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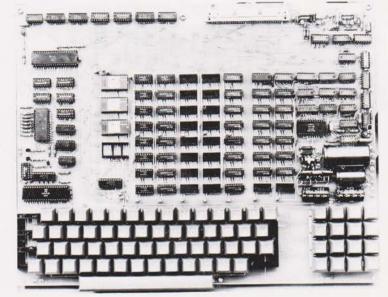
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(a division of POWERTRAN ELECTRONICS) PORTWAY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, ANDOVER ANDOVER HANTS SP10 3MN, (0264) 64455

VOL 1. NO 3. MAY '79

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Compu/Think? We do!

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# **NEW SOFTWARE**

Two new software catalogues arrived during the month. The first was the new Petsoft catalogue, bursting at the seams with new programs. These include 6 new Business packages, 8 new Educational and 8 new Games. The new catalogue is obtainable free from Petsoft, PO Box 9, Newbury, Berks. The second to arrive was from A.J.Harding, the TRS-80 software house. Again it's full of new programs as well as many tried and tested ones. One of the unusual features is the interspersion of tips on the TRS-80 which will be of great value to the user. Contact A.J.Harding at 28 Colling—ton Avenue, Bexhill, East Sussex.

# THE BYTE SHOP MOVES IN

The Byte shop have moved into London's West End, opening a new shop in the Totten—ham Court Road. Among the currently stocked systems are the SWT 6800, the PET, Cromenco and Compucolor II. The policy is to equip from stock any level of user from the beginner right up to the small businessman. Other product held in stock ranges from program packages to hardware add—ons. For further information write to the Byte Shop, 426/428 Cranbrook Rd, Gants Hill, Ilford.



# 1234567898 1234567898 123458718?1

# ELECTRO-PRINTER

An electrosensitive paper printer in OEM form is available from Dataplus Ltd of Cheltenham. It can handle alpha's and graphics in any size and form, using a 120 pin multi—stylus head for printing. The unit is virtually silent in operation and prints at up to 400 cps, that is equivalent

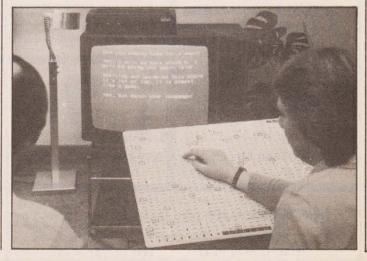
to 20 lines per second with 5x7 characters. Designed chiefly for the instrumentation market it can be built into terminals and point of sale units. The unit is 116 by 65 by 130 mm and weighs 1.1 Kg. For further data contact Dataplus on 0242—30030

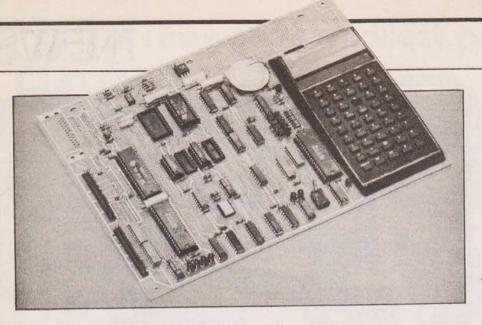
# SPLINK HELPS DEAF COMMUNICATE

An electronic aid for the speech and hearing handicapped has been developed by Medelec of Manor Way, Woking. Tel 048-62-70331. The unit is micro based and has access to 950 of the most commonly used words in our vocabluary. The user can build up sentences from the keyboard and display them on a domestic TV. The main area of projected use is for the deaf or those with a dysphasic condition. 50 sets are currently under trial and it is hoped to go into production in the Autumn. It is also hoped to generate interest within the NHS.

# COMART LAUNCH TWO

Comart have released two new versions of the Cromenco Z80A based processor. System 3/64 has dual 8" floppies and 64K of memory and comes with VDU and printer interfaces. Languages supported include COBOL, Extended BASIC and FORTRAN IV. Cost is £4385. System 2/64 has mini—disk drives and 64K and costs a mere £3050. Comart have also moved to new premises but the postal address is still PO Box 2, St Neots. Cambs. Tel 0480—215005





# TM990 TRAINER FROM TEXAS

A single board micro teaching aid has been announced by Texas Instruments. Called the TM990/189M it is designed for low-cost, hands—on experience for engineers and pro-grammers. Based on the 9900 16 bit micro it has 1K onboard RAM and 4K of ROM. Mass storage is provided by a cassette interface. Input is via a 45 key alpha—numeric pad and output is from a 10 digit display, any 10 bits from 32 may be viewed. The cost is £256 for 1-9 off. Also available now is a design manual for the 9900 series, at £8 it is aimed at all sections of the engineer field. Further information on both these products is available from Texas Instruments, Manton Lane, Bedford MK14 7PA.

# FREE FLOPPY BOOK

A new book explaining the essentials about floppy disk systems has been published. Called "The Floppy Disk, What You Should Know" it is produced by Square One Co. The idea behind the book is to educate people in how to use and handle floppies. The book is free and available from Square One Co., 614 Eighteenth Avenue, Menlo Park, California, 94025

# **BELL GETS THE BIRD!**

We must apologise most profusely to two of our authors who submitted articles for the April issue. The Nascom Package was in fact written by Mr.M.Bell and not by Mr.R.Bird. Mr. Bird did in fact write the 16K RAM article.

# ITHACA S100 AT NEWBEAR

Newbear are now stocking quantities of the Ithaca Audio S100 range. These include the following; 8K static RAM, a 2708 / 2716 EPROM card, a video display card, Z80 CPU, disk interface and a prototyping card. All are available as ready built and tested or as naked boards. Contact Newbear on 0635-49223.



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# MICRO HIRE

If you want to try out your ideal system before actually parting with the hard-earned cash Microdigital Hire may be your answer. The range of machines available is quite large and includes the PET at £35 per week, NAS-COM at £14, Sorcerer at £50, Apple II at £70. The service will be on a personal basis if you are within driving distance of the shop or by Securicor.Potential customers should ring Mike Maughan on 051–227–2535. A full technical and software backup service will be available.

# RAIR GOES TO COLLEGE

Thurrock Technical College is using the Black Box on Computer Science courses to develope and de-bug COBOL programs before running on the Essex county mainframe. This increases throughput on the mainframe as programming errors are reduced.Kitsen College of Leeds are also using a Black Box for A levels to run BASIC, COBOL and FORTRAN programs. They are also hoping to use it as an administrative tool and a student data base. Several other colleges are using the Black Box including Sterling University and

Hastings College of Further Education, and a total of 50 machines are now installed in educational establishments.For further information ring Mark Potts on 01-836-4663.

Also announced from RAIR is the H1410 VDU. Produced by Hazeltine it is an upgrade of the model 1400. It produces the 64 character ASCII subset in 5x7 dot matrix form on a 12" screen All 128 ASCII characters may be accessed from the keyboard. Connection is via an RS232 at selectable Baud rates up to 9600 Price is £590 or £37 per month Further rental. information from Howard Sayles on 01-836-4663





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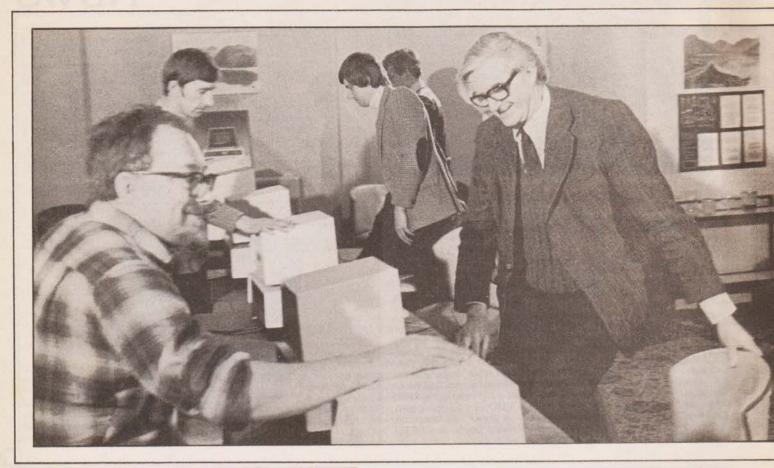
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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE





The twin mini floppy disc system provides off line storage of programs and data accessible more than 100 times faster than tape storage. Each  $5\frac{1}{4}$ " DISKETTE can store up to 81,920 bytes of program or data. Random average seek time may well be as low as 370 microseconds.

The twin drives and controller are housed in a metal saddle maintaining an integrated configuration, one of the major features of the PET. Connection is via the PET memory expansion port and the system comes complete with a PROM which boots the disc resident P-DOS into RAM. Control of the disc system is via PET BASIC USR instruction with simple commands from either the keyboard or under program control.

IBM 3740 compatible disc system.

The following disc system commands are available LOAD, SAVE, CREATE, DELETE and CATALOGUE. The file management system provides for up to 8 files to be opened concurrently. Files can be opened in READ,

WRITE, UPDATE and APPEND mode. The user may write his own disc system modules to expand the facilities of the disc resident system.

£950.00 excluding VAT.





# **CLUB NEWS**

Several new clubs have emerged from the mailbag over the last month and include the following.

Mr Michael Dean is starting up a TRS-80 users club in the Essex area and would like anyone interested to contact him. His address is 22 Roughtons, Galleywood, Chelmsford.

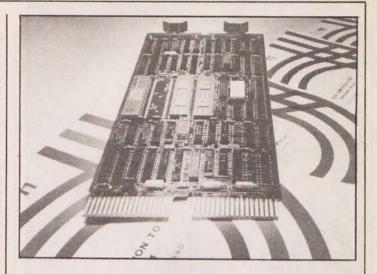
The National Association of 6502 Users is growing and currently has 33 members. New members are welcome and should contact the secretary, Mr W R Wallenborn at 21 Argyll Ave. Luton, Beds LU3 1EG.

An independent NASCOM users club (INUC) has been formed to promote the machine. Membership is £5 p.a. and you will receive at least 6 newsletters. One of the nice features is the software service, they will market members programs and ensure that the programmer gets a royalty for each sale. They may be contacted at Reliance Buildings, Damside Street, Lancaster.

If you live in the Bournemouth/ Poole area of Dorset and are interested in joining a microclub please contact Mr Ian Preece who is trying to start one up in that area. The address to write to is 246 Stewart Road, Charminster, Bournemouth.

Finally on the club scene we have heard about the formation of the Grampian Amateur Computer Society. Membership is currently 16 and they meet on the second Monday of each month. For further information contact the President, Michael Brown, at 282 Queens Road, Aberdeen AB1 8DR.

As a postscript we received a news item from the Keswick Chess Club about their match against the PET Microchess 2.0 fastest winner was Robin Bumstead in 13 minutes. His only recorded comment was that he would like to have one at home to play with.



# **NEW MICRO FROM** DIGITAL

Digital Equipment have launched a new LSI-II family cpu. Designated the LSI-II/23 it is fully compatible with the existing LSI series bus and emulates the PDP-11/34 mini-computer. The new micro features the full instruction set of the 11/34 and can run RSX-11M and RSX-11S which are multi-tasking, multi-

user operating systems. Software supplied is the standard range of languages for the LSI-II family. The unit can address 256K byte of memory by using a memory management unit similar to that of the 11/34. The cpu is a direct plug in replacement for the LSI-II/2 and will provide an instant upgrade for users of this system. It will be available as a boxed unit with power supplies or as an OEM assembly. Digital may be contacted on 0734-583555.

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# HARRIS IN SPACE

The Space Shuttle program is to use the Harris 6100 12bit CMOS micro as a replacement for the clumsy umbilical cord. The cpu will give constant monitoring of the space suit conditions and

display the data on a chest panel for the astronaut to observe. As an added bonus the micro will provide a navigation system and propulsion control for the free flight situation. Must say though that the guy in the suit doesn't look too happy with the idea at all!

# CONFERENCE NEWS

The European Conference on Applied Information Technology will be held at Wembly Conference Centre between the 25th and 28th September. The BCS will be co-ordinating the event and you should ring 0895-31118 for more details....

The dates for INFO 80, that's the third International Business Computing, Word Processing and Information Management Exhibition and Conference to those who want it spelt out, have been settled. It will be held in the Cunard International Hotel from the 12th to 15th of Feb. 1980. The organisers, BED Exhibitions Ltd., may be reached at :— Bridge House, Restmoor Way, Wallington, Surrey.

# PROGRAM ERROR

One tiny error crept into the NASCOM package last month, but it does tend to have rather nasty effects on your data. The error is in line 0F6D where the code 13 should be replaced by the code 1E. Several people seem to have problems loading, if this happens to you please WRITE in and we will forward the problems to the author.

# GO TO WORK ON A

The Greater Manchester Transport Executive are shortly to install a DEC PDP-11/70 processor and peripheral hardware to improve the bus services throughout the county. Manchester will be the second UK user of TRAX' DEC'S transaction processing software, and this is expected to cut design costs by at least 30%. The processor will be located in the executives HQ in the centre of Manchester and will be connected to all 19 depots by DEC VT62 terminals. The first application of the system be to implement their will management system database called TOPIC (Traffic Operations Information Capture). This will enable up to the minute scheduling of buses once a main time table has been agreed on. The Principal program to run on the data from TOPIC will be a version of The Leeds University VAMPIRE and is hoped to make substantial cost savings without affecting scheduling. The mainframe at GMT is an IBM 360/70 and the PDP-11/70 will act as a front end.

# DATA TERMINAL

New from Micronics, the Micros people, is the Microlink V820 portable data terminal. The unit is based on the Z80 cpu and has a built in keyboard and acoustic modem. There is also a 40 column printer with an optional TV interface. Designed for use

on the road by salesmen and engineers the basic unit will cost £1600. Mass storage is by cass—ette and a variety of firmware options will be available soon, including BASIC and a text processor, both in ROM. The whole unit is built into an exe—cutive style case. Contact Micronics on 01–892–7044.



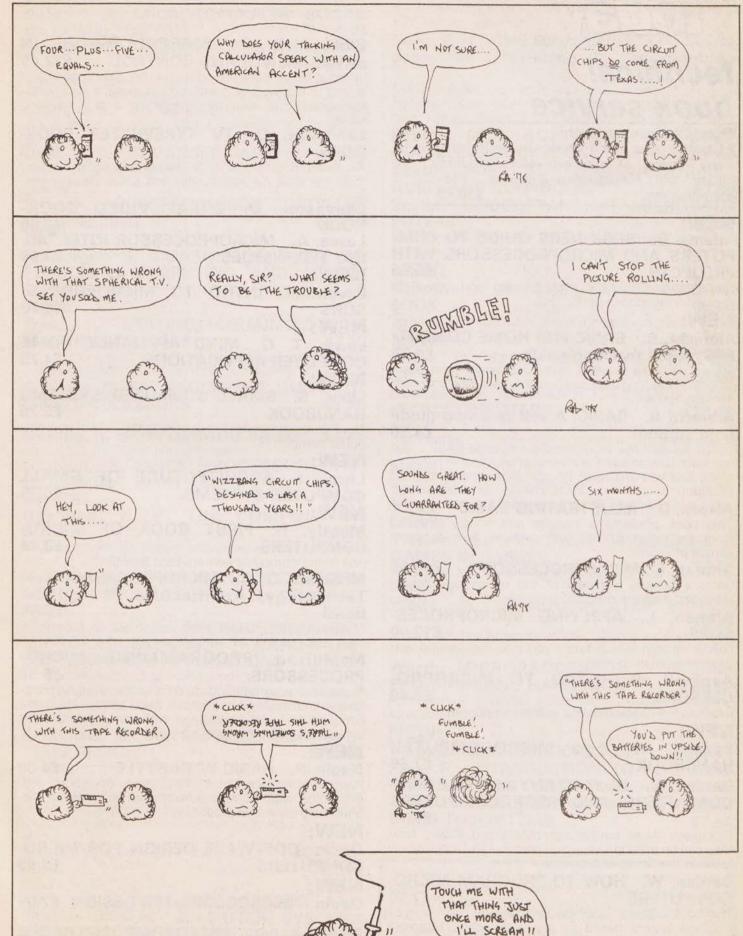
# DATACORDER FOR THE UK

An American designed low-cost data capture unit is now being marketed in the UK by Office Services Swindon. The unit is designed as a stand-alone device and costs between £2000 and £3000 depending on quantity. Based on a Z80 cpu the unit incorporates an 80 character printer, an ECMA/ANSI cassette recorder, a 40 character display,

full keyboard and an acoustic modem. The 16K memory can be expanded to 64K and to enable communication with the outside world it has an RS232 interface. Programming the device is by a language called Quick which is what it says it is! It can be used for most conventional data input and for form generation e.g. invoices, orders etc.. The machine will also support extended BASIC for stand-alone processing. Office Services can be found at 78 wimpole Street, London W1.

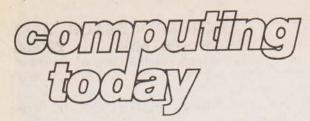


# BEASTIES



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This book presents a popular and widely available language called BASIC, and explains how to write simple programs.

Altman, I. MICROPROCESSORS £10.65
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Altman, L. APPLYING MICROPROCES-SORS £12.00

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Explains the characteristics of the component.

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Barden, W. HOW TO BUY AND USE MINI-COMPUTERS AND MICROCOMPUTERS

Discusses these smaller computers and shows how they can be used in a variety of practical and recreational tasks in the home or business.

Barden, W. HOW TO PROGRAM MICRO-COMPUTERS £7.00

This book explains assembly language programming of microcomputers based on the Intel 8080, Motorola MC6800 and MOS Technology MCS6502 microprocessor.

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# If you own a PET and want a disk now, read on...

ne of the most vital requisites for any small business computer system is mass storage. It is an unfortunate fact that although a cassette based system will be more efficient in terms of data handling than it's manual counterpart it can actually be slower in terms of data retrieval. Searching through files on cassette for specific records is a very time consuming business and unless the software is written to allow the processor to perform other tasks during this period the wastage of actual computing time is high. With a disk based system this waiting time is greatly reduced, and the use of disks for large database handling is of great importance. It should be noted that commercial digital tape mechanisms, as opposed to the audio type, tend to be much faster and are still used in large computer installations as back-up storage to the on-line disks.

A Disk, A Disk, My Computer For. . .

The PET has had large amounts of software written for it and up till now this has been cassette based owing to the lack of a suitable disk. Commodore have promised a dual disk drive for the PET in May but there is a currently available alternative. The Compu/Think dual floppy drive has generated considerable interest in both the home and small business markets and we decided to take a look at it and give our comments about it.

Before we had actually got around to this task we heard from Petsoft that they were also interested in the device. We were offered the evaluation prepared for them by one of their technical consultants and the following report is

based on that document.

# System Overview

The disk operating system goes under the trade name of DISKMON and uses the well tried PERTEC disk drives. This gives the system good reliability and long life.

The main drawback of this system is that you need the EXPANDAPET memory board before you can fit it to your PET (MINIMUM 16K), the best board to buy is the 32K board as the disk system needs 4K of RAM to operate and with a 32K board the top 8K that is not used by BASIC can be used to store the machine code program for the disk without interfering with the storage of BASIC programs and thus allows full use of the 32K that can be accessed by the PET.

The memory board only takes around 20 minutes to fit and the ROM card for the disk just plugs into one of the slots on the memory board, another of the 4 slots on the board is used to plug in the disk unit connector, leaving 2 spare slots for future expansion. One of these slots can be used later to upgrade the disk system to double

density. In its present form each disk holds 100K and if double density option is fitted this would allow 400K on line. The standard unit as it comes has 200K on line.

# **Command Set**

The ROM card gives PET BASIC 9 additional commands that can be used in the "READY" mode.

# SFORMAT #

The D stands for the number 1 or 2 depending on which drive you are using. This command formats an unused disk into 40 separate tracks, of these 39 are usable as number 1 is used for the disk directory. All disks must be formatted before use.

# \$MEM, AAAA

This command dumps a page of memory to PET's screen in hexadecimal and character format. The starting address must be a 4 digit hexadecimal number and the basic interpreter can be examined. The use of the graphics while displaying the memory dump to screen allows you to see where all keywords and error messages are stored.

# \$G0

This command executes a machine language program which has just been loaded into the PET using the \$LOAD command. After loading a machine language program from disk the PET pointers are set to obey the \$GO instruction and run a machine code program from the beginning, this saves working out the SYS address.

# \$DIR # D

This command lists the programs that are on a specified disk (1 or 2) and tells you the number of free tracks left available to the user.

# \$LOAD # D, \$SAVE # D

These 2 commands load or save a program from a specified disk.

# \$LOAD # D.FILENAME

This command would load a BASIC program from drive D

# \$LOAD # D,FILENAME.GO

The suffix .GO tells you it is a machine code program that has been loaded.

# \$SAVE # D,FILENAME

This is used the same way as load command, with one

# COMPU/THINK DISK REVIEW



A view of a typical small business, or advanced home computer, system. The PET has had the expansion memory fitted to hold the operating system. The printer is connected to the PET via an adaptor, IEEE-488 to RS232, for system output.

exception, if saving a machine code program you can if you want specify the range and starting point of the program.

