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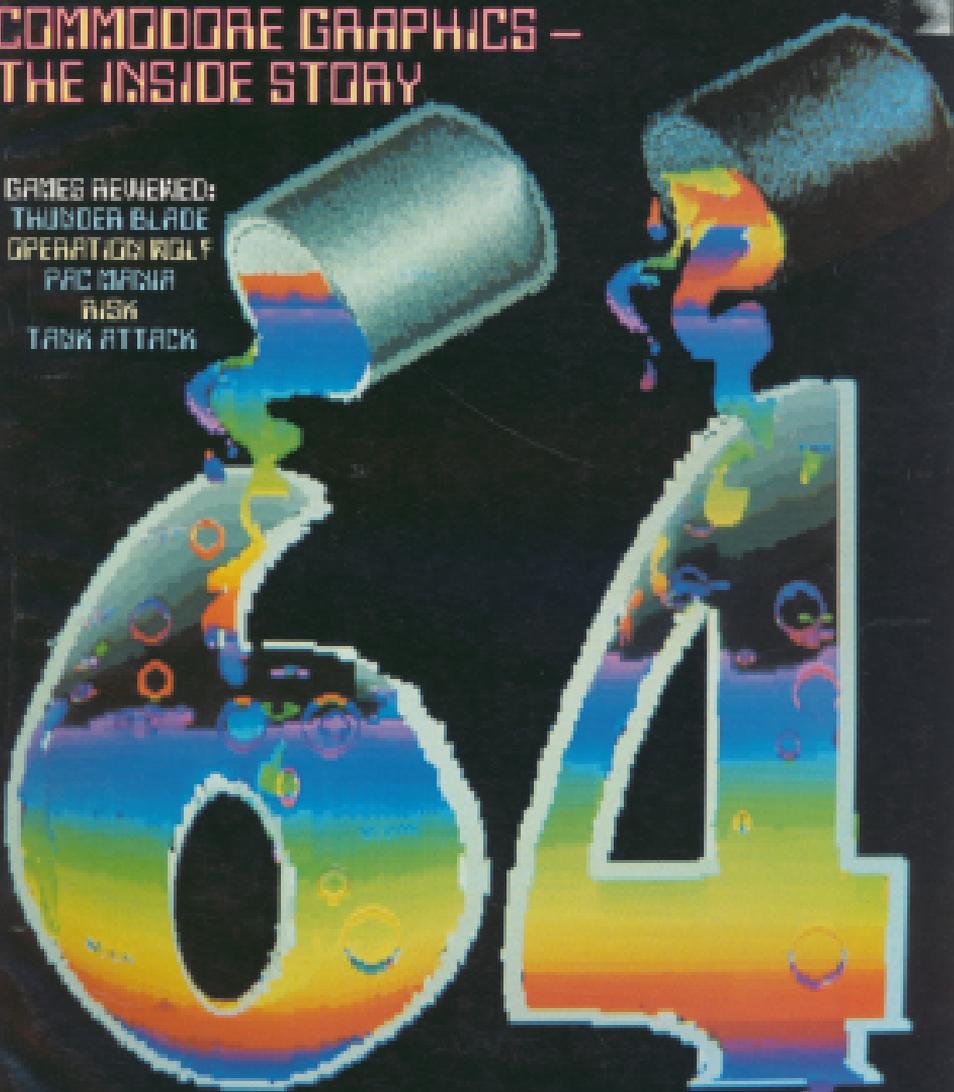
MARCH 1989

£1.30

COMMODORE

COMMODORE GRAPHICS – THE INSIDE STORY

GAMES REVIEWED:
THUNDER BLADE
OPERATION WOLF
FPC MACRA
RISK
TANK ATTACK



UNBEATABLE PROGRAMS

LETTER WRITER ▲ BASIC WORKSHOP ▲ PERSONAL FILE

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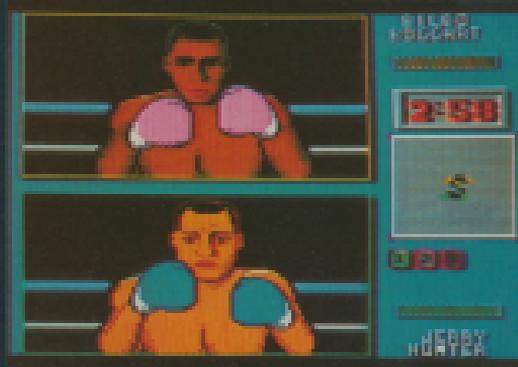
VOLUME 5
NUMBER 6



Flonkie Blast



Operative Wolf



Fist

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ABC
ARGUS COMMUNICATIONS

Data Statements



Radio 1 Jack, Bruce Beesley (left), and the Commodore Chris

RT 1M Meets CBM

Radio 1 disk jockey Bruce Beesley was given the works at the Commodore Christmas Show - in more than one sense. Apart from being given VIP treatment from Commodore host Steve Franklin, Beesley was also presented with a copy of *The Works* by Brown and Wagh Direct's MD, Jim Houston.

Of special interest to the Amiga-crazing DJ was the many music exhibits. Nigel Jones, Commodore's answer to Stock, Airfix and Waddington, put the MIDI-linked computer through its paces.

Who knows, maybe some of the jingles on Radio 1 may be Amiga-crazed in the future.

Daisies For Epson

Printer manufacturers, Epson, have started the New Year by relocating all the way to Hemel Hempstead from their Wembley offices.

The printing company's new address is Epson (UK) Ltd, Campus 886, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 7EJ. Tel: (0442) 61144.

CBM Roadshow

Commodore are going to school during the early part of this year as their education team hits the road. An initial trial was made by holding an exhibition at Middlesex Polytechnic's Bowden Green site, and it proved that there was sufficient interest from

educationalists to give the green light to the roadshow.

At the polytechnic, the Amiga and PC were put through their paces, and the new Acorn BBC emulator aroused a lot of interest as a possible bridge to the current machines possessed by schools.

Dates and venues for the roadshow have yet to be

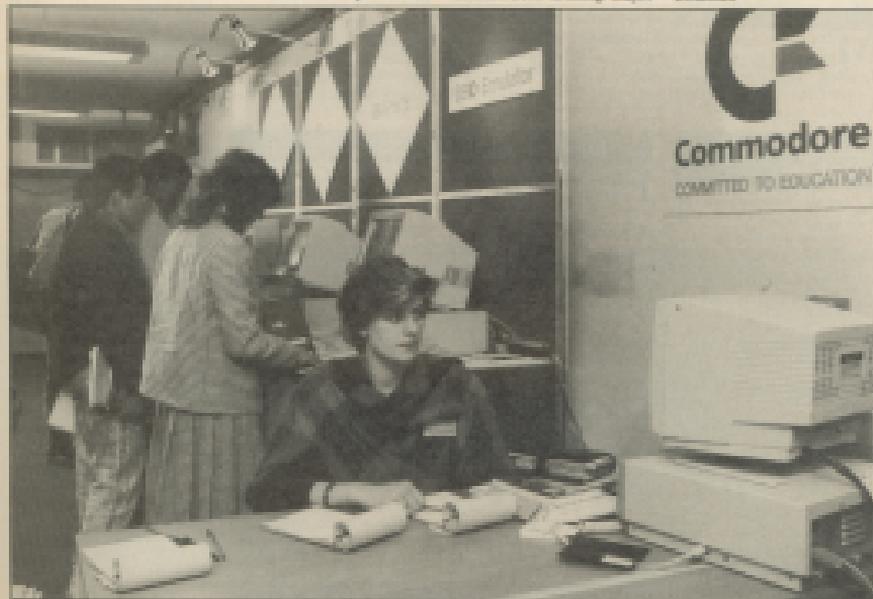
announced, but Peter Talbot, Commodore's National Sales Manager for Education, has high hopes: "I was delighted both with the turnout and the caliber of people attending our show. This is definitely going to become an annual event."

"Our 1988 education initiative has seen Commodore making major

inroads on the education market, and 1989 will be even better."

Footnote: CBM (UK) Ltd, Commodore House, The Switchback, Gander Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7XA.

Commodore's First Exhibition at the Computers in Education Exhibition



Sexist Software

OASIS is an organisation with a mission - to save the fair sex from the unfair sex in the computer world. Sandra Vogel feels that women get a raw deal when it comes to the advertising and content of computer games, and has formed the Organisation Against Sexism in Software to bring pressure to bear on the offending software houses.

This industry has no real watchdog to ensure that a standard of moral values is maintained, and this latest move has been made in

response to the unfavourable portrayal of women. According to OASIS, women are mainly portrayed either as busy husbands, or the weak creature who must be rescued from perilous situations by macho heroes. More than this, too much software is produced to appeal to the male ego, limiting the encouragement of female participation.

Although computer gaming is still very much a male preserve, the number of female computer

enthusiasts is growing. Sandra does not expect special status to be given to women, merely an acceptance that they do exist by a avoidance of the standard male/female stereotypes in advertising, and gender discrimination in suitable games.

OASIS already has an active membership, but is eager to recruit any Tom, Dick or Harriet who sympathises with the cause. An annual subscription costs £1, and includes six issues of the organisation's bi-

monthly magazine.

One example of sexism which is heavily criticised in the first issue of the OASIS magazine is Palace Software's Barbarian promotion, which features the pseudomatic charms of Maria Whitmaker. It is exploitation, or merely a storm in a D-cup?

Footnote: OASIS, Sandra Vogel, 5 Alder Court, Stanley Road, Abbeville, London SW15 8AD.

Tower of Power



MOS Industries UK has unveiled its new PC Trolley, but owners of Commodore computers shouldn't be put off by the

Summit For Nothing

Summit Software ran a competition last summer, and the prize of a collection of nine computers, pre-decimalisation coins was recently awarded to Alan Clark from Camberwell.

The competition was set to mark the launch of the Summit label by Alternative Software boss Roger Hatley. Based on the facial theme of the game *Simon*, which was devised by Roger's father in the Thirties, the competitors had to convert the £2.99 price of *Simon* into two old £100 currency. Alan was the winner of the first correct entry picked from the hat and cashed in on the prize.

Two forthcoming releases from Summit are Johnson Scamstron's *The Double* (now Goliath Games) and Database's *Mid Office*. Summit's sub-prize winner label, *Again Again*, has released a game based on last year's trouble in the Arabian Gulf, *Operation Morocco*, programmed by Darrell, costs £9.99 on the C64, but the Amiga version won't follow until later this year.

Footnote: Summit Software, Unit 24, Redgrave Industrial Estate, Potters Farm, West Nyas, W/F8 2LN. Tel: 08077 76777.

title, because an Amiga or its successors would look just as smart.

The trolley is supplied with a four-way power board, and is designed so that it can be pulled over any standard height desk or table. The range of finishes available are light grey laminate, decorative teak or an appealing water chameleon.

Footnote: MOS Industries (UK) Ltd, Factory No 1, Ebbw Vale Road, Merthyr Tydfil, Merthyr NP1 8QS. Tel (0442) 23101.

Seikosha Assault

Following a £2.5 million investment, Seikosha UK plans a three-year push to become one of the top printer manufacturers in Britain.

Severed Commodore owners may remember that the CBM VIC1525 printer was a thinly disguised Seikosha machine, but since those dim and distant days Seikosha has entered the new age of technology. Last year saw the release of the heavy duty 500P10 printer, which reached the heady speed of 800cps, making it the fastest dot matrix printer currently available.

1989 sees the start of the market assault with the

Artful Clues

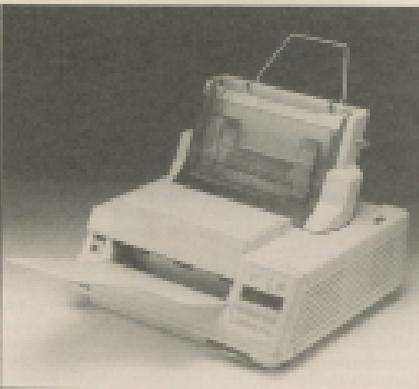
Electronic Arts has published a series of detailed clue books for its ever-growing range of roleplaying adventures. *Darklord*, *Wizard*, *The War Sage* and *Dark Fate II* and *III* players can buy the books from EA's Customer Service department for £2 each.

Footnote: Electronic Arts, Customer Services, Langley Business Centre, 11-19 Station Road, Langley, Slough, Berks SL1 8YN. Tel: 07733 49461.

launch of a LED printer, OP-100A, as an alternative to the Laser technology favoured by other companies. This will be supplemented by the release of two new printers later in the year.

The announcement coincides with the opening of the company's new factory in Hamburg, which follows the example set by Star and Epson to avoid the printer tariffs imposed by the European Community.

Footnote: Seikosha (UK) Ltd, Unit 14, Poyle 14, Newlands Drive, Colindale, Slough, Berkshire SL3 0DX.



Seikosha's new compact LED

Active Signings

Activation has signed two Amiga labels and a development house as part of its continuing search for new talent. The development house, New Frontier Productions, is the latest addition for David Crowther, who previously headed Infotronics in Britain. The deal promises a steady flow of games over the next two years, commencing in late summer.

The first of the new labels is a group of programmers who are all known to Activation through their mutual links with System 3. Vivid Images consists of Last Words and Barr Wastons programmer John Towdly, graphic artist Hugh Riley, and Max Diaz, whose credits include the conversion of *Last Words 2* to 256 format. The new label gives the team a more positive profile, and will hopefully bring them the recognition they deserve.

Motion Picture House is the second label, and will support individual authors and development houses. The label will also be used by the development team, which will be appointed to produce games for the Nintendo games machine.

Bob Crossan, Vice-President of Activation Europe, comments, "David has pulled together a very talented team, and we look forward to seeing an exceptional product line-up from New Frontiers."

"The addition of Vivid Images Ltd and Motion Picture House to our group is further evidence of the great strides which we have made over the last year. We continue to attract and meet in new talent which, in turn, strengthens our position within the industry."

Footnote: Activation (UK) Ltd, Miller House, Manor Farm Road, Reading, Berks RG2 0JN. Tel: 0734 337604.

Graphics Guide

What are graphics all about, and what do you need to get the best from your computer?

By Kerry Fowler

A stunning graphic display is one of the most difficult effects to achieve effectively. This is especially true of the C64, but even the extended Basics of the C128, C16 and Plus 4 don't solve the problems totally. To get the best effects, commercial graphics programs are essential, and then the decision is which input device to use: keyboard, joystick, mouse, lightpen or graphics pad.

One of the strongest features of Commodore computers is their graphics capabilities. Sprites, characters and high resolution (hi-res), combined with a fairly wide range of colours, can add impact to games and utilities.

Hi-res graphics are generally supported by most of the available packages, but sprite designers and character definers are few and far between. This is true to such an extent that when a well-known programmer, Tony Crowther, published his own sprite and character defining routines in *Your Commodore 3* in 1 Editor, August 86, the magazine had many



requires from professional software houses who wished to use the program to design their own screens. This led to an updated version being created for our sister magazine, *Commodore Disk User 3* in 1 Plus, Nov, Dec 87.

User-defined Characters

Character graphics involves the modification of the standard character set of the Commodore. The standard graphics are the letters and characters featured on the keyboard, and they are all based upon an 8x8 grid of pixels. A pixel is the smallest unit of a computer screen display - it's a single point of light which can be variously coloured to give the effect desired.

Each pixel on a grid can be switched on or off. For example, to produce the letter 'A', a character grid would take the formation shown in Figure 1. The problem is that a Commodore video chip can only access 16K blocks of memory, as shown in the sample C64 Bank in Table 1. This means that the screen, positioned at location 8024, can only

grab its characters from locations 0 through to 1023. The computer circumvents this limitation by hardware trickery, but the rule is one which can never be broken by the programmer.

With the screen at 1024, the problem is that a Basic program uses the memory (on either side of the screen - below the screen is the workspace for the ROM routine's variables and above it is Basic RAM for the program itself. This leaves very little space for any user defined graphics (UDGs), let alone sprites!

There are two solutions to this problem; the start of Basic memory can be moved up, or the screen itself can be placed in one of the other 16K blocks of memory. The authoritative guide to these methods is the relevant Programmer's Reference Guide from Commodore.

Mighty Sprites

Sprites are like small independent screens which can only display three extended characters measuring 8x11 pixels. If a sprite pixel is not turned on, the pixel becomes transparent and any characters behind the sprite will show through, but if the pixel is turned on, the sprite masks the background detail.

For some reason, Commodore decided not to implement sprites on the C16/Plus 4, which probably helped to add to the machines' downfall, because many of the programs written for the C64 involved sprites and wouldn't easily be transferred to the newer computers.

Characters and sprites can be displayed as a single coloured sprite or multicoloured. Single-coloured or standard mode means that all of the turned on pixels are displayed in the same selected foreground colour, though this can vary from one character to the next. Multicolour is a slight misnomer, but it does allow three colours to be used.

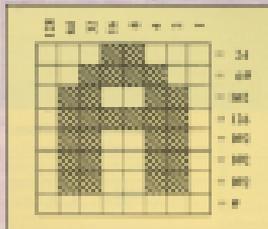
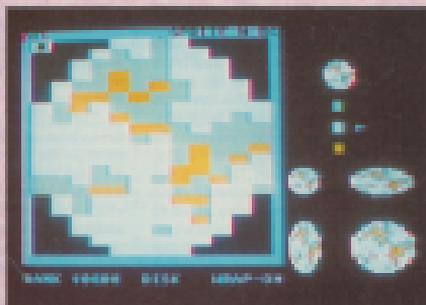
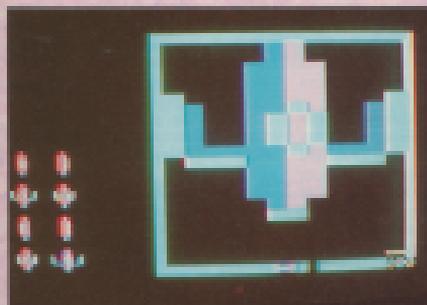


TABLE 1:

Table 1: C64 Banks for the VIC

Decimal	Hex	Bank Number
48152-65535	C000-FFFF	3
32768-48151	8000-BFFF	2
16384-32767	4000-7FFF	1
0-16383	0000-3FFF	0



As with standard mode, the background color can be different for each individual character or sprite, but is the same throughout that particular character. The two extra colours are the same for all of the characters on the screen. Although sprites follow the same rule, their extra colours are taken from different memory locations, which means that the two auxiliary colours may be the same for all of the sprites, but can differ from the background characters.

The only problem with multicolour is that character definition falls in 8x8 pixels and 12x21 pixels for sprites. This means that the fine detail is not as good as for standard mode, and multicolour characters always have a jagged-edged appearance.

Higher Resolution?

High resolution is a misleading name, because the total number of screen pixels is the same as in standard low-resolution mode. The difference lies in the freedom which hi-res gives the user.

Hi-res graphics work on a similar principal to character graphics, and this is an important point to bear in mind when designing a screen display in this mode. Up to 236 UDGs can be defined in hi-res. At best, these would cover about a quarter of the screen if they were laid out in end, row by row. Hi-res allows a scantiful of 1000 different characters to be defined.

The equivalent situation using UDGs, would mean reducing the screen to a 16x16 reddefinable grid of characters, because each of the 236 characters can only be defined once. This gives a pixel resolution of 128x128 instead of the full screen resolution of 640x200 pixels - hence the justification of calling it high-resolution.

Each character on a hi-res screen has a fixed position, but the rules of UDG defining applies. This is especially notable in multicolour mode, because each 8x8 character area can only hold a maximum of three colours. The extra colour facilities of hi-res does mean that neighbouring

characters can have three different multicolours, but the full pixel grid governs what can be done.

Pack Selection

There have been many graphics packs for designing hi-res images, but I don't know of any currently available packages for sprite or character definition which offer good value for money.

