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ISSUE 02/1988

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# DATA STATEMENTS

## The Race is On!

**CODEMASTERS ARE PREPARING** to launch perhaps the strangest PR stunt of the year, admittedly, it's in a good cause though. The game, *The Race Against Time* will be the first game written specially for charity, and will be officially launched on LWT's Get Fresh program. All proceeds are to go to Sport Aid '88.

Codeasters also announced a free price draw last month, entry forms are available from W.H. Smiths, John Menzies and other software outlets, no purchase is necessary, and the prize is an Amiga computer! The draw will take place on 18th August this year.

### Touchline:

Codeasters: 1 Brunton Business Centre, Brunton Close, Bambery, Devon OX8 7RT.

## Scott to market Citizen's Ide's and fdd's

**SCOTT ELECTRONICS LIMITED** are to market and distribute Citizen's new range of liquid crystal displays and floppy disk drives, launched at the Electronic Product Design Show, Olympia, last month. Their latest range of leading edge LCD displays incorporate fluorescent backlighting, giving increased contrast and viewing

angle making them ideal for portable computers. Also on show are Citizen's latest 3.5" floppy disk drives, with an unformatted capacity of 1Mh and a competitive price tag.

### Touchline:

Citizen: Wellington House, 4-10 Cowley Rd, Edinburgh, Midlothian EH8 2JH. Tel: 0893 72621.



## Vixen: Foxy lady of Granath

**MARTECH SHOWED** THEIR appreciation to the gentlemen of the press last month. Around 30 faces (more than one sporting a MCP tag) were wooed, dined and entertained at the launch of their latest game, *Vixen*. Martech appear to have pulled out all the stops on this one, even to the extent of hiring a model to pose in leopard skins, presumably as an added incentive to the aforementioned members of the press!

The game itself features a leopard-skin clad heroine in a role not dissimilar to Martech's Tarzan epic of last year. "The planet Granath has been under siege for as long as the sky has met with the horizon and as long as the mountains have rolled into the distance!" roars the hump. "For millions of years dinosaurs roamed the planet's surface in search of prey, and have destroyed all but a few of the mammals, and all of the humans - or have they?"



"Our lone heroine, *Vixen*, was raised by wily foxes and has magic powers. With her ability to change into a fox and her magic whip in hand, she is fierce, brave and a match for any of her foxes." It's sure you get the drift....

### Touchline:

Martech: Martech House, 91st Terrace, Penney Bay, East Sussex BN24 6JE. Tel: 0323 768676.

**FREE**

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**Code Masters**

# DATA STATEMENTS

## Thief of Fate

THE LATEST INSTALLMENT in the Bard's Tale series has arrived. The third in the series of award-winning medieval fantasy role playing games will feature more spells, more monsters and more dungeons than its predecessors. In Bard's Tale III, the fabled city of Skara Brae has been left in ruins. As the townfolk celebrated a victory over the evil Muzgus (the objective of Bard's Tale II), his master, The Mad Dog Tarjan, arrived seeking revenge and reduced the town to rubble. Skara Brae is only the first in a long line of cities which Tarjan has threatened to destroy. The rest is up to you.

### Franchise:

*Electronic Arts: Langley Business Centre, 11-49 Station Road, Langley, Wx Slough, Berks SL3 8FX. Tel: 0753 49442.*



## Mandarin Extends their Umbrella

MANDARIN PUT ON A display of Chinese hospitality for the press last month. The occasion? The signing of two new software houses, Red Rat of Manchester and Java of Paris, bringing the total sharing Mandarin's umbrella to five.

Red Rat are being hailed as Britain's highest software houses, with many titles for the Atari ST to their credit. Amiga games are now high on their list of priorities.

The pair from Java demonstrated STOS (initially ST Operating System), a game development system for the Atari ST. An Amiga version is planned

for later this year; will it be called AMOST?

"Our latest agreements are part of the grand plan to ensure we establish ourselves as the leading entertainment label" said Chris Payne, desperately trying not to look silly while dressed in oriental garb (he'd to go mountains was a dead give-away).

### Franchise:

*Mandarin Software: Europa House, Adlington Park, Adlington, Macclesfield SK10 4NP. Tel: 0625 570888.*

## Elite go Beyond the Ice Palace

BEYOND THE ICE PALACE is a game of magical fantasy, your quest is to rid the forest of evil spirits and return the land to peace and normality. Only time will tell whether this will match up another hit for Elite.

### Franchise:

*Elite: 15 Bedford Street, Walsall WS2 1JD. Tel: 0922 35852.*

## National Hotline

ONE OF THE PROBLEMS facing laser laser printer owners is tracking down laser cartridges. Derbyshire-based National Computer Supplies is now operating a telephone hotline to identify and supply the type of cartridge required for any make of laser printer, with guaranteed next day delivery.

### Franchise:

*National Computer Supplies: 0152 662101.*

# MANDARIN

## SOFTWARE

# DATA STATEMENTS

## Gremlin Get their Skates On!

TIRED OF RACING and flying simulators? Try Gremlin's roller skate simulator! The game features skating 'pops' Freddy in an attempt to gain all important 'Street Credit' by attempting pop tests. Points gained on the 'Credit-meter' are offset by the 'Dash-meter', measuring bumps and grass.... Let's hope the game has more to it than that!

Also due for release is *Blood Beach*. The brothers, Mark and Kris, come from a distant planet, plundered by other aliens. Their task is to recover the gems....

**Touchline:**  
Gremlin Alpha House, 16 Carter Road, Sheffield S1 4PS. Tel 077-338 3377.

## MP to open Epson factory

TELFORD, THE SITE of Epson's new printer factory, plays host to a truly international affair. Nicholas Ridley MP, Secretary of State for the Environment joins top Epson personnel for the ribbon cutting ceremony, following which a dozen printers will be donated to local organisations. The factory occupies 25

acres in Huttonwood, Telford, and is already churning out 30,000 printers each month.

**Touchline:**  
Epson (UK) Ltd, Davison House, 288 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6SW. Tel 01-899 6981.

## Virgin Manager



BRYNN GILMORE TAKES over as General Manager of Virgin Games. "Obviously I'm delighted with the move," he said, "it's a great company with a great name." Nothing else

getting off to a good start is there!

**Touchline:**  
Virgin 2-4 Finsbury Road, Finsbury Road, London EC2 2DX. Tel 01-737 8070.

## Microprose team up with Cosmi

BIRMINGHAM BASED US GOLD has cut on a nice little partner when top US publisher Cosmi entered into a joint venture with Microprose. Microprose will be responsible for marketing Cosmi's latest projects, *Delcom 3*, *The President is Missing* and in the future, *Sageo Huey III*, in Europe and Australia.

**Touchline:**  
Microprose 2 Market Place, Zetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 5DA. Tel 0665 34328.

## YER RS232

YORK ELECTRONIC RESEARCH could be the answer to many of our prayers. This two-man team specialising in communications and utility products for Commodore computers have the time and experience to provide a level of customer support unobtainable from any highstreet shop!

As RS232 became adopted as the standard for serial communications, it became interpreted differently by different manufacturers. The end result being confusion, the term 'standard' losing a lot of meaning. This manual helps explain the complexities of RS232, and will be of use to anyone with a MODEM or a serial printer. Included in the manual are hints and tips for programmers, telephone numbers for bulletin boards as well as information on hardware connections. A telephone call to YER is all that is necessary to alleviate any persistent problems, indeed they seem to welcome problem printers! Good back to YER!

**Touchline:**  
York Electronic Research: The Fishergate Centre, 4 Fishergate, York YO1 4AB. Tel 0954 619722.

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# Games Update

*This month's releases are dominated by old games, as re-released titles continue to storm the charts*



International Soccer

The re-releases usually appear in the massed ranks of the budget labels but we'll start this update with news of the reappearance of International Soccer.

This all-time classic C64 football game was one of the first when it appeared on a Commodore cartridge and then started in countless shop windows advertising the features of the "now amazing C64". Now at last it has made the move to cassette and disk via CRL with the only changes being different names on the advertising boards that line the pitch.

The Archon Collection features two of the best Electronic Arts strategy games on our disk. The original Archon features a chess board and two armies of pieces facing each other in a battle between light and dark. Each piece is a different monster ranging from unicorns to basilisks and goblins to trolls and possessing different strengths and weaknesses. Although the board may look like a chess board that's where the similarity ends as in Archon, if you want to take a piece, you have to fight for it on a separate battlefield.

In Archon II the board has been altered to depict the four elements of air, earth, fire and water and the players are sorcerers that conjure up monsters, demons and elements to win control of the game.

Arcade Fests Four from US Gold is a compilation for players who like to shoot before they think. For only £9.99 the pack includes four coin-op conversions in which you can drive deep into all 1824 levels of Gauntlet and the Deeper Dungeons, race against the clock in Metross, experience cartoon capers as the Road



Archon II



Road Runner





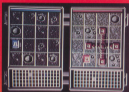
Target Banzhaid

Ranger and explore the Temple of Doom as Indiana Jones.

Arcade Alley (also from US Gold) contains six Dataeast coin-up conversions for the price of one in which you can beat 'em-up as Kang-Fu Master, Tag Team Wrestling, Kaito Chao and Express Rider and then shoot 'em-up in Breakthru and Last Mission.

It is what Firebird claim is the slickest, fastest shoot 'em-up ever! Armed with a single shot laser blasting ship you must travel through the Nemesis style screens collecting green orbs that increase your fire power as can be shot to turn them into screens clearing smart bombs. Once you've reached your Empress, further orbs protect and save you lives. Although it's fast and pretty it leaves you thinking you've seen it all before.

Target Banzhaid (Imagine) is the sequel to the worst fighting beat 'em-up Banzhaid in which you're out for revenge. Your brother has been killed by Mr. Big and you're determined to go even, so armed with your joystick controlled punches, kicks and kicks you take on five levels of thugs. This all begins in a multi-story skyscraper



Corporation

with a scrap with a motorcycle gang and then on through a seedy street, park, a meeting with the Bratko Ber-lan in the shopping mall until you have a final battle with Mr. Big. Forget the rules or etiquette in this game - they fight dirty. To win you'll have to be even dirtier.

Microbragar Wrestling (imported by Microprose) sets out to recreate the thrills and spills of American Style wrestling and the antics of the former world champion Hulk Hogan. Although two opponents are supplied on disk and the game features digitized graphics, the game is repetitive and somewhat unimpressive. Unlike other joystick controlled games, Microbragar Wrestling leaves you outside the ring, occasionally selecting a move that may succeed and then waiting as the match is loaded in from disk.

Activision's Corporation is set in a world ruled by two corporations and you lead a mining team against a similar team from another side. Your task is to mine as much Misoethan crystal as possible while hindering your opponents' operations. Despite some excellent introductory screens the

game leaves you staring at the screen for too long, to make this one worth considering, even for dedicated fans of strategy games. Perhaps you could use the "fire mapping grid" in a game of battleships while the computer plays itself!

The plot of Ocean's latest release Guts is certainly original as you're sent to make contact with an approaching alien. Unfortunately, it's an incredibly hungry ten million tonne mega being, the size of a small moon who promptly eats you. Your only way out is to destroy its major organs but first you will have to survive the constant onslaught of the alien's defences, navigate through the maze of arteries, find suitable weapons and then destroy each organ in turn. Sadly, Guts falls short of its billing, as the alien's body looks like the string of several other arcade adventures and you're left with an average arcade adventure.

Gothik (Pithead) is the latest in a long line of Gauntlet clones in which you must restore your master, the supreme wizard Argoth, who has been slain by the evil arch mage and his body and soul dispersed in the catacombs you are about to explore. To



Guts



Gothik



Tournament of Death

help, at hand you in your quest are 31 different potions that will temporarily speed you up, slow you down, halves damage, destroy walls in your path and heal your wounds to name but a few. No sooner have you drunk your first potion and slain your first shapedoe monster than you're overcome by a feeling that you've seen and done this before.

The Tournament of Death is the second in Infogame's Time Trouble chaotic series of games. In this game the hero Lee Enfield has travelled back to the 18th century to save the Holy Shroud from the Yellow Shadow who plans to destroy it. The game features some nice graphics and is an interesting arcade adventure but is spoiled by its wobble-in-fast-as-you-can system.

### Budget Games

The Power House has re-released four former full-priced US Gold games as

part of its new range.

Dambuster was one of the original "mega games" and re-created the famous raid made by Guy Gibson's Lancaster bombers. However, the games casts you as pilot, navigator, engineer, gunner and bomber as you battle your way through enemy lines, flak and fighter planes and into your bombing run where your speed, height and timing must be perfect to get the bomb to bounce to the target.

Fight Night tests your pugilistic prowess against five of the toughest boxers each with their own style and character. Joystick moves allow you to move your guard, take jabs and throw punches, but watch out for some tricky moves from your opponents including a vicious upper cut.

Goof's Revenge is the sequel to BC's quiet for trivia and stars the monogame hero in search of the meaning of life. This is kept hidden away in a maze

of corridors and joined by tell-tales charging chains you haven't got and paralysed by Tardactyls who will punch your wheels.

The fourth from the Power House puts you in a duel in the dunes in Desert Fox. Your mission is to protect fuel depots from enemy attack as you drive your tank through minefields and slag it out with enemy tanks, aircraft and Rommel himself.

For a change of pace why not try out Tridbazz (Mastertronic). Formerly, from Gowdis Graphics the game tests your reflexes to their limits as you must guide a ball along a course that bounces out of the screen towards you at breakneck speeds. Different coloured squares in its path may perhaps help you bounce over a void by giving you a burst of energy, or hinder your progress by slowing you down as you miss the time limit and end the game.

Stornbringer (Mastertronic MAID) is the third and concluding episode in the superb Magic Knight trilogy continuing the adventures that began in Spellbound and continued in Knight Thyme. This time magic Knight is in big trouble as he has been closed while transporting back in a second-hand time machine. Now his other self, the evil Stornbringer of the title is out to get him. Using the now familiar, but still impressive, animation system you must save the day.

Finally, a word from the "it had to happen sometime dept" as the last budget release is in fact a compilation! Top Ten's Regis Pick 2 inferring there's more where this game came from contains four games for only £2.99 including Harbort's Danny Ron, Black Hawk, Mad Doctor and Ninjas. 70



Fight Night



Stornbringer





Switches allow you to select the following:

The type of printer that you are using. Settings for 17 different printers are listed in the manual. I found that I could find settings to suit all of the printers that I tried the interface with.

The width of your printer carriage, 80 or 132.

What device number you want your printer to use, 4 or 3.

What to do with line feeds, nothing, add one, strip one or strip and add.

Font enable allows you to use one of the 8 possible fonts. Switches are used to determine the font that you wish to use.

Enhance determines whether the printer prints out in the quickest, but poorest, way or the slowest but highest quality.

The group of three mode switches allows you to select just how the interface behaves. It can:

Emulate a Commodore 1525 printer so that all programs work correctly. Be in *Field* mode, where all features of the interface are available.

Super graphic mode makes the interface as like an earlier interface from Xerox.

ASCII conversion changes all text into their normal ASCII equivalents. All other codes remain the same.

Hex blonkix prints all characters sent to the printer as their hex equivalents.

Decimal performs the same as above but with decimal numbers rather than hex.

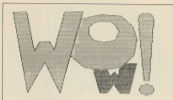
Semi-transparent passes all data straight through the interface unless you have turned a font on, in which case printing will be in the selected font.

Transparent sends everything through to the printer unchanged. Only the listed switches on the interface have any effect on what is printed.

## The Command Channel

The above is by no means everything that can be set up with the interface. Many other commands are sent to it through the command channel.

The command channel is accessed in exactly the same way as the one in a disk drive, using a secondary address of 15. For example the following series of commands will send a listing of the current disk directory to the printer:



All these screen dumps are produced using the printer dump.



OPEN # 1,4,15  
PRINT 1,"D6"

One extremely important thing to note with the above command is that one issued with the command the interface takes control of the disk drive, loads the directory into itself and prints it out. The computer takes no part in this sequence and the user can continue using it while the directory is being printed.

Since there are over 50 different commands that can be sent to the printer. Obviously I can't detail them all here, but I will list just a few:

Xn - Select international character set n

F # n - Use disk drive number n for all downloads

QR - Print a Quick Reference of the different secondary addresses available

DF:xxxx - Download text file xxxx from disk and print it using secondary address 4.



print it using the secondary address set by using the SAn command.

DC - load in customised file from disk. A file that contains all of the information about your setup.

DF:xxxx - Download a 40 column picture into the interface buffer.

DD:xxxx - Download 40 columns

picture and start printing immediately.  
**DW:xxxx** - Download 80 column picture and start printing it immediately.

**F#** - Use font number *n*.

**FN:xxxx** - Download a normal font from disk in slot number *n*.

**FN:xxxx** - Download a super font from disk in slot number *n*.

Quite a collection of powerful facilities, as you can see. As previously mentioned the above is only a small selection of the various commands available.

### Secondary Addresses

As you can see from the above list of commands various secondary addresses are available. These are used when opening a channel to the printer in a command such as:

**OPEN:As**

Where *n* is the secondary address. As with the commands I will not list all of the secondary addresses available but just a few of them:

0 - Upper case text and graphics;

1 - Same as above with no auto-line feeds;

2 - Upper case fonts and graphics;

3 - Hex data dump;

4 - Transparent.

As you can see many of the secondary addresses have similar functions to some of the commands and switch functions.

As with normal file operations you can have more than one file open to the printer. This means that you could have both a transparent file and a text file open at the same time. Useful if you want to use the printers own commands and send text.

### In Use

One would expect an interface that offers so many functions to be extremely difficult to use. In practice the opposite is true. Super Graphic Gold does all of the work for you.

Initial setting up of the interface to meet your requirements but an excellent manual and a switch receiving program supplied on the disk that comes with the interface makes it fairly simple.

Being able to print out in different fonts is extremely useful. Over 23 are supplied on a disk with the interface as well as programs for both the C128 and C64 that allow you to design your own. The presence of an NLQ font in ROM on the interface is great and the print quality on my Star printer is excellent. For examples of some of the fonts, see the tables with this article.

You have probably already realised that the interface allows you to perform screen dumps, though all commands detailed so far only work with screens on disk. One extremely novel feature of the interface is that it contains two screen dump programs, that's right the interface contains them NOT the disk supplied with it.

To **LOAD** these programs into memory you simply enter:

**LOAD "LDisc".A** for the 40 column

version and

**LOAD "HDisc".A** for 80 columns.

The *n* in the file name is used to specify where you want the screen dump program to reside in memory.

### Verdict

There's no much more that I could tell you about this interface, but of course space will not allow it. As you can see the interface certainly performs more than any similar device on the market. Unfortunately, its price reflects this fact. Even so I would have no hesitation to recommend this to any one looking for a printer interface.

Super Graphic Gold is certainly the 'Rolls Royce' of Commodore printer interfaces and is a must for anyone serious about their printer.