# \$SAVE # D,WARTREK.GO,033A,04FF

This would save a machine code program that starts at address 033A and ends at 04FF. There is no need to specify these parameters when loading it back into PET as this is automatically taken care of.

# \$ERASE # D,FILENAME

This command erases a program from disk and reorganises free space so all free space is available for use and so the full disk can be used.

An example of this could be if you erased a 2K program then saved a 10K program. The 10K program would go to the same place as the 2K was erased from and the other programs on the disk in front of it would all move to make way for the larger program. This saves a lot of time when wondering how a program is going to fit onto a disk

# \$HALT OR \$H

This command clears PET's program memory completely.

# \$BLIST,FILENAME

This command lists the name program to a printer and prints the filename at the top of the listing and numbers the pages every 50 lines as this command assumes that there are to be 50 lines to a page.

# **Additional Commands**

There are another seven commands that can be used in READY mode or in PROGRAM mode, these are:—

# \$ODISK.R.D

This command opens a read file on a specified disk

# \$ODISK,W,D

Same command as above but opens to write a file.

# \$CDISK

This closes the currently used disk drive

# \$RDISK

This command reads the next sequential piece of data from a disk file and stores it in the variable DR\$ where it can be transferred to some other variable in your program.

# \$WDISK

This command writes the contents of variable DR\$ on to a disk data file where it can be read back later using \$RDISK. The last piece of data stored should be the string "EOF" so an end of file can be tested for.

# \$XEQ # D

This causes the program whose name is in the special variable DF\$ to be loaded and run. All variables are set to zero.



The Compu/Think disk showing the twin, vertically mounted drives. The lights on the front are to indicate 'drive on'.

# \$XER # D

As above but all variables are left intact so large programs can be overlayed.

# \$PRNT

This command causes the contents of special variable PL\$ to be printed on a printer, if no printer is attached the command is ignored. This stops a program from stopping dead with a "DEVICE NOT PRESENT ERROR".

# **Using The System**

When first switching on your PET you must give the command SYS(11\*4096) to initialize the disk system. This command only has to be given once and the disk system is initialized till switch off.

The only real care needed is you must make sure you insert a disk correctly or the write protect heads will not be disengaged and an error message will result and the disk will keep spinning until the \$CDISK or \$DIR # D. Instruction is then given to stop the drive. When loading a program the time taken is only a few seconds for a 7K program as opposed to over 2 minutes for the cassette. DATA is written and read back at the same speed as

program loading so with this disk system you can have true computer file systems that are nearly on parr with a mini-computer.

When double density is available the speed of the disk system is doubled. There is a special command for security, this is POKE6,100. This command only allows RUN, \_\_GO, \$HALT.

This stops programs being listed, printed out or altered by a user. All READY commands except the ones mentioned are ignored. The disk system and cassette can only be used under program control and not from Ready mode so no—one can steal a copy of your program or disrupt your disk stored programs. The only way to get out of this mode is to type \$HALT and the PET is reset and the program is cleaned from memory so that not even after this command can your program be looked at. This is a very useful command for stopping persons pinching your ideas and it allows an inexperienced user to run your program without damaging it.

# **Special Commands**

The disk system has 4 reserved variables these are:-

# DF\$

This variable holds the file name or program name and must be initialized before the command \$ODISK,W,D, is given or an error will result.

# DI\$

This variable stores the directory information (INDEX INFORMATION STORED IN THE DISK DIRECTORY) and is 8 bytes long.

# DRS

This variable is used to transfer information to and from disk files.

# PL\$

This variable stores information for use by a printer.

# **Program Examples**

Here is an example of how a DISK file differs from the PET cassette file:

PET CASSETTE FILE (READING FILE)

10 OPEN 1,1,0,F\$ 20 FOR X = 1 TO 200

# DISK REVIEW

30 INPUT # 1,F(X):IF ST 0 THEN 100 40 NEXT X 100 CLOSE 1

The above is very slow and is prone to error if the "EOF" or "EOT" is missed.

# DISKMON VERSION OF SAME PROGRAM

5 DF\$ = F\$
10 \$ODISK,R,1:FOR X = 1 TO 200
20 \$RDISK:F(X) # VAL(DR\$): IF DR\$ = "EOF"
THEN 100 (OPTIONAL)
30 NEXT X
100 \$CDISK
This is a vastly faster program.

# PET CASSETTE FILE (WRITING FILES)

10 POKE 243,122:POKE 244, 2:OPEN 1,1,1,F\$
20 FOR X = 1 to 200
30 PRINT # 1,F(X)
40 NEXT X
50 CLOSE 1
This is slow and prone to error

# DISKMON VERSION OF SAME PROGRAM

5 DF\$ = F\$
10 \$ODISK,W,1:FOR X = 1 TO 200
20 DR\$ # STR\$ (F(X) ):\$WDISK
30 NEXT X
40 DR\$ = "EOF": \$WDISK
50 \$CDISK

This program is extremely fast and reliable.

# **Utility Programs**

Three programs are supplied with the disk, these are very useful and are as follows.

DISKCOPY This program allows full disk copying and is very convenient for making

security copies.

FILECOPY This program allows the transfer and updating of data files from cassette to

cassette or disk to disk or even disk to cassette and/or cassette to disk.

DISK-TESTER This program fully tests the reading and

writing of data on both disks.



The sloping board with the vertically aligned daughter boards is the ExpandaPET memory which is essential for the operation of the disk system.

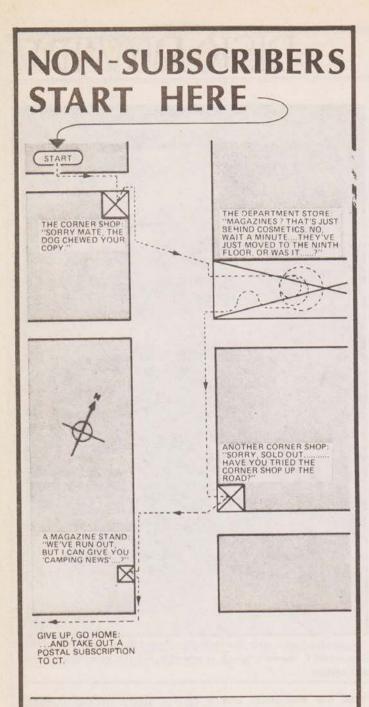
From the evalvation and a careful study of the documentation supplied it appears that this system will be a serious competitor to the Commodore disk drive when it finally appears. The documentation is both clear and concise for the Compu/Think drives and the Expanda PET memory and makes a welcome change from some that has passed through our hands. Using the disks should prove to be no problem once the operating system has been mastered and the documentation is clear on this important aspect.

# Software Soon

Petsoft are currently considering putting their software on to Compu/Think format disks at a small increase in price, solely because a disk costs more than a cassette, and this may well prompt a reaction from other software houses in his field.

It will be most interesting to compare this system with Commodore's own and hopefully we shall be able to do this soon.

Our thanks are due to Petsoft for allowing us to use Mr. Turnbull's report and to H.B. Computers of Kettering for the photographs.



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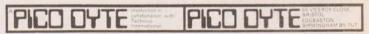
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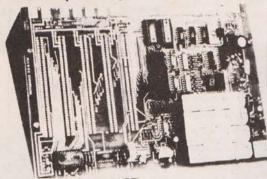
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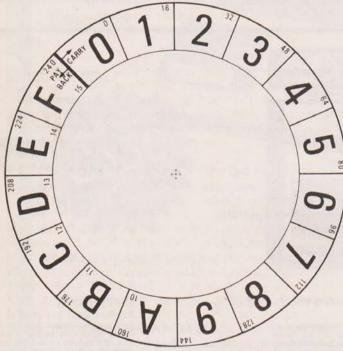
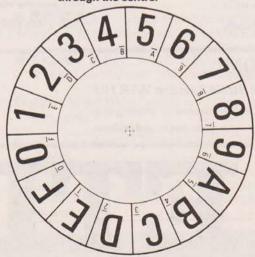


Fig. 1. The two scales must be fastened together with a small nut and bolt through the centre.



f you own a micro that is programmed in hexadecimal but do not have access to an assembler then you have to calculate offsets by hand. Not many people know their hex addition tables by heart (for example A + B = 5 carry 1), so they use look up tables. The circular slide rule described in this article is much quicker to use.

Making the Rule

Cut out two circular discs of stiff card 10 cms. and 14 cms. in diameter. Divide each scale into 16 equal segments and mark the divisions as shown in Fig. 1, writing the appropriate numbers into each segment. Both scales have the hex digits O to F on them as their main inscription. They both also have the decimal equivalent of A to F where the scales meet as a reminder of the hex times 1 table. The outer edge of the outer scale has the 16 times table on it. The inner edge of the inner scale has the 15's complement on it marked as 0, 1, etc.

# How to Use a Slide Rule

Now that the only useful scale on a normal slide rule is the one on the edge for drawing straight lines it might be worth reminding the very young or forgetful of us what a slide rule did. As the scales are rotated and the inscribed numbers counted off the distances, or angles in our case, are added or subtracted depending on the direction. Originally the scales were marked logarithmically so the effect was to multiply or divide the numbers, but our scales are linear to give addition and subtraction.

# Now For How To Do It

TO ADD e.g. X + Y = ANSWER

Rotate the inner scale until its zero is under 1 on the outer scale. Clamp the scales together with your fingers and trace round **clockwise** until you find Y on the inner scale. The ANSWER is above it on the outer scale. If you pass the outer heavy black line carry 1 to the next column.

TO SUBTRACT e.g. X - Y = ANSWER

Find X on the outer scale. Rotate the inner scale until Y on it is under X. Clamp and trace round **anticlockwise** to zero on the inner scale. The ANSWER appears above it on the outer scale. If you pass the outer heavy black line pay back one to the next column.

Practice adding and subtracting with low decimal numbers so that you can easily check the result. Now check through the following examples with your slide rule. They are based on 8 bit bytes and assume 2's complement arithmetic, that is, if the most significant bit is a 1 the number is negative.

# Addition

2 D 3 E+ 6 B

D + E = B carry 1. The slide rule in Fig. 1 is shown set

# **HEX RULE OK!**

for this addition. Remember to add clockwise or you will lose the carry 1. 2 + 3 + 1 = 6 you can do in your head of course.

# Subtraction

73 56-1 D

3-6=D pay back 1. Fig. 1 shows the slide rule set for this calculation also. The pay back 1 makes the 5 into 6 giving 7-6=1.

# **Decimal to Hex Conversion**

This is achieved by successive division by 16, the hexadecimal remainders forming the result. It is hear that

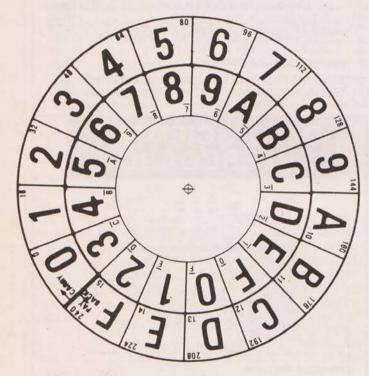


Fig 2. The rule is shown set to add D + E as in the addition example.

you need the 16 times table on the outer ring of the rule. The following example shows the conversion of a double byte (double precision) number, 10,815 to 2A3F 16.

A common mistake is to forget the last line, that is, 16 into 2 goes nought remainder two.

# **Hex to Decimal Conversion**

For single byte numbers use the 16 times and 1 times tables on the rule to look up the value of each nibble and add them together. For example,

$$3 b_{16} = (3 \times 16) + (B \times 1)$$
  
=  $48 + 11$   
=  $59_{10}$ 

For multiple byte numbers you really need a calculator to handle the decimal arithmetic. If your calculator is the sort where the next operator (+ X) completes the previous operation the result is most easily obtained by "expanding the polynomial" without using brackets, for example,

# **Negative Thinking**

If a single byte number is used as a counter the largest number it can hold is 255 <sup>10</sup> that is FF <sup>16</sup>. However when the same single byte is used in a two's complement arithmetic calculation the number will be considered as negative if the leading bit is a 1. That is, all single byte Hex codes "higher" than 7F are negative numbers. To find what such a number represents in decimal it must first be negated, thus forming its positive hex version, and then converted to decimal in the normal way.

# **Negating Hex Numbers**

To negate a number write down its 15's complement and add 1. The complements of the hex numbers are given as 0 etc. on the inner scale of the rule. Here the example in hex and binary for comparison.

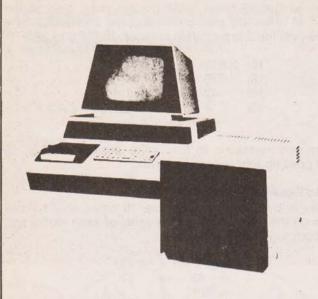
 $\begin{array}{lll} \text{negative number} & = \text{ C 5} = 1\,1\,0\,0\,0\,1\,0\,1\\ \text{complement} & = 3\,\text{A} = 0\,0\,1\,1\,1\,0\,1\,0\\ \text{add 1} & = 3\,\text{B} = 0\,0\,1\,1\,1\,0\,1\,1\\ \text{decimal value} & = 5\,9 = 5\,9\\ \text{So C 5}^{16} \text{ represents} - 59^{10} \text{ in 2's complement form.} \end{array}$ 

Similary to load an address with a negative number simply repeat the above procedure, for example.

negative decimal number = -12positive hex version = 0 Ccomplement = F3add 1 = F4So F416 represents = -1210.

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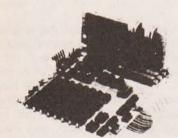
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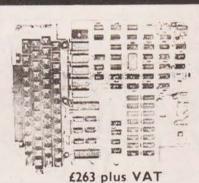
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# TECS REVIEW

# We review a new Teletext decoding home computer

t last a British firm is exploiting a British lead in the information industry. The Liverpool based firm of Technalogics have developed what is believed to be the first home computer system which is directly interfaced to the Teletext system. The computer is based on the well proven Motorola 6800 CPU and provides a self contained Teletext decoding system, a home computer and the capability of being expanded into a small business system.

# What Goes On

The concept behind the development of the system was to exploit the use of Teletext as an information source and to allow connection of a micro-processor system to this source to enable use to be made of avaivable data. As well as providing an extremely high quality Teletext display the system has a resident 3K mini-BASIC to allow user programs to be run on the machine. A monitor is available for machine code programming. As an added bonus the Post Office are to evaluate TECS for connection to Prestel; this will give access to a vast database (see Prestel article) and allow for user creation of pages on the system.

# How It Does It

All the decoding of the Teletext information is performed in software, this allows the machine to store data offline for later use. The data is transmitted in the top two lines of the TV picture as serially coded information. The database is scanned and two rows of data are sent every 20 mS. Each page is made up from 24 such rows. Because the data is sent in this way there is a finite delay between the page number being entered and the actual page being received. The TECS system reads the top two lines of the TV display into a small buffer, 256 bytes, and then checks to see if the data trapped is from the page that was requested. If it is, this data is decoded by the resident program and the resulting information placed in a 1K RAM for display on the screen. The decoding process is performed during the 20 mS that it takes for the next rows to be transmitted. The data held in the 1K RAM is formatted into a single screenful of information arranged in a 40 column by a 24 row format. Because the



character generator and display RAM are common to both Teletext and BASIC you can use the full character set under BASIC, thus creating your own Teletext style pages. This would enable you to have an in-house system. Because the decoding is done in software it is possible to write programs to either store the Teletext data offline, output to a printer or use the data as actual data for a program. Telesoftware is currently being tried by the IBA. Thus for instance a program could be written to monitor the changing stock exchange prices over a given period of the day and then produce a graph of specific changes. Because the programs have access to the full character and graphics set used in Teletext programs like this will present little problem, educational guizzes using concealreveal, coloured bar graphs and many other possibilities are made easy.

# The Languages

The machine code monitor performs all the usual functions such as load, dump, memory modify etc., and also has pre-settable breakpoints. The monitor, if not resident in PROM, can be loaded under BASIC to allow machine code sub-routines to be written. The mini-BASIC is an integer BASIC with 26 variable names, 1 and 2 dimensional DIM statements, the usual maths expressions and GOSUB, RND, TAB, LET etc. A more advanced BASIC will be available soon in either cassette, ROM or disk form. TECS will also be able to run PASCAL which is under development.

# **The Central Processor Board**

This as you may expect is the heart of the system. The bus is of a standard format, 16 true address lines and 8 inverse data lines, all are fully buffered. The processor can address the full 64K. As well as the CPU the card contains a bi-directional RS232 interface with strappable Baud rates for both send and receive between 75 and 9600. This allows for a low speed input and high speed output or vice-versa. The CPU clock chip (6875) provides all the necessary processor signals and also those required for external RAM. An 8 bit parallel port is also provided, this can be used for the keypad or a parallel-output keyboard. Memory provision on the board is 4K of ROM,





2716, containing either Teletext, Monitor and Prestel software or Teletext and a 3K mini-BASIC. There is also 4K of RAM, 2114, for user programs. Further features of the card include a hardware parity check for hamming error correction, 16 levels of hardware interrupt and a real time clock interrupt.

# The Teletext Input Board

The card takes the analogue input from the TV and shapes to TTL levels, the data is then stored in a 256 byte RAM. This RAM can also act as the PO security check for Prestel connection, battery back-up is available for this. As well as performing these functions it can act as the processor memory if no RAM is available on the CPU card. The RAM also acts as the hardware stack. Also contained on this card is a 1K RAM for the display, with buffered read and write it provides a memory mapped VDU, with byte O being the top left hand corner so any position on the screen can be found using the formula 40 times the row address + the column offset.

# The Display Board

This card provides the Teletext output into the RGB stages of a TV or indeed a monitor. The card houses an X887 character generator ROM plus all the new Teletext facilities. These include conceal-reveal, double height, flashing characters and background colour, the transparent cursor, allowing you to see what you've just done!

# The Basic System

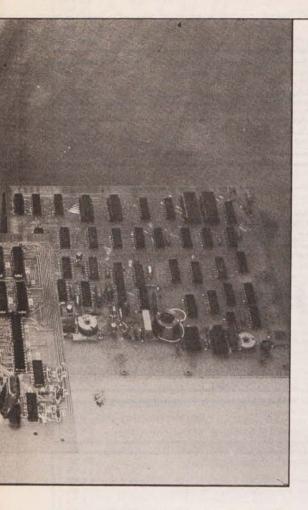
With the three boards detailed above you have a system which can decode the Teletext signals, run BASIC

programs, run machine code programs and in the not too distant future communicate with Prestel. The output will drive a colour monitor or a modified TV. If you want to avoid the modification of a TV, an aerial input board is available, complete with tuner assembly, and this will enable you to remotely change between TV, Teletext and Prestel displays. Prestel connection, subject to PO approval, will only be used with this aerial input module as type approval for each TV connected would have to be sought for direct drive.

As with all systems that really interest the buyer the most important question is that of expansion. The plans for the TECS are well advanced, the Prestel connection is merely awaiting PO approval, and include the following. With the availability of 2102's RAM extension will be possible up to the full 64K. The projected card will handle 32K of dynamic RAM and 16K of either PROM or RAM, with a 16K RAM for the DOS to allow greater flexibility. Also under development is a general purpose interface board. This will handle up to 4 disks, either standard or minifloppies, an RS232 bi-directional interface as on the processor card, two Kansas City bi-directional cassette interfaces operating at 300 Baud and 28 bit parallel ports. In addition to all this there will be a 256 byte ROM for the DOS bootstrap and a software controlled bleeper for general useage. The DOS will be crystal controlled but the RS232 will run off the system clock as on the CPU card.

A simple Kansas City interface is available to hang on the bus for immediate use. The tuner encorder card actually consists of a main card with a sub chassis. This provides full TV tuner and i.f. with sound and full remote control.

# TECS REVIEW





The system allows full broadcast lock and this enables the Teletext inserts to appear in PAL full colour which is not normally possible. The modulator uses an 8MHz bandwidth for high quality.

The disks for the system will be BASF drives using single sided floppies and having a storage capacity of 80K. These will have a seperate PSU to prevent interference problems.

# **Hardware Configurations**

Two versions will be available, a desktop system with a full keyboard for Prestel Editing or a short form keyboard for TV control and programming, and a rack based system for OEM and hobbyist useage. The cased version will have either 2 integral floppies or an add-on unit containing four. The basic cards supplied with the cased version will be the CPU, Teletext decoder and the display card. The unit will have expansion slots and also room for the aerial input board and modem. A power supply will also be included in the unit.

The rack mounted version is based in a 19" 5U rack and can be supplied with the full range of cards as for the cased version. The power supply will be a separate unit. Expansion room for disks is available within the rack or as a separate unit.

# Background

The system was developed from a hardware Teletext decoder also produced by Technalogics. All the development has been done in house by the three directors of the company. The quality of the circuit boards and the metalwork is very impressive and because all the logic design

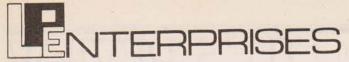
From left to right: The TECS running a basic program. The console is the desktop version with the full keyboard and ancillary controls. The disk drives will mount on top of the unit, giving twin mini-floppies with 160K total storage.

