way. Entries must be received by Friday, February 8. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



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'cos we can't reply personally. Address your queries to Routine Enquiries. PCN. Evelyn House, 62 Oxford Street, London W1A 2HG.

# RGB/composite output choice

I am thinking of buying a TV monitor to use with my issue 2 Spectrum. I know that (with a small internal connection) the video signal is available on the edge connector, therefore could you answer the following queries:

1 Is this signal a standard composite input?

2 If so, are there any problems using a monitor with composite input?

3 Is the Microvitec 1431 MZ likely to offer a better display than a TV/monitor?

4 Can the Microvitec be used with computers other than the Spectrum (if I upgrade)?

5 Is my interface 1 likely to cause any additional problems? Graham Croucher, Sittingbourne, Kent.

AYes, the signal you can get out of a Spectrum is standard composite. On issue 3 Spectrums and upwards you take the Video line and the 0 volts line from the edge connector and connect them to a cable (cutting off the TV end of your current TV cable will produce the right configuration), you then connect 0 volts to the outer part of the cable and Video to the core.

On issue 1 and 2 Spectrums you need to bridge a gap in the Video line on the circuit board. The gap is between TC1 and TC2, and is marked 'VID'. A small blob of solder between the two should do the trick.

Alternatively, you can intercept the signal going into the modulator, as this is composite video anyway. Attach the core of the cable to the input (left hand side of the modulator. nearest the rear of the machine), and the outside to the modular case. You get a firm connection here by pris-ing the top of the case off, inserting the cable, then wedging it back on so the cable is trapped. This should work on all machines, and won't interfere with your TV output.

But if you want to use a 1431MZ you might as well throw away all the above intructions except for the solder connection. The 1431 has built-in circuitry that decodes the Spectrum's signals so it can be used with an RGB monitor, so the 1431 is RGB, not composite, and because of best bet might be the Epson

this it will produce a better picture than other monitors/ TVs (unless they happen to be RGB), and with rival RGB monitors you'd still have to buy an RGB adaptor. Adapt Electronics, of 20 Starling Close, Buckhurst Hill, Essex tel: 01-504 2840) offers about the cheapest of these.

The Microvitec is switchable, so the only problem involved in using another micro with it is in getting the right cable made up. As far as interface 1 is concerned, there are no problems

# Vic 20 printers are thick on the ground

Namt a printer for my Vic 20 but I cannot find one to suit my needs. I have noted the specifications I require and hope you can suggest a suitable printer.

I need: 9×9 pin, dot matrix; user defined graphics, true descenders; enlarged print; easy connection to the Vic 20; tractor and friction feed; 80 cloumn print: cost £100-£400. M Davies

Llandeilo, Dyfed.

A You're simply not paying attention. With the single exception of user defined graphics, the list of features you mention is available on several machines

Most of the popular printers are dot matrix with a 9×9 print head, which means they can offer true descenders. There are few printers that feature less than 80 column print.

With the exception of Commodore's own printers, all are equally easy (or difficult) to connect to a Vic or 64. What you need is a printer interface, for which you should talk to your local computer specialist dealer.

So, where do you go from there? Let's start with user defined graphics. There are two alternatives here: if you want the Commodore character set. most of the good interfaces will give you this. The second option is to buy a printer with a built-in buffer which holds any character set you wish. However, you'll have to write your own program to send the characters to the buffer.

Your final features-friction feed and a range of type styles are also widely available. Try the printers from Star Mannesmann Tally and Shinwa. Your RX80F/T and the FX80 and FX100 machines. The only snag with the latter is price generally around £450.

# Losing your way in Simons Basic

I own a Commodore 64 with Simons Basic. Recently I bought a 1541 disk drive and the book The Anatomy of the 1541. My problem is that in the book are some Basic extensions and programs for the

All of these are listed both in assembler and as a Basic loader program but once loaded and run, all my Simons Basic keywords are gone.

The programs are stored at addresses 828-901; 51200-51478 and 49152-49887. Can you help?

Marc de Schryver, Aalst. Belgium.

A Afraid we can't be much help on this. The problem lies (we think) in the fact that what you're trying to do is add Basic extensions to a program that already consists of Basic extensions

Simons Basic must alter the 64's system pointers to the Basic interpreter. There is a strong chance that your disk routines come along later and alter those pointers again so that the 64 'forgets' all about Simons Basic.

The best solution lies in a good deal of ferreting around in assembly language. What you need to do is work out where the start address of the new commands lie, then call them with a SYS call instead of the new keywords. You'll also have to disable the part of the new routine which is changing the pointers

As we say, this will involve you in a great deal of machine code. If it's any consolation, it will be a wonderful educational evercise

# Atmos remote control of cassette recorder

Ost there any way of operating the motor of a cassette recorder remotely controlled by an Oric Atmos? Philip Smith.

Salisbury, Wilts.

A The best answer is, it de-pends. Yes, you can use remote control but it depends on how much control you need. Physically, you need a cassette player with the regular three jack sockets — EAR, MIC and

REM. Next, get a cable that runs from a 7-pin DIN plug (at the Atmos end) to three single jacks (at the cassette end). The pin outs are in your Atmos manual

The next stage involves a bit of pokeing around to find the register that sends the required pulse to the cassette player, at which point we bow out gracefully . . .

# Differing values puzzle on Spectrum

Why when I format a Microdrive cartridge several times does the CAT command return different values? I have had values of 85K, 86K and 87K remaining.

Also, if I purchased an Alphacom printer for my Spectrum, would I get a full 64 characters per line from the Tasword package, and would it be legible?

M James. Dagenham, Essex.

A There hangs a tale. Initially the Microdrives were said to produce different values from cartridge to cartridge because they were identifying bad sectors on the tape. Capacity would therefore vary between around 85K and 95K

But a while ago PCN found that the same cartridge formatted on different Microdrives came back with capacities well outside this range. You'll find that one Microdrive will almost inevitably format cartridges in a 2-3K range of its own given baseline, so in your case Microdrive formats around 86K, in a range 85K-87K, while you might know someone whose drive will format the same cartridges in the range 90K-

Why? The reason is quite straightforward, and has very little to do with bad sectors. Microdrives run at different speeds, so the faster the Microdrive, the higher the capacity. If you do have a friend whose drive formats at 95K then it makes sense to get all your cartridges formatted on it.

You shouldn't have any great problems with an Alphacom. The print quality will be better than a ZX printer, but worse than most dot matrix machines. If you do have any problems interfacing Tasword 2 to any printer, however, Tasman Soft-ware (0532-438301) is quite helpful as regards the ins and outs.

# **ICROWAVES**



Got any good tips for Commodore users, or sparky ideas for the Spectrum? Then air your discoveries in the forum by sending them to us. £10 for every answer printed and £50 for the Microwave of the month. Send to Microwaves, Personal Computer News, Evelyn House, 62 Oxford Street, London W1A 2HG.

129 REM \* BIT 2 \* 130 IF(PAND4)>0 THENA\$(2)=PL\$:GOTO 150

REM \* BIT 1 \*
IF(PRND2)>0 THENR\$(1)=PL\$:GOTO 170

128 8\$(3)=0FF\$

R#(2)=0FF#

# Copycat Amstrad appears in print

This short machine code routine for the Amstrad CPC 464 prints a copy of the screen display to a printer. To ensure it works on any Centronics type printer, only ASCII characters are produced and any graphic or user defined characters are replaced by spaces.

The routine is located in memory addresses 43824 to 43899 and is invoked by CALL

43824 but since all jumps are relative, it can be relocated to any other address.

Note, that the address 48900 is used to store a value relating to the mode and if this needs to be avoided for any reason (eg another routine is at that address) then the two occur-ences in the listing of & T.O. & AB will need to be replaced by the HEX representation of an alternative address to be used. KH Denham.

Wimborne, Dorset.

```
160 Ac(1)=0FF8
167 BET 8 BIT 0 *
170 IF(PRIDI)>0 THEMBAC(0)=PL$:00T0 190
180 BAC(0)=0FF
190 ZE***(Z**PASC(7)+PAS(6)+PAS(5)+PAS(4)+PAS(3)+PAS(2)+PAS(1)+PAS(4)
190 ZE***(Z**PASC(7)+PAS(6)+PAS(5)+PAS(4)+PAS(3)+PAS(2)+PAS(1)+PAS(4)
190 ZE***(Z**PASC(7)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(8)+PASC(
```

5 REM "screencopy" K.H.Denham 15.12.84 10 MEMORY 43823 FOR x=43824 TO 43899 READ a POKE x/ a:NEXT:STOP 28 DATA &cd.&11.&bc.&21.&7c.&ab.&36.&15.&fe.&809,

30 DHTH &Cd,&25,&6d,&14,&33,&rc,&35,&5d,&20,&d &3e,&da,&cd,&25,&bd,&1c,&3e,&1a, &bb,&20,&d2,&3e,&da,&cd,&25,&bd,&c9

# Handy routine for 64 and Vic 20

While experimenting with the switches connected with the joystick port on the Commodore 64 I realised how useful a program which displays the individual bit values would be. I produced the following program to work on both the 64 and the Vic 20.

Running the program prompts you for the memory location you want to examine. The 8-bit binary value is shown at the top of the screen and continually updated until function key number 1 is pressed. This returns you to input stage.

The program is very handy

for looking at joystick and user ports. Try these addresses:

653 — the keyboard flag; press SHIFT, CTRL and Commodore logo to see the flags switch on and off

56321—the joystick port 1, moving the stick changes the bit values 56320—the joystick port 2 56577—the input/output lines

for the user port (port B), after first setting the DDR at 56579 bit 4 the cassette switch and bit 5 the cassette motor control

cassette motor control 53265 — bit 7 the raster compare register as it works

David Rossiter, Paignton, Devon.

# Listing programs on a ZX printer

Here's a simple way to obtain a list of all the programs saved on a tape as a printout on the ZX printer. The Spectrum prints on the screen the name of any program it finds before the correct one when it executes a LOAD or a MERGE command.

The stream used is not accessible to the overs command, so it cannot be changed in this way. There is, however, a trick used in ROM to allow both screen and printer to share the same output routine, which means that by changing just one byte, all screen output can be directed to the printer to give you a written record.

all screen output can be

directed to the printer.

Using the following procedure you can therefore obtain a listing of all the programs on a given cassette.

First, type POKE 23743,80 Then place the tape in the cassette positioned before the start of the first program and type LOAD"nosuchname" (or any name not used for a program).

Finally, wait until the printout is completed, BREAK the LOAD command, type PRINT:POKE 23743,83 and the Spectrum will be restored to normal.

The last Poke is essential (PRINT is only there to give an extra line) as without it, it would not be possible to output anything else on the screen. This is because the routine is not equivalent to the more frequently used o'PRN statement, which directs output from the PRINT statement to the printer, but works quite differently and is much more powerful.

Another use for the technique would be to verify a screen. Simply replace the second step with SAVE screen SCREENS and the VERIFY SCREENS until you get perfect saving. Harry Sahinoglou

Thessaloniki, Greece.

# Clear-out of integer variables on Electron

While searching through the Electron's memory I discovered where the 26 integer variables (A%... Z%) are stored. The BBC advanced user guide was of little help saying that pages 4 to 7 were main workspace but giving no further help.

The resident integer variables are, in fact, stored in memory locations 1028 (&404) to 1131 (&46B). Using this information I have written a

50.VCLR 55LDX£104

ANI DA FO

10DIM C 10 20FOR T=0 TO 2 STEP 2 30P%=C 40(OPT T small routine to clear these interger variables, as they are not affected by the standard CLEAR command.

Anyone more familiar with machine code might like to store the object code elsewhere (page 10, for example) or even develop a "CLEAR command using Stephen Grigg's program (issue 86).

The program also works on the BBC. Note that the routine does not clear the format variables @%.

Stephen Baker, St George, Bristol.

```
1 BEH * CONSTRUCTED.BIPECTED. AND
2 BEH * PROCHAMINED BY DAVID ROSSITE.*
2 BEH * PROCHAMINED BY DAVID ROSSITE.*
3 CHE * STATE * STATE
```

```
70.LOOP
75STA &403,X
80DEX
90BNE LOOP
100RTS
1101
120NEXT
```



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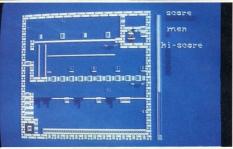
Calling all Commodore 64 owners — get your digits ready to type in the first part of PCN's exclusive game written by Tony Crowther.

his week PCN is proud to present the first part of Crazy Caverns, an all machine code game of arcade quality written by Tony Crowther. Tony is the author of several chart-toppers, including Potty Pigeon, Monty Mole and Suicide Express.

Over the next few weeks the Crazy Caverns listing will build up into the kind of game you'd normally have to pay real money for.

The game is of the Manic Miner type, and consists of ten screens. You need to collect a series of objects in order to move from screen to screen. Type in the sections one at a time, then run it to check that your data statements are correct. If they are you should save the section, then begin typing in the next

Note that the listing here is for disk users. If you wish to use tape you should change the last line of each section to LOAD "FILENAME", 1,1. To be continued next wee



Set-up for loaders

1 POKE56.32:PRINT"[CLEAR]LOAD"CHR\$(34)"P ART1"CHR\$ (34)",8 2 POKE198,2:POKE631,19:POKE632,131:NEW

# Listing

# Part 1

GRE L 2 REPPARTI:CDDE:HIZARD DEVELOPMENT LTD. DATA169,64,133,251,169,4,133,253,175 DATA169,64,133,251,169,4,133,253,175 DATA133,253,174,63,3,256,165,251,1267 DATA228,24,195,69,133,256,165,251,1267 DATA162,1,133,251,262,76,21,122,961 DATA162,1,133,251,262,76,21,122,961 DATA162,0,166,81,177,256,74,74,897 DATA162,0,166,165,118,118,12,164,255,1229 DATA145,252,160,0,177,250,41,15,1040 DATA168,185,128,192,230,254,164,254,15 10 DATA145,252,230,254,232,165,250,24,15 DATA105,1,133,250,144,2,230,251,1116 DATA224,14,144,206,230,255,165,252,14 DATA24,105,40,133,252,144,2,230,930 DATA253,162,0,134,254,166,255,224,144 DATA24,144,181,96,0,0,32,65,542
DATA67,69,73,78,71,72,77,95,589
DATA32,66,69,70,74,76,71,72,529
DATA77,85,169,0,133,230,169,64,947
DATA133,251,174,63,3,240,17,165,1846
DATA250,24,165,89,133,228,169,55,751,126

DATA185,1,133,251,202,76,149,192,1109 DATA162,0,160,0,152,145,250,200,1069 DATA192,14,200,249,232,165,250,24,133

BATTAI 08: 14, 133, 258, 144, 2, 230, 251, 1129
DATTAI 24, 252, 288, 239, 94, 149, 94, 141, 152
DATTAI 4, 220, 128, 149, 1, 141, 25, 268, 169
DATTAI 4, 220, 128, 149, 1, 141, 25, 268, 169
DATTAI 41, 17, 268, 169, 16, 141, 18, 268, 191
DATTAI 41, 17, 268, 169, 231, 141, 23, 3, 930
DATTAI 61, 127, 141, 21, 38, 94, 164, 1679
DATTAI 61, 172, 141, 21, 38, 94, 164, 1879
DATTAI 61, 27, 71, 11, 72, 268, 268, 255, 123

DATA207,173,255,207,41,7,141,255,1286 DATA207,170,169,234,157,72,50,169,122

DATA141,28,208,141,21,208,169,128,104

47 DATA141,248,7,96,255,169,255,141,1312
48 DATA6,220,173,0,220,141,116,193,1063
49 DATA169,253,141,0,220,173,1,220,177,50 DATA41,16,200,16,173,116,173,41,804

