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NOVEMBER 1985

VOL.2 NO.5

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CLUB ROOMS: Playgr. & Recr. Assn. H.Q. Bldg. Love St. Spring Hill, Brisbane

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DIARY FOR DECEMBER

Group meeting on Tuesday, 3rd December 1985, at 7.30 pm in our Club Rooms in Love St. (near Water St.) Spring Hill.

EDUCATION NIGHT - PRESENTED BY BILL WEEKS

We take a look at new educational software.
A 'must' for primary school parents & teachers.

Workshop meeting on Sunday, 15th December 1985, from 1 pm till 5pm in the Guidance Officers Training Centre, Bayswater Street, Milton.
Bring your programming- or hardware problems, as well as your own computer equipment!

Opportunity to copy the group's Public Domain Disks.

Contact Philip Parkin (Ph.378 5383 - a.h.) for further details.

PLEASE NOTE: Workshop Meetings are for MEMBERS ONLY!

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REGIONAL MEETINGS

Cannon Hill meets on the 4th Saturday of the month (7.30pm) in the Cannon Hill State School.

Contacts: Barry Wilson - Ph.399 6204 a.h. / Aug Norman - Ph.399 2080 a.h.

Pine Rivers meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month (1pm - 5pm) in the Strathpine High School (rear entrance).

Contact: Hugh Gane - Ph.205 1196 a.h.

Redcliffe Peninsula meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month (7pm) in the Redcliffe High School.

Contact: Paul Janek - Ph.283 1663 a.h.

Sherwood meets on the 2nd Friday of the month (7.30pm) in the Graceville State School.

Contact: Leigh Winsor - Ph.379 2405 a.h. / Philip Parkin - Ph.378 5383 a.h.

Springwood has gone into recess till February, due to lack of interest in the last couple of months.

Contact: Terry Steer - Ph.808 2424 a.h.

The Gap meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (7.30pm) in The Gap State School.

Contact: Julianne Fallen - Ph.300 2982 a.h.

Wavell Heights meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (7.30pm) in the Wavell Heights High School (library), Brae St.

Contact: Robert Adamson - Ph.266 8353 a.h.

Killarney meets on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Killarney State School.

Contact: Roger Frazer - Ph.(076) 64 1370.

Maryborough/Hervey Bay meets on the 3rd Monday in Hervey Bay.
Contact: Terry Baade (16 Mouquet Lane, M'borough, 4650) at 21 2271 (w) or 21 5059 a.h.

Would you like to start a sub-group in your local suburb or district? If so, give Terry Steer, our Sub-Group Co-ordinator, a ring on 808 2424 (a.h.) for more information.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Primary Education Sub-Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (7.30pm) in the Aspley State School.
Contact: Bill Weeks - Ph. 208 8620 (work) or 341 2823, a.h.

Adventure Games Sub-Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, (during main meeting - in our club rooms).
Contact: Trevor Mancktelow - Ph. 262 4602, a.h.

Programming Sub-Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, (during main meeting in our club rooms).
Contact: Jim Vick - Ph. 282 1377, or Tom Kelly - Ph. 277 9900

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

Because of a lack of response the committee has decided not to go ahead with the arrangements for a Christmas Party.

=====
FROM OUR EDUCATION OFFICER

Bill Weeks has asked all members who are interested in Primary Education Software to come along to our December meeting, where a new educational software supplier (Pencom) will demonstrate a range of very good educational software.
We do require at least 6 computers outfits, so please bring along your C-64 and peripherals.

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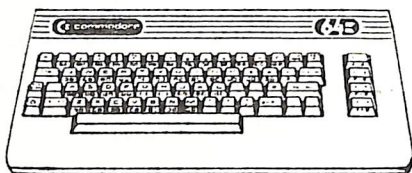
* The Committee of the Commodore Computer Users Group (QLD) Inc. sends *
* Best Wishes for Christmas *
* and every day of *
* the New Year *
* to all our Members, Advertisers, Suppliers and Supporters. *

CHANDLERS

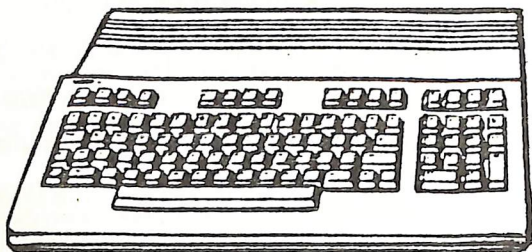
43 ADELAIDE ST. BRISBANE

C.C.I.C.C. (C) MEMBERS

SEE US FOR
SPECIAL PRICES ON



C-64 COMPUTERS & FAMILY PACKS



C-128 COMPUTERS & ACCESSORIES

RING DREW AT 221 7822 NOW!

EDITORIAL

For the benefit of all new members we would like to point out that there is no main meeting in January, nor will there be a Milton Workshop meeting in January. However some of our suburban workshops will carry on through January, so please contact the respective co-ordinator for details.