The centre photo shows left to right the display board, the CPU and the Teletext decoder board.

The right hand photo shows TECS working as a Teletext decoder. The display is in full colour with all the latest facilities,

possible has been done using low power IC's the unit should give a long trouble-free life. All the units sold are being registered to enable easy maintenance and also to provide a user club. The various cards for expansion will be available shortly, orders can be placed for the actual system now and will be dealt with in strict rotation. The three main cards will also be available as kits for the dedicated home constructor. The CPU board will also be available on its own for those of you who like to configure your own system.

After spending a day talking to the designers and playing with the various facilities the overiding impression was that this could be a very big step forward in the home computer market and the provisional prices indicate that you won't have to give the traditional arm or leg to get one in your living room. One can only hope that now the lead has been taken in the information field by British companies that the progress is maintained to the same high standard as this machine.



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# Electronic Games Survey

Random e Yourself

Whether you want to play draughts, break codes or learn maths there is a little box somewhere that would like to hear from you.

Next month we shall take a look at a selection of the little beauties that have appeared, both from the UK and America.

The variety available is almost bewildering as you will see and although some will hold few surprises there are one or two that are really excellent. So make a date with next month's Computing Today if you enjoy a break from the more serious side of computing.

One of the requisites for many games programs is a random number generator. For those of you who do not have access to a high level language this Hardlines project will give you a random number machine. We are also throwing in an example program to make this interesting to both software and hardware readers.

# Graded Gains Give Program Power

Apologies for the humour, but in this case it can be justified. One of the best methods of initiating yourself into the mystic arts of machine code programming is to grab hold of an evalvation kit and start key pushing.

Confusing though is it not?
The Motorola D2 is one of t

The Motorola D2 is one of the best of its type, and next month we present an article based on this machine that is designed to take a reader step by step through an ascending series of program examples.

# **Humbug Monitor**

A new, more powerful monitor for the TRITON, ETI's home computer, has been produced. We give you the low—down on its facilities in next month's issue.

# Nascom Package

Another excellent program for the NASCOM from Malcolm Bell. Next months piece is an educational package that uses a libray of "subjects" to cover virtually any field you wish.

# Micro system—mini language

5 is being offered by MICRODIGITAL as a high level language of 0.6K to run on a standard NASC—OM 1 with a T2 monitor. At first glance the facilities offered are impressive for its size and the documentation is full of optimism. It must be accepted from the outset that if 2K and 4K BASIC interpreters have limitations then the 'M5' must have definite handicaps, but if it is successful in providing programming assistance for what is essentially a machine code micro—system then it fulfils its function and its limitations must be accepted.

# Language Facilities

M5 is mainly intended for positive integer (ie whole number) arithmetic within the range 0 to 65,536. Its use of Reverse Polish Notation (RPN) in preference to arithmetic notation allys it with the early four function calculators, and indeed those still produced by Hewlett Packard. There are 26 possible register labelled A to Z for storing data and these can be entered, recalled or operated on at any time. Facilities have been provided to print 'strings', to input data from the keyboard and to output data onto the CRT.

One of the essentials of any high level language is its ability to make 'decisions', and here we have a choice of eight possibilities. It does however lack a 'Jump If Negative' instruction which would be very useful. The inclusion of a 'GOSUB' instruction would also be worth its sacrifice in RAM. All jumps are made to flags which can be any character available on the keyboard.

Once a user program has been entered it can be modified by using the 'EDIT' command which lists the program and positions a cursor. The cursor is in the form of a rub—out character positioned over the required entry. For reference the blotted out entry is printed at the top of the screen. Further commands will reposition, select next line or forward/back—ward space the cursor. Changes are then made by deletion or insertion commands.

# The Hardware

The package was received containing one cassette tape and one read only floppy. The 'floppy' was dated 23rd March, 1979 and marked 'Provisional'. It is very well written and illustrated using functional programs. Each command and operator is well explained and a list bringing these together is shown in Table 1. A hexadecimal listing has been provided and this is correct in every detail. The cassette tape has three copies of the program in NASBUG T2 format, is of good quality and loaded first time.

# The Program

The program is extremely well written and even an experienced programmer would benefit from analysing it. Briefly, and without giving the game away, the program uses three NASBUG routines, CHIN, SCROLL and CAT. These are included within the three main sections to facilitate input and output control. The first section, INPUT, simply enters the keyboard character into the user RAM and echoes the character on the CRT. The EDIT and RUN sections consist mainly of decision boxes leading to short action branches, to

carry out each function. Extensive use is made of the stack when carrying out multiple arithmetic routines and this can encroach severly into the user RAM allocations which begin at location OEFE.

As stated earlier there are bound to be disadvantages. The CRT is based on the 'write and scroll' techniques and this means that the top line of display cannot be used. Because of this the top line has been allocated for register storage and this results in a messy CRT appearance. What is more to the point however is that if 'shifted backspace' is ever used in a user program all the register contents will be destroyed.

When running a program errors are detected and displayed as shown in Table 2.

# Operational Experience

The interpreter is accessed by keying 0C60 whereby a prompt 'M5' is displayed. The commands can then be entered as described. We found that it worked well, or almost. The cursor control during edit requires the use of the "<" and ">" keys which do not exist on a NASCOM with T2 monitor, however changing locations 0E83 to 29H and 0E88 to 28H allowed the "(" and ")" brackets to be used instead. Another difficulty was encountered when trying to correct an entry during EDIT, INPUT facility. Not only does the erroneous character get entered but the backspace also. It must be remembered that although a backspace character appears to work on the CRT it does not function when the EDITOR is in use.

It is possible to make the user program area larger by including the 10H bytes of RAM that are not usefully employed at the rear end of the program. These modifications to the original program are documented at the end of the article in Table 3.

# Conclusions

A high level language can never be a bad thing for an inexperienced programmer, and this one works well, although most peoples needs would soon outgrow it. M5 is no real substitute for the sofhistication that can be obtained using machine code, nor can it compete against BASIC in larger systems. It does however have the advantage that it is small and can be used within a 1K RAM. The 230 odd bytes available to the user is very small but programs can be successfully written within this space. The "Lunar Lander" program detailed at the end of this article, Example 1., can be run on the standard NASCOM provided that the program improvements in Table 3 are incorporated.

There is mention of an 'M6' interpreter, and if this is can enhance the M5 to include negative integers, GOSUB and Go If Neg and is perhaps packaged in a 1K ROM, the advantages of this language may become more apparent.

# Value For Money?

The M5 is being given away free by MICRODIGITAL if you purchase your NASCOM from them, if not it will cost you £10 for the complete package. It is the authors opinion that this is overpriced and the money could possibly be better spent on a T4 or B—BUG monitor. If a high level language is desired then one of the 2K BASIC/Monitor packages that are coming on the market might be a better investment.

Example 1.

LUNAR LANDER

Note: - The modifications in Table 3 must be carried out.

(W720=F520=H65=V (X" HT="H=?" VEL="V=?" FUEL="F=?)ZS "BURN="?=B,F)GY0=F=B (YF,B=FB,2\*=N256=A(RN,A/,A)LT+,2/=A)UR(S" "(TA,2/,V+=SH,S=H)ZPV,A=,5+=V,999)LZ H,999)LM)UX (M" CRASHED! AT"V=?"FT/SEC")M (P9,V)GM" GOOD LANDING")M (Z" TAKEN OFF!!")M

Another note: — The program must be entered exactly as shown to avoid errors. Spaces are important!

# Table 1.

This table lists the available features of M5.

# Commands: - There are four that can be used.

12	2000000000	
I	INPUT	Enters a new program from the start of
		the user RAM. It will over-write any
		existing program. A new program is
		terminated by a semi-colon ';'.
L	LIST	This will list the current program onto
		the CRT.
-	DIBI	
R	RUN	Runs the program.
E	EDIT	A very useful command which allows the
		current program to be easily modified.
T 1		
Ed	itor comm	
		R = Reposition the cursor at the start.

R = Reposition the cursor at the start.

N = Next line.

( = Backspace cursor.

) = Forward space cursor.

D = Delete character.

I = Insert the following character until;.

W = Return to the command mode.

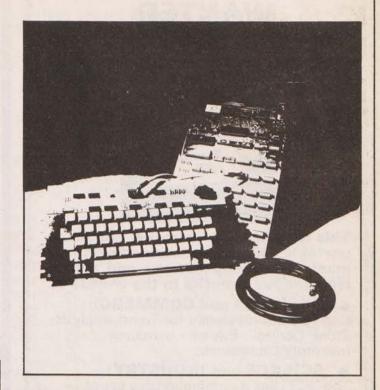
# Decisions Mathematical Operators

U	Unconditional jump	+	Add
Z	Jump if zero	-	Subtract
N	Jump if not zero	*	Multiply
E	Jump if $x = y$	1	Divide
X	Jump if x ≠ y	£	Decrement 'x'
L	Jump if x ≤ y		Increment 'x'
G	Jump if $x > y$		

# Other Operators

66 27	String
n=?	Print the contents of register 'n'
?	Input from the keyboard

M Jump to command mode



The NASCOM 1 which the M5 runs on in its standard form.

# Table 2.

# Error Messages: -

SYM	ERR x	The symbol x is not allowed except in a string.
ID	ERR x	
JID	ERR x	The label was not found when a jump occurred.
JC	ERR x	The symbol x occurred in a jump condition position and is not a valid code.
	ERR x	The symbol x caused an error that is not one of the above.

# Table 3.

The author has suggested the following changes to the M5 interpreter to rectify errors, clean up the display and increase the available user RAM by 10H bytes (i.e. run from 0EEE).

ı				
	Location	Old	New	
	0E83 0E88 0E56 0E5A 0EDB 0E2F	3E 3C 1F FD FD	29 28 1E ED ED	")" "(" Clear CRT on RUN These changes start the user RAM at 0EEE instead of at 0FEE
	ODE1	FE	EE	motodo or at or EE
	0EB3	FF	EF	

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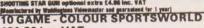
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firschools by footbar/right/int) and built into these juystick centrals are hall serve and larget fire

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by Nail.\*\*
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Mr.M.B	BELL			EXECU	JTE FRO	M FA	)	
RAM T	est			FA0	21 xx	XX		HL=?
The pro	ogram runs on	a NASCOM although	h it should easily	FA3	CB 83		'RST'	RST E bit 0
The program runs on a NASCOM, although it should easily be adapted to run on any Z80, and writes 1 to FFH into each			FA5	CD 3E		'CHIN'	CALL 'CHIN'	
RAM I	ocation and the	en steps to the next.	In the event of a	FA8	FE 24			CP=24H
failure 1	the following is	printed;		FAA	CA 86	02		JZ PARSE
Locatio	n,Number writ	ten,Number read.		FAD	FE 1E	-		CP=1E
200 A 100				FAF	20 08			JRNZ 'WORD'
EXECU	JTE FROM OCE	50		FB1	CB 43			TEST E bit 0
0.050	04 00 00	LD HL=0C80	Tost start loop	FB3	20 EE			JRNZ 'RST'
0C50	21 80 OC	XOR A	Test start locn A=0	FB5	CB C3	3		SET E bit 0
0C53	AF	(HL), A	(HL)=0	FB7	18 EC			JP 'CHIN'
0C54	77 BE	CP (HL)	Read, test A	FB9	FE 40		'WORD'	CP=@
0C55	20 06	JRNZ +8	If not true go to	FBB	20 08			JRNZ 'B/S'
0C56	3D	DEC A	sub 'failure'	FBD	36 00			(HL),00
0C58 0C59	20 F9	JRNZ -5	Do again if A/0	FBF	CD 40	02		CALL 'CRLF'
0C5B	23	INC HL	Step to next loc	FC2	23			INC HL
0C5C	18 F6	JR –8	Repeat	FC3	18 EC	)		JR 'CHIN'
UCSC	10 10	JN -0	переаг	FC5	FE 10	)	'B/S'	CP=1D
CLIDDO	OUTINE 'FAIL	IDE'		FC7	20 03			JRNZ 'SPACE'
SUBINC	JOHNE PAIL	OIL		FC9	2B			DEC HL
0C5E	4F	LDC, A	Write to C	FCA	18 00	;		JR 'CRT'
0C5F	7C	LDA, H	Print H	FCC	FE 20		'SPACE'	CP=20H
0C60	CD 44 02	CALL B2 Hex	initia.	FCE	28 06			JRZ 'STORE'
0C63	7D	LDA, L	Print location	FD0	CB 43			TEST E bit 0
0C64	CD 44 02	CALL B2 Hex	Print L	FD2	28 02			JRZ 'STORE'
0C67	CD 3C 02	CALL SPACE	THIC L	FD4	C6 20			ADD 20H
0C6A	79	LDA,C	Print write No.	FD6	77		'STORE'	(HL), A
OC6B	CD 44 02	CALL B2 Hex	Time wite ivo.	FD7	23			INC HL
OC6E	CD 3C 02	CALL SPACE		FD8	CD 3E		'CRT'	CALL 'CRT'
0C71	7E	LDA, (HL)	Print read No.	FDB	18 C8	3		JR 'CHIN'
0C72	CD 44 02	CALL B2 Hex	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	MrID	AVIDSO	N		
0C75	CD 40 02	CALL CRLF		IVII.I.D	AVIDOO			
0C78	7C FE 10	LD A , H CP=10		Crossh	atch Gen	erator		
0C7B	20 DE	JRNZ -20H		GIUSSII	aton den	ciatoi		
0C7D	C3 86 02	CALL PARSE	Return to mon.					on crosshatch patterns n of each type. The
Note:	A succesful to	est is indicated with I	ocation 1000	actual	adjustme	ent of a	TV is fairly easy	once the convergence
110101	displayed.							planation of the met-
							I September 19	78. The program runs
Text In	terpreter			in 1K	on TRIT	JN.		
This re	outine loads t	ext from the keybo	pard directly into	1600	50	End	address for tapin	g
		y start location MU		1601	16			
		ne the interpreter is r		1602	CF		r screen	
	characters;			1603	11	Load	d REG pair DE w	ith string start address
B/S	Backspac			1604	09			
@		tring (stores 00)		1605	16			
10.40	I B/S Change of			1606	CD	Call	PSTRING	
\$	Return t	o monitor		1607	2B			

1608	00		1644	23	INC HL
1609	50	P	1645	71	Move REG C to VDU
160A	52	R	1646	23	INC HL
160B	45	E	1647	7C	Copy REG H to ACC
160C	53	S	1648	FE	Compare with one address past VDU
160D	53	S	1649	14	(most significant byte only)
160E	20	Space	164A	C2	If not jump back to screen routine
160F	43	C	164B	43	
1610	2C	, (comma)	164C	16	
1611	44	D	164D	C3	If the screen is filled jump back to INC H
1612	2C	, (comma)	164E	1A	
1613	56	V	164F	16	
1614	20	Space	1650	00	End address for taping
1615	4F	0			
1616	52	R	Etch-	A-Sket	ch
1617	20	Space			Li di all'illa di tao af the same nome
1618	48	Н	This p	rogram	emulates the children's toy of the same name.
1619	04	EOT marker	The fir	st chara	acter or graphic key pressed will cause the sel- to appear near the centre of the VDU screen.
161A	CD	Call INC H	ected	symbol	one of the keys U,D,L or R the symbol will
161B	OB		On pri	in the	selected direction leaving a trail behind it. It
161C	00		should	be no	ted that if the drawing moves off the screen
161D	01	Load REG pair BC with graphics for	you ru	in the r	isk of corrupting the monitor. The program is
161E	77	crosshatch			nd runs in 1K.
161F	73				
1620	FE	Compare with code for C	1600	6B	End program address for taping
1621	43	Compare with coas for C	1601	16	
1622	CA	If C jump to screen routine	1602	CF	Clear screen
1623	40	11 O Jump to sercen routine	1603	21	Set pointer to middle of VDU
1624	16		1604	15	
1625	01	If not change graphics to dots	1605	12	
1626	12	Dot	1606	CD	Call INC H
1627	20	Space	1607	OB	
1628	FE	Compare with code for D	1608	00	
1629	44	Compare with code for D	1609	47	Copy ACC to REG B
162A	CA	If D jump to screen routine	160A	70	Copy REG B to VDU
162B	40	II D Jump to sercen routine	160B	CD	Call INC H
162C	16		160C	OB	Gui III II
		If not change graphics to verticals	160D	00	
162D	01	IT flot change grapines to verticals	160E	FE	Compare with code for R
162E	74		160F	52	Compare with code for it
162F	20	Compare with code for V	1610	CA	If R jump to subroutine to move right
1630	FE	Compare with code for v			If it jump to subfoutifie to move fight
1631	56	TOTAL CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR	1611	30	
1632	CA	If V jump to screen routine	1612	16	Commence with sends for 1
1633	40		1613	FE	Compare with code for L
1634	16	If a declarate work to the Constitution	1614	4C	If I have to automorphic to many left
1635	01	If not change graphics to horizontals	1615	CA	If L jump to subroutine to move left
1636	73		1616	40	
1637	73		1617	16	
1638	FE	Compare with code for H	1618	FE	Compare with code for U
1639	48		1619	55	
163A	CA	If H jump to screen routine	161A	CA	If U jump to subroutine to move up
163B	40		161B	50	
163C	16		161C	16	
163D	C3	If none of the above jump back to the	161D	FE	Compare with code for D
163E	02	start and try again	161E	44	
163F	16		161F	CA	If D jump to subroutine to move down
1640	2A	Set REG pair HL to the address of the	1620	60	
1641	00	first VDU location	1621	16	
1642	10		1622	C3	If none of the above jump back for new
1643	70	Move REG B to VDU	1623	OB	input
A SANTANCE OF	1000000				

1624	16	Movement subroutines		GARWOOD Il Game
Move F		to a constant and to the		rogram is a modified version of the 'Reversal' numbers
1630	23 C3	Increment pointer		written by Don Scales. The original version appeared
1631 1632	0A	Jump to main program		January Computing Today supplement. The program ten to run on a TRS 80 with Level II.
1632	16		15 WITE	ten to full off a TNS 60 with Level II.
Move L				
1640	2B	Degrament pointer	5	CLS
1641	C3	Decrement pointer  Jump to main program	10	PRINT "THE REVERSAL GAME"
1642	0A	Jump to main program	20	FOR I=1 TO 9
1643	16		30	LET A=RND(9)
Move U			40	IF I=1 GOTO 80
1650	97	Clear ACC	50	FOR J=1 TO I-1
1651	2B	Decrement pointer	60	IF A(J)=A GOTO 30
1652	3C	Increment ACC	70	NEXT J
1653	FE	Compare to 40(Hex)	80	LET A(I)=A
1654	40	Compare to 40(Hex)	90	NEXTI
1655	C2	Loop until it matches	95	LET B=0
1656	51	Loop until it matches	200	PRINT A(1);A(2);A(3);A(4);A(5);A(6);A(7);
1657	16			A(8);A(9)
1658	C3	Jump to main program	210	INPUT "NUMBER TO REVERSE";J
1659	0A	Jump to main program	220	IF J<1 GOTO 240
165A	16		230	IF J<10 GOTO 260
Move D			240	PRINT "INVALID - TRY AGAIN"
1660	97	Clear ACC	250	GOTO 10
1661	23	Increment pointer	260	LET K=(J+1)/2
1662	3C	Increment ACC	270	FOR I=1 TO K
1663	FE	Compare with 40(Hex)	280	LET A=A(I):A(I)=A(J+1-I):A(J+1-I)=A
1664	40	Compare with 40(riex)	290	NEXT I
1665	C2	Loop until it matches	295	LET B=B+1
1666	61	Loop until it matches	300	FOR I=1 TO 9
1667	16		310	IF A(I)≪I GOTO 200
1668	C3	Jump to main program	320	NEXT I
1669	0A	oump to main program	330	PRINT "TOTAL",B
166A	16		333	FOR X=1 TO 500
1007	10		334	NEXT X
Confus	e-A-Ca	nt	340	GOTO 5

# Confuse-A-Cat

The program is a modified version of the one in the TRITON manual. It alternates between filling and emptying the screen with characters. It is written in tiny BASIC and will run in the standard kit memory.

10	VDU 0,12
20	LET I=0, J=0, K=1, L=1, N=0, T=0, Q=931
30	LET I=I+K, J=J+L, T=T+1
40	IF I>63 GOTO 60
50	IF I>=1 GOTO 70
60	LET K=-K, I=I+K+K
70	IF J>16 GOTO 90
80	IF J>=1 GOTO 100
90	LET L=-L, J=J+L+L
100	LET M=I+(J-1)*64
110	IF T<=Q VDU N,13
120	IF T>Q VDU N,32
130	VDU M,32
140	IF T>Q VDU M,13
150	LET N=M
160	IF T=2*Q-1 GOTO 10
170	GOTO 30

# Mr.N.R.GRAYSON

# **Mastermind Game**

Another version of the popular game 'Moo', or 'Bulls and Cows'. This Version is written in Tiny Basic and should be easily modified to run on any system.