53

78 DATA9, 288,32,51,149,200,46,288,879
71 DATA9,75,144,32,720,7193,166,41,978
72 DATA32,1,194,176,8,168,81,32,684
73 DATA1,194,176,19,169,255,141,1833
74 DATA116,193,96,76,59,196,166,121,1817
75 DATA14,116,193,76,133,199,76,251,136
76 DATA14,116,193,76,133,199,76,281,115

DATA77,144,11,201,84,240,10,176,943 DATA5,24,105,1,145,250,76,143,749 DATA195,169,32,76,108,194,173,255,120

DATA207,74,144,58,173,116,193,41,1006 81 85

DATA32,206,195,56,253,8,132,141,1023 DATA1,208,76,34,195,169,0,141,024 DATA116,193,109,7,132,240,3,32,912 DATA13,195,238,201,194,238,201,194,14

79 DATA173,201,194,201,89,144,5,169,1176
98 DATA0,141,201,194,96,32,193,195,1852
99 DATA1,8,200,3,238,0,208,173,879
100 DATA116,193,41,4,200,3,206,0,771
101 DATA080,96,32,207,193,104,121,177,11

102 DATA250,201,32,240,22,173,1,208,1127
103 DATA41,7,201,5,208,13,173,201,849
104 DATA194,201,38,144,6,169,0,141,893
105 DATA201,194,76,174,201,194,76,237,13

106 DATA194.0.255.0.255.0.255.0.959

107 DATA32.117.193.173.18.208.201.255.11 108 DATA208.249.173.201.194.208.9.32.127

4 4 4 1 97 DATA16,194,32,151,195,76,110,195,969 110 DATA32,221,194,76,130,195,32,24,902 110 DATA32,431,020,410,200,3236,230,492 112 DATA173,116,195,41,4,200,3,266,974 113 DATA6,260,76,72,106,230,1,200,1017 114 DATA16,1141,142,0,96,6,169,718 115 DATA6,441,142,0,96,6,169,718 115 DATA6,441,142,79,6,169,74,173,103

116 DATA142.195.208.3.76.202.194.95.1116 DATA173,116,193,41,4,208,9,206,988 118 DATA0,208,32,51,194,238,0,208,931 119 DATA173,116,193,41,8,208,9,238,986 120 DATA0,208,32,51,194,206,0,208,899 121 DATA06,173,200,194,141,116,193,32,11

122 DATA160.195.173.116.193.96.173.1.110 DATA208,41,7,201,5,208,51,173,894 DATA1,208,56,253,8,132,141,1,800 DATA208,32,207,193,174,201,194,173,1

DATA1,208,24,125,8,132,141,1,640 DATA208,160,41,177,250,201,65,240,13

128 DATA7,201,66,240,3,76,10,196,795 501 FORI=0T0127:R=0:FORJ=0T07:READA:R=R+ A:POKE49152+1\*8+J,A:NEXT 502 READA:IFR<>ATHENPRINT"ERROR IN"I+1:E

503 NEXT:PRINT"OK. ALL DONE!"
504 LOAD"PART2",8

# Part 2

DATA8,148,11,212,148,18,212,169,982 DATA58,141,12,212,169,29,141,19,781 DATA212,177,222,141,8,212,141,15,1128 DATA212,288,177,222,141,7,212,141,15

20 DATA14,212,200,177,222,133,220,169,13

# Listing

DATA65,141,18,212,169,71,141,11,828 DATA212,165,222,24,105,3,133,222,1086 DATA144,2,230,223,198,221,165,221,140 DATA208,42,160,0,140,4,212,169, DATA40,141,5,212,177,218,141,1,

DATA212,200,177,218,141,0,212,169,132 24 DATA37,141,4,212,200,177,218,133,1122 DATA221,165,218,24,105,3,133,218,1087 DATA144,2,230,219,165,223,201,139,132 28

DATA208,9,165,222,201,132,208,3,1148 DATA32,244,196,96,169,0,133,222,1092 DATA169,133,133,223,169,132,133,218,1 210

DATA169.139.133.219.169.1.133.220.116

DATA133,221,173,24,212,169,1,141,1074
DATA17,212,169,7,141,3,212,169,938
DATA7,141,16,212,96,9,168,41,667
DATA32,53,197,168,41,32,53,197,765
DATA160,81,32,53,197,166,121,32,836
DATA53,197,76,135,197,177,258,281,128 36 39

DATA75,240,13,201,76,240,9,201,1055 DATA69,240,13,201,70,240,9,96,938 DATA169,32,145,250,32,219,197,96,1140 DATA164,104,96,169,70,133,228,169,10 41

DATA4,133,229,160,0,169,96,145,936 DATA228,162,0,165,228,24,105,40,952 DATA133,228,144,2,230,229,169,86,1221 DATA145,228,232,224,23,208,236,169,14 46

48 DATA97.145.228.169.118.133.228.169.12

DATA4,133,229,76,80,195,0,238,955 DATA134,197,173,134,197,201,20,144,12 49 50 DATA49,168,8,148,134,197,177,228,1885 DATA24,185,1,145,228,281,95,144,943 DATA14,165,228,24,165,148,133,228,937 DATA144,2,238,229,173,145,197,165,128 52 53 54

45 

DATA3,240,11,165,250,24,105,18,816 DATA32,177,199,76,113,198,120,160,107

DATAR 177,258,153,65,3,208,192,1040
DATAIR,268,246,173,65,3,141,4,858
DATAIR,268,13,65,3,141,4,858
DATAR 201,73,65,3,141,7,208,173,797
DATAR 68,3,141,258,7,173,73,3,718
DATAR 11,273,71,73,73,3,714
DATAR 201,73,71,3,141,7,208,166,771
DATAR 201,728,133,141,7,208,166,771 81 83 84 86 87

DATABLE 258 (248 ) 164 6 177 (147 ) 153 (189 ) 164 (187 88 91

77 UH H117/,11,240,17/0,70,00,732 100 DATA195,1,160,0,140,134,197,177,1004 101 DATA228,24,105,1,145,228,201,95,1027 102 DATA144,14,165,228,24,105,40,133,853 103 DATA228,144,2,230,229,173,145,197,13

104 DATA165.229.201.7.208.17.165.228.122 105 DATA201,180,144,11,177,228,201,97,12

39 106 DATA208,5,169,1,141,25,199,79,48,44 107 DATA169,8,141,25,199,32,26,199,791 108 DATA162,5,189,111,4,24,105,1,601 109 DATA157,111,4,201,58,144,8,169,852 118 DATA48,157,111,4,202,206,235,173,113

111 DATA18,288,281,255,288,249,238,148,1 525 112 DATA199,169,0,141,4,212,173,148,1046 113 DATA199,141,1,212,169,4,141,5,872 114 DATA212,169,33,141,4,212,173,25,969 115 DATA199,240,174,96,245,120,169,49,13 116 DATA141,20,3,169,234,141,21,3,732 117 DATA169,1,141,14,220,169,121,141,976 118 DATA25,208,169,240,141,26,208,88,110

119 DATA96.133.250.144.2.230.251.202.130

120 DATA96,255,0,255,0,255,0,255,1116 500 PRINT"LCLEARJPLEASE WAIT!" 501 FORI=0T0119:R=0:FORJ=0T07:READA:R=R+ A:POKE50176+I\*B+J,A:NEXT 502 READA:IFR<>ATHENPRINT"ERROR IN"I+1:E

503 NEXT:PRINT"OK. ALL DONE!" 504 LOAD"PARTS" .8

# Part 3

94 DATA254,0,170,170,0,170,170,0,934 95 DATA0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0

96 DATA0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0

111 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 112 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 113 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 115 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 116 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 116 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 117 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 119 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 119 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 120 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 121 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 122 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 123 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 124 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 125 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 126 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 127 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 128 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 129 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 120 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 120 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 120 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 120 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 120 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 120 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 120 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 120 DATTRE, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0

120 bit Hee 4, 20, 9, 200 ; 20, 9, 200; 10, 305 120 bit Hee, 112, 0, 52, 112, 0, 52, 344 127 bit Hee, 0, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9 128 bit He, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9 506 PRINT "CLEAR PLEASE WHIT! "EADA :R=R+ 81 FOR!—1012; IR-9: FOR. 30 THE ABA :R=R+ A FPCKE192+18-J, A :NEXT

503 NEXT:PRINT"OK. ALL DONE! 504 LOAD"PART4".8

# Part 4

0 REMPART4:SPRI2:WIZARD DEVELOPMENI LID.
1 DATA0.0,119,0,0,221,0,0,190,0,59
2 DATA119,0,0,221,0,0,119,0,459
3 DATA0.221,0,0,117,0,1,149,488
4 DATA5,6,169,26,90,169,106,170,741
5 DATA169,106,170,169,106,170,169,26,108

DATA169,85,85,85,21,85,84,21,635 DATA0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 DATA0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 DATA0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0

3 54 DATA45,192,66,1,140,0,208,170,822 55 DATA64,98,216,66,222,74,40,178,968 56 DATA1,140,190,40,194,1,145,0,711 57 DATA104,130,224,162,96,202,152,02,115

58 DATA224,162,1,140,0,80,106,1,714 59 DATA140,110,184,186,128,186,72,1 .186.11

DATA56,186,200,154,1,140,0,64,801 60 DATA56,186,200,154,1,140,0,64,801 DATA202,1,145,0,40,66,56,66,65,766 DATA216,66,232,66,40,74,1,140,835 DATA170,40,202,1,145,190,40,58,846 DATA112,58,160,58,232,58,112,66,855 DATA02,140,160,192,66,8,145,130,853 45 DATA232,66,224,218,176,218,80,202,141

DATA160,202,1,140,0,200,202,1,906 DATA145,0,32,58,48,58,120,58,519 DATA240,58,56,66,0,140,170,104,834 68



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# Listing (cont)

70 DATA66,0,140,160,88,66,136,66,722 71 DATA232,66,40,202,0,0,0,0,540 500 PRINT"CCLEARJPLEASE WAIT!" 501 FURI=8T0127:R=0:FURJ=8T07:READA:R=R+

A:POKE35072+I#B+J.A:NEXT READA:IFR<>ATHENPRINT"ERROR IN"I+1:E

503 NEXT:PRINT"OK. ALL DONE!" 504 LOAD"PARTS",8

# Part 5

◀ 13

REMPARTS:CHARS:NIZARD DEVELOPMENT LTD. DATA255,0,255,37,255,255,0,1312 DATA0,0,124,198,62,230,202,122,938 DATA224,76,108,118,102,118,118,236,112

DATA0,0,124,206,206,192,102,60,890 DATA14,12,108,220,204,220,220,118,1116 DATA14,12,108,220,204,220,220,118,1116
DATA0,0,124,230,254,224,102,60,994
DATA28,54,54,56,254,248,18,120,662
DATA0,6,118,236,246,182,60,224,992
DATA224,96,108,126,118,102,102,230,110

10 DATA56,32,8,56,24,24,24,60,284 11 DATA56,32,8,56,24,24,24,24,248 12 DATA204,102,108,120,102,102,102,230,1

DATAB, 56, 24, 24, 24, 24, 24, 60, 244

DATAB, 86, 102, 63, 57, 49, 49, 113, 433

DATAB, 0, 236, 126, 118, 102, 102, 230, 914

DATAB, 0, 124, 224, 182, 178, 254, 124, 1136 14 D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.726. 1.181. 1.027. 1.027. 1.229. 97.18

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.726. 1.181. 1.027. 1.027. 1.229. 97.18

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.029. 1.029. 1.129. 1.129. 1.029. 1.029

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.129. 1.029

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.249. 1.029

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.229. 1.249. 1.249. 1.029

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.229. 1.249. 1.249. 1.029

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.229. 1.249. 1.249. 1.029

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.249. 1.029

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 2.299. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 2.299. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 2.299. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 2.299. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 2.299. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229. 1.229

D INTIFIC. 9. 239. 2.299. 1.22

DATA0,0,0,0,0,60,60,0,0,180 DATA0,0,6,12,24,48,96,192,378 DATA0,124,246,178,134,206,254,124,126

DATA0,60,198,218,222,122,12,248,1098 DATA0,60,60,60,60,60,60,60,300 DATA0,60,60,60,60,60,12,756,308 DATA0,30,60,120,440,120,60,30,660 DATA0,30,60,120,440,120,60,30,660 62 DATA0,0,0,124,0,124,0,0,248
63 DATA0,7240,120,60,30,60,120,240,870
64 DATA0,124,230,206,130,60,0,60,710
65 DATA255,0,255,255,255,255,0,1307
66 DATA85,247,247,247,85,255,255,255,167

67 DATA85,255,255,255,85,247,247,247,167 68 DATA255,234,58,14,14,58,234,255,1122 69 DATA255,171,172,176,176,172,171,255,1

70 DATA170.190.190.190.190.190.190.190.170.1

71 DATA255,215,215,215,215,215,215,255,1 72 DATA8,8,85,255,255,85,32,32,760

73 DATA32,32,85,255,255,85,8,8,760 74 DATA324,224,224,224,224,234,224,224,1 2 | DATA14,14,14,14,14,170,14,14,268 | DATA0,0,36,153,169,153,153,0,664 | DATA0,0,41,144,144,144,41,0,514 | DATA0,2,525,204,51,204,51,255,255,153 76

DATA255,255,264,51,204,51,255,8,1275
DATA255,205,204,51,204,51,04,91202
DATA255,205,204,51,204,96,0,976
DATA255,205,204,51,204,96,0,975
DATA255,205,204,96,0,0,9,714
DATA255,205,204,96,0,0,5,714
DATA255,205,00,0,0,0,0,5,510
DATA255,205,00,0,0,0,0,0,0,710
DATA255,205,00,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 81 87

DATAB5,105,105,105,105,105,105,105,82

DATA125,85,105,105,105,105,105,105,84 90 DATA125,125,85,105,105,105,105,105,86

91 DATA125,125,125,85,105,105,105,105,88 92 DATA125,125,125,125,85,185,185,185,98 93 DATA125,125,125,125,125,85,105,105,92

94 DATA125,125,125,125,125,125,85,105,94

95 DATA125.125.125.125.125.125.125.85.96

96 DATA125,125,125,125,125,125,125,125,1

97 DATA0,0,0,0,0,0,65,20,85,170 98 DATA221,119,221,119,221,119,221,119,1 500 PRINT"[CLEAR]PLEASE WAIT!

501 FORI-0T097:R-0:FORJ-0T07:READA:R-R+A :POKE12288+1#8+J,A:NEXT 502 READA: IFR<>ATHENPRINT"ERROR IN" I+1:E

REMPART6: MUSI1: WIZARD DEVELOPMENT LTD.