Should you have a dot matrix printer that doesn't have NLQ fonts and you are thinking of changing your printer because of this, Super Graphic Gold will give you access to many more fonts than any of the low priced printers and is cheaper - think about it.

### Footnote:

**Product:** Super Graphic Gold  
**Distributor:** UK Supplies, Boxes and  
 Pieces, 37 Cecil Street, Lytham,  
 Lancashire FY9 5NN. Price £99.95.

```

0a is the Newt:ew Super Graphic Gold printi
ing a Downloaded font

1a is the Newt:ew Super Graphic Gold printi
ing a Downloaded font

2a is the Newt:ew Super Graphic Gold printi
ing a Downloaded font

3a is the Newt:ew Super Graphic Gold printi
ing a Downloaded font

4a is the Newt:ew Super Graphic Gold printi
ing a Downloaded font

5a is the Newt:ew Super Graphic Gold printi
ing a Downloaded font

6a is the Newt:ew Super Graphic Gold printi
ing a Downloaded font

7a is the Newt:ew Super Graphic Gold printi
ing a Downloaded font
  
```

Sample of downloaded fonts

If your idea of pirates is Errol Flynn bucking his wench, Long John Silver and men walking the plank, then think again. For pirates have existed throughout the ages and now it is the turn of the Federation to be infested by intergalactic men wearing black eye patches.

The storage depot once contained jewels, minerals, ammunition and the very latest in battle technology, but repeated plundering has diminished the supplies to such an extent that serious action has got to be taken.

To that end, you have been commissioned by the Federation to destroy these latter day Henry Morgans but they must have got wind of your mission, for they have managed to activate every single defence mechanism in the depot.

Your craft, the Cybernoid, is billed as The Fighting Machine and not without good reason for you have ten different weapon systems at your fingertips. Your laser is effective only against the pirate ships, but you do have unlimited supplies. Apart from that, it is up to you whether to activate a few bombs, your defensive shield, Impact mines, Scatter missiles or Bouncing bombs. These latter devices are very much a two edged weapon as they ricochet round the walls of the cavern as they have no means of identifying friend from foe, and it is a poor hero who blows himself up.

As you shoot and destroy the pirate ships, so you can collect whatever booty they might have been carrying.

Some carry status supplies, others exotic weaponry which may prove useful such as a rotating sphere that swings round the Cybernoid destroying all it touches. There are also yellow canisters which will add one to the supply of the weapon system currently selected. It is up to you to pick the one that you have least of - usually the shield. Picking up the treasure is easy if the bottom of a screen is solid. You just wait for gravity to do its business. But if the loot falls off the bottom of the screen, it mysteriously disappears between there and the top of the next one!

The depot is in the form of a large one way maze. One way is so much as there is only one route through it and also, there is no backtracking. Once you enter a screen, you cannot turn and run away.

The eventual objective is to make your way to a storage depot and deposit whatever goodies you have managed to recover. There is a time limit though and if you don't reach the storage area before the time limit runs out (shown by an ever increasing graph) your ship automatically self-destructs. Similarly, if you don't collect enough booty. All this seems a little harsh on you when you have been especially asked to come and help out, but then who said life was for anyone.

Scenes in Cybernoid offer more on timing than on any great tactical strategy. Frequently the game feels more like one of the old platform classes than a shoot 'em-up as you manoeuvre yourself through some of the pipes. Control of your ship which involves counteracting the effects of gravity also takes some getting used to.

Graphically, the game can be traced fairly easily back to its Spectrum origins which may put some people off although the effect is a lot better than some games I could mention. There is a jolly little tune, although I suspect that most players will soon opt for the effects only.



# Cybernoid

Gameplay itself is finely balanced and there is a definite urge to find out what is on the next screen. One minor bug on my copy though, was that my number of remaining lives counter didn't decrease when I got zapped, so I kept dying on with a false sense of security before the game over message appeared. That apart though, Cybernoid is a highly enjoyable, addictive shoot 'em-up.

G. R. H.

**Publisher:**  
Title: Cybernoid.  
**Supplier:** Bristow Consultants,  
368 Wilton Road,  
Milton, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN  
0275 537076  
**Tel:**  
**Price:** £8.99 (Cass) £14.99 (disk)

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● **REFINED FUNCTION KEYS:** Single stroke commands for operation of many common commands including: LOAD, SAVE, END, Load from directory - so need no tape in cartridge.

● **TAPE TURBO:** Designed to make backup/load/save for just one program. No screen blanking during loading.

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# Merlin 128 Assembler

*A two pass assembler for the Commodore 128 is very welcome but is it a rare beast?*

By Eric Doyle



**M**erlin 128 is the only assembler that I've seen for the C128. An assembler is a sophisticated program which makes machine code programming much easier, but you may wonder why one is needed for the C128 because it contains a monitor already.

The monitor is very useful for winging it in the old simple utility but when it comes to serious programming you can't beat a good assembler. The difference is that an assembler treats machine code programming in a structured way.

The problem with a monitor is that an optional CLC command cannot really be inserted when debugging a routine. To make space for the command, code has to be shifted and necessary jumps manually reassembled. Assemblers allow the use of labels and line numbers. This means that if a CLC command has to be added it can be done simply by adding a line where the CLC is wanted.

Jump addresses are replaced by labels so if a routine within the program is used for clearing part of the screen it can be called CLRPART, or any other name that you can devise, and a jump to this routine would be JMP CLRPART. When the code is

assembled the jump is automatically renumbered to point to the new location of the CLRPART routine which would have been altered by adding the CLC command. Labels are limited to 13 characters maximum length, but if a label is longer than eight characters the listing starts to look unwieldy. Alphanumeric labels must be alphabetical. SETUP 1 is legal but SETUP 1 would generate a BAD LABEL error.

Merlin 128 is a very powerful program. Compared to any of the C64 assemblers available, it would rate as the best laid out program so far. The source list in the configuration of the C128 memory and its banked memory. Merlin's own specialised assembler/source code generator called SourceGen (sic, very sick), is stored in Bank 1, Bank 9 is where the Merlin code and the user's source code is stored.

A source code is just another name for the program listing that is currently being worked on. When the program is assembled (converted into proper machine code) the code generated is referred to as the object code.

Writing source code is so easy as using Basic as long as machine code commands are understood by the user.

In addition to the usual instructions, the source can also contain any of the 50 special command words (pseudo opcodes) which simplify the challenge which coding presents. Pseudo opcodes cover such operations as assembling directly to disk, setting the start address of the assembled source code, saving and loading files, formatting printouts and for calling up macros.

Macros are stored on a library disk and they are often used substitutions which may be added to a source listing as it is assembled and saves the user the effort of typing in the same pieces of code time after time. The advantage of macros in Merlin is that labels can be localised so if the macro contains a label such as LOOP and this label is already used elsewhere in the program then a DUPLICATE SYMBOL error will not be generated. Macros can also use variables. If a macro is written in this way:

```
STORE MAC
  LDA #
  STA #
```

it can be called by STORE # 30000 A. The value 300 would be used in the LDA command and the value would be stored in A.

## Outer Space

All good things come to an end and the same is true of available RAM for source code storage. This space is very generous (35K) but if code runs beyond this separate files can be linked together for assembly.

The resultant source code can be up to 40K and longer programs would need to be generated through several programs stored on disk and then joined together through the C138 monitor.

The Sourcerer is a wonderful addition which operates like an assembler in reverse. It takes any raw code and creates an assembly listing which can then be properly labelled using the search and replace facility within Merlin. Sourcerer has its own label table which means that a code string such as \$20,\$D3,\$FF which would normally disassemble as JSR \$FFD3 would become JSR \$B00FF. If you want to add your own labels, or to change any of Sourcerer's, the labelling file can be tailored accordingly.

## Additional Problems

The only thing I didn't like about Merlin was the way in which lines are inserted into and deleted from the source code.

All lines are numbered automatically in steps of one. To insert a line between lines 11 and 12, for example, would be achieved by typing 113 followed by RETURN. The new line is typed in (eg. CLC) and on pressing return the whole program is renumbered. When I write a program in Basic I like to start all subroutines on a round number such as 100 or 5000 so that I can list these parts for alteration by remembering the start address. With Merlin this is not possible because of the auto-renumbering.

Deletion poses a linked problem. If two areas are to be deleted, e.g. 400-430 and 20-50, they must be removed in this order. If lines 20-50 are deleted first, the auto-renumber will move lines 400 to 430 further up the listing to 370-400. If you don't bear this in mind disaster could result.

I feel that this is the fault of the programmers who should have looked at the programming environment which the user would be used to, Basic. Then Merlin ought to mimic this system as far as possible to make it user friendly.

In time the user will adapt to these problems so it would be wrong to condemn Merlin because of them.

The manual is a professionally written, spiral bound booklet of around 150 pages so it is impossible to cover all of Merlin's little tricks and treats in a review. All I can say is that if I had bought this program blindly I would have been delighted when I loaded it up at home. The Merlin assembler is excellent and Sourcerer adds a thick and generous layer of icing on the cake with goodness! ☺

## Touchline:

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# Relative File Programming

*In the last two articles of this series, Routines were explained, which would set up, create and how to keep a relative file. Now we go on to a method of using the records that have been created, and displaying them in the most efficient way*

*By Eric Rowsey*

Whichever method of RECORD Write or Read you might have opted for, the following programming refers to those Routines by the same Line numbers so there is no confusion. I am assuming that in your program you will probably have two Menus to display options. Menu 1 would probably be something like:

Program	Menu
1 Create	File
2 Enter	File
3 See Directory	
4 Exit Program	

Both the first two options will take you eventually to a second menu - the File Menu which might look something like this:

File	Menu
1 Enter	Records
2 Browse	Records
3 Search	Records
4 Print	Template
5 Change	Keyboard
6 Sort	Records
7 Sequential List	
8 Exit	Program

This is only a suggestion of course. You might have other ideas if you have programmed correctly, you will be able to use the routines I have already given for setting up a File and Entering RECORDS into it. The following routine is a suggested Browse function, within which you will be able to scan the RECORDS, amend them, copy them or print them out.

In the next article in the series I will suggest a sort and search which will find any RECORD from a KEYFIELD in a file of 1000 in less than 9 RECORDS! However, that subject requires an article of its own, so you will have to wait!

The following routines work in either BASIC 2 and BASIC 3.5, except where I show a \$ sign. The first routine we need is the one which will separate the DISKs read from the RECORD into the correct FIELDS. The routine is itself quite easy:

```
4170 rrr **** read RECORDs into
      fields
4180 for a=0 to: disp(a)=mid$(
      rrr$(j),j,1),len(r)
4190 return
```

How we have split the Collection String DISKs received from the RECORD Read routine using MID\$

and the FIELD Pointers Array, FPOS() into the String Array DISP(). You will have to remember to DIMension this Array in the beginning of your program. Among the other items you might have, Line 10 should have:

```
10 dim disp(n)rem *** where n is
  of FIELDS.
```

If you have elected to use the FIELD Separation method Read into the Array (which I have mentioned in part two) this has already been done, and you would enter the Display subroutine at Line 4300. Now we will look at the Display Routine:

```
4300 print "Record No:"disp(1) " of " rem
      4310 for a=0 to:
      4340 print tab(1+int((len(tab)-len(a))/
      4350 rem return
```

There are a few lines missing but leave these spaces because there are several functions that need to be used here that we have not reached in the series yet. The DISP Variable is the current RECORD Number used in the Browse Routine, RN is the Variable you should remember from parts one and two, being the Number



of RECORDs current in the file. I have placed a 1 in the TAB Statements because I use 80 columns and those of you with BASIC 2 will need different numbers there, which is really a question of preference.

You may have noticed that at no stage have we entered any details of the FIELDnames into the RECORD. Well, of course the FIELDnames are constants and not part of the RECORD data, so including them inside the RECORD, as I saw suggested in a recent article from another magazine, is utter nonsense including FIELDnames inside the RECORD merely wastes precious Bytes. Imagine using 18000 FIELDs with each FIELDname of 10 characters: this would use 180 Bytes of the 256 available!

Above, you can see how we display the FIELDname together with the data from the RECORD, by using the FIELDs Array inside the DISPLAY.

### Browse Routine

I have used a Secondary Browse Menu on the Display RECORD screen, from which a single Keypress can command the Display to change. You might wish to do it differently. First we OPEN the File, BASIC 2.5:

```
2000 do print #3:(name$), 00, 0:
      goto 4010
Or BASIC 1: (Command Channel
already opened)
2000 open 3:3,3,name$:goto 4000
Then the screen is cleared:
3000 clrscr
```

Now we declare to Variables, the BEGINning RECORD number to browse, and the FINish number. We set the BEGINning to 1, naturally, and the FINishing to the RECORDs used counter RN. This ensures that the program does not ask for a non-existent RECORD Number.

```
2700 print "Browse":
2710 goto 4210
```

I use the same Limit Routine from several different parts of the program, so I usually GOSUB to this Routine. This enables the user to select the RECORD Numbers he wishes to Browse between, as well as List and various other functions. Here is the Limit Routine:

```
4200 rem **** Limit Routine
*****
4210 beg:1 fin:rn print "within Limits
```

```
by/0"
4220 getkey$=ifkey$="a" then
      disp:beg: return
4230 print "Begin at Record No" (input
      n$):n=n$
4240 beg:input$*beg
4250 print "End at Record No":
      input$*nval (n$)
4260 if n < beg then n is then Getkey$=
      fin:
4270 return
```

This routine makes several checks before it continues. It ensures that the beginning is 1 and the finish is the last RECORD Number. Then if the user wishes to begin at a higher number than 1, Line 4240 declares that and sets the DISPLAY Variable to the new BEGINning number. Then the FINish Variable is INPUTted, and a check is made in Line 4260 that the FINish number is neither less than the BEGINning number nor greater than the RECORD existing in the File.

If either is the case then FIN is set to the last RECORD number, RN, otherwise FIN is the requested Last RECORD number in the Browse. The program then RETURNS to the Browse Routine.

I window the following Browse Menu on my 80 column screen, but you may have your own preference, depending on your screen size. The Menu shows:

```
2720 rem display menu
2730 print"Search Goto First Last
      Next Back Edit
      Copy Print Delete Menu
2740 rem:disp:rem **** get RECORD
      number
2750 rem for BASIC 2 rpedisp:goto 4
      114
2750 goto 420: rem **** read
      RECORD from disk
2760 goto 420: rem **** display
      RECORD
2770
2780 getkey$=inkey$( "g/lnbrp/
      p/r/":n$=inkey$( "l/r/2780
```

You should be able to follow that. The Routines are all there to do the jobs, BASIC 2 users, of course, do not have the INSTR function which makes a search of a String within another. You can do the same thing this way:

```
2790 print$=inkey$="" then 2780
2780 inkey$=inkey$
2782 (inkey$=inkey$( "g/lnbrp/r/":a, 1)
```

```
then a$="a":1: go to 2790
2780 next a
```

Having selected the Routine from the first letter of the function from the Browse Menu, the program then branches to the appropriate Routine:

```
2790 on aa goto 3030,2900,2840,
      2830,2820, 2810, 2940,3140,3200,
      3290,2840
```

The remainder of this Routine is quite straightforward. The DISPLAY Variable is altered according to the different Routines which processes it:

```
2800 disp:beg:goto 2740: rem **** go
      to first RECORD
2810 disp:fin:goto 2740: rem **** go
      to last RECORD
2820 disp:disp:goto 2800:rem ****
      next RECORD
2830 disp:disp-1:goto 2800:rem ****
      previous
2840:delete:REM place update counter
      here to save h/looping
2850 goto 2900: rem **** return to menu
2
```

Here I have named the Display to "wrap around" if a "Next" is requested at the end of the file or a "Previous" is requested at the start of the file then the DISPLAY Variable is altered to the start or end number:

```
2860 if disp = fin then disp:beg: rem
      **** wrap around
2870 if disp = beg then disp:fin: rem
      **** effect with display
Now the RECORD Number
processing is finished and the Line
2880 returns the Routine to display the
next RECORD:
```

```
2880 goto 2740
```

Now I can outline some other Routines also used by the Browse Menu. As I mentioned before, the Search Routine must wait for its own article, as must the Delete Routine, but the above Routine has only covered the first, last, next, back and menu options on the file menu: there is still copy, amend and print routines to come. They follow the end of the Display Routines. The first is the "Goto" Routine:

```
2900 rem **** additional display
      routines
2900 print "Enter Record No to
      Goto"
2910 getkey$=n$*val (n$):if n < beg
      or n > fin
```

```
then print "File List
Exceeded!" goto 2910
```

BASIC 2 users do not forget to change the Gotoxy command in Line 2910.

```
2920 display:goto2740
```

Next is the RECORD Edit or Amend Routine. It is a good idea to have an Edit Counter to turn on if this option is used which would direct a save of the Housekeeping on exit from the program. I used a pointer to a specific location in RAM, but a Variable would do just as well, so will do.

Incidentally, with the number of times that the program requests INPUT from the keyboard, you might consider a separate INPUT Routine to which you could GOSUB whenever you need the keyboard. The one I used I shall give you now to save me re-typing the Gotoxy ones and over. Yes, BASIC 2, I shall write one for you as well. Here it is:

```
1420 rem **** number input routine
1430 open 1:input a 1:closeout
n:=val(a$)
1440 if n < 1 then 1430
1450 return
```

As you can see, a file is OPENed to the keyboard so that handle % is provided. Numerical data is accepted into the String ME and VALued in the Variable N to prevent a program error in the event of some idiot pressing a non-numeral key. Line 1440 checks for that and then 1450 RETURNS the Routine. Now to continue with the rest of Routines:

```
2850 rem **** edit mode Routine
*****
2860 open printer:"Enter FIELD No
to Edit"
```

Get Field number to Edit:

```
2870 goto:if $M=1 then i:if < 0 or n > c
then 2840
```

Re-write the FIELD contained in Display:

```
2880 input:if $D(p$)=j then i:if
i:if pad:field (i)
```

```
2890 next:goto 4000
```

```
2900 print:field Another FIELD ? (y)
n:"getkey y"
2910 if y="" then 2940
```

Re-collect the String DISK with the new Field:

```
2990 disk$="" for a=0 to disk$
```

```
disk$+field:next a
Declare the RECORD Number and
GOSUB to the Write RECORD
Routine:
```

```
3000 write:diag:goto 4070
3010 for BASIC 2 - open:diag:goto
41:diag:goto 4070
```

Then go back to the beginning of the Display Routine:

```
3020 goto 2740
```

If you have chosen the FIELD Separated method then you must add a CHR\$(1) to the Collision String. Line 2990:

```
2990 disk$="" for a=0 to disk$:disk$
+chr$(1):next a
```

but otherwise the Routine is exactly the same. BASIC 2 users do not forget the change in Line 3000.