10	PRINT "MASTERMIND"
20	PRINT "HOW MANY NUMBERS"
30	INPUT B
40	M=2*B
50	R=0
60	FOR I=1 TO B
70	@(I)=RND(10)-1
80	NEXT I
90	PRINT "ENTER GUESS"
100	FOR I=B TO M
110	INPUT @(I)
120	NEXTI
130	C=A=0
140	FOR I=1 TO B
150	IF @(I)=@(I+R) THEN C=C+1·Δ=Δ-1

	500 L	TO M.	CODE			
160	FOR J=E		CODE	LDY	1	
170		@(J) THEN 190		STY	B2	
180	NEXTJ	00		DEY	02	
85	GOTO 2	00		STY	B1	
90	A=A+1			LDA	\$7F	
200	NEXTI		Z08	STA	(B1),Y	Each square is given a
210		THEN 260	200	INY	(01),1	weighting factor of 7F
20		CORRECT POSITION =";C		CPY	\$40	Weighting factor of 71
230		CORRECT BUT WRONG POSITION";A				
240	R=R+1			BNE	Z08	
50	GOTO 9			CLD		
260	PRINT '	CORRECT SOLUTION IS"		CLC		
70	FOR I=1	TO B		LDA	0	
280	PRINT	(I)	100000	TAX		
290	NEXTI		Z01	STA	A1,X	Locations 0000 to 0007
300	PRINT '	'NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS =";R		ADC	8	are the start addresses of
310	IF R>(3	*N) THEN 340		INX		each row of the board
320		'BUDDING GENIUS"		CPX	8	i.e. (0,0);(1,0);(2,0) etc
330	GOTO 4			BNE	Z01	
340		*N) THEN 370	Z14	LDX	7	
350		'NOT A BAD ATTEMPT"		LDY	0	Knight starts at (7,0)
360	GOTO 4			STY	E1	
370		*N) THEN 400	Z04	INC	E1	
380		'AVERAGE"		LDA	0	
	GOTO 4			STA	D1	X points at the appropriate row
390		*N) THEN 430		LDA	A1,X	of the board, i.e. the first co-ord
400		'RUBBISH"		STA	B1	inate.
410				LDA	(B1),Y	A visited square has its top bit se
420	GOTO 4	'EVER THOUGHT OF GOLF ?"		ORA	\$80	making the wf negative
430				STA	(B1),Y	making the writegative
440	Y=1;N=			STY	C2	
450		'ANOTHER GAME, Y OR N"		STX	C1	
460	INPUT				CI	Move (X-1),(Y+2)
470		THEN 10		DEX		Wiove (X-1),(1+2)
480	STOP	and the second s		INY		
M- 1 LI	ODGKINS	CON		INY	700	
IVIT.J.FI	ODGKINS	SON		JSR	Z02	** (20.4) (20.0)
Knight	's Tour			INX		Move (X+1),(Y+2)
				INY		
The pi	rogram sol	ves the problem of how few moves need to		INY		
be take	en for a Ki	night to visit all the squares on a chess board.		JSR	Z02	
The p	rogram us	es an iterative routine, always moving the		DEX		Move (X-2),(Y+1)
piece '	to the squ	are with the highest weighting factor. The		DEX		
progra	m was wri	tten for a KIM 1 and uses the seven segment		INY		
display	s to show	v the number of squares visited and on the		JSR	Z02	ALTERNATION OF THE PARTY OF THE
succes	ful comple	etion of the tour the program may be modi-		DEX		Move (X-2),(Y-2)
fied to	display tr	ne squares visited.		DEX		
				DEY		
DATA				JSR	Z02	
0000	A1			INX		Move (X+1),(Y-2)
		Address of the 64 bytes allocated to the		DEY		and the second second
8000	B1			DEY		
0009	B2	chess board		JSR	Z02	
A000	C1	Used to save the X and Y co-ordinates		DEX		Move (X-1),(Y-2)
000B	C2			DEY		A TOTAL CONTRACTOR OF THE
000C	D1	Holds the value of the highest weighting		DEY		
000D	E1	Count the number of moves		JSR	Z02	
	11	LED display addresses		INX	202	Move (X+2),(Y+1)
00F9						MOVE (X12/,(111/
	12					
00F9	12			INX		
00F9 00FA 00FB		64 bytes of the chess board		INX INY JSR	Z02	

### SOFTSPOT

	INX		Maya (V+2) (V 1)	Mr.P.M.JESSOP
	INX		Move (X+2),(Y-1)	Rendezvous
	DEY			Rendezvous
	JSR	Z02		The object of the game is to rescue your companion who is
	LDA BNE	D1 Z03	If D1=0 no valid modes found	floating in space '2001' style. You have only a limited amount of fuel and time to rescue him. The thrusters may be on
	LDY	0		or off and the idea is to match your speed to that of the vic-
	STY	B1		tims. The game is easily modified to run on any system
Z12	LDA	(B1),Y	All those squares which have	thanks to the mod-sheet and opens up the possibility of a
	BPL	Z11	been visited have the top bit	graphics routine to simulate the rescue.
	AND	\$7F	removed and their wf reduced	10 FRINT "TIME SPEED APPROACH
	SBC	0	by 1	RANGE FUEL TIME TO UPDATE"
	CLC	10411		20 F=50
Z11	STA	(B1),Y		30 T=0
211	CPY	\$40		40 V=0
	BNE	Z12		50 S1=0
	JSR	Z05		60 S2=100
	JMP	Z14		70 U=10
Z03	LDX	12	Move Knight onto the appropriate	80 FRINT "TIME?"
	LDY	11	square	90 I=EXPR()
700	JMP	Z04	W. V.	100 IF I>=0 GOTO 130
Z02	CPX BCS	8 Z06	If X or Y ≥8 then the move is off the board	110 A=_1
	CPY	8	on the board	120 GOTO 180
	BCS	Z06		130 IF I(>0 GOTO 160
	LDA	A1,X	If square has negative wf then	140 A=0
	STA	B1	it has already been visited	150 GOTO 180
	LDA	(B1),Y		160 IF I(=0 GOTO 999
	BMI	Z06		170 A=1
	CMP	D1	O-l	180 D=ABS(I)
	BCC	Z06 Z06	Only updata I1,I2,D1 if the new wf is higher than any	190 IF D(>0 GOTO 230
	STA	D1	previous one	200 PRINT "SO TIME?"
	STX	12		210 D=EXPR()
1000	STY	11		220 D=ARS(D) 230 D=D-1
Z06	LDX	C1	Restore	230 D=D-1 240 IF D(O GOTO 80
	LDY	C2	X and Y	250 T=T+1
Z05	LDA	E1		260 V=V+A
200	STA	13		270 F=F- (A*A)
Z17	CLI			280 IF F(0 GOTO 360
	JSR	SCANS	Loop displaying last square	290 S1=S1+V
*	BNE	Z17	visited and the number of	300 S2=S2+U
Z07	JSR		squares visited until a key	310 PRINT T " " V " "
	JSR	Z07 SCANS	is depressed	V-U " " \$2-\$i " " F
	RTS	SCANS		" " D
	1110			320 IF T>=50 GOTO 440
The fo	llowing m	odificatio	n allows the co-ordinates of each	330 IF ABS(S1-S2)>5 GOTO 230
square	visited to	be display	yed.	340 IF ABS(V-U) >2 GOTO 230
				350 PRINT "CONGRATULATIONS, YOU
Z03	JSR	Z05		HAVE SUCCEEDED: FUEL
	LDX	12		REMAINING " F
	JMP	Z04		360 GOTO 999
	J.Wil			370 PRINT "YOUR FUEL IS EXHAUSTED"
				380 IF V(0 GOTO 410
	10 10 m			390 PRINT "YOU WILL FLOAT IN SPACE FOREVER"
2				400 GOTO 999
				100 0010 777

#### MODIFYING RENDEZVOUS FOR OTHER BASICS

VERSION FOR OTHER BASICS EXISTING VERSION ...IF...THEN... ... IF ... GOYO ... SOME BASICS DON'T LIKE IF .. GOTO 80 FRINT "TIME?" } 80 FRINT "TIME?" FUTS INPUT NUMBER OR SAME LINE. 90 INPUT 1 90 I==EXF取() MUST BASICS WILL REQUIRE THIS. 90 INFUT "TIME?" FI SOME WILL ALLOW THIS. LINE SO NOT THEN NEEDED. 100 IF T>=0 GOTO 160 100 N=SGN(I) SGN (SIGN) FUNCTION SOMETIMES AVAILABLE GIVES -1 IF NEGATIVE: 0 IF ZERO AND 1 IF FOSITIVE. 210 IMPUT 0 210 D=EXFR() 310 PRINT T " WHERE TAR(5) MEANS PRINT 5 SPACES 310 PRINT TYTAE (8) SUFTAB (15) \$ ETC WHERE TAS(8) MEANS MOVE TO COLUMN 8. THIS

999 PRINT "RENDEZVOUS COMPLETE"

999 EMD

NOT MANY BASICS STILL DEMAND THIS

WILL PRODUCE BETTER RESULTS.

410 420 430 440 450 999	PRINT "LUCKILY, YOU WILL COAST TO YOUR MOTHER SHIP BUT YOUR" PRINT "COMPANION IS LOST" GOTO 999 PRINT "TIME EXCEEDED" GOTO 380 PRINT "RENDEZVOUS COMPLETE — GOODBYE"	76 79 82 85 88 100 200	IF B=2 GOTO 760 IF B=3 GOTO 790 IF B=4 GOTO 820 IF B=5 GOTO 850 IF B=6 GOTO 880 GOSUB 1000;GOSUB 1010;GOSUB 1000;GOTO 71 GOSUB 1030;GOSUB 1000;GOSUB 1040;GOTO 71
Mr.W	MacDONALD	300	GOSUB 1030;GOSUB 1010;GOSUB 1040;GOTO 71 GOSUB 1020;GOSUB 1000;GOSUB 1020;GOTO 71
Jane - American	le Dice	400	GOSUB 1020;GOSUB 1010;GOSUB 1020;GOTO 71
L-MINISTER OF		600	GOSUB 1020;GOSUB 1020;GOSUB 1020;GOTO 71
The p	program draws the result of two dice being thrown. The	730	GOSUB 1000;GOSUB 900;GOSUB 1010;GOSUB 900
graph	ics are specific to the machine it was written for but we ot know which one it was. They should be easily adap—	,	GOSUB 1000;GOTO 890
	to any processor.	760	GOSUB 1030;GOSUB 900;GOSUB 1000;GOSUB 900
-			GOSUB 1040;GOTO 890
10	A=RND(6), B=RND(6)	790	GOSUB 1030;GOSUB 900;GOSUB 1010;GOSUB 900
15	VDU 0,12		GOSUB 1040;GOTO 890
17	FOR I=1 TO 150;NEXT I	820	GOSUB 1020;GOSUB 900;GOSUB 1000;GOSUB 900
18	VDU 0,10	050	GOSUB 1020;GOTO 890 GOSUB 1020;GOSUB 900;GOSUB 1010;GOSUB 900
20	IF A=1 GOTO 100 IF A=2 GOTO 200	850	GOSUB 1020;GOTO 890
30	IF A=3 GOTO 300	880	GOSUB 1020;GOSUB 900;GOSUB 1020;GOSUB 900
50	IF A=4 GOTO 400	000	GOSUB 1020;GOTO 890
60	IF A=5 GOTO 500	890	Y=1,N=0
70	IF A=6 GOTO 600	893	INPUT "AGAIN? Y OR N"X
71	FOR I=1 TO 3; VDU 0,11; NEXT I	894	IF X=1 GOTO 10
72	GOSUB 900	895	
73	IF B=1 GOTO 730	900	FOR I=1 TO 8; VDU 0,9; NEXT I

### SOFTSPOT

901 RETURN
1000 PRINT "††††"
1005 RETURN
1010 PRINT "††@††"
1015 RETURN
1020 PRINT "@†††@"
1025 RETURN
1030 PRINT "@†††"
1035 RETURN
1040 PRINT "††††@"
1045 RETURN

Note: † = SHIFT Z @ = CONTROL S

#### Mr.G.PHILLIPS

#### Maze

The program is developed to run on an MK/14 but could be easily altered to suit any machine. The idea is to negotiate a maze without being eaten on falling down holes etc. To code your own mazes draw them out complete with the obstacles and code from start to finish including the comments on any obstacles etc. After hazards you can either return to the start or kill off the victim in an endless loop.

0F10					Count -1, Count
0F12	C4	00	C8	FB	Initialise count 1 to zero
0F16	C4	0F	36		
0F19	C4	80	32		Load maze address to P2
OF1C	C4	OD	37		
0F1F	C4	00	33		Load display address to P3
0F22	C4	OB	35		Load message address to P1
0F25	C6	01	01	40	Get first maze section
0F29	31				Also use as message pointer
0F2A	C4	80	C8	E4	Let count =8
0F2E	C5	01	CF	01	Load one character, display
0F32	8F	01			Shine it
0F34	B8	DC	90	F6	Loop 8 times
0F38	C2	FF	31		Restore P1
0F3B	C4	00	33		Restore P3
0F3E	C2	00	9C	08	Is second part of maze code
0F42	B8	CD	9C	E4	00, if not display message
0F46	C6	01			Next part of maze
0F48	90	D8			Go to 0F22
0F4A	C2	FF	94	02	If code positive jump 2
OF4E	90	04			If code negative jump 4
0F50	D4	01	98	06	Odd or even, if even jump 6
0F54	C6	80			Alter P2 accordingly
0F56	C6	FF			
0F58	90	C8			Next part of maze
0F5A	40	98	B9		If code 00xx back to start
0F5D	AB	00			Input 0? INC P3, load
0F5F	98	04			No input, jump 4
0F61	C6	01			Continue in maze
0F63	90	06			Jump 6
0F65	AB	01	9C	02	Input 1? Jump 2
0F69	90	BF			Wait for decision
OF6B	8F	FF			Wait
0F6D	90	B3			Back to 0F22, more maze

#### POINTERS

P1 Current message P2 Maze position P3 Keyboard / display

Note: Abort will not work as the monitor routine is not used. Maze from 0F80 onwards, could be relocated. Messages from 0B00 to 0BF8 as required.

#### LITERAL POOL FOR MESSAGES

Note: Not all of these are used in the example program, but should you wish to invent your own maze you could use them where you like. The ones used in the example are marked \*

0B00									Not used	
0B08*	00	76	76	76	76	76	76	77	'ahhhhhh'	
0B10*	53	78	71	38	40	5E	50	71	'frd-lft?'	
0B18*	53	78	50	40	5E	50	3F	71	'ford-rt?'	
0B20*	53	78	50	40	78	71	79	38	'left-rt?'	
0B28*	00	00	79	38	5E	5E	1C	73	'puddle'	
0B30	5E	54	79	40	5E	77	79	5E	'dead-end	,
0B38	6E	50	79	73	73	06	38	6D	'slippery'	
0B40	73	1C	40	79	73	3F	38	6D	'slope-up'	
0B48	00	38	38	06	76	73	1C	00	'uphill'	
0B50	00	7C	1C	50	76	6D	00	00	'shrub'	
0B58*	00	78	50	5E	54	79	7C	00	'bendrt'	
0B60*	78	71	79	38	5E	54	79	7C	'bendleft'	
0B68*	00	79	1C	78	77	78	6D	00	'statue'	
0B70*	00	5E	54	79	00	79	76	78	'the end'	
0B78	00	76	39	54	79	7C	00	00	'bench'	
0B80*	00	00	78	50	77	78	6D	00	'start'	
0B88*	79	76	78	5E	54	1C	3F	50	'roundthe'	
0B90*	00	50	79	54	50	3F	39	00	'corner'	
0B98*	00	00	5E	54	79	7C	00	00	'bend'	
0BA0*	54	06	77	78	54	1C	3F	71	'fountain'	
0BA8*	00	6F	54	06	54	50	1C	78	'turning'	
0BB0*	00	00	5E	54	1C	3F	50	00	'round'	
OBB8	00	50	79	6F	06	78	00	77	'A tiger'	
OBCO*	54	3F	06	38	00	79	76	78	'the lion'	
OBC8*	1C	3F	6E	00	6D	78	77	79	'eats you'	
OBDO*	79	6D	3F	38	00	1C	3F	6E	'you lose'	
OBD8	00	5E	54	1C	3F	50	6F	00	'ground'	
0BE0	00	00	6E	5E	5E	1C	55	00	'muddy'	
0BE8*	00	6D	6D	79	38	5E	54	79	'endless'	
OBFO*	00	00	00	78	06	73	00	00	'pit'	
EXAMP	LEN	1AZI	Ε							
2222		-		2000	100					
0F80	80	00	18	41	A0	00	18	45		
	68	00	10	55	88	00	90	00		
0F90	18	0F	10	09	CO	00	C8	00		

DO 00 00 01 20 E7 E2 01

10 D7 E4 01 20 03 DA 01

35

00

E5 60

20 03 CE 01

A0 00

17 A8 00

60 00

20 35 88 00 98 00 10

58 00 18 F7 20

2F 68 00 10

BE 01

0FA0

OFB0

**OFCO** 

88 00 90 00

10 03

0FD0	A8	00	90	00	20	D7	60	00
	18	03	F6	01	20	AB	D8	01
OFEO	20	05	70	00	00	01	E8	00
	FO	00	08	00	D0	00	00	01

#### Mr.Q.A.RICE

The following five programs are all written for the TRITON and are really intended for use as routines within other programs.

#### Factorials (Limit of seven with Tiny-BASIC)

- 10 INPUT "FACTORIAL OF", N
- 20 X=1
- 30 FOR Y=N TO 2 STEP -1
- 40 X=X\*Y
- 50 NEXTY
- 60 PRINT X
- 70 GOTO 10

#### Square Roots (Integer result with Tiny-BASIC)

- 10 INPUT "THE SQUARE ROOT OF", X
- 20 Y=0,Z=170
- 30 Z=((X/Z)Z)/2
- 40 IF Z\*Z=X PRINT "=" , Z;GOTO 10
- 50 Y=Y+1
- 60 IF Y=15 PRINT "NEAREST INTEGER":,Z;GOTO 10
- 70 GOTO 30

#### Clock (Adjust line 80 for accuracy)

20	C=0
30	PRINT A, // 4,B, // 4,C
40	C=C+1
50	IF C=60,C=0,B=B+1
60	IF B=60,B=0,A=A+1
70	IE A-12 A-1

10 INPUT "HOURS" A. "MINUTES" B

#### 90 NEXT X 100 GOTO 30

80

Spiral	Screen	Wipe

10 VDU 0,12 20 A=1,B=64,C=1024,D=961 30 FOR W=A TO B

FOR X=1 TO 330

- 40 VDU W,122;NEXT W
- 50 FOR X=B TO C STEP 64
- 60 VDU X,122;NEXT X
- 70 B=B+63
- 80 FOR Y=C TO D STEP-1
- 90 VDU Y,122;NEXT Y
- 100 C=C-65
- 110 FOR Z=D TO A STEP-64
- 120 VDU Z,122;NEXT Z
- 130 D=D-63,A=A+65
- 140 GOTO 30

#### **Chess Board**

- 10 VDU 0,12 20 X=32
- 30 FOR A=1 TO 8

- 40 FOR B=3 TO 10
- 50 FOR C=1 TO 3
- 60 VDU (A\*64)+(B\*3)+C,X
- 70 NEXT C
- 80 GOSUB 130
- 90 NEXT B
- 100 GOSUB 130
- 110 NEXT A
- 120 STOP
- 130 IF X=32,X=122;RETURN
- 140 IF X=122,X=32;RETURN

#### Mr.I.POWELL

#### File Finder

The program is in machine code for the TRITON and is designed to allow the user to list the names of files on a tape recorded in TRITON format. It is designed to be recorded onto and recovered from tape using the monitor. The start address is at 1602H, bytes 1600H and 1601H containing the length code for the monitor tape I/O routines. When the program switches on the tape recorder it starts to look for a file header, which in TRITON format consists of 64 CR characters followed by the file identifier terminated with an EOT character. Having found the 64 CR's the program prints the file identifier on the VDU and searches for the next one on the tape. This continues until the character M is pressed on the keyboard. It is a good idea to load this program onto the start of each tape.