This is also the last issue of "CURSOR" for 1985. Your next copy will arrive in Jan.'86 and will carry full details about the February meetings, plus all the latest news and views.

Are you listening Mr. COMMODORE?

So the C-128 has arrived, and a nice machine it is too - I've got mine and I think it is absolutely great!

But why, o why Mr. Commodore can't you ever get your act together?

I am referring here to that very important peripheral for the C-128; the Disk Drive. It is bad enough that you have been unable to release the double sided 1571 drive and have (temporarily, we hope) settled us with the single sided 1570 drive.

You have made a great deal of play in your advertising on how wonderful the C-128 is with it's 80 columns and CP/M capabilities. Now ask yourself: "who will be interested in these features?" And the answer must surely be: small business people first and foremost! And in a business situation you need fast disk access, large disk storage space, and fast backup facilities.

Now you could solve all these requirements in one fell swoop by releasing a Double (Twin) Disk Drive. Although such a thing was announced in the USA (the 1572 drive), word is out that you have no intention of releasing this drive (if it ever does become available) in Australia.

If this is so than we have another example of bad planning. You already have lost the sales of thousands of printers because your own printers don't offer the facilities people were looking for, so it looks as if you are going to perpetuate the same short-sighted policies.

I repeat I think that the C-128 is probably the best 8-bit computer on the market. It is probably the last 8-bit machine we will see from Commodore, so please go out with a bang, rather than with a whimper - give us the right peripherals and you will have a winning system on your hands!

By reducing the line spacing of this newsletter (8 lines per inch instead of 6) we can now get as many as 58 lines per page, compared with 44 lines previously. Prospective authors might care to remember this to determine the size of their articles. The text length remains at 75 char. per line.

My sincere thanks to all those members who contributed articles to "CURSOR", and thus helped to make this a better newsletter during 1985. My thanks go also to C.W. Electronics and Chandlers for submitting both software and hardware for review - this is very much appreciated by the group.

Seasons Greetings to all our members, and keep in touch!

Ralph De Vries

NOTES & GOSSIP

NOVEMBER MEETING

A very successful demonstration of a Graphics Tutorial Package was given by Peter & Mark Wharton. This package is going to be used in grades 11 & 12 of our State High Schools next year.

All those who saw it were very much impressed with the design skills of Peter and the programming skills of Mark. All-round a first rate effort.

We had our first quick look at the C-128, but due to the lack of RGB monitors the full capabilities could not be shown off as yet. First impressions were very favourable however.

BUSINESS SUB-GROUP

Because of a lack of interest it has been decided to suspend the activities of the Business Sub-Group. However, it is quite likely that with the arrival of the C-128 there will be a revival of interest during 1986.

801 RIBBON INKER PROGRAM

Already there is a short program on one of our Public Domain disks which feeds the ribbon past the inkpad of the ribbon cartridge of the 801, thus re-inking the ribbon. (Always provided that there is ink on the pad!) The following routine is even simpler, and accomplishes the same task:

```
10 OPEN 4,4
20 PRINT #4,SPC (75): GOTO 20
```

Run this program as long as required, then press RUN/STOP RESTORE, followed by CLOSE 4, and presto your ribbon is re-inked!

FOR 1541 USERS

The following routine for turning off the head bumping on the 1541 drive when loading programs such as Easy Script has been widely published in lots of magazines and articles, but here it is once more.

Before loading the offending program you enter in Direct Mode the following line:

```
OPEN 15,8,15:PRINT#15,"M-W" CHR$(106) CHR$(0) CHR$(1) CHR$(133) :CLOSE15
```

Now here is the same routine slightly modified, and will tell you immediately if your drive is out of alignment!

Enter in Direct Mode:

```
OPEN 15,8,15:PRINT#15,"M-W" CHR$(106) CHR$(0) CHR$(1) CHR$(193) :CLOSE15
```

Now, when reading or writing to your disk drive, and it happens to be out of alignment, it will just give up the ghost!

(This tip from "Transactor Magazine")

CP/M AND ALL THAT

Imagine the following scenario:

You know absolutely nothing about business computers, but a colleague has suggested that you should look for one of those low price CP/M computers which are now on the market. You walk into a store which has two of these low priced computers on display. One of these is the Commodore C-128 and the other one the Amstrad 6128. Leaving printers out of the deliberations for a while, you are told that you need a computer, disk drive and monitor. If you settle for a monochrome monitor the Commodore will cost you \$699.00 for the computer, \$599.00 for the drive (1571), and \$199.00 for the monitor. Total price \$1497.00. The Amstrad 6128 with inbuilt 3" drive and monochrome monitor retails for \$800.00! If you should prefer a colour monitor the total package will cost you \$1797.00 and \$1000.00 respectively.

Now, as an experienced Commodore user you would obviously still go for the Commodore package, because ... etc ... etc, but, and it is a big but, would the computer novice do the same? Makes you think, doesn't it?