Teclon's Expert cartridge system does have a sprite designer included in the package, but if this is the only facility which is of interest, then the price of £29.99 is a rather high one to pay. The best course of action is to check Your Commodore, and to look for the numerous sprite and character defining programs which crop up from time to time.

Hi-res packages are shown in the Teclon at the end of this article and typical features would include freestyle drawing, filled and outlined shapes (principally circles and rectangles), single and connected lines, text mode, spray fill, solid fill, a range



of brush sizes, and room for closing in to add fine detail.

There are additional desirable features such as auto-undo. This is the ability to select an area of the screen and repeat it elsewhere. This saves the need to redraw similar characters, because it can be "grabbed", moved and then modified using the zoom facility. To get the best from the graphics screen, a pattern fill routine of some kind can create convincing shading effects to add an extra dimension to otherwise 2D images. Patterning can also take the drudgery out of creating repetitive shapes such as the bricks in a wall or wallpaper.

A vital feature is usually called UNDO. This is most desirable when a FILL command goes wrong. Without UNDO, the image could be ruined beyond repair, with UNDO a press of a button can restore the image to its original state.

To help with an image created by a graphics package, the user needs to know where the various elements are stored. Since this is rarely in the normal screen position (1024), it is also necessary to understand screen banking, so a good graphics book is essential. For hi-res, the Programmer's Reference Guide is not very useful, but there are many guides available in good bookshops - just check the index for a reference to banking, screen moving or something similar.

Graphic Aids

For most people, the cheapest tool for graphics is the joystick because it can be used for graphics or gameplaying. My own preference is a mouse, because it can be more easily operated with one hand. Even if this only means that the other hand is free to hold a cup of coffee, I find the use of a mouse more relaxing.

Keyboard control is another consideration, and sometimes offers the most accurate control system. Unless you are a touch typist, the problem is that it is tedious to watch the keyboard with one eye, and the screen with the other.

Several packages offer lightpens as input devices. In my experience, these are wonderful devices which most closely relate to drawing on paper, but control lacks the accuracy of joysticks and mice. The problem lies in the manner in which these devices work.

When a television or monitor draws a screen, the image is created by a stream of electrons being scanned

across the lines of a screen. When an electron hits the phosphor coated screen energy is dissipated in the form of light. The greater the number of collisions, the brighter the light given off.

The electron gun therefore varies the number of electrons aimed at any point on the screen to create the light and dark areas of the image. In colour monitors, there are at least three guns which represent the primary colours which can be mixed to create the full range of hues and tints which makes up a colour image.

Each gun starts at the top left of the screen, and scans across the top line. Then it flies back to the left side of the next line and scans the next row. This continues until the bottom line is reached and completed, then the guns are all redirected back to the top left of the screen, and the process starts again.

Each point on the phosphor screen acts like a red-hot poker which has just been removed from the fire, it fades. The fade actually only takes a very tiny fraction of a second, and the first dot may be extinguished before the spot reaches the bottom line, but the whole process is so rapid that the eye cannot perceive this.

A computer initiates the screen scan, and can calculate when the guns are pointing at any particular time. If a light sensor is placed in front of the screen, it can calculate when the phosphor area in front of it is excited by registering the light that bursts forth. The computer can then calculate the time delay between triggering the screen scan, and the light sensor detecting the effect of the guns passing a particular spot. This allows a pixel in the computer's memory to be selected and updated on, according to the distance of the software running at that time.

The problem is in getting pixel accuracy. Some software is severely affected by interrupts which can delay reading of the lightpen sufficiently to displace the perceived position of the pen, once the calculation has been done. This normally manifests itself as a twitching of the cursor on the display screen, or a line becoming broken or linked as the pen is moved across the screen.

Graphic pads work on a different system. Imagine a crosshairs grid of wires which are embedded in a plastic medium. The warp and web of the grid is separated by a fraction of a

millimetre, so that slight pressure will connect the two wires. The net effect is one of a thousand tiny switches which correspond to each pixel on the screen. This is analogous to the situation inside a graphics pad.

Once the signal is generated, internal electronics calculate which switch is operating, and sends the information to the computer, which then acts accordingly. The problem with a pad is that sometimes the point of the stylus is equidistant between two switches, and both are triggered. Usually the internal electronics will make an executive decision but sometimes one of the switches may constantly make and break and the screen cursor dances back and forth in sympathy.

On the subject of pads, most software is produced for the Koala Pad, which is still available in the States, but try getting one over here! It's impossible. Microprobe market Suncom's mindbogglingly named *Animation Station*, which looks similar to the Koala but is totally incompatible with Koala software (based on experiments with Rainbow's OCP Studio). Fortunately, it does come with its own software (a pad-only version of *Blazing Paddlers*), which is fairly competent and the package is highly recommended for those who would like to try a graphics pad.

Whichever device is used, graphics are the root of all successful programs. Text is fine and may be essential but an illustrated manuscript is far more impressive than a paperback!

Toolboxes

Blazing Paddlers £12.99 *Datel*

Electronic with Lightpen £24.99

Graphic Support Utilities Disk £11.99

Datel Electronics

The Advanced OCP Art Studio £24.99

Microprobe Software

Artist 64 £29.95 *Wigmore Mouse*

GEOS (Macintosh) *Datel* only £24.95

Dynamic Micros (Pen with Graphic

disk drive)

NEOS Mouse £24.95 *Microprobe*

Computers

Datel Mouse £24.99 *Datel Electronics*

Animation Station I Suncom

Microprobe

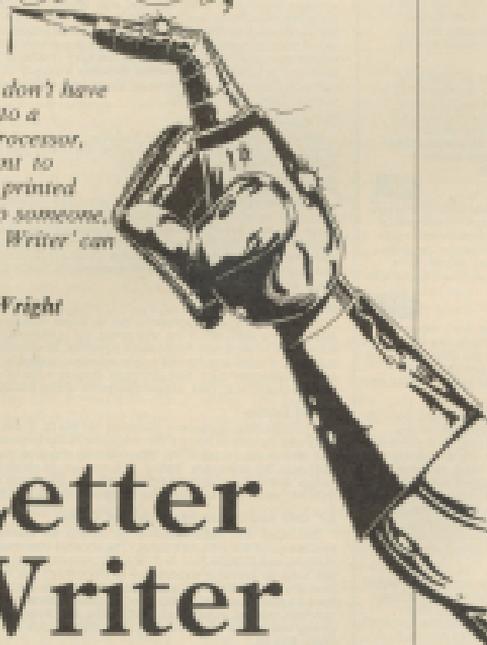
You may have noticed that these are all for the C64. GEOS incorporating GEOPaint is available for the C128 at £12.99, but there appears to be nothing for the C16/Plus.

Dear Sir,

If you don't have access to a wordprocessor, but want to send a printed letter to someone, 'Letter Writer' can help

by A. Wright

Letter Writer



Have you ever wanted to send someone a short letter that looked efficient? I'm sure many of us have sent one of those grivelling, pretty-please-type letters at some time or another. Well, the letter will look best if it's typewritten - after all, if your handwriting looks as though it's been poured by a spider that spent the previous evening in a whisky bottle, you're not going to get very far, are you.

This is where 'Letter Writer' comes to the rescue. It's not designed to be a wordprocessor program; it simply allows you to compose your letter quickly and then print out the finished masterpiece. One feature I'm sure users of 40-column wordprocessor programs

will appreciate is the fact that the display is in 80 columns, and that you can see each line on screen as it would appear on paper.

Getting It All In

Firstly, it's important to note that you must have a copy of the "ROM 80" program by Jens Meyer, which gives the C64 an 80-column screen display. This appeared in the January 1983 issue of *Your Commodore*. Also, note that both programs can be stored with or without the "ROM 80" program resident in memory.

Type in Letter Writer and SAVE it to tape or disk, then type in Letter

Printer, and SAVE it immediately after. I find it best to have the programs stored immediately after each other in the following order: ROM 80, Letter Writer, Letter Printer.

Using the program

If you haven't already done so, LOAD and RUN the ROM 80 program. Next, LOAD and RUN Letter Writer 1. If all is well, you'll see the following: at the top of the screen is a copyright message; below this, on the left, is a row and column count. Taking up the centre of the screen is a large box; this is the "window" through which you will see your text. At the bottom is the message "PRESS 'CTRL' FOR HELP SCREEN".

Type something (apart from "CTRL") - you can enter anything except Commodore keyboard graphics, and the left and up-arrow keys. Notice that if you enter quotes, they don't appear, but an up-arrow does; this is because printing quotes can have a weird effect. Don't worry! The arrows are exchanged for quotes just before printing.

N.B.: when you enter text, the program has to check a lot of things before a PRINTs each character, and these checks slow the program down a little. As a result, if you are a fast typist, you may notice that the screen display doesn't quite keep up with you. This shouldn't be a problem, as the characters are stored in the keyboard buffer. However, the buffer only holds ten characters, so if you type fast, some characters may be missed. The only solution, I'm afraid, is to slow down!

Right on with the show... pressing RETURN, or reaching the end of a line, will move the cursor to the beginning of the next line. Note that if there is any text on the next line, the cursor will move to the end of that text. Pressing DELETE will erase the character on the left of the cursor. If you are in the first column of a row, pressing DELETE will move the cursor to the line above, erasing the last character on that line. If you wish to move to the line above without deleting the last character, press the up-arrow key. The cursor will move to the correct position on the above line. If you move up or down on to a line which already contains 80 characters, the cursor will be in column 81, which is not normally possible. In

In this situation, you cannot enter a character. You can only move up or down.

Now, when you've reached the bottom of the box, and you fill the line or press RETURN, the text will scroll up by one line. When you are on the top line, and press the up-arrow key or delete past the beginning of the line, the text will scroll down by one line. Note that you may only have up to 60 lines, and you can't scroll up past line 1 or down past line 60. I chose 60 lines as this is as many as can fit neatly onto a sheet of A4 paper.

Being BASIC, the saved routines are quite slow. If you find it's too slow for you, I suggest the following:

When you reach the bottom line, and have entered the text for that line, press RETURN a few times (30 at most). Then, when the scrolling has finished, move the cursor up to the correct position and continue typing.

THE OPTIONS

Now that you know how to enter your text, it's time to learn what you can do with it. The first thing to do is press "CTRL" to access the help screen. You must go to the help screen before you can use any of the options.

The top of the screen contains simple reminders about how to enter your text - the options are at the bottom. To select, simply enter the number which is to the left of the option you require. The options are:

1. RETURN TO TEXT

This option does not affect the text in any way. It simply returns you to where you were before calling the help screen. It is the only option which doesn't ask "Are you sure?" before continuing.

2. GO TO LINE

Who'd like to guess what this does? After making sure you're sure, simply enter the number (1-60) of the line you wish to go to. You will be returned to your text, with the cursor at the correct position on the line you selected.

3. SET TEXT NAME

This option allows you to enter a filename which is used when saving or loading your text. When you first RUN the program, or if you enter a

blank line, the current name is given as "No name". In the program will save or look for an un-named file, so use one with the name "No name". To give a filename, type in the name and press RETURN. The name stays the same unless you enter another, or select "DELETE SHEET" (see option 6).

4. MOVE TEXT

On selecting this option, you are asked for the start and end lines of the block you wish to move, and the new start line of the block. When you've entered these, the block will be moved, and you will be returned to your text at the line you were on before calling the help screen. You should be aware of the following things when using this option:

- You CAN move a block to start within itself, i.e. if you move text from lines 1-20, you can define the new start lines as line 10.
- The block to be moved must fit, i.e. you can't move a block of 20 lines to start at line 50. If you try this, the block will not be moved, you will get the message "Block will not fit." and will be returned to your text where you left it.
- To move only one line, enter the same number for both the start and end lines.
- Most importantly, moving a block will over-write any text that is in the new position. Also, the lines are deleted from their old position.

5. COPY TEXT

This works in exactly the same way as "MOVE TEXT", except that the lines are not deleted from their old position.

6. DELETE TEXT

On selecting this option, you will be asked whether you'd like to clear a block, or the entire 'sheet'. Selecting "block" will prompt for the start and end lines of the block to be cleared. The block will then be cleared, and you will be returned to your text at the current position. If you select 'sheet', the program is re-RUN. This clears all text and resets the filename to "No name".

7. SAVE TEXT

I'm sure there's no need to explain this option, but I will tell you that the current filename is displayed along with the "Are you sure?" prompt.

Therefore, if you wish to change the name before saving, just press "N" and go to the "SET TEXT NAME" option. When the text has saved, you'll be put back where you were.

8. LOAD TEXT

Again, there's no need to explain this. Note, however, that when text has loaded, the cursor will be on line 1 of the text. If you can't remember the name of the text you wish to load, go to the "SET TEXT NAME" option and enter a null string (press RETURN). The program will then load the first file it comes to. Also note that when a file is loaded in this way, the name is NOT set to that of the file, i.e. it is left blank (or "No name?")

9. QUIT PROG

This is self-explanatory.

PRINTING OUT YOUR TEXT

I had to write the printing program as a separate unit, as my printer is non-Commodore, and I have to use an interface; sadly, my interface software uses the same area of memory as ROM 80. (For those who are interested, my printer is an Epson MX-80 P/T Type III, and my interface is the "Commodore Converter", which I bought in Bournemouth for £19.95 about two years ago. It may be cheap, but it suits my needs perfectly.)

My printer defaults to the English character font on power-up, and while in this font, printing a hash (" ") will result in a pound sign being printed. So, if I want to print a pound-sign, I send a hash to the printer, hence line 9 of the Letter Printer 2 program. If I want to print a hash, I must change to the American character font, send a hash, and change back to the English font, hence line 11.

Confused? You should be! Let me make it simpler: if your printer can print a pound-sign AND a hash from the SAME font, delete lines 9 and 11 from the Letter Printer 2 program. By the way, a list of the printer control codes used can be found at the end of this article.

Right. When you've saved your text using the Letter Writer 2 program, switch off your computer, connect your printer, and switch them both on. Load your interface software (if necessary), and then LOAD and RUN the Letter Printer 2 program. Follow

TABLE 1: PRINTER CONTROL CODES

CONTROL CODE	LINE	ACTION
CHR\$(27)+"R"+CHR\$(0)	11	Set printer to American character set.
CHR\$(27)+"R"+CHR\$(1)	11	Set printer to English character set.
CHR\$(27)+"@"	15	Initiate printer.
CHR\$(27)+"~"	15	Disable paper-end detector.
CHR\$(27)+"CHR\$(18)	15	Set line spacing to 18/248 inch.

the on-screen instructions. After a short wait (while the 'up-arrows' are being exchanged for quotes), your text will be printed, with a nice even border all round. (At least, it will if you've got your paper in straight!).

That's about it, I think. I hope you find the program useful. It may not be up to the standard of 'Easy Scripts' and other word-processors, but, as far as I know, it's only the third true 80-column (well, almost) "word-processor" available to those without a disk drive! (SC Writer, from the Your Commodore Software Library Guide, and Letter Writer II being the other two.)

There are four functions which were added after the above instructions were written. To use these functions, you DO NOT have to go to the help screen, just press the required key(s). The functions are:

1. Holding down either SHIFT key and pressing CLR/HOME will clear the current line of text and place the cursor at the beginning of the line. This saves time when clearing a line because you've avoided a mistake.
2. Pressing (I) will centre the line of text that the cursor is currently on, thus saving time when entering headings etc.

3. Pressing (J) will place the rest of the current line at the far right. Please note that this is NOT a right-hand justification, as the lines do not remain parallel to the left margin. As an example of how this can be used, type in your address, with each line starting at the left margin. Then, move the cursor up to the first line of the address and press (J). By doing this for each line of the address, you do not have to play around entering spaces to line up your address on the right hand side.

4. Pressing (K) will place the current line so that it starts at the leftmost position (to the opposite of (J)). This was just included in case you press (J) as the wrong line, or any other similar mistake.

If you use functions 2-4 on a line with leading or trailing spaces, they may take a few seconds to work, as these spaces must be "trimmed off" for the functions to work correctly.

Right. That is it. Have fun! And who knows? There may be a Letter Writer 3 on the way! It won't be for a while though, 'cos I've got a big blower (from typing out these blasted instructions). I'm off for a cuppa. Till next time...

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THUNDER BLADE

One of the hottest video games of the year, and the sequel to Sega's *Aster Wars*, *Thunder Blade* is now competing head-to-head with that high-flyer for the coveted Christmas number-one spot.

The game puts you behind the wheel of the Thunder Blade, an advanced attack helicopter that's armoured plated, crash resistant and armed with a 1,500 round Minigun cannon and air-to-ground missiles. Unfortunately, in the C64 version it's hard to find any difference between these two properties, and they seem to appear randomly on the screen destroying anything and everything.

Your mission is to destroy the advancing forces of an evil dictator who is threatening your land. This gives you the opportunity to blast everything in sight as you battle your way through the game's four levels. Each level consists of both top-down and 3D-view combat sequences in which you shoot it out with enemy attack helicopters, Bengal Tiger tanks, Barracuda torpedo cruisers, Corsair fighter aircraft,

the tanks, the war machines to a 3D perspective, and you have to run the gauntlet in Skyscraper city once again. This time the enemy helicopters are more effective, and you get your first chance to swap some *Aster Wars*-style aircraft.

If you survive that you win the chance to tackle the first super fortress, a giant warship bristling with guns and missile launchers that will test your skills and Thunder Blade's manoeuvrability as you hover back and forth dismantling the defences. A bar at the bottom of the screen displays important data such as your score, hits, the high score, your speed and how far you've managed to get through the stage.

Stage two takes you out of the city and into the mountains and deserts. The battle remains the same, but now stone castles replace the skyscrapers. At the end of this level, a massive troop carrier forms the super fortress, and presents even greater challenge.



armoured cars and *Burner* aircraft (US Gold obviously hopes you'll enjoy blowing them out of the sky). The end of each level is guarded by an aptly named super-fortress with enough firepower to down a squadron of Thunder Blades.

The first level is set in the concrete jungle of Skyscraper City, and begins with a top-down view as you take-off from the Pepsi Cola heli-pad. You're soon busy dodging fireballs blasted at you from tanks, armoured cars and even the building themselves. The graphics at this point are very disappointing – the buildings are just four stacked squares that move aimlessly over each other to give you the full impression of a tall tower block. While I appreciate that programmers need to take shortcuts to keep the speed of the game to arcade level this just isn't up to the high standards we have come to expect.

Having said that, the gameplay will drive you back for more and more. Once you've cleared the last car and sliced

Stages three and four take you down the river delta to face the Barracuda torpedo cruisers, and onto the refinery to deal with a flying fortress and the command super-fortress – the ultimate test for advanced pilots.

Thunder Blade was a top arcade game, and is almost guaranteed great success as a coin-op conversion, but of all the available versions, the C64 one seems to be the worst. Although the game play is good, the graphics are poor, missiles and cannons have the same effect, and you get only three Thunder Blades a game, whereas the other versions get five. It's good, but it could have been so much better.

Final note:

Title: *Thunder Blade* **Supplier:** US Gold, Units 2/3 Holford Way, M4794D, Birmingham B9 7AN. Tel: 021 338 2388. **Price:** £8.99.

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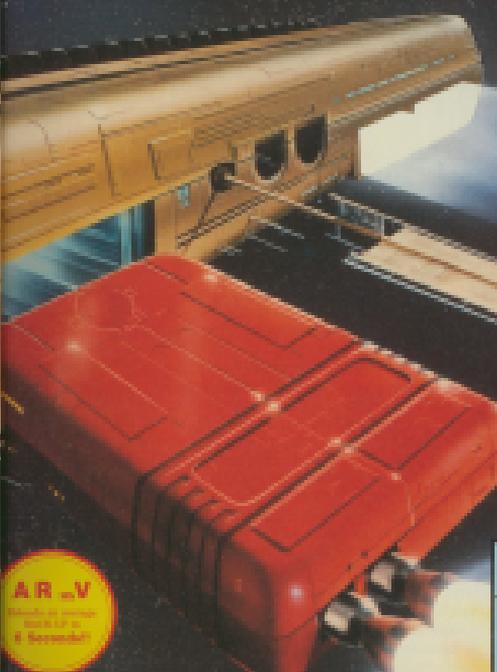
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& 128K.