503 NEXT:PRINT"OK. ALL DONE!" 504 LOAD"PART6",8

# Part 6

Part 6

• REPPERO (\*\*MUSI : MIZARD DEVELOPMENT DATA (\*\*A. 5.4.5.1.77, 2.45.1.78), 399

• REPPERO (\*\*A. 6.4.5.1.77, 2.45.1.78), 399

• DATAGO, 4.6.5.1.77, 2.45.1.78), 4.47.2.78

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.1.78, 4.4.1.52, 4.47

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.2.4.5.1.78, 4.4.1.52, 4.47

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.2.4.5.1.78, 4.4.1.52, 4.47

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.2.5.4.78, 4.7.8.1.52, 4.47

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.2.5.1.78, 4.4.1.52, 4.48

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.2.5.1.78, 4.4.1.52, 4.48

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.2.5.1.78, 4.4.1.51, 4.45

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.2.5.1.78, 4.4.1.51, 4.45

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.2.5.1.78, 4.4.1.52, 4.45

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.2.5.1.78, 4.4.1.52, 4.45

• DATAGO, 4.7.5.2.4.5.1.78, 4.4.5.79

• DATAGO, 4.7.4.6.3.1.78, 4.4.5.78, 4.7.78

• DATAGO, 4.7.4.6.3.1.88, 4.7.78

• DATAGO, 4.7.8.1.88, 4.7.88, 4.7.88, 4.7.88

• DATAGO, 4.7.8.1.88, 4.7.88, 4.7.88, 4.7.88

• DATAGO, 4.7.8.1.88, 4.7.88, 4.7.88, 4.7.88, 4.7.88

• DATAGO, 4.7.8.1.88, 4.7.88, 4 

BD DATAS, 143, 124, 6,61, 223, 1,76, 2268
B7 DATAC23, 1, 1, 61, 223, 1, 45, 199, 1, 583
BB DATAC33, 1, 1, 61, 223, 1, 45, 199, 1, 583
BB DATAC33, 1, 1, 61, 223, 1, 45, 199, 1, 583
BB DATAC33, 1, 106, 1, 207, 179, 1, 107, 179, 125, 179
BB DATAC32, 1, 139, 148, 1, 122, 127, 1, 157
BB DATAC32, 1, 139, 148, 1, 122, 127, 1, 157
BB DATAC32, 1, 129, 149, 1, 199, 1, 199, 1, 199
BB DATAC32, 1, 149, 149, 1, 199, 1, 199, 1, 199
BB DATAC3, 1, 139, 149, 1, 122, 127, 1, 157
BB DATAC3, 1, 139, 149, 1, 122, 127, 1, 157
BB DATAC3, 1, 139, 149, 1, 122, 127, 1, 157
BB DATAC3, 1, 139, 149, 1, 122, 127, 1, 159
BB DATAC3, 1, 139, 149, 1, 122, 127, 1, 159
BB DATAC3, 1, 199, 1, 139, 1, 129, 159
BB DATAC3, 1, 139, 1, 139, 1, 129, 159
BB DATAC3, 1, 129, 1, 139, 1, 149, 1, 129, 139
BB DATAC3, 122, 1, 139, 1, 14, 14, 149, 139
BB DATAC3, 122, 143, 139, 141, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 122, 144, 139, 144, 149, 159
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 159
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 159
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
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BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 144, 139, 144, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 149, 149, 149, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 127, 149, 149, 149, 149, 149
BB DATAC3, 128, 149, 149, 149, 149, 149, 502 READA: IFR<>ATHENPRINT"ERROR IN" I+1:E

503 NEXT:PRINT"OK. ALL DONE!" 504 LOAD"PART7".8

@ REMPART7:MUSI2:WIZARD DEVELOPMENT LTD. 58 DATA198,1,57,172,1,45,198,1,673 59 DATA34,74,1,28,214,1,34,74,460 To be continued next week.

Use your Casio as a remote terminal, thanks to Robert Miles.

twould be nice if you could get hold of a cheap, hand-held computer which you could take out into the world and then bring back to base with all your precious data inside it. Well, you could use the Casio PB-100 pocket computer as a 'remote terminal' for your Beeb.

The Casio is also sold by Tandy as the PC-4. It has built-in Basic, a 12 character display and a tiny qwerty keyboard. It also interfaces to a cassette

The Casio can control the cassette recorder, switching it on and writing stuffout when its internal buffer gets too full. If you already have a Casio machine and you are having difficulty finding a cassette interface for it the Tandy one fits and works well. In fact the best way to put together a system is to buy the computer from Casio and all the add-ons from Tandy.

The BBC program reads an array of strings, or number of string variables which have been sent to tape by the Casio using the PUT keyword from Casio Basic. The second set of listings are programs for the Casio which take text in and store it, automatically writing to tape when necessary.

Program O allows you to insert text into the buffer. If there is already some text there it is added onto the end. When the buffer becomes full the cassette recorder is switched on and the entire buffer written out. Each line of text is first input to the special \$ variable used in Casio Basic. This means that the usual text editing facilities are available, but you must be careful not to enter any strings longer than 32 characters.

Program 1 displays the text held in the buffer. The entire buffer will scroll across the display from right to left.

Program 2 resets the text space and begins input. You can use this program when you want to scrub the buffer and start afresh.

Program 3 saves the contents of the text buffer onto tape. You can use this if the buffer is not yet full but you want to save some data for transfer.

You can connect the Casio tape interface to the BBC machine's input, but you need a resistor (about 5K should do) across the line to make it work.



The PB-100 (below, right) can be used as a remote terminal for the BBC.

10 REM CASIO tape reader

# Listing

```
20 REM
 30 REM (c) 1984 Rob Miles
 40 REM
 50 REM CASIO produces 8 bits, odd
 60 REM
                parity and 1 stop bit.
 70 REM
 80 REM Turn off interlace.
 90 *TV 0.1
100 MODE 6
110 baud=&1A
120 REM Setup program area (code%) and output buffer (buffer%)
130 DIM code% 400, buff% 1000
140 REM Setup decode area
150 DIM decode 256
160 REM Put the character conversion table into memory.
170 FOR 1%=0 TO 255
180
      READ val
190
       decode?i%=val
200
       NEXT 1%
210 OSASCI=&FFE3: bpt%=&70: chct%=&72
220 REM Assemble the program.
230 PROCassem
240 A%=buff%: B%=bpt%: REM Prepare for BREAK!
250 REM User presses BREAK to end the session and dump the data to
260 REM tape. This is messy but works!
270 PRINT'''"Hit BREAK when your tape has finished"'"running."
280 *KEY 10 OLD MGOTO 310 M
290 REM Call the program.
300 CALL code%
310 REM We get here when all the data has been read in.
320 REM The user presses BREAK to stop the data transfer at tape end. 330 buff%=A%:bpt%=B%:REM Recover the vital pointers.
340 MODE 6
350 INPUT "Name of output file", fil$
360 f=OPENOUT fil$
370 buffend=(?bpt%+256*?(bpt%+1))
380 FOR 1%=buff% TO (?bpt%+256*?(bpt%+1))
       BPUT# f. ?1%
390
       NEXT 1%
400
410 CLOSE# 0
420 END
130 DEF PROCESSEM
440 FOR P%=0 TO 2 STEP 2
450
       P%=code%
       OPT p%
470
480
             JSR
                  init
                           ; set up ACIA
400
       . at
              JSR
                   getbyt :get a byte
#&E4 :check for data
st :ignore if duff
             CMP
500
             BNE
510
                   st
520
530
          Start of file
540
             LDY #11
                           ; set skip count
550
```

### Casio programs Listing (cont) getbyt : get a byte The programs below occupy only a small 570 DEV :drop count amount of the memory inside the Casio 580 BNE sk : jif not finished 590 ; using a post indexed store with Y ;get seven bytes per string . nyst LDY computer. To store the maximum #0 600 LDA #7 amount of text all the remaining prog-610 STA chet% ... which we count in chet ram space is converted to data space 620 . nex JSR getbyt ; get a character CMP :FO means the end of the file using the DEFM command. This is 630 #8F0 640 BEQ st ;jif we have reached the end - go around again ;using X to index decode array decode.X;get the decoded character followed by the number of extra vari-650 660 TAX ables you want to create. LDA If the only programs in the machine 670 JSR OSASCI : display the character 680 STA (bpt%), Y; save in buffer area are data entry ones you can add 40 extra 690 ; move down to next hole in buffer with Y variables to the data array, (DEFM 40), 700 DEC chct% ; knock down our counter giving space for 60 elements. If you have 710 BNE :go round if we are not at zero yet the RAM expansion pack you can add 720 When we get here we have reached the counter giving the length 168 variables, (DEFM 168) and should 730 740 of the string and must find out how many of the characters we change all occurences of 60 in the have grabbed are part of the string programs below to 168. With an expan-760 sion pack you can store up to 1,300 770 780 JSR getbyt : get the string length characters, with just the machine you LSR ;shift to the left... :...to move the counter into the :...bottom four bits of A 790 LSR can buffer up to 420 characters. LSR Program 0 Data entry and storage 810 LSR ...i.e. make a character counter 20 INPUT\$ 820 CLC stand by for some sums ADC 830 bpt% ; move lo byte of counter up memory 30 FOR C=1 TO LEN (\$) 840 STA bpt% :...put it back with new value 40 F\$ (B)=F\$ (B)+MID (C,1) BCC noc :jump if nowt to carry bpt%+1 :advance hi byte of counter 850 50 A=A+1:IF A<8 THEN 70 860 INC 870 . noc JMP nxst :go around to get another string 60 A=1:B=B+1 880 62 IF B<60 THEN 70 890 .init 63 PRINT "\*\*SAVE DATA\*\*" SEI 900 64 PUT F\$(1),F\$(60) LDA #baud 910 65 A=1:B=1 920 STA &FEO8 ; baud rate 930 LDA #&AD ; turn on motor. . 70 NEXT C 940 STA SFE10 :.. and tape tone 80 GOTO 20 950 #(buff% MOD 256) LDA STA bpt% 970 LDA #(buff% DIV 256) Program 1 Display the stored text 980 STA bpt%+1 ;setup pointer 10 FOR D=1 TO B+: PRINT F\$(D);: 990 RTS NEXTD 1000 20 STOP 1010 .getbyt &FEO8 LDA 1020 :get status reg ; backup 1030 TAX Program 2 Clear data and begin entry 1040 AND : check for got 10 VAC 1050 BEQ getbyt ; jif not there 20 A=1:B=1:GOTO #379 1060 TXA :recover status #8.80 1070 AND 1080 BNE getbyt Program 3 Put all the text to tape &FE09 :get data value 1090 LDA 10 PUT F\$(1),F\$(60) 1100 1110 1120 NEXT P% 1130 1140 ENDPROC 1140 ENDPROC 1150 DATA 32, 43, 45, 42, 47, 94, 33, 34 1160 DATA 35, 36, 62, 0, 61, 0, 60, 0 1170 DATA 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 1180 DATA 56, 57, 46, 0, 41, 40, 0, 0 1190 DATA 56, 66, 67, 68, 97, 0, 71, 72 1200 DATA 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 1210 DATA 81, 22, 33, 48, 56, 68, 78, 88 1220 DATA 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104 1240 DATA 105,106,107,108,109,110,111,112 1250 DATA 113,114,115,116,117,118,119,120 1250 DATA 121,122,0,0,63,44,59,58 1270 DATA 0,0,0,0,64,0,0,0 1280 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 1290 DATA 37,0,0,91,38,95,39,0 1300 DATA 93,127,0,0,0,0,0,0 1310 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 1320 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0 1330 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0 1340 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0 1350 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0 8888 1370 DATA 0.0,0.0.0.0.0.0 1380 DATA 0.0,0.0.0.0.0 1390 DATA 0.0,0.0,0.0.0 1400 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 1410 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 1420 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 1430 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1440 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 1440 DATA 0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0 1450 DATA 0.0.0.0.0.0.0 1460 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0

**Pretty pictures on the Spectrum** with RG Luxton's Screenart program.

eeling creative? Want to illustrate your latest 48K Spectrum educational or adventure program with some snazzy pictures? Well, help is at hand with our Screenart utility.

Screenart comes in two parts. The first, given in Figure 1, contains the meat of the matter: called Draw, it enables you to:

- PLOT and DRAW using cursor keys, and also draw circles and draw arcs.
- Fill any shape, in solid colour, dots or vertical or horizontal stripes as required; you can also alter colour and other attributes.
- Use either of two screens to save your drawings as you proceed, and to recall either instantly; plus a facility to add keyboard and UDG characters to your drawings.
- SAVE to SCREEN\$, LOAD SCREEN\$, SAVE data from drawings, LOAD data, and call a HELPSCREEN at any time.



With the second program, Loader, (to be published next week) you can load data from Draw and the program will transform this into DATA statements in program lines, which can then be MERGED or added to other programs to give an instant DRAW facility.

## Draw

After typing in the listing and debugging, save using "save" draw "LINE 10' When Draw is run you will be presented with a menu. If the program returns to Basic from now on, for whatever reason, do not use RUN, but simply type in "GOTO menu" and ENTER.

To start, press 1 and go to a clear screen. When you press one of the cursor keys (5,6,7, and 8) the x and y coordinates of the single pixel in the middle of the screen will be displayed x=120, y=95. You can start drawing from here. or using the cursor keys, move to another position to start drawing.

When you are ready, press z and the 'Plotted!' legend will appear. This places the first PLOT coordinate into a string, (c\$). Now, using the cursor keys, move in any direction and at the next point, press z again. Coordinates for this point will also be entered into the c\$ string, but this time in the form of a DRAW statement. Each successive move move now should be followed by pressing the z key.

You can of course, plot your DRAW coordinates in any position on the screen, and although the pixel will draw its own route wherever it goes on the screen, the subsequent line will be drawn directly between plotted points.

At any time you can press c to clear the whole screen, and then press p to rapidly print whatever you have drawn, and then carry on drawing.

Press the h key and the HELPSCREEN will be displayed. This can be called at

# Listing

- SCREENART 10 REM \* 20 REM \* (c) R.G.LUXTON. \* DRAW 30 REM \* 40 CLEAR 44798: GO SUB 9500 5Ø REM \*MENU\*
- 60 BORDER 1: PAPER 1: INK 7: C LS

70 PRINT TAB 8: "SCREENART": 'TA B 8; "\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* ; AT 3,1; "s To DR AW using a";AT 4,5; "single spot. ";AT 6,1;"1 To DRAW using a";AT 7,5; "continuous line."; AT 9,1;" To DELETE any lines"; AT 10,5; "(before SAVEing"; AT 11,5; "to SC PEFNS)

80 PRINT AT 5,25; INVERSE 1;" CHOOSE"; AT 6, 25; "(A ":AT 7.2 5;" LETTER";AT 15,3;"Press""h""t
o call HELPSCREEN";AT 16,3;"from main program.