### Copy Routine

It is useful to have a facility to copy an existing RECORD into a new one, to allow it to make a unique one. If you need several RECORDs which are almost identical then you need to write just one then copy it several times and make the changes to the new ones. This can save some typing! Since we are making a New RECORD, we increment the RECORD counter, RN, and declare the Write RECORD Variable WRIC as the RECORD number to write to, naturally since the new RECORD is to be created at the end of the File:

```
3130 rem ***** Copy Routine
*****
3140 open printer:"Copy"
3140 if $ BASIC 2)
then:line:rn+1:open
```

It is simple as that, except for BASIC 2 users who will have to make a minor change. We have already Read the RECORD and have the DISKs all ready in Variable memory. Even the Field Separated method users have the DISP Array, but they have to add a Line:

```
3145 disk$="" for a=0 to disk$:disk$
+chr$(1):next a
```

...because they have not used the Read in one or three method. Now all users have the Collision String ready we can continue. We simply write the

RECORD with:

```
3160 goto:4070:rem *** write copied
RECORD
```

However, a little more work needs to be done. We are still in the Browse mode, and the program will be confused by the sudden appearance of a new number. So we reset the DISPlay and the PIVel Variables and then we can return to the beginning of the Display Routine. The new RECORD will now be read again from the File and displayed:

```
3170 display:rn:field i
3180 goto 2740
```

### Hardcopy Routine

If you have a printer it is always useful to be able to print a key and receive a hardcopy of a RECORD. This is the Print routine. If you have programmed for a Printer before it should be easy to follow:

```
3190 rem **** single printout Routine
*****
```

Notice the Secondary Address % in the Print OPEN Line. This is to print in Lower Case, since I assume you will want this. If not, omit the "%", as the end of the OPEN 4,4,7.

```
3200 open 4,4,7:print # 4:print # 4
3210 print # 4:"Record Number" :diag
? of m %
3220 print # 4:diag:to c
3230
3240 print # 4:q
3250 print # 4:"field:field
3260 print # 4:" :diag:rn)
3270 next:close:goto 2740
```

Do not omit the "?" semi-colon. They are easy to omit, but they suppress the carriage return to the printer and without that the entire printout will run down the page instead of across its next line. You may wish to add additional facilities to the printout to your own preference, such as reversed-FIELD Names, etc.

Although this article is much shorter than previous ones, I have dealt with all but two of the Display routines. The next article is somewhat more complex and a fascinating challenge to Relative programmers: Sorting and Searching on the Key-FIELD. See you then!

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**A**voiding the worries of leaving the Commodore camp of printers can mean trading away the added power of a wider range of facilities for convenience. You don't have to be a technological whiz to be a bit more adventurous, but a little background knowledge helps to avoid the pitfalls which gape for the unwary.

For most people, a printer means a dot matrix model. This type gives a wide range of possibilities beyond normal typewriter characters. A good printer will allow user definition of characters and high resolution image plots.

### Any Storm in a Port?

The standard Commodore printer communication is performed through the serial port. This is probably the slowest way of shunting data around and most other computer systems favour parallel printing systems. The difference between the two methods lies in the way in which the data is formatted for transfer.

Imagine a small factory with conveyor belts transferring items from one place to another. A serial communication factory would have just one conveyor belt carrying a single item of data (a bit). In a parallel factory eight synchronised belts would be used to carry each bit of a byte to the output at the same time (i.e. in parallel). The net effect is that the parallel system is approximately eight times faster than serial.

For Commodore owners the choice is limited to the serial system but if a parallel printer is chosen, there are two optional ways in which the printer can be connected. One is to use a parallel cable to connect the printer directly to the user port. The alternative is to connect to the serial port through a suitable interface which recombines the bits into a parallel byte suitable for the printer input. Both systems have their strengths and weaknesses.

The user port parallel connector needs special software to send the information in a format which the printer understands. This means a loss of memory space in which the driver is stored. The obvious problem is that some software will not allow such a system to run alongside itself and the printer can be rendered inaccessible. Fortunately, many of the better packages contain their own drivers but

# Printer Principles



*Escaping from Commodore branded printers requires extra knowledge of printer compatibility*

*By Eric Doyle*



when these are not in use, the user has the hassle of loading their own special program which, as we shall see, can be relatively lengthy.

Life is simpler with a serial port interface though the benefits of fast data transfer is sacrificed for this ease of use. While the interface is all of the necessary software and hardware to connect the serial signal into parallel.

## Code Crossover

In their infinite wisdom and because of their desire to maximize on the graphics capabilities of their computers, Commodore devised a special version of ASCII codes way back in the PET days. ASCII is a standardized system for data transfer between machines so, by missing around with their own system, Commodore have complicated communications through the need for PETASCII to ASCII converters.

Nearly all printers use ASCII so the software for a user port link-up must have a conversion table, more memory enters up. Once again the serial interface wins out because the job can be done outside the computer. Not only can an interface convert to ASCII but it can normally be switched to pass data without interference in transmit mode. This is useful when all of the necessary conversions are made through application software running on the computer.

Another benefit of using an interface is that the transparent switch codes accompanied by other switches some of which duplicate the functions of some of the internal switches inside the printer. If you're now making how switch duplication is beneficial, you've obviously had limited experience of printers and the Goodrich methods that the manufacturers employ to make their switched facilities virtually inaccessible.

Three or more switches enable switching to the most common manufacturers makes, but other switches can add extra facilities, change the device number to either four or five and often there is a less sleep mode. The final mode is especially useful when printer communication gives unexpected results. Instead of using the codes as commands, the interface converts every piece of data into hexadecimal numbers so that the responses can be seen and analyzed for debugging.

## Boat up the RS-232

Until now the assumption has been that the printer is of the Centronics type. The user port is also referred to as the RS-232 port and RS-232 means modem links, doesn't it? Not really, RS-232 is yet another standard for communication between devices and some printers, though few in number, will adhere to this system.

The name RS-232 applied to the user port is a bit of a misnomer because the true convention is to use a D-type connector with a computer originated voltage line of -12V to 12V. The user port is a single edge connector with a supply voltage of 0 to 5V. Why Commodore insists on veering away from the accepted specifications for data interchange can only be seen as a marketing ploy to encourage sales of their own branded peripherals.

Several companies now supply RS-232 converters which plug into either the user or the cartridge ports and perform the necessary conversion of the voltage range and terminate in a suitable D-type plug or socket.

Connecting an RS-232 printer poses the same software problems created by Centronics cable connection. Special drivers must be stored in RAM and commercial software must cater for RS-232 output.

Each method of connection has its advantages and disadvantages. Centronics cables are by far the cheapest method of connection but inhibited by the need for driver software. At around £40, the RS-232 interface is quite expensive, requires driver software but has the advantage that it can be used both as a printer or modem interface. Since it is never essential to have both a modem and a printer connected at the same time, the dual facility can be used to stretch a limited budget because a good second-hand RS-232 printer frequently costs less than an equivalent Centronics machine.

My own choice would be a reliable Centronics interface. These start upwards of £40, but the facilities that they offer are far more extensive, more convenient and use none of the precious computer RAM. Although I have made mention of the slower data transfer speeds, these don't really affect a printer greatly unless a data buffer is used—printer mechanisms are often slow enough to mask the serial speeds.

## About Face

One of the greatest benefits that a Centronics interface can offer is a range of extra typelines to supplement the range within the printer itself. Not all interfaces offer this facility, but it's worth hunting one down if quality or presentation is important to you.

On the other hand, it may be that high resolution (screen dumps) are important. The problem is that colours cannot easily be represented on a printer. Some interfaces provide this facility and may even offer the option for full page speed dumps or smaller quarter page printouts.

The availability of both of these functions only applies to printers with user definable character capabilities, but these days few do not offer this. Designing your own characters requires complex commands and ingenuity so why tax your brain when someone else has already done it for you!

Another desirable feature is a printer buffer. These can be part of an interface or printer, or high-capacity buffers can be bought as separate units. If you use your printer heavily for wordprocessing or database and spreadsheet printouts, a buffer can be worth its weight in gold for the time savings offered.

Software hangs up while printing takes place and the shorter the time that a printer takes, the sooner you can get back to productive use of a printer. I've just mentioned that printers convert data to the printer form much more slowly than the data is passed from the computer, so a buffer acts as a kind of external RAM store.

With a buffer in use the data is thrown out of the computer at a high rate and the buffer fills up with characters waiting for the printer to get round to using it. If a document occupies 8Kb of memory, a 5Kb buffer will fill up almost instantaneously and load the computer into thinking that the printer has finished. When control is handed back to the user, the next document can be written, loaded or otherwise processed without interfering with the printer chugging its way through the buffer contents at its own pace. This often saves several minutes and negates the need to sense yourself by beverage brewing, contemplating the nature and source of naval fuel, or looking for brack hairs in the post-work!

## Printing by Numbers

Printers fall into three main categories: Commodore types, Epson compatibles and those which fit neither of these descriptions! The best facilities are always those of the Epson compatibles, principally Epson, Star and Citrus. Precision Software also have an Epson style printer with a novel multiple head system for high speed printing.

All software will drive an Epson-style printer and the facilities offered are always streets ahead of any Commodore machine.

Access to these special facilities, such as near letter quality printing, various styles and sizes of print face and page formatting commands is achieved by special codes. To a printer all data is just a series of numbers but one number is special - 27. If this value is received the printer operating system will not print out this or any numbers which follow according to a fixed set of parameters. For example, a character string which takes the form of CHR\$(27) followed by CHR\$(70) will set the printer into emphasised print mode. Any numbers following this command will be printed out as an emphasised form of their ASCII equivalent until another CHR\$(27) command is met.

Without an interface some character values, such as CHR\$(18) which would set a Commodore printer into reverse character mode (RMSON won't affect Epson printers in the same way, CHR\$(18) on an Epson is the character used to cancel condensed printing mode, and this is one of the reasons why an interface is essential).

Many makes of printer now come with an optional Commodore interface built into them which makes them an excellent choice. Extra typefaces and print modes can be readily accessed and compatibility is guaranteed.

All is not lost with Commodore printers; the 801 has many of the essential features of an Epson compatible but often the quality of the letters produced is inferior. Two companies currently produce replacement chips which will extend and improve the range of typefaces available and this could be a worthwhile upgrade for owners of these machines.

## Dodging the Dots

Non-matrix printers include daisy-

wheels, ink-jet and laser machines. All are more expensive than dot matrix machines and pose special problems.

Daisy-wheel printers produce excellent quality printouts and various typefaces can be added by swapping wheels of different types. The drawbacks with a daisywheel is that printing is much slower and graphics dumps are impossible. The advantage is that an interface does not have to be very sophisticated, or a cheap Centronics unit stripped of all the graphics bells and whistles can be used.

Ink-jet printers, include limited colour capabilities and laser printers offer high quality printouts which are virtually indistinguishable from a typeset magazine page. The bad news is that the necessary drivers for these machines have not filtered down to Commodore level and software is non-existent.

One type of printer which I've not

mentioned is the printer. Commodore tend to produce an inexpensive four-colour plotter, VIC 1520, but I haven't seen any around the shops during the past year. These were excellent little machines which produced quite a high quality printout but the pens could dry out very quickly and the maximum paper width was only six inches.

If you need a plotter the Toshiba BX-P370 is an excellent choice. Although this machine was designed for use with MSX computers I have found that it works adequately through a Centronics interface. The big advantage of the Toshiba is that it can take A4 sized paper but the pens are the same as the ones used by the 1520.

To help you choose the printer let us that suits your needs, there is a useful address list at the end of this article for prices and products so you can contact the companies direct.

## Printers

Citizen Europe Ltd: Wellington House, 4-10 Cowley Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3NN.

Commodore Business Machines: Commodore House, Gardner Road, Malvernhead, Berkshire SL6 7SA.

Epson: Dorland House, 488 High Road, Wembley HA9 6UH.

Precision Software: 6 Park Terrace, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7JZ.

Star Micros: Cassin House, 40 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 2BS.

## Centronics Cables

Datel Electronics: Units 8/9, Dewsbury Road, Fenton Industrial Estate, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent.

Dimension Computers: 27/29 High Street, Leicester LE1 4PP.

Mississippi: 37 Scarsden Road, Wallacey, Middlesbrough TS6 4QN.

HMP Computers: 9 Handman Walk, Widsam, Essex CM8 2SZ.

York Electronic Research: The Fishergate Center, 4 Fishergate, York YO1 4AB.

## Centronics Interfaces

Datel Electronics (See above).

Delta PI Software: 8 Ruzway Lane, Whitey, N. Yorks YO21 1ND.

Everham Mirror: 63 Bridge Street, Donham, Wores WR11 4SF.

Precision Software (See above)

Stark Computer Products: Woodmoor Ltd, 28 Farring Way, Netherhall, Middlesbrough TS6 4XL.

## MPS 800 Upgrades

Avon Printer Technology: Swindon House, 4 Howard Road, Southalls, Bristol BS1 1QH.

## RS232 Interfaces

Brain Boxes: Unit 26, Watercress Technology Park, Watlington Boulevard South, Liverpool L7 9PF.

Delta PI Software (See above).

York Electronic Research: (See above).

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Arms 5	16.50	7.50	Jan Wayne	16.50	1.50	Wizard 4	1.00	1.50
Arms 6	16.50	7.50	Jerry's of Darkness	11.20	1.00	Wizard 5	1.00	1.50
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# First Steps

*Learn how to chat up your peripherals without fear of prejudice*

*By Norman Doyle*



**T**he term peripherals covers anything which is not inside the computer. Obviously any disk drives, cassette recorders and printers and modems are all peripherals but the keyboard and mouse, or TV screen, are also classed as peripherals.

So that the computer knows what to communicate with, each peripheral is given a number which defines its address in Peripheral Street. Just as in Downing Street where number 10 is always the Prime Minister and number 11 is the Chancellor, some of the addresses on Peripheral Street are reserved for particular occupations. Number 10 Downing Street is currently occupied by Margaret Thatcher but it could equally have been Neil Kinnock - the ruler's name doesn't matter but the job's the same. Addressing a communication to 10 Downing Street will mean that the Prime Minister will receive it for

processing, wherever that person may be.

Similarly, number 1 Peripheral Street is always occupied by the cassette recorder which may or may not be called a Commodore but which will be a load and save device which uses a tape. Number two is a modem or RS-232 device, number three is the screen, number four and five are each reserved for a printer and 8 to 11 reserves space for other storage/retrieval systems such as disk drives, hard disks, wafer drives or anything else that may have been dreamed up.

The keyboard occupies a special address. In Commodoreland streets are numbered from zero upwards so the keyboard resides at number 0.

Press switching on the power, several hotlines are set up which directly communicate with specific addresses. The keyboard is where the CPU (the 6502 chip) gets its infor-

mation directly from the user, the screen is set as the output device and the program storage/retrieval system is set to address number 1, the cassette recorder.

These are called the default settings, that is the normal hierarchy for communication. If another device is to be addressed it can be achieved in one of two ways depending on the channel.

Disk drives are selected for a single operation by tagging a "B" (or 8,1) to the end of the equivalent cassette command. When the function is complete, control lines for input and output are passed back to the screen and the keyboard. If you want to test the verity of this form of command, try saving a program with A,1 when a printer is attached. You'll get a response but nothing particularly meaningful.

Some devices behave better when



# DIY Interface

This program should work with any printer with a Commodore (i.e. parallel) interface. The software listed enables you to pretend that your printer is a real Commodore printer connected to the serial bus. Of course Commodore graphics symbols won't be reproduced, but the system is fine for program listings in BASIC and assembly language (such as from the Commodore disk-based assembler package) and for wordprocessing.

The interface consists of just one piece of 10-way ribbon cable connected between the C64's user port and the printer parallel interface. Anyone with minimal soldering experience could make up this lead. Suitable connectors are available by mail order from companies such as Maglin Electronic Supplies Ltd. For my printer I needed a 25-way D-type connector. What you need to do is dig out where the connections for DATA0 to DATA4 (7 bits), DATA STROBE, BUSY and GROUND are from your printer manual, and then stay up the connecting cable in the following way:

C64 user port pin (bottom row)	Printer (as an example)	For 064 Microline pin no. (as an example)	
N	(GND)	GROUND	14
M	(PA2)	BUSY	11
L	(PB7)	DATA0 (most significant)	8
K	(PB6)	DATA5	7
J	(PB5)	DATA4	6
H	(PB4)	DATA3	5
F	(PB3)	DATA2	4
E	(PB2)	DATA1	3
D	(PB1)	DATA0	2
C	(PB0)	STROBE (active low)	1

The user port connections are all on the bottom edge - pin N is the right-hand end looking from the back of the C64. All the above connections are to adjacent pins.

The driver software is a small block of machine code occupying memory locations \$C800-\$C8CF (hex). Once installed it is transparent to the user (provided your program doesn't overwrite it - which it is unlikely to do because this is about the safest area of memory in my experience).

*Short of the pennies this mouth but need an interface - why not do-it-yourself?*

*By Paul Williams*



To output Commodore format assembly listings to the printer, just answer "Y" to the relevant question when the assembler is run, after having enabled the printer software with SYS 51968.

You can leave the printer software resident as long as you like - it will only be used when you have a printer file open. However, if you want to totally deactivate the routine type SYS 51971.

Various options are available when the print routine is activated.

When initialised with SYS 51968, the system is configured for a 65 line page, printing 68 lines and leaving six blank automatically. All control characters are ignored, except for RETURN. There is no left margin indentation after each RETURN, and the system reckons it's at the top of a page. This can be changed: POKE \$2220,255 says don't ignore control characters - useful for writing printer no funny mode. POKE \$2225,0 says revert to ignoring control characters (default). Use this mode for listings.

POKE \$2221,x (default value 0) sets an indentation of x characters at the beginning of each line - useful when printing listings to be ring-bound etc. POKE \$2221,x (default value 60) sets number of printing lines-per page, plus 6 blank lines. If you don't want paging, do POKE \$2221,0. Do this when listing assembly language with the Commodore disk assembler, as it does its own paging. SPEAK(\$2220) gives the current line number on the printing page - do POKE \$2220,1 to tell the system you are at the top of a page.

The program is listed as a BASIC loader, containing checksums to point out typing errors. Type this in, save it, run it, and if there are no errors you can enable the printer driver with SYS 51968, as described before.

To run up, if all you require out of a printer is program listing capability and straight text output, this is a cheap way of doing it if you have access to a parallel printer. See listings on page 74.

Once loaded, SYS 51968 sets the software going.

To print us to the printer, do OPEN 4,4  
PRINT # 4, "whatever you want to print"  
CLOSE 4

In a program, or in direct mode, to list a BASIC program, type OPEN 4,4:CMD4:LIST then  
PRINT # 4:CLOSE 4  
when it has finished.

# Cassette Inlay Printer

*How many cassettes meet other Commodore users have? Lots methinks! So I have come up with a program to neaten up cassette collections which can also be used to tidy up your normal audio cassettes.*

*By Mick Walpole*

**I**nitially, you will be greeted with the program title, a representation of the insert card and the menu. Now select the cassette you wish to create and insert it, and follow the steps below:

- Option 1 - the screen will clear, reprint the insert mimic, highlight the area being worked on in BLACK and request the cassette number. (This should be a number between 1 and 99). When RETURN is pressed the menu will be displayed again.