WEDDING BELLS

Drew Denham of Chandler's Computer Dept. in Adelaide Street has decided that bachelorhood was no longer for him, and has tied the knot (or is it noose?) on the 19th October. By the time you read this he should just about be back from his honeymoon.

Congratulations, Drew, now you can also start working for a living!

MILTON WORKSHOP CO-ORDINATOR

We are pleased to announce that Philip Parkin has consented to act as co-ordinator for our main Milton Workshop Meetings.

ROGER HAIGH

Many members have noticed the absence of our technical co-ordinator Roger Haigh. Roger has been suffering from a severe back complaint which is keeping him off his feet. We are wishing him a speedy recovery.

BLANK DISKS

The group has managed to negotiate a better price on blank disks and can now supply Dataparts Disks in plastic cases for \$20.00 per box of 10. We also have lockable disk storage boxes (hold 60 disks) for \$15.00 each.

LOOKING FOR WORK

The group's "Reset-Switch King", Anthony Thyssen, who is a poor struggling university student, is looking for a job over the X-mas holidays, preferably connected with computers, but he will consider anything! If you can offer Anthony a job he would love to hear from you on (075) 451717.

THOSE POPULAR C-128'S

On Tuesday 5th November, the day before the opening of the Computer Expo, two C-128 computers disappeared from Commodore's stand. We know that they are in short supply, but that's really going a bit too far to obtain one of them!

SUPERBASE USERS PAST & PRESENT

Over the last couple of years there has been a steady stream of Superbase users who have come unstuck with this program.

This program, a relational data base program, is notorious for it's difficulty in implementing many of it's features. Although this program comes with a very substantial instruction book this is another example of an instruction book written by a programmer who assumes that the users are as knowledgeable as he/she is. A well written instruction book assumes of course that the reader is an absolute raw beginner, and takes him/her in small steps to it's ultimate goal.

The real problem with Superbase and it's more advanced functions is, that it requires a knowledge of Basic programming, and this is something that most potential buyers are unaware of, and thus they tend to come unstuck.

As a result there are now many copies of Superbase sitting in cupboards gathering dust, and this is a real pity, because most people have paid round about \$150.00 for the program.

Although many glowing reviews have been written about the program, very little attention has been paid to telling people how to use Superbase. To our knowledge the only articles written on Superbase applications have appeared in the ICPUG newsletter of the U.K. The group has some of these articles in our reference library, but regrettably not a complete set (some of these articles were written by the author of the program).

Some of you who are readers of the Australian Commodore Magazine may have noticed that our old friend Paul Blair of Canberra has been trying to start a Superbase column, alas without a great deal of response. However, when talking to Paul recently he did come up with one or two suggestions which I would like to bring to the attention of present (and past) Superbase users.

We know that there are some members of our group who have successfully implemented some features of Superbase. **We are now asking those members to submit their names to the editor, preferably with some details on their applications. However (!) we also would like to get the names of those Superbase users who got exactly nowhere with the program and have filed the program away with their unwanted games. Again some details of why the program would not do what you wanted it to do would be welcome.**

This information will assist us in bringing the Superbase users together, thus forming a mutual help group. The other important aspect is that successful applications which are of interest to other Superbase users can be submitted to Paul Blair for publication in the Commodore Magazine. Who knows, there might even be money in it for you!

Questions relating to programming Superbase which cannot be answered by our own users will also be submitted to Paul for answering in his column.

So please Superbase users past and present, send your details to the undersigned, and hopefully we can publish a list of users in the January issue of "CURSOR".

I have also just heard from Paul that shortly a Superbase Applications book is to be released, thus making the program a lot more viable. Let's hope that all those \$150.00 programs will start earning their keep in 1986!

Ralph De Vries

PRICE LIST [Members Only]

PUBLIC DOMAIN DISKS \$ 6.00 ea (Postage Paid)
PUBLIC DOMAIN TAPES \$ 2.00 ea (+ \$1.00 Postage Per Order)
BLANK DISKS \$20.00 per box of 10 (+ Postage \$2.00)
DISK BOXES (hold 60 disks) \$15.00 ea (+ \$5.00 Postage)
RESET SWITCHES (Plugs into Serial Port) \$ 4.00 ea
RESET SWITCHES (Permanent Fitting) \$ 5.00 ea
TURBO-ROM for C-64: Members price - \$40.00
Customised version (your choice of screen start-up colours + your name on the start-up screen): \$45.00
SERIAL SWITCHING BOX (Allows switching between two computers and the in/out switching of other serial devices (printers - drives). \$14.00
"PUBLIC DOMAIN BOOK" \$5.00 ea (+\$1.00 Postage)
"STARTING WITH DISK DRIVES" \$2.00 (+\$1.00 Postage)
USER PORT PLUG (with Key Way) &8.00 (+\$1.00 postage)

CLUB MODEM (300 baud) Demo Model \$135.00

Address all orders to P.O. Box 274 - Springwood - QLD - 4127

Cheques to be made out to: C.C.U.G. (Q) Inc.