0000			ORG	1600H
1600	4D16		DB	4DH, 16H
		TPEON	EQU	0327H
		RST2	EQU	0010H
		TPENEE	EQU	032CH
		OUTCH	EQU	0013H
1602	CD2703		CALL	TPEON
1605		START:	CALL	TPEIN
1608	FEOD	514	CPI	ODH.
160A	C20516		JNZ	START
1600	063F		MVI	B, 63
1000	003	INC:	III V I	0,03
160F	CD3616	1140 •	CALL	TPEIN
1612	05		DCR	B
1613	FEOD		CPI	ODH
1615	C20516		JNZ	START
1618	78		VCM	
				A · B
1619	FE00		CPI	0
161B	C20F16		JNZ	INC
161E	3EOD		MVI	A, ODH
1620	CD1300		CALL	OUTCH
1623	3EOA		MVI	A, OAH
1625	CD1300		CALL	DUTCH
1628	CD3616	WRT:	CALL	TPEIN
1628	FF04		CPI	04H
162D	CA0516		JZ	START
1630	CD1300		CALL	DUTCH
1633	C32816		JMP	WRT
2000	032310			

		TPEIN:		
1636	DB00		IN	0
1638	FEED		CPI	OEDH
163A	CA4716		JZ	EXIT
1630	D801	LOOP:	IN	1
163F	F601		ANI	1
1641	CA3616		JZ	TPEIN
1644	DB04		IN	4
1646	C9		RET	
1647	CD2C03	FXIT:	CALL	TREOFF
1644	C31000		JMP	RST2
			END.	
В	000	00	Д	0007
C	000		В	0000
D	000		C	0001
E	000		D	0002
Н	000	)4	E	0003
L	000	)5	EXIT	1647
M	000	06	Н	0004
PSW	000	06	INC	160F
SP	000	)6	L	0005
Α	000	7	LOOP	163D
TPEON	033	27	М	0006
RST2	00		OUTCH	0013
TPEOF			PSW	0006
DUTCH			RST2	0010
START			SP	0006
INC	160		START	1605
WRT	16		TPEIN	1636
TPEIN			TPEOFF	0320
LOOP	163		TPEON	0327
EXIT	16	4 /	WRT	1628

#### Submarine Game

The game is designed for the TRITON and written in tiny-BASIC. It simulates the hunting of an unseen submarine by a destroyer, given only the submarine's last bearing and distance. The object is to destroy the sub, guided by sonar, and you have 20 depth charges to do so. The program takes just under 2K of memory. There are three levels of skill, Novice, Moderate and Expert. The game is played on a grid of 1-14 Northings and 1-60 Eastings. The sub moves S grid units in a random direction, unless disabled, between every attempt. If the sub leaves the grid it reappears on the other side, if it does this more than 4 times you lose. If you drop a charge within 4-S grid units of the sub it is disabled and cannot move. A direct hit will sink the sub. To drop charges give the position in Northings (NL) and Eastings (EL). For each charge dropped there is a simulated explosion at that position, a dot is left to mark the spot. After each attempt you are given the distance from that charge and the bearing to the sub. At the end of the game you may obtain the subs course labelled A,B,C etc. with a \* showing the last position. Good hunting !

55 GOSUB 770
60 P. 'YOU HAVE 20 DEPTH CHARGES TO SINK THE SUB'
62 P. 'POSITIONS GIVEN IN NORTHLINGS EASTLINGS'
64 P. 'IF SUB. ESCAPES AREA IT RE-ENTER'S ON THE OTHER 61DE'
65 P. 'IF THIS HAPPENS MORE THAN 4 TIMES YOU LOSE'
66 P. 'SUB. MOYES. WMT1L DISABLED' 70 P. 'ENTER YOUR DEGREE OF SKILL' 90 INPUT '1: 91 A=RND(8) '1=NOVICE:2=MODERATE:3=EXPERT'S 93 X=RNDC15-S\*2)+S 96 Y=RNDC60-S\*2)+S+1 100 IF(S>0)\*(S<4) GOTO 130 110 P-NUST BE 1,2 OR 3 120 GOTO 90 120 E=4-S 140 VDU 0,12 150 GOSUB 770 160 VDU 0,10 165 P.' 1 5', 170 FOR I=10 TO 60 STEP 5 180 P-#5, I, NEXT I 190 VDU 0, 13 200 FOR I=14 TO 2 STEP -1 200 FOR 1=14 TO 2 STI 210 P.#2.1 220 NEXT 1 225 P.' 1', 230 GOSUB 760 234 IF Z24 GOTO 500 236 IF R220 GOTO 512 260 @(R)=X#64+Y 270 R=R+1 275 P.' POSITION', 277 V=V-2 27/ Y=V-2 280 YDU 0,29 282 F.J=1T050; YDU 0,9; N.J 283 INPUT 'NL='H 284 YDU 0,11 285 F.J=1T057; YDU 0,9; N.J 285 F.J=1T057; YDU .0,9; N.J 286 P.##6/Y.AH,AH,AH,AH,AH,AH,; INPUT 'EL='V 287 YDU .0,11 288 H=16-H,V=V+2 290 IF(H)>1)#(H<16)#(V)>2)#(V<63) GOTO 312 300 P. 'POSITION OUT OF AREA', 310 GOTO 280 312 U=H#6/4+V 314 VDU U,42;F.1=1T0200;N.1 316 VDU U,15;F.1=1T0200;N.1 318 VDU U,18 318 YOU 0,18
320 GOSUB 760
322 W=W+1
325 IF (H=X)\*(V=Y) GOTO 520
340 L=ABS(X-H)
350 M=ABS(Y-V)
360 IF(L<=E)\*(M<=E) S=0
370 IF S=0 P.\*\*OISABLED\*\*\*,
380 GOSUB 620
400 A=A+PN(3)=2 380 GOSUB 620 400 A=A+RND(3)-2 403 IF A>8 A=A-8 405 IF A<1 A=A+8 410 X=X+S\*\*(CA<=3)-(CA>=5)\*(A<=7)-(A=8)-(A=1)) 420 Y=Y+S\*\*(CA>=3)\*(CA<=5)-(A=7)-(A=8)-(A=1)) 425 U=0 430 IF X<2 X=X+14;U=1 440 IF X>15 X=X-14;U=1 450 IF X>15 X=X-14;U=1 460 IF Y>62 Y=Y-60;U=1 470 IF U 7=7-4 480 GOTO 234
500 GOSUB 790;P.'YOU LOST HE GOT AWAY ',
510 GOTO 540
512 GOSUB 790;P.'OUT OF DEPTH CHARGES ',
514 GOTO 540
520 GOSUB 790;P.'YOU SUNK IT WITH ',#2,W,' DEPTH CHARGES',
540 Y=2,N=1
545 INPUT ' SUBS COURSE? Y OR N'C 545 INPUT' SUBS COURSE? Y OR 550 IF C=1 G.585 560 FOR I=1 TO R-1 570 YDU @(I),I+64 575 YDU @(R-1),42 580 NEXT I 585 GOSUB 790 590 INPUT 'NEW GAME Y OR N'C 600 IF C=Y GOTO 20 610 STOP 620 I=HXX,J=V-Y I=H-X,J=V-Y U=I#I+J#J FOR D=1 TO 90 IF D#D>U GOTO 690 NEXT D D=D-1 P.#2, 'LAST BEARING=',D, IF X<H P.' NORTH', IF X>H P.' NOUTH', IF X>H P.' ', IF Y>V P.' EAST', IF Y<V P.' WEST', IF Y=V P.' RST', 690 D=D-1
700 P.#2, 'LAST BEARI!
710 IF X<H P.' NORTH
720 IF X>H P.' SOUTH
721 IF X=H P.'
730 IF Y>V P.' EAST'
740 IF Y>V P.' WEST'
745 IF Y=V P.'
750 R.
760 YDU 0.28
770 F.!=1 TO 150;N.!
780 R.
790 GOSUB 760;P..;VDI 790 GOSUB 760;P.,;VDU 0,13

<sup>20</sup> Z=0, W=0, R=1 30 V=2 50 VDU 0, 12

#### MR.P.CORNES

#### Hex-Bug

There are quite a few micro—computers on the market now which will run extended BASIC and so have PEEK and POKE statements in their vocabulary. The program listed here here uses these two facilities to overcome a small but annoying problem that most of these micro—computers share. It is possible using the PEEK and POKE statements to write machine code subroutines in BASIC programs but using these statements you have to input the data in decimal number format. This program allows you to enter, modify and list your machine—code subroutines in HEX instead of decimal.

When you run this program you will be asked to "Input start address". At this point you should type in a four digit HEX number which will be taken as the first address you wish to examine; (You could also type END at this point which will terminate the run)The computer will respond to this by displaying the chosen address (HEX four digits) and along side it, the contents of that address (HEX - two digits). After this a question mark will be displayed. If you are happy with the contents of the location displayed then just press carriage return and the process will be repeated with the next higher numbered location. If you wish to change the contents of the displayed location then just type in (HEX - two digits) the contents of this location as you would wish to be. The third alternative is to type X when you have finished working on your prog ram and this will cause the computer to exit back to "Input start address".

A flow chart of the program is included for those of you who enjoy mental gymnastics or for those of you who may wish to improve the program or add more facilities to it.

PRINT" -- CTI HEX-BUG--" 10 INPUT"INPUT START ADDRESS (HEX -20 4 DIGITS) OR TYPE END"; A\$ IF AS= "END" THEN END 25 N=4: GOSUB 1200 30 S=C 40 D=S:GOSUB 1000 50 PRINT B\$: " "; 60 D=PEEK(S): GOSUB 100 70 PRINT MID\$(B\$,3,2); " "; 80 A\$=" ": INPUT A\$ 90 IF A\$=" " THEN 140 100 IF A\$="X" THEN 20 110 N=2: GOSUB 1200 120 130 POKE S.C S=S+1: GOTO 50 140 B\$="": K=4 1000 Q=164(K-1): L=0 1010 IF Q>D THEN K=K-1: IF K=-1 THEN 1060 1020 **ELSE 1040** L=L+1: D=D-Q:GOTO 1020 1030 IF L>9 THEN L=L+55 ELSE L=L+48 1040 B\$=B\$+CHR\$(L): GOTO 1010 1050 RETURN 1060 C=0 : FOR A=1 TO N 1200

B=ASC(MID\$(A\$,N+1-A, ))

**NEXT A: RETURN** 1240 1250 END START INPLIT AS="END" NO N=4 SUB 1200 S=C POKE S.C. S=S+1 D⇔S SUB 1000 YES AS="X" D-PEEK(S) AS: SUB 1000 PRINT LOCATION ONTENTS, I HEX (BS) SUB 1200 CONVERT HEX (A\$), CONTAINING N DIGITS TO DECIMAL (C) CONVERT DECIMAL (D)

IF B>57 THEN B=B-55 ELSE B=B-48

C=C+B\*16 (A-1)

1220

1230

1210

### SOFTSPOT

#### Mr.S.AINSWORTH

#### Computer Tolinka

This program was produced after reading the articles on the "Tolinka" chess recorder in ETI. The program has been produced on a Systime RSTS—11 time—sharing system that used a 25 by 80 character VDU, this point should be borne in mind when making any alterations to the program. The philosophy behind the program is that as a chess game machine is designed specifically for the purpose of 'chess logic', a micro is not and is therefore very inefficient. The program therefore is used exactly as Tolinka would be, that is as a game recorder. The main features of the program are as follows:—

- Very clear display of board positions.
- 2) Last 36 moves displayed on the screen.

- 3) Input from terminal/file to terminal/file.
- 4) Set and reset functions. You can enter SET and try out a line of thinking without the movements of the pieces being entered into the command matrix, C\$(), or the output device file. Enter RESET and the pieces are returned to their original positions and the output is re-enabled.
- Castling and all other moves are single algebraic notation commands, row numbers and file letters are displayed on the screen.
- 6) Upper and lower case commands are understood.
- 7) Rudimentary checking of commands for illegal moves.
- 8) Fast operation due to short program length, 4K.

The screen display is shown with the currently made moves on the left hand side of the chessboard. The listing of table 1 is a sample of a stored game which could be recalled and replayed.

```
1
         IMULTI-ROLE CHESS PROGRAMME BY S.AINSWORTH MATHS SIXTH
4
         !INITIALISATION
5
         ON ERROR GOTO 10000: Yb=SY5 (CHR + (6%) + CHR + (-7%))
10
         OPEN"CHESS. INN" AS FILE 1%:
          DIM Ib (2420 77) + 16 (246 , 361 + Ct (30%) + M% (8% + 8%)
15
         INPUT"INPUT DEVICE/FILE"; 113: INPUT"OUTPUT DEVICE/FILE"; 013:
          OPEN ILS AS FILE 28: UPEN OLD AS FILE 38
20
         FOR IS=1 TO ON: FOR US=15 TO SE: INPUT LINE ELS AS
         READ MA(13, U) UVLESS 24<1+ 4NU 14<76
25
30
         IS(IS, JE) = LEFT (AS, LEN (AS) - (5): NEXT JO: NEXT IS
         ACHH $ (24%) +11
                                "+CHK $ (14%) +" CHESS "+CHK $ (15%) +"
40
                   "+CHMD([1:) : FUR 1 = 47% TO 104%: 6:6:6"
          611
                                                                     WHITE
                                                                              HLACK"
         6CHR$ (30%) +CHK = (33%) +CHK = (35 + 1 % + 31%) +NUM = (4% - 1%) FOR I%=1% TO 8%
50
         FOR [%=1% TO 8%: FOR J%=1% TO 8%: IF 1%+J%<>2541NT((1%+J%)/2%) THEN
60
          Ma(I%+3n-1h, Ja)=10(Ix, Ja):M1(Ix+3x-∠x, Ja), M1(Ix+3k, Ja)=**
                                                                                    ": GOTO 80
         MS (1443年-1250) * MS (154340) = 1444444411;
10
          IF IS(I% . Jb) = CHH b (15%) +"
                                             "THEN MD (12430-16, JA) = CHRS (15%) + " ** ** ** **
          ELSE Mx (In+3x-10, Ux) = I$ (I$, Ux)
         GOSUR 150
HU
65
         NEXT JA: NEXT In
         INPUT FROM TERMINALIFILE FOR NEXT MOVE
95
         ACHR $ (30%) + CHR $ (32%) + CHR $ (55%) + SPACE $ (21%) + CHR $ (13%) ;:
100
          IF C% THEN 6"BLACK"; ELSE &"WHITE";
         6" . S MOVE: ":: INPUT LINE 62%, A1 5: A1 5= LEFT (A1 5 . LEN (A1 5) - 2%) : GOTO 4000
101
```

						CHE	SS		à	ь	C	d	e	£	9	h
Table 1.						WHITE	BLACK	0	POOK	PATRIM	BISHOP		KING			OWNER S
					1	e2-e4	g8-f6	8	*****		******	QUEEN	KING			WOOM.
					2	e4-e5	f6-d5			******		******	- 0111100			******
E6-E4	C7XUS	UAKES			3	a2-a4	a7-d6	7	PAWN	PAWN		******	W.Carrie	PAWN	BISHOP	PAWN
GO-FD		and the same of th			4	g1-f3	g7-g6					*******		******		
00-10	AC-A4	GTXES			6	f1-c4 c4-b3	d6-b6 f8-g7	6	******	KNIGHT	******		******		******	
E4-65	00	F1-E1	06-07		7	e5xd6	c7xd6		******		******		******		PAWN	
					8	a2-a4				******		******		******		******
FO-US	00	E5-07	A1-44					5		*****		******				******
02-04	BB-C6	BJADS	FSXCZ	27					******	******	******	******	******	******	******	******
07-06	M2-H3	00-06	F4XC1					4	PAWN		******	P. S.F. LT.				
G1-F3	Ca-F5	66-63	D7XC7					-		* * * * * *		******				******
67-66	A4-45	AN-AN	A4-H4					5	13	BISTOP				KNIGHT		
									******		******		• • • • • • • •		******	
F1-04	86-C8	p1-03	60-65					2	******	PAW	PAWN		******	PAWN	PAWN	PAWN
05-86	01-05	F Э Х Н З	U5-E4		Dine	ck's Move				*****		******		*****		******
C4-83	D6-05	02-Ho	CZXE4		Dide	A B MOVE	1.00	I.	ROOK	KNIGHT	BISHOP	[QUEEN]	Trans.			ROOK
F8-67	F3-E5	n3=F5	EIXE4			-										7 4
ESXDE	COXES	C1-F4	FILE-R		Note	PAWN	Indicat	tes	reverse	d vide	-					-
the of the Li	CUNCO	U1-F4	1 1 1													

### SOFTSPOT

```
11 b="Ko:"
103
        & A15 UNLESS
        &CHR*(26%);:SLEEP 3% UNLESS II >= "KB: ": $SPACE > (21%):
105
         GUSUR 1000 UNLESS 5%
        IF X1%=15% THEN GUSUB 3000 ELSE GUSUB 2000
110
        C%=1%-C%:GUTO 100
120
        IBOARD PRINTOUT SUBROUTINE
140
        &CHR$ (30%) +CHR$ (49%+U%*7%) +CHR$ (3%*1%+K%+29%) +M$ (3%*1%-3%+K%*U%)+
150
         CHR$ (26%) FUR K#=1% TO 3% RETURN
        ! COMMAND MATHIX SUBROUTINE
990
                         THEN C$(1%)=C$(1%+2%) FUR 1%=1% TU 34%:
        IF LEN(C5(36%))
1000
         C$(35*)=A15:C$(36%)="":11%=I1%+1%:GUTO 1030
        FOR 1%=1% TO 36%: IF LEN(C&(I%))=0% THEN C&(I%)=A14:GOTO 1030
1010
1020
        NEXT I%
        FOR I%=1% TO 18%: IF C%(2%*I%-1%)="" GOTO 1040
1030
         ELSE &CHR$ (30%) +CHR$ (32%) +CHR$ (35%+1%) +NUM$ (11%+1%);
        &SPACE$ (5%-LEN (NUM$ (11%+1%)))+C$ (2%*1%-1%)+SPACE$ (8%-LEN(C$ (2%*1%-1%)))+
1035
         C$ (2%*1%) +SPACE$ (8%-LEN(C*(2%*1%))) : NEXT 1%
        &£3%, A15 UNLESS U1 = "KB:": RETURN
1040
         IMOVING SUBROUTINE
1990
        M$ (Y2%+3%-1%, X2%)=M$ (Y1%+3%-1%, X1%):
2000
         IF X1%+Y1%<>2%*INT((X1%+Y1%)/2%) THEN M$(Y1%*3%-1%,X1%)=CHR%(15%)+
                 " ELSE MS(Y1%+3%-1% . X1%) = CHR$(15%) + "++++++
         11
         IF S%=0% THEN M% (Y2%, X2%)=M% (Y1%, X1%):M% (Y1%, X1%)=0%
2010
         1%=Y1%: J%=X1%: GUSUS 150
2015
         1%=Y2%:J%=X2%:GUSU3 150
2017
        RETURN
5050
        ! CASTLING SUBHOUTINE
2990
         X1%=5%: IF C% THEN Y1%=1% ELSE Y1%=8%
3000
         Y2%=Y1%: IF ASCII (RIGHT (A15.3%)) THEN X2%=3% ELSE X2%=7%
3010
         GOSUB 2000
3015
         IF X2%=3% THEN X1%=1%:X2%=4%:GOTO 3035
3020
         X1%=8%:X2%=6%
3030
         GOSUR 2000
3035
         RETURN
3040
         ! COMMAND CHECKING ROUTINE
3990
         X1%=(223% AND ASCII(A1%))-64%:Y1%=57%-ASCII(RIGHT(A1%,2%)):
4000
          X2%=(223% AND ASCII(RIGHT(A15,4%)))-64%:Y2%=57%-ASCII(RIGHT(A15,5%))
         IF X1%=6% AND (Y1%<U% OR Y1%=57%) GOTO 103
4010
         IF X1%=19% THEN I&(1%,J%)=M$(1%,J%) FOR I%=1% TO 24% FOR J%=1% TO 8%:
4020
          S%=1%:C1%=C%:60TO 100
         IF X1%=13% THEN M&(1%+J%)=1%(1%+J%) FOR 1%=1% TO 24% FOR J%=1% TO 8%
4030
          ELSE GOTO 4055
         FOR 1%=1% TO 8%:FOR J%=1% TO 8%:GOSUB 150
4040
         NEXT J%: NEXT I%: 5%=0%&C%=C1%: GUTO 100
4050
         IF X1%=15% GOTO 4090
4055
         F%=M%(Y1%, X1%): T%=Y%(Y2%, X2%): 0%=223% AND ASCII(RIGHT(A15,3%))
4060
         IF 0%=13% AND (F%=U% OR T% OR SGN(F%) <> SGN(C%-.5))
 4070
                                "+CHR $ (14%) +"MOVE "; : GOTO 4100
          THEN &CHK$ (26%) +"
         IF 0%=88% AND (SGN(F%) <> SGN(C%-.5) OR T%=0% OR SGN(T%) = SGN(F%))
 4080
                                "+CHR$ (14%) +"MOVE ";: GOTO 4100
          THEN &CHR$ (26%) +"
         GOTO 103
 4090
                                            ":SLEEP 2%:GDTO 100
         &"ERROR"+CHR$ (15%) +CHR$ (7%) +"
 4100
 9980
         ! DATA
 9990
         DATA 5,2,4,0,9,4,2,5,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1
 9991
         DATA -1,-1,-1,-1,-1,-1,-1,-5,-2,-4,-8,-9,-4,-2,-5
 9995
         !ERROR HANDLING HUUTINE
 10000
         IF ERR=28% THEN 25=5YS(CHR$(0%))
         IF ERR=26% AND 11%<>"KB:" THEN CLOSE 2%: UPEN"KB:" AS FILE 2%:
 10010
          115="KB:":YS=SYS(CHR$(6%)+CHR$(-7%)):RESUME 100
         IF ERR=55% THEN &: S"END OF GAME DATA": SLEEP 5%: &CHR$ (24%)
10020
 10030
         CLOSE 1%,2%,3%
         IF ERR=11% OR EHH=28% THEN KILL 015:6CHR$(24%)
 10040
 10050
         END
```

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# Hey Prestel! Viewdata comes home at last

he Post Office Viewdata system, known as Prestel, is now available in the London area to residential users. The system uses two devices common in most homes nowadays, the telephone and the TV. By connecting these together the Post Office has gained a world lead in information distribution to the general public, the businessman and many other groups of users.