Microprose Soccer



At a time when nearly everyone who ever strapped on a pair of boots has learned a football game, Microprose launches its first sports simulation and makes a departure from the usual diet of combat flying. It's literally a game of two halves, as the flip side of the disk contains a different version of the game. On one side you can succeed where others have failed and bring home the world cup, or flip the disk and try the American six-a-side version of the game.

Whichever game you choose you'll be playing one of the fastest and best arcade-style football games, with a screen display showing a scrolling window over a top-down view of a match. You can adjust the length of each game up to 32 minutes, but two minutes will be long enough until you get used to the controls. You'd be surprised how many goals you can let in in the time, particularly if you're playing against Brazil.

The 11-a-side game contains 29 teams in all, ranging from Oman and New Zealand to Argentina, Italy and Brazil, and the first challenge you should try is to play up the order of the teams, moving up every time you win, but down when you lose. This'll give you time to learn the basic moves - you'll have to, as not even Bobby Robson can stand humiliating defeats for too long.

Some your players will be sliding in and tackling you'll be able to control throw ins and corners, and you'll be able to decide quickly whether to bring your keeper out to narrow down the angle, or wait on the line to dive to save the shot, instead of dillydallying somewhere in between. Eventually, you can even select the type of shot to try, including a straight-ahead volley, a header shot, chip shot or Pele-style overhead kick. Whatever the style, you'll be able to enjoy it again as you see an action replay of all goals.

Microprose Soccer is the first football game to incorporate the effects of weather, if only in a limited way

as without warning a downpour can begin, and thunder-and-lightning can loom up the darkest 4-0 draws. This adds a new dimension to sliding tackles, as the player can carry on sliding and even spin out of control, leaving the opposing player with free space to work in.

A world cup tournament is played in six groups, with the first two teams in each qualifying for a second knockout stage. Each group has a team from each of the 'seeded groups', that include teams according to their ability and past record. For example Brazil, West Germany and Holland are in the first seed group, and England are in the second (which seems quite generous on recent form). Therefore you can adjust your chances of success in qualifying by picking the team you will opponent - if you choose to play Brazil, then you'll have an easier group than if you opt for Cameroon, but will probably come second in the knockout stage.

If you flip the disk, you can swap Italy and Argentina for Houston and Miami as you compete in the American-style indoor league, which by a strange coincidence is organized in six groups with the first two progressing to the next stage, etc, etc.

Microprose Soccer was programmed by Sandvik Software, and it has plenty of those touches that make a good game great, and the professional feel of a Microprose game. Some people will dislike the top-down perspective as it's not a camera angle we're used to, but perhaps it's the only realistic way of getting 22 players on a football field.

Touchline:

Title: Microprose Soccer. **Supplier:** Microprose, 7, Market Place, Tonbridge, Sussex, GU11 0JL. **Tel:** 0666-34126. **Price:** £14.95 rrp, £19.95 disk.

A Flow of Ideas

Formal flowcharts are the best way to show how a program works

By Norman Doyle

Any book on programming will tell you that REM statements can be used to remind the programmer how a program was originally conceived. Having gone back to modify many of my older programs, I have found that REMs only work to a certain degree. The best answer is to create a formal flowchart, because this can aid conversion from one machine to another, as well as later updating.

A flowchart is a graphic display of the logic held within a program and, in the old adage says, a picture is worth a thousand words. Formal flowcharts, or flow diagrams as they are also

known, rely on a series of box symbols which represent certain specific actions within the program. All flowcharts should start and end with a terminal:



To indicate the start, the terminal has START written inside it, and the end terminal has STOP in it - isn't logic wonderful.

Some flowcharts spread across several sheets of paper, so a special offpage connector is used which contains the number of the page to which it connects. Similarly, the routine on the page to which it refers starts with an offpage connector containing the number of the page from which it continues.

13

Probably the most used symbol in a program is the input/output parallelogram (I/O symbol). This contains such things as print statements, input requests, DATA reads, printout commands and disk or tape access. The Data manipulations



are contained in rectangular processing symbols. The contents include the handling of strings and logic operations, as well as the display of most conventional mathematical formulas:



Sometimes a program can branch as the result of a decision. A branch is denoted by a decision diamond:

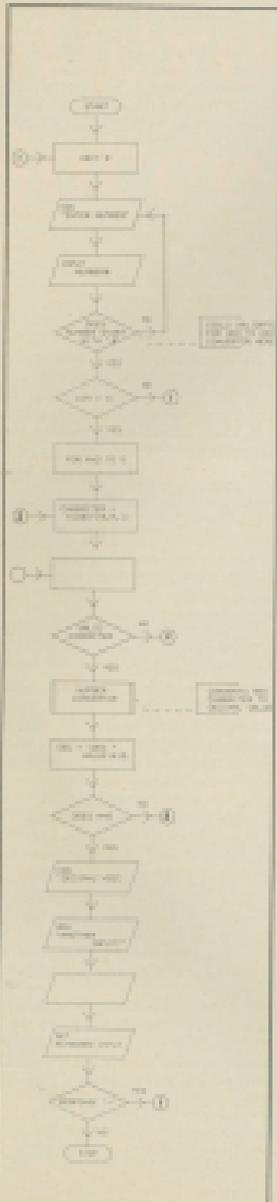


Notice the arrows on the branch lines. These are flow direction indicators, and should appear before every box to indicate the direction the program is taking, because the direction of flow may not always be obvious.

Subroutines would be difficult to show on a single diagram, so a special form of the processing rectangle has been devised to cope with this. The pseudoflow process symbol looks like this:



Symbols contain all of the program information, but there may be occasions when extra information is necessary. This equates to the REM statements in Basic. The annotation symbol is an open-ended box which connects to the flowchart by a dotted line to the box to which it refers.



A typical flowchart looks like the one in Diagram 1. Notice that the branch necessitates the drawing of a long line which connects the decision symbol back to the entry point. In a program with several of these links, the page would soon look very untidy, so a connector symbol has been devised which is only used to connect two parts of a flowchart contained on a single page. If a branch goes over to a new page then the offpage connector is used.

This is the range of symbols commonly used in flowcharting. Professional diagrams also use another set of symbols for various storage devices and communications links, but these would rarely be needed in a small home computing environment.

Exploded Diagram

Diagram 1 shows a hex to decimal converter. It's obvious where the program starts, and the first operation is to zero any necessary variables and then print a request for a number input onto the screen. Although Commodore Basic allows INPUT statements to print the text and the input prompt on the same line, this may not be true in all cases, so the input of a number string is listed as a separate action.

The input is then tested to see if it starts with a dollar sign. If it does, the program continues, otherwise it returns for a proper input. At this point the program could include a future development. Although the fall branch line back to the start is shown, in this case it could be replaced by the use of connector symbols as used on the rest of the diagram.

Following through the conversion, the program next checks if the string is ten characters long (dollar plus for significant characters) - if this is not the case then the program loops back to position 1. If true, the conversion process is started with a loop which takes each character in turn, excluding the dollar sign, by using a MID\$ command.

Each character is tested for validity, and if any one fails this test the program loops back for a new input. Valid characters are passed to a subroutine called number converter, which has an annotation symbol attached to explain what the subroutine does.

The subroutine actually converts the hex character to its decimal equivalent and returns it as the variable VALUE. This variable is then added to variable DECIMAL, and then multiplied by 16 to prepare it for the next hex place.

The loop is checked to see if all values have been taken and, if not, the next value of A is taken. If the loop has ended, the program prints the message "DECIMAL" and then the decimal value. Note the ways of expressing text and variable values. Text is enclosed in single quotes and variables as a plain name.

The program closes by asking if another input is required, and loops back if this is the case. Otherwise, the program ends at the stop symbol. Converting this to a program is simple. Try it for yourself and then check the listings page to see how I did it.

```

PROGRAM: HEX-DEC CONVERTER

10 10 END
20 INPUT "ENTER NUMBER IN HEX"
   C,HEX
30 IF LEFT$(HEX,1)="" THEN END
40 W0 IF LEN(HEX)=1 THEN DEC=
   VAL(HEX)
50 C=HEX/16:HEX=RIGHT$(HEX,1)
70 DEC=DEC*16+VAL(HEX)
80 HEX=HEX/16:HEX=RIGHT$(HEX,1)
90 END
100 PRINT "DECIMAL=";DEC
110 END
120 INPUT "DO YOU WANT TO CONTINUE?"
   Y,N
130 IF Y="" THEN GOTO 20
140 END

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The Software Spellbook

In which Wizard Emeritus Myron Patch, Grandmaster of the Honourable Order of Coders and Algorithmicists, offers essential lore for the apprentice Numeromancer

To use a CPU without a few essential spells (the suggestions refer to those as 'software') is as pointless as trying to invoke the Moon Goddess without spilling the blood of a virgin ram. Therefore in this series I offer, to those who have the ears that can take in such wisdom, a few small fragments of forbidden lore that may dramatically increase your ability in the arcane branch of knowledge known as machine coding.

I assume that everyone out there knows the fundamental Order Level 1 spells such as Addition and Subtraction. Without those, of course, no progress to the more fearsome level 2 Multiplication and Division is possible. It is the first of these that we shall be looking at.

The easiest form of Multiplication spell to understand is shown in listing 1, with a flowchart. This multiplies two single-byte numbers N1/M1 and N2/M2 to give a two-byte result - RESULT. Already, this shows us something essential about Multiplication. You must always, when multiplying a number of *n1* bytes by another *n2* long, allow for a result of *n1*n2* long. This is a general principle of software magic, which the sorcery ignores at their peril.

So how does the spell work? All apprentice grade spellworkers already have a knowledge in the popular, but vulgar magical language known as decimal, its founding being the number 10. You may be surprised to find that performing multiplication spells in this language is actually more complicated than using a method based on the magical law of 2, which we usually call Binary.

Here is a typical base ten multiply:

25	0011
x45	

5x25= 125	
CARRY: 1	

4x25= 100	
CARRY: 1	

0x25= 000	
CARRY: 1	

000	

11001	

The same essential components of this are used in binary. You can see that there is a process of repeated addition, but that, because of the numeric system, each addition takes place on a level 10 times larger than the previous. This is achieved by shifting each succeeding sum one position to the left. Secondly, note the use of the carry. This, of course, is use when a multiply goes beyond the range of one column (i.e. greater than 9).

All this is obvious, but my reason for explaining it should become clear when we repeat the same process for two small binary numbers:

111	111
x111	

111x1= 111	
111x0= 000	
111x1= 111	

Now could life be simpler than that? For a start, each multiplication of the first number (the multiplicand) can only give rise to either the number itself or zero. There are therefore no carries in the multiplication, since the range of one column is 0-1 and you cannot get two no matter how you try. The carries come in in the addition, but once again, a carry can only be a 1 or it doesn't exist at all.

Of course, we do sums rather differently on paper from the way that the hardware will do them. While we could design a machine code routine that would do that trick exactly as we just did it, this would not be efficient. Most algorithms use loop structures, so a machine code routine does not pile up a heap of multiply results and add them up at the end. It instead performs an addition to a cumulative total every time it goes once around the loop.

The process is like this for *n1* and *n2*:

1. Is leftmost digit of *n2* a 1? This is done by shifting it leftwards, and if it is then the carry flag will be set. If it is not then proceed to 3.
2. It's a 1, so we have our multiply. This of course just happens to consist of adding *n1* to a result field (this should have been cleared to zero at the start of course). The addition may



Pac- mania



Unless you happen to be a hermit living in a cave in the capspular end of Outer Mongolia, you will know and either love or hate Pacman. That yellow mouth that swallows dots while the machine eats your money at an alarming rate has already starred in two computer games, the original coin-op conversion and the game of the arcade sequel, *Pacman*, which was a sideways-scrolling arcade adventure featuring ghosts in planes and other equally unlikely events. Now, *Pacman*'s back in 3D!

Pac-maniacs can now march their way through 3D scrolling screens filled with dots to eat, ghosts to avoid, and power pills to turn the ghosts pale and into bonus points, as they scurry back to their haunts to recharge. As in the original game, fruit appears for a limited time to tempt you into the middle for a juicy bonus, but also into the range of patrolling ghosts and away from the power pills.

Pac-mania is more than just a 3D version of the original game - although that would probably be enough for most Pac-maniacs as it adds a few extra features that will make the game a challenge for all players whatever their skills. From the opening screen you can select which level you will start at, and either start slowly with the easier courses or jump straight into the thick of the action.

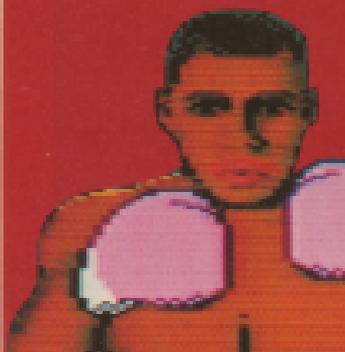
The game consists of four different screens that you visit again and again as the things speed up and generally get tougher, that go under the misleading names of Ghost Town, Pacman's Park, Sandho Land and Jungly Steps.

Clyde, the chief ghost, has recruited two new spooks, Sue and Flunky, to pursue you, but Pacman has a new trick up his sleeve - pressing the fire button makes him jump, over ghosts if necessary, to escape from tight corners. Pacman also has the help of two new powerpills that appear in place of some fruit. A red powerpill gives you double points, which can really help to rack up those high scores, and a green pill that temporarily turbo charges Pacman so that he hurtles around the maze.

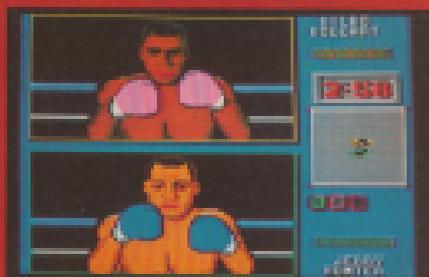
Pacman has always enjoyed a cult status, and has been played by those who don't normally play computer games (such as Your Commodore production people), and with the addition of 3D graphics, this following should grow and grow.

Verdict:

Title: Pac-mania. **Supplier:** Granular Entertainment, 12-18 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JF. Price: £9.95



T.K.O.



There have been many attempts at a boxing simulation in the past, some good, some dreadful. However, Ascendia, a company that's had considerable success in the past with its sports games such as *Marble Madness* and *Joe's Forge*, has come up with something a bit different this time.

T.K.O. stands for technical knockout, the term applied when the referee watches your face being reshaped into an unrecognizable pulp, and decides it's time to throw in your towel for you. The object of the game is to become champion of the world, and apart from the current champ, there are four main contenders selected randomly from a pool of 11. Alternatively, you can choose instead to slug it out with a friend. After every fight, the statistics of each fighter are updated and saved to disk.

You can tweak the characteristics of your boxer to your heart's content, altering his stance and adjusting the power between left and right-hand, head and body punches, strength or speed. Finally, your boxer has a built-in weakness, and it's up to you to decide whether you want him built to last but likely to get up around the belt, or vice versa.

What this game differs from other boxing simulations is in the actual fight itself. Instead of showing the whole ring, you get a head-on view of your opponent. As punches are thrown, you can see them land or miss, and judge your

tactics accordingly. Likewise, thanks to the split screen, you can see what punishment your man is taking.

There are five different guard positions that you can adopt, protecting your head, chin, throat, chest and stomach. Your offensive punches are determined by your guard - high guard, simple will lead to jabbing, and you can back from a central position, or approach from a low guard. Where you aim is determined by moving the joystick to the desired position and pressing fire. Targets range from the solar plexus through body, jaw, stomach, nose and eye.

At the end of each round the scoreboard is displayed, showing how many punches you have thrown, how many hit, what damage they caused and so on. The trick is not to throw a lot of punches, but to try and make the ones that you do throw count. One good punch is a lot more effective than a dozen light slaps.

Although this game looks good and plays well, there's not enough variety to satisfy any but the keenest fight fans.

Final Verdict:

File: T.K.O. Supplier: Electronic Arts, 11-19 Station Road, Lonsdale, Bots, S12 6JN. Price: £9.95 (over £14.95 click)

If your knowledge of geography is limited to such places as Alaska, Yakima, Kamoharui and the Congo, then it's a dead cert that at some stage or other, you've played the board game Risk. Now, Leisure Genius have signed up the rights from Parker Brothers, and produced a computerised version of this classic board game.

And dare not concern itself with building pretty little houses on Maglar or trying to make the longest word possible from a random assortment of letters. No, the object of the game is world domination, no less.

The world is divided up into 42 regions spread over six different continents, and the aim is to have your armies in all of them. At the beginning of each turn, you receive a number of armies according to how many territories you own, with bonuses if you occupy a complete continent. You can deploy these armies as you see fit. Only adjacent territories can be attacked, the result being calculated by rolling dice, and you can never leave anywhere unguarded.

If you capture a territory in a turn, you receive a card. These go to make to sets, which can be traded in at a later time for additional forces. From one to six players can play, with any number being controlled by the computer, so that you are never stuck for an opponent. In addition, each computer player can play on one of three different skill levels so that you set up exactly the sort of challenge that you fancy.

One of the problems with the board game is that everybody who you played against seemed to have a slightly different set of rules! This is because the game evolved with time, and there were several differences between the American and British versions. This is no longer a problem.

Through a series of playing options, you can now select whatever parameters you choose. The main differences involve setting up the board initially, and calculating the number of armies due to you whenever it's your turn to play. In addition, you choose from long and short games, different victory conditions, and can save any half completed game for a later date.

Control of the game is simplicity itself. The map can be scrolled in small increments by using a compass, or in long chunks by moving the pointer to the edge of the screen. Changes are made from pull-down menus. The graphics are large, clear and colourful, and there is an trouble differentiating between who owns what and how many armies there are in each country.

As a rule, I have not been particularly enchanted with computer versions of board games, but this conversion of Risk works admirably. This, I am sure, is partly because the game itself works well as a one player strategy game, whereas other board games such as Monopoly don't. I would not like to play this version with five or six humans, pulling up to spread out round the board instead, but that never quitebegan, this is a superb version of the game and highly recommended to all would-be Genghis Khans.

Troubleshooter

Title: Risk
Supplier: Leisure Genius, 2-4 Fernan Yard, Portico Walk, London, W11 2JX Tel: 01-227 6676.
Price: £14.95 (plus £1.25 P&H)



Risk



Operation Wolf

There has been a dearth of good shoot-em-ups this year, but now your trigger finger can stop aching. *Operation Wolf* has arrived! Far and away the most successful arcade game of recent times, the only thing that Ocean have not managed to include in their conversion is the Uzi sub-machine gun that sits in front of the arcade controls.

Basically, you're on a one-man mission of death and destruction. Now, you have to rescue some prisoners towards the end of the game, but think of all the bodies you can pump full of lead en route. This is definitely a game for someone with the mentality of a Rambo rather than a General Patton.

The game comes in six horizontally scrolling stages. In each section, there is a detachment of forces that has to be taken out before you can progress. These consist not only of enemy soldiers, but also tanks, gunboats and helicopters, and it is for this reason that you are equipped with a handful of rockets, as well as clips of ammo for your Uzi.

Considering the nature of your mission, you go into battle decidedly ill-prepared, with only nine clips of ammo and five rockets. Extra weapons do appear on the screen which you can pick up if you shoot them, but there is frequently a conflict of interests here - do you take out the heavy enemy forces and risk running out of ammo, or risk life and limb instead?

Because of the paucity of ammunition, it's not clever to keep your finger permanently on the fire button. Instead, restrict yourself to short bursts. Longer bursts are required to dispose of the tanks and helicopters should you run out of rockets, but this is worthwhile as they do most damage to you. Other objects to look out for as you blast your way sternly round the screen are open boxes of dynamite.

Missing these will effectively destroy everything on screen, so hide your tail before blowing it up. You can also gain unlimited fire power, but this lasts for a short time only.

As you progress through the levels, so the difficulty of your task increases - not only do you have more men to kill, but the accuracy of your aim needs to be spot-on as well. The large soldiers start wearing bullet-proof vests, and have to be shot through the head rather than the body.

Naturally, you're not indestructible, and an energy level shows your current state of health. You can improve your state of health by completing a level or shooting a power pill but still, the sliding scale moves inexorably towards your impending death. The best way to postpone your impending doom is by making sure that you take out the vehicles and paratroopers as quickly as possible. Also, shooting innocent civilians such as the nurses is considered to be a definite no-no, and you are severely penalised for such indiscretion.

Instead of the machine gun in the arcade version, aiming is achieved by manoeuvring a crosshair right round the screen. Joystick response is excellent, once you've got the hang of what's going on. There is also the option to use a 'New' mouse which remains to use, although to compensate, you get less ammunition to start with.

The conversion to an eight bit machine is excellent, and all the additive qualities of the arcade machine are present. Mindless violence it might be, but it is great fun as well. Strongly recommended.

Touchline

Title: *Operation Wolf* Supplier: Ocean Price: £9.99 (share) £14.95 (box)



Extending Basic

In this second article on Extended Basic, we develop a COLOR command and GOTO and GOSUB variable

By Bernhard-Henry Lehmann

The main disadvantage with Commodore BASIC is that it doesn't give the programmer any access to the lower facilities of the C64. There isn't even a command that lets you change the screen colours!

In the first article of this series on extending the BASIC of the C64, we introduced a simple command that changes the border colour. We can now expand on this and introduce a COLOR command that lets you change the ink, the paper and the border colours, all with one command.

'COLOR'

For the command itself I've chosen the American spelling, which is 'color', because this means one less letter to type in and saves a few bytes in the machine-code routine. Remember, the last two letters of the command will be tokenized by the computer, because OR is a Basic function which has the token hex 80 (decimal 128). Because of this I compare in line 608 of the program with 80 instead of 'R' and 'r'.

The syntax of the COLOR command is COLOR A,B,C - whereby A is the value for the ink colour, B is the value for the paper colour and

C is the value for the border colour. As you can see, the separator between each parameter is a comma, even though I haven't included an error check in the routine that forces the user to use a comma and only a comma. This might be a job you like to try your hand at. Here is a clue to leave the system to give a Syntax Error report, jump to SAFER. This will load the X-register with 308 and then print the 'Syntax Error' message.

As I promised in the last article, we're going to make the use of variables possible. In order to make this possible, we use two ROM-routines: SADR, which evaluates an expression, and SRRF, which transfers a value from the floating point accumulator #1 into the zero page variables \$14/\$15. SADR gets an expression from the Basic text and evaluates it. The value of the expression (or "variable") is then put into what is called the "floating point accumulator" (short: "fp acc").

The Floating Point Accumulator

There are two floating point accumulators: fp acc #1 (\$61 - \$65) and fp acc #2 (\$69 - \$6F). These are used by the C64 for all the

mathematical calculations it does. For example, if an addition is to be done, the first number is put into fp acc #1 and the second number is put into fp acc #2. Then the addition itself is done. Finally, the result is left in fp acc #1.

Each floating point value is stored in five bytes: the first byte represents the exponent of the number, the second byte holds the sign (+ or -) and mantissa 1, and the final three bytes hold mantissa 32 to 4. This makes it possible to hold floating point numbers of any size - negative as well as positive - and do calculations with them with a high degree of accuracy. But it's also quite cumbersome and slow. That's why it's usually better to develop your own mathematical routines rather than use the calculator in ROM.

Nevertheless, in our routine it is convenient to use the ROM-routine because not only does SADR interpret a simple variable, but it can also do a mathematical expression. This enables us to enter, for example, COLOR INK=1, PAPER=8, BORDER=2. SRRF gets a value from fp acc #1 and puts it, in integer form, which all we need, in zero page \$14/\$15 and the Y-register (one byte)

and the accumulator (high byte).

All we have to do then is load the contents of the Y-register into the system variables which set the colour - that is, 646 for the ink colour, 5320 for the paper colour and 53280 for the border colour.

GOTO with variables

The next two routines (lines 1060-1120 and 1170-1260) enable us to enter GOTO and GOSUB with a variable. That is, you can enter a line, like "SUBROUTINE=1060", and then "GOSUB SUBROUTINE". (But remember, as with all variables in Commodore Basic, only the first two letters of the variable name are taken into account!)

To modify GOTO so that a variable or expression is accepted, it really was simple since the token for GOTO is hex 89, we compare in line 468 with that value, and, if it matches, make the program flow jump to our routine (lines 1060-1120).

First, we point to the first character of the parameters of the GOTO command by calling CHARGET (line 1060). The next two lines (1060-1080) do the same thing as we did with our COLOR command: the variable or expression is evaluated (EADBA), and the value which results is put from Ip mem # 1 into zero page \$1415 (\$R1F7).

Finally, we call the ROM routine at \$A8A5 which executes the GOTO command itself, that is, makes the flow of the Basic program jump forward or backward to the line specified after GOTO. This routine expects the target line number to be in zero page \$1415. That's why I gathered the value from Ip mem # 1 into those variables with the \$R1F7 routine earlier on.

GOSUB with variables

GOSUB (lines 1170-1260) is a bit more complicated. First, the relevant information for the line to which the program flow has to return - when the RETURN command is given - has to be stored in the machine stack, and then an ordinary GOTO has to be performed.

Because of GOSUB, I had to modify the overall structure of our Extended Basic program slightly as well. You may have noticed that at the beginning of the main routine, three ROM routines are used: first, CHARGET is called, to get the token of the command itself or the first

character of our extended command (line 360). Then our main routine is called (and not jumped to, as in the program in the previous article - line 360), and finally a jump is made to \$A7AE (line 400), that is, the ROM routine which executes the next Basic statement.

In other words, our main routine (lines 440-510) has been made wholly into a subroutine. I copied Lines 1180-1260 of the GOSUB routine from the ROM routine at \$A8B3. I couldn't give a JSR to this

continued on page 87.

Basic Demo