90 FOR 1=3 TO 9 STEP 3: PRINT AT i,0;">";AT i,2;"(": PAUSE 15: PRINT AT i,0;" ";AT i,2;" " 100 LET S#=INKEY#: IF S#="" THE

N GO TO 120 110 IF s#="s" OR s#="1" OR s#=" d" THEN GO TO 130

120 NEXT 1: GO TO 90 130 IF NOT t THEN BORDER 7: PAP ER 7: INK Ø: CLS

200 REM \*MAIN LOOP\* 210 INK in: PAPER pa: BRIGHT br : FLASH f1: INVERSE iv: CLS 220 LET xx=x: LET yy=y: PLOT OV

ER 1; INK in;x,y 23Ø PLOT OVER (1 AND s#="s"); I NVERSE (1 AND ss="d"): INK in:xx 24Ø IF INKEY = "8" OR INKEY = "5" OR INKEYS="7" OR INKEYS="6" THE

N GO TO 420 250 IF INKEY#="" THEN GO TO 250 260 IF INKEYS="e" THEN GO SUB 2 aga

27Ø IF INKEY#="q" THEN GO SUB 2 100

280 IF INKEY#="z" THEN GO SUB 5 99

300 IF INKEYS="w" THEN GO SUB 7

50 310 IF INKEYS="b" THEN GO SUB 9

320 IE INKEYS="h" THEN GO SUR 1 999

330 IF INKEYS="a" THEN GO SUB 8 aa

34Ø IF INKEYS="t" THEN GO SUB 2 500 350 IF INKEYS="#" THEN GO SUR 4

999 300

88: IF ys="y" THEN LET cs="": LE T ys="": LET q=0: LET w=0 390 IF INKEY = "r" THEN GO TO 50 400 IF INKEY = "a" THEN LET fk=1

: GO SUB 530: LET fk=0: GO SUB 8 50 41Ø IF INKEY#="c" THEN GO TO 21

290 IF INKEYS="p" THEN GO SUB 6

5ø

aga 360 IF INKEYS="o" THEN GO SUB 5

370 IF INKEYS="y" THEN GO SUB 2

380 IF INKEY#="1" THEN GO SUB 7

420 LET x=x+(INKEY\$="8" AND x(2 | urrent screen into memory(y/n)?"

55) - (INKEY#="5" AND x>Ø)

43Ø LET y=y+(INKEY#="7" AND y<1 75)-(INKEY#="6" AND y>Ø) 440 PRINT £0; AT 0,0; PAPER 5; "x

=" ; x ; " y=";y;" ": GO TO 220 500 REM \*PLOT S/R\*

510 IF INKEY#<>" THEN GO TO 51 520 LET r=x: LET s=y: LET x=x-q

53Ø DIM es(2,4): LET es(1, TO 4 )=STR\$ x: LET e\$(2, TO 4)=STR\$ : LET cs=cs+es(1)+es(2): IF fk T

HEN RETURN 540 LET x=r: LET y=s: LET q=x: IFT WES

550 PRINT £0; INK 2; INVERSE 1; AT Ø,15; "Plotted!": PAUSE Ø: PRI

NT £0; AT Ø, 15; ": RETURN AGG REM \*PRINT S/R\*

610 IF LEN C\$ THEN GO TO 650

620 CLS : PRINT AT 10,4; PAPER 2; INK 7; "NO DRAWING YET IN MEMO RY !"; AT 12,6; "PRESS ""x"" TO ST ART

630 IF INKEYS(>"x" THEN GO TO 6 30

64Ø CLS : RETURN 650 PLOT VAL C#(1 TO 4), VAL C#(

5 TO 81 660 FOR 1=9 TO LEN C\$ STEP 8: D

RAW VAL c\$(1 TO 1+3), VAL c\$(1+4 TO 1+7): BEEP .005,50: NEXT 1: P AUSE Ø: RETURN

700 REM \*CURRENT SCREEN MEM\* 710 PRINT £0; AT 0,0; PAPER 5; "C any time, and you can return to the program by pressing m. Pressing p will of course, redraw your artwork.

# Options

- a SAVE data. This saves your drawing as a character array for use with the Loader program.
- b LOAD data. You can LOAD data back into the program from a previous SAVE. You cannot MERGE separate data tapes.
- c CLS at any time.
- j Will instantly load whatever is on the screen into screen A or screen B of your choice, clear the data string, cs, and enable you to start drawing again, using a new c\$ string.
- t Will instantly recall either screen. Using these two facilities it is simple to add circles, arcs and keyboard or UDG characters into your drawings, items which are not easily programmable in simple PLOT and DRAW statements.

You can for example, load a drawing into screens A and B, add further drawing and keep loading this into screen B, and then if you do not like the way it is developing, simply recall screen a, load it into screen B, and start again.

It is important to remember that if the t option is used to recall either screen before the j option is used, or a SCREEN\$ save has not been loaded into either screen, then garbage or a black screen will result (nothing in memory). To recover, simply press c and start again.

# Further options

- e Will draw circles at the last point
- Will draw arcs at the last point plotted.

: GO SUB 1500: IF ys="n" THEN LE

720 PRINT £0; AT Ø, Ø; b\$( TO 11):

T ys="": RETURN

The use of either of these will, when you are satisfied and press the y key in answer to the question 'Is this OK (Y/N)?, save everything on the screen automatically into the B screen, and clear the PLOT and DRAW string (C\$). It is essential, therefore, that you press p before e or v. or recall either screen, if you want circles or arcs on the same screen as your drawing. You can start a fresh PLOT and DRAW string (c\$) to add to your A or B screen, but this will not be permanently added until you use either the j.e. y or q

- g Enables you to enter a string of up to 32 characters from the keyboard, which can be moved about the screen into position. Initially, this will wipe away the part of the screen that it crosses, but a press of the p (park) key will reinstate the screen with the characters in position. If you then press y when asked, this too will be automatically saved into the B screen. Pressing n will clear the characters and reinstate the screen as it was.
  - FILL. This subroutine will fill any area which is enclosed by lines, but will 'leak' out if the boundaries are broken. You will be given four choices to fill with a solid colour, with dots, or with one of two 'hatches' using either horizontal or vertical lines.

As any lines or dots within the area will affect the filling, before you press f you should press r to reset the drawing mode, press s to use a single spot, recall your drawing by p or t and the screen letter, and then move the pixel anywhere within the area to be filled, preferably two or more pixels away from the edge of the boundary line. Then press fto call the fill routine, y for ves, followed by one of the option letters, and filling will start.

If the area to be filled is irregular in shape then it may not be completely filled in one go. If so, then simply move the pixel to an unfilled area, and call the fill routine again, and filling will continue. If you are using the v (vertical), h (horizontal) or d (dot) options, then careful use of the x and y coordinates will help ensure that the 'seeding' pixel is placed in the correct position so that the pattern of a gap between each line is maintained.

When filling is completed you can decide if you want it permanently stored in the A or B screen before resetting the drawing mode to l for line to continue drawing.

- d Inevitably, you will make mistakes and want to alter or clean up your picture before finally saveing to SCREENS. The single pixel offered by the d option of the menu will delete any lines and this, coupled with the judicious use of the j (A or B screen), works wonders.
- q Pressing this key will enable you to SAVE to SCREENS, but remember that you can only save what is on the screen, so before using this option ensure that the picture you want to save is recalled to screen using t or p.
- W LOADS recorded SCREEN\$ images into the Screenart program, and offers you the choice of saving them in the A and B screens. This is useful if you want to use an existing SCREEN\$ image as a sort of 'stencil' to trace or amend parts to use in a fresh drawing. A single spot option ('s') can be useful here.
- The o key enables you to reset the attributes, thus changing the colour of

GO SUB 3000: RETURN 75Ø REM \*SCREENS LOAD S/R\* 760 PRINT £0; AT 0,0; PAPER 5; "L oad Screen\$ (y/n)?": GO SUB 1500 : IF ys="n" THEN LET ys="": RETU RN 770 BORDER 7: PAPER 7: INK 0: C 78Ø INPUT : PAPER 5: "Enter name of SCREENS "; LINE nS: PRINT £0 ;AT Ø,Ø; PAPER 5; "Start recorder .... ": LOAD n#SCREEN# 79Ø GO SUB 3ØØØ: RETURN 800 REM \*SAVE SCREENS S/R\* 810 PRINT £0; AT Ø, Ø; PAPER 5; "S ave Screen\$ (y/n)?": GO SUB 1500 : IF ys="n" THEN I.ET ys="": RETU PN 820 INPIN ; PAPER 5; "Enter name Of SCREENS "; LINE fs: IF fs=""
OR fs=" " THEN GO TO 820 83Ø SAVE #SCREENS 840 RETURN 850 REM \*SAVE DATA S/R\* 860 PRINT £0; AT Ø,Ø; PAPER 5; "S ave data (y/n)?": GO SUB 1500: I ys="n" THEN LET ys="": RETURN 870 CLS : DIM d\$ (LEN c\$): LET \$=c\$: SAVE "data" DATA d\$() 88Ø CLS : PRINT INK 11 INVERSE 1; "Saved!"; TAB 6; INVERSE Ø; " To start a fresh drawing, ter ""n""""" To continue with this one, enter

890 IF INKEY\$ (> "n" AND INKEY\$ (> "" THEN GO TO 890 900 CLS : GO TO (910 AND INKEYS ="n")+(92Ø AND INKEY\$="m") 910 CLS : CLEAR : RUN 920 LET c\$=c\$( TO LEN c\$-8): DI

M d\$(1): LET p\$="": GO SUB 500: GO TO 200

950 REM \*LOAD DATA S/R\* 960 PRINT £0; AT 0,0; PAPER 5; "L Dad data (y/n)?": GO SUB 1500: I F y=="n" THEN LET y=="": RETURN 970 CLS : PRINT £0;AT 0,0; PAPE R 5; "Start recorder....": LOAD "data" DATA d\$(): LET cs=ds: DIM

d\$(1): LET p\$=" 980 LET x=VAL c\$(LEN c\$-8 TO LE N c\$-5): LET y=VAL c\$(LEN c\$-4 T D LEN c\$): LET c\$=c\$( TO LEN c\$-

8): LET xx=x: LET yy=y: CLS : LE T q=x: LET w=y: GO TO menu 1000 REM \*HELPSCREEN S/R\* 1010 IF INKEY\$ > \*\* THEN GO TO 10

10 1020 BORDER 5: PAPER 5: INK 0: C

1030 PRINT TAR 10: "HELPSCREEN" LT AB 10; "\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* : PRINT TAB 4; \*PRESS KEY REQUIRED .... \*

1040 PRINT "a = Save data"'"b = Load data"'"c = CLS"'"e = Draw c ircles"'"g = Add keyboard charac
ters"'"f = Fill"

1050 PRINT "j = Load existing screen into" " memory and CLEAR memory and CLEAR data string"'"m = Return to mai n program"'"o = Attributes"'"p = Print drawing so far" "q = Save

SCREENS"'"r = Reset drawing mod "t = Recall Screens"'"w = Loa d SCREENS" "y = Draw arc"

1060 PRINT "(z= Plots each point "(GOTO""menu"" restarts from BASIC) " 'TAB 8; INK 1; FLASH 1; "D O NOT USE ""RUN" "": PAUSE Ø: BOR DER 7: INK in: PAPER pa: BRIGHT br: FLASH +1: INVERSE iv: CLS : RETURN

1500 REM \*Y/N S/R\* 151Ø IF INKEY\$(>"y " AND INKEYS THEN GO TO 1510

1520 GO TO (1530 AND INKEY#="n +(156Ø AND INKEY#=" 1530 PRINT £01AT Ø, Ø; b\$: LET y\$=

154Ø IF INKEY\$<>"" THEN GO TO 15

40 155Ø RETURN 1560 LET ys="y": IF INKEY\$ (>"" T

157Ø RETURN 2000 REM \*PRINT CIRCLES\* 2010 INPUT : PAPER 5; Enter radi us"; LINE rs: IF rs="" OR rs="

HEN GO TO 1540

THEN GO TO 2010 2020 FOR i=1 TO LEN rs: IF CODE r\$(i) (48 OR CODE r\$(i))57 THEN G

O TO 2010 2030 NEXT i: IF y+VAL r\$>175 OR y-VAL r\$(Ø OR x+VAL r\$)255 OR x VAL r#(Ø THEN PRINT £Ø; AT Ø, Ø; P

APER 5; " is too big!"; AT 1,8; "Press any key and try again.": PAUSE Ø: GO TO 2010 2040 INK in: PAPER pa: BRIGHT br

: FLASH f1: INVERSE IV

# **UTPUT:** SPECTRUM

PAPER and INK, and setting FLASH, BRIGHT and INVERSE on or off. This will change the colours, etc currently on screen which can often be most striking, or you can use the toption to recall screen A or B with its original colours, and then continue drawing on that with the new attributes.

If you want to use your own user defined graphics (UDGs) in your drawings it is only necessary to prepare them on tape using one of the many published program, stop Screenart running, load

the UDGs into the area of memory reserved for them, and restart Screenart by typing in coro menu. Then, by using the goption, your UDGs can be called in the usual way. A joystick can be used with the program, using the 'fire' button to operate the key.

# Listing

2050 CIRCLE x,y, VAL r\*

2060 GO SUB 5510 2070 IF y=="y" THEN GO SUB 5520:

GO SUB 553Ø: RETURN 2080 IF y#="n" THEN GO SUB 554Ø: RETURN

2100 REM \*PRINT CHARACTERS\* 2110 INPUT; PAPER 5; "Enter char acters"; a#: IF a#="" THEN RETURN

2115 IF LEN a#)32 THEN PRINT £Ø; AT Ø,Ø; PAPER 5; "Too long! (Max. 32 characters). "¡AT 1,Ø; "Press any key and try again. ";: PAU

SE Ø: GO TO 211Ø 212Ø INK in: PAPER pa: BRIGHT br : FLASH fl: INVERSE iv

2130 LET a=1: LET b=a 2140 LET aa=a: LET bb=b: PRINT A

T a,b;a\$
215Ø IF INKEY\$="" THEN GO TO 215

2160 FOR i=1 TO 3: NEXT i 2170 LET a=a+(INKEY#="6" AND a<2 2)-(INKEY#="7" AND a>0) 2180 LET b=b+(INKEY#="8" AND b+L EN a#<32)-(INKEY#="5" AND b>0)

2190 PRINT AT aa,bb;b\$( TO LEN a \$) 2200 IF INKEY\$="p" OR INKEY\$="P"

THEN POKE 23558,0: GO SUB 5540: PRINT AT a,b;a\*: GO SUB 5510: GO TO 2220 GO TO 2140

222Ø IF y#="y" THEN GO SUB 552Ø: GO SUB 554Ø: PRINT AT a,b;a#: G O SUB 553Ø

2230 IF y="n" THEN GO SUB 5540 2240 PRINT £0;AT 0,0; PAPER 5;"A nother char 7": GO SUB 1500: IF y="y" THEN GO TO 2110

2250 IF y#="n" THEN LET y#="": L ET r=2: GO SUB 2530 2260 INK 0: PAPER 7: BRIGHT 0: F

LASH Ø: INVERSE Ø: RETURN 2300 REM \*DRAW ARC\*

2300 REM \*DRAW ARC\* 2310 LET c=x: LET d=y

2320 LET cc=c: LET dd=d

2330 PLOT OVER 1; INK injec,dd: PLOT OVER 1; INK inje,d

2340 PRINT £0;AT 0,0; PAPER 5; "M ove cursor to finish & press i." 2350 IF INKEY\$="" THEN GO TO 235

g 2360 IF INKEY\$="i" THEN PRINT £0 |AT 0,0|b\$: INPUT PAPER 5; Enter arc ";e: LET e=e/10: GO TO 2400

arc ";e: LET e=e/10; GO TO 2400 2370 LET c=c+(INKEY==\*8" AND c(2 55)-(INKEY=\*5" AND c>0) 2380 LET d=d+(INKEY=\*7" AND d(2

55)-(INKEY\$="6" AND d>Ø)
2390 GO TO 2320

2400 PLOT INK in;x,y: DRAW INK in;c-x,d-y,e

2410 GO SUB 5510 2420 IF y#="y" THEN GO SUB 5520: GO SUB 5530: LET x=c: LET y=d: PETIEN

2430 IF ys="n" THEN GO SUB 5540: GO TO 2310

GU TO 2318 2588 REM \*SCREEN\* DISPLAY 2518 INPUT ; PAPER 5; "Display sc reen A or B?"; LINE m\*: IF m\*
a" AND m\*
THEN GO TO 2518

2520 LET r=(1 AND m\$="a")+(2 AND m\$="b")
2530 GO SUB 3100: RANDOMIZE USR

(z+12): RETURN 3000 REM \*LOAD A/B SCREEN S/R\*

3010 INPUT ; PAPER 5; "Store in A or B screen?"; LINE n#: IF n#<> "a" AND n#<>"b" AND n#<>" THEN GO TO 3010

3020 IF n==" THEN RETURN 3030 LET 1=(1 AND n=="a")+(2 AND n=="b")

3Ø4Ø GO SUB 3Ø8Ø

3050 RANDOMIZE USR z: RETURN 3080 REM \*SCREEN\$ LOAD POKES\* 3090 POKE p1,(127 AND 1=1)+(191 AND 1=2): POKE p2,(228 AND 1=1)+ (201 AND 1=2): RETURN