The concept of providing information on a vast, readily accessible scale first appeared with the Teletext systems introduced a couple of years ago by the BBC and the IBA. However the amount of data that these can actually distribute is limited by two factors, the available transmission space on the TV (which is two lines of the 625) and the time taken to access any given piece of information.

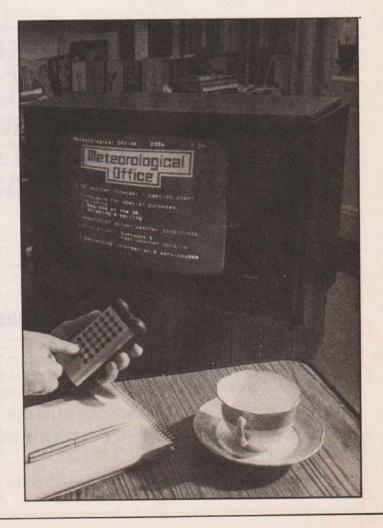
The Teletext database is limited by these two constraints to about 3-4 hundred pages, screenfuls, of information. The Prestel database currently stands at 146,000 pages and is growing at the rate of 10,000 pages per month.

Spice Of Life

The variety of information available is vast, ranging from British Airways timetables to the latest company reports from the Stock Exchange. Actual connection to the system requires a modified TV, such as the one in Photo 1, which costs about £900 and a telephone.

The TV contains a modem and all the decoding circuitry to convert the serially transmitted data on the telephone line into a pageful of information. The TV will also allow access to the Teletext system. The outstanding difference between the two systems is not only that Prestel provides a much larger, and faster, database but that the concept is two way.

A user with an intelligent terminal, or even the TV



### PRESTEL



The pictures on these two pages show the variety of information available. From top right clockwise. The games index page from BARIC, a FINTEL company report, the World Driver Championship table and a Met Office bulletin.

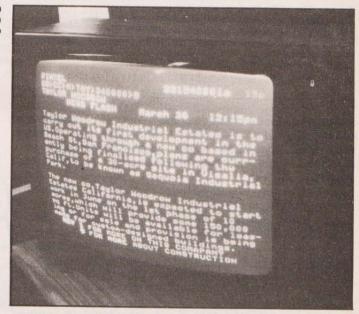
keypad, actually asks the mainframe computer at the other end of the telephone line for the data he wants. Once you have 'logged on' to the system you are presented with a series of index pages which prompt you to enter a number from your keypad corresponding to the type of information that you require. As an alternative to this method of finding data, which is time consuming, you may look up the required data in a directory, not unlike a normal telephone directory, and dial the page number of the required data.

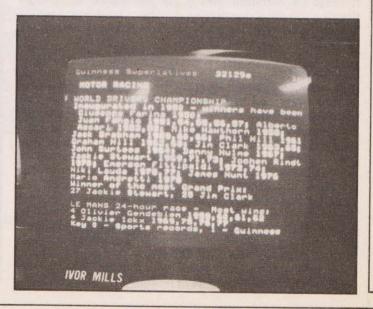
Now, rather than having to wait for the required page to be cycled to you as with the Teletext systems, the computer retrives the data from its store and sends it back down the line. This makes the system much faster and also opens up rather interesting possibilities. Because you now have access to the database you could create your own pages on the system for other people to read — electronic mail becomes a possibility. You can also access software stored on the system to run on your own computer at home.

#### **Rent A Cost**

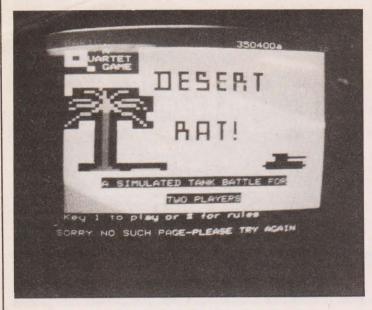
The actual cost of obtaining the information stored is made up of several components. Primarily there is the cost of making the phone call to the system and finally there is a charge for the actual information that you access. The cost of the TV will undoubtedly come down over the next few years but in the meantime you may rent a set rather than buy. Radio Rentals are currently offering sets at £24 per month.

The charge for the telephone call will be that of a local call, unless there is no Prestel computer in the area. It is hoped that most areas will be within the range of a computer in the not too distant future. Plans are altready in





### PRESTEL







Above: One of the Baric games on the system.

From top to bottom: Dr Alex Reid demonstrating the system at the launch. One of the GEC sets with its remote control.

The ITT remote control keypad showing the Prestel and Teletext page selection controls. An ITT set showing the remote control plugged to act as the standard TV controls.

the pipeline for centres in several major cities. The cost of accessing the data itself is set by the Information Provider, along with a fixed charge of 3p minute in business hours and 3p/3 minutes at other times, and can vary from zero to 50p.

This charge can be quoted before you actually obtain the information, thus preventing large unwarranted charges. If you think that the charges are high consider this; if you want specific data on a topic you will have to pay for it whether you buy a book or a newspaper. Any information will cost you money and a vast database such as that on Prestel would be almost impossible to own privately, thus for access directly to the data you want the charges are almost certainly not unreasonable.

It must be admitted that if you wandered at random through the database playing games or reading jokes you would probably get a nasty shock when your telephone bill arrived!

#### **Future Call**

It is quite conceivable that in the next five years home computers will have direct access to Prestel as a matter of course, and the exchange of software and information will be a booming business. The Post Office prediction for the database is 1 million pages in five years and with the present rate of growth this figure seems reasonable. The system is already being exploited abroad with Holland, Germany and Hong Kong all setting up. America has signed a licence agreement and France is in the process of developing its own system. The future of 'informatics' is ensured, at least in this country, and the possibility of global networks is more than mere speculation.

We can only wish the Post Office the best of British and hope that yet another development from this country prospers overseas as well as at home.





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Petsoft A member of the ACT Computer Group. PET is the trade mark of Commodore

These programs are also available from 125 dealers throughout the country

# Lost for words? Perhaps your micro can help

ne of the more talked-about uses for computers in both the home and office is for the production of letters and documents. However judging by the number of telephone inquiries we receive it appears that little is known about the commercially available software that runs on your own personal computer. We set out to find as many packages as possible that run on the common home machines, bearing in mind that these may also be used for business purposes.

What to expect for your money

It is very difficult to find a standard to judge software packages by so we devised a hybrid system, the basis of which is set out in Table 1. Using this as a guide we then compared the facilities provided by the various programs and these are given in the summary of each system. Without actually being able to run the programs, with the exception of the Connecticut package, it is impossible to give an indication of how easy to use they are. It is obviously a good idea to try a system out before actually committing your money, no matter how good it looks on paper it might be difficult to operate.

It should also be borne in mind that these packages are processors, they virtually all need to have a previously prepared text file, this will require an Editor of some description and we have indicated in the product

summary, Table 2, the available Editor.

Summary

Whilst this is by no means an exhaustive list of the available software it should at least provide a good starting point for further investigation and we will report in the future on any updates to the list.

Owing to the diversity of the packages it is impossible to say which is best, this decision can only be taken with respect to the type of application that you require.

#### A Hybrid Word Processor System

Functions Description

Editing The operator should be capable of

last-minute corrections such as text insertion, deletion and moving text

about.

Formatting The final copy should be capable of

appearing on any size of paper merely by changing the line and page para-

meters.

Presentation The presentation of reports is enhanced

by page numbering and headings. An ideal processor should be capable of centering text strings and also justi-

fication.

Note: these facilities are chosen as being the most commonly available and useful. A high-power WP system will undoubtedly provide much more, such as automatic indexing, footnotes and references.

Table 1.

#### **Commodore PET**

The well known Petsoft firm has produced a package called the Connecticut Word Processor Program. This system allows for either the generation of text or the useage of a previously prepared text file. It is possible to merge two or more files and then process them, allowing for the generation of standard forms and letters. The editing facilities allow for string interchange, line replacement and

### WORD PROCESSOR SYSTEMS

These photos show the Connecticut WPS in operation. The top photo shows the printing of an ASCII character by code, the second shows centering of a text string and the third photo shows the types of text that can be handled.

text insertion or deletion. The editing functions are carried out line by line using a locatable cursor.

Formatting allows for page and line length specification. The output device for this program is an RS232 printer connected via an adaptor, this allows for software control of the printer.

The presentation of the final document is limited to the use of centering and left-hand margin indent but several other facilities are available for use. It is possible to overprint lines, print a specific ASCII character, used for underlining etc., and repeat print a specified character string. Another feature is to stop the printout allowing for manual insertion of text at a specific point and then to continue printing. We have run this program, admittedly without a printer, and it appears to be easy to use and offer a reasonable command set.

#### Apple II

The software package for the Apple was supplied by Keen Computers and is simply known as the Word Processor. The program allows for the generation of text or the use of a previously generated file. Once a file is entered, you have to specify the length of the input file, it may be edited. The facilities available are text insertion and deletion, changeing of lines, string searching and replacement. The format of the final document is defined at the input stage and only allows for the width of paper. The final output is to a printer residing in slot 2 of the processor but by patching a statement in the program any interface slot may be used. The only presentation facility is the centering of text strings.

#### Nascom 1

The ICL/Dataskil Letter Writer program is supplied in two 2708 EPROM's and not only contains the processor but also the vital parts of the NASBUG monitor. This program

```
>t 5
0>.11 40
1>Text strings may be centered:
2>.ce "Hello!"
>u 5
0>.11 40
>p 5
Text strings may be centered:
"Hello!"
>%
```

```
>t 10

0>This is a piece of text to show 1>that the Conecticut package can use 2>both UPPER and lower case.

>%
```

WORD PROCESSOR SUMMARY TABLE									
MACHINE	Software	When Available	Supplier	Hardware Requirements	Cost				
Apple II	Word Processor (text prepared on Text Editor)	Now	Keen Computers, 5 The Poultry, Nottingham. 0602-583254	Cassette or Diskette, printer in slot 2 but can be patched for other ports	£50 + V.A.T.				
Commodore PET	Connecticut Word Processor (text prepared on MicroText Editor)	Soon	Petsoft, P.O. Box 9, Newbury. Berkshire. 0635-201131	Cassette + printer with RS232 adaptor, available from Petsoft.	£25 inc. V.A.T.				
Nascom I	ICL/Dataskil Letter Writer	Now	Nascom Microcomputers, 121 High Street, Berkhampsted, Herts. 04427-74343	Cassette and printer	£70 + V.A.T.				
SWT 6800	TSC Text Processor (text prepared using Editor)	Now	Southwest Technical, 38 Dover Street, London, W.1. 01-491 7507	10K, Cassette or Diskette, output to any port					
TRS 80	Word 1 Word 3 (text prepared using Text Editor)		A. J. Harding, 28 Collington Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex. 0424-220391	Word 1 needs 12K and Level 2. Word 3 needs 16K, disk system. Both Tandy printers are suitable.					

Table 2. Summary table of available packages.

allows for the creation of text files as well as the editing of previous file stored on cassette. The editor functions are very powerful, allowing for the absolute positioning of the cursor within a line rather than simple line correction but string handling and text movement are not available. A tab function allows for the creation of tables or lists. It may be argued that as absolute cursor control is provided string handling is not absolutely necessary.

Text formatting is not available and it is up to the user to make sure that his document will fit on to the paper size, having done this once of course the document can be saved onto cassette and merely edited and re-used, an invoice for example.

The final presentation of the document must be defined by the user, no facilities are provided. Although this package may appear rather limited in its commands it must be remembered that this program fits into 2K of EPROM, the smallest program of any we have looked at in this survey.

#### **SWT 6800**

The TSC Text Processing System is a very powerful package indeed, disk based it requires at least 10K of memory and will output to any port. The program operates on a previously generated text file and does not allow for the editing of text, the SWT Editor should be used for this. The format commands allow for paper length and width, even to the extent of preparing a document to have suitable spaces for footnotes and headings on any subsequent page. The presentation

### WORD PROCESSORS

commands are extremely sophisticated, allowing for three types of justification, automatic page numbering, page heading and footnotes. There are many other features provided, text that is required in both upper and lower case on the final output may be prepared on an upper case terminal only, the text having 'format characters' inserted to indicate the letters required in upper case and the processor will automatically convert these before it outputs the text. Indentation of text is catered for as is multiple line spacing. A measure of the power of this system is that it is based on the NROFF text formatter which is widely used in the computer industry. No summary such as this can do justice to such a complex package and there are many more facilities besides those mentioned above, a complete article could be written on just this one program.

#### **TRS 80**

Two processor systems are available for the TRS 80 from A. J. Harding. These are Word 1 and Word 3. Word 1 runs on a level 2 system with a minimum of 12K memory and a cassette. Word 3 is diskette based and needs 16K and DOS. The packages are very similar and as such we will only comment on the differences. In general text editing is not supported, previously prepared files are used (a suitable text editor is available). Documents are formatted to page and line length with

multiple line spacing available. The presentation commands cater for justification, centering, page numbering and heading and also a multiple column facility although this needs at least 16K and is not supported by Word 3, this is rather odd as this system is disk based! The packages also use the TRS 80 keyboard to enter commands rather than being software based, this does have an advantage in that it should make it easier to remember the controls as you use them all the time.

#### Summary

The most important part of any software package other than the fact that it will actually do the job is the provision of good documentation. Several of the packages we have reviewed are not yet available and their documentation has been written in America. The TRS 80 systems were pretty awful but A. J. Harding are going to completely re-write these before they are released, how our American friends ever coped is beyond me. The Apple is also rather poorly presented, with just over 3 A5 pages to tell you all about it. On the other hand the SWT Package is very thorough, and has been prepared using the actual processor. This shows the power available in the package as well as giving the necessary information. In the event of any further packages being available we would be most interested to hear of them, but please remember that good documentation is essential.

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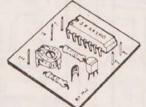
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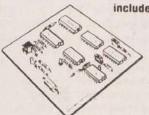
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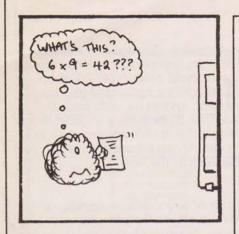


Convert your cassette-recorder into a digitalrecorder Easy to build, no adjustments! Uses Kansas City Standard. High speed, till 1200 Baud Full Duplex, which means that you can (if neccessary) use the interface with 2 cassetterecorders at one time. Audio in: and outputs connects directly to cassette-recorder. Data in: en outputs are TTL. compatible. Low. Power, only 5 volt needed. Kit includes all parts, heavy epoxy p.c. board with edge connector and clearly written manual in English. Board also available assembled and tested for £ 11.75 incl

How to order: Send is your Barclays, Eurocheque or other remittance in an envelope, put your name in capitals on the back. Kit £8.75 includes P&P. Assembled and tested (guaranteed for 90 days) £11.75 incl. P&P. Send your order to: Musicprint Computer Products b.v., P.O. Box 410, ARKELSE ONDERWEG 31, 4200 AK GORINCHEM, THE NETHERLANDS. Phone 010-31 18 30-24693. Your cassette interface will be shipped the same day we receive your order.

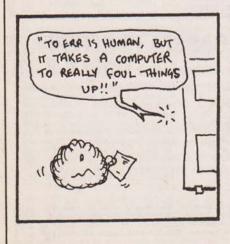
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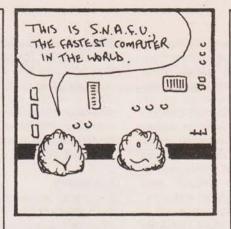
# BEASTIES

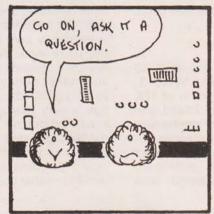


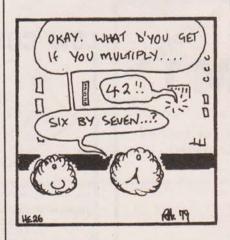


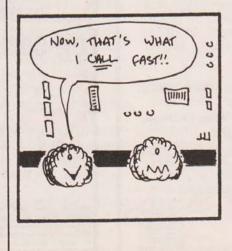


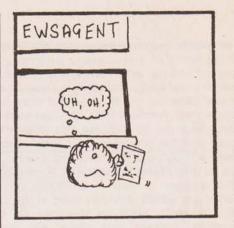


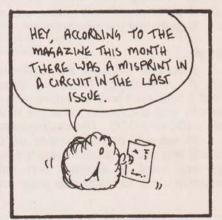
















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expanded version of Microsoft's popular floating point BASIC Its 9 digit arithmetic and large library make it ideal for business and scientific programs. Applesoft II is supplied either with a cassette tape or a plug in ROM card. The tape version is supplied free with every Apple.

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Gives your system immediate access to large quantities of data. The subsystem consists of an intelligent interface card, a powerful Disk Operating System and one or two mini-floppy drives. Features

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  Floppy disk subsystem 425.00 459.00 34.00

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#### Parallel Printer Interface Card

Allows you to connect almost any popular printer to your Apple, A BASIC program can produce hard copy output as easily as it prints to the TV monitor screen. Command interpretation and printer control details are handled by the firmware built into the card, to eliminate user programming requirements

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Allows your Apple to "talk" (though a modem) with other computers and terminals over ordinary telephone lines. Now you can load programs over the phone, send messages to remote send messages to remote terminals or access your office computer from the comfort of your terminals

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Allows Apple to exchange data with printers, plotters and computers in serial format at up to 19.2 K Baud

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Allows the Apple to recognise a spoken vocabulary of up to 32 user-selected words. The computer can be programmed to perform any task desired upon recognition of a key word.

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Provides the User with a means of building up experimental circuitry for the Apple computer. The 23/4" x 7" double-sided board includes a hole pattern that accepts all conventional integrated circuits and passive components Documentation includes a complete system bus description to aid the interface designer. Prototyping Card

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#### Other Products

Apple maintains a 6 to 12 months technology lead over the competition. There is not sufficient space to give full details of all that is available, but the following is a sample to whet your appetite

Real time clock Co-resident assembler on disk or

tape Programming aid ROM Joysticks **PROM Burner** 

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The Apple is one of many machines from Microdigital (Hire) Ltd. For details ring Mike Maughan on 051-227 2535.

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Total Nett 25.00 2.00 Trade Counter Program (integer basic, needs 32K of RAM and a single disk)

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The majority of these projects are designed and developed by our own laboratory. We usually do it this way as we then have total control over design features and complexity and of course component choice. We like to think this is one of the major reasons why ETI projects are so popular.

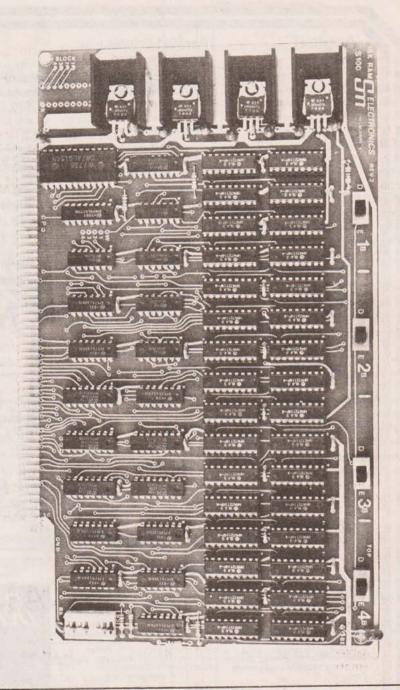
Projects of this complexity involve massive investments in time, effort and money; it seems only fair that Mike receives some return for his work. So Mike is retaining the commercial rights to the printed circuit board. Individual readers who wish to make their own are perfectly free to do so however and may obtain the patterns free of charge (see below).

#### Description

The board carries up to 32 1K x 4 RAM chips. It is possible to use the HM472114P-3 which is more expensive but has a 300 ns access time. Another alternative is the pin-compatible Intel 2114 device which is cheaper but has the disadvantage of not having been 'burnt in' (i.e. run for a time) and then tested completely, as the Hitachi device has.

All of the above devices require only a single 5 volt supply and the board derives this from the 8 volt preregulated line of the S-100 bus.

The RAM is split into four 4K blocks, each of which can be placed anywhere in the 64K memory space of the system This is done by connecting each of four points on the board (one for each 4K



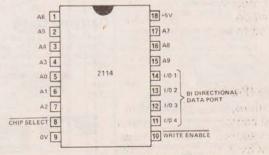


Fig 1 Pin-out of the 2114 1K by 4 RAM

### S100 16K RAM CARD

block) to one of sixteen possible points which correspond to the possible positions in the 64K. If the board is not fully populated (i.e. if you couldn't afford all of the RAM at the one time and left one or more 4K blocks of sockets empty) then connecting one or more of the four 'block select' lines to +5V via a pull-up resistor will take care of that too.