```

10 INPUT$P(0) : DELAY=100
20 GOTO 1000 : INPUT$P(1)
30 PRINT "000" : DELAY=100
40 PAPER=200 : INK=1 : GOTO 1000
50 PRINT "000" : INK=1 : PAPER=200 : DELAY=100
60 GOTO 1000 : INPUT$P(2)
70 PRINT "000" : INK=1 : PAPER=200 : DELAY=100
80 PAPER=200 : INK=1 : GOTO 1000
90 GOTO DELAY
100 GOTO DELAY
110 FOR I=1 TO 100
120 NEXT
130 RETURN

```

The Machine Code

```

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Basic Workshop

Basic Workshop is a program which lets you press two keys (CTRL + T) to print a keyword such as "LIST". It allows the Commodore keyboard to be used in much the same way as the Spectrum keyboard. It is stored at \$C000-\$D000, so as not to get in the way of Basic programs.

It works by using interrupts and the keyboard matrix when the interrupts are serviced, the program checks to see if a key is pressed. If so, it stores the string in the keyboard buffer. The strings are held in a table, and most BASIC language programmers should be able to change them with ease. The program can also change screen colours with the function keys, and has an inbuilt 'OLD' and 'Reset'. This allows you to examine programs such as 'Patience' by Commodore by loading the program, resetting and 'OLD'ing the program.

It was written on the Monitor/Assembler on Action Replay IV. A full list of commands, etc, follows:

LOADING

Type: LOAD*BASIC*WORKSHOP*,L

Then: NEW

Then: SYS49152

If this is not done when entering lines, all you will get are 'OUT OF MEMORY' errors. It should now print a message showing that all is well.

CONTROLS

All the controls can be used by pressing CTRL + T to show a helpsheet.

F1 = Cursor colour.

F2 = Screen text colour.

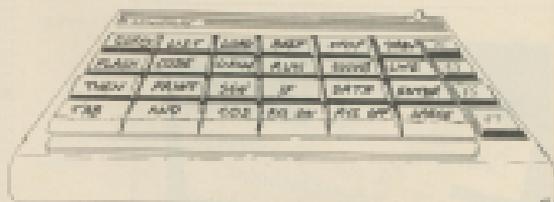
F3 = Screen background colour.

F7 = Beeper colour.

Shiftlock = Listing, directory, etc.
Pause.

Avoid typing all your keywords out in full with this ingenious new program

by B. Graham



CTRL + A = ASC

CTRL + C = CLOSE

CTRL + E = PEEK

CTRL + H = CHR\$()

CTRL + L = LIST

CTRL + P = POKE

CTRL + R = RETURN

CTRL + T = DATA

CTRL + B = GOSUB

CTRL + D =

DIRECTORY

CTRL + G = GOTO

CTRL + I = INPUT

CTRL + O = OPEN

CTRL + Q = LOAD

CTRL + S = SAVE

CTRL + Y = VERIFY

CTRL + + = OLD

CTRL + | = HELP

CTRL + - = NEW

CTRL + (RM) + = RESET

When 'OLD'ing you MUST press CTRL and +, and not type OLD. This is because it is the keypress which

OLDs not the actual word. Thus you get a Syntax error if you type it in.

Games Update

Jacky Wilson's Darts Challenge

Being one of the favourite pastimes in the UK, a darts game just has to be part of any computer games lover's collection. There have been many versions made for the C64, the latest effort from Zappos games being redubbed by Jacky Wilson.

Numerous different games are on offer. 'Tournament' allows any number of players to compete in a real darts game. 'Two player head-to-head' allows just two players to team up against each other, and 'round the clock' is the old favourite where you have to hit the numbers in sequence. If playing round the clock, you can specify if you need to hit just the number, triples or doubles in order to pass onto the next number in the sequence.

Once you've selected your playing options and are ready to throw, the screen changes to a display of a hand holding a dart in front of a dart board. The hand or display moves around in a slow-motion pattern as though the dart holder is wiffing from a bad case of the morning-after.

You control the rough direction that the hand moves in by the joystick. Single press fire when the dart is over the position on the board that you'd like to hit, and sit back and watch your dart fly towards the board. That's all there is to it - you've got control of the strength of the throw, on the angle at which the dart flies back of which I would assume to be an essential part of any darts simulation.

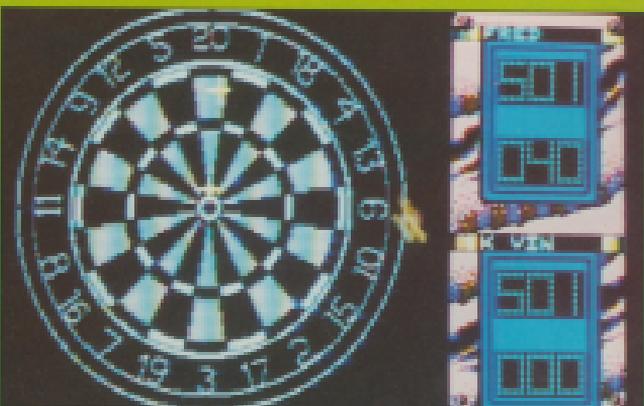
If you're playing against

the computer, the display will change to a 3D representation of the board. This is a purely cosmetic bonus, and you simply sit back and watch the computer throw its three darts.

As darts simulations go, it's far from being the best

that I have seen. All in all, though - the game is fun to play, even if it's not a true simulation. A budget price and the option to play against other people also help to lift this game from the 'don't bother' league into the 'it could be worth adding to your collection' one.

Touchline:
Name: Jack Wilson's Darts Challenge. Supplier: Zappos's Games, 29 Osborne Road, Atterdon, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2AJ. Tel: (091) 261 4661. Price: £7.99.



Jet Bike Simulator

It isn't your chance to show off on a motorcycle, and at a budget price, courtesy of Code Masters. *Jet Bike Simulator* allows you to compete in jet bike races on one of 24 courses. Up to two human players can compete against the computer-controlled bikes, but with keyboard only - no joystick option is given.

Though the action in this game is fast and furious, it is spunk a little by the screen display. In these days of scrolling screens, split screens and 3D views, Code

Masters seem to have taken a backward step with this game, as each circuit fits onto the monitor screen. This doesn't really spoil the play - if anything it makes it easier, as you can see what's coming up - but it does mean that all the jet bikes appear on the screen as slightly oval dots, making differentiation between them difficult.

I must admit to never having had a go on a jet bike. However, if the control of a real jet bike is as difficult as it is with these computerised ones, I don't really fancy

giving it a go. Some may think that travelling along at full speed and turning right to go through the next gate will be easy - if so, you'll be in for a shock. When turning a corner, you can't forget about the forward momentum of your bike. If you do, you're liable to find yourself embedded in the nearest bank.

Once you've mastered the normal version of *Jet Bike Simulator*, which if my performance is anything to go by will take quite some time, Code Masters have provided you with an

advanced version. This uses the same courses, but often sets challenges.

Sometimes, *Jet Bike Simulator* doesn't quite make it to the status of being one of those "just one more go" types of games. It's good fun, the two player option especially so. Perhaps it's the poor display that causes the game to lack that final push.

Teachfile:

Title: *Jet Bike Simulator*, **Supplier:** Code Masters, PO Box 8, Leamington Spa, CV32 0SN, Tel: 0926-816121.

Hunter



These are some games that the computer is just right for, while others are utterly destroyed by being transferred onto the electronic wizard. *Hunter*, subtitled *World Championship 9 Ball Pool*, seems to be one of those conversions that doesn't live up to its real-life counterpart.

Any pool or snooker player will tell you that the skill in playing the game depends upon the ability of the player to position the balls just where he wants them. This is done not only by hitting the cue ball at varying strengths, but also

depends upon exactly where you hit the cue ball with the cue.

Hunter, from Top Ten, allows you to select where you would like to send the cue ball and at what strength, but that's all. In fact, selection of the strength of the shot isn't as much a choice as a test of your reactions. To select the strength of the shot, you're required to watch a power bar at the bottom of the screen and press the fire button when it's at the position you require.

Hunter gives the player a choice of six different pool

games: one player - any ball in any pocket; one player - pocket the balls in order; one player - put each ball in its correct pocket; two players - put each ball in its pocket and score the pocket; two players - snook pool; one player to go for the orange balls, the other black; two players - one pot in order 1-6, the other pots in order 5-1.

The simulation offers a good selection of different games, and the two player games are fun when competing against a friend. Unfortunately, the game lacks the realism that would

make it a top-notch pool game. As it stands, I'd rather put my money into the real tables where there's a much greater skill element involved, though the £1.99 price tag may just make it attractive enough to add to your collection for those damp, cold nights when you can't be bothered to go out.

Teachfile:

Name: *Hunter*, **Supplier:** Top Ten, 501, 75 Chichester Downport Centre, Station Road, Three Esks, RG7 4AA, Tel: 0714-502990, Price: £1.99.

Super Street Man



If your idea of fun is driving a car through a hostile street desert at high speeds, racing a powerboat through tight twists and turns, getting back into your car in order to drive as fast as possible through a forest, turbo boosting over the grand canyon, fighting it out with violent street gangs, and so on, then Code Masters have just the job for you as a steersman in their latest game.

Your job description as a street man in Code Masters' latest epic will be to navigate your way through all of the challenges mentioned above within a certain time limit. You have just four minutes at each scene, and you must complete each one in time. Of course if you fail in your task, then you'll have to start all over again, as the film is so good.

Super Street Man is one of those fast action games that makes you feel sure that just one more go will give you a better score. Or perhaps you feel sure that you've mastered the speed boat racing, and one more go will see you through it and onto the next stage of the game.

If you're the sort of person who can't stand finding out that the time is up and you're still playing that stupid game, but you'll have just one more go, then don't buy this program. On the other hand, it's a must for all addicts of fast action arcade games.

Available: *Super Street Man*. Supplier: Code Masters, PO Box 8, Leamington Spa, England, CV32 9SW. Tel: 0826-814121.

Terra Fighter

Time to save a defuncted Earth from a horde of marauding orcs again, and at a budget price. *Terra Fighter* is a sideways scrolling shoot-em-up containing six levels. However each level has 10 distinct stages, so the game will take some getting through. The idea is to sllobber the badies' power

supply, while dodging the hazards. We particularly liked the one that reverses your joystick controls.

Available: *Terra Fighter*. Supplier: Zappella Games, 25 Osborne Road, Belmont, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 2AJ. Tel: 091(2) 261 460. Price: £1.99 (cart).

Camelot Warriors



Time to get the old broadsword honed and ready. *Camelot Warriors* is a graphic adventure of some complexity, but there's still room for the back and slayers. If you can make it through, it's a matter of getting the four Magic Things in the Four Magic

Kings. Not easy, and reasonable for a budget game.

Available: *Camelot Warriors*. Supplier: Macrovision, 24 Fernside Road, London W11 2JG. Price: £1.99 (cart).

How to Be a Complete Bastard

After all, it's a useful skill. Most companies have many openings for CEOs, largely in management. It's a highly valued.

This is, of course, the budget version of last year's *Adrian: Education* game. This game is about the stages of a bad Terra software. All you have to do to stop most of the poppins out of a rather dull party by being totally gross, something at which we ourselves excel. Seeking,

setting fire to things, frightening people, and a range of far less creditable activities, are all possible. *Adrian* is fairly standard graphic adventure, but this game has enough novelty to sell it above the crowd.

Available: *How to Be a Complete Bastard*. Supplier: Macrovision, 24 Fernside Road, London W11 2JG. Price: £1.99 (cart).



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Pilot - a Programmer's Language

If you're interested in educational programming but have yet to find a suitable language, Pilot could be the answer

By Evelyn Mills

Pilot is a language designed for those who are interested in educational programming. This particular version (Commander 64 Basic V.2) is extremely versatile, easy to use and has approximately 38,500 bytes available for programming.

The concept of Pilot is frequently a simple 'question and answer' program, which in reality is not the case. Quite apart from all the important dialogues shown there also exist:

- a simplified graphics screen with full colour control;
- excellent sprite designing and handling procedures;
- the ability to change all keyboard characters to any design you wish;
- sound programming availability.

First of all, the simplicity of 'dialogue' programming should be studied. There are three modes of operation - EDIT, COMMAND and IMMEDIATE. (The latter is essentially for 'processing while learning'.)



In EDIT mode (press F key), text may be entered directly in the form of words/phrases; printer output will be limited, however, to the normal column screen width. Most importantly, in EDIT mode, is the facility to delete text, enter text and generally make amendments as required.

Real Time Programming

To get going with 'real time' programming, begin in COMMAND mode (press STOP key) and use this in conjunction with the EDIT mode; in the PILOT modules are interactive. Consider a simple example such as:

- T: What is your name please?
A:
T: Hello, PEEK, press RETURN to continue.
A:

TS starts the typing instruction sequence which is subsequently followed by a T; the words typed in will appear on screen. A accepts the words of instruction typed by the user. New lines are simply preceded by a colon which is a legal continuation instruction.

Naturally there must be flexibility of control while programming otherwise the dialogue will be nothing more than monotonous. PILOT provides ample scope for this and has restructured the more advanced features of Basic into a simple format. A sample of such features is as follows; each instruction must be followed by a colon (:) not listed here.

PR - problem solving
D - dimension
W - wait
M - match
J - jump instruction telling the computer to jump a label located within the program
C - string comparison

To avoid answers which cannot be anticipated, hints may be inserted to combine with the match, type and jump commands. U (user) calls situations which are concluded with an E.

When Numerical Answers are Required

Questions which require numerical answers are streamlined to a high degree, e.g. X=RNDR90 returns a number between 0 and 99. All the calculations handled by the C84 are possibilities and are computed using an AND operator which automatically checks for the correct answer.

