



# THE DISPATCH DISK

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS  
COMMODORE USERS  
CLUB INC.



March 1989

COMMITTEE - 1987/88

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Librarian	: John Hancock - see above. Library open 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm each general meeting.		
Newsletter	: John Hancock - see above.		

Next meeting : MONDAY 22nd May at 7:30 pm.

Location : Salvation Army Hall, Elizabeth Rd. Morphett vale.  
Subject : Problem Night?

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# GRAPHICS GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**ART** : Yes, computers can produce ART! Artists are often employed by game companies to produce title pages.

**BIT-MAPPED** : Each bit in a section of the computer's memory corresponds to one dot on the screen.

**BRUSHES** : The shapes used to draw with. May range from one dot, to several dots. A few programs even allow for scattered dots, producing an air-brush effect.

**CYCLES** : By cycling the colours in the colour registers, it's possible to simulate animation. This effect is used to show water flow in some pictures.

**EXTENDED COLOUR (MODE)** : Available when using re-defined characters. Enables the use of additional colours, but reduces the number of displayable characters.

**FILL** : An enclosed area may be filled with a colour or texture.

**FONT** : The character sets available are known as fonts. Each font appears in a variety of sizes.

**HI-RES** : Abbreviation for high-resolution graphics. Same as bit-mapped graphics.

**KOALA-PAD** : A pressure sensitive tablet used for drawing. Used with a stylus, shapes drawn on the pad are reproduced on the screen.

**LIGHT-PEN** : A special pen, connected to the computer, which is able to detect the current X, Y position on the screen that it is pointing at. Used for drawing pictures, and selecting menu options.

**MAGNIFY** : Portions of a hi-res picture may be enlarged or magnified for detail work. Occasionally some packages allow parts of a picture to be magnified and stored as part of the picture.

**MENU** : A list of options or choices which enables the user to control a program's various functions.

**MOUSE** : A small device that sits on a desk top. A ball in the base detects movement and translates this to a pointer on the screen. Normally between one and three buttons allow choices to be high-lighted and selected.

**MULTI-COLOUR** : In this mode of operation an increased range of colours are available. As a trade off, the X resolution of the screen is decreased.

**PAINT** : A brush must first be selected, which may then be used with a graphics program in much the same way as a paint brush.

**PLOT** : Single points drawn on the screen are referred to as having been plotted, or drawn dot by dot.

**TRACK BALL** : The reverse of a mouse! A large ball mounted in a square case. The ball is moved to control a screen pointer in game figure. Light switches detect movement of the ball.

**WINDOW** : An area within which activity takes place. A viewing point through which program operations take place.

**ZOOM** : See MAGNIFY.

GLOSSARY OF COMPUTING TERMS  
(OBJ-RS2)

Object code

See source code.

Operating System

Without a programme to make the computer run it is only a lot of useless electronic junk. The keyboard would not work, the screen would stare at you blankly and the disk drive would not operate. The computer just does not know what to do. The programme that makes all of these things useful is called the operating system. It is given this name because it is a system of programmes that tells the computer how to operate. The operating system may be permanently inside the computers memory as in the Commodore 64 or it may be loaded off a disk drive as in CP/M, MS-DOS or some Amiga machines. Systems that are loaded off disk drives are called disk operating systems or DOS. The operating system is in a number of parts but the two main divisions in most machines is between the section that is always active and the part that is removed when a programme is running. The permanent part is often called the kernal, BDOS and/or BIOS. The removable part is called the command processor since it takes the commands that are typed in at the keyboard and processes them. Many machines also include a BASIC interpreter, but this is not part of the operating system, although BASIC may use the command processor as part of its interpreter.

Paper Tape

This is the tape used in telex machines. This was once a cheap form of data storage. Smaller machines were sometimes booted with paper tape. This storage medium has all but been replaced by more modern storage devices.

Parallel

When information (data) is sent from one device to another it is either sent along one line, serially or along several lines which is called parallel. Parallel data transfer usually uses eight lines and is faster than serial. Some examples of parallel data standards are; Centronics which is an eight bit (line) data transfer, usually used on printers. HPIB which stands for Hewlett Packard Interface Bus. The HPIB was adopted by the American Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers who gave it the designation IEEE-488. This is also an eight bit data transfer but is often used with disk drives. It is interesting to note that Commodore use IEEE-488 on their parallel drives but on the Commodore 64 they have used their own serial version of the IEEE-488 Bus thus getting the worst of both worlds.

Personal Computer (PC)

A small self contained semi portable micro computer that can be placed on a desk for a single user. The most well known and possibly the best example is the IBM PC. The Commodore 64 is another example of a personal computer.

PET ASCII This is not ASCII. This is only called ASCII because the codes are similar to those in true ASCII. Pet ASCII is the way text is stored in Commodore computers. Conversion tables between PET ASCII and true ASCII are available in some books on the Commodore computers.

Printer There are a number of different types of printer available. The daisywheel printer gives a document quality print and interchangeable wheels allow for different fonts. The dot matrix printer is capable of graphics as well as text and some can produce letter quality print. The inkjet printer is similar to the dot matrix printer but the ink is squirted from minute holes in the print head as it passes the paper and is much quieter than the dot matrix or daisy wheel printers. Finally there is the laser printer. This is the most expensive but is the fastest and most versatile with the ability to produce high quality prints in a number of seconds. Most printers use RS232-C serial, Centronics parallel or IEEE-488 parallel data format but some companies such as Commodore and Apple use a non standard data format which require a printer from that company or an interface to adapt to one of the standard data formats.