3100 REM \*SCREEN\* DISPLAY POKES\* 3110 POKE p3,(127 AND r=1)+(191 AND r=2): POKE p4,(228 AND r=1)+

(201 AND r=2): RETURN 4000 REM \*FILL\* 4010 PRINT £0; AT 0,0; PAPER 5; "F

111 (y/n) ?": GO SUB 1500: IF y\$
="n" THEN LET y\$="": RETURN
4020 INPUT ; PAPER 5; "Full, Dot, H
oriz, Vert? (+/d/h/v)"; LINE x\$:
LET g=(1 AND x\$=""+")+(2 AND x\$=""
h")+(3 AND x\$="d" OR x\$==v"): IF

9(1 OR 9)3 THEN GO TO 4020 4022 IF x#="d" OR x#="v" THEN GO TO 4200 4025 REM \*HORIZONTAL+FULL FILL\*

4030 PRINT £0;AT 0,0;b\$: LET a=x : LET b=y 4040 IF POINT (x,y)=0 THEN PLOT

INK injx,y: LET x=x+1: GO TO 404 0 4050 LET x=a: IF g=2 AND POINT (

x,y+1)=1 THEN GO TO 4078 4060 IF POINT (x,y+9)=0 THEN LET y=y+9: GO TO 4040 4070 LET y=b: LET x=a-1

4080 IF POINT (x,y)=0 THEN PLOT INK in;x,y: LET x=x-1: GO TO 408 0 4090 LET x=a-1: IF g=2 AND | POIN

T (x,y+1)=1 THEN GO TO 4110 4100 IF POINT (x,y+9)=0 THEN LET y=y+9: GO TO 4000 4110 LET y=b: LET x=a

4120 IF POINT (x,y)=0 THEN PLOT INK in;x,y: LET x=x+1: GO TO 412

413Ø LET x=a: IF POINT (x,y-1)=1 THEN GO TO 415Ø 414Ø IF POINT (x,y-g)=Ø THEN LET

y=y-g: GO TO 4120 4150 LET y=b: LET x=a-1

4160 LET y=b: LET x=a-1 4160 IF POINT (x,y)=0 THEN PLOT INK in;x,y: LET x=x-1: GO TO 416

4170 LET x=a-1: IF POINT (x,y-1) =1 THEN GO TO 4190 4180 IF POINT (x,y-g)=0 THEN LET y=y-g: GO TO 4160

4190 RETURN
4200 REM \*VERTICAL+DOTTED FILL\*
4210 PRINT £0;AT 0,0;bs: LET a=x
: LET b=y: LET v=(1 AND g=3)
4215 IF POINT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x-1,y)=1 THEN GO TO 4260

x-1,y)=1 THEN GU TU 4268 4228 PLOT INK in;x,y: LET y=y+1+ v: IF POINT (x,y)=1 OR | POINT (x,y)=v)=1 THEN GO TO 4248 4238 GO TO 4228

4240 LET x=x+2: LET y=b: IF POINT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x-1,y)=1 THE N GO TO 4260

425Ø GO TO 422Ø

4260 LET y=b: LET x=a-2: IF POINT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x+1,y)=1 THE N GO TO 4310

4270 PLOT INK in;x,y: LET y=y+1+ v: IF POINT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x, y-v)=1 THEN GO TO 4290 4280 GO TO 4270

4290 LET x=x-2: LET y=b: IF POINT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x+1,y)=1 THE N GO TO 4310

4300 GO TO 4270 4310 LET y=b-1-v: LET x=a: IF PO INT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x-1,y)=1 T HEN GO TO 4360

HEN GO TO 4360 4320 PLOT INK injx,y: LET y=y-1v: IF POINT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x, y+v)=1 THEN GO TO 4340

433Ø GO TO 432Ø 434Ø LET x=x+2: LET y=b-1-v: IF POINT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x-1,y)=1 THEN GO TO 436Ø

4350 GO TO 4320 4360 LET y=b-1-v: LET x=a-2: IF POINT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x+1,y)=1

THEN GO TO 4410
4370 PLOT INK inix,y: LET y=y-1v: IF POINT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x,
y+v)=1 THEN GO TO 4390

y+v)=1 THEN GO TO 4390 4380 GO TO 4370 4390 LET x=x-2: LET y=b-1-v: IF

POINT (x,y)=1 OR POINT (x+1,y)=1 THEN GO TO 4410 4400 GO TO 4370

4400 GO TO 4370 4410 RETURN

5000 REM \*ATTRIBUTES\* 5010 INPUT "Ink? ";in: IF in>9 T

HEN GO TO 5010 5020 INPUT "Paper? ";pa: IF pa>9 THEN GO TO 5020

5030 INPUT "Bright? ";br: IF br)
1 THEN GO TO 5030

5040 INPUT "Flash? ";fl: IF fl>1 THEN GO TO 5040 5050 INPUT "Inverse? ";iv: IF iv

>1 THEN GO TO 5050 5060 DIM z\$(704): PRINT AT 0,0; OVER 1; INK in; PAPER pa; BRIGHT br: FLASH +1: INVERSE iv:z\$: RE

TURN
5500 REM \*SET POKES ETC\*

5510 PRINT £0;AT 0,0; PAPER 5;"O K (y/n) ?": GO SUB 1500: RETURN 5520 PRINT £0;AT 0,0; PAPER 5;b\$ ( TO 11): LET y\$="": RETURN 5530 POKE p1,191: POKE p2,201: R

ANDOMIZE USR z: RETURN 5540 POKE p3,191: POKE p4,201: R ANDOMIZE USR (z+12): RETURN 9500 REM \*SET VARS 5/R\*

9510 LET in=0: LET pa=7: LET b=8
: LET f1=0: LET iv=0: LET z=63
43: LET menu=50: LET fk=0: LET c
==": LET x=120: LET y=95: LET t
=0: LET q=0: LET p1=(z+4): LET p3=(z+13): LET p4=(z+4): LET p4=(z+4):

952Ø FOR i=z TO z+23: READ j: PO KE i,j: NEXT i 953Ø DATA 33,Ø,64,17,Ø,Ø,1,192,2 6,237,176,2Ø1 954Ø DATA 33,Ø,Ø,17,Ø,64,1,192,2

954Ø DATA 33,0,0,17,0,64,1,1 6,237,176,201 955Ø RETURN



GANG OF 3

Bob Chappell makes a flying visit to Upper Gumtree,

the setting of Richard Shepherd Software's latest adventure, to explore quirky goings-on in the capital of Wallydom

If you thought life was bad as an urban upstart in Scarthorpe, wait till you visit Upper Gumtree. At least there was a bit of action in grimy old Scarthorpe, with its friendly football muggers and vigilant police, but action in Upper Gumtree means beans on toast for tea or taking the dog for a walk.

Yes, it's a quiet place all right. Or it was till Professor Blowitovitz moved in. So what's wrong with the Prof? Well, this is an adventure games ob ecan't be same, can he? He has to be a mad professor. He causes strange events to start happening, like making people's noses glow in the dark and causing Tuesdays to disappear completely.

His ultimate aim, naturally, is total world domination. Your ultimate aim, naturally, is to stop him ... well, you and Emma and Wally, the gang of

three

If you sampled Urban Upstart, and lots of people did, you'll know author Peter Cooke has a marvellous sense of humour, and Upper Gumtree is a similarly styled follow-up, allowing for the quick visit he made to Dante's Inferno in between.

While down there he seems to have been won over to the Commodore 64, as Upper Guntree is only available for that machine (from February 20) at £5.50 from Richard Sepherd Software (06286-63531). A disk version is on its way, for £9.50. The company sent me an early disk copy of the adventure for PCN, though playing without instructions didn't make things any easier.

### Gumshow

Those have now arrived, though, so let's look at features first, then try taking Gumtree by storm. If you don't like the text colours then the F1 key will run through a variety of options till you find one that suits you, while F7 can be used to repeat your last command.

Inputs can also be linked together using AND, THEN or +, they can be printed out at fast, medium or slow speeds, and you can also have graphics of on or graphics off

on or graphics off.

If your picture starts to look a little funny, don't worry, it's



probably only night falling. Guntree is played in real time, and the events reflect this . . . no good battering on the pub door in the middle of the night, it's closed. Though why you should want to in view of what happens when you go there during the day, I don't know.

You can also hold the game, to prevent time marching on and Emma getting impatient, and talk to the other two main characters by saying WALLY DROP GLOVES. Wally will probably tell you to naff off, but never mind, that's just another hurdle to overcome.

I found Guntiree's hurdles generally tougher than those of Urban Upstart, and the adventure a lot more interesting because more is going on. The humour this time round was a little less sparkling — probably because Scarthorpe offers more scope than the town and country mix of Upper Guntiree does.

But there are still lots of laughs to be had. I loved the local bobby PC Plod, who has a tendency to fall off his bicycle and pops up to interrogate you when you take something you shouldn't. Be careful what you say to him—remember he's not the Brain of Britain. He's not even the Brain of Upper Gumtree

# Below the belt

You begin, though, in a quiet country lane, a typical rural scene: bees buzzing, birds singing and a Ford Anglia quietly rusting by the roadside. You're also accompanied by Emma and Wally, Emma being by far the more co-operative of the two.

She's not that co-operative, though. Try getting to friendly and you're reminded that she has a judo black belt. She allow has a pair of scissors, and will carry things when your arms are full, but she won't give them back to you till you've carried out a particular task.

She wanders around, usually initially remains immobile for reasons not unconnected with the above-mentioned Ford Anglia and gloves. I haven't figured out how to get the badly-needed gloves off Wally,

but this adventure is planned so that there's lots of roaming about you can do without getting held up by a particular problem.

It helps considerably, however, if you can figure out how to stop the bull chasing you when you find yourself outside its unfortunately the field bull's outside the field, too. I was gored to death a few times before figuring it out, not to mention being pitchforked to death by Farmer Giles till I discovered something that took his fancy. I was also lured into blowing myself up, so I recommend making full use of the save feature.

The Score command gives you a percentage, as well as stelling you what time and day it is, and after a few hours of compulsive playing I'd managed 46 per cent, with the problems at that stage getting tougher and tougher.

I enjoyed my wanders round Upper Gumtree, despite the hazards on the golf course, and waspleasantly surprised tofind that the railway station sports sign saying it's the Best Kept Station of the Year. Closer inspection reveals that the year was 1923. Oh well. But the game will be getting closer inspection from me, and I recommend you give it one too. Highly enjoyable.

# **Tome stone**

There's just room to mention one of Romik's new titles, Aliard's Tome, also for the C64. Romik has released two text-only adventures, but Animal Magic I found silly and sloppily laid out on the screen.

Aliards Tome, though, was an excellent atmospheric romp round underground caverns... not that I romped very far. Just enough to discover ten chests, then a sleeping orc holding a bunch of keys. Examms Keys. There are ten of them—I might have known. But the orc wakes up every time I make a move. Drat. And the giant's no use, he just sits round moping, even after I'd gone to the trouble of

Alliard's Tome I'd recommend, but you should certainly get Upper Guntree first — and don't blame me if you can't get down again.

finding his belt for him.

# UTPUT: COMMODORE 64 GETTING DOWN T BUSINES | Want to upgrade your commodore 64 to use it for business? Unsure of whether it is possible, or how to go about it? Peter Worlock explains how easy this can be and give some some hints and tips of products to look for

Want to upgrade your Commodore 64 to use it for



here are many proud owners of multi-thousand pound computers who will laugh at the idea of using a £200 computer for business applications. There are many Commodore 64 owners who will laugh right back because they're already doing it.

There are no hard and fast rules about what you can do with your machine. Spending a couple of thousand pounds on a computer system will buy you extra speed and convenience and very little else. Most dedicated business computers feature faster processors, larger memory, greater disk speed and capacity, and more sophisticated software.

So it's up to you whether you want or can afford to pay for those extras. If not, rest assured that the 64 can perform adequately as a business machine, as many small companies and professional users can testify.

To get your 64 doing something a little more profitable than playing games you need to look at two areas: peripherals and software.

# **Peripherals**

We can take peripherals first because the same advice will apply whatever

application you are considering, something obviously not true of software.

First and foremost you'll require a disk drive. There are two reasons for this: the extra speed and storage capacity, and the fact that most serious applications packages are available only on disk.

With the 64 you're limited to two choices. First, you can go with the 1541, Commodore's drive dedicated to the 64. The advantages are that it simply plugs in and runs, you don't need to worry about disk compatibility, and it's the cheapest. The disadvantages are that it's extremely slow as disk drives go, offers only about 170K of storage, and it's a single drive.

Having two drives makes a considerable difference. It allows you to keep program and data disks instantly available but separate, eliminating the constant swapping necessary with one drive. The difference between having one and two disk units is as great as the difference between using disks and cassettes

The second choice is to use one of Commodore's parallel drives for its range of business machines. These the IEEE interface which is faster but forces you to buy an additional interface since the 64 doesn't have true IEEE.

The drives are more expensive than the 1541 and an IEEE interface will add another £50 to the cost. On the plus side, storage capacity is generally greater, and double units are available.

A third option would be to buy two 1541s. This adds considerably to the tangle of spaghetti wiring but is a cheaper and still workable solution.

Your next question is the choice of printer. Again, the printers Commodore sells specifically for the 64 leave a little to be desired. They are aimed at the home user, a fact reflected both in price (low) and facilities (limited).

Looking at third-party printers is more rewarding but, as usual, involves the purchase of another interface. Your choice between dot matrix and daisywheel printers will depend on what you want to do and who will be looking at the

If you need any kind of graphic output daisywheels are eliminated immediately but dot matrix printers have other benefits. They are usually quieter, faster and much more flexible, allowing you to print a variety of typestyles and graphics through software. While daisywheels allow changes of typestyle you'll usually have to stop printing, change the print wheel, then continue.

The only merit in daisywheels is that their output is indistinguishable from electric typewriters so if your intended readers are died-in-the-wool snobs, it's a daisywheel for you.

However, it really is time this nonsense was dispensed with. Once upon a time type-written letters were frowned on and all correspondence was done in quill and ink. An epidemic of dot matrix print will haul the business world into the presentday. Condensed, emphasised dot matrix output is perfectly acceptable.

So, which to buy? Start looking at Epsons, the Rolls-Roye of the printing community. The RX80F/T offers a host of facilities including friction and tractor-fed paper (tractor-feed is useful for general applications but friction-feed is a must for letters for around £250. The FX80 and FX100 are faster with a few extra 'extras' for about £40.

Slightly cheaper, but without sacrificing much in the way of quality, are Star's range of Gemini printers, and machines from Mannesmann Tally and Smith Corona are also worth checking out.

Daisywheels? Well, if you must, have a look at the Brother HR5 at £250 and the Juki 1600 at £500.

There's a wide choice of interfaces ranging from about £35 to £120. For most purposes the cheaper ones will perform perfectly well. There are only two rules: get a hardware model and insist that it's 'system transparent', which means simply that it won', tinterfere with any of your software.

The last major peripheral you need consider is a monitor. Clients won't be impressed by the sight of your portable telly and the extra definition of a dedicated monitor is worth the expense. A related topic is the question of 80-column cards. The answer, for the moment anyway, is that they're not worth considering.