The manual is full of examples which will take you through every aspect of Pilot programming speedily and efficiently. You have here a very powerful tool for education (and fun!) working with simple structured commands.

Graphics

Turning to the GRAPHICS side we start by entering G:E followed by the requisite field instructions. The x and y axes are 519 by 192 respectively, the origin (0,0) being in the lower left hand corner. Ideally the starting point

should be defined (P) followed by the 'draw to' locations (EO). To draw a triangle, the command could be formatted as:

G:EP5.5:DP0.5:DP90.70:EO.3

The graphics beam may be moved to another point location using an M, while lines may be erased with an R command; both of these commands need, of course, the requisite x,y locations.

In combination with this, the text cursor may be positioned exactly where required, the screen may be split using an S command and linked to Frame or Window Designing for maximum display effect. The full colour range of the C84 is available with single letter instructions for border (X), background (B) and foreground (F) colours. The FILL command (F) is used to fill a block with a foreground colour by specifying the diagonal co-ordinates in the normal manner (e.g. G:EP90.50:F180C14).

Pilot again comes into its own by allowing you to design sprites on screen and to move them around with simple instructions. The BIT-PATTERN (B) is used to define your sprites on a 21 x 24 grid, using a dot to create the grid and an x to indicate the pattern. The sprite should be given a number (0-7). To start the program type B:2 and go ahead with your pattern (2=sprite number 1). Having done so, the sprite must now be turned on with an S command and an opcode (E1). An example is as follows:

S:EDC04.100.180
W:100

The sprite will now be apparent, coloured black, at location 100,180 on your screen.

Sprites may be expanded horizontally or vertically, to normal size, or used in multi-colour mode (M1) with three possible colours in any one sprite. Again full instructions are given in the manual combined with the simple commands for moving sprites around the screen.

Character Definition

There are many applications in which specialised notation would be useful, particularly in foreign languages, maths, science, etc. Using Pilot a new

character may be defined by using the SEARCH (S) instructions; the S is followed by a number corresponding to the standard ASCII code of the keyboard (32-127). The code for \$ is 36 for example, so S:36 will allow redefinition of this key. Redefinition is done on an 8 x 8 matrix in much the same manner as sprites.

Sound

This enhancement is very useful for creating extra effects in dialogue or animation, etc. but can only be regarded as a supplement and will not give you any degree of musical flexibility. Sounds, falls, harmonies and so forth may be programmed with ease to good effect and, again, the method is simple enough. Notes, pulse, triangle and sawtooth waveforms are available, as are ring modulation and synchronisation. Volume and duration of notes, attack, decay, sustain, release are all there and a sound editor is available on the disk to allow you to experiment with the above variables. Music note values are listed in the appendix.

There are more advanced features in Pilot which show you how to set up multiple choice questions with selected answers (look under ENROUTE), while the ESCAPE mode allows special features to be built up within a program and called by the user at any time. A good example is given of how to create a calculator which may be called at any point within a program.

In the event that you wish to create a long program and run out of memory, there is a LINK instruction (L:PART 2) which will load the second part, (and subsequent parts if specified), automatically. Naturally the previous program is then unavailable so the sub-routines should be independent as such.

The normal features of saving, loading, printer output are all available; a "Run Only" version of Pilot is on the disk which means that your program may not be listed, edited or printed. The disk has an excellent demo, which when listed, will show you how to handle sprites, graphics, split screens and programmable characters.

For the programmer, Pilot is an easy to use, interactive system which can be well recommended; not will this cost you a fortune; contact Dimension Computers Ltd.

Tank Attack



With wargames becoming ever more sophisticated, it's good to see that one company - CDS - has not forgotten the beginner. What is doubly unusual is that their latest title, *Tank Attack*, is also a curious hybrid: a computer-mediated wargame.

The scenario is simple. Four neighbouring countries, Armania, Kazaklia, Sarapan and Caldera, declare war on each other - well, on two of the others actually, for there are two firm alliances. Resources are limited to armoured vehicles, and the object is to blow holes in your enemy's command post before he does likewise to you. The game can be played by two to four players. There is no solo option.

The battle itself is fought out on a board by moving little plastic tanks round a hex grid. Each country has two light and medium armoured cars, as well as two light, medium and heavy tanks. The pieces are cunningly designed so that you can't tell the strength of an opposing piece when it's on the board - you can only find out by attacking it. The pieces can be placed anywhere you want within the boundaries of your country. It's up to you to come up with the right balance of attack and defence.

How far you move each turn is determined by the computer taking into account the weather for the day, and assorted other random factors. The number of holes that you can move can be split between as many vehicles as you see fit. There are a few terrain restrictions and a bonus for armoured cars in open country.

If you want to attack, you must inform the computer how far away from your target you are, and then declare what power vehicle you have. Your enemy does likewise, and the computer then works out the result of the battle. At this stage, you get to see the battle through a stylised pair of binoculars on the screen. (Incidentally, I wonder

if the game designers have ever actually looked through binoculars. The sideways figure of eight view is not what you get. Hollywood directors please take note too.) The result of the battle is then displayed, effects ranging from total destruction to a vehicle being removed to a repair centre.

That's really all there is to the game. The board looks attractive, and the on-screen commands are clear and simple to use, but (and it's a huge but) why bother in the first place? The game would have worked just as well without the on-screen thing there. All you need to do is determine the move factor randomly, and look up the results of combat on a table.

If, however, the game had been entirely controlled by computer, it could have been truly excellent. All the problems associated with board wargames could have been eliminated at a stroke, and a host of other features included - a save game facility should something interrupt the battle; a solo option; hidden movement; deliberate smoke screen effects; and, dare I say it, the elimination of cheating, or at least the urge to cheat. The idea of getting the computer to tell you how far you can move, and then making the player go and look up in the rule book exactly where he can move, does seem to be something of a retrograde step.

Tank Attack is extremely well produced, but I feel that it is the wrong game for this combination of board and computer action.

Factfile:

Title: *Tank Attack* **Supplier:** CDS, CDS House, Becken Rd, Chesham DN2 6AD. **Price:** £12.99 (tax), £14.99 (incl.)

Tech Troubles

*Don't get stuck in a rut.
Let our agony uncle
help you out.*

By Tim Amot

Dear Tim,

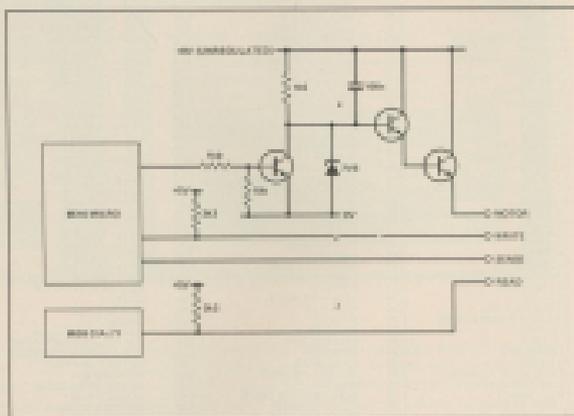
I am trying to get my Commodore 64 to sample sounds from the cassette drive but have encountered a severe wall in actually getting it to read the signal coming in. I would like to know how to do this, and would be very grateful if you would send me some information on this subject or put an article in your magazine. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope and I look forward to your reply.

A.D. Meese, Cheltenham.

Hi Neil,

Thanks for including an S.A.E. As a general point, after your letters reach the Tech Troubles office, it can be up to a month before they reach me for reply, it will then be another month before they appear in print. So if you want a reply 'quickly' I will always send a copy of my reply in an S.A.E.

Unfortunately (for you anyway) the Commodore cassette system is entirely digital and relies purely on the



Commodore cassette schematic

time spacings of pulse transitions for receiving its information. While this makes it extremely reliable for its job of loading and saving programs, for your application of digitising sounds, it is utterly useless.

The Commodore cassette mechanism basically records information as a series of digital pulses of different lengths. A bit time of these lengths is then used to determine whether a bit is a 0 or 1. Thus a 1 is represented by a short pulse followed by a medium pulse, a 0 is medium followed by a short, and the start of a new byte is long followed by medium. I have included a brief schematic of the cassette read/write logic, so you can see what happens. Notice that the READ signal is fed directly into the FLAG input of CIA #1 (SIDCRA-SIDCRF), which is basically just an edge sensitive interrupt input.

In order to sample sounds, you will need to employ a device called an Analogue to Digital Converter (ADC). This basically takes a snapshot of the sound at one instant in

time and converts it into a number for use by the computer. The quality of the sampled sound is dependent on the speed at which you take these snapshots. For example, compact disc, which is essentially sampled sound, has a sample rate of 20,000 samples per second.

To show you how to construct a sampler based on an ADC is really beyond the scope of this reply, however you can purchase them ready made from a number of vendors, most of whom advertise regularly in this magazine. Cost would be in the area of £50, but that will also include software to drive it.

Dear Tim,

I own a Commodore Plus/4 system, and have a question which I hope you may be able to answer: how do I go about programming the user port? - either from BASIC or assembly language?

I am fairly conversant with the method used for the Commodore 64, so

If it is a similar method, all I need is the memory locations and any other differences.

Steve Jones, Gillingham

Hi Steve,

Unfortunately, I have bad news for you - the Plus/4 doesn't have a user port - at least not in the sense that the PET, 64 and 128 have user ports.

To explain, the 64 etc. machines have an edge connector at the rear labelled Parallel user port, which provides a general bi-directional I/O port that can be used for general interfacing applications. And indeed we see a range of peripherals that use this port, from telecom adaptors to Centronics printer drivers. However, Commodore really intended to implement this port as an RS232 interface, using a 6551 Asynchronous Comm. chip. Due to an ordering snafu of up, they couldn't get the ICs, and so the parallel port wired and RS232 was implemented in software.

In the UK, if we want RS232, we normally buy an interface that plugs into the cartridge port or serial bus, and contains said 6551 and some decent drivers. This is because the built-in port can't handle more than about 300 baud reliably. But in the States, all these modules and things plug into the built-in RS232.

And so to the Plus/4. At this time, Commodore finally got their act together and produced a real RS232 port using the proper hardware, running at decent speeds (up to 19,200 baud). This is what you have on the edge connector at the back of the machine. It is the same pinout as the bit from the RS232 viewpoint (so that the 64 style peripherals will plug directly in). This might seem to be of minor interest to UK users who want the parallel port, but unfortunately 75% of the users are Americans who want RS232.

Dear Tim,

Have typed in several games on my C64 what are for a friend's son and one for a Plus/4.

I appreciate that they will not run on the 64 and that certain items like slash commands won't be usable after they are loaded into the Plus/4 but how do I get them to load and run? Obviously need to change the start points for BASIC but

how do I do this, and what should it be?

D.J. King, Montpelier

Hi Mr King,

From the BASIC point of view, the essential differences between a C64 and a Plus/4 is the amount of memory available, the additional sound, graphics and disk keywords of the Plus/4, and the start location for BASIC etc.

Of these three, the memory aspect can be discounted, since you are writing on the machine with less memory to transfer onto the machine with more.

The start of BASIC, similarly is not really important, as all BASIC programs on the C64 and Plus/4 (and C16 and 128 machines) are designed to relocate themselves to wherever the start of BASIC might be. The symbol of this is that LOAD "PROGRAM",*A* will work on any machine except the PET. As to where the start of BASIC sits, on the C64 it is at location 8081, and on the Plus/4 it can be in one of two places, depending on whether you have a graphics screen active or not. These two locations are 8080 (without graphics screen) and 8200 (with graphics screen).

When you type a line of BASIC and press the return key, the computer scans what you have typed for words that it recognises and converts them into one or two byte tokens. This was originally purely to save memory, since a token takes up much less space than the word itself. Any words that it does not recognise are assumed to be variables and so are left alone.

When you run the program, these tokens are indexed into a lookup table which points to the section of 8081 that performs the function you are asking the computer to do. If the keyword has not been tokenised (for instance typing FLASH on the 64), it cannot find the entry in the lookup table and so will crash. Similarly BASIC 1.3 tokens will fall off the end of the 64's lookup table, and it will also crash.

One further point regarding transfer of programs from one machine to the other, the cassette system used by the Plus/4 and C16 is incompatible with that used in all other Commodore computers, so programs can only be transferred through the use of disk media.

Dear Tim,

I am writing to you because I think your magazine seems to have a much more mature point of view to Commodore computing than others such as C+M and Commodore User.

I have a very important question to ask. I have written to both magazines above (with S.A.S.) and had no reply so I hope very much you will 'try to oblige'. I bought the C64 last Christmas and I have been getting on very well with it until I found out that I was leaving the country to go to Chile (South America). So my question is will it work over there? Do I need any special cables? If so, which? I am using a T.P., will I need a monitor? Will a monitor from over here work and? Please reply, preferably with good news.

P.S. what do you think of the letter quality? Printed by the Silver Reed Colour Post-Gramp. Could you tell me if there is any compatible software for it to drive graphics?

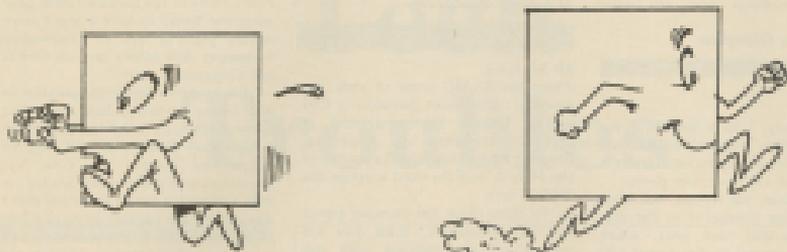
Rodrigo Lopez, Bristol

Hi Rodrigo,

OK, the easy bit first, you don't need any special cables, neither will you need to use a monitor - a TV is quite acceptable, regardless of the country you are in. As for the rest of your question, I had to do some shipping, by the UK, and in most of Europe, we use a TV system called P.A.L. which stands for Phase Alternative Line. Additionally our TV system has 625 'scan lines' making up the entire picture. Chile, and indeed most of South America has adopted a different TV system, called N.T.S.C. which stands for North American Television Standards Committee. Their T.V. system has 525 scan lines on the screen. The result is that the two are mutually incompatible, and you will have to sell your 64 system and buy another one when you get there.

The main voltage in Chile are also different to ours, and so the 64 would not work even if you took your P.A.L. television with you (which could have been an option, although you would have been able to watch local TV on it).

The quality of your printer is quite good. It is 'Epson compatible', it should be able to run most of the printed graphics packages that are around at the moment.



Sprite Library

More tips on Sprite manipulation on the Commodore 64

by Mike Benn

This month we get out the geometry set. All the sprite definitions are based on single sprites and use hires. The table below illustrates the variations on this month's theme with a mixture of animated sequences and single shapes.

Load in the basic loader and run it; if error free, the program will automatically save itself as a block of data. If you reload that data in the future, remember to add a 1 after the device number. The data is saved in the following location: \$2808-\$37FF.

The sprites run from 160 to 325 in a compressed to avoid the area

\$2000, traditionally set aside for redefined character graphics, and to avoid the need of typing in line after line of data.

If only one or two sprites are required, then use this formula: (sprite block No. - 160) * 48 + 190 = the data line number at which that sprite block's data starts. Remember to type in the following three lines of data, and alter the variable *BL* to the number of data lines you have in your finished program, less 1.

The small basic program GEOM.DISPLAY, will variously animate the sprites in both non expanded and expanded forms on the screen simultaneously. To build on any sprite, enter the same number for Start and End.

Any sprite Editor program will enable you to change and adapt the individual sprites to your own requirements.

GETTING IT ALL IN

Type in the basic loader as published and save it—don't run it or it will self-destruct. Before running the loader program, you'll need to reset the computer and type directly in the following

FORWARD FOR \$404 FOR \$0840 NEW

— and press return. This will trick the computer into believing that the basic now starts at \$4008 instead of \$0001.

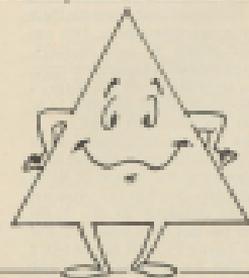
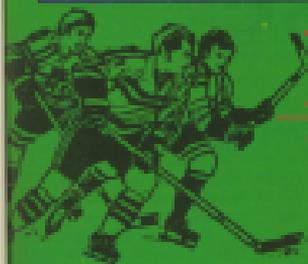


TABLE (Geometric — Hires)

A0 - A5 / 160 - 165 Growing triangle	CF / 307 Inverted pentagon
A3 - A6 / 163 - 168 Spinning triangle	D0 - 04 / 208 - 212 Growing hexagon
A7 - A8 / 167 - 171 Growing square	D2 - 212 Turned hexagon
A8 - B3 / 171 - 179 Rotating square Y axis	E6 - 214 6 pointed star
B3 - B8 / 179 - 187 Rotating square X axis	DT / 219 Turned six pointed star
B8 - B0 / 187 - 189 Turning square	D8 - 218 Cube
BD - C3 / 189 - 195 Rotating diamond X axis	D9 - D8 / 217 - 220 Growing octagon pattern
C3 - C9 / 195 - 201 Rotating diamond Y axis	DF / 220 Octagon
CA - CE / 202 - 206 Growing pentagon	



Power Play Hockey

What's mean and tough, skates and speeds most of his time in the six feet? The answer is, of course, the playing ice hockey games. They're particularly suited to maniacs like myself who can shamefully trip and bang opponents while supposedly scoring goals. They usually win the match, but we win the battle.

Seriously, Ice Hockey is an ideal sport to be computerized, and many have tried before and failed to capture all the excitement of one of the world's fastest games. Now Electronic Arts has produced a version featuring superb 3D-scrolling graphics but how does it measure up?

For some peculiar reason that's lost on us that has on this side of the pond, the game is based on only one ice hockey match, and in the clash between the good old U.S. of A. and the red empire of USSR during the 1988 Olympics, which to nobody's surprise is about the one and only time the Americans won. There's not a hint of Glastnost in this game.

The game can be played in a variety of permutations, from the simple one or two player games and deciding the length of the three periods, to determining the skill level of computer opponents and whether to play via an on-line-style hockey that's only counting the on players).

Either way you play, the centre is the man expected to score the goals and save the national honour. You control the centre through standard joystick controls to skate around the rink, but you should remember that 90 degree turns at high speed aren't easy when you're skating on ice, so you have to account for momentum when planning your moves.

Your team mates will play in their positions. In other words, the left and right defense will try and stop the opponent's goal scoring ambitions, and try and win the puck, and the left and right wing help help move the puck

forward and to either shoot themselves or pass to you. You can signal for a pass at anytime by pressing the fire button, and they'll do their best to get it to you. Then you can try a wrist shot or slap shot at goal or a drop pass to another player, which is particularly useful if a defender is about to challenge you. However, these moves require tricky joystick manoeuvres and will need some practice before you can defray the honour of the five world.

You have in fact got three squads of players to choose from at the push of a button, they consist of the squad that wins each period who are good all-round players but tire quickly and so you might want to opt for squad two who are real pros when it comes to scoring or the cool in defense squad three. Be warned, that these also tire especially in a 30 minute period so you have to be careful how you play them, or you'll be left two goals down with only the defensive squad fit to play.

Defensive moves are more to learn and consist of the subtle stick poke by which you try and poke the puck away, the less than subtle slide block to steal the puck and the obvious body check to take out the man. You have to be wary about how you play it otherwise the gloves will come off, a fight will start and you'll spend between one and two minutes in the penalty box.

Overall Power Play Hockey is a very good Ice Hockey simulation, but it's a shame that it concentrates on just a single game that was played nearly nine years ago.

Troubleshooter:

Title: Power Play Hockey. Supplier: Electronic Arts, Longly Business Centre, 11-19 Barkley Road, Langley, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0RN. Tel: 0753 49442. Price: £14.95 (pbk).