- Option 2 - the screen will clear, reprint the insert mimic, highlight the area being worked on in BLACK and request the cassette name. (This should be a string of no more than 25 characters in length, there is an error trap here.) When the RETURN is depressed the menu will be displayed again.

- Option 3 - the screen will clear, reprint the insert mimic, highlight the area being worked on in BLACK and request the details for Side A. (Up to 24 characters.) When the RETURN key is pressed you will be asked for the maximum of 9 after which the menu will be displayed again.

- Option 4 - repeat the third step for Side B.

- Option 5 - you will be asked if you have entered all detail required. Switch on printer and if all is OK press Y. The printer will now print out the insert card and return to the menu ready for the next cassette.

All you need to do now is cut it out and fold it. NB. Because of the use of graphics characters and double size characters this program will only work on Commodore printers. But with a little modification, should work on any dot matrix printer. TJ

*See listings on page 74.*



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### REQUESTER WINDOWS

DISK BASED USER WINDOWS

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- Shift for basic ● Append ● Clipboard
- Home ● Del ● Monitor ● Line number
- Sprite editing ● Centronics interface ● Quit screen ● Low Res screen
- Page ● Find ● Scrolling up and down
- Page and window settings ● Programmed functionkeys ● Pause/Continue
- How to detect conversion ● Help, sprouts and variables may all have hexadecimal values ● Trace, Dump, Order Menu.

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# Instant Music

**H**ave you ever wanted to jam along to your favourite tune or remix an old classic to up the tempo or add in some new instruments? If so, this kind is Instant Music, grab a joystick and get composing.

Your sheet of electronic music is the long-awaited C64 version of Instant Music from Electronic Arts which had its first edition on the Amiga a few years ago. Now C64 owners armed with a disk drive, joystick and a sense of adventure can create either beautiful music or a hideous racket depending on their ability.

Instant Music provides an easy to use, joystick controlled, pull down menu of options through which you can load in one of the 98 set pieces supplied on disk, play it and then edit it until it's a new masterpiece that can be saved to amaze your public. Some of my compositions are quite amusing particularly the double tempo remix of Gossard/Leaves featuring a synthesiser, guitar and a flaut!

Once you have a tune in memory you can have great fun editing it either by copying sections to make it longer, if not repetitive, or you can change the tempo to make it faster or slower or swap one of the three instruments for another, selected from a pull down menu. Most of the twelve instruments supplied with the program do sound quite reasonable given the tiny quality of C64 music. This can of course be improved by playing Instant Music through a MIDI system but I doubt my creations warrant the extra expense. However the drum sound is awful and sounds more like someone clearing his throat. In fact I doubt even if Messiaen, Stravinsky, Arlen and Waterman would use it on one of their "bits". Luckily, all is not lost as you can load in a separate synthesiser program through which you can adjust attack and release times, the rate, depth and ratio of pulses, modify modulation and add in triangle, sawtooth and pulse waves to create the sound that you've always been looking for.

Instant Musician will find many uses for such a program ranging from demonstrations to answer the old "what can you do with a computer?" questions through fun jamming sessions to trying out new phrases before inflicting them on your musical colleagues.

Amazingly it'd be easier as the program worries about hitting the right note, in the right tempo leaving you to select an instrument and move a joystick to add that finishing touch.



Whether you're a budding Beethoven, direct Chopin or a secret Sex Pistol, Instant Music will provide the right mix of ease of use, a 40 page manual will keep you on song, and flexibility, to keep you interested, and is sure to be a hit.

T.H.



#### Timeline

Title: Instant Music. Supplier: Electronic Arts, 21/49 Stanton Road, Langley, Bucks., SL1 1FR. Tel: 0753 69447. Marketing: C&A. Price: 29.95 (UK) £14.95 (USA)

# Easiprint

*If the phrase "Escape Code" brings you out in a cold sweat, and the prospect of selecting the quadruple-density graphics mode on your flash new printer is enough to bring you to your knees, then Easiprint is the program for you.*

*By Mark Everingham*

**E**asiprint is an extension to the normal BASIC operating system which provides the user with 60 (yes, I did say 60) extra commands, expressly for the purpose of controlling a dot-matrix printer linked to the Commodore serial port.

The program will work on any printer conforming to the Epson Standard, which is used by almost every type of dot-matrix printer. Of course, the large exception to this is Commodore's own range of printers. Therefore, extra commands have been added to operate either the MP500 or MP500 printers. The Epson commands included in Easiprint cover every function imaginable from selecting the compressed printing mode, to disabling the paper-out sensor.

Of course, since all these functions are controlled by the printer itself, if your printer will not print double height for example, then Easiprint won't either!

## Using Easiprint Commands

Each of Easiprint's commands are preceded by an asterisk to distinguish them from the normal BASIC commands. When using them in a program, no other command can follow an Easiprint command. The command must either be the only command in that line, or the last one in the line. For example:

```
H *NLQ ON;SCLR
```

will turn Near Letter Quality printing on, but will NOT clear the screen. However:

```
R SCLR/*NLQ ON
```

will clear the screen and then turn Near Letter Quality printing on.

When you are using an Easiprint command in the BASIC Direct Mode (without a line-number), you must precede the command with a colon to make the interpreter associate the command as if it were part of a program. For example:

# Easiprint

**NLQ ON**  
from Direct Mode will give a "SYNTAX ERROR" report, but "NLQ ON" will do the trick (Turning NLQ on).

### Command Syntax

All EasyPrint commands fall into one of the following three categories:

- They require no input parameter (e.g. "PICA" and "ELITE")
- They require an ON/OFF parameter (e.g. "ITALIC" and "UNDERLINE")
- They require a numeric parameter (e.g. "LEFTMARGIN" and "CHARACTERSET")

Note that for type (2) commands, you must put a space between the command and the ON/OFF parameter, but if you wish to save on RAM, you can leave out the OFF leaving the effect unchanged.

For type (3) commands, the input parameter is either a number in the range 0-255 (Byte parameters) or in the range 0-65535 (16-bit parameters). The range required is indicated in "EasyPrint commands".

If the parameter specified is of the wrong type, or is outside the valid range, then a suitable BASIC error message will be displayed and program execution stopped as for all BASIC commands.

### EasyPrint Commands

#### Commands requiring no parameter

**DISABLE** - is used to disable the EasyPrint commands in case of software incompatibility, etc. To re-enable the program you can use SYS 52737. (See "Packaging in the System.")

**TEST** - will send a textual message to the printer in order to test that it is functioning properly.

**SOCRATES** - find out for yourself!

**PICA** - selects the Pica printing pitch on your printer. Pica is the standard point-size which is selected when a

printer is first switched on.

**ELITE** - selects the Elite pitch on your printer. Elite is a narrower, more dense print-style providing 132 characters per line instead of the usual 80.

**RESET** - sends the control codes to the printer for a reset. This has the result of selecting the Pica pitch with all the special effects turned off, and resetting the default page size and margin settings, etc.

**RETURN** - sends the code for a carriage return to the printer.

**LINEFEED** - sends the code for a linefeed to the printer.

**SPACE/6** - sets the line spacing of the printer to one sixth of an inch which is the standard setting.

**SPACE/8** - similar to the SPACE/6 command, but sets spacing to one eighth of an inch.

**SPACE/12** - sets line spacing to 7/12 inches. This value is the same as used for drawing continuous lines (Epson) or Commodore graphics characters, and is the setting used when the graphics modes are in action.

**FORMFEED** - sends a formatted character to the printer which has the effect of moving the paper position onto the next sheet.

**TAB** - moves the printer's head to the next tab position across the line. Officially, this is called as HTAB (See SETHTAB.)

**VERTICALTAB** - moves the paper forward to the next vertical tab position (officially VTAB). (See SETVTAB.)

**CANCELLINE** - will delete the last line from the printer's buffer. Note that it will only work if a carriage-return character has not been sent.

**ONLINE** - sets the printer on-line for printing, etc.

**OFFLINE** - sets the printer off-line for moving the paper, changing ribbon, etc.

**EXPANDED** - selects the expanded printing effect on a Commodore compatible printer. Another command is supplied for doing this on a non-Commodore printer. Note that if this command is sent while the

printer is in bit-image mode, then the bit-image mode will be cancelled before selecting expanded print.

**STANDARD** - this does the reverse of EXPANDED, selecting the normal print width. Again, if this command is executed from the bit-image mode, then the bit-image mode will be cancelled.

**UPPERLOWER** - is used to select the upper/lower character set on a Commodore compatible printer. This mode is only in operation for one line, so if the printer channel has been opened using OPEN N40 then after one line, printing will lapse back into the Graphics character set.

**GRAPHICS** - the same as UPPERLOWER, but selects the graphics character set.

**RVSON** - used to select reverse video printing on a Commodore compatible printer. Another command is provided for this action on a non-Commodore printer.

**RVSOFF** - turns reverse printing off on a Commodore compatible printer.

**BITIMAGE** - will only work on a Commodore compatible printer and puts the printer into the bit image mode for performing screen dumps, etc.

**JUSTIFYLEFT** - will only work if NLQ printing is switched on. It formats the incoming text so that it's flush against the left margin. This is the normal mode of operation when the printer is turned on.

**JUSTIFYRIGHT** - works in a similar way to JUSTIFYLEFT, but keeps all text flush against the right hand margin.

**CENTRE** - will centre all the following text between the left and right margins.

**JUSTIFYBOTH** - if there are enough characters on the line, will attempt to fully justify each line by increasing the spacing between characters.

#### Commands requiring an ON/OFF parameter

**NLQ ON/OFF** - will, of course, only work with a printer, supporting NLQ, serves to turn this style of printing on or off.

**DOUBLEWIDTH ON/OFF** — may seem the same as **EXPANDED**, but this command works with an Epson compatible printer rather than a Commodore printer.

**COMPRESSED ON/OFF** — switches on or off the compressed pitch, which effectively doubles the number of characters per line.

**PROPORTIONAL ON/OFF** — turns the proportional printing mode on or off. Proportional printing is such that each character only takes up as much space as it needs (**NO INCREASE**.)

**EMPHASISED ON/OFF** — turns emphasised printing on or off. When turned on, each character is printed twice in one position, and then one dot across. There is no significant decrease in printing speed.

**DOUBLESTRIKE ON/OFF** — switches on or off the doublestrike printing. With doublestrike printing on, each line is printed, then printed again on top of the first one. This means that printing speed is halved.

**ITALIC ON/OFF** — is used to turn italicised printing on or off.

**UNDERLINE ON/OFF** — serves the purpose of switching underlining on or off.

**REVERSE ON/OFF** — turns reverse video printing on or off on an Epson compatible printer. It cannot be used on a Commodore printer as the control codes are different, which is why it has been duplicated.

**SUPERSCRIPT ON/OFF** — selects whether the superscript typeface is to be used. The superscript style is half the height of normal printing, and appears in the top half of the line.

**SUBSCRIPT ON/OFF** — does the same as **SUPERSCRIPT**, but selects Subscript printing. This is similar, but characters appear in the lower half of the line. Note that the control codes for switching Superscript or Subscript off are the same, so **SUPERSCRIPT OFF** will turn Subscript printing off, and **INVERSE SUBSCRIPT OFF** will turn Superscript printing off.

**DOUBLEHEIGHT ON/OFF** will switch the double height printing on or off. This effect is only available on some printers.

**DOWNLOAD ON/OFF** — used to select whether the ROM character set of the printer is used, or the RAM character set. Note that to use the RAM character set, the data for it must first be downloaded. Since this requires many parameters, a command has not been provided for the purpose. (See your printer manual.)

**UNIDIRECTIONAL ON/OFF** — tells the printer if it is to print bi-directionally (printing while moving in both directions) or only in one direction. The unidirectional mode is used when exact alignment of characters is required on consecutive lines.

**SLASHEDZERO ON/OFF** — used to define whether a zero printed on the printer has a slash through it or not. Slashed zeros are more practical for program listings, but unslashed zeros look better.

**PAPEROUT ON/OFF** — enables or disables the paperout sensor. This is useful when using a single-sheet feeder.

**Commands requiring a numeric parameter**

**INCREASE 0-255** — takes a parameter in the range of 0-255 and increases the spacing between characters when proportional printing is selected. The input value is the increase in dots.

**CHARACTERSET 0-255** — selects which of the international character sets is to be used for printing. Usually the printer has eleven character sets in the range of 0-11 and these are as follows on a Commodore compatible such as the Citrus 1202.

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 0 - U.S.A.     | 7 - Spain        |
| 1 - France     | 8 - Japan        |
| 2 - Germany    | 9 - Norway       |
| 3 - England    | 10 - Denmark # 2 |
| 4 - Denmark #1 | 11 - Commodore   |
| 5 - Sweden     |                  |
| 6 - Italy      |                  |

**PAGESIZELINE 0-255** — used to tell the printer how big each piece of paper is. The input parameter is the depth in lines and is typically 86 lines.

**PAGESIZEINCH 0-255** — used to define the paper size, but this time it is defined in terms of inches. The size of a normal piece of computer listing paper is eleven inches.

**LEFTMARGIN 0-255** — sets the left margin to the input value in characters. Usually this value will only be in the range of 0-80.

**RIGHTMARGIN 0-255** — identical to the **LEFTMARGIN** command, but sets the right margin position.

**SETHIARS 0-255** — identical to the **LEFTMARGIN** command, but sets the right margin position.

**SETHIABS 0-255** — defines where on a line the horizontal tab positions are. The input parameter is "every a characters". For example, if you want tab to tab, use the **TAB** command.

**RELATIVETAB0-255** — used to move the print head position. The input parameter is the number of characters for it to move. For example, **RELATIVETAB 30** moves the head ten characters to the right.

**DOTABSOLUTE 0-65535** — takes a 16-bit parameter and is used to set the print position in terms of dots. The input parameter is an absolute dot position, and the command will move it that position from wherever it is on a line.

**DOTRELATIVE 0-65535** — the same as **DOTABSOLUTE** except that the input parameter is a relative position. For example, to move the head 500 dots to the right, use **DOTRELATIVE 320**.

**SETVTABS 0-255** — similar to **SETHIABS** and is used to define where on a page the vertical tab positions are. Moving from one vertical tab to another is performed using the **VERTICALTAB** command. **ADVANCEPAPER 0-255** — moves the paper forward a number of lines. It can be used for label printing or moving over letterheads, etc.

**SINGLEIDENSITY 0-65535** — used to select the single density graphics mode on an Epson compatible printer. The input parameter is the number of dots per line. The only way of leaving a graphic mode is to print a full line of graphics.

**DOUBLEIDENSITY 0-65535** — performs the same action as **SINGLEIDENSITY**, but selects the double density mode running at low speed for extra accuracy. Again, the input parameter is the number of dots per line.

**FASTDENSITY** (DL) **FAST** — identical to **DENSITY**, but selects the double density mode running at high speed. The result of this is that columns of graphics are a little further apart, but speed is kept at an optimum.

**QUADENSITY** **QUAD** — the same as the preceding commands, but selects the quadruple graphics mode which prints four times as many dots in a given width than the single density mode.

## Patching in the System

### The BASIC Loader Program

The BASIC loader program is used to **POKE** the machine code for **FastPrint** into RAM. To perform this, simply type in the program and **RUN** it. Any data errors will be reported. If the data is correct, the program will prompt for tape or disk, and then save the BASIC program, and the machine code file.

### Using FastPrint in your own programs

The first lines of your program must be the following:

```
10 IF L&0 THEN L&=LOAD
  "FASTPRINT CODE",J
20 POKE 50,123:POKE 56, 120:CLR
30 SYS 1233
```

Line 10 loads the **FastPrint** machine-code. If you are using tape instead of disk, then change the **J** to **J1**.

Line 20 sets the top of memory pointer to protect the machine-code. This leaves about 25K free for BASIC. Line 30 enables the **FastPrint** commands.

Note that all commands that **FastPrint** sends to the printer are sent through channel number 14. It is unlikely that this channel is used in any of your programs, but if it is, you must change this to another number.

Since the **FastPrint** program is wedged into the Executive Command routine through the vector at \$08, rather than the **CHRGET** routine, it should remain compatible with most other language extensions such as **DOS 1.1**.

### The Demonstration Program

This short program serves as a demonstration of programming using **FastPrint**. It is entered and **RUN** in

the normal way, but if you are using tape instead of disk, change the **J** to **J1** in line 10 to **J1**.

### Changing FastPrint for Other Printers

It is not feasible to redefine the actual commands themselves included in **FastPrint**, as their name are tentified (i.e. **DOSAR**Set). However, if you have a non-standard printer, it is possible to change which control codes are sent to the printer, or to disable certain commands. There are three types of commands — no parameters, **ON/OFF** parameters, and numeric parameters. Each of these is stored in a different format in RAM as shown below:

#### No Parameters

```
BYTE: 01234567890123456789012
DATA: COMMAND NAME/
CODE:----
```

The Command Name, which is stored in the same format for all types of commands, is the teletyped command text e.g. **tab**. It can be 12 teletyped characters long maximum. Each command is terminated with a **CHR\$(255)** to mark the end.

The Code is the set up of four control codes to be sent to the printer, stored as one byte number. Again, these are terminated with a **CHR\$(255)**.

#### On/Off Parameters

```
BYTE: 01234567890123456789012
DATA: COMMAND NAME/ON/
OFF:--
```

The Command Name is as above. The **ON**, and **OFF**, are the control codes for respectively turning the function on or off on the printer. Again, they can be up to four characters long each, and are terminated with a **CHR\$(255)**.

#### Numeric Parameters

```
BYTE: 01234567890123456789012
DATA: COMMAND NAME/
CODE:*
```

The Command Name is as above. The Code is the set of control codes to be sent to the printer. Now codes = which is a **CHR\$(18)** character. After this is a 7 character which tells **FastPrint** which sort of parameter to expect. They are encoded as follows:

#### BC1 — Expect Byte Parameter

#### BC2 — Expect 16-Bit Parameter

When **FastPrint** finds the **CHR\$(18)** character, it then sees what sort of input is needed, gets this input and then sends the input value to the printer. If the value is 1-bit, it is sent as a normal **CHR** code, but if it is 16-bit, it is sent as two 8-bit **CHR** codes, least significant byte first.

### Changing FastPrint Control Codes

By now, you should have a reasonable idea of how **FastPrint** data is stored in RAM. To change the control codes for a certain command, the procedure is shown below. The example shown is to change the control codes sent by **"NLQ"** to **(ESC)NLQ** to turn **NLQ** on, and **(ESC)NLQ** to turn **NLQ** off, as might be the case in a non-standard printer.

\* Turn the control codes into hexadecimal bytes:

```
ON TEXT: (ESC)"NLQ"
ON HEX: 1B 54E 54C 531
OFF TEXT: (ESC)"NLQ"
OFF HEX: 1B 54E 54C 531
```

Because each set of control codes is stored in a fixed field of 3 bytes, we must add a **FF** to signify the end of the control sequence. Therefore, we have:

```
HEX: 1B 4E 4C 31 FF 1B 4E 31 FF
      On      Off
```

\* Calculate the address at which the data is to be stored:

Address for **"NLQ"** is \$36D (See Command Reference.)