Most display only monochrome, if they do offer colour they won't work with any colour monitor costing less than £400, and they don't work with most software packages.

# Software

In a sense, software should have been discussed first since that's the way you should go about things. First find your software, then arrange your system to accommodate it. The main potential trap is buying software that won't work at all with your system (see the comments about interfaces above), or software that doesn't use your system to the full.

For example, many word processor packages simply ignore the possibility that you might have two disk drives. Other packages may not work with your chosen printer. Beware!

Since most business applications will require writing in some form or another it's not surprising that word processors are the most common applications package available for the 64. This is good news because you can find a program that will do what you want at a price you can afford

Many 1541 owners will have received Easy Script free with the drive and for most purposes you should find it adequate. The best alternatives include Vizaurite from Viza Software, and Paperclip from Kobra. The former is easier to use, the latter more powerful. If you really need an easy-to-use package for limited use, try Homeword from Sierra On-Line.

For manipulating figures, your starting point must be Multiplan, Microsoft's spreadsheet — usually more at home on the IBM PC and the like, it's a near-miracle on the 64 for £95. Recommended alternatives include Easy Cale from Commodore (£40), Handic's Calersult (£95), Busicale 3 From Supersoft (£50) and Practicale (£45).

Databases also come in a variety of sizes and prices. For a combination of simplicity and flexibility, Commodore's own Easy File is hard to beat. It will accommodate straightforward filing to report generation of invoices, reminders etc. Good value too at £50.

For more specialised needs Superbase 64, costing £90 from Precision Software, is a powerful, programmable database. The power comes at the expense of ease of use but if you really depend on information manipulation, Superbase should be your first choice.

In the general purpose category, you might also like to check out Viza Software's Vizastar. This is an integrated package featuring spreadsheet, database and business graphics at £10. It's also compatible with Vizawrite, which might be a worthwhile feature for you.

For more specialised applications, there are many companies offering dedicated packages including stock control, payroll, VAT and accounts.

Trol, payroll, VAT and accounts.

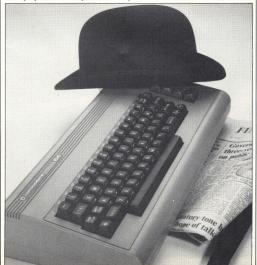
The following is a much-restricted list of retailers and manufacturers of business-related products for the 64.
The Six-Four Supplies, PO Box 19, Whitstable, Kent — 64 software specialist.
Calco Software, Lakeside House, Kingston Hill, Surrey — software retailer.
Computerama 64, 11 Market Square Arcade, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs — 64 specialist for software, peripherals and hardware.

64 Software Centre, 1 Princeton Street, London WC1 — name says everything — large range of business software.

Electronic Aids (Tewksbury), Drysdale Close, Wickhamford, Evesham, Worcs producer of financial and accounts packages.

Fieldmaster Software, 107 Oakwood Park Road, Southgate, London N14 — producer of business software.

Dialog Software, 293 Copperfield, Limesfarm Estate, Chigwell, Essex — database, book-keeping, stock control and invoicing packages.



# **ARDWARE PRO-TEST:** BROTHER

# LITTLE BROTHERS

Brendin Lewis investigates two Brothers that offer a range of facilities, taking them beyond the scope of a normal typewriter.

hen is a typewriter better than a typewriter? — When it's a TC600 Teleprocessor, or for that matter a BP30 personal printer/plotter — two new models in the range of Brother portable peripherals.

Brother first hit the market with the popular EP44 portable typewriter/printer—a long way from the multi-functioning, interfaceable machines with full-travel kevboards that the BP30 and TC600 are.

seyboarus that the 57-30 and 1000 are. Both machines offer some interesting features in their own right. The TC600 is really the bigger Brother, offering full word processing facilities built in, including the second se

The BP30 on the other hand, is designed for a totally different purpose. It can only be described as a portable graph plotter for the executive to instantly (well almost) display, graphically, lists of numeric data. It is capable of plotting in four different colours, and three different text sizes which may be plotted in three directions (up, down or across the paper).

Eight different types of graph are available at the touch of a button, thus offering a high degree of flexibility. The main drawbacks associated with the Byol are first that the typeface is unsuitable for business letters etc, and second that no means is available to connect the system to any external devices.

# **Features**

The TC600 is similar in some respects to the EP44. It uses the same electro thermal print head assembly, and thus the same types of paper and ribbon cartridges. It also contains a built-in RS232 port. What it does not contain is a built-in calculator. What sets it apart immediately from the EP44 is its matt black appearance.

Good looks are maintained under the cover too. Inside is contained a 69 key keyboard which is very comfortable to use. Above the main keyboard are 15 calculator style function buttons, two side switches, and of course the LCD panel.

The function buttons carry the operations shown in Figure 1. The two slide switches are used to set line spacing (1.1.5 or 2 line), and also select typewrite two of recessor or description of the second of the se

In addition to the normal shift and shift lock keys, the keyboard contains two other function control keys, 2nd shift and 'code'. The 2nd shift key enables a wide variety of

# Figure 1

Esc/on

TC600 key desciptions
Key Description
Hot Z Set Hot zone

Print text flush to the right margin

CTR Centre line of text
xxx on/off Auto underline on/off
Mode Select print mode

Up arrow Cursor up
Right arrow Cursor right
Down arrow Cursor down
Left arrow Cursor left
Ins Insert at cursor
Print Print a file

Print Exit Exit from a file

Exit Exit from a file

Del Delete character

Cont Continue printing stopped

file

file Cancel errors, stop printing a file

extra printable characters ranging from various letters from foreign alphabets to currency symbols (see Figure 2). In all, 44



extra characters are made available.

The second function control key affects far fewer keys than does the 2nd shift (20 in all). All 'code' key functions are printed in green on the keytops and deal mainly with the word processor and disk file handling. For example, REPLACE, DELETE, PIND, and COPY are used with the word processor, while LOAD, SAYE, KILL, and JOIN are used when disk based work is downed as the second of the control of the contro

The typeface provided on the TC600 is excellent, producing near daisywheel quality. With the BP30 printing is achieved using miniature, water soluble ball point pens. Four of these (red, blue, black, and green) are mounted within the head assembly on a revolving carrier. When the plotter needs to change the pen colour (either by user request or while

characters at ten cps (characters per second); medium = 80 characters at six per second); medium = 80 characters at three cps. This may seem quite slow, but is quite fast enough to keep up with all but the fastest typists, even with the large print font. At any rate, the very fast typist is unlikely to use this type of equipment.

As mentioned above, the main disadvantage of the BP30 is that it is purely a stand alone personal plotter, unable to connect to an external micro or mainframe. The reason for this is that, unlike the TC600 and EP44, it does not contain a serial port (or any port for that matter). The presence of this facility would have greatly enhanced the marketability of the product by opening up the market of low cost graph plotting for micros; in its present form it is four bar graphs, and two line graphs), all of which are accessed at the touch of a button. All the user need then do is enter the data. Bar and line graphs are automatically scaled within the numeric limits of zero and 7.500.999, though the smallest number allowed is 0.00076. Because all graphs are plotted at or above the zero line, it is not possible to enter negative numbers. This will limit the machine's scientific value, though not necessarily its business potential.

potential.

The pie chart options allow for either normal unshaded or shaded with the relevent percentage figures printed along-side. The bar chart options allow for multiple unshaded or multiple unshaded bars, and dual multiple unshaded bars, and dual multiple unshaded bars for comparing two different years for example. The final group, line graphs, offers the options of a limited number of lines or an unlimited number of lines on the graph. Most graphs are plotted in different colours.



Two manuals are included with the TC600, the instruction manual and the connecting applications guide book. The instruction manual is a 71 page A4 tome which details almost all the aspects of the TC600 modes. Photographs and illustrations are used throughout, showing the user with commendable clarity exactly which keys need to be pressed to obtain all the diverse functions of the machine.

The connection guide book is a bonus not normally included with most printers (or for that matter most micros) and deals with hitching the TC500 to a wide range of micros and printers (the Apple II, ILC, ILC, 20; the Texas T1994A; the TRSS0 Model 100; the Epson HX20, HC20; the TeXas T1994A; the TRSS0 Model 100; the Epson HX20, HC20; the NEC PC301, PC801, PC

Documentation for the BP30 is under-



The BP30 is more an 'executive toy' than a workhorse

plotting a graph), it simply moves to the right-hand side of the carriage where a ratchet mechanism advances the holder by one position.

Characters are plotted when a bar running along the back of the carriage is pressed against the currently active pen. This process does make the plotting process quite noisy when compared with the TC660, but is no louder than a standard electric typewriter. To replace worn out pens, the actuator bar must first be moved away from the pens by pulling a lever designed for the purpose. Care must be taken during this operation to prevent the pens being dropped underneath the pen assembly. A spare set of pens is included with the machine.

The keyboard of the BP30 is exactly the same as that on the TC600, though with fewer keys (56 as opposed to 69). Also, 11 calculator-style keys are included, and it seems fitting that six of these are in fact used as a calculator; the remaining five keys are for printing direction, manual colour change, tharacter size selection, and mode selection. The three modes available are Normal Print, Delayed Print simply means that the LCD screen fills before any printing takes place, allowing the user to modify a screen of information before it is printed.

The speed at which the BP30 plots its characters varies depending on the size of the characters being plotted, as does the number of characters per line: small = 160

unlikely to break out of the 'executive toy'
type market. It is nonetheless, a remark-

type market. It is nonetheless, a remarkable 'executive toy'.

As well as the features already mentioned, the BP30 has facilities to draw up to eight different graph types (two pie charts,

4 Colours: Black Red Green Blue

3 text sizes: Medium Large

Print across Print across Print Green Blue

Shaded Pie Chart

The BP30 features four colours, three text sizes and can print in more than one direction.

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Delete

Extended

mode

Caps shift



Space bar

Full ston

# **ARDWARE PRO-TEST: BROTHER**



The small battery operated disk drive is an excellent portable storage device.

standably smaller due to the limited functions of the machine. The layout is very similar to that of the TC600 instruction manual, in that it uses photographs and illustrations/diagrams throughout. Again the standard is high, covering all graph modes as well as the normal typing modes.

### In use

Very little can be said about using the BP30 other than that it is remarkable easy to operate. The various graphs are selected by pressing a key marked 'GRAPH', pressing one of the numbers 1-8, and entering the data. A small diagram of each graph type is printed on the case above the relevant number, so there is no need to refer to the manual.

When all the data has been entered, two options are available to the user: plot the graph, or dry run the graph. A dry run traces the periphery of the graph without actually plotting, and is very useful for positioning the paper correctly.

There are a number of things which the BP30 is not good at. It's not very accurate when shading the interior of the graphs, though the quality isnot unacceptable for this level of graph plotting. The other problem concerns the plotting of shaded pie charts, the final segment is left blank, and has no percentage figure beside it.

This forces the poor human operators to calculate the percentage value themselves (the built-in calculator could probably be used though). Both these problems appear trivial and seem easily overcome, so why haven't they been?

As a typewriter on its own, the TC600 would be good; with the built-in word processor, it's excellent. Needless to say, he word processor is not up to the standard of the larger, commercially available packages (mainly due to the limited LOS size), but it does have a great many facilities.

Though not part of this review, I was able to get my hands on the optional 3.5 in disk unit (model FB-100). It runs on four 1.5 volt, penlight batteries, plugs into the serial port on the TC600, and increases the on-line memory by 100K to 114K. It may, like both the TC600 and the BP30, be

driven from a mains adapter; you can't run both pieces of equipment off the same adaptor, though. The best way to learn about a product is

to use it, so initially I started to write this text using this machine — which proved to be a near fatal mistake. After using the machine for a week or so, I saw that the battery low indicator was flashing, and soon afterwards the printer became corrupted.

The battery life on the TC600 should be 400,000 characters, but in this case it was

from the mains), and only use the batteries when the mains is inconvenient. This also goes for the BP30, as this draws even more. (This would also prove economical in the long run, as the adaptor costs about £14.)

# Verdict

Excluding the power drain problems, the TC600 rates highly, and offers good value when compared to other typewriters. It can be used for anything from a school child writing an essay to the Chancellor preparing the budget (except he has to supply his

QWERTYUIOPASDFGHJKLZXCVBNMqwertyuiopasdfghjklzxcvbnm 1234567890\*"/@£ &'()?½-!¢;=,.½,.%:+\$?½

Characters enabled with the 2nd shift key.

×÷+\°²[]{}<>μ\$¢£h¥Ççååiβ;'¶#|ÆæØø¿&!@§\*

The character set on the Brother TC600 is both readable and versatile.

nowhere near this figure. Was it the batteries or the machine? To my surprise, I realised that the 'beast' draws I amp of the batteries. So, as a recommendation to all would-be buyers, make sure that you buy the mains adaptor (it only draws 25mA

own calculator).

The BP30 on the other hand is a strange piece of equipment, its uses limited by its very nature as a personal plotter. It even has its shortcomings as a plotter; however, I cannot tell a lie—I loved it.

# SPECIFICATIONS

Distributor

Product Brother TC600

Price £415 + VAT; adaptor £11.95 + VAT; disk £175 + VAT

Description Portable typewriter/printer, with word processor

Features Serial port, 14K RAM for file storage

Options 3.5in micro floppy (100K capacity) mains adaptor

Print Method Electro thermal, carbon ribbon cartridge

Product Brother BP30

Price £199+VAT; adaptor £11.95+VAT

Description Portable, personal graph plotter

Features Eight graph types, three text sizes, four colours Options Mains adaptor

Print method Hammer actuated ink pens

(for both TC600 and BP30) is Brother 061-330 6531.

CN FEBRUARY 21985 27

# An Epson in Commodore clothing



How many Commodore home computer owners, when faced with buying a printer, have longed to own an Epson but been put off by the problems involved "Firstly," it is not easy to connect the two togethers decondly, were when connected, it may be necessary to lead chief software or the cartricte sich may be unusable. Finally continues or the cartrictes into many but unusable. Finally commodore specific characteristics such as graphics and formating

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provides a EK buffer as well.

What's more all the additional Seatures that have made Epson so successful, such as condensed print and other type styles, are accessible directly by the Commodore computer. For the business use the ability to use 15 inch paper (in the MOXEXFX-100 range) and print a sign (or other Epson special characters) well prove invaluables.

the abuny to use 15 mich paper (in the MARKEYE-100 range) and pr sign (or other Exposs special characters) will prove invaluable. So go on — spoil yourself. If you are the owner of a Commodore personal computer treat yourself to an Epson — and a Comprist of course!



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# PHERALS PRO-TEST: QL

he lack of a fast and reliable storage system is one of the major drawbacks of the Sinclair QL; however, a remedy is now at hand. Cambridge Systems Technology has developed a floppy disk interface, which is probably the most significant peripheral development for the QL vet.

# Hardware

The interface uses the Western Digital WD1770 disk controller chip, one of the new generation of disk controllers, and requires little support circuitry. The necessary controlling software is contained in an on-board EPROM, which means that the interface uses a negligible amount of RAM. About a third of the printed circuit board is empty, and CST is thinking about putting an additional 128K of RAM into the vacant space as an optional extra.



The slot in the controller neatly matches the OL.

The standard of construction is first class, except that the crystal (for the disk controller clock) is mounted vertically, making it look rather vulnerable. Connection to the QL is via a 64-way female connector at one end of the interface, which plugs into the expansion port at the left of the machine; a 34-way male connector at the other end is used for connection to the disk drive(s). One or two disk drives may be used, and they may be 3in, 3.5in or 5.25in, 40 or 80 track, single/double-sided. If two drives are used, they need not be of the same type. The interface is configured for double-density operation.