Personal File Database

Avoid elaborate and time-consuming editing procedures with this word processing/database system

By Eric Randall

This utility is a cross between a word processor and a database system. It's aimed at the user who needs to maintain files of text, and be able to readily update and amend the material, without the need to learn and remember elaborate editing procedures. To achieve this, it uses the C64's normal screen editing functions, with one or two more added, and all the instructions needed to use the system are displayed (except when writing up or editing a page of text).

The data is held in pages containing complete screens of information. Each may be recalled and updated as often as required, using the function keys as explained in the main display. New pages may be inserted or old ones deleted, and the entire file in memory can be printed. If, when editing a screen, you need to refresh your memory on which function key to use, press return to

see what you've already typed in. The main display will appear next, after checking the instructions, recall the page you were editing by using the F5 key.

Having set up a file of data, it may be saved to disk. To simplify the disk housekeeping, the program takes care of naming files, and you're asked if you want to overwrite an existing file. The file names start with "****data" and end with a number in the range 0 to 9. All the user needs to remember is which number is used for a particular file.

For the technically minded, the data is held as screen codes, not ASCII codes. If you want to extend the scope of this system, this may be taken into account. Furthermore, the data are compacted before filing to disk, so the disk file formats differ from those displayed on the screen. The areas of memory used by the system are as follows:

Basic Program	- \$8500	- \$1100
Housekeeping data	- \$6500	- \$64FF
Storage for screen pages	- \$E500	- \$E0FF
Area for packing and unpacking data prior to storage on disk	- \$8C00	- \$9FFF
Machins	- \$C000	- \$C400



For those wishing to experiment with and extend the system, the entry points to various machine code routines called from the main BASIC program may be useful. Most of these

routines require parameters which are taken from various locations between \$6400 to \$64FF. These are set up in the main program, and the references are as follows:-

SYS4955 (SC17F) - turn off interrupt routine
 SYS4952 (SC09B) - store screen

UPDATE PAGE

Lines 790-730
 SYS4954 (SC05B) - display stored page
 SYS4953 (SC16C) - turn on interrupt routine
 SYS4951 (SC17F) - turn off interrupt routine

LOADING FILES

Lines 390-350
 SYS5030 (SC04E) - load a file
 SYS5024 (SC44B) - unpack data

SAVING FILES

Lines 90-210
 SYS5080 (SC3AD) - pack data
 SYS4929 (SC083) - save a file
 SYS4934 (SC0C4) - overwrite existing file

CREATING NEW PAGE OF DATA

Lines 500-555
 SYS4951 (SC16C) - turn on interrupt routine to scan for function keys which indicate up and down and which insert and delete lines.

PRINT FILE IN MEMORY

Lines 800-840
 SYS4932 (SC0CE) - Print file

DELETE A PAGE

Lines 600-605
 SYS4916 (SC2FC) - delete a page

INSERT A PAGE

Lines 650-655
 SYS5080 (SC3AE) - insert page

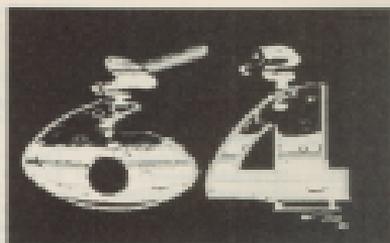
USING THE SYSTEM

To start you off using the system, a data file is included on the disk as file number 0. This contains the

loadings of personal information for you to fill in the details.

Introduction to

Graphics on the



by Allen Webb

The first of a two-part series examining the considerable graphics potential of the Commodore 64

For many new owners of the Commodore 64, playing games soon becomes inadequate, and they turn instead to programming and trying to emulate the graphics effects that the game writers achieve. The machine's manual will help you a little, but it makes no attempt to get to grips with the not inconsiderable graphics capabilities of the machine. In this series, I'll give you a taste of what you can achieve with Basic. You must realise that using Basic will limit your potential, but you will nonetheless be able to get some excellent results.

The heart of the graphics power of the 64 is the VIC chip, which has a collection of memory - mapped registers which handle graphics. It's a rather sad fact of life that Basic doesn't support graphics in any way. Instead, you'll have to learn a collection of POKE commands to manipulate the VIC registers. Table 1 gives a summary of the registers and their functions.

TABLE 1

Memory Address	Function of register
53248-53263	Sprite position registers
53265	Control Register 1
53269	Sprite display enable
53270	Control Register 2
53271	Sprite Vertical Expand
53272	Memory Control Register
53273	Interrupt Flag Register
53275	Sprite Priority Register
53276	Sprite colour mode
53277	Sprite horizontal expand
53278	Sprite collision detect
53279	Sprite collision detect
53280	Border colour
53281	Screen colour
53283-53284	Background colours
53285-53286	Sprite multicolours
53287-53294	Sprite colour

In these articles I will explain how to tweak these registers to good effect.

First - I must discuss how the machine manages memory. The Commodore 64, as indicated by its name, has 64 kilobytes of memory. This can be imagined as a sequence of 65536 bytes with each obtain data. Each box (or memory location) is numbered, starting at 0 and continuing to 65535. The number of the box is called its address.

The machine uses various chunks of memory for various purposes. Due to its ROM - based software, the 64 uses the same areas of memory for its various functions. You can, however, change things around if you wish. The VIC chip can address only 16K of memory at any one time. The 64 has four "banks" of 16K available for use, and these are numbered as shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Bank Number	Block of memory	Z
0	0 - 16383	1
1	16384 - 32767	1
2	32768 - 49151	1
3	49152 - 65535	0

When you turn on the 64, bank 0 is automatically selected. This means that the VIC chip expects to find the screen memory and the character set designs in this area. You can, if you wish, change the bank by altering a register in another important chip, the CIA number 2. The bottom two bits of location 56376 determine the memory bank in use. To change the bank, you use the following two lines:

```
POKE 56376, PEEK(56376) OR 3
POKE 56376, (PEEK(56376) AND 2) OR Z
```

Using some banks will give a screen full of garbage. I will tackle this feature fully next time, so forget all about it for now.

The display uses a block of memory to hold its contents. The display consists of 25 lines of 40 characters, requiring 1000 bytes. In the default 64, the screen memory starts at memory location 1024 and continues to location 3023. In order to provide colours, each screen location has a corresponding colour memory location. This occupies the 1000 bytes starting at 32296. The colour memory is always at this address. Try the following program to see how it works:

```
10 FOR I = 0 TO 999
20 POKE 1024+I,I
30 POKE 32296+I,INDEX(I*16)
40 NEXT I
```

The machine obviously knows what shape the characters are, and this information must be held in the active memory bank as well. Because the 64 is an 8 - bit machine, it allows a maximum of 256 characters. Each character requires 8 bytes of memory to hold its shape data. Hence, the full character set requires 2048 bytes. Since there are two full character sets available, a total of 4096 bytes are used. In the default system, the character set is held in a Read Only Memory, and is found in the block 4996 to 5191. Because this data is held in this way, it occupies the same space as Random Access Memory, so that you don't lose any memory. Given these facts, Table 3 shows a general memory map.

TABLE 3

Memory Address	Use
0 - 1023	Used by system
1024 - 3023	Screen memory
3040 - 3947	Sprite pattern
	padding
3948 - 4095	Used for BASIC programs
53248 - 53294	VIC registers
53296 - 56385	Colour memory

The parts of memory not described are occupied by the system ROMs and other chips. The position of the screen memory and the character set are determined by the contents of the memory control register in the VIC chip (53272). More on that in a moment.

When you put a value in a screen memory location, the system translates this value into a specific character pattern in the character memory. A value of 8, for example, uses the first pattern (or group of eight bytes). This pattern represents 8th - value of use uses the second pattern and so on. The following program shows the full character set by POKEing the full range of values into the screen memory:

```
10 FOR I = 0 TO 255
20 POKE 1024+I,I
30 NEXT I
```

The next step is to place a character at a specific place on the screen. If R is the row and C the column, the

correct address is given by:

$HDH+(R-1)*8+(C-1)$

Where R is in the range one to 25, and C is in the range one to 40.

The following example uses this relationship as a function to move an asterisk diagonally across the screen:

```
10 DEF FNA (R)=HDH+(R-1)*8+(C-1)
20 FOR R=1 TO 20
30 C=8
40 POKE FNA (R):2: FOR D=1 TO 20: NEXT D
50 POKE FNA (R):3: FOR D=1 TO 20: NEXT D
60 NEXT R
```

This routine first puts an asterisk at each point (character 42) followed by a space (character 32). The two loops in lines 40 and 50 are simply delays to give a better effect. While making some progress, this effect is a little boring. What's needed are custom-designed characters, but how can we achieve this? As I have already described, the normal character set is stored in a ROM, and what we want is a character set in RAM. The secret is to redefine the pointer to the character set to a handy bit of unused RAM. The memory control register allows this. The bottom four bits of this register decide the offset position of the character set in any given bank. Take a look at Table 4.

TABLE 4

Memory Offset	Z
0	0
2048	2
4096	4
6144	6
8192	8
10240	10

```
10 POKE 53272, (PEEK(53272)
AND240) OR 14
20 DATA 0,68,136,162,182,136,68,0
30 DATA 0,0,0,240,0,0
40 FOR I=0 TO 15: READ %: POKE
14306+I*2,%: NEXT I
50 FOR I=0 TO 7: POKE
14306+I*8+1,%: NEXT I
60 DEF FNA (R)=HDH+(R-1)*8+(C-1)
```

```
12388 12
14336 14
```

The character set pointer is changed by using:

```
POKE 53272, (PEEK(53272) AND
10240) OR Z
```

To find the start address of the character set, you simply add the offset to the start address of the bank (given in table 2). Let us consider how a character is designed. Here is a sample character:

```
.._.. 00011000 = 24
.... 00111100 = 40
.._.. 01100110 = 102
..... 01111110 = 126
.._.. 01100110 = 102
.._.. 01100110 = 102
.._.. 01100110 = 102
.... 00000000 = 0
```

The stars represent visible dots, and the dots represent spaces. Each pattern can be converted to an eight bit binary number by replacing stars by 1 and dots by 0. These numbers are then converted to decimal, and the resulting eight numbers are those used in the pattern table. Here is an example of a solidified character:

```
.... 00000000 = 0
.... 00111100 = 40
..... 00111110 = 126
.._.. 01100110 = 102
.._.. 01100110 = 102
..... 00111110 = 126
.... 00111100 = 40
.... 00000000 = 0
```

The following example uses this character plus one other to produce moving animation...Gasp!

```
70 FOR R=1 TO 20: C=8
80 POKE FNA(R):0: GOSUB 200
90 POKE FNA(R):1: GOSUB 200
100 POKE FNA(R):2: GOSUB 200
110 NEXT R
120 END
200 FOR D=1 TO 30: NEXT D:
RETURN
```

In this example, I have placed the start of the new character set at 14336. Line 40 reads the new character data and puts it into the character data table. Line 20 holds the design described earlier. Line 50 sets the space character (32) to a space. The rest of the characters are garbage, since we haven't set them to anything interesting. If you want to return to the normal character set, the quick and dirty way is to press RUN/STOP and RESTORE together.

The normal display comprises two colours, the background and the foreground - in Sinclair Spectrum terms, paper and ink - and some border colour. These colours can be easily altered by putting the colour value (0 to 15) into the relevant register. The registers are:

Border	53280
Background	53288
Foreground	640

Since these registers use only the bottom 4 bits of the stored value, any value greater than 15 will simply result in cycling the colour sequence. In general, you should ensure that the value stored in any VIC register is accurately controlled since an incorrect value will at best give odd results and at worst a nasty crash - be warned!

In the default, or high resolution mode, a set point on the screen is displayed in foreground colour, and an inset point in background colour. While this gives the greatest clarity, it is not best suited to pretty graphics. So we enter multicolumn mode, which can give you up to four colours in any one character. The penalty is that the horizontal resolution is reduced from eight dots per character to four. The reason for this is that each pair of dots in the character pattern determines which colour is used. The colours are obtained as shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5

Colour Source	Bit Pair
background 23281	00
background 133282	01
background 233283	10
low 3 bits of colour RAM	11

Let us consider one byte of a pattern:

```
...** ** = 00001011
```

In high resolution mode, this would look like a pair of dots. If we split it into four pairs of bits we get another image:

```
00001011 = 00 00 10 11
```

Using Table 5, we can see that in multicolour mode, the first pair would appear as the background colour, the second pair would appear as a dot coloured in background one, the third as background two and the last as the colour ram. Because only the bottom 5 bits of the colour ram is used, the last pair can only use the first eight colours. The other bit is used to toggle multicolour mode for the particular character. You see, if the fourth bit is set, the character is set to multicolour; or else it is set to high resolution. In practical terms, you simply add eight to the colour value (in the range sought to seven). This allows you to mix both modes on screen. To turn on multicolour mode you see:

```
POKE 53270, PEEK(53270) OR 16
```

and to turn it off:

```
POKE 53270, PEEK(53270) AND 239
```

The next example sets up a blank screen and puts a multicolour character next to the same character in high resolution mode.

```
10 POKE 53280,0: POKE 53281,0
20 POKE 53282,0: POKE 53283,0
30 POKE 53270, PEEK(53270) OR 16
40 POKE 8034,1: POKE 8035,1
50 POKE 53296,1: POKE 53297,0
```

The lines 10 and 20 set up the colour registers. Line 30 turns on multicolour mode and line 40 puts an A in the top left two screen positions. The first POKE in line 50 clears the fourth bit of that particular colour memory location, thereby setting the ink colour to white, and setting the character to high resolution. The second POKE sets bit 4, thereby setting the ink colour to white and setting the character to multicolour.

Trying to design multicolour characters "by hand" is both tedious and

difficult - if you want to get good results, it would be worth your while investing in a good quality character designer.

If all of this is not enough, there is one more character mode - extended background mode. In this mode you have a high resolution character, but with a choice of four background colours. This time the system gets the colour choice from the screen contents.

In simple terms, the background colour depends on the character on the screen, and the foreground colour depends on the colour memory. Table 6 shows how:

TABLE 6

Colour Register	Character range
53281	0-63
53282	64-127
53283	128-191
53284	192-255

To turn on extended background you use:

```
POKE 53265, PEEK(53265) OR 64
```

and to turn it off:

```
POKE 53265, PEEK(53265) AND 190
```

Here is a simple example:

```
10 POKE 53260,0: POKE 53281,0
POKE 848,1: PRINT CHR$(147)
20 POKE 53284,1: POKE 53283,15
POKE 53282,15
30 POKE 53265, PEEK(53265) OR 64
40 FOR I=0 TO 255
50 POKE 8034+I
60 NEXT I
```

This is simply a repeat of an earlier program. Here I have used PRINT CHR\$(147) to clear the screen. On the newer 64s this fills the colour RAM with the current foreground colour. By the way don't try to use extended background mode with multicolour mode - it won't work.

As I mentioned earlier, it's possible to relocate the block of memory used for the screen display by altering the relevant bits in the memory control register (53272). This time, it's bits 4 to 7. For most users, this option is not of great use, but it does offer the option of having several screens active at once, with a simple means of switching between them. This could allow animation sequences, and other effects.

In a manner analogous to the character set, the screen can occupy

a range of positions. This time, in view of its larger size, the screen can be placed in one of 16 positions. These positions are in increments of 16.

Table 7 shows the available options:

TABLE 7

Location of Screen (offset from start of bank)	Z
0	0
8034	16
3048	32
8072	48
4096	64
5120	80
6144	96
7168	112
8192	128
9216	144
10240	160
11264	176
12288	192
13312	208
14336	224
15360	240

The first step is to change the pointer to the screen with:

```
POKE 53272, (PEEK(53272) AND 15) OR Z
```

As before, the start address offset is added to the start address of the current bank to get the absolute screen address. We if you intend to use BANK, you must also tell the editor where the screen is. A pointer to the page occupied by the screen is held in location 648. This must be altered. You get the page by obtaining the absolute address of the start of screen memory (as described in the last paragraph) and dividing it by 256. The 650 micro-processor handles memory in pages of 256 bytes. The result is POKE'd into location 648.

I must apologise to beginners for the large amount of theory in this part. Unfortunately it is unavoidable, and in any event, I want this short series to become a simple reference guide to which you can refer when necessary.

Well, that's about it for now. With the building blocks developed here, you should be able to start developing some interesting graphics of your own. Next time, I'll be looking at bit-mapped graphics and sprites. I will also include a small package of machine code routines which will ease the use of the VIC chip.

Relative File Programming

In the last of his series, Eric Rasmay gives some expert advice on filing with Commodores

To conclude this series, I have included every routine, including those for Basic 2 as well as the usual Basic 7, that is necessary for you to program your own files in Basic.

I'd also like to make a few suggestions which you might consider for your own applications. For example, where you have many thousands of records to access, you would of course have the Keyfield Search Routine (I've already shown you). This is quite fast — being able to find, in my case, a match in one record in a file of over 1,000 is less than nine accesses — but there is another way: an index file.

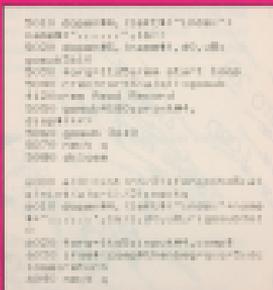
An index file contains details, not of all your records (although it could, this would be very wasteful, but of selected records. As you may recall, the search routine included a routine which repeatedly halved the numbers of records until it arrived at the one searched for; a method similar to this could be used in order to write an 'access' file. For example, imagine you have 4000 records already created, that have already been sorted. These could be partitioned, a sample record at each section read, and the keyfield found there saved in a file. This would be something like this:

```
5000  A$(1)=int((2+log(1+int(4000/
  1000)*4))*.5)*1000
```

This loop has effectively sectioned the file, so that using them you can take a sample of the sorted keyfield at that point.

Once having run this routine, a separate index file will exist which you can use to narrow down the search of a particular string within the keyfield by using the same loop:

At this point, the loop to read in the comparison sample string has been opened, and is then compared with the search string reported previously. If the search string is less than that of the comparison string, then obviously it a match is to be found it can be within the previous sample range. (A(A-I) stores the record number for the



Mailbag

Your chance to have your say

When I look at my 128 and my Amiga I am reminded strongly of the old fable of the Grasshopper and the Ant. The Grasshopper played all summer long, leaping and gambolling all over the meadow, showing off, but never doing anything really useful. The Ant on the other hand toiled steadily away, doing all the real work and laying up stores. When winter came the poor old Grasshopper had no reserves to be pished. At least the Amiga has made it through the winter, and done enough in the video field to make sure it will prosper, but while it may remain the machine for the future, I maintain that the 128 is that of the here and now.

I am not knocking the Amiga. I think it is a wonderful machine. If your main interest is in video graphics then the Amiga is your only choice. It is what I had hoped the C64 would be like when I bought it nearly five years ago. I remember, however, tramping around the computer shops trying to find a decent program, and am amazed at the things that are now being done with a C64. Even the designers hadn't any idea how powerful it would prove to be. The Amiga is in the position now that the C64 was five years ago - full of promise and potential, but with no really great programs around to exploit it. I only hope I won't have to wait another five years for the

programmers to get to know the Amiga.

I started with a C64, but bumbled after an 88-volume screen, so I took the plunge and bought a Commodore 128 and high-resolution colour monitor. I have never regretted it. Despite the scarcity of programs written for 128 made there were enough to make the 128 a real work-horse, and in any case one could resort to C64 mode to play *Elite*, *Leisurehouse World Class*, *Chess* or *Bridge*.

But always there was the sheer usefulness of the 128. I took on my wife's correspondence as secretary of a charitable organisation, did *Deputy Dates* for the year, and later produced professional-looking posters for both of them. Later I ventured into writing simple programmes in the enhanced Basic that can be found as the programming language of Superbase. It is this useless, accurate, time-saving, data-gobbling aspect of home computing which fascinates me.