Add 15 to this to skip over the command names.

New address: \$37CA

\* Poke the bytes into RAM.

Enter **TEDMON** using **MONITOR** (Return).

Enter the bytes:

```
>37CA 1B 4E 4C 31 FF 1B 4E 4C
(Return)
```

```
>37D0 50 FF (Return)
```

\* Save a new copy of **FastPrint**: Insert a new disk or tape and type:

```
S "FASTPRINT CODE",8,819,8000
for Disk Users
```

```
S "FASTPRINT CODE",1,719,8000
for Tape Users
```

Finally, exit **TEDMON** and return to **BASIC** by typing: **X** (Return)

As you can see, it's no easy job, but unless you have a very interesting printer, it should not be necessary to perform the above!

See listings on page 74.

**Q**uestion. When is MUD not MUD? Answer. When it is a computer game. Confused? You will be. MUD is an acronym for multi-user dungeon. The original idea was that several people participated in the adventure simultaneously, connected to a mainframe via a modem.



Character interaction was the name of the game. Now, because not many people have access to a modem, Virgin have brought out a one player version of the game.

Be doesn't kill the whole nation after he/she the game it hear you all remaining. Well yes and no. For the game comes complete with a character disk containing details of one hundred fellow adventurers, ten of whom are picked at random to go adventuring with you whenever you load the game. Obviously, the degree of interaction is nowhere near as high as in the original but the flavour of the game is still retained.

The objective of the game is to reach the exalted level of wizard or witch by scoring more than 10000 experience points. Points can be gained in three main ways. Collecting and storing treasure, killing an opponent or performing some minor task. If you want to become a wizard by killing the leggie 10000 times, then so be it.

To collect treasure, it has to be dropped in the swamp where it sits without a trace. This might seem pretty drastic, but it does stop the other players from grabbing it.

Because the amount of treasure available is finite, the game resets every forty to sixty minutes returning everything to its former position. This is something else that you must come to terms with. MUD is played in real time so there is no point in hanging about. Similarly, different actions take different lengths of time and the game carries on while these are being performed.

Killing an opponent games you one twelfth of his experience points. The disadvantage here though is that you could get killed yourself. You have no say in combat over it has been initiated but must just sit back and wait the outcome, which depends on the player's strength, dexterity and stamina ratings.

There are two ways of dying in MUD. Dead and dead dead. The latter occurs when you are defeated in combat and remains gone over time. Your character is irrevocably lost. Dead occurs when you try to do something silly such

as leaping off the cliff without a parachute. You are kicked out of the game and lose all awards for that session.

There are various magic spells that you can cast. Anyone can attempt to cast one but the chance of success depends on your skill level at the time and there could be dire consequences if one goes wrong on you. So don't try casting Finger of Death when you first enter the game.

# MICRO MUD

× P A X ⊕ ⊗ ⊕ × ★ ◀

Most of the commands can be abbreviated to save you from typing errors if you are trying to do something quickly. Commands can be linked with "and" as "then" which gives the player a reasonable degree of sophistication although nobody would ever claim that it was supposed to be the game's strong point.

It is worthwhile finding out which characters are present at any stage in the game. You will need their help on several occasions. The "show" command sends you messages throughout the land. With a bit of luck, some of the others might even respond. Remember to reward anyone who does help you. You don't want to be ambushed on the way back to the swamp.

There are some 400 locations for you to explore - cottages, grassyads, caves, forests and of course, the bottom of the cliff together with anything that might be out at sea. Descriptions are of medium length, again to stop you from being killed while you read them.

The packaging consists of a thirty page manual together with a copy of the book 'An Introduction to MUD' which gives details of the mainframe game. Although the one player is largely the same, there are some significant differences.

A one player version of MUD can never hope to capture the spirit of the original entirely, although Virgin have made a tremendous effort and their version of MUD is one that every adventurer should own. At fifteen pounds, it offers tremendous value for money with the added advantage of no phone bills to pay afterwards. Now, if you will excuse me, there is a certain entrepreneur who is due for his compensation after what he did to me last week. G.R.J.

**Franchise:**

**Title:** Micro MUD. **Supplier:** Virgin Games, 2nd Floor, Yard, Beveridge Road, London W11 2JN. Tel: 01-727 8878. Price: £14.95 - still only.

# Fred Goes Dotty

*Dot matrix printers have had it too easy for too long! These three packages from Financial Systems Software will really put them in top gear!*

*By Fred Reid*

**T**here are a great many graphics utilities around that IBM owners can use. Illustrations of - many of high quality and special features, but few will see the job through to the end - in most cases, hard copy!

Photo Finish (upper face lower in right), Billboard and ICON Factory are stand alone packages, each with their own particular function. Treating yourself to any or all of these packages is like giving a chairman to a school.

## Photo Finish

Photo Finish is the perfect complement to ICON Factory, enabling you to transfer your finished pictures to paper. There are countless 'hi-res screen dump' programs in circulation, but Photo Finish stands a full head and shoulders above the rest. As with ICON Factory, Photo Finish can cope with many different image formats.

Hi-res pictures pose no problems, as your printer only has to reproduce the foreground colour (unless you decide to print a negative of the original, in which case only the background is printed).

Multi-colour pictures need to be treated slightly differently, as each colour on the original picture has to be converted into a shade of grey before the printer can make sense of it! Photo Finish offers the facility to design your own grey scales or use the default scale. Because a dot matrix printer can only print a dot or NOT print a dot, each of the IBM's colours can be assigned a shade black - the more dots in the shade block, the darker that colour is represented on paper! If that sounds complicated, it's not, just a little difficult to explain.

Photo Finish also makes use of the Optimiser, allowing you to print four times the dot density of normal hi-res screen dumps, improving the finished product no end.



Printers are fickle things at the best of times, so much depends on the make of your printer, the make of interface and how you set all those annoying DIP switches. There isn't any easy solution here, but Photo Finish makes the best of the situation by offering several 'standard' printer definitions, plus the capacity to define a non-standard printer. I used a Citizen LSP 10 with a Micrographix interface and had no problems.



## ICON Factory



ICON Factory is literally an Image CONverting system that can be used to mix and match images from the most popular

CGI graphics packages; Printshop, Newsroom, Koala Pad, Blazing Paddles, to name but a few. You could be forgiven for mistaking ICON Factory for a game, such is the quality and attention to detail.

The main menu screen is designed as a 'factory building' - each of the factory windows is a scrolling menu for one part of the program. F1 selects the 'window', while cursor up/down scrolls through the options. Once an image has been loaded into memory there is very little you can't do with it. ICON Factory has another unique feature, called 'Optimizer'. When you are enlarging graphics, Optimizer attempts to ADD detail, smoothing out ragged lines. This could cause problems if you try to enlarge a graphic too many times with Optimizer turned on - the end result would be a shapeless blob! Practically though, Optimizer can add that professional touch to your artwork.

Let's take a typical application; a Printmaster graphic can be blown up to full-screen size, cropped, overlaid on a Koala Pad picture and saved as a Blazing Paddles file with just a few simple operations.

## Billboard

Billboard Maker completes the trio, with the unbelievable ability to blow up your pictures to an incredible size first by three feet! Before you turn away in disbelief, with cries of "Where can I get paper that big?" and "April Fool's day was last month!", let me explain. Billboard prints out on your normal A4 size paper, but it breaks the super-enlarged picture up into strips. You then stick the strips together to make up the finished picture!

Once again, the presentation of this package leaves nothing to be desired. The theme this time is not a factory, but a printing works, complete with photo lab, art department, typesetting room and a switchboard to help you find your way around.

Everything you need to turn a picture created on, say, Koala Pad into a full size poster is under the one 'tool'!

The photo lab lets you load a picture and change its appearance using the menu options to strip away the colour, crop the picture to the right size, add borders and generally tidy things up. The Optimizer re-appears here, and can be selected to smooth out your picture. The typesetter's office is where you add text to your pictures, in a variety of fonts



and styles, prior to printing. Finally, the printing press is where your creations become reality!

Throughout the package, the menu system (similar to Photo Finish and ICON Factory) is a delight to use. Billboard Maker is by far the most complete package of the three but the results more than justify this; be prepared to spend some time reading the manual though!

## General Comments

All three packages are beautifully presented, carefully documented and sensibly priced. While all three will see you back a few quid, it must be stressed that each package is designed to run independently of the others, while still complementing them.

If you are in any doubt as to whether or not you can use Photo Finish or Billboard maker with your printer and interface, the answer is probably YES! However some hardware combinations could prove troublesome and I strongly suggest you purchase your package from a dealer likely to offer support if you run into trouble.

### Footnote:

Products: Photo Finish, Billboard, ICON Factory, Signifier, Printmaster Systems Software Ltd, Ardmore House, St. Mary's Street, Worcester WR1 1WA. Tel: 0492 612483. Price: £24.95 each.

# Star LC-10 Printer

*In the search for  
daisywheel quality at  
dot matrix speed,  
we look at the latest twinkle  
in Star Micronics' eye*

*By Eric Doyle*



**H**allelujah! At last a printer with a decent manual. I don't mean that it's perfect but I'm pleased to see a relatively readable layout, a pull-out guide sheet and an index. The printer itself is rather impressive and at last Star Micronics seems to be coming to grips with the needs of the user.

Star's LC-10 is a dot matrix printer of the latest generation offering more than the usual options of various international character sets, NLQ (high quality) or daisy printing styles in a variety of typefaces, italics, graphic mode, user-definable characters, subscript and superscript, underlining and overlining, proportional spacing. Page formatting also follows the tried and tested options to give differing page widths and lengths, tabs, centering, left and right justification, various line spacings, and macro instruction strings but what makes this machine 'new' are the extra options.

The Epson standard is impossible to define accurately because every time the opposition start waving against them, Epson moves the goalposts. Star always offer Epson compatibility and in the past this has meant plain, fine and condensed type styles with italic options. Star have now added various typefaces to the standard set of NLQ Courier characters with Sans serif and

Printer styles. An example is given in Listing 1. No longer does every document have to look the same, new emphasis can now be given to important passages by varying the typefaces.

The printer can also handle tractor-fed continuous stationary or hopper-fed single sheets for loaded newspaper or one-off printouts. The tractor feed has migrated from its usual position over the platen and print head to become a push feed system. Now, instead of the paper being pulled through the printer and over the platen, it is pushed towards the platen. This has two advantages. The first is a super sleek appearance to the printer and the second is one of paper economy.

#### Using the LC-10 computer printer

**TYPE FONTS ARE:** *Small, medium, and large characters, normal characters, normal characters, double with small capitals, or double with lower case characters and italics for all styles.*

**PRINT OPTIONS ARE:** *Print plain, bold print, italic print, bold and italic, proportional spacing for all styles.*

**PROGRAMS ARE:** *Index built*

**DOUBLE SIZED, OR QUAD SIZED.**

**TYPE INCLUDED ARE:** *Double Stride, Underlined, \*\*\*\*\*, \*\*\*\*\* and \*\*\*\*\**

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

<b>Printer Type:</b>	Serial impact dot matrix
<b>Printing Method:</b>	Draft - selectable bi- or uni-directional, logic walking NLQ/Graphics - uni-directional, logic walking
<b>Rolls:</b>	Black, fabric-ribbon cartridge
<b>Buffer:</b>	4K, normally, single line buffer when using download characters
<b>Draft Typofaces:</b>	Draft, draft italic
<b>NLQ Typofaces:</b>	Courier, Sanserif, Otator (with lower case or small capitals), plus italic versions of all
<b>Characters:</b>	95 ASCII characters standard, 244 ASCII, graphics and international characters in IBM mode
<b>Download Set:</b>	192 draft, 78 NLQ
<b>International:</b>	14 sets (USA, France, Germany, England, Denmark I and II, Sweden, Italy, Spain I and II, Japan, Norway, Latin America, Denmark/Norway)
<b>Special Styles:</b>	Double width, double height, double width and height, quadruple width and height
<b>Print Pitches:</b>	Pica (10pp), elite (12pp), condensed pica (17pp), condensed elite (20pp, draft mode only), proportional spacing
<b>Line Spacing:</b>	1/9 (standard), 1/8, n/72, n/216 inch
<b>Column Width:</b>	8 inches - 88 characters pica, 98 chars elite, 137 chars condensed pica, 168 chars condensed elite
<b>Dimensions:</b>	384mm x 287.5mm, Height 105mm
<b>Weight:</b>	4.7kg
<b>Power:</b>	30W (60W max)

A sheet of headed notepaper can then be fed through for an urgent business letter without creating the need to unroll the continuous roll manually, feed in the single sheet, and then re-roll the original roll manually.

The front panel which I mentioned also allows the selection of one of the three typofaces in NLQ modes. The panel also allows those to be designated as italic or roman styles in pica, elite or condensed pitch with or without proportional spacing. This is all in addition to more usual features such as forward and backward micro-feed for aligning the paper, form feed to test the software specified page length, on/off line selection and power switch indicator. Other panel selectable options permit his change of row code for software bug tracing, a long or short self-test to check that the printer is operating properly, printer buffer clear, top of form and margins setting.

**PRINT SPEEDS**

<b>Specified:</b>	128 characters per second (draft pica)
	38 characters per second (NLQ pica)
<b>YC Benchmark:</b>	98 characters per second (draft pica)
	28 characters per second (NLQ pica)
	62 characters per second (sample document draft pica)
	17 characters per second (sample document NLQ pica)

At last, the Centronics connection socket has been moved from its normal position on the back of the printer where it often hindered paper loading to a more sensible position on the right-hand side of the casing. Although it was Centronics' version which I tested there is a Commodore serial interface model available. I'd strongly recommend that this option is taken up because the printer interface that I used to convert my 84C for Centronics connection malfunctioned several times even though it has worked happily with earlier Star printers.

One more which I do not approve of is that the DIP switches which are used to select the power up options on the printer are tucked away inside the machine. On my earlier Star 50-14 printer these were positioned at the left-hand side in a recess for easy access. I have an aversion to DIP switches at the best of times, they are

small and awkward to set and I would have preferred to have seen a sensibly positioned covered panel with larger slider switches.

The manual gives two example listings in PC style (Microsoft Basic) which can easily be converted for the Commodore. One listing shows how controls can be issued to the printer through software and the other is a very useful character designer. If you think you can improve on the typofaces included in the printer's operating system or if you need to design a character for a specific use, the Download Character Generator will give you a grid to mark from for both NLQ and-draft mode characters. Anyone who has tried to define their own characters will know what a headache this can be and I welcome this listing from Star.

The rest of the manual shows a departure from Star's usual style of overlapping instructions. Here each facility is given a few lines with a nice bold title. The ease of finding the facility which you need is made much simpler this way as does the inclusion of an index. The only facilities which are given extra space are the descriptions of download, user defined characters and setup and maintenance notes.

A final round of applause is given to Star because the printer head is easy to replace. Although years of use may be expected from a print head, accidents do happen and the expense of having to have the head replaced by a professional can prove inhibitive.

Mechanically, the printer is well constructed and all of the working parts are readily accessible. The one Achilles' heel is the cover for the drive sprockets which clips into place but doesn't seem very resilient. On the machine supplied for review, the cover clips barely held the cover in place. Normally this would be a very minor complaint but on the LC-10 the semi-automatic sheet hopper attaches onto this cover and the floppiness could cause problems.

With the LC-14, Star Microcivics has placed a handily styled, professional-quality printer within the grasp of the home user - my advice is to grab it with both hands. ☺

**Finalize:**

**Headline:** Star LC-14 dot matrix printer. **Supplier:** Star Microcivics UK Ltd, Crown House, 40 Chicheley Road, Enley, London W5 2BS. Tel: 01-878 5880. Price: £229 + VAT.

# Making Music



*Continuing our music series, this month we look at the Commodore's ability to synthesize and the all important role of interrupts.*

*By Peter Gerrard*

**A**ny true synthesizer must make extensive use of interrupts to be able to cope with the musical demands put upon it, at least on the Commodore 64. I'm not suggesting that Mr. Moog had a thorough working knowledge of interrupts (but you never know...). However, it is possible to lay the ground work, and produce a program at the same time that will stretch the C64 to its limits.

## The Role of the Interrupt

The interrupt's main function is to play background rhythms, which in turn allows the features of ring modulation and synchronization to be used to their full extent. Editing features can be used to put these rhythms into memory, or indeed produce the data for vast musical soundtracks that can be played back later using a totally different program, but still retaining under interrupt control.

For now, however, we are more concerned with the simple playing of notes on a keyboard, and gaining

knowledge of the various aspects of the SID chip before commencing our program (as to memory (tape and disk) as well probably; the end result will be all the better for it).

Fiddle about to your heart's content, altering anything and everything as you see fit. But do remember that there might be other people listening in, and your idea of a number one hit album, film soundtrack, or whatever, might not necessarily coincide with theirs!

## The Actual Program

The screen display is initially divided into two parts. To the left of the dividing line there are three rows of musical keys covering three octaves. To play a note using any of these rows of keys then press a key from 'Z' to 'M' for the bottom row, 'A' to 'J' for the middle row, or 'Q' to 'U' for the top one. The little space bar will follow you around, just to let you know what you are.

On the right hand side of the dividing line are some simple instructions and a few facts of

information. At the top of the screen you'll see a small display telling you which keys to press to produce a note. The function keys are also indicated, and in the style F1 to F8 they play chords in the keys of C, D, E, F, G, A, B and C again respectively. These chords are played in the same octave as that currently being used by the bottom row of the on-screen keyboard, or in the computer's terms, the keys 'Z' to 'M'.

To change octaves, you will see that you can press the '↓' to go down an octave, or the '↑' key to go up an octave. Since there are limits beyond which you and I cannot hear anything, but any surrounding pets might be driven beyond endurance, the 64 is kept to a certain limit with its octave range, but can nevertheless cope quite happily with about an 8 octave span. All of these are available using this program.

You'll see on the next line down the mysterious term *glissando*, but any fan of Steve Hillage will tell you what this is all about. Pressing the 'G' key turns the glissando effect off or on (toggles it, in other words), and



## 119 DATA:1

Having entered and run this program, you could then type in

```
SYS 49152,1
```

and see a perfectly useless screen display as a result. The point is, however, that it works, and it is possible to pass parameters to and from machine code routines without any under fans and boilers. To go from screen to sound is a simple matter, and if need be, it is possible to put a triangle waveform in voice one so we could change our data to read:

```
100 DATA 169,00,141,04,212,32,253,
174,10,18,10,18,105,01
101 DATA 160,04,212,95
```

which would mean a call of SYS 49152,1 would put a triangle wave in voice one, or SYS 49152,2 would put a sawtooth wave there, and so on, without the need to POKE 54272,0:POKE 54272,17, or whatever.