# Software

Tony Tebby (the author of QDOS) was responsible for the software in the EPROM which is very well integrated with QDOS. The disk drives are treated in the same way as Microdrives, except that they are called flp1 or flp2.

As with Microdrives, 512 byte sectors are employed, and Tebby has used some clever software techniques to enable QDOS to ascertain whether the drives are 40 or 80 track, single or double sided. The optimum stepping rate is also determined automatically by the software, so virtually any drives may be used.

There was a lot of room left in the EPROM, and this has been used for the addition of some of the functions pro-

The QL grows up at last with this floppy disk system, says Leon Heller.

vided in Sinclair's forthcoming 'QLkit' toolkit for the QL.

# Documentation

The 27 page manual contains detailed fitting instructions, information on the use of the interface with SuperBasic and the Psion packages, and details on the additional functions provided. It is well-written, with plenty of examples.

disk interface v1.04 1984' is displayed at the top of the screen.

When F1 or F2 has been selected, a disk may be inserted, and the disk formatted by the usual format command, eg: 'format flp 1\_fred'. I used a 40 track double-sided drive, and the message '720/720 sectors' was returned when the formatting finished, indicating that 720 sectors each holding 512 bytes were available. In fact, 'dir flp1\_ indicated that 714 sectors were free, since QDOS needed some of the available space. Anyway, I was left with over 300K of reliable disk storage-

I can't say very much about the actual use of the interface, as it behaves exactly like a Microdrive - except that it is about three times faster at loading and saving programs, and completely reliable. I successfully patched the Psion Archive software to run on disk, and there shouldn't be any problems doing the same to Quill, Abacus and Easel. I understand that version 2 of the Psion packages will work 'as is' from disk. when Sinclair releases them.

The interface and matching 5.25in drives will cost about £250 and when large-scale production gets under way, the interface will be available on its own for about £145.

# Verdict

The addition of this interface to the QL transforms it into a perfectly viable small business system. A total price of under £1000 (including VAT) for a QL, monochrome monitor, disk interface, twin disk drives and printer, which, with version 2 of the Psion software when it becomes available represents excellent value for money.



All connected up the QDisk produces a useable system.

## In use

Installing the interface is simply a matter of ensuring the QL is disconnected from the mains, removing the cover over the expansion port, and sliding the interface in until the connectors mate. The disk drive(s) may then be connected to the interface (power to the drives should first be removed), and the power restored. The usual initial display is the result, inviting the user to press F1 or F2, except that the message 'CST QL

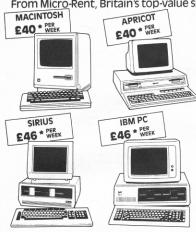
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# **SPECTRUM**

# JEWEL OF POWER

Concealed in unpromising packaging, The Jewel of Power turns out to be an excellent animated graphics adventure. As you'd expect, doors open by means of redrawing the picture for each location - and in some places there are animated effects.

Having explored my house and discovered the purpose of my quest (look for fragments of a wand). I was walking in the countryside when a goat suddenly appeared at one location, only to disappear again almost as quickly. It emerges every time you arrive there, but I haven't yet figured out why. Elsewhere I got caught by a giant and placed in a cage to await my fate, the giant's face appearing to leer as he did so.

There is a picture for each of the 120 locations, and with the animated touches as well, it's astounding to see how it's all been squeezed into the memory,



with the pictures appearing instantly rather than drawn.

But this does have its snags. For instance, one way of saving memory is by restricting the parser that analyses the commands, and this does prove a nuisance in places. When you see a box of matches you can't GET BOX OF GET MATCHES, but must get box of matches, and similarly in one place OPEN TRAP DOOR WORKS, but OPEN TRAPDOOR doesn't

You have to study the objects in each picture, not only the text, so having spotted a mirror in the bedroom I tried EXAMINE MIRROR. I was told 'All that is here you see,' implying there was nothing more to be found; yet if you STUDY MIRROR, something happens, and this was only discovered by studying the solution provided

The other major fault is that there's no automatic restart to the game. You're told you must reload the data, yet when loading the game you're not told where the data files start so that you can mark it on the tape and rewind. This is soon overcome by saving the game as soon as you've started, but it is still annoving.

Complaints apart, I enjoyed Jewel of Power thoroughly, especially trying to figure out the Escher-like monument I ventured into, where you can continually go up or down in a never-ending circle. It's perhaps best to SAVE your achievements before you step into here, believe me.

With castles, desert, forests, prison cells, lanterns, dungeons, mazes and even trolls on bridges, this is definitely for the traditional adventurers.

Mike Gerrard



Rating 8/10 Price £9.50 Publisher Slogger Software 0634-811634

# **BBC**

# LABYRINTH

This maze-chase stars Mork, whose task it is to find seven crystals deposited about the labyrinth of the title. Mork's a well-animated little character, and well need he be to keep clear of the many creatures of the labyrinth.

You can always try to dispatch the creatures rather than dodge them, of course, and Mork is armed with a laser that fires in the direction of movement, and an even more devastating weapon: a creature-crushing boulder. This is a handy thing to have, though it's cumbersome to move about.

Each room of the labyrinth takes up one screen, with maybe a dozen or so rooms interconnected to make up the first level. One of the exits is barred by a portal, only opened when you've collected the magic crystal. At first you can bob about without worrying too much about maps, but as soon as you're through the first portal you need to try to keep a track of your progress otherwise you find yourself returning to the first level face to face with some of the creatures you thought you'd left behind.

To give you strength to keep

all this up you need to eat the fruit that's lying around the labyrinth. Unfortunately, you also look tasty to the nasty inmates, of which there are



nine varieties, all acting in different ways. Some can only be bashed by the boulder, others are seen off with one shot, some with two shots, while one or two seem to be indestructible. One problem is that the beings on screen bear little resemblance to their mug-shots in the instructions, but at least you can pause the game to check, as well as switch the sound on and off; control is via keyboard or joystick.

Labyrinth is a simple but enjoyable game: nothing stunningly original, but well-done with nice sound and graphics.



Rating 7/10 Price £9.95 Publisher Acornsoft 0223-16039

# **SPECTRUM**

# **BUGGY BLAST**

'Blast' is the operative word in this space shoot-'em-up game. The graphics and movement are extremely impressive, but the game has a serious flaw no joystick option.

The game starts inside a detailed mothership where your buggy is being prepared for launch. At this point you are given the option of using either the cursor or another set of predefined keys.

The buggy is powered up, launched into space, and then down into the dreaded Lurgon



Corridor, the enemy stonghold. Your buggy will zoom along the wire-frame Corridor under its own steam (sorry, Argon Crystal Converter). What you | have to do is point and fire your at the various approaching aliens.

The laser sights are twin prongs that move up, down, left and right. For really mean aliens, you may need to fire a Xion Phaser instead. The Lurgons have a wide range of defences in their six sectors: cytrax cannons, helibombs, orbital suacers and doomships (most impressive), and argon magnets. As if that wasn't enough, there's also time spinners, radiations storms, reverse gravity zones, time zones and mine jammers. Alternatively, you can jump from the Corridor back into space and try to dock with the mothership.

The whole game is graphically superb: colour, movement, and sound are all used effectively, and there's enough variety of action to keep you interested. **Bob Chappell** 



Rating 8/10 Price £5.95 Publisher Firebrand 01-379 6755

# **AMSTRAD**

CRYSTAL THEFT Crystal Theft is one of the first adventures to appear for the Amstrad, and is text only.

The screen layout is well organised, with four separate windows showing the location description, inventory, messages from your character and your latest instruction to the program.

The scene is set on a minor Vegan colony world, presum-ably populated by eccentric vegetarians. You play the part

of a Field Captain in the Intruder Battalion, whose assignment is to penetrate a Vegan temple and recover a vital FTL crystal. All this is carried out against the clock, and the elapsed time may be displayed at any stage.

According to the program notes, the Semantic Analyser module can understand complex instructions of the form go SOUTH THEN TAKE THE KEY AND CLIMB THE POPE

I have my suspicions, however, that it has either been tampered with by a Vegan infiltrator or is programmed to understand Vegan rather than

English. I was hard pressed to evoke a response other than 'Pardon?' to any instruction



that wasn't a point of the compass. If you have produced a 'Pardon?' response to a recent instruction, it can then take several repeats to get the Analyser to understand a simple go NORTH.

To my mind, a good adven-ture should start with simple problems and progress to the harder stuff as you work your way into it. This one offers too many dead ends and I've just deserted the Battalion. The Vegans can keep their crystal.

**Simon Williams** 



Rating 5/10 Publisher Wiccasoft 0625-72988

# **COMMODORE 64**

# MONOPOLY

Leisure Genius is well known for its skill in faithfully translating the most popular board games, such as Scrabble, Kensington and Cluedo, to the home computer. Now it's turned its attention to the Big Daddy of them all, Monopoly.

Up to six players can take part, any one of whom can be taken by the computer. You may opt to play out the game or set a time limit. Board, border and token colours may be changed at any time. You get to choose your favourite token and deciding who goes first is accomplished by the computer - cast dice rolled across the board.

The familiar Monopoly board occupies the top half of the screen. Pressing D rolls the dice again, and the player's token advances around the board. The lower half of the screen scrolls to the right and shows, in large size, the square you are current-

ly on, plus the next three. Making all the Monopoly transactions is very simple. Pressing a single initial letter (eg M for Mortgage), and following the prompts, allows you to find out who owns what. and enables you to trade, mortgage properties, buy and sell houses and hotels, and so on.

Auctioning of properties is handled very neatly. The cur-



new bid is made by entering your player number and then your bid. A time limit is set, the chimney. As you hop about you must look and examine every-

rent bid appears and the bid-

der's number is highlighted. A

end of which is denoted by the words 'Going . . . Going . . and an auctioneer's gavel thumping down, making the board shake!

The computer looks after all the player's property records, and finances, but you must make your own claims for rent - just like the board game. Community chest and Chance cards are displayed and acted upon at the appropriate time. Well recommended. Bob Chappell



Rating 9/10 Price £12.95 Publisher Leisure Genius 01-935 4622

# SPECTRUM

# WITCH'S CAULDRON

Mikro-Gen's The Witch's Cauldron is a graphics adventure in which you begin life as a 'plucky toad', and must restore yourself to human form. The reason for your reptilian resemblance is that you've upset the wicked witch Hazel, who has imprisioned you in her lair. She doesn't seem to be around in the early stages of the game, though her mad assistant Moctuper keeps interfering in your attempts to de-toad yourself.

Naturally you're on the lookout for spells, and the instructions tell you that there are strange ingredients scattered about the 100 or so locations, some of which must be put into Hazel's cauldron . . . if you can find it.

You begin in a different location each time, but always in and around the witch's parlour: under the armchair, in the fireplace, under the couch, and suchlike. Each location has its accompanying picture, and



very good they are too, includ-ing you yourself 'doing the toad', so to croak. So good is this impression that you merely have to type the word up, and there you are, perched on top of the armchair or half-way up the

thing, including objects that are depicted but not necessarily in the text which occupies a dozen or so lines beneath the picture.

There are some objects that you're unable to get in your initial form, such as a bottle of whisky, but there are clues written in various places to try to help you metamorphose. So far I've managed it several times, turning into a bat or a cat, but each time my efforts were thwarted: Moctuper seems to find batburgers particularly tasty, and it doesn't do to change into a cat if you're in a location you'll then be too big to get out of again. I've been caught in a mousetrap, where typing help produces a mouse who asks you a riddle. One of

may utilise in several ways. As

he ploughs through the eleven sheets, he may bomb a Red Bird these I could answer, another I couldn't, and I was dead again, having scored a feeble 200 out of a possible 10,000.

Despite the deaths, and only having uncovered 11 locations so far, the game is proving to be great fun, with a little more uncovered each time. You can save the game, as you'll need to. and full sentences can be entered as well as abbreviated commands. Keyboard response is brisk, and adventures shoud well enjoy being under this

particular witch's spell. The standard of Mikro-Gen's software has certainly rocketed over the six months.



Rating 9/10 Price £6.95 Publisher Mikro-Gen

Mike Gerrard

0344-427317

and dirtying the car wind-This effect makes them crash

and enable Percy to snatch up the wriggling worm and rush back (carefully) to feed his young chicks.

Compared with the Commodore 64 version this is, I'm afraid, a decidedly poor substitute.

Karen Isaac



Rating 5/10 Price £6.95 Publisher Gremlin Graphics 0742-753423

# SPECTRUM

# POTTY PIGEON

Potty Pigeon is an average arcade game which uses a good variety of colours, but unfortunately hasn't the graphics to go with them.

Percy, dad of three very hungry chicks, has to keep his greedy family supplied with worms which are scattered at random around the screen. But alas, there are dangers involved, for although Percy is blessed with three lives he has to face horrific obstacles. He has to avoid speedy cars.

noisy planes, paratroopers, dogs, cats, creepy spiders, killer Venus snapdragons, frogs, Unidentified Flying Objects and humans - all of which may prevent him from performing his paternal duties. Doing the worm rounds saps Percy's energy and to restore his fading strength he has to eat a Mayfly which hovers at the top of the

With all these dangers it's lucky that Percy is equipped with exploding eggs which he

(which, incidentally, worms from Percy at every opportunity) or he may confuse drivers by dropping these eggs

inventory, etc, and it's certainly

a colourful game. Responses are reasonably quick, but unfortunately the claim that it understands a wide vocabulary is not absolutely true. For example, in the encounter with Mexican Pete (this being just one of Rochdale's strange inhabitants), he has three objects, and offers to sell two of them to you for \$500, asking you if it's a deal. I answered 'Yes', only to be told to come back with the

money, which I already had That apart, there's a lot of fun and legitimate brain-teasers in the adventure. I still haven't

worked out how to wake the bugling busker, though a foray into Rochdale's underground (ie the cemetery) was successful, leading to subterranean tunnels and a hilarious routine

with a small box.

So despite its faults, Arnold an enjoyable romp for those with a sense of the ridiculous. and patience to cope with the responses. Mike Gerrard responses.

Rating 7/10



Price £5.50 **Publisher** Nemesis 0933-623967

# **AMSTRAD**

# THE WISE AND FOOL OF ARNOLD BLACKWOOD

Arnold goes to somewhere else yet again, in the third of his quaintly named adventures. which are gathering quite a few fans. The Wise and Fool of Arnold Blackwood has to be the first adventure where the purpose of your noble quest is to find a Wimpy Bar in Rochdale. His Lordship has a treat for you and he'll hand it over in the said Wimpy Bar. But first, explains the introduction in typical style: 'I must earn a few bob,' cos I'm on a Whisky Diet. I lost three days last week.



Arnold is text-only, using the Amstrad's windowing display to give location descriptions, directions, prompts, responses,



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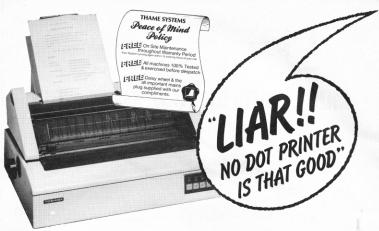
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## **FTWARE PRE-VIEW**



We check out the latest contenders on the software market, and cast an eye to the future. Don't forget, if you want your company's package to be included on this page, send your latest releases to Bryan Skinner, PCN, 62 Oxford Street, London W1A 2HG, along with prices and 'phone numbers.

#### **AMSTRAD**



Amsoft seems to have an inexhaustible supply of conversions for its micro. Best of the bunch this week is Micro-Gen's Pyjamarama. The hero

Wally is in the throes of a nightmare and you must help him find his alarm clock and wind it up. As you move round the house you have to find various objects to help you attain your goal.