UPGRADE CHARACTER EPROM for 801/1525 Printers.
(Gives Descenders on p,q,g,y, and j. Also requires exchange of a ROM chip)
Price (supplied & fitted) \$30.00

For further information on the above contact Lester Bennett on 800 1243 before 8 pm on weekdays.

AVAILABLE FOR HIRE TO MEMBERS ONLY: 1526 COMMODORE PRINTER

For details contact Roger Haigh on 399 8037 (after hours).

EQUIPMENT MODIFICATIONS performed by Anthony Thyssen during main (Milton) workshop.

If this is not suitable contact Anthony (weekends only) at 075 451 717.

SERVICES OFFERED:

RESET SWITCHES	Serial Port	\$4.00
	Built in	\$5.00
DEVICE NUMBER	Printer/Plotter 4-6	\$5.00
	Disk Drive 8-9	\$5.00
TURBO ROM FITTING	Computer w. socket	\$5.00
	Socket required	\$7.00
DRIVE ALIGNMENT	(Works in most cases)	\$2.00

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REVIEWS

B-GRAPH

Have you a need for a program package that will plot out graphs of many different types:- business records, racehorse performance, or increasing value of your house?

Do you need to do statistical tests or plot a curve of results from an experiment at school?

B-GRAPH, from Commodore, is a graphics charting and statistical analysis package for home and business. It comes with an excellent 100 page manual in the form of tutorials on the different types of graphs or operations you can do. These include dot, bar, or line graphs of up to 3 factors, pie-graphs, and graphs of maths expressions or equations. A full statistics tutorial package is included, which will perform a variety of tests, and plot the data and a line of best-fit or regression /correlation.

Once a graph is generated, it can be extensively varied on screen by means of colour, filling areas, or re-scaling. It can then be sent to a graphics printer (Commodore and at least 6 other types supported) or stored as data or as a hi-res image on disk. Another module enables an image to be extensively labelled, and a series of graphs may be presented as a "slide show" on the monitor screen.

A second disk drive is supported, if available.

The tutorials are easy to follow , the program is driven by informative menus, and a number of examples of different graphs are on the disk. However the manual could have a better summary reference chapter.

Two points worth noting:

1. Every time the disk is accessed for another module, the "headbumps" occur. These are easily stopped by the "antiknock" routine given in CURSOR Nov. 1984.

2. For my printer /interface combination (CPA-80 and C-BOX), I have to tell the interface to send linefeeds.

The above 2 are incorporated in a 2-line loader program shown herewith:

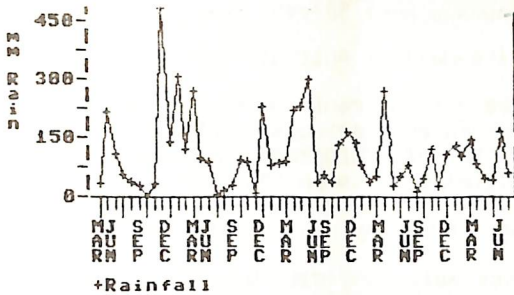
```
1 OPEN 15,8,15:PRINT#15,"M-W";CHR$(106);CHR$(0);CHR$(1);
CHR$(133):CLOSE15
2 OPEN 4,4,24:PRINT#4:CLOSE4      (This line optional.)
```

In all, an excellent package, and at \$19.95 (R.R.P), worth it for the manual alone. See examples shown below.