However, none of this is really any great improvement on the standard PEEK ... POKE approach. Use it and play with it by all means, but do not expect miracles as a result of doing so. Far better to stick to old friends, and use the speed and power of machine code to do other, more dramatic things. SYS calls to variables are all very well, but it doesn't take that long for a sequence of, say, five POKE commands to be obeyed. Longer than in machine code, yes, but not significantly so in terms of sounds produced. So, we must use machine code for those parts of a program where we cannot possibly begin to use Basic, and chief among these must be in the use of interrupts.

As I said, feel free to play about with passing parameters from a Basic call to a machine code routine. However it is much better to reserve machine code for something which is really useful rather than a minor saving of one or two bytes and an occasion to Basic that doesn't really make life any easier.

## Using Interrupts

Every fifth of a second or so the 64 whizzes away from whatever it's doing, and goes off to update the internal clock, check us a few

operations, before returning to normal and letting Basic and everything else proceed as if nothing has happened. The routine to do this starts at SEADR, and if we can interrupt this routine and perform a few housekeeping chores of our own then we can create the impression of a multi-tasking computer. That is, one that is capable of doing more than one thing at a time. It won't be, of course - it will merely be doing several different things very quickly. But, by judicious use of code, we can make this multi-tasking look very realistic indeed.

It is this interrupting of interrupts that gives us the ability to produce, among other things, background musical soundtracks for our normal Basic (or machine code for all matter) programs. Later we'll be looking at how soundtracks can easily be made to last up to ten minutes and beyond, by taking up very little memory at all.

To interrupt the 64 on its way we must remember three golden rules:

- Make sure you interrupt the 64 properly.
- Make sure that your own code works.
- Make sure that the 64 gets to SEADR in the end.

This may seem obvious, but it's surprising how often, and how easily, things can go wrong!

First of all we'll need to interrupt the 64. There are two necessary locations used to control the final whereabouts of the interrupt, which incidentally is termed the Hardware Interrupt Vector, or HIV, and these are locations 788 and 789. If we simply PEEK these we'll see that they initially contain the values 01 and 0A, and reversing things around in the time honoured tradition of the 64 brings us to the final location of SEADR.

Now suppose we want to have the 64 perform some chores of our own before it gets to SEADR, and that our own code starts at location 8C00. A convenient place, being the start of the 4K spare block of RAM above Basic and some of the ROM, but below the sound and graphics work area and the rest of the ROM. We would need, first of all, to split 8C00 up into two components, namely 8C0 and 800, and then convert these two numbers into decimal terms. Obviously 800 is going to be equal to zero in whatever counting system you're working in (don't all write in as ones, please!), and 8C0 converts to 182 in decimal.

Swapping these numbers around gives us a 182 and a 00 to POKE into the two locations mentioned earlier, and to alter the HIV we could just

```
POKE 788,00:POKE 789,182
```

However, due to the speed of the 64 this will sometimes cause a 'crash', where the machine just gives up in disgust and will have nothing to do with you. Better then to have a little routine in machine code which we can call to turn the HIV to our new location, or revert to its old location, depending on which we want to do at the time. The following program will load some code into the top end of memory and enable us to get from one to the other.

```
10 FOR I=0 TO 21
15 READ A
20 POKE 52992+I,A
30 NEXT I:END
100 DATA 169,00,141,20,01,169,02,141,
21,02,95
101 DATA 169,49,141,20,01,169,214,141,
21,02,95
```

Type in this program, but don't run it yet! We have no code in 5C00 yet, so add the following to the program, and change line 20 to read 30 NEXT I.

```
40 FOR I=0 TO 7:READ A:POKE 49152+I,A:NEXT I:END
150 DATA 169,41,141,10,04,76,49,214
```

Nothing too startling yet, because all this does is put a heart into the top left hand corner of the screen. However, it is impossible to get rid of it, without removing interrupts, and so it does at least serve the purpose. To get our heart up there we must:

```
SYS 52992
```

and to turn interrupts back to normal again we'll have to:

```
SY 5300
```

This will work without the machine crashing! Now, with the HIV diverted, our little heart will remain on screen. Set the HIV back to normal again, and the heart can be cleared at ease.

However, we want to do something a little more impressive than that, so we'll be looking at using some background music to play our song for us next time. See you then!

*See Listings on page 74.*

# Pandora



**Y**ears and years ago the generation ship Pandora was sent out with a crew of droids and men to search out intelligent alien life. Now it is returning to Earth and your mission as a salvage agent is to find out why.

Pandora is without doubt a dangerous place to be as it is believed to be controlled by a now rampaging computer, but it may contain invaluable alien artifacts. In fact your early games could last less than a few seconds, as any attempt to move without a valid ID attracts the attention of the roof lasers, but once your quest will continue as an easy affair as long as you give you his ID.

The Pandora is a massive ship and is represented on screen by a scrolling top down display that shows you the ships rooms and corridors as well as the people, security droids and mutants that now populate it. Below this the screen displays what, if anything you're holding and the contents of your pockets or backpack as well as your current health status that can range from mighty, through fragile to dead, the distance to Earth (time left in the game) and the name and equipment carried of any character or critter you meet.

Your first step is survival which means avoiding fights with characters stronger than you are and then making sure you have the right ID at the right time. These IDs are the key to the game and you can find others on the corpses of the crew members. Unfortunately, you can lose them just as easily if the thief catches you, which he usually does, as he hurtles around the ship at high speed. As you approach some characters such as the droids or the droids they'll tell you what they need and if you can solve the puzzle, find the object and return it, you may be able to trade with them for another ID, a weapon, alien artifact or perhaps

a means to defeat some of the extra tough aliens that seem to guard the entrances to other sections of the ship.

In many rooms you'll also find computer terminals that you can plug into, with the right ID, to learn more about the ship, the crew and the objects you'll find and the aliens you'll trace. For example, apparently the ice creature is susceptible to sound so if you can find a source of sound or the object you'll need to trade for it you might hurdle your way through to another section of the ship.

Combat occurs whenever you collide with a critter and is decided by a combination of timing and strategy. When a fight begins a bar overlays the object display showing the strength of your adversary and besides that a sliding gauge decides the strength of your hit. If you hit the bar before it reaches the end the blow strikes you're carrying. If your timing is out, the blow is weakened or you miss altogether. Some ranged weapons such as a laser rifle can be fired from range and others are suited to hand combat and either increase the damage you can do or the number of times you can strike.

Pandora is a difficult game to play as the pressure of the time limit causes you to change around in a loosely controlled panic. Once you've opened the Pandora box and discovered some of its secrets you'll find it difficult to escape.

T.J.R.

**Features:**

**File:** Pandora. **Supplier:** Firebird, 64-76 New Oxford Street, London W1A 1PS. **Price:** £19.99. **Machine:** Commodore 64. **Price:** £19.99. **Copy:** £14.95. **Disk:**

SCREEN F/X ALSO INCLUDES AN F/X PROCESSOR TO ALLOW YOU TO CREATE SCREENS FOR DISPLAY WITH SCREEN F/X. YOU CAN SEND YOUR CREATIONS TO YOUR FRIENDS FOR VIEWING WITHOUT THE SCREEN F/X MASTER DISK. YOU CAN EVEN DESIGN OPENING SCREENS FOR YOUR OWN PROGRAMS!

*After spending weeks creating a masterpiece, don't spoil it with an inferior title sequence*

*By Norman Doyle*



**A**s if any software buyer about programmers and they'll all tell the same story: the hardest time is getting a program written always comes at the end when the rough edges have to be smoothed down and the program presented in a marketable form. For the programmer all of the challenges have been overcome and the finishing is done. Screen F/X could be the answer because it provides a creative environment which is easily mastered

and rewards the user with a wide range of impressive special effect scenes.

It's difficult in a written review to do full justice to the range of effects available. Even a photograph lacks the animated effects which makes this program so good; it really does have to be seen to be appreciated.

The main effects are based on the dissolve, cut and wipe techniques used in the television world. Venetian blinds, expanding squares, cross corner wipes... you name and it you'll

probably find it here. Textured backgrounds or hi-res and multi-color images can be mixed with text, window overlays with shadows can be revealed in a variety of patterns. Mirrors, multi-window help screens, font changes can all be achieved through an ingenious programming system of option screen menus.

The editing screen is the heart of the program. Here each sequence of events, or 'script', is created by building up a series of effects. The program



means that all of the elements are entered by creating a strict regime of sub-routines from which the next step or 'element' within an effect is selected.

The hierarchy of script building is to build up several 'elements' into an effect. An element can be transparent, stand or programmed. Transparent elements are passive items such as setting up a background pattern, flipping an image or selecting foreground and background colours. Visual effects are the various types of wipes which involve movement on the screen. This also includes various reveal techniques for displaying text.

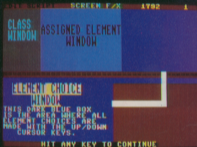
Despite the strict programming environment the range of effects are only limited by the user's imagination and the computer's free memory. At each stage the full routine can be run through to check that all is well and any mistakes can then be edited out.

None for the bad news. The Screen F/X program was written in the USA, therefore it is strictly disk only. Elements of the finished script are loaded when they are needed so an ambitious series of scripts can be stored down by the 1M or 1.5M. The good news is that finished routines will run totally independently

program format to another. A picture saved from the Computer Eye Designer can be rendered suitable for loading into Blazing Paddles for further manipulation. This is all very nice but some of the popular British sourced graphics programs, like CRI's Image System and Advanced GCP Art Studio from Rorschach, are not supported.

The final utility is one which formats storage disks and copies files for preparing your script disks.

This is a novel program which could be the answer to many a programmer's prayers but serious programmers may prefer



Program effects bring into play a very simple programming language which allows loops to be created to repeat a series of effects, or for getting a user input for menu creation programs.

Altogether these effects can create such scenarios as a text window in any colour and pattern gradually materialising out of an overall background of a different colour and pattern. This effect is rather like the neoprene effect on Star Trek. The window can have a border created by superimposing one window on another large window. The border can then be used by programming a text string to rotate around its perimeter. Then the next screen may appear as though various blinds were opening out onto a new world.

of the script editing program.

Also included in the package are three utility programs for manipulating screens and disks. The instructions for the screen manipulation routines are clunky and require a lot of experimentation to reveal its powers. This program allows hi-res screens to be loaded even though they have been saved from different programs such as Rorschach, Billboard, Blazing Paddles, Neovision and First Step.

Images can be flipped left to right, turned upside down, cut and pasted to your heart's delight and then saved for use in the next script.

The second utility, Graphic-Link, also involves already prepared images. Images can be changed from one

to use it as an ideas development program. Once the on-screen choreography has been created and tested, it may be better to write a new routine which will achieve the same effect. This would eliminate the time taken in loading various parts from disk.

Screen F/X opens up a world of effects which could not be easily achieved in any other way. For the professional it's a great eye-opener.

#### Conclusion:

Supplier: *Screen Wipers Publishing Co. UK Distributor: Financial Systems Software, 2nd Floor, Ambrose House, St. Mary's Street, Worcester RM1 1AB. Tel: 0905 671461.*

# May I Interrupt?

*Games aren't the only programs that use interrupts, utilities can also benefit*

*By Eric Doyle*

In previous installments the power of interrupt programming has been shown as a dodge to get spectacular effects. Some programs are not very spectacular but they are extremely useful as time savers. Printer commands are tedious to type in and execute, and if you turn off the printer the commands have to be sent again.

Using the function keys can ease the tedious but a special program has to be written because the CBI does not cater for these potentially useful devices.

The program outlined here sets immediately accessible commands for an Epson-type printer which operate as soon as the key is touched; in conjunction with the CTRL key, the command can be added to the current screen line when building up a list of Basic or when a directly executed command is needed; or each function key can be tailored to suit your needs.

There are two ways to approach programming the function keys and both are used here. One is to tag a series of commands onto the normal Basic handling routine by diverting the CHRGET routine based at \$0073 to jump into a special routine sequence before venturing to the normal Basic decoding routine. This means that the return key must be pressed before the command is executed. This is the method used by the first program

which services the key redefine and function list facilities.

For sending commands to the printer or the screen via the function keys an interrupt is used so that the keys behave as instantly as any of the other keyboard keys.

## Extending Basic

The CHRGET routine takes characters from the input buffer one at a time, checks for a command word and then hands over to the Basic interpreter until the command is complete or an error is found. The routine then hands back to the 'ready for a new input' handler.

To wedge in a command of your own the CHRGET is changed to point to your own routine which can then pull out any new commands which you want to use before passing onto the normal decoding system.

The best way to do this is by selecting commands which start with a different letter to any keywords which Basic has already defined and for this purpose the '@' symbol is often used as a prefix. For our purposes using the K for key as our search character means that no Basic words will be skipped because none of the standard Basic keywords start with K.

The CHRGET routine normally looks like this:

```

INC $7A
BNE $0076
INC $7B
LDA $0100
CMP # $5A
BCS $008A
CMP # 0
BEQ $0073
SEC
SBC # $30
SEC
SBC # $10
RTS
  
```

To interrupt the execution of this routine a JMP \$C000 command is poked in just after the LDA \$0100, but the rest of the routine must be called from our wedged routine at \$C000.

## Why Interrupt?

The commands stored on the function keys are hidden under the Basic RAM to save on programming space. Therefore each command can be 80 characters long. If the redefine function is not required it need not be loaded. Another code routine can then be stored in \$C100 because the interrupt routine is booted from \$0100.

After the interrupt is set the routine switches out Basic ready to service a keypress. If a function key is pressed

# May I Interrupt?





A disassembler residing in computer memory has to be relocatable if it is to be of any real use. If the program under scrutiny and the disassembler inquiries clash, one will overwrite the other.

Another occasion when a clash of interests occurs is when a routine uses macros by loading through zero page locations. Few disassemblers can cope with this and a relocatable loading command is required to pull the program into a different part of memory. The problems with such a method is that the memory locations are changed to those relating to the new location.

A disassembler which works direct from disk has none of these problems. It can even work with files which are stored as sequential or relative files.

This version of disk assembler lacks some of the facilities of a sophisticated disassembler but will develop its powers in future issues of *Four Commodore*. Commands such as string searches and replacement printer dumps and specific track and sector (T&S) manipulations are already in the pipeline but if you write your own routines or have any suggestions for a specific function or modification that you'd like to see, please write to me at the magazine's editorial address. Do not try to phone me because I'm rarely in the office these days but don't tell the editor, I don't think he's noticed yet!

## The Functions

The main requirements of a disassembler is to be able to select a file on disk and see it as a mnemonic code or as an ASCII dump. Disk assembler allows this and more.

For a normal disassembly select a name and the assembler will open the file ready for your next command.

The commands available are shown in Table 1. I've delib'ately kept the commands simple so that the structure of the program can be studied. In future issues extra commands will be added which will extend the usefulness of the Diskassembler. Selective track and sector (T&S) disassembly, sector modification and disassembly from a specified memory location are all possible with very little modification to the basic program.

Table 1 — Diskassembler commands

L	display directory
L filename	select a program for disassembly
D	disassemble code

The directory command, L, is straightforward in its use. Type it in and press return and the current directory will be printed direct to the screen so that a program name can be selected.

L filename will store the relevant data to open the file ready for use with the other commands. —

D will disassemble code from the beginning of the file. As each new sector is accessed the block is stored between \$C000 and \$C0FF. The first two memory locations are a pointer to the next track and sector and are stored in the next available memory locations in the reserved \$C100 to \$C1FF area so that a complete T&S record for the file is kept for future program modifications.

The next two bytes of the first block indicates the start location for loading the program into memory. These values are stored at \$FA for two reasons. Firstly, it gives the disassembler the first memory location for printing out the disassembly but, when the selective disassembly unit is added later, it also gives the base value from which T&S disassembly can be calculated given a specific memory location or track and sector.

The program then returns the

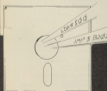
disassembly section. The first data value is taken from location \$C004 and evaluated by searching through a table. Since memory saving techniques are not required the table is a full one for all code values. The codes are stored in a special way to facilitate counting through to the value of the required byte. The method is analogous to the method employed by the Basic ROM in the C64 when searching for a keyword token. The minimum word is stored in normal ASCII values except for the last character which is the ASCII value plus 180. This means that the X register can be used as a counter.

Reading up through the table, each character is examined to see if the new bit is set. As this is also the sign it means that a BPL command can be applied to increment memory pointers and continue reading. If a character has a set seventh bit it indicates a negative value and the X register is increased by one, compared to the required value and the program then either continues the search or returns to the printer handler according to the result.

Each mnemonic is followed by a number which indicates how many bytes are associated with a particular mnemonic. The hex values of the mnemonic are printed next to the memory location and the disassembled code is then added, but before moving on to the next command a special character dump routine is used.

Besides the disassembly there are two columns of characters. These are a substitute for an ASCII and screen code dumping function. The first column takes the code values for that line and prints the ASCII value. If this value is a control code which would disrupt the display, a hallop is printed instead.

The second column is created by a routine which converts all code values to an equivalent ASCII value which represents the character that would appear if the code was poked directly to a screen location.



# Diska

This facility has been included to ease disassembly to the screen. When a block of data is reached it can be visually evaluated without having to drop out of the disassemble function. Future modifications will include both kinds of memory dump but this should suffice for the moment.

### Accessing Disk Files

A couple of features in the program deserve explanation. One of the essential functions of the program is the ability to access disk files. This is more involved than in Basic but roughly follows the same rules.

Firstly a file must be opened. To do this three routines are called from the ROM - SETLFS, SETNAM and OPEN.

SETLFS sets the file number, device and secondary address which corresponds with the numbers in the OPEN 15,8,15 style of command in Basic. To use the function the file number is loaded into the accumulator (A), the device number (B) is held in the X register and the Y register carries the secondary address. I always try to make the secondary address the same as the file number because a simple TAY command can be used to load the Y value. It only saves one byte but every little bit helps.

The SETNAM routine is used to send a command or filename to the disk drive. This correlates with the next part of a Basic command: OPEN15,8,15,"1". The command string or filename can be stored at any handy memory location but the system needs to know where.

Before calling SETNAM the length of the filename or command is loaded into A. The low byte of the memory location of the first character of the name is placed in X and Y holds the high byte.

If no filename or command is set it means that the file will just open up a communication channel with the drive ready for a command to be sent.

In this case A is loaded with zero and, because the X and Y values are irrelevant, JSR SETNAM can be OPEN 15,8,15 ready for a later call of the PRINT # "1" type of the PRINT "1" type.

To open the file, no parameters have to be set in X and Y so a straight call to the OPEN command can be used.

When addressing a particular open file the X register has to be loaded with an opened file number and a channel opened through the CHROUT routine for sending to a command to the disk or CHRIN for reading from disk.

If CHROUT is chosen, a character is loaded into A and CHROUT is called to send it on its way. This process is repeated for each character until the full message has been sent and then CLRCHN is called to free the driver for access through other open files. If this is not done an error will be generated and the program will stop.

To pull something into memory CHRIN is called which will take the next byte from the buffer queue in the drive and store it in A. The character can then be stored in memory with some form of the STA command.