The graphics are among the best I've seen on the machine and even though the price is steep I'd recommend it.

Notso Dragon's Lair, another

Amsoft product, but originating from the Romik stables. This is a rather slow and dull little number that would be overpriced at a fiver.

Frank'N' Stein is PSS's translation from its Spectrum game and looks nice. Battle For Midway is 'an accurate computer version of the Second World War battle in the Pacific Ocean'. PSS reckon to have improved on its original versions - full reviews to follow.

Camel Micros is one of the few producers of non-games software for the Amstrad. Its Flexifriend is a home budget package. but with a few extra facilities. such as a calculator you can call up at any point.

Flexifriend £7.50 Camel Micros 0392-211892 House of Horrors £6.95 Solid Software 0253-58634 £8.95 Amsoft 0277-23022 Pyjamarama Amsoft 0277-23022 Classic Racing £8.95 Frank'N' Stein £8.95 Amsoft 0277-23022 £8.95 Amsoft 0277-23022 Dragon's Lair

#### SPECTRUM

£9.95 PSS 0203-667556



Battle For Midway

Software Star

Brian Bloodaye takes the oft' favoured Norse theme, with a platform-type format, whose appeal looks set to rival classics

like Jet-Set Willy and Manic Miner. There are 104 screens, over 300 monsters (including pints of lager, bishops, scissors and the like), hidden traps you name it, it's got it, and we'll be reviewing it shortly.

Afghan Attack may be an inexcusably tasteless title. more so than Raid Over Moscow, but it's just a rather poor Quilled adventure. Our adventure reviewer reports that although it's in two parts, neither is really worth the effort, and it seems unlikely that its author(s) travelled much further than the layatory in search of inspiration.

Following Ocean's Gift From The Gods (and others), Melbourne House is borrowing from legend in the search for new game scenarios. Ulysses, the Gorgon, and the Minotaur all appear here. There are three frames, the first being a sort of Kong game - climb Mount Olympus, and avoid the tumbling boulders. Screen two is a pillar puzzle, replete with trampoline and Minotaur, and the third's a maze job in which you have a monster-bashing mace. Nice graphics (no sound), but

£7.95 Addictive Games (Chacom) 418297

not really a classic. Software Star comes from Addictive Games who brought you Football Manager. You take control of a software house and have to take it to financial success, successfully handling problems with staff, advertising, finance and launches. Could be some MDs will find a use for this in 1985 (it's noticable that there doesn't appear to be any facility for buying yourself Ferraris).

Heroes of Karn is an illustrated adventure, Hobbit style. Your brief is to enter the land of Karn and free it from the powers of darkness by releasing the four heroes - Beren, Istar, Haldir and Khadim - from captivity.

The program allows you to instruct the other characters, and once you've visited a location you don't have to wait for its picture to be re-drawn if you don't want it.

Now the snow's gone you'll be able to turn to a ski simulation to relive all those wild moments of glory in your local park, Ski Star 2000 gives you a 3D skier's eye view of an obstacle course through snow-flecked goggles. You're guided by the horizon, a route map and control panel. The press release boasts an infinite number of obstacle

course designs which you can generate with the Course Designer section of the package. There are fixed modes so you

can compete with friends on these for best times and highest scores. A 64 version will be released shortly and Richard Shepherd claims that 'this program bears no resemblance to any ski program on the market'.

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#### **COMMODORE 64**



Automan is a two-part arcade game based on the TV series of the same name. One part is a sort of 3D car chase, and the

other is a platform affair. Despite the promotion and packaging, it's rather a disappointment, although a full review will appear soon.

Imports from US Gold still dominate the value for money stakes. Its latest, Synsoft's Sentinel, is no exception. It's a 3D starship game, and you must defend the planet Jaraloba. Although Orpheus is better

known for its Oric software, its latest release is a C64 database called Megabase.

It uses a sentence type re-

trieval language, giving greater flexibility than standard menu-driven approaches. What puzzled me was where the press release states, 'Machine code drivers make Megabase substantially faster than other comparable database programs'. So just what's a machine code driver in this case? Answers, please, on a postcard

- to Orpheus. Simulations are through a phase of bubbling under. The latest is a glider simulation from CRL. Written by an experienced competition glider pilot, High Flyer has you floating on thermals, and checking the 'View from Cockpit' instrumentation. There are four speeds, and a selection of weather conditions to add zest

to the program.

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#### MSX



High Fh

Automa

Megaba

Softwar

Activision one of the few software houses produc-ing MSX software is any quantity. but unfortunately

not in any much quality, (if you want really good MSX soft-

ware, look to Konami, but be prepared to fork out over £15 per game). Pitfall II and River Raid are fair products, but are based on rather old game concepts. Overpriced they may be, but they should give Activision a head start in the MSX software rush that is sure to come soon.

River Raid £11.99 Activision 0628-75171 Pitfall 2 £11.99 Activision 0628-75171

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### OFTWARE PRO-TEST: AMSTRAD

# PASCAL AT A PINCH

Amstrad owners who want to do serious work with a compiled langauge could do worse than to try HiSoft's version of Pascal, says Simon Williams.

he Amstrad CPC 464 has one of the fastest Basics (Locomotive) available on a home computer, but you may still want to use a compiled language. You want the extra speed without programming in machine code.

Pascalis a strong contender for the job: for instance, it resembles Basic in many respects, though it's a bit more fussy about syntax, and the language is favoured by schools and universities because of its 'structured' characteristics. A Pascal compiler has been brought out by HiSoft, which has already issued a version of Pascal for the Spectrum, as well as DeuPac for the Amstrad.

#### First impressions

The Pascal 4T compiler comes on cassette with a thorough 96-page, ring-bound manual. This is a User Reference Manual for the compiler itself and makes no pretence of teaching you Pascal. Hisoft does produce a tutorial guide, but this isn't included.

The reference manual covers the syntax of the various Pascal 'parts of speech', a description of the extensions made to the language to take account of the CPC's features, and a description of the commands available within the text editor. It also contains a series of appendices which offer a list of error messages, a description of the turtle graphics package included with the language, a number of example programs and a set of useful library routines. Sadly, there's no index.

#### In use

Pascal 4T uses about 19K of RAM, leaving about 20K for programs and data. Once loaded from cassette, the language takes over from Basic and the Amstrad is a Pascal machine.

A help menu is displayed before you start, consisting of a number of single character commands which are used mnemonically to perform different actions. For example, to list a number of lines of program you would type 'Ln,m',

# | MiSoft Acormsoft | Pascal 4T ISO Pascal 4T

Comparative timings (sec).

Repeatloop	30.4	119.7
Literalassign	30.0	52.3
Memoryaccess	30.4	53.1
Realarithmetic	19.8	61.2
Realalgebra	21.0	58.3
Vector	40.4	202.1
Equalif	33.4	105.6
Unequalif	33.4	105.2
Noparameters	18.6	30.7
Value	19.3	37.9
Reference	19.4	34.8
Maths	84.8	346.1

See PCW (Dec 84) for Pascal benchmarks.

where n is the start line number and m the end line. Line deletion is similarly done using 'Dn,m'. You soon adjust to the abbreviated instructions.

Editing the text file (the lines of your Pascal source program) is achieved the same way as in Basic. You use either a copy cursor or a single line editor with Microsoft-like delete and insert commands. Line numbers are used purely for reference when inserting or editing text, and the editor provides them automatically if asked. Renumbering is also possible. If you type in a line of source code with the same number as an existing line, the old line is renumbered one higher—a useful safety net.

A completed program may be compiled by issuing the 'C' command. A number of compiler options are available, governing such things as a printout of the compilation and the internal checks made as the code is compiled. There is a sensible set of defaults for all these options, so you need only use those you require.

HiSoft Pascal compiles straight to Z80 machine code, and the object code may be executed on any CPC by loading it as a binary file. Any errors occurring during compilation are signalled and you can switch back into the editor to correct each one. Error codes are given, which must be looked up in the manual—with over 70 different error messages, it would have taken a lot of memory to include them with the compiler. The compilation is quickly over, and you're prompted to run the object code. All you have to do is press Tk.

HiSoft Pascal is fast by micro standards for the language, partly because it runs as Z80 code rather than an intermediate code, such as that used by the Acornsoft ISO Pascal compiler for the BBC Micro.

This Pascal would have been faster if it were not for the Amstrad's firmware, which makes time-consuming keyboard checks using a long-winded ROM call. This may turn out to be one of the biggest drawbacks: well-documented ROM calls may be a bont on the novice programmer, but may prove a headache for commercial software houses.

The turtle graphic routines are a welcome bonus. They are the routines everyone remembers as the spectacular part of the educational language Logo.

They're loaded separately from the compiler, from the other side of the cassette. A set of 15 commands includes the usual backwards, forwards, turn, penup and pendown, and combined with the speed of Pascal, routines using them run much faster than under the more stately Logo environment.

#### Verdict

HiSoft Pascal is a very usable implementation of the language, and runs with commendable speed. The editor should be no surprise to anyone who has used the Basic editor on the Amstrad, but has a number of extra facilities.

The package sensibly compiles directly to machine code, and this may be run independently from the compiler, making it likely that individuals and software houses will use it to write their own commercial software.

The language has been well integrated with the facilities of Amstrad, so it's much more than a simple translation of HiSoft's Spectrum Pascal. The company is at work on a version of C, and if the implementation is as good as this one, the Amstrad will soon be well endowed with efficient, compiling languages at reasonable prices.

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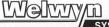
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Chris Curry admits that Acorn's attempt to enter the US market was 'a signal failure' but still has high hopes for overseas sales. We are succeeding in other markets, for exam-ple India,' he said with a flourish.

Well it was certainly an interesting variation on an old theme. Normally when UK manufacturers attempt to contradict stories of poor sales they

It's a turn up for the books. In the old days we just supplied them with civilisation, now it's BBC Micros as well. But former

At a recent exhibition in Moscow, Acorn was there again, along with Sinclair - in name at least. Burly citizens by the name of Boris and Olga were able to ogle the latest UK hi-tech offerings.

The presence of our leading micro makers in Moscow is hardly likely to be of much interest over here, except to such people as PPS, the Coventry software supplier, which announced that it had ceased trading with the Soviet Union after the shooting down of a certain Korean airliner.

But one extraordinary feature of the Soviet scene, according to reports, is that Russia has 64,000 secondary schools that need to be supplied with micros. It shows how far behind the times they are. Nothing less than 128K will do in the West this year.

This presumably explains selling the

Omni-Reader optical character recognition device (issue 95). The Omni-Reader won a Rita Award at the Which Computer? Show last week as Newcomer of the Year. The year at that time was just 15 days old, and the Rita Awards themselves are little more than a tedious punctuation mark in the life sent-

become. But we shouldn't let | that detract from Oberon's achievement



AIRY FAIRY - Since the dawn of time man has sought to conquer the air. Early attempts with Lockheed Starfighters might have deterred a lesser breed, but man pressed on as he dodged the dodgy jet aircraft dropping out of the sky all around him. Here is a photographic testimonial of his most recent and most noble effort. Man is turning conquest of the air into a handicap race. As you can see, the fearless pioneer photographed is attempting to sever his links with Mother Earth while carrying unnecessary weight in the form of a Texas Instruments Pro-Lite microcomputer.

#### SYNTAX ERROR

Last week's issue compiled per fectly first time. There are no Syntax Errers, Err, there are no Syntacks Errors. Let's try that again . . . nothing went wrong.

#### **NEXT WEEK**

Protek Pro-Test

Micro comms come under the microscope as we check out the Protek modem - is the software keeping pace with the hardware in the race to get you on-line?

#### Après Apricot

As the new crop of Apricots comes on stream from ACT. cast your eyes over the F1e model.

#### **Attic Attack**

Dust the cobwebs off your Spectrum and send it into action with this game.

#### Vic ball point

How do you rate Vic 20 as a word-smith? Raise its game with our routine to send its hard-won hard copy to an MPS801 printer.

Amstrad dance Twinkle your toes or tinkle the ivories, whatever takes your fancy with this tuneful addition

#### to your CPC464's repertoire. Spectrum palette II

Part two of the listing that will let you look at your Spectrum through rose-tinted screens.

#### Crazy Caverns II

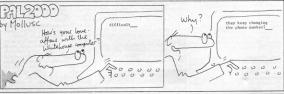
The second installment of our Tony Crowther exclusive hits the screens next week.

Abbeydale Road

Not a Beatles album or the Sheffield to Chesterfield highway, but a Pro-Test of the latest (and from the software point of view) most promising disk units for the Spectrum.

#### Sinclair's decision to cease production of the ZX Spectrum. 16K is a flea-bite and 48K refer to good overseas sales. When asked where, they aldoesn't exactly make the blood course through the veins. But will Sinclair stop building and ways say France. C'est la vie. machines altogether? Of course it won't. There are hundreds of thousands of people out there (Out where? Well, Ulan Bator, for example, or Chittagong) colonies are not alone. who don't even have two bytes to rub together. Finally, congratulations are due this week to Oberon International, which makes the

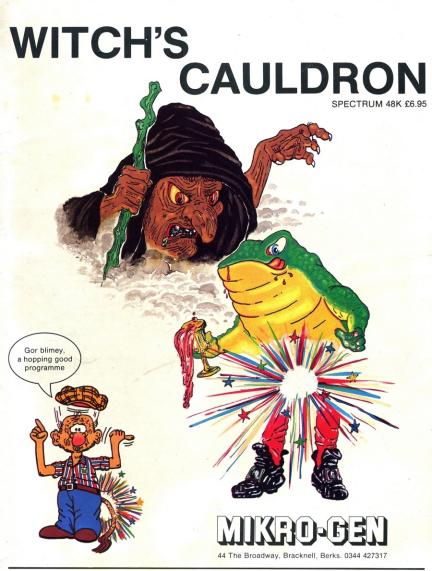
ence that show coverage can



		PCN DATELINES	
Event	Dates	Venue	Organisers
Apricot & Sirius Computer Show	Feb 5-7	Kensington Town Hall, London	Paradox Group, 01-241 2354
Intl trade show for home comps, software, etc — LET	Feb 17-19	Olympia, London	Turret-Wheatland, 0923-777000
ZX Microfair	Feb 9	Alexandra Palace, London	Mike Johnston, 01-801 9172
Intl Computer Graphics User	Feb 19-21	Barbican, London	Mountbuild, 01-486 1951 Show and Conference.
MEXCOM	Feb 25-28	Mexico City, Mexico	AESI Ltd, 01-379 7628
PC Trade Show	Feb 26-28	Barbican, London	EMAP Intl. Exhibitions, 01-837 3699
Computer Conference and Exhibition — INTERFACE	March 4-7	Atlanta, USA	Interface Group, 300 First Avenue, Needham Mass 02194
DEXPO Europe, 1985	March 6-8	Olympia 2, London	CGP 01-582 9256
Personal Computer Show	March 13-16	Sydney, Australia	Overseas Exhibition Services 01-486 1951
Personal Computer Show	March 21-24	Amsterdam, Holland	RAI Gebouw BV, Europaplein 2, 1078 GZ Amsterdam
Comp Conf and Exhbn — COMDEX/WINTER	March 21-24	Anaheim, USA	Interface Group 300 First Ave, Needham, MA 02194

EMTORAL Editor Pater Worksch. Deputy editor David Guest Production editor Lauraine Turner Deputy production editor Hard Regression And Regression and Control Re

Cronies and Frogs in Mikro-Gen's Progs....



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