Process This is the name given to a programme executing in a multitasking environment. A multitasking computer allows more than one programme to run at the one time.

Programme A section of code that will instruct a computer to perform a series of operations. This code may be machine or native code, symbolic code, or ASCII code. The different programme types in order of speed are; assembly language, compiled code, symbolic compiler, symbolic interpreter and ASCII interpreter.

Examples; Assembler - Z80  
Compiler - Fortran  
Symbolic code - Basic  
ASCII code - dBASE II

Random Access Memory (RAM)

A more descriptive term for this type of memory is read/write memory. This is an area of the computers memory that can be written to read from and rewritten to at will, hence read/write. This is where programmes are stored that are loaded into the computer's memory, the data that describes a screen or perhaps a document that we are editing with a word processor.

Read Only Memory (ROM)

This is the area of the computers memory that remains constant, it is placed in the computer at the time of manufacture. This memory can only change if the circuit containing this memory is replaced. On the Commodore 64 this is where BASIC and the kernal is stored.

RS232-C

This is a serial data transfer standard that was designed to connect modems to data terminal equipment such as computers or remote terminals. It is also used on many printers. The standard describes voltages, connectors, data format and the handshaking.

J. H.

FOR SALE

2 Commodore CN2 data cassette recorders @ \$25:00 each, ONO

1 Senddata 300/300 baud modem including telephone and software, \$120:00 ONO.

1 NEOS Mouse-Cheese. A full colour graphics software programme for the commodore 64/128. \$75:00 ONO.

1 ALPHACOM 42 thermal printer with c64/128 interface plus books and three rollsof paper \$50:00.

1 Sound Buggy interface plus keyboard and software, cost \$299:00, asking only \$100:20, ONO.

1 Omni Writer and Omni Spell word processing programme, \$30:00.

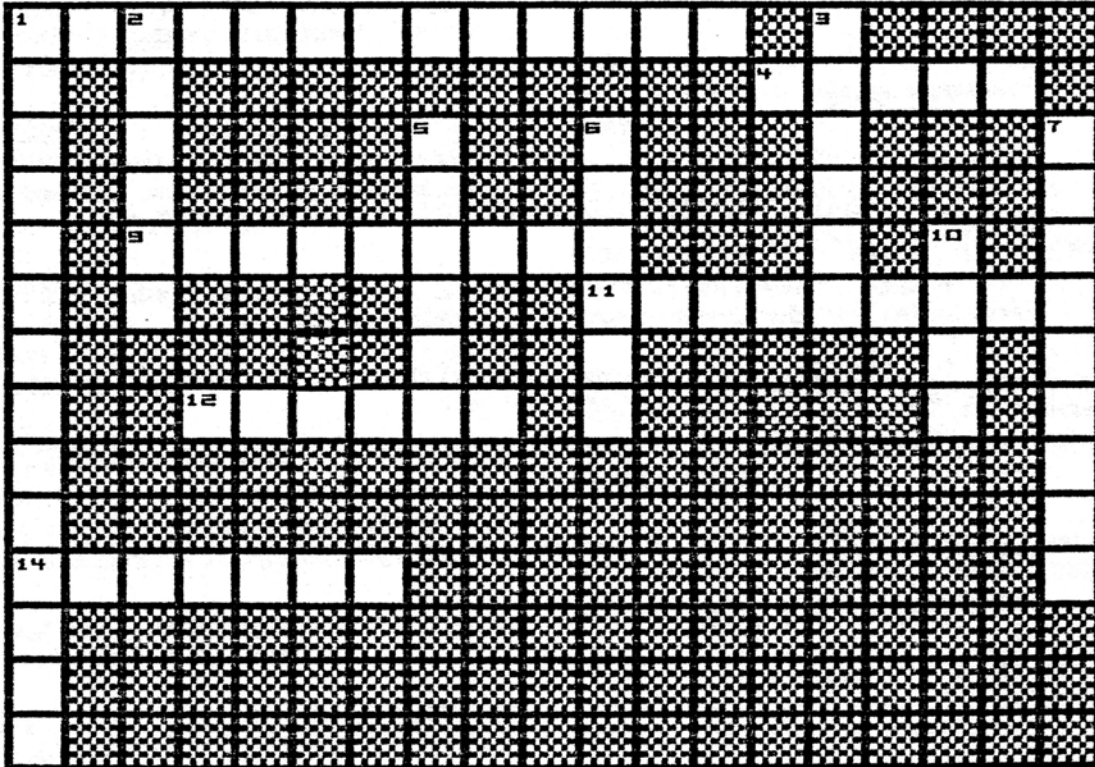
4 Musical programmes "The Music Studio", "Music Maestro", "Music Calc" and "Music Construction Set", \$15:00 to \$30:00.

All of the above items are as new and can be demonstrated. Phone or see John Wright at the club nights, PH 296 7761.

February Crossword - Answers



March Crossword



Across Clues

1. Makes Chips
4. Input Device
9. Low Level Language
11. Connects Inside To Outside
12. At The Top
14. 683 Of These On A C64 Disk

Down Clues

1. The Brain Of The Computer
2. One At A Time
3. Type Of Monitor
5. Half Of A Byte
6. Animated Object
7. C64 Programme
10. Speed Of 2 Down