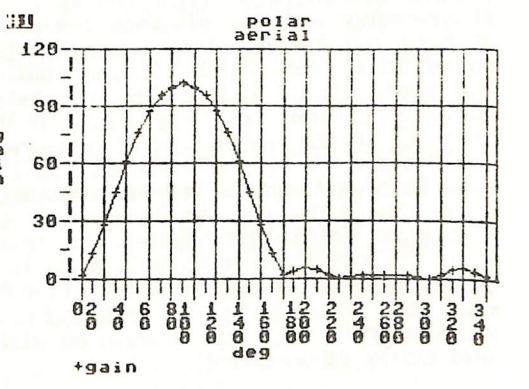
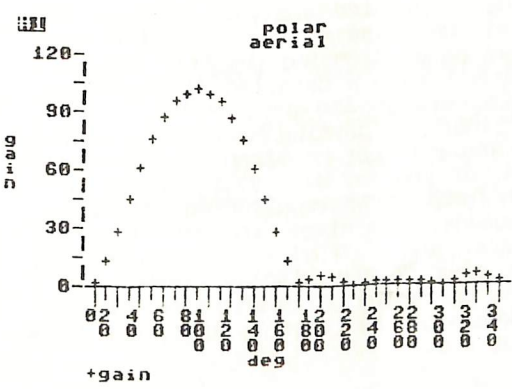
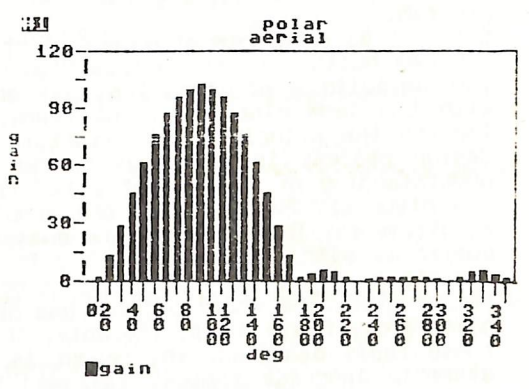
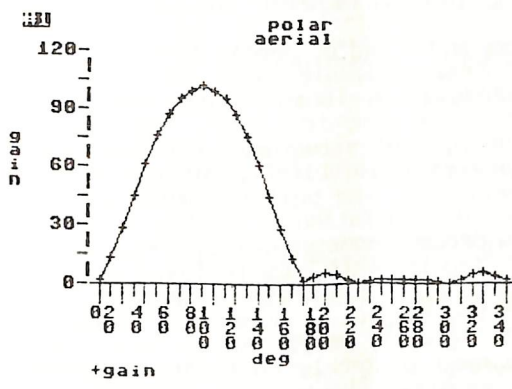
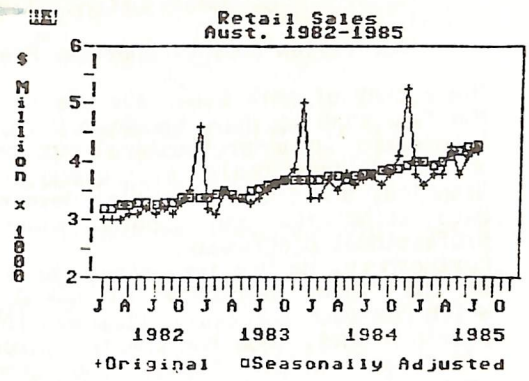
My copy from Chandlers, Adelaide St.

On the following page are several examples produced with B-GRAPH. To make them fit on the page they have been reduced in size.

Rob Adamson



A P U C A P U C A P U C A P U C
 N R L T M R L T M R L T M R L T
 -Original --Seas Adj



Our review copy by courtesy Prentice-Hall of Australia Pty Ltd

The author of this book pays his readers a compliment. He has decided that the fact that you have bought a Commodore 64 does not mean that you are not interested in a professional approach to your programming projects. So while this book deals, as the sub-title tells us, with "Assembly Language, Graphics, and Sound", it also devotes 76 of its pages to discussion of data structures and program planning, everyday tools of the modern professional programmer.

Furthermore, he has integrated the topics well, and with his first chapter on the "Inner Machinery" of the C64 a process of building is commenced which has each successive chapter drawing on what the reader has learned in previous ones. Thus the chapter on data structures explains, in remarkably clear and simple terms, the concepts of sequences, selections and repetitions, a combination of which can (and should!) be used to build any program. The next chapter, the first of two on Assembly language, develops a system of "generic flowcharts", "generic pseudocodes" and "generic templates" for each of the structures just learnt. With these tools, the programmer is ready with the building blocks required to construct a program.

But just as ownership of a load of bricks and a bag of cement does not mean you can build a house, acquisition of these admirable tools does not fit you to build a program. The next chapter, then, is on program planning. With the same clarity as the reader has now come to expect, the author imparts the principles of structured design and structured analysis. The design process is analogous to the task of an architect, armed with an understanding of his client's requirements and the building materials at his disposal. But how does one acquire the understanding of the client's requirements? That is where the analysis process comes in. Thus the project commences with a detailed analysis of requirements, is followed by the synthesis of a design; and finally (yes, finally!) a program is constructed. The whole process has been the subject of some hefty tomes. I have rarely found one as readable, or as logically developed, as this. With these tools mastered, the reader is allowed to tackle some more advanced assembly language topics, followed by separate chapters on graphics and sound.

I have concentrated this review on the structured analysis, design and programming aspects of this book. That is because they make the book unique. You can now find dozens of books on programming the C64, but none to my knowledge, which combine that subject with a detailed discussion of the professional discipline of analysis, design and programming - until now. Of course, you may wish to continue to develop your programming projects in the old hit-or-miss manner. You will not be alone. Too many who would claim to be professional still do. Or you may wish your work to join that 2% of all contracted programs which function as required on delivery! This book sets out to teach. It succeeds. Exercises are scattered at strategic points throughout the chapters, and a "Further Study" reading list follows each chapter. Appendices give Screen Display codes, ASCII codes, and the Assembler Instruction Set. One omission is an index. This is mitigated somewhat by the detailed breakdown of the Contents list, but I do think no reference work should be without one. Thoroughly recommended!

Bernard Trewnnard-Speight

***** NUMBER CONVERSION *****

Refer to charts below when converting

BINARY TO HEXIDECIMAL

Method ---- 10011101
 1001--1101
 9 D
 HEX # = 9D

Hex to Bin -- Reverse above procedure

HEXIDECIMAL TO DECIMAL

Starting from left-most digit --- convert each digit to decimal
Multiply 1st. digit by 16 - add 2nd.
Multiply THAT by 16 - add 3rd.
Carry on till all digits have been used -- The result is your decimal number.