The board also carries four 'write protect' switches which allow the user to create what is effectively ROM by preventing the system from writing to a particular block or blocks.

#### **Wait States**

For some systems the memory is slower than the processor that when a read or write occurs, the processor must be told to wait while the memory works. On some earlier systems this time delay was achieved by using a monostable — this entailed 'tweaking' the monostable period until the system worked! Instead, this board counts a selected number of clock cycles (up to 4), giving a fixed and predictable delay.

The card also carries hardware to implement the Cromemco 'bank select' system of memory management. Basically, this allows eight blocks up to 64 Kbytes in size to be enabled or disabled by setting the appropriate bit of output port 100Q (40H). A DIP switch on the lower right corner of the board enables the user to specify which bit of the control word the card will respond to. This scheme allows a processor with a sixteen-bit address bus to access up to 512 Kbytes with fairly simple software.

The card can be set to be either enabled or disabled on system reset, before the memory management software has set up the normal memory allocation. In most systems, one card will be enabled on reset and all others will be disabled to avoid bus contentions.

#### Phantom Line (Pin 67)

In some situations, users may want to locate a ROM containing say a monitor program at an address which conflicts with the RAM card. One way to do this is simply to remove the RAM card, or at

least those chips which would conflict, but a better solution is offered with this card. If ROM must share an address with RAM, then the user should arrange for the ROM's address decoding logic to pull the PHANTOM line of the \$100 bus low. This signal is applied to the address decoding logic of the RAM card and disables it if another device has priority. In this way the ROM can be made to 'occlude' part of the RAM. A link on the board selects this facility.

#### Construction

The experienced constructor who wants to save a few pounds can make up his own double-sided PCB, but as this will not be through-hole plated, the constructor will have to identify all the points where a track goes through the board and insert a link, unless there is a component lead at that point. We do not recommend this for the faint of heart (seriously). However, printed circiut patterns will be available, on receipt of a large stamped self-addressed envelope from Computing Today, S100 16K Foils, 25-27 Oxford Street, London W1R 1RF.

Remember also that the use of a nonthrough-hole plated PCB prevents the use of IC sockets, and especially beware of feedthroughs which must go under ICs, sockets or the DIP switch. Construction should be fairly straightforward — the only choice that has to
be made right at the start is how many
IC sockets to use. There are three
possibilities: none at all — this means
that a dead IC has to be removed by
de-soldering; RAM only — to enable
'swap testing' of these expensive devices
and also easy replacement should they
prove defective; all ICs socketed — IC
sockets tend to be rather expensive and
putting sockets on all ICs may not be
cost-effective.

All the ICs fit in with pin 1 in the top left hand corner, so there shouldn't be any problem getting them the right way round. The only orientation-sensitive components are the LED (the flat on the side of the package goes to the right) and the tantalum capacitors.

Any IC sockets should be soldered in first, followed by the resistors and capacitors. The switches should be fitted next, followed by the regulators and heatsinks. At this point, power should be applied to the board and the outputs of the regulators measured — if they are anything other than +5 V, you've got a problem, and should check the power supply circuitry before inserting the ICs.

If everything checks out, the ICs should now be inserted and the options strapped. The board is now complete and ready for use.

### PARTS LIST

 Resistors
 all ½W, 5%

 R1, 2 . . . . . 2k2
 . . . . . . 1k

 R3 . . . . . . . 1k
 . . . . . . 2k2

 R7 . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1k

Capacitors

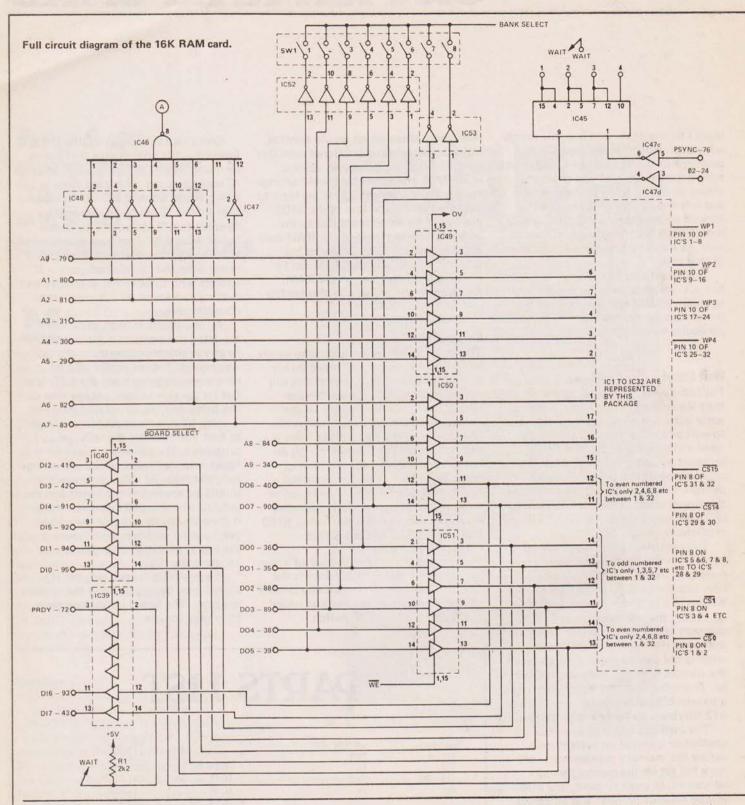
C1–C8 . . . . . 10µ 25V tantalum C9–C36 . . . . . 10n ceramic

Semiconductors

IC1-IC32 . . . 2114 (see text)
IC33 . . . . . 74LS138
IC34-IC37 . . . 74LS32
IC38 . . . . . 74LS20
IC39, 40 . . . . 74LS367
IC41 . . . . . . 74LS10

Miscellaneous

pcb ETI 642
Four single-pole two-way slide switches
One eight-pole one-way DIL switch
Four heatsinks to suit regulators



# HOW IT WORKS

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The address and data lines are tri-state buffered by ICs 39, 40, 49, 50 and 51 (74LS367). This means that the buffers have three possible output states – '1', '0' and high impedance (effectively disconnected).

The address lines to the RAMs are always active (i.e. not tri-state) – pins 1 and 15 of IC49 and pin 1 of IC50 are earthed to permanently enable the buffers. The data in (to the processor) and data out (of the processor) lines are connected to the same points on the RAMs and so the data out (of the processor) lines have to be tri-stated while the processor is reading. This is done by the WE line, which feeds the tri-state control input of IC51 and part of IC50.

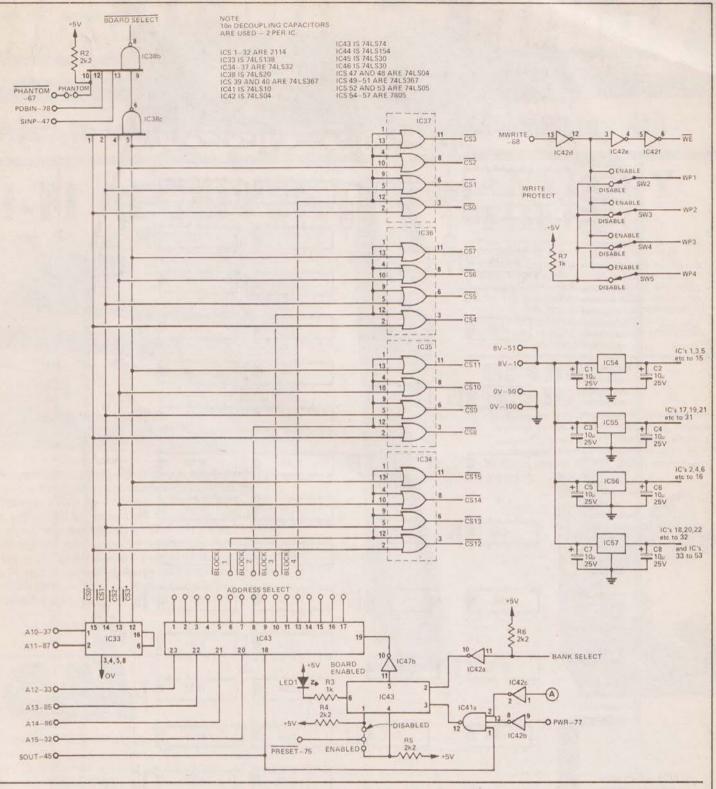
This same WE signal is also fed via the

four 'write protect' switches to the 'not write enable' inputs of the RAMs. Each of these controls one 4K block while these switches are in the 'disabled' position the ram contents will not change.

The high-order bits of the address bus are decoded by IC44, which is simply a 4 to 16 line decoder. The outputs of this IC are then wire-linked to the 'not block select' lines 1 to 4 to determine where each of the four 4K blocks is to reside in memory.

Bits 10 and 11 of the address are

### 16K RAM CARD



decoded by IC33, a 2 to 4 line decoder which determines which pair of chips is being accessed out of the 4K block (a pair of chips constitutes 1K of RAM). This is combined with the 'block select' signals in ICs 34 to 37 to form the 'chip select' lines 1 to 16 which go to the RAM chips.

IC45 simply counts clock cycles (the S100 \$\phi 2\$ signal) until the wait period is over. The number of cycles is determined by a wire link to one of the outputs of the IC and the counter is reset by the S100 PSYNC signal. A pull-up resistor selects 0

wait states if no link is present.

The cromemco 'bank select' hardware toggles flip-flop IC43. One output from this enables the outputs of IC44 while another drives the 'board enabled' LED.

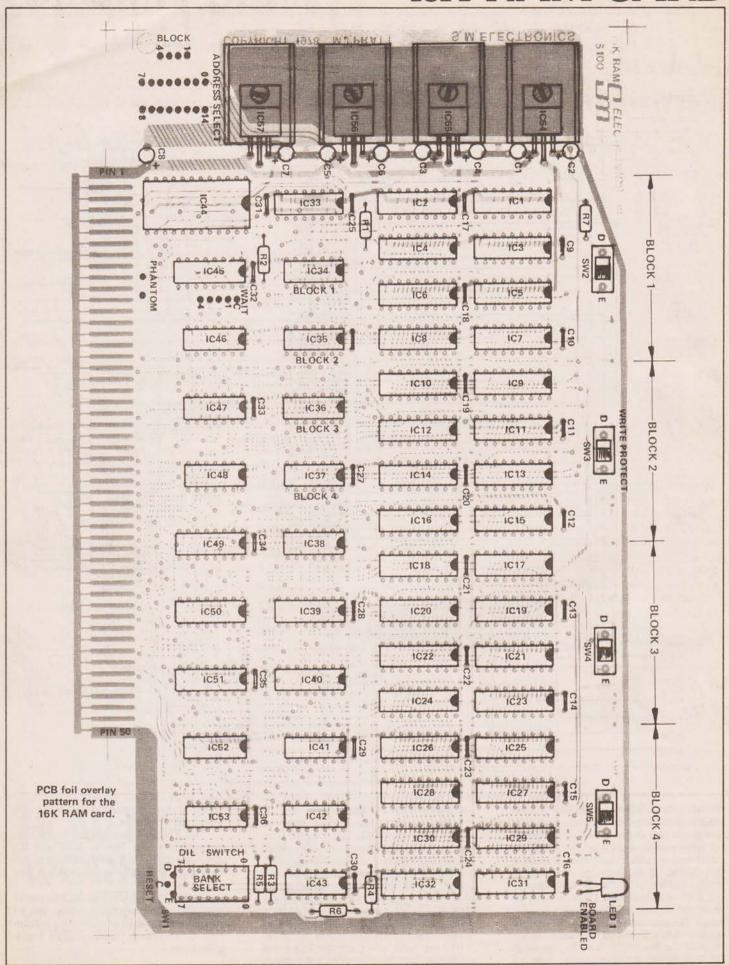
An attempt to output to the 'bank select' port at 100 octal (hex 40) is detected by the address decoder, ICs 46 and 48 and part of 47. Detection of the right address, PWR ans SOUT signals causes IC43 to accept any signal which makes it through SW1, the bank select switch. This is fed from the data bus and effectively selects

which of the eight possible 64K blocks the board will 'appear' in.

The PRESET line of the bus is connected via a wire link to IC43 and the position of the link determines whether the board is enabled or disabled on processor reset.

Lastly, the PHANTOM facility can be used by completing the link from line 67 of the bus to pin 10 of IC38. This will disable the board if the PHANTOM line is pulled low.

### 16K RAM CARD



# electronics today international

What to look for in the June issue: On sale May 4th

# HI-FI RECEIVER



A fifty watt stereo amplifier and a high quality tuner would make two excellent projects in themselves. With specifications such as these boast, we could be sure that the units would soon become widely accepted as the very best in DIY hi-fi. However we've gone one better to combine the two units to produce a receiver of outstanding merit. If you're about to buy, build or borrow a high-class hi-fi — stop it at once until you've read next months ETI.

# ECAA

ECM (Electronic Counter Measures). Without extensive capability in this field a modern fighter aircraft stands about as much chance against its opponents as would a bi-plane. Radar homing missiles can be jammed, locating radar foiled and laser targeting pick out a plane for ground-to-air attack in a fraction of a second. On the ground too, anti-tank missiles, remotely guided, can "take out" highly sophisticated (and expensive) tanks before they get time to retaliate. The principle behind the machinery are fascinating and their implications chilling. Read about them next month in our comprehensive article.

### ANYBODY THERE?

That intelligent life exists elsewhere in the Universe is a mathematical certainty. Whether or not it rides around in flying saucers we cannot afford to ignore the fact that it is there — somewhere. Steps are being taken to communicate with other worlds by some of this planet's largest observatories, and they may surprise you. Don't blame us if after close reading of this, you encounter more than lights in the sky!

## READERS' DESIGNS

Next month's is a remote controlled light dimmer which uses an ingenious voltage control circuit and ultrasonic transmiss technique. Can be adapted to give remo level control of just about anything.



# This month we examine an ancient game

can well imagine that last month's homework might have given one or two of you quite a headache if you attempted it seriously. If it did, don't worry, because we shall be going into this problem in some depth as it forms a crucial part of the game program that we are going to develop.

#### NIM

Many of you will already have played this game, indeed some of you may well be up to grand master standard. Nim is played with piles of matches. Two players take it in turn to remove matches from the piles until one of them takes the last match and is declared the winner. The computer versions of this game can have anything from 3 to 6 piles with from 1 to 7 matches in each pile. The rule by which the players remove matches is as follows. Each player can remove as many matches as he likes on his turn, but from only one of the piles. For example, if a game were to begin with 3 piles each containing 7 matches, the first player's move would consist of choosing one of these piles and removing from it anything between one match and the whole pile. This rule applies right down to the end of the game, so that if at the end a single pile remains containing 3 matches the person whose turn it is to play can remove the whole pile and by doing so he also takes the last match to win. Though it has but a single rule, this game can be surprisingly subtle as you may well soon see.

#### Last Weeks' Answer

Before we delve into the game proper, a sample answer to last month's homework could be as follows.

6014 INPUT Q 6015 RESTORE 6020 FOR T = 0 TO Q 6030 READ V,B,M 6040 NEXT T 6041 PRINT V, B, M 6042 GOTO 6014 7000 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,0,0,1,0,1,1,1,0

If you look at the program listing for NIM below, you will find that lines 6015, 6020, 6030, 6040 and 7000 are more or less the same as those given in the homework answer above, so you can see that the idea of converting decimal to binary is used in this program. The way that the

above program segment works is as follows:-

Line 6014 takes the value to be converted and assigns it to the variable Q. Line 6015 does nothing the first time it is executed, but we shall see why it is included later. Line 6020 sets up a FOR NEXT loop which will be executed the same number of times as the value of Q that was INPUT earlier. Line 6030 forms the contents of the FOR NEXT loop and what this does is to READ values for V, B and M from the DATA statement in line 7000. You should see, if you examine the DATA statement, that when we reach line 6040, V, B and M have been set to the binary equivalent of the current value of T. We will go round the FOR NEXT loop until T equals the value of Q input in line 6014, by which time V, B and M will be set to the binary equivalent of the value of Q. Line 6041 prints the values of V, B and M that have just been "looked up" and line 6042 returns control to line 6014 to ask for another number to be converted. You should now be able to see why line 6015 has been included, because it now RESTORES the data pointer back to the beginning so that we can READ from the start of the DATA list again for the second and subsequent values of Q. I can hear you protesting that I have cheated by using this method of conversion, and I admit that it is not very efficient if there are large numbers to be converted, as the DATA statements would soon grow unwieldy. However, as the maximum number to be converted is 7, this method works quite well.

#### This Months Exercise

The operation and flow chart of the program listed below will not be presented until next month, because the computer uses a very precise mathematical method for calculating its moves, and if we were to go into the method now, there would be no point in playing the game as the outcome could be determined with certainty before the game was actually started. So all that will be presented this month is a full program listing which should be more or less self-explanatory in its use (see Fig. 1). The program has been written in as general a fashion as possible. However, one or two changes may be necessary as you type the program into your machines, because of the slightly differing facilities offered by various machines.

#### The Nim Program

The first thing to note is that the listing of Fig. 1 is a program complete in itself. However, the program as presented in Fig. 1 does not give instructions on how to play the game, nor does it check the validity of the various inputs that you will be required to make during the playing of the game. It is presented in this way so as to reduce its program memory requirement, but if you find that you have sufficient memory space available on your mchine, you can also add the program lines listed as Fig. 2 which make the program more complete by giving instructions and making the aforementioned checks.

The next thing which might need changing is the use of the single subscript variable A[X]. The square brackets may be unnacceptable to some machines, in which case they should be changed to the more conventional round brackets. Also, on some of the tiny BASIC machines, the only single subscript variable available is the @ array, so you will need to substitute this for the A array used in Fig. 1. Another problem may occur on tiny BASIC machines with statements like those in lines 150,

### **BEGINING BASIC**

```
42 IF A<3 THEN 38
44 IF A>6 THEN 38
45 IF A<5 THEN 38
46 AFINT(A)
87 IF A(X)=THEN 38
46 AFINT(A)
88 IF A(X)=THEN 78
46 ACX3=INT(A(X))
47 ACX3=INT(A(X))
48 ACX3=INT(A(X))
49 ACX3=INT(A(X))
49 ACX3=INT(A(X))
49 ACX3=INT(A(X))
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49 ACX3=INT(A)
49 ACX3=INT(A)
49 ACX3=INT(A)
49 ACX3=INT(A)
49 ACX3=INT(A)
49 ACX3=INT(A)
49 ACX3=INT(B)
40 ACX3=INT(B)
4
```

#### The listing for the game instructions

156, 250, etc., which are used to generate random numbers, as there is no INT function needed on an integer-only computer.

For example, line 150 could be changed to:-

150 A = RND(4) + 2

For those of you who do not remember, there are two different types of RND function, one of which uses RND(O) to generate a four- or five-digit decimal number between 0 and 1 which then has to be converted by multiplications, additions and the use of the INT function to bring it within the desired range of random numbers. The other type of RND function is RND(X) — available on most common mini—BASIC languages—which generates a random integer between 1 and X. So the new line 150 above generates an integer between 1 and 4 and then adds 2 to bring it within the range 3 to 6. This is then assigned to A. Line 150 in Fig.1 performs the same function, but operates in the following manner.

RND(0) is evaluated first, and generates a number in the range 0.00000 to 0.99999. This this is then multiplied by 4 to give a number in the range 0.00000 to 3.99996. One is then added to this to give a range 1.00000 to 4.99996. The INT function is then applied to this value, which removes the decimal portion of the number to leave an integer between 1 and 4 (as in RND(4) above) and once again we add 2 to give a final range of 3 to 6 to be assigned to A.

Some machines may need the semi-colons in line 300 changing to commas.

The last point concerns the lines 6080 to 6100. The symbol "#" used in these lines means "is not equal to" and may need replacing with on some machines. Also, if you have an integer-only machine, you will need to replace these three lines as follows.

6080 IF Z<>Z/2\*2 THEN 6120

```
PRINT "DO YOU WISH TO SET UP THE GAME"
PRINT "(1=YES W=NO)"
                  DEW A=0 THEN 150
PHINT "HOW MANY PILES DO YOU WANT (BETYEEN 3 % 5)"
INPUT A
PRINT "HOW MANY MATCHES IN PILE (BETWEEN 1 % 7)"
                       GOSUS 5000
                        G nTn 178
A=INT(RND(8)+4+1)+2
                       A[X1=INT(PND(0)*7+1)
NEXT X
                        GOSUB 5000
PRINT "DO YOU WISH TO START FIRST (1=YES 0=NO)"
INPUT S
                         IF S=1 THEN 2000
                       IF S=1 THEN 2000

C=0

FOR P=1 TO A

IF ACP1=0 THEN 245

FOR R=1 TO ACP1

GOSQUE 6000
                        P=INT(RND(B) +A+1)
                        IF ACP1=0 THEN 250

R=INT(RND(0)*A(P)+1)

PRINT "I' LL TAKE";R:"FROM PILE":P

A(P)=A(P)=B
                       ACPT=ACPT=R
GOSUB SAMM
IF F=0 THEN 2000
PRINT "I JIN...."
GOTO 3000
PRINT "WHICH PILE DO YOU JISH TO TAKE FROM"
30 30
30 30
                             INPUT R MANY TO BE TAKEN"
                              ACPI=ACPI-R
                            ACP ==ACP |=ACP |=
                            IF S=1 THEN IN
                            Z=0
PRINT "PILE NO.", "NO. OF MATCHES"
POR 0=1 TO A
PRINT 0.4601
                           IF ALP)=0 THEN 5050
Z=1
NEXT 0
                          Z=0
U=0
I=0
I=0
POR D=1 TO A
IF A(D)=0 THEN 5060
RESTORE
FOR T=1 TO A(D)
                              READ V.B.M
5050
                             IF Z*INT(Z/2)*2 THEN 6120
IF U*INT(U/2)*2 THEN 6120
IF I*INT(I/2)*2 THEN 6120
                             DATA 0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,0,0,1,0,1,1,1,0,0,1,1,1
```

#### The complete NIM game program

and the same for 6090 and 6100 with the variables U and I. I hope you enjoy playing this game, and we will come back to look at it in more detail next month.