When the Amiga first arrived it was priced out of my reach. I could only envy those who could afford and I think the majority of 64/128 owners felt the same. Then came the A500, and I decided that I ought to keep up with the times. I chose the relatively cheap way in by buying an A500 and having my 1801 Monitor converted by Trilogic of Bradford for only £25. It equals the dedicated Amiga Monitor

for colour and definition, but it can, of course, still be used with the C128.

I must confess that I was almost drooling over the new possibilities - a seemingly endless memory, and a very speedy disk drive. New technology would open the flood-gates and things would really take off. Thus, there weren't many programs available, and even games were twice the price, but time would cure that. The instantly noticeable difference was the graphics. No more clumsy blocked sprites. No more prying into a blurred screen trying to guess which chunk of blocks was the alien. I bought *Defender of the Crown* and marvelled at the incredible detail. Then I took a flight round the Statue of Liberty and the rest is in. Instead of the rounded lady of the C64 (albeit floating past the side windows rather jerkily) I could see only a cardboard cut-out. I may be wrong. Maybe my copy has a glitch. But the first faint shadow of death had crept in. The sun was beginning to cloud over a little. I returned to *Defender of the Crown*. The scenery was as delightful as ever, but was the game-play a little stilted? Even better? Yes it was. Very! I bought *Leisurehouse* for the Amiga. Quite frankly I preferred the multiplicity of screens on the C64. And it played just as well as on the Amiga. *Star Glider* was quite good, but I prefer *Elite* on the 64.

Ah, yes, but it must be

much better for the really productive work? Well, I have tried *Scribble*, *Flowrite Desktop* and finally *Wordperfect*, but for a really user-friendly yet very powerful word-processor, which can be customised with a built in language, give me *Superwriter 128* in 80 columns on the C128 any time. You know that familiarity plays a part, but a new, powerful 16-bit program should overcome that, surely.

I will continue to work with the Am, while playing with the Grasshopper, waiting impatiently for it to get down to some real work. With 128s available second-hand for £128 (my *Once Bitten*) and lovely printers like the Parasonic 881 giving very near laser quality as cheap as £190 new (with cables), it seems that the Ant has a lot of hard work in it yet. New programs and utilities are pouring in from America, and I gather that the new 1581 3.5-inch disk drive is fast and reliable six times the speed and four or five times the capacity of the old 1541, so I'm told. Most of the programs available are tried and tested. Spreadsheets, databases, wordprocessors and the like abound, all at prices far lower than similar material for the Amiga and PCs.

So don't sell the C64 or 128 to buy an Amiga. Save up a little longer, and buy an Amiga as well, and while you are waiting continue the good work with the 64 or 128!


```

SCORES: POKE$70, 100: POKE$75, 25
1: POKE$80, 133: POKE$85, 95: POKE
$90, 100: POKE$95, 100
SCORES: POKE$95, 133: POKE$90, 95
: POKE$85, 75: POKE$87, 100: POKE
$88, 100
SCORES: POKE$91, 25: POKE$92, 22
$93: POKE$94, 23: POKE$91, 24
SCORES: POKE$95, 20: POKE$98, 20
SCORES: SYSTEM
SCORES: RETURN

```

The machine code is entered as a series of pages, because a loop which read data in could cause problems with data occurring whenever this routine was called, especially if there are data statements in the main program.

To demonstrate the use of the program, there is a routine in the Listings page at the back of the magazine which demonstrates how to move the character block into RAM and then redefines all 128 characters as reversed versions of their original forms. After a short pause, this process is reversed to restore the characters to their original appearance.

The loss of 14379 bytes of memory

may seem like a large sacrifice, but the spare memory before 12388 could be used to store sprite data for sprites 32 to 194. Alternatively, the screen could be moved higher up the memory, and the character set stored alongside it. This would mean a fairly complex set-up routine, however.

Another use for this memory space would be to store a second character set. The character set in use could be moved to 2048 and the second character set could be moved from \$144 to 12388. In this way, the two sets could easily be swapped as will.

Apply Yourself

ROM moving is not the only application for this routine. Another exercise would be to use the routine in a program based on pull-down or pop-up menus. Even though the menu may only overwrite three lines of the screen to a width of maybe six or seven characters, the move subroutine could be used to store all three complete lines in the memory are at 49152. After the move

selection is made, the same routine could restore the three lines instantly.

I'm sure that you will come up with many more ingenious applications, but remember that the memory mover is a one-way device. For example, a block of memory could be moved to start at 2048 if its original start was 2048, but it couldn't be moved to 2048 if it started at 2049. The reason is that the memory moves work from the end to the start. Imagine that the block starts at 2049 and ends at 2308. If a move is attempted to cover 2048 to 2099, what would happen?

First of all, the routine would pick up the content of 2100 and store it in 2099. Next, the content of 2099, which has just been overwritten, would be moved to 2098 and so on. The result would be a block from 2048 to 2100 which would only have one byte, that which was in 2100 originally! For safety's sake, make sure that any block moves don't access locations which the block to be moved already occupies. You can jump either way, but if you're going to jump, make it a big one.

Binders

Organise and protect your disk with Commodore Disk User disk binders and data disks.

Why not keep your Commodore Disk User program collections alongside your magazines in a stylish Disk User disk binder? The binder comes complete with 10 disk sleeves to organise and protect your program disks. Why not buy a disk binder to house all of your data disks? We can even supply Commodore Disk User data disks. The Commodore Disk User logo immediately identifies your disks and there's room to title them and document the disks details. Send for your disks and binders now!

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10 sleeves for insertion in binder, £1.58. Order code

BDG10

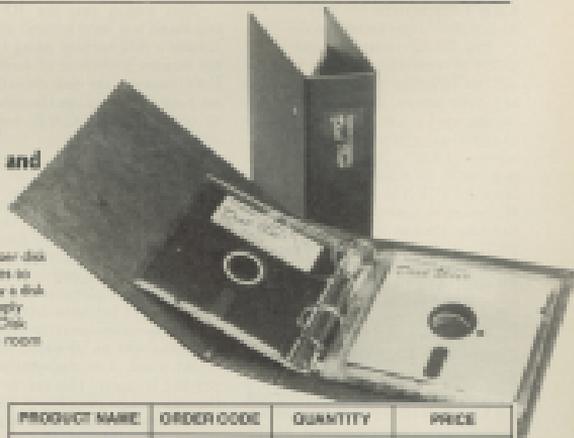
10 sleeves for inclusion in binder, £1.75. Order code

BDG20

10 Commodore Disk User data disks, £3.95. Order

code **BDDB**

All orders should be sent to: YOUR COMMODORE, READERS SERVICES, ARGUS SPECIALIST PUBLICATIONS, 9 HALL ROAD, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS HP2 7HH. Please allow 28 days for delivery.



PRODUCT NAME	ORDER CODE	QUANTITY	PRICE
Overseas postage add £1.00			
TOTAL			

First Steps

The C128, C16 and Plus! all have their own sets of strange error messages

By Norman Doyle

The extended Basics of the newer Commodore computers mean that extra error messages are required which don't feature on the C64. The C16/Plus! machines added another six, and this was built-on with the advent of the C128 by a further five.

Can't Resume

Occurrence: programming error

The TRAP statement acts like a GOSUB command, but acts globally like an interrupt routine. Whenever any error occurs, the program jumps to the error handling subroutine situated at whatever line number follows TRAP. The subroutine is terminated by RESUME, which acts like a RETURN in a GOSUB routine. If a program is written with the error-handling routine at the end and no END command is encountered, execution will run into the error routine, and when RESUME is encountered this error message will be generated.

Loop Not Found

Occurrence: programming error

This means that a DO command has been encountered, but the program cannot find a corresponding LOOP command.

Loop Without Do

Occurrence: programming error

This is the opposite of the previous error. It occurs when a LOOP command is encountered but a DO command isn't currently active.

Direct Mode Only

Occurrence: user error

Some of the extended Basic commands, such as AUTO, can only

be used in direct mode. In other words, they must be typed onto the screen, and then the RETURN key must be pressed. Any attempt to include such a command in a program will be met with this message.

No Graphics Area

Occurrence: programming error

This message was used without an ID to rename a disk without going through the lengthy procedure of formatting. Unfortunately, the disk changes hasn't yet been formatted, so the solution is to repeat the HEADER command with an ID added.

Bad Disk

Occurrence: read/write or bad disk

At best, this means that the HEADER command was used without an ID to rename a disk without going through the lengthy procedure of formatting. Unfortunately, the disk changes hasn't yet been formatted, so the solution is to repeat the HEADER command with an ID added.

At worst, it means what it says - the disk is faulty. This can be caused through rough or careless handling, but occasionally it means that the disk was faulty in manufacture or simply worn out through over-use. Throw the disk away and start again with a fresh one.

The next group of errors are the ones which only appear on the C128.

Bend Not Found

Occurrence: programming error

When an IF...THEN BEGIN or IF...THEN...ELSE BEGIN construct is found, the computer then looks for

the corresponding BEND command. If it can't find one, it flags this error.

Line Too Large

Occurrence: user

The highest possible value for a program line is 63999. If an attempt is made to RENUMBER a program and any of the renumbered line values will exceed 63999, the command is aborted without being executed, and this error message is displayed.

Unresolved Reference

Occurrence: program error

If an attempt is made to remember a program and the programmer has created a line which is referenced by a GOTO, GOSUB, GPN or TRAP command, the RENUMBER routine will not be able to execute properly. Once again the command is aborted without any action being performed, but this time the unresolved reference message is returned.

Unimplemented Command

Occurrence: program error

Two commands are included in C128 Basic, but have no action associated with them. These commands are QUIT and OFF. If either is used, the computer politely reminds the user that it is an unimplemented command.

File Read

Occurrence: operational error

This means that a file or program has failed to load. The reasons could be because the disk has been damaged or because an over-zealous user has opened the drive door before the program has finished loading.

Contributions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Abbreviation of the article title
Your name
The page number

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

Interrupts/Interrupts/1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12) If some article needs any artwork then supply clear examples of what is needed. We don't expect you to be an artist but we do need to see what is required.

13) Photographs, if necessary, must be either black and white prints or colour slides. We can take shots ourselves so don't worry about this too much.

14) Submissions of any length are welcome. If you have a five line routine that you think may be of use to someone else we welcome it just as much as a full blown six part series.

15) Payment varies quite a lot and depends on quite a number of factors, such as complexity of program, presentation of program, number of magazine pages it takes up etc. Payment is generally between £10.00 and £200.00.

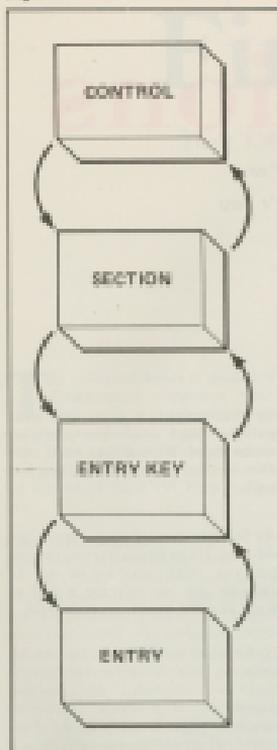
16) All payments are made in the month that the magazine containing your article has appeared in print.

17) If we do find your submission suitable for inclusion in the magazine we will write to you giving the terms of publication, the rate of payment and an agreement form. Prompt return of this form will allow us to use your program as soon as possible.

18) If you want the program returned to you, should we find it unsuitable for publication, then you should enclose a stamped self addressed envelope.

19) The last and most important point to make is 'get writing', we are waiting for your articles.

Figure 1



Electronic Notebook is an electronic implementation of the very popular Personal Organizer. It provides the means by which information can be stored, under a key, in a file. It does this by utilizing database techniques similar to those on mainframe computers.

An Electronic Notebook file can be as small or as large as you require, up to the maximum size of the disk. On the 1540 disk drive this will be around 3500 records, but on larger disks with a capacity of 1 megabyte the number increases to 24000. A single Electronic Notebook file contains four different record types which are used to implement the database structure (See Figure 1). The records form a hierarchical structure at which each level holds varying degrees of information required by the user. The four records are:

Electronic Notebook

Get yourself organised with this powerful database

By L. Keighley

CONTROL This record holds control information about the usage of the database. This includes details of where the first empty record is and what the access password is. The user is not given access to this record it is maintained by the Electronic Notebook program alone.

SECTION This record is the Header or Folder under which information is to be stored. Apart from pointers to the next and last Section records and pointers to its next and last Entry Key records, it holds the Title of the section and its type. The types allowed are Labels, Notes and Text.

ENTRY KEY This record holds the key to the information that is to be stored below it, along with the pointer to the first Entry record. Pointers are also held to the next and last Entry Key records.

ENTRY Each Entry record holds up to 15 characters of information along with the pointer to the next Entry. If the information to be held is of the Text type a seventy character line is made up of two consecutive Entry records.

The Section records can only be accessed by stepping through all those present, but the Entry Key records can be obtained using the given Key.

All the records at each level are 'owned' by a record at the level above. For example, a Section record may be designated as 'Addresses' and may have below it two address Entry Keys for 'Fred' and 'Joan' below each of the Entry Key records will be any number of Entry records that it refers to hold all of the address for each person. The records held at all levels below Control are held in 'chains'.

The program allows maintenance of all user information, add/delete/insert, at the lowest three levels with the exception of key information, this is restricted by password. All the 'chains' are held in sequence of key and to change the key requires that their position in the chain is altered. While the physical position on the disk of the record does not change all the pointers around its old and new positions must be updated. This action requires the reading and writing of a number of records and therefore takes some time.

The database could be used as a diary if each Entry Key within a Section called 'Diary' was given the date of each day in the year.

The hardcopy output facilities provided by Electronic Notebook are Labels, printed in single or two up form. Notes, again printed in single or two up form and Text printed as seventy character lines.

Access to the facilities of Electronic Notebook are from an on-screen menu. Functions are selected by keying the appropriate number. Some require two numbers to be keyed, the first to select general functions and the second to select the specific function.

Control:

- E First available empty record
- E1 End of file = 1 record
- S1 First Section record
- S2 Last Section record
- M Maximum number of records
- M1 Marker Types used
- P5 Password

Sections:

- T5 Title
- S3 Next Section
- S4 Last Section
- E2 Next Entry
- E3 Last Entry
- T15 Type
- M2 Marker

Entry Keys:

- E4 Next Entry
- E5 Last Entry
- R5 Key
- N1 Next Entry

Entries:

- S2 Next Entry
- D5 Data

Operating Instructions

- 1 Load and Run the program 'ENDNOTEBOOK', a menu will then be displayed of all the actions that are allowed on the database.
- 2 To select an action, with the exception of 'Initialise', requires that two keys be pressed. The first selects the area of the database that is to be worked on or the print option and second selects the type of action.
- 3 When entering Text information the '.' cannot be used. This is because of the way in which the computer rates data in from the keyboard. The comma is used to indicate the end of input for one field and the beginning of input for the next. So that, the comma can be entered in text the '.' should be used. This will result in a comma

being displayed on the screen and printed when necessary.

- 4 'V' must always be selected from the menu to end the program this ensures that the database is closed correctly and the last buffer of information is stored on the disk.
- 5 When a new database is set up the number of database records allowed can be varied from 500 up to 3500. Each record has to be written to the database and therefore this takes some time. The database already set up has 2500 entries and took approximately 18 minutes to initialise.
- 6 The password when correctly entered allows the printer fields to be avoided. This can corrupt the database if done incorrectly, hence the password. The password for the sample database is 'CDSUCDU'.

C16 and PLUS/4 PROGRAM 

Head for Home

Challenge your friends to a version of one of the World's oldest boardgames

Head for Home is presented in the form of two Basic Loaders. These should be typed in and saved separately. If using tape make sure that you save the DLOAD at the end of the first program to a LOAD instruction.

Care should be taken when entering the program, as some of the lines contain machine code. A single mistake on entry would cause the program not to work.

Getting Going

Once the program is up and running, you will be asked if you require instructions and the number of players. Head for Home is designed for 2-6 players.

To start the game, a player needs to throw a six on the computer dice. The play rotates around the players until one scores a six. If no move is possible a sound will tell you. Once a player throws a six the dice is rolled again until a different number is thrown. The sum of the dice throws becomes the number of positions that a player can move, though it costs a six to move a man onto the board.

When a move is required a cursor will appear on the screen. The Player

should press one of the numbers 1-4, depending on which piece they wish to move. The move is only accepted if it is legal. If no move can be made, press P to pass.

Pieces move in the same order as the die throws. So, if you have two sixes and a three and press 2 4 1, piece 2 and 4 move 6 spaces and piece 1 moves 1. Entering 2 2 1 would move piece 2 12 spaces.

Each playing piece travels around the board once. When it leaves the white track and moves onto the last 5 coloured spaces. The exact number must be thrown in order to reach home base.

That's all there is to it - have fun!

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

It's three o'clock in the morning. You sit at the computer keyboard having just finished a marathon typing session entering one of the superb programs from *Your Commodore*. Your fingers reach for the keyboard and press the letters R, L 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 \$9.95 for disk and 14.95 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, 2 River Park Estate, Bortholmead, Harro
HP4 1HL.
Tel: (04427) 7665

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 Plus/4 cassettes. However programs for these machines will be available on the disk.

What programs are available?

At the top of each article you will find a strap containing the article type, C14 Program etc. So that you can see which programs are available on which format, you will also find a couple of symbols after this strap. 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 placing a program that expects to be reading from disk on to tape.

OCTOBER 1988

SPRITE LIBRARY - In this instalment our sprites take on the look of the alphabet (C64)

SAMPLER 64 - See September 1988 for details (full program on both September and October disks and tapes).

SET THE ALARM - Use the C64's in-built clock as an alarm.

JACK IN THE BOX - A handy box utility for Basic and machine code programmers (C64).

FILE EXTENSION - Modify your disk directory so that you can load all your programs with ease (C64 disk only).

HI-RES/MULTI-COLOR PLOTTER - A selection of plot routines for both Basic and machine code programmers (C64).

JOYSTICK CURSOR - Let your joystick emulate the cursor keys (C64).

HI-RES FILL - A superb machine code fill routine for all graphics programmers (C64).

CODE RELOCATOR - Change your machine code programs so that they will run in any area of your C64's memory.

ORDER CODE

TAPE YDOCT88 6.00

DISK YDOCT88 6.00

NOVEMBER 1988

SECRET WRITING - Learn how to conceal messages and how to protect your Basic programs (C64).

FAIRLESS WINDOWS - Extend the power of the C128's WINDOW* command.

UNLOCK HIDDEN 128 POWERS - Use the full keyset of your C128 in C64 mode.

WILLIAM TELL - Fight off the Austrian soldiers in this great C64 arcade game.

TALKING COMPUTERS - Use speech synthesizers with your C64.

ORDER CODE

TAPE YNOV88 6.00

DISK YNOV88 6.00

DECEMBER 1985

F-KEY LABELLER - Use your Commodore printer to produce a template for your function keys (C64).

+4 DIRECTORY EDITOR - Rearrange your Plus/4 disk directory entries however you like. Available on disk only.

DOUBLE HEIGHT - Enhance your C64 text displays with a double height character set.

PROGRAM PROTECTION - Protect your latest C64 masterpiece from prying eyes.

SPRITE CONTROLLER - Basic sprite manipulation made easy. C64.

GRAPHIC EDITOR - A quick and simple C64 UDG editor.

MASTERING THE RASTER - The source code to accompany our article on raster interrupts (C64).

CREATING CHARACTERS - Give your Plus/4 and Commodore printer a better print quality. Available on disk only.

WILLIAM TELL - See November for details (C64).

ORDER CODE

TAPE YDCD85 £6.00

DISK YDDEC85 £6.00

JANUARY 1986

PREFAB SPRITES - A powerful sprite editor for the C64.

DAZPRO - A simple but helpful text processor for the C64. Available on disk and cassette but will only store files on tape.

UDG COMPRESSOR - Save on memory when using UDG's in your programs. For C64 only.