Method ---- 9D
 9 13
 9 by 16 = 144 plus 13 ans. = 157

DECIMAL TO HEXIDECIMAL

Divide decimal number by 16 repeatedly.
Working from right to left - the remainder of each division is the HEX digit.

Method --- 157
 Div. 157 by 16 = 9 with 13 remainder.
 Convert the 13 to hex, 13 = D Ans. = 9D.

Bin to Hex

0000 = 0 0001 = 1 0010 = 2 0011 = 3 0100 = 4 0101 = 5 0110 = 6 0111 = 7
1000 = 8 1001 = 9 1010 = A 1011 = B 1100 = C 1101 = D 1110 = E 1111 = F

DECIMAL REMAINDER AS SHOWN ON POCKET CALCULATOR.

.0000 = 0 .0625 = 1 .1250 = 2 .1875 = 3 .2500 = 4 .3125 = 5 .3750 = 6 .4375 = 7
.5000 = 8 .5625 = 9 .6250 = A .6875 = B .7500 = C .8125 = D .8750 = E .9375 = F

by C.P. Mac Pherson. Roma Q1D.

COMMODORE HEAVEN

No games but everything else stocked at discount prices. We directly import hundreds of items and also deal with all the usual warehouses. Let us show you how your Commodore can become a powerful business machine.

We have a dozen different printers, 15 or so word processors, 20 or more spreadsheets, databases and accounting systems but can only list some here. Visit our new 2,000 square feet showroom to see the full range.

SPREADSHEETS/DATABASES

TOTL INFOMASTER database \$99
 RUN magazine "best of all" Dynamic record and field definitions. 10 files per database, records up to 2400 characters long, fields up to 245 characters, up to 100 fields per record with repeating fields. You can define your own report format with sorted and selected records. Uses all printers.

SUPERBASE 128 New! \$169
SUPERBASE 64 (enhanced version) \$169
 Just arrived. The newest improvement to this popular British program. With audio learning cassette. Up to 1000 characters per record on up to four screens and up to 128 items per record in files of up to 16,000 characters.

STEPPING STONES for Superbase \$29
 Club Membership, Accountant's Time Recording, Sales & Purchases Databook, Cashbook, Stock Record, Solicitor's Time Recording, Travel Agents, Real Estate Agents.

BUSICALC 1 64/VIC 20 T/D \$59
 August 1985 version of the famous VisiCalc spreadsheet. Fast machine language program. Commodore includes REFUNCE and copying the contents of one area into any other. All the BUSICALC programs can use virtually all printer options.

BUSICALC 2 C64/C128 T/D \$75
 August '85 version. Allows up to 999 rows and 125 columns covering 2,500 cells (boxes). Formula printout. Save with REPLACE, window framing routines rows and column headings as you scroll, high speed find etc.

BUSICALC 3 C64/C128 Disk \$99
 July 1985 version, 3-dimensional, 32,000 cells.

AUTOCALC 64 spreadsheet Tape \$55
 Suitable for any application involving extensive manipulation of data and formulae, from financial planning to investment analysis, from market research to sales forecasting, from scientific or engineering calculations to technical analysis. Copies easily with trigonometrical functions, parentheses and Boolean logic as well as totaling and averaging and accepts complex conditional statements. You can choose column width or number of rows, numerical format etc. to suit your purpose.

BUSIDATA 64 Disk \$99
 Up to 1000 records per disk, up to 254 characters per record and up to 20 fields of 28 characters per record. Up to 20 levels of data

TOTAL MAILING LIST/LABEL

THE MAILER Tape \$49
LETTER WRITER Disk \$49
HOME DIARY Tape \$25, Disk \$29
 Tape \$25, Disk \$29

ACCOUNTING

64 ACCOUNTING PACKAGE \$159
 TOTL's newest lightning fast machine language version includes stock control and printing of invoices and statements, concurrently updating your inventory. Choice of 4 prices for each item plus flags when re-order level is reached. Dates, postcodes etc., selectable for Australia or US. All programs lend from a master menu. Balance forward system. Invoices allow both taxable and non-taxable items and screen prompts and printed output headings can be customized to fit any business. This and the Quasar or Talheho disk drive make your 64 the most powerful business machine available. All the new enhanced TOTL programs are exclusive to Chambers, now the ONLY authorized TOTL dealer in Australia.

64 TOTL GENERAL LEDGER \$99
 Does the whole of your final accounts. If you're using the TOTL package it automatically draws data from there.

64 ACCOUNTING by Software Design \$125
 Sept. '85 version. Produces at any time detailed or summary trial balances, profit and loss and balance sheets and prints reports, invoices and statements on plain or pre-printed paper. Profit centres give separate financial reports for each department and can combine into a single report. Up to 10 bank accounts may be used concurrently and each transaction plus 700 journal entries.