This month's homework is to play the game and become familiar with it if you can and try to draw a flow chart and analyse how it works.

## **PRINTOUT**

Dear Sir,

With reference to the April edition of Computing Today; I found the NASCOM Package Program most interesting, but was astonished to see such a high incidence of mis-spelt words. Page 16 contains a glaring example—the word separate is mis-spelt four times in such a small paragraph.

When one considers that your magazine is now widely read in schools and colleges it should set a good example. Surely work submitted for publication is vetted

by the Editorial Staff - or is it?

Now that I have raised my criticism may I say how much I enjoy reading Computing Today and your sister magazine E.T.I.

Yours sincerely, W.M.Davies.

98 Henley Road, Cheltenham, Glos.GL51 0LD Dear Sir,

Congratulations on an excellent magazine. I have just read the April issue, and I shall most certainly be a regular reader. However, I would like to echo Derek Anderson's point about the quality of the photographs in your magazine — i.e. in the "Nascom Package" feature the photos are totally out of focus/overexposed and unintelligible; also in the WCE show report, the photos are nothing short of attrocious! The bad reproductions seem to manifest themselves also in your parent magazine ETI.

However, the overall content of the magazine is excellent, ie. aimed at the likes of myself whose HOBBY is computing, and having the restrictions of a tight budget.

Yours sincerely Marek Kuczynski

64 Station Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SR

Dear Sir,

With reference to April's Nascom Package. I have found two faults with the program, one is obviously a printing error,

F6D 13 A3 E, A3 should be F6D 1E A3 E, A3

The other problem is more subtle,

EE7 3E FA A , FA should be changed to EE7 3E 00 A , 00

If this is not done then errors occur if your balance runs into the 'red', for example – if register A is loaded with FA then the following will occur: –

DEBIT BALANCE 0.00 1.00 -0.94

whereas if A is loaded with 00 then the correct result is calculated.

Now a word of warning to all who are thinking of buying a Nascom 1 kit. I have not met anybody who has managed to construct one of these kits and get it to work the first time. A common fault is shorting between tracks on the printed circuit board (bad etching), other problems can occur due to poor quality of components (I had two dud memory chips). The tape interface is not really suit—able, I have had to change mine to a more reliable one (Cottis Blandford Cassette Interface). Also, in my case, the copper tracks on the printed circuit board for the key—

board break quite regularly, this is because they take some of the pounding given to the keys. Whilst this type of problem is easily rectified it is very annoying and if you do repair your own keyboard then the warranty is invalidated. Hence the warning—even if you do everything correctly it doesn't mean that it will work. If you have no experience n building kits or fault finding in digital circuits then think about buying a working model.

Another annoying fact with Nascom products is the long time one has to wait for the delivery of goods, months rather than weeks. How many people ordered a Nascom 8A power supply in September 1978 and are still waiting (the power supply was advertised in ETI, October edition)? Nascom have no intentions in delivering this supply until late April (1979 I hope).

At present I am waiting for a 8A power supply, mother board and 8K memory. In the future I want to update to 64K memory with a high level language using DOS, but this will not be for some time yet (how do you think I found fault with the Balance Program?).

How about a review of the 8K BASIC available for the Nascom 1, I haven't heard anything about it as yet (except that it exists).

Yours faithfully, A.R. Ingleson, B.Tech. 27 Cecil Avenue, Great Horton, BRADFORD, West Yorkshire. BD7 3BW

P.S. Keep up the good work, lets hope you maintain the standards set by E.T.I.

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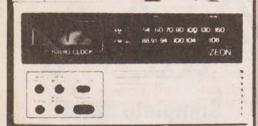
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# 32

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# CLOCK



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The clock is a 12-hour one with AM/PM indicated and a back light. The radio is Medium Wave and FM with very nice quality for a small speaker — for FM there's a telescopic aerial. The alarm can be either a 'beep-beep' type or the radio, there's also a snooze facility.

The case is sensibly rugged and is printed on the back with a World Time Zones map, a bit of a cheek really, especially as the time is relative to Japan!

We won't even mention the RRP — but just check on comparable prices — you'll find ours a bargain.

An example of this Clock Radio can be seen and examined at our Oxford Street offices.

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# ETPLACE

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The display is LCD and shows the seconds as well as the hours — and minutes — press a button and you'll get the date and the day of the week.

Press another button for a coujple of seconds and you have a highly accurate stopwatch with hundredths of a second displayed and giving the time up to an hour. There is a lap time facility as well — and of course a back light.

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ALARM-CHRONO LCD



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### Nifty ditties from a minimicro

Bach, Beethoven, Bacharac or the Beatles. What ever your taste of music it is now almost essential to your way of life. Music's origins date back as far as records (no pun intended) can go. Is there anyone who doesn't own or have access to a radio, record-player, TV or musical instrument. It is therefore not unreasonable that the budding programmer with a personal computer should not desire it to 'sing'.

#### Hardware

The hardware necessary for a monophonic output is very simple. All that is needed is a 'buffer' on an output port to ensure that the port is not overloaded, and a single stage transistor amplifier capable of driving a loadspeaker. Should one wish to couple a power amp via a preamp this should be done from a series resistor directly off the buffer output. The components shown are not critical with the exception of R1. This can be as low as 40 ohms, where its dissipation will be 25 W but I have found that

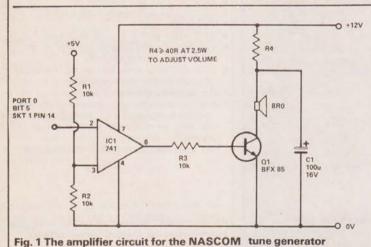
430 ohms gives adequate volume and does not drain the supply appreciably. The input of this circuit should be connected to SKT 1 Pin 14 (ie PORT O BIT 5). See fig. 1.

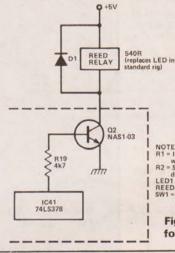
#### Software

The software side of the story is somewhat more subtle. The main programme should be as small as possible to give maximum data space, and the data should be compact so as to require as little room as possible. It was therefore decided to make all control characters on a 'latch' principle requiring one byte, and all note information (pitch & value) another byte. Thus if a piece was to be played within a single octave only one control character need be used.

#### **Documentation of Music**

The documentation of music and the art of programming are incredably similar. For example, music whether classical or pop has FORM. A primary theme may be repeated and followed by a secondary theme which is then also repeated, like the Handel piece shown. Or there may be a chorus as with folk music. Take the classical rondo form A-B-A,C,A-B-A,A. It is easy to see that the primary theme 'A' is a subroutine, 'B' has a single repeat





NOTE:
R1 = Inrush resistor to limit surge when reed operates and releases R2 = Suitable resistor to give if of diode approx 10mA LED1 = Any LED RED = Idealy gold SW1 = Toggle switch for auto/man

Fig. 2 The tape automation circuit for NASCOM.

### **HOW IT WORKS**

The program can be divided into two sections; that dealing with control and that dealing with note value and pitch. The note section is built around a clock of approximately 18uSec between repetition. By decrementing count registers, E in the case of value and C in the case of pitch, the appropriate timings can be achieved.

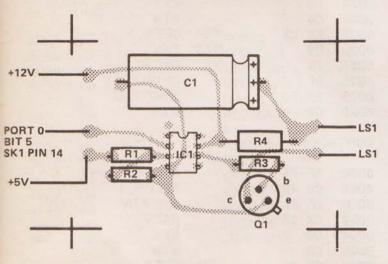
The note pitch and value is obtained from a single byte as follows: If the byte is 'xy' then the most significant 4 bits 'x' provides a pointer to the value in the look up table 'T1'. This table gives the interval register value. Similarly the least significant 4 bits 'y' provides a pointer in the look up table 'T2' from where the note pitch register value is obtained. You will note that when 'y' = 0 a rest is played.

As the max coded value is ED, all byte codes of higher value than this can be used for control. If the Control Code Table is looked at it will be seen that there are 18 codes. Four which set the octave, (F2 x4 will corrrespond

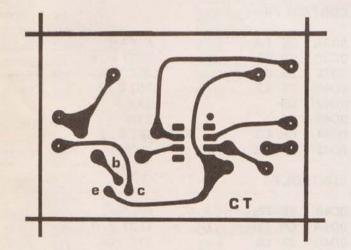
approximately to middle C). Three repeat controls which can be nested if required, and one subroutine. It should be noted that if a repeat is not required to be fully completed it can be aborted and play will continue from the relevant repeat character (F5, F7, or F9). This facility is also provided for the subroutine. Control EE will stop the program and should only be used at the end of the programme. Control EF will start the tape recorder and load in another set of data providing the NASCOM 1 has been modified for automatic control of the tape recorder. For the circuit of this modification see Fig. 2. I hope having mastered the principles here many of you will spend many enjoyable hours composing your own music or coding up your favourite tunes. Sound effects are a possibility that I have yet to explore. Perhaps the editor can be persuaded to publish odd 'tunes' from time to time.

## **NASCOM TUNES**

and 'C' is on its own. Therefore by intelligent use of control all that need be written is A,B,C. The control characters dictating when each part is played. The second piece illustrated, FUER ELISE, uses all the control facilities and reduces a complicated FORM into a simple succession of themes. Studying this form will soon show my technique.



Overlay pattern for the port amplifier PCB.



The PCB foil pattern for the port amplifier.

#### ANALYSE NOTE CODE AND EXECUTE

OC50	1E	00			E=0
OC52	D9				EXX
OC53	21	9F	0D		HL=0D9F
OC56	23			'M1'	INC HL
OC57	7E				A, (HL)
0C58	FE	ED			CP ED
0C5A	D2	91	OC		JNC 'CONTROL'
OC5D	F5				PUSH AF
OC5E	E6	FO			AND FOH
0060	CD	9F	OC		CALL 'T1'
0C63	7E				A, (HL)

OC64	D9				EXX
0C65	5F				E,A
0C66	F1				POP AF
0C67	E6	OF			AND OFH
0C69	CD	A5	OC		CALL 'T2'
0C6C	7E				A, (HL)
OC6D	42				B', D'
OC6E	05			'M2'	DEC B
OC6F	28	04			JRZ 'M3'
0C71	CB	3F			SLRA
0C73	18	F9			JR 'M2'
0C75	D9			'M3'	EXX
OC76	57				D,A
0C77	FE	00			CP=0
0C79	28	02			JRZ 'M4'
0C7B	3E	20			A=20H
OC7D	32	82	0C	'M4'	(0C82), A
0C80	4A			'M5'	C,D
0C81	EE	XX			XOR?
0C83	D3	00			OUT 0, A
0C85	F6	00		'M6'	OR 0
0C87	10	03			DJNZ 'M7'
0C89	1D				DECE
0C8A	28	CA			JRZ 'M1'
0C8C	0D			'M7'	DECC
0C8D	20	F5			JRNZ 'M6'
0C8F	18	EE			JR 'M5'

#### ANALYSE CONTROL CODE AND SET REGISTERS

0C91	CD	AB	OC	CALL 'T3'
0C94	6E			L, (HL)
0C95	26	OD		H=0DH
0C97	01	9C	OC	BC=0C9CH
OC9A	C5			PUSH BC
0C9B	E9			JP (HL)
OC9C	C3	56	0C	JP 'M1'

#### TABLE CONTROL AND TABLES

0C9F	D9			'T1'	EXX
0CA0	21	B5	OC		HL=0CB5H
0CA3	18	0A			JR 'T4'
0CA5	D9			'T2'	EXX
0CA6	21	D3	OC		HL=0CD3H
0CA9	18	04			JR 'T4'
0CAB	D9			'T3'	EXX
0CAC	21	EF	OC		HL=0CEFH
0CAF	01	24	00	'T4'	BC=24H
0CB2	ED	B1			CPIR
0CB4	C9				RTN

#### INTERVAL TABLE 'T1'

OCB5	00	04	1/64
OCB7	10	08	1/32
OCB9	20	0C	3/64
OCBB	30	10	1/16
0CBD	40	15	1/12
0CBF	50	18	3/32

	OCC1	60 20	1/8	CONTR	ROL F5		
	OCC3	70 2B	1/6				
	OCC5	80 30	3/16	0D1A	3E F6		A=F6H
	OCC7	90 40	1/4	0D1C	CB 43		TEST E, 0
	OCC9	A0 55	1/3	0D1E	28 04		JRZ 'F5A'
	OCCB	B0 60	3/8	0D20	CB 83		RST E, 0
	OCCD	CO 80	1/2	0D22	D9		EXX RTN
	OCCF	D0 C0 E0 00	3/4	0D23	C9	/EE A/	
	0CD1	EU 00	1	0D24 0D26	CB C3	'F5B'	SETE, 0
	NOTE V	ALUE TABLE 'T2'		0D20 0D27	2B	'F5C'	
				0D28	BE	1.00	CP (HL)
	0CD3	00 00	Rest	0D29	20 FC		JRNZ 'F5C'
	0CD5	01 FF	A	0D2B	C9		RTN
	0CD7	02 F1	A sharp / B flat	0020	-		
	0CD9	03 E3	В	CONTR	ROL F7		
	0CDB	04 D6	С				
	OCDD	05 CB	C sharp / D flat	0D2C	3E F8		A=F8H
	0CDF	06 BF	D	0D2E	CB 4B		TEST E, 1
	OCE1	07 B4	D sharp / E flat	0D30	28 04		JRZ 'F7A'
	OCE3	08 AA	E	0D32	CB 8B		RST E, 1
	OCE5	09 A1		0D34	D9		EXX
	OCE7	0A 98	F sharp / G flat G	0D35	C9		RTN
	OCE9	0B 8F 0C 87	G sharp / A flat	0D36	CB CB	'F7A'	SETE,1
ì	0CED	0D 80	A octave	0D38	18 EC		JR 'F5B'
	UCLD	00 00	Acctave				
į	CONTR	OL CODE TABLE	ГЗ′	CONT	ROL F9		
				0D3A	3E FA		A=FAH
	OCEF	EE 88	STOP	OD3C	CB 53		TEST E, 2
	0CF1	EF 89	Reload from tape	0D3E	28 04		JRZ 'F9A'
3	0CF3	F0 13	Beginning of subroutines	0D40	CB 93		RST E, 2
ł	0CF5	F1 15 F2 15	Set octave '1' Set octave '2'	0D42	D9		EXX
	0CF7 0CF9	F3 15	Set octave '3'	0D43	C9		RTN
	0CFB	F4 15	Set octave '4'	0D44	CB D3	'F9A'	SETE, 2
	0CFD	F5 1A	Repeat from F6 till end or	0D46	18 DE		JR 'F5B'
	OCFF	F6 13	FB is found				
	0D01	F7 2C	Repeat from F8 till end or	CONTI	ROLFB		
	0D03	F8 13	FC is found	0040	05 55		A-FFII
	0D05	F9 3A	Repeat from FA till end or	0D48	3E F5		A=F5H TEST E, 0
	0D07	FA 13	FD is found	0D4A 0D4C	CB 43 28 C5		JRZ 'FOA'
	0D09	FB 48	See F6	0D4C	CB 83		RST E, 0
	0D0B	FC 52	See F8	0D4L	18 12		JR 'FDA'
	0D0D	FD 5C	See FA	0000	10 12		011 1 071
	0D0F	FE 6A	Musical subroutine call	CONT	ROL FC		
	0D11	FF 7E	Musical subroutine return				
	CONTR	OL SUBROUTINES	COLLEGE AND AND ALTON	0D52	3E F7		A=F7H
	The second secon	OL F0, F6, F8, FA		0D54	CB 4B		TEST E, 1
				0D56	28 BB		JRZ 'F0A'
	0D13	D9 'F	FOA' EXX	0D58	CB 8B		RST E , 1
	0D14	C9	RTN	0D5A	18 08		JR 'FDA'
	CONTR	ROL F1, F2, F3, F4		CONT	ROL FD		
			Tellin		05 50		A - FOLL
	0D15	EE FO	XOR FOH	0D5C	3E F9		A=F9H
	0D17	57	D, A	OD5E	CB 53		TEST E, 2
	0D18	D9	EXX	0D60	28 B1		JRZ 'F0A' RST E , 2
	0D19	C9	RTN	0D62	CB 93		HOI E, Z
	1						

# NASCOM TUNES

0D64	D9	'FDA'	EXX	DD	F5	F6	F3	B1	D6	B3	F2			
0D65	23	'FDB'	INC HL		88			F3	В3	D8				
0D66	BE		CP (HL)	83	F2	8D	8C	8A	F3	B5	DA			
0D67	20 FC		JRNZ 'FDB'	B6	85		82	83	B5	F2	BA			7
0D69	C9		RTN	F3		E3	B1			F2	BD			
CONTE	201 55			8B	8A				B8	F2	BB			
CONTR	ROLFE				A8									
0D6A	3E F0		A=F0H		85					8A	88			
OD6C	CB 5B		TEST E , 3	86	B8	EI	85	Eb	1-5					
OD6E	28 06		JRZ 'FEA'	Cile	nt in	torli	ıda							
0D70	CB 9B		RST E, 3	SHE	111 111	iterit	ide							
0D72	E1		POP HL	F8	F6	FO	FO	FO	FO	F5	F7			
0D73	E3		HL / (SP)	, 0	, ,					, 0				
0D74	D9		EXX	Fue	er Eli	se by	/ Bee	ethov	en					
0D75	C9		RTN			STATE OF THE PARTY				ne fo	rm AAB	ABACA	BADABA	4
0D76	CB DB		SET E3											
0D78	D9		EXX	F0	F3	85	84	85	84	85	F2			
0D79	D1		POP DE		F3			8D			85			3
0D7A	E5		PUSH HL	8A	F2			8A		F1	85			66
OD7B	D5		PUSH DE	89	F2			8C			85			
0D7C	18 A9		JR 'F5A'		F2			85	84	85	84			
	0. 55				F2						8A			
CONTR	OLFF			F1		8A		81	85	A8				
0075	00 50		TECT FO	F1							8A			
OD7E	CB 5B		TEST E3		FC			8A			F8			9
0D80 0D82	28 F2 CB 9B		JRZ 'FEA'		F6 88				81		85			
0D82	D9		RST E , 3 EXX	F1 83			F2 8C	F2			85 85			
0D85	E1		POP HL	83	81			8A			F3			
0D86	E3		HL/(SP)	83		F2				F2				11
0D87	C9		RTN	85			F2				85			
000,	00			F4		F3					84			
CONTR	OL EE			85			F5				81			
				F2	26		DD				B5			
0D88	76		HALT	В3	9B		8A				83			
				81	F2	BB	BA	1B	5A	58	5A			
CONTR	OLEF			5B	DD			84	C5	85	86			
				F2	A8					5C	F6			
0D89	CD 7C 03		CALL 'LOAD'	F3							F2			
0D8C	CD 3E 00		CALL 'CHIN'								51			
0D8F	D9		EXX	58							5A			
0D90 0D93	21 9F 0D		HL=0D9F	58							F5			
0093	C9		RTN	55 F3							5C			
DATAS	STORAGE						F5 F2			200	F3 84			
DAIA	TOTAGE										BA			
From OI	DA0			CO				D2		D3				
				86			FB			D3				
Minuet I	by G.F.Handel						BA				EA			
Tempo	ALLEGRETTO in	the for	m AABB			D6		D4			F2			
	Value - Table 1				ВА			DA			D0			
F6 F3		53 51		F1	A8			85						
		B8 51		85	83		F2	8C	A8	F3	81			100
53 51		F2 3B			A8				83		F3			
		88 BA			A8					BC				
88 8A		56 58			A8						84			
56 58 86 85	56 58 36 35 83 81 B3 F2	36 B8			82		F3			A8	89		4	
00 00	00 01 00 FZ	DO DC	The state of the s	88	87	86	FE	F9	EA	EE				

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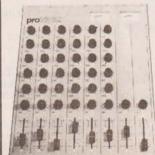
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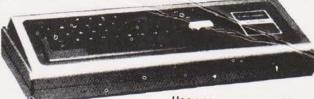
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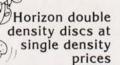
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