WILLIAM TELL - Our popular arcade game for the C64.

+4 AUTORUN - Improve tape loading on your Plus/4 cassette. Only available on disk.

MINIBASE - A database for C64 owners.

ORDER CODE

DISK YDJA589 £6.00

TAPE YCJAN89 £6.00

FEBRUARY 1986

TAPE MENU - Add a menu system to your program cassettes (C64).

SONIC EFFECTS - A superb sound editor for the C64.

F DUMP - Dump your C64 test screens to printer with ease.

DATA LOADER - A simple way to enter those teams of C64 DATA lines.

SPRITE LIBRARY - A collection of birds to your growing library (C64).

PLAY THE GAME - A superb fruit machine program for the Plus/4. (Available on disk only).

ORDER CODE

DISK YDFEB89 £6.00

TAPE YCFEB89 £6.00

Cassettes or disks are available from March 1986. Please ring the editorial office (01-477 0626) for details of these.

ORDER FORM - PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

NAME	QTY	TAPE/DISK	ORDER CODE	PRICE
MARCH 89		TAPE (£6.00)	YCMAR89	
MARCH 89		DISK (£6.00)	YDMAR89	
OVERSEAS POST £1				
				TOTAL

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ADDRESS.....

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Prices allow 28 days for delivery.

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 SYS49132 and the screen will return to the familiar blue colours. You can then do whatever it was you wanted to do and if this doesn't use the area where Checksum lives you can go back to it with the same SYS 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. 

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
[RYSON]		CTRL & 9
[RYSONF]		CTRL & 8



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]		£
[LARRON]		←
[UPARROW]		↑
[P1]		SHIFT & ↑
[INST]		SHIFT & INST/DEL
[REV T]		rev text
[Clear]		CRM + letter
[Store]		SHIFT + letter



LIFESAVER	C64	REVERSER	II
<p>This little machine code routine will enable Basic programs to be enhanced with flashing messages etc. It will reverse on and off any part of the screen that you desire.</p> <p>The routine redirects the IRQ Interrupt Vector at memory location 788 so your Basic program will be free to do what you want.</p> <p>To start REVERSER, POKE the data into memory then POKE the following locations with the values requested: POKE 251,L-BYTE (Screen start address) POKE 252,H-BYTE POKE 253,NUMBER OF CHAR. POKE 254,FLASH RATE Then SYS 49152 to start or SYS 49196 to switch off.</p> <p>The program includes a short demo to show how to set the program up.</p>		<pre> 10REM **** REVERSER MACHINE CODE **** 20POKE-80000,INT(PI*3.14159) 30POKE-80000,INT(PI*3.14159) 40DATA 120,100,15,141,20,3,100,101,141,21,3,100, 175, 57, 100 50DATA 107, 234, 208, 18, 100, 255, 140, 57, 102, 140, 0, 177, 211, 75, 238, 140 60DATA 251,200,100, 220, 200,203, 200, 57, 102, 70, 40, 254, 220,140, 40, 141 70DATA 20, 3, 100, 234, 140, 21, 3, 100, 96, 0, 21, 200, 235, 0, 21, 74 80REM **** REVERSER DEMO **** 90POKE250,PI*3.14159:PI*3.14159 100PRINT CHR(147);PRINT CHR(147);POKE COMMODEOR 110POKE251,10REM * NUMBER OF CHARACTERS TO REVERSE * 120POKE254,10REM * FLASH RATE * 130A=1000:REM * SCREEN ADDRESS * 140POKE253,A AND 255:REM * POKE VALUES FOR SCREEN ADDRESS * 150POKE252,A/256 160SYS 49152:REM * CALL MAC * 170GET AREA:" THEN 170 180SYS 49196:REM * SWITCH OFF MAC * </pre>	
			By Neil Higgins

Listings

William Tell



PROGRAM: WILLIAM TELL - LISTING 8

<pre> 77 10 SC=400 :LN=0 :SM=0:20 8 89 80 FOR L=0 TO SC/20 FOR S= 0 TO 10 90 81 READ A:POKE3000,A 91 20 EXPAND:POKE SM+L*20,A: NEXT 92 30 REPEAT 37 A=C+TRND(10 93 35 PRINT:ERR=LN:LN=L+ L*20:STOP 94 90 NEXT L:SYSTEM 95 80 DATA 30,31,100,30,7,100,0 0,100,100,100,170,0,3,100,1 00,171,1000 96 80 DATA 81,3,100,0,171,100,0 ,141,10,100,30,107,100,00,00 ,100,1000 97 80 DATA 14,141,100,0,100,147 ,30,010,100,173,00,100,91,07 </pre>	<pre> 7,3,10,1000 98 80 DATA 140,00,000,100,7,140 ,010,3,100,0,171,30,000,170, 00,3,1000 99 80 DATA 141,00,3,100,001,100 ,000,107,00,3,107,00,3,107,7 0,3,1000 100 80 DATA 107,00,3,000,10,071 ,100,3,171,000,0,100,001,100 ,71,100,0040 101 100 DATA 040,30,100,100,040 ,200,00,100,170,070,001,000,0 ,50,71,30,070,0007 102 100 DATA 000,100,30,30,010,0 ,00,100,30,30,000,000,100,37 ,30,010,000,0001 103 140 DATA 100,30,00,000,000,7 0,00,100,000,010,171,00,3,10 0,000,171,0000 104 140 DATA 00,3,100,100,171,00 ,3,100,100,171,00,3,00,173,1 7,000,1000 105 100 DATA 91,107,171,07,000,1 70,00,000,0,1,171,00,000,170 ,070,000,1730 106 100 DATA 91,000,141,14,000,0 </pre>	<pre> 0,070,00,000,141,00,000,91,1 ,000,3,1700 107 170 DATA 70,00,000,170,1000,0 ,070,3,70,000,100,141,07,000 ,100,000,0000 108 180 DATA 911,000,000,100,140 ,0,000,170,07,000,170,00,3,0 70,1,000,1000 109 180 DATA 07,000,100,100,01,0 00,100,0,171,00,000,100,100, 171,00,000,1001 110 000 DATA 100,3,171,00,000,10 0,0,100,07,000,100,7,000,24 ,100,10,1000 111 010 DATA 100,140,000,7,000,1 ,100,100,000,00,07,3,017,01 ,100,170,0000 112 000 DATA 0,100,0,100,07,3,10 7,0,000,000,00,107,0,000,000 ,000,0000 113 010 DATA 100,000,000,170,10 ,000,000,000,07,100,0,171,00,0 100,170,00,0000 114 070 DATA 100,000,010,170,100 ,000,000,000,7,1000,0,171,00,0 100,170,00,0000 115 070 DATA 0,000,01,07,070,0,3 ,100,0,171,00,3,100,07,100, 0,1000 </pre>
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LISTINGS

```

28 770 DATA 271.2,288.197,254.1
   3.48,224,2024
29 780 DATA 148.8,177.263,153.1
   75.208,177.253,154.178,148.2
   23,138,120,103,8840
30 790 DATA 208,248,120,178,30.1
   48,148,148,2,120,178,30.48,1
   94,78,128,2520
31 800 DATA 8,8,8,8,8,8,8,8,8,8
   8,8,8,8,8,8,8
32 810 PRINT"ICLS,DOWN,8Y80888"
   PRINT A KEY WHEN READY TO KEY B
33 820 GOTO 1700:"*****"
34 830 PRINT:G;:"*****"
35 840 PRINT:G;:"*****"
36 850 PRINT:G;:"*****"
37 860 PRINT:G;:"*****"
38 870 PRINT:G;:"*****"
39 880 PRINT:G;:"*****"
40 890 PRINT:G;:"*****"
41 900 PRINT:G;:"*****"
42 910 PRINT:G;:"*****"
43 920 PRINT:G;:"*****"
44 930 PRINT:G;:"*****"
45 940 PRINT:G;:"*****"
46 950 PRINT:G;:"*****"
47 960 PRINT:G;:"*****"
48 970 PRINT:G;:"*****"
49 980 PRINT:G;:"*****"
50 990 PRINT:G;:"*****"

```

Letter Writer



PROGRAM: LETTER WRITER

```

51 1 PRINT"ICLS,DOWN,8Y80888"
   GOTO 1700:G;:"*****"
52 2 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
53 3 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
54 4 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
55 5 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
56 6 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
57 7 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
58 8 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
59 9 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
60 10 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
61 11 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
62 12 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
63 13 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
64 14 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
65 15 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
66 16 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
67 17 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
68 18 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
69 19 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
70 20 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
71 21 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
72 22 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
73 23 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
74 24 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
75 25 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
76 26 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
77 27 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
78 28 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
79 29 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
80 30 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
81 31 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
82 32 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
83 33 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
84 34 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
85 35 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
86 36 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
87 37 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
88 38 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
89 39 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
90 40 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
91 41 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
92 42 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
93 43 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
94 44 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
95 45 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
96 46 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
97 47 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
98 48 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
99 49 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"
100 50 710:GOTO 1700:"*****"

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51 31 PRINT"*****"
52 32 PRINT"*****"
53 33 PRINT"*****"
54 34 PRINT"*****"
55 35 PRINT"*****"
56 36 PRINT"*****"
57 37 PRINT"*****"
58 38 PRINT"*****"
59 39 PRINT"*****"
60 40 PRINT"*****"
61 41 PRINT"*****"
62 42 PRINT"*****"
63 43 PRINT"*****"
64 44 PRINT"*****"
65 45 PRINT"*****"
66 46 PRINT"*****"
67 47 PRINT"*****"
68 48 PRINT"*****"
69 49 PRINT"*****"
70 50 PRINT"*****"
71 51 PRINT"*****"
72 52 PRINT"*****"
73 53 PRINT"*****"
74 54 PRINT"*****"
75 55 PRINT"*****"
76 56 PRINT"*****"
77 57 PRINT"*****"
78 58 PRINT"*****"
79 59 PRINT"*****"
80 60 PRINT"*****"
81 61 PRINT"*****"
82 62 PRINT"*****"
83 63 PRINT"*****"
84 64 PRINT"*****"
85 65 PRINT"*****"
86 66 PRINT"*****"
87 67 PRINT"*****"
88 68 PRINT"*****"
89 69 PRINT"*****"
90 70 PRINT"*****"
91 71 PRINT"*****"
92 72 PRINT"*****"
93 73 PRINT"*****"
94 74 PRINT"*****"
95 75 PRINT"*****"
96 76 PRINT"*****"
97 77 PRINT"*****"
98 78 PRINT"*****"
99 79 PRINT"*****"
100 80 PRINT"*****"

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101 81 PRINT"*****"
102 82 PRINT"*****"
103 83 PRINT"*****"
104 84 PRINT"*****"
105 85 PRINT"*****"
106 86 PRINT"*****"
107 87 PRINT"*****"
108 88 PRINT"*****"
109 89 PRINT"*****"
110 90 PRINT"*****"
111 91 PRINT"*****"
112 92 PRINT"*****"
113 93 PRINT"*****"
114 94 PRINT"*****"
115 95 PRINT"*****"
116 96 PRINT"*****"
117 97 PRINT"*****"
118 98 PRINT"*****"
119 99 PRINT"*****"
120 100 PRINT"*****"
121 101 PRINT"*****"
122 102 PRINT"*****"
123 103 PRINT"*****"
124 104 PRINT"*****"
125 105 PRINT"*****"
126 106 PRINT"*****"
127 107 PRINT"*****"
128 108 PRINT"*****"
129 109 PRINT"*****"
130 110 PRINT"*****"
131 111 PRINT"*****"
132 112 PRINT"*****"
133 113 PRINT"*****"
134 114 PRINT"*****"
135 115 PRINT"*****"
136 116 PRINT"*****"
137 117 PRINT"*****"
138 118 PRINT"*****"
139 119 PRINT"*****"
140 120 PRINT"*****"

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0195-000 - T388 (new) £9849.00
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0197-000 - T392 (new) £9949.00
0198-000 - T394 (new) £9999.00
0199-000 - T396 (new) £10049.00
0200-000 - T398 (new) £10099.00
0201-000 - T400 (new) £10149.00
0202-000 - T402 (new) £10199.00
0203-000 - T404 (new) £10249.00
0204-000 - T406 (new) £10299.00
0205-000 - T408 (new) £10349.00
0206-000 - T410 (new) £10399.00
0207-000 - T412 (new) £10449.00
0208-000 - T414 (new) £10499.00
0209-000 - T416 (new) £10549.00
0210-000 - T418 (new) £10599.00
0211-000 - T420 (new) £10649.00
0212-000 - T422 (new) £10699.00
0213-000 - T424 (new) £10749.00
0214-000 - T426 (new) £10799.00
0215-000 - T428 (new) £10849.00
0216-000 - T430 (new) £10899.00
0217-000 - T432 (new) £10949.00
0218-000 - T434 (new) £10999.00
0219-000 - T436 (new) £11049.00
0220-000 - T438 (new) £11099.00
0221-000 - T440 (new) £11149.00
0222-000 - T442 (new) £11199.00
0223-000 - T444 (new) £11249.00
0224-000 - T446 (new) £11299.00
0225-000 - T448 (new) £11349.00
0226-000 - T450 (new) £11399.00
0227-000 - T452 (new) £11449.00
0228-000 - T454 (new) £11499.00
0229-000 - T456 (new) £11549.00
0230-000 - T458 (new) £11599.00
0231-000 - T460 (new) £11649.00
0232-000 - T462 (new) £11699.00
0233-000 - T464 (new) £11749.00
0234-000 - T466 (new) £11799.00
0235-000 - T468 (new) £11849.00
0236-000 - T470 (new) £11899.00
0237-000 - T472 (new) £11949.00
0238-000 - T474 (new) £11999.00
0239-000 - T476 (new) £12049.00
0240-000 - T478 (new) £12099.00
0241-000 - T480 (new) £12149.00
0242-000 - T482 (new) £12199.00
0243-000 - T484 (new) £12249.00
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Readers Problems

Though the Commodore 64 is one of the world's most popular microcomputers, it can be very difficult to find specific information about your particular machine.

At the Your Commodore office we receive literally hundreds of letters from you, our readers, on a wide range of subjects ranging from the simple 'Can you give me the telephone number for ...', to the more complex 'I'm trying to write a program that uses a split screen. How do I do it?'

Unfortunately, the volume of mail received has become so great that it is impossible to answer every letter and will manage to publish a magazine each month.

For this reason we have felt it necessary to produce a number of guidelines for getting information from us.

- 1) We cannot guarantee to answer every letter sent to the magazine. Should it become apparent that a number of readers are suffering from the same problem, then we will reply to the letter via the Letters page.
- 2) A new helpline has been set up. This will be open for your queries on

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. We will not be able to deal with your telephone queries at any other time. If our technical adviser is not available when you ring, then a message will be taken.

3) If you are having problems with one of our listings, can you please let us know in writing. This will enable us to see if a number of people are having the same problem. When a common problem becomes apparent with a program, then a correction sheet will be issued. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope and we will send you a copy of the correction sheet as soon as it is available.

We are sorry that it has become necessary to institute these rules. However, we are sure that you will agree with us that the more time that we can spend making Your Commodore the most informative magazine around, the better.

For program queries write to:

Programs Corrections

Your Commodore

1 Gledhill Square

London

W1R 3AB

If you wish to telephone then call:

01-437 8636 Extn 212

Commodore Where Are You?

At the Your Commodore office we are repeatedly asked for the address and telephone number of Commodore U.K. Many people, after referring to their computer manuals, believe them to be based in Corby.

The Commodore plant at Corby was closed down some time ago. Reprinted here you will find the correct address for Commodore U.K.

We suggest that you write this correct address in the front of your

computers manual for future reference.

Commodore Business Machines, U.K.,
Commodore House,
The Switchback,
Gardiner Road,
Middlesbrough,
Norths 116 TXA.

Tel: (0628) 770088

William Tell

If you have been trying in the William Tell program over the last few months you will be pleased to note that it is completed in this issue.

In order to get the program to run correctly you should follow the procedure below:

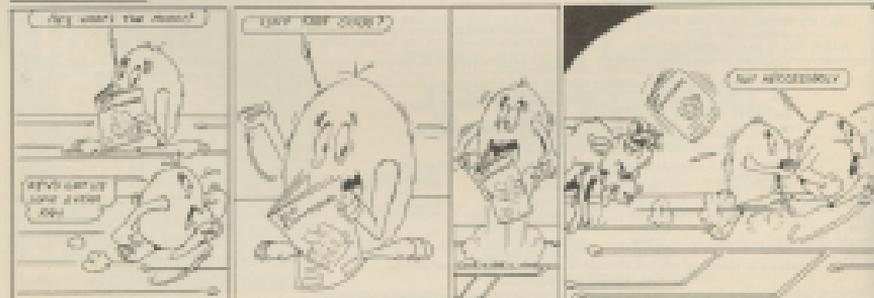
- 1) Make sure that you have the 5 Basic loader in hand.
- 2) If using cassette make sure that you have a new one handy and that it is a long one.
- 3) Type in and SAVE the program below onto your disk or onto the cassette mentioned in 2 above. If using cassette change the Z's to 1's.
- 4) Turn OFF and ON your machine.
- 5) LOAD the first Basic loader and RUN it. A new program will be saved out once this is finished. If using cassette make sure that you place the new cassette into the recorder before you RUN the loader. The new program should be saved directly after the program you have just entered in 5.
- 6) Turn OFF and ON your machine.
- 7) LOAD the next Basic loader and repeat the steps 5 to 7 for all remaining Basic loaders.
- 8) To start the William Tell program simply LOAD and RUN the last program that you SAVED. This will then LOAD and RUN the rest of the game.

PROGRAM WILLIAM TELL

```

10 IFA=0THENLOAD"WT",A,1,0-A+1
20 IFA=0THENLOAD"WT",A,1,0-A+1
30 IFA=0THENLOAD"WT",A,1,0-A+1
40 IFA=0THENLOAD"WT",A,1,0-A+1
50 IFA=0THENLOAD"WT",A,1,0-A+1
60 IFA=0THENLOAD"WT",A,1,0-A+1
70 SYS 9191

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The Nibbles*By Alan Batchelor*

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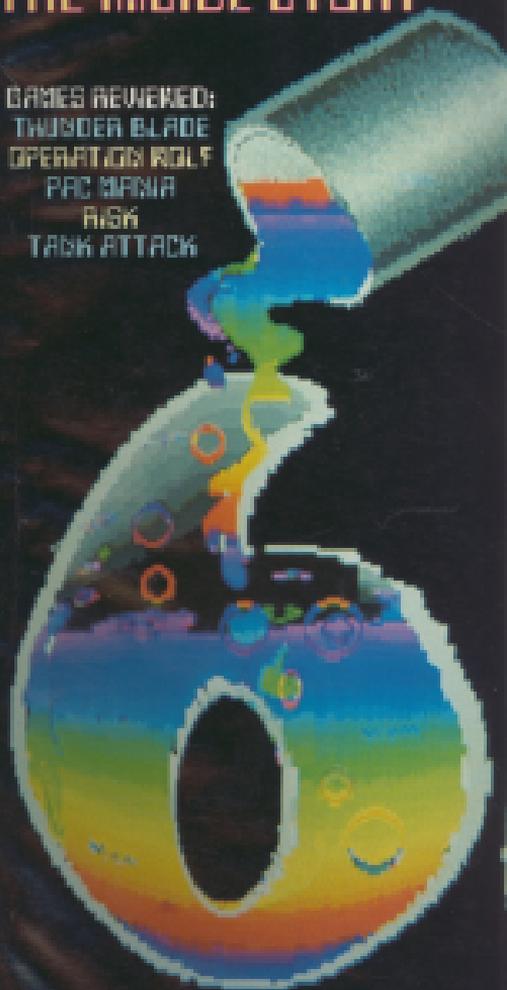
April Commodore March 1991

Volume 3 Number 8

YOUR COMMODORE

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