TIME/MONEY MANAGER \$69
TOTLTIME MANAGEMENT, rated 4 stars \$29
TOTL HOME ACCOUNTING \$69
CONTINENTAL HOME ACCOUNTS IBM \$79
ABRACALC HOME MANAGER + s/Sheet \$37
PERSONAL ACCOUNTANT (64/128) \$34
CASH CONTROLLER (64/128) T \$35, D \$49
 Comprehensive home finance. 16 budget headings, re-think facility, loan, mortgage calculator, optional password.

TOTL TIME AND PROJECT MANAGER \$45
 The best critical path analysis program for the 64 or 128.

DAMS IEEE INTERFACE

PET - IEEE CABLE \$69
FLASH with ON/OFF switch Disk \$49, Tape \$45
FLASH SX/64 version \$175
1541 PHYSICAL EXAM \$85
1541 DISK ALIGNMENT KIT \$59

SPECIAL INTERESTS

664-NAME GENEALOGICAL PROGRAM D \$85
 Produces 4, 5 or 6 generation family record charts to the printer or 4-generation charts to the screen. Fully indexed and with easy screen editing. 664 names, plus notes on each person, fit on each disk and several disks may be used.

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CONTROLLING THE PRINTER WITH EASY SCRIPT

When someone asks us for advice on buying a printer to use with Easy Script, we usually say the same thing: 'Look before you leap'. Easy Script works with just about every printer on the market, but it's always possible that a new model or one we didn't know about won't be covered by the built-in printer options. However, Easy Script has several ways of controlling the printer in addition to the standard commands.

First, let's remind ourselves of the way Easy Script works with most printers. When you load up the program, it asks you which printer type you're using. Usually you can see straight away which option to choose. But there are one or two facts that may not be immediately obvious. The most important is that these options are intended to cover printer TYPES, not individual models, so Option 1, MX80 type, actually includes almost all dot-matrix printers, except Commodore type, which are all covered by Option 0. Option 2 is the most limited, covering only NEC spinwriter, RICOH spinwriter compatible, and any other spinwriter compatible printers. Option 3 is for Diablo and Qume type printers, and covers the majority of larger daisywheel printers. The Commodore 6400 may be selected as 3 if it is set to receive ASCII code - if set to CBM code then it should be selected under Option 0. Option 4 is for the low cost type of daisywheel printer, such as the HR15 or the Smith-Corona TP1. It is not intended for dot matrix printers that are not Epson make - these, as explained above, are selected as 1.

Once you've selected your printer type, you'll want to make use of the features on the printer, such as underlining or alternative fonts. Usually this is done with the Easy Script standard printer control commands, described in Section 8 of the Easy Script manual. You enter commands directly in the text, immediately before the part of the text to which they are to apply. They appear as graphics characters, such as a striped square or a highlighted quarter-square. The graphics characters do not print out in the text, nor do they interfere with justification. When Easy Script encounters one of these characters as it is outputting to the printer, it checks to see what ASCII code value the character represents, and then sends that value to the printer.

This causes the printer feature to be switched on or off as the case may be. But what do you do if, as sometimes happens, a particular type or mode of printer does not respond to the commands you give?

Fortunately, Easy Script has three other ways of controlling the printer from within the text. The most convenient of these is the straightforward 'ESCAPE sequence', which is just a term for a way of inserting commands into the text. Before trying to use an escape sequence, look at your printer manual to find out the values needed for the various features. Sometimes these are shown as numbers, sometimes as letters. If letters are used, be careful to distinguish between upper and lower case.

Now for the escape sequence itself. If the printer manual requires the value 27 to be sent as the first of a sequence of 2 or maybe 3 values, you can type this in the text with F1 followed by \uparrow - the vertical arrow character, not the cursor up arrow. It will appear as a highlighted capital E. The next character you type will be acted on as a printer control character. It won't appear in the printed text, and text justification won't be affected. If the second character after the E also means something to the printer, it too will be interpreted as a control character; this would be true for subsequent characters too.

But second and subsequent characters DO affect text justification, and you may have to insert extra spaces manually or temporarily reset the margins to compensate. The technique is fine for escape sequences that use letters. Sometimes the sequence requires a number like 14 or 15. You can't put it after an E, as Easy Script would interpret the 2 characters separately, as '1' followed by '4'. As usual, a solution is readily available: we make use of Easy Script's special character definition facility.

This is much easier than it sounds. At the top of the document, you enter a command line that holds the values you need in a special form. Then you can put them in the text as part of an escape sequence.

The command line is an ordinary Easy Script print formatting command line, beginning with the reverse asterisk, which you obtain with F3, in column 1. I'll show this here with an ordinary asterisk. In the command line, set the values for all the printer commands that you'll need, placing each one after a number and equals sign, like this:

```
* 0 = 14:1 = 15:2 = 21:8 = 17 <RETURN>
```

The characters 0, 1, 2, etc., are known as 'special characters'. Any number from 0 to 9 can be used as a special character, and you can see from the example that there are no rules about the order in which they are set. Also, you can define or redefine these special characters at any position in a document. When you need to access a particular function, you type F1 followed by the special character that holds the value for that function.