When tracing the program refer to Basic commands to see what the various parts are doing. These routines are the key to many disk file manipulations, if you master these, disk utilities become a piece of cake. Even starting from Basic and using SYS calls to these routines can create some very powerful programs.

### It All Adds Up

Addition is easy in code. First of all the carry flag is cleared and then ADC can be applied. Clearing the carry is important because the flag is set when the result of an addition equals a value greater than byte maximum, 255. If the carry flag is not cleared and happens to be set the result of the addition will be one higher than expected. Try this

```

10 READ A, B: A=999 THEN SYS
40102
30 POKE 40102,A: GO TO 10
30 DATA 199,13,20,210,255,56,188,1
40 DATA 105,61,20,210,255,96,999
The disassembly for this is
LDA # 500
JSR SFFD0
SBC
LDA # 500
ADC # 501
JSR SFFD0
RTS

```

The first two lines simply send a carriage return to set the cursor at the beginning of the next screen line. With carry set, a value of one is added to the one in the accumulator. The value of the addition is printed to the screen and proven that putting one and one together doesn't always make two. If the 56 in line 30 is changed to 24 (CLC) the routine will give the answer two.

This is useful when incrementing memory pointers. In the Disassembler program SPC is used as a memory pointer. This means that at one point SPC stores the low byte value and SFD the high byte of the current disassembly point in memory. As more code is disassembled the pointer is increased as follows.

```

CLC
LDA SPC
AER # 501
STA SPC
LDA SFD
ADC # 500
STA SFD

```

If SPC is equal to 255, adding one will set the carry flag. When the zero is added to SFD the carry flag will increase the value by one, moving the pointer up to the next page of memory. If SPC is at any other value, nothing happens to the value of SFD.

The Disassembler includes many other useful pointers to programming but its main value is its disassembling function.

See *Things* on page 74.

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# Skyfox II

**S**ounds it seems are all the rage at the moment. After all, why expend all that mental energy coming up with a new idea that may or may not work, when you can successfully rehash an old title and bank in some of its former glory. Cynical as it sounds, the stunningly original (and titled) Skyfox is a pretty good game in its own right.

Subtitled the Cygnus Conflict, the game is a futuristic combat flight simulator. You are a member of the elite Federation Warriors and, as there are all sorts of rumours knocking about of a Xenomorph uprising, the Federation have been put on condition alert. The general consensus of opinion is that they are seeking total conquest of the Terra Federation.

There are two factors that should prove decisive in the ensuing conflict. First, there is the Skyfox II warfighter with its proven technical superiority. Secondly, but no less important, is your skill at flying the beast.

Becoming the master of your machine is no easy matter and there are ten graded missions for you to select from. These range from minor skirmishes, to protecting ambassadors, destroying deathbases and finally discovering a long lost warbase that may or may not be in friendly hands. Completing (or failing to) a mission will bring up an evaluation screen, showing just how well or badly you did.

Your ship is a tricky little beast to get to grips with, involving as it does a combination of joystick and keyboard controls. There is a head up display (HUD) on the windscreen of your cockpit, but it gives only limited information as to the range and direction of a potential target. You still have to refer to your instrument panel to discover if the craft is friend or foe.

An overview of the surrounding star systems can be called up and you can select whatever heading you require. There is an autopilot function to take the hassle out of navigation but – and there is always a but – the autopilot takes you to your destination by the most direct route. This unfortunately does not take into account any of the hundreds of asteroids that are likely to lie between you and your target. This gives you the option of flying round them manually or blasting the unwanted bits of space debris away with your photon pulse bombs. Collision with one of the asteroids is likely to seriously damage one of your ship's computer systems.

A short cut through the ether of space is sometimes available to you in the form of wormholes. These by-products of black holes act as tunnels taking you vast distances in a matter of seconds. They are marked on the map that accompanies the packaging, but the colour scheme chosen (dark grey on black to avoid photostopping renders them almost invisible under daylight conditions and totally invisible under artificial light.

As well as your photon bombs, you also have a neutron disrupter laser and a supply of anti-matter mines. A decoy device renders you invisible to the enemy but at the cost of large amounts of energy. Energy and weapons can be replenished by docking at a friendly space station. Keep an eye on your radar though as it may be necessary to resume battle with a partially repaired ship.

Graphically, I found the game disappointing. The colours are fairly dull, being largely greys and blacks and the interior of the cockpit is sparse. A few flashing lights and extra control panels, even if they had no function within the game itself could have added to the appearance. Even the explosions when you are blasting stations are muted and there are a few sprite problems here as well.

The gameplay works well though if not quite as good as the original and anyone who enjoys the combination of flight simulator and shoot 'em-ups will find that they have a fair old challenge on their hands.

G.R.B.

#### Teacher:

Title Skyfox II, Supplier: Electronic Arts, Langley Business Centre, 11-49 Station Road, Langley, W. Slough, Berks SL1 3YN. Tel: 0753 89442. Price: £14.95 – club only.

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# Books

*Feed up with the keyboard and feel like a  
read? Watch this space for interesting  
publications*

## COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN

**W**ell I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that this book covers computer aided design (CAD) for both the C64 and the C128. The bad news is that C64 owners will need a Simon's Basic cartridge to get any use from the numerous listings and the book assumes that you own a disk drive.

CAD systems has been the buzzword in engineering circles for several years now and with each year the systems have become more and more complex. For those new to this term, a CAD system is a tool which can be used to produce standard elevation drawings of a projected new product but the computer allows this to be taken one step further. The design can then be displayed as a 3D object and rotated at will to allow examination from all possible angles.

This book attempts to explain CAD principles while building up a useful CAD utility program. To do this a companion has been necessary by producing all of the listings in Basic. The result of this is that the finished utility runs slowly and more serious users would soon feel the need for a machine code program.

Each chapter gently takes you deeper into the mysteries of CAD, starting with the basic elements of technical drawing. A certain amount of rudimentary knowledge of the subject is assumed but I don't think this will be beyond most people.

The finished program is a very powerful design tool with many facilities to ease the problems of producing the initial drawings. A grid which can be displayed, used and deleted, the facility to make scale changes and zoom in on detailed areas, mirror imaging, dimension scales and shading provisions and the very essential set of erasing routines are all available. A very impressive range, as I'm sure you'll agree.

Objects are produced for 3D drawings on the well-established assumption that all shapes can be broken down into a fixed set of elements: cuboids, cylinders, cones, cones, truncated cones, pyramids and spheres. Once assembled the shapes can be displayed as wire frame, surface or volume models for varying degrees of clarity. Wire frame

drawings show all of the lines which form a shape whether normally hidden from view or not. Surface models hide all of the lines which would not normally be visible from a particular perspective. Volume models show hidden lines as dashes and lie somewhere between wire frame and surface models in terms of clarity.

Finally rotational parameters can be set to view your finished drawing in whatever attitude you choose to select.

The book is easy to follow and succeeds in cutting through the jargon laden principles of CAD. The listings are led in gradually and I have only one small complaint in this area. The author uses a variable *I* which could be mistaken for a double *T* variable and makes debugging tedious.

Serious students and those with enquiring minds will be entertained for many happy hours with the contents of this book, and I would rate it as the best I have seen so far on this fascinating subject. **E.D.**

### Timeline

**Author:** Werner Nell. **Distributor:** Precision Software Ltd (Atlantic Software). **Price:** £12.95.

## C128 BASIC TRAINING GUIDE

**T**utorials are difficult to recommend on the basis that one man's meat is another man's poison. With so many commands to call upon the order in which a tutor deals with them is fairly arbitrary as long as a thread of logic holds them together.

Kampore starts off logically working through the principles of algorithms on the basis that an organised mind is a logical mind. Then for some reason he plunges into binary, hexadecimal and boolean operators. This is not only confusing for beginners but also unnecessary for most applications. Even some well-known machine code programmers refuse to dabble in hexadecimal unless absolutely forced to.



If you are getting the impression that I dislike this book you're not wholly right. Starting at chapter two the book improves considerably. As each new command is introduced, Kampore turns it around to show the forms it can take.

Several chapters are terminated with a series of exercises based on the information gleaned so far. Unfortunately there are mistakes in the answers to these problems, a serious mistake for something that purports to be a tutorial! One question on variable names asks the reader to decide which variable names are legal and which would not be accepted by the C128. Two "legal" names are given as WEDNES and MONDAY, both of which contain reserved words within themselves. A definite syntax error message for this mistake!

After looking at arrays, the principles of file management are given the once over. Here the fact that it is an American edition of a German book causes one or two problems. Because tape recorders are used as doorstops in the States this chapter assumes that everyone owns a disk drive. More than this, it also assumes that those who do not own a 1541 drive must have a double sided 1571 which are not available in the UK.

There are dozens of Basic materials in the shops and this is just one of them. It has nothing to offer which can't be found elsewhere and there are several far better materials around. E.D.

#### Timeline

Author: Frank Kampore. Distributor: Precision Software Ltd (Abacus Software). Price: £11.95.

### BASIC 7.0 INTERNALS

**I**f you've ever wondered how your C128 copes with Basic then you ought to get a copy of this book as soon as possible. Over 600 pages contain all you could ever wish to know about the internal operations of your machine.

About 500 of these pages are dedicated to a disassembly of the Basic ROM routines. Each section of the disassembly is clearly annotated with an overall description of what the subroutines does and then detail of how this is achieved. If Basic internals turn you on then there's folders here to keep you browsing for several months.

For me, the greatest value of this book is the description of how variables are stored and the stack manipulated when various Basic routines are used.

A detailed comparison of variable types and their storage can help you to realize how time and memory can be saved if you use the correct style of variable in your programs. The thorny subject of floating point variables is tackled bravely but will require a fair amount of head scratching and thought before the penny finally drops.

There is a lengthy section on RAM expansion module handling which will hold some interest for me if I ever find a source of RAM expansion modules in the UK.

Although C128 Basic is fairly full there may be a time when you want to add a new command word and accompanying routine. A whole chapter is dedicated to this subject with an example routine thrown in for good measure, showing how a swipe can be locked into the CHRGET routine for automatic and frequent execution.

Just before the ROM listing there is a section on graphics which not only shows how to switch screen and character memory around, but also shows how Basic graphics routines can be tacked into machine code programs. I can't think of a more suitable introduction to justify the inclusion of the ROM breakdown on the next few hundred pages.

This is another excellent book from Abacus for programming devotees with an understanding of machine code. For novices the ROM routines form quite useful examples of program routines but I would not recommend this as a way of teaching yourself machine code. E.D.

#### Timeline

Author: Dennis Jarvis/Alan D. Springer. Distributor: Precision Software Ltd (Abacus Software). Price: £16.95 + £1.40 (p&h).

# Constructing

a

# Compiler

*Part two of our series continues the introduction to developing your own compiled programming language* By Steve Currie

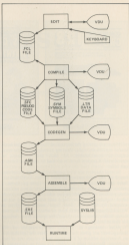


Fig 1 - PCL Compiler system

Here are two example programs. The first requests input to a string array which is then written to a disk file. The second reads the data back from the file and displays it.

## The Compilation Process

In this section I will attempt to explain the various stages in the compilation process and how they relate to one another. I will also explain the next line operation of a compiled PCL program.

The job of translating a source language text into a machine code program is split into a number of stages. These are referred to as analysers since their task is to analyse input data and produce output data or error messages. In the PCL compiler,

these are four distinct stages.

### Lexical Analysis

A line from the source file (PCL) is scanned and segmented. These segments are then checked to see if any contain reserved language elements such as function or operation symbols. These are replaced by single-byte "tokens". Subsequent analysers are able to recognise these tokens since they have a numerical value of 128 or greater whereas normal text characters have values of 127 or less.

### Syntax/Semantic Analysis

In some compilers, these two analysis stages are performed separately. In PCL, it was decided to combine them. The segmented and (possibly) tokenised line is obtained from the lexical analyser and is now returned from left to right. The syntax of the line

is checked and any errors reported. This ensures that the programmer has not included any illegal character or symbol sequences. In addition to syntax error checking, the semantic meaning of the line is also checked and any semantic errors reported. As the scan progresses, a sequence of pseudo-instructions is generated which represents the operations to be carried out. If the line is error-free, this sequence is written to an intermediate disk file (SDF). When the whole file has been checked and there are no errors, two additional data files are created. These contain symbols (SYM) and local string (LSTR) information which will be used during code generation.

### Code generation

The three files from the previous stage

are used to produce a single assembly language source file. First, the symbol and string data is read into memory. Now the preable code is read line by line and the assembly language source code writes to the new .ASM file. The format of the generated program will allow it to be LOADED and RUN as if it were a BASIC program file.

#### • Assembly

A simple two-pass symbolic assembler converts the assembly language source code into a machine-executable program. This operation is, like the others, file based and the finished program is contained in the .EXE file. There are three program files which work together to compile an FCL program and Fig 1 diagrammatically how they relate to one another.

COMPILER performs lexical and syntax/semantic analysis. The input to COMPILER is the source language text file (.FCL) created using the source editor, EDIT. Output from this stage is the .SFC, .SYM and .ATR files. CODEGEN uses these three files to produce the assembly language source code file (.ASM).

ASSEMBLER is the two-pass symbolic assembler used to produce the final .EXE file.

The story does not end here however. In order for the EXE module to be able to perform the tasks required, it needs a runtime support library. This is the SYSLIB file which is loaded by the resident at initialization time. SYSLIB provides services such as file handling and basic I/O. SYSLIB also provides a comprehensive run time error checking facility with some 15 to 20 error messages.

It is possible to edit the intermediate .ASM file produced by CODEGEN using EDIT. In this way, you may make changes to the program without re-compiling.

## Theory of Runtime Operation

When the runtime file is loaded and executed, the system pointers and data buffers are initialized. The runtime support library SYSLIB is loaded into memory at \$C000 and initialized. If no library file is found, the system reports an error and execution is aborted. Execution of the program begins at the Procedure Division BEGIN statement and ends at the corresponding END statement. The structure of the runtime module is determined at code generation time and is as follows:

- BASIC link header section and

SYS command.

- SYSLIB library loader.
- JUMP to code BEGIN.
- Program variables.
- Program static local strings.
- SUBROUTINES defined before Procedure Division.
- Procedure Division code.
- SUBROUTINES defined via FORWARD.

The BASIC link loader consists of a single line of BASIC text which causes execution of the program to occur when RUN is typed. Normally, BASIC programs load at address \$0000. Note that the SYS command increases the code at this address and must be changed if the program is to be loaded at any other address. This should be done by altering the CODEGEN program header generation subroutine.

Program variables differ in their memory requirements. Scalar integer types require two bytes of storage. For integer arrays, the number of bytes required is twice the number of array elements plus two bytes used by the system. For a string variable, the memory requirement is three bytes (known as a descriptor). The first records the length, the subsequent bytes recording the string's address in memory. String arrays require four bytes per element plus two bytes for the system. These system bytes are used to record the number of elements in the array.

Literal strings are stored as they appear in the source program with an additional byte prefix recording the length of the string. These strings are named STATIC. The memory left over after the program has loaded is given over to the storage of DYNAMIC strings.

Several zero page memory locations are used by the system at runtime for special pointers and constants which I will call SYSTEM VARIABLES. Numerical operations such as addition and multiplication are carried out using two memory areas called ACCUMULATORS. These are known as AC1 and AC2. In addition to these, two temporary string descriptors, SD1 and SD2 are defined. These are both three bytes in length and have the same format as a normal string descriptor. Two UTILITY POINTERS, UP1 and UP2 are also defined and are used to hold parameters for operations requiring memory addressing. The ARRAY POINTER is another two-byte variable used to address integer or

string array elements. TT1 is a two-byte General purpose temporary storage variable.

Many of the tasks undertaken by the system must use library routines of the aforementioned variables. Even with this much memory put aside the system still requires some other temporary data storage. This is supplied by a routine "stack" which operates in much the same way as the microprocessor's stack. Data is "pushed" onto the stack or "pulled" from it on a Last-In First-Out (LIFO) basis. For the most part, data stored here is the intermediate results from numeric and string operations. The order and frequency of stack operations is determined by the compiler at the semantic analysis stage. Information to be stacked generally comes from the second accumulator or descriptor, ie AC2 or SD2. During destacking, the information contained is placed in the first, ie AC1 or SD1. Results from operations are retained in AC1 or SD1. Thus, operations which do not convert data types may be represented symbolically by:

[AC1] | AC2 => AC1 for numeric operations.

[SD1] | SD2 => SD1 for string operations.

Where | represents some operation.

In some cases, AC1 or SD1 is not used

for example in a logical NOT operation hence the brackets |. For data type conversions, the operations are:

SD1 | => AC2 for string to numeric.

AC1 | => SD2 for numeric to string.

The system library maintains the DYNAMIC string storage area using system variable SPTR (string pointer). Unlike BASIC where the string stack grows downward in memory, the FCL stack grows upwards from the end of the program to address \$A000. As I stated earlier, there is a problem with string storage due to the lack of garbage collection routines. When SPTR reaches the top of memory at \$A000, the program will stop. A garbage collection subroutine should locate valid strings and push them down into low memory, adjusting SPTR to reflect the new top-of-string address. Unfortunately, a design that much this impossible in the current version, i.e. 10ksize before next issue.

That completes the description of the compiler system and its language. Next time, I'll present the source text editor program, EDIT, and the first of the four main programs, COMPILER.



# Pacland

The clock strikes four and suddenly the Pacland time escapes from my Commodore — the fact that I have eventually become addicted to a computer game has now won this place she have to play it with the volume right up — away). Armed with joystick and Diet-Coke (some of us have our fingers to consider not like the Amiga "Cherry-coke" drinking reviewers I could instantly). And so the long awaited sequel to Pacman has arrived in the form of a horizontally scrolling platform game. The aim of the game is quite simple (it would have to be for Pac to play it) — WHACK! The cherry coke reviewer tries unsuccessfully to get his revenge!

A fairy has become lost in Pacland and it's up to Pacman to take her back to the far side of the island, through the magic door to Fairyland. Pacman carries the fairy under his hat, feeding all his old friends on route in the form of Blinky, Pinky, Inky and Clyde.

The first few levels take Pacman through the hazardous Pacland streets where you constantly have to be on the lookout for the ghosts who try to attack in cars and planes dropping bombs which seem to come from all directions — so look out! Beware of travelling too slowly as you're constantly followed by the evil purple ghost who will gobble you up if you lag behind, and one of your valuable five lives will be lost.

Hitting the joystick twice to the right will give you extra speed and height — a must for when you come across — yes, you've guessed it — a power pill. YIPPEE! Eating this will reverse the who-eats-who rule and you can munch your way through as many as you dare before they change from tasty bit to hungry red, green and yellow. Eating a few cherries on course will top up your energy level even more, which can be crucial, as there's nothing more annoying than coming to a grinding halt just before you reach Break Time.

Energy is represented by a bar of withering Pacman who will gradually diminish in size. If it runs out Pacman will be best relentlessly by the ghosts and a life is swiftly lost. Don't relax too much in Break Time with the serene view of the sea, church (??). The fairy appears from under Pacman's hat for some fresh air and to award bonus points based on the amount of energy he has left.