A reverse 0,1,etc., will appear in the text. You can place more than one of these special characters together, but remember that unless the ESCAPE capital E appears before a special character it can interfere with text justification. Here is an example. Suppose you need to send the sequence ESCAPE 67 to the printer. First set a special character to 67:

```
* 3 = 67 <RETURN>
```

Then, in the text, type F1 followed by the vertical arrow to get the E; and F1 followed by 3 to get the special character: E3 (this will be highlighted on the screen).

When you print (but NOT when you view) the printer will act on the ASCII sequence (ie. ESCAPE,67). Notice that when you output to the screen, the special character is visible. This is normal, and does not affect printing.

This article was written by Dr. Bruce Hunt, Marketing Services Manager of Precision Software (U.K.), and is an extract from their house magazine "PRECIS", which seems to be only available in the U.K.

We obtained this article from our member Mike Cowie, who in turn received it in the form of a photo copy from Imagineering (see 'Letters to the Editor').

Despite the indifferent quality of this photo copy we felt that it was of sufficient interest to our members to publish it herewith.

As a follow-up to this article we reproduce on the following page a reduced version of PRINTER MODES for CPA-80 PRINTER, by our member Rob Adamson. A lot of these settings also apply to other printers and interfaces.

Editor

The other technique for controlling the printer is rather different. It is called 'secondary addressing'. This is a way of sending information to the printer. It is a print format command, so it must be part of a command line, ie. following the reverse * character. The command is *sa,x,n,n,n... where 'x' is the secondary address value, and the n's (up to 20 of them) are values that are sent to the secondary address, all separated by commas.

Secondary addressing is useful in various ways. First, some Commodore printers such as the 8023P require secondary addressing to be used to switch on their features. Typical commands are:

```
*sa 13:sa 15 <RETURN>
```

This would switch on letter-quality printing on the 8023. One catch is that some printers, such as the 8023 or the Centronics 739, must have an item of data sent to them BEFORE a secondary address command or a special character will be effective. The standard technique is to send a 'blank line' or carriage return at the beginning of the document.

Another use for secondary addressing is to send values to a non-operative secondary address, such as sa254, 27,66,69. If a letter is required, send instead the ASCII code value of the letter. This allows longer sequences to be sent without affecting justification. But since the command must appear at either the end of the beginning of a line, its value is limited as far as operating on small text areas is concerned.

PRINTER MODES for CPA-80 PRINTER.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This is in PICA mode : <Esc> P

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This is in ELITE mode : <Esc> M.

The quick brown fox jumps over dog.

This is in ENLARGED mode : <Esc> W then chr\$(1) [on] or chr\$(0) [off].

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This is in CONDENSED mode : <Esc> ! and then chr\$(4). It does not work with emphasized mode. Return to pica with <Esc> ! and chr\$(0).

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This is in UNDERLINED mode : <Esc> - and chr\$(1) [on] or chr\$(0) [off].

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This is in EMPHASIZED mode : <Esc> E. Cancelled with <Esc> F.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This is in DOUBLE STRIKE mode : <Esc> G. Deactivated by <Esc> H.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This is in PROPORTIONAL mode : <Esc> p and then chr\$(1) [on] or chr\$(0) [off].

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This is in SUPERSCRIPT mode : <Esc> S and chr\$(0).

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This is in SUBSCRIPT mode : <Esc> S and chr\$(1). To cancel Super and Subscripts , <Esc> T.

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

This is in Italics mode : <Esc>R and chr\$(19)...to cancel: <Esc>R and chr\$(0).

In Speedscript, select Esc by CTRL £ and then 1. To define Chr\$(19) to be A for example, (must use letters), hit CTRL£A=19. The sequence of commands is then (for Italics): CTRL£1 R CTRL£ A (but don't leave the spaces). Multiple commands can be on the same line.

In Easyscript, select Esc by hitting F1 ↑. To define Chr\$(19) to be 5 for example, (must use numbers), hit F3 5=19. The sequence of commands is then (for Italics): F1 ↑R F1 5 (but don't leave the spaces). Multiple commands may also be on the same line.

(Many of these codes should work on other EPSON-compatible printers.)

COMPUTER EXPO 1985

We were very fortunate to get another invitation this year to participate in this year's Computer Expo. Only one other users group (Atari) had received a similar invitation.

The expo ran for four days (6th - 9th November), and we really did score a coup this year, thanks to our president Greg Perry!

Earlier that week we were advised by Chambers Computers of Melbourne that they have received stocks of the Amiga Computer. Greg thought it would be rather a scoop if we could show this new computer off at this show. After receiving the approval of Commodore's managing director Nigel Shepherd, arrangements were made with Chambers director Tom Gilhooly for an Amiga demonstration on the last day of the show.

As Commodore's Brisbane branch had also managed to obtain an Amiga at the last moment, thanks to John Mahoney of