It's not long until you're onto the next level. Pacman is now in the country, jumping over tree stumps, gobbling those cherries for vital energy. But beware — do not get too tempted by the cherries when the ghosts are about — it's very easy to be killed by those pac-munching fiends.

Following a relatively easy journey so far, now it's time for a bit of skill to come into play. Jump over the tree stumps again but this time those are the ghosts to contend with as well, and they will swoop down to your level. It's intensely annoying when you're considerably hiding behind a stump, thinking they'll miss you, and then, suddenly — WHAM! (this isn't Herman, Sue — Ed) they've swooped and knocked your brains out.

Get through this one and you've got the virtually missing rolling logs to contend with. Nerves of steel required for this one — balance yourself, eat those damn cherries, jump to the next log and avoid the ghosts in places at the same time — not forgetting you haven't got all the time in the world to ponder your dilemma, as the evil purple ghost from behind will soon be upon you.



Suddenly the door to Fairyland is in sight — just avoid a few more perilous ghosts and walk through the door. You'll fall and land with a soft bump in Fairyland, where the fairy is released. The Fairy Queen greets you and supposedly rewards Pacman with flying shoes! How you can take a breather before you prepare yourself for the treacherous journey home.

And it's here that you'll really have to be on your guard. The hazards are basically the same, but now everything seems to attack at once. However your skills should be quite sharp at this point to take you home to your wife and children, who will praise you for your bravery.

All in all, it's a lot of fun if you've got a few hours to spare and the patience of a Saint! The colours are, well, colourful! and the game has an authentic cartoon feel to it. Although the tone is catchy to begin with, it soon becomes monotonous (I think everybody in the office will agree, although their choice of adjectives would not be quite as subtle).

Overall, a game which seems easy to master, but basically isn't, and keeps you going back for that eternal one more go, out of sheer frustration. Well, that's all talks, after all it's nearly 4 pm...

N.J.

#### Factfile:

**Title:** Pacland. **Supplier:** Quicksilver, 12-18 Paul Street, London EC2A 4PE. **Tel:** 01-257-6434. **Marketing:** C&A. **Price:** £9.95 (C&A) £7.95 (Dial).



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The Big Blue Reader is ideal for those who use IBM PC compatible computers at work and have a 128 or 64 at home. The Big Blue Reader is not an emulator, but rather it is a unique and easy to use file save program designed to transfer word processing, text and ASCII files between IBM compatible file formats, the Commodore 128/64 and MS-DOS's file formats. The Big Blue Reader requires a 127 or a 64 or 128 and cannot use a 1241. The Big Blue Reader only 29.95

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# CP/M Printer <sup>By</sup> William Sellers

## Interfacing

*Connect your printer directly to the user port using  
CP/M user port centronics support*

Centronics style parallel printers are frequently used with micro-computers. They can be used with the Commodore 128 by either buying an interface unit which is connected to the serial port, or by connecting the printer directly to the user port and using appropriate driver software. The latter option is obviously cheaper - especially if you make up your own lead, but has not been available in CP/M mode until now.

As an added bonus, since the program uses standard resident system extensions format, it can be used with almost any CP/M program that produces printer output. There should be no memory conflicts.

### How it Works

As mentioned before, the program is a Resident System Extension or RSE. This is a feature of CP/M plus not found in earlier versions that is extremely useful for allowing the programmer to customise system commands.

In a CP/M program, all interaction with system hardware is done through the BIOS jump vector at 00E5h (as an aside, since we are now talking 280 rather than 8502, hexadecimal numbers are denoted by putting an 'h' after them rather than a 'H' before). A RSE diverts this vector so that it can examine all input/output calls before passing them onto the rest of the system. In this case, it looks for printer output which it processes itself.

Centronics protocol on the user port is fairly straightforward. The character data is put onto port B (pins C to L). Then the strobe on port A bit 2 (pin M) is momentarily brought low to indicate that valid data is present to the printer.

The computer then waits to receive the acknowledge signal on flag (pin R). This allows the printer to tell the computer when it is ready to be sent more data.

### Getting it all in

Two methods for typing in the program are shown. Which you use will depend on personal preference and how much additional CP/M software you possess. The first one uses only those programs supplied with the C128

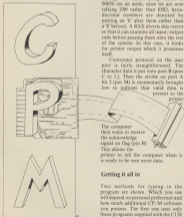
on the system disk and the second requires the extra utility programs available from Commodore.

**Method 1** - Listing 1 is a BASIC loader that is typed into the computer in normal C128 mode and a copy is saved. The program FORKs the 280 machine code into an area of memory in bank 1 that is not used when CP/M is booted up. When the program reports an error, run it, put the CP/M system disk into the disk drive and type B001. When you see the CP/M system prompt, insert the utilities disk (this may be on the reverse side of the system disk) and type SAVE.

You will then be greeted by the system prompt again. This is because CP/M plus sure works on loading from another program. So, type SAVE again and this time you will be asked for a filename. Type in CENT.COM (the name is not important, but the file type must be .COM) - you are then prompted for a start address - type 8000 - and an end address - type 8200. The program will now be saved to disk.

**Method 2** - initially you must use PIP to copy the following files onto a single disk: BMAC.COM, Z80LIB and LINK.COM from the additional utilities disk; SUBMIT.COM and GENCOM.COM from the system disk. You will probably also need to copy over the next editor that you use. ED.COM will do if you have nothing else but there are some much better ones sitting around in the public domain.

Using your text editor, type in listing 2. This is a 280 assembly language listing using the non-standard OP codes underscored by BMAC. It should be saved to disk as CENT.ASM. The unusual loading data block at the beginning is the loader required to show that this is a RSE file and not a normal program. Then type in listing 3. This is a batch processing file that performs all the





# Software for Sale

*If you think that one of our programs looks very interesting, but you can't afford the time to type it in then our software service will help you out*

**I**n three o'clock in the morning. You sit at the computer keyboard having just finished a marathon typing session creating one of the superb programs from Your Commodore. Your fingers reach for the keyboard and press the letters R, U and N. You press RETURN, sit back and nothing happens.

Everyone has probably faced this problem. When it does happen it's a matter of spending hours searching through the program for any typing mistakes. No matter how long you look or how many people help you, you can usually guarantee that at least one little bug slips through unnoticed.

The Your Commodore Software Service makes available all of the programs from each issue on both cassette and disk at a price of \$5.00 for disk and \$4.00 for cassette. None of the documentation for the programs is supplied with the software since it is all available in the relevant magazine. Should you not have the magazine then back issues are available from the following address:

INFONET LTD, 5 River Park Estate, Beckenham, Kent  
BN4 1HL  
Tel: (04427) 76661

Please contact this address for prices and availability.

## The Disk

Programs on the disk will also be supplied as totally working versions, i.e. when possible we will not use Basic Loaders thus making use of the programs much easier. Unfortunately at the moment we cannot duplicate C16 and Plus4 cassettes. However programs for these machines will be available on the disk.

When programs are available?

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



This symbol means that the program is available on cassette.



These programs are available on disk.

## Please Note

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

## FEBRUARY 1988

ACKROYD'S SAGA — See January 1988

ULTRA FUNCTION KEYS — Store up to one screen of text on your C64 function keys.

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MUSIC LOAD — Play music while your program loads (C64).

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DISK YDMAR8 \$5.00

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APRIL 1988

**AUTO START MAKER** — Give your disk programs that professional look by making them auto-start (C64 Disk Only).

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**MAKING GEOS BRITISH** — Have you ever wished that GEOS had a £ sign or that GEOSes had British addresses — modify your GEOS programs to do just that (C64 disk only).

**EXTENDED BACKGROUNDS** — Alter the background colour for every screen line — will display all 256 characters (C64).

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**DESIGNER** — A powerful drawing package for C64 owners.

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**ADVENTURE KIT V** — The fifth part of our continuing library of C64 adventure writing routines.

**C128 KEYS SWAPPER** — Store four sets of function key definitions with this handy utility.

**SCHREEDRAW 64** — A powerful C64 character and background editor for producing your own scrolling backdrops (disk only).

ORDER CODE

DISK YDMAY88 £5.00

TAPE YCMAY88 £4.00

JUNE '88

**DIRECTORY EDITOR** — A superb utility that allows you to alter your disk directories as well as add comments (C64 disk only).

**386 RAM DISK** — Turn unused memory on your C64 into a pseudo disk.

**BASIC LISTER** — List a Basic program stored on disk without having to load it into memory (disk only).

**EASY BASIC TOOLKIT** — Give your C64 over 30 new basic — including the ability to store libraries of subroutines.

**DISK SECTOR EDITOR** — Examine the contents of your Commodore 1541 disks (disk only).

Cassettes or disks are available from March 1988. Please ring the editorial office (01-437 8526) for details of these.

ORDER FORM — PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

NAME	QTY	TAPE/DISK	ORDER CODE	PRICE
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## Checksum Program

The hexadecimal numbers appearing in a column to the left of the listing should not be typed in with the program. These are merely checksum values and are there to help you get each line right. Don't worry if you don't understand the hexadecimal system, as long as you can compare two characters on the screen with the corresponding two characters in the magazine you can use our line checking program.

Type in the Checksum Program, make sure that you've not made any mistakes and save it to tape or disk

immediately because it will be used with most of the present and future listings appearing in Your Commodore.

















At the start of each programming session, load Checksum and run it. The screen will turn brown with yellow characters and each time you type in a line and press the RETURN key a number will appear on the screen in white. This should be the same as the corresponding value in the magazine.

















If the two values don't relate to one another, you have not copied the line exactly as printed so go back and check each character carefully. When you find the error simply correct it and

press RETURN again.

If you want to turn off the checker simply type 55344152 and the screen will return to the familiar blue colour. You can then do whatever it was you wanted to do and if this doesn't use the area where Checksum lets you can go back to it with the same 555 command.

No system is foolproof but the chances of two errors cancelling one. Many of the listings are presented in lower case. To turn your computer to lower case mode press the Commodore key and the SHIFT key at the same time. 25

Mnemonic	Symbol	Keypress
[RIGHT]		CRSR left/right
[LEFT]		SHIFT & CRSR left/right
[DOWN]		CRSR up/down
[UP]		SHIFT & CRSR up/down
[F1]		F1 key
[F2]		SHIFT & F1 key
[F3]		F3 key
[F4]		SHIFT & F3 key
[F5]		F5 key
[F6]		SHIFT & F5 key
[F7]		F7 key
[F8]		SHIFT & F7 key
[HOME]		CLR/HOME
[CLR]		SHIFT & CLR/HOME
[RVSON]		CTRL & 4
[RVSOFF]		CTRL & 9

Mnemonic	Symbol	Keypress
[BLACK]		CTRL & 1
[WHITE]		CTRL & 2
[RED]		CTRL & 3
[CYAN]		CTRL & 4
[PURPLE]		CTRL & 5
[GREEN]		CTRL & 6
[BLUE]		CTRL & 7
[YELLOW]		CTRL & 8
[POUND]		£
[LBARROW]		←
[URBARROW]		↑
[F1]		SHIFT & ↑
[INST]		SHIFT & INST/DEL
[REV T]		no icon
[Cletter]		CBM + letter
[Sletter]		SHIFT + letter

YOUR

## COMMODORE

## Listings

## EASIPRINT



## PROGRAM: EASIPRINT DEMO

```

10 IF 15=0 THEN 15:LOAD "EASIP
PRINT CODE".B:J
20 POKE 56,150:POKE 58,150:CLR 5
30 GOTO 1,1,0
40 PRINT
50 PRINT
60 PRINT
70 PRINT,"THIS IS PICA PICK."
80 PRINT
90 PRINT,"THIS IS ELITE PICK."
100 PRINT
110 PRINT,"THIS IS EXPANDED PR
INTING."*RESET
120 PRINT
130 PRINT
140 PRINT,"THIS IS REVERSE PR
INTING."*RESET
150 PRINT
160 PRINT,"THIS IS OLD PRINTIN
G."*RESET
170 PRINT
180 PRINT,"THIS IS COMPRESSED
PRINTING."*RESET
190 PRINT,"THIS IS PROPORTION
L PRINTING."*RESET
200 PRINT,"THIS IS EXPANDED
PRINTING."*RESET
210 PRINT,"THIS IS DOUBLE-STR
KE PRINTING."*RESET
220 PRINT,"THIS IS ITALIC PRIN
TING."*RESET
230 PRINT,"THIS IS UNDERLINED
PRINTING."*RESET
240 PRINT,"THIS IS SUPERSCRIPT
PRINTING."*RESET
250 PRINT,"THIS IS SUPERSCRIPT
PRINTING."*RESET
260 PRINT,"THIS IS MANSRIPT P
RINTING."*RESET
270 PRINT
280 PRINT
290 PRINT
300 PRINT
310 PRINT
320 PRINT
330 PRINT
340 PRINT
350 PRINT
360 PRINT
370 PRINT
380 PRINT
390 PRINT
400 PRINT
410 PRINT
420 PRINT
430 PRINT
440 PRINT
450 PRINT
460 PRINT
470 PRINT
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820 PRINT
830 PRINT
840 PRINT
850 PRINT
860 PRINT
870 PRINT
880 PRINT
890 PRINT
900 PRINT
910 PRINT
920 PRINT
930 PRINT
940 PRINT
950 PRINT
960 PRINT
970 PRINT
980 PRINT
990 PRINT

```

```

100 PRINT,"THIS IS COMPRESSED
PRINTING."*RESET
110 PRINT,"THIS IS PROPORTION
L PRINTING."*RESET
120 PRINT,"THIS IS EXPANDED
PRINTING."*RESET
130 PRINT,"THIS IS DOUBLE-STR
KE PRINTING."*RESET
140 PRINT,"THIS IS ITALIC PRIN
TING."*RESET
150 PRINT,"THIS IS UNDERLINED
PRINTING."*RESET
160 PRINT,"THIS IS SUPERSCRIPT
PRINTING."*RESET
170 PRINT,"THIS IS SUPERSCRIPT
PRINTING."*RESET
180 PRINT,"THIS IS MANSRIPT P
RINTING."*RESET
190 PRINT
200 PRINT
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260 PRINT
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```

## PROGRAM: EASIPRINT LOADER

```

10 POKE 56,150:POKE 58,150:CLR 5
PRINT"OK"

```

```

20 PRINT"OK"
30 PRINT"OK"
40 PRINT"OK"
50 PRINT"OK"
60 PRINT"OK"
70 PRINT"OK"
80 PRINT"OK"
90 PRINT"OK"
100 PRINT"OK"
110 PRINT"OK"
120 PRINT"OK"
130 PRINT"OK"
140 PRINT"OK"
150 PRINT"OK"
160 PRINT"OK"
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930 PRINT"OK"
940 PRINT"OK"
950 PRINT"OK"
960 PRINT"OK"
970 PRINT"OK"
980 PRINT"OK"
990 PRINT"OK"

```











LISTINGS

60	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	61	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
61	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	62	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
62	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	63	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
63	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	64	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
64	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	65	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
65	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	66	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
66	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	67	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
67	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	68	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
68	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	69	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
69	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	70	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
70	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	71	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
71	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	72	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
72	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	73	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
73	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	74	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
74	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	75	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
75	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	76	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
76	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	77	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
77	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	78	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
78	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	79	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
79	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	80	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
80	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	81	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
81	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	82	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
82	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	83	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
83	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	84	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
84	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	85	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
85	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	86	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
86	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	87	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
87	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	88	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
88	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	89	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
89	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	90	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
90	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	91	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
91	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	92	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
92	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	93	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
93	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	94	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
94	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	95	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
95	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	96	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
96	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	97	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
97	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	98	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
98	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	99	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1
99	POKEY=1*7+L,0,0,0,0,0,0	100	700 POC=1*1700+14,000+P100+1





















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B R E A K

## Competition Winners

Find out if you're one of the lucky winners of the *Archie* Reply MR JV from Daniel from the April '88 competition.

Paul O'Flynn, Ballinacottig, Carrigrohane, Co. Cork, Ireland; David Parker, 14 Crossway Plymouth, Plymouth PL7 4WH; D. MacDonald, 90 Gooden Avenue, Woodston, Peterborough, Northamptonshire, NN3 5HR; R.A. Masoff, The Chilterns, Newton, Thornbury, Bristol BS12 1LF; Paul Green, 5 Connolly Avenue, Bards, Mossydale L26 9ER; John Brotherton, 13 West Crossway, Swanston Morley, Derrham, Norfolk NR20 4LR; G. Ranton, 1 Brook Cottage, Sandpith, Bimstad, Isle of Wight PO33 3KU; J.F. Hansen-Brown, 12 Chilton Close, Chasch Crookham, Aldershot, Hants GU13 0JA; R. Jones, 18 Parklands Drive, Haslemere, Guildford, Surrey GU26 1BX.

Have you won a copy of the popular *How Crooked* game in the March competition? Read on and find out:

Milly Davies, The Waverley, 79 Rhosman Street, Llandula, Dyfed, Wales SA19 6HD; Anthony Diodrick, 86 Saltman Crescent, Maiden Vale, London W9 3LR; SGT E.J. Brackman, 229 Signal SQN, BFPD 801; R. King, 53 Darby Road, Douglas, Isle of Man; David Fairweather, 184 Carvens Drive, Belton Road, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 4LA; K. Hawkes, 18 Wambrook Road, Camrick, North Yorks DL9 5JT; Ronald Hamdburg, 188 Abercrombie Road, Strathairn Vale, London SW16 5AQ; John Rutter, 188E Walker Road, Ferry, Aberdeen AB1 3BR; Brendan Meehan, 50 Andrews, 1 The Limes, Oaklands Park, Nr. Southampton SO4 4ST; Nicky MacGregor, C/O W02 MacGregor, 5 ARMD Workshop Lane, BFPD 17.

## Bug Finder

We'd like to remind our readers that we run a Bug Finder service.

If you have typed in one of our programs and despite much checking, you still can't get it to run, then send us the following:

Two copies of your program on tape or disk.

A description of your problem.

A stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of the program to you.

Should any of the above be missing then we will not be able to deal with your query.

We will try to point out where you have made errors and place a corrected copy of the program back on to your tape or disk before we return it to you.

We do get a large number of queries and so it may take a while for us to deal with yours personally.

Note: we can only deal with problems relating to programs published in *Your Commodore*.

# Puzzle Corner

Our intrepid hero has been captured by the evil Queen of the Night. Rather than killing him outright, she offers him one final chance to regain his freedom.

The Queen has two identical twin daughters, one of whom always tells the truth. The other one always lies. Each of the daughters is carrying an identical goblet, one containing a deadly poison, the other harmless.

You will have to drink the contents of one of the goblets. You can ask either of the girls any one question in an attempt to ascertain which contains the safe poison.

How do you avoid a long lingering death?





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and single  
10's paper  
size 10.  
in NLQ format  
a realistic  
that NLQ

It's good, but what  
have to go a long  
way to get you  
you've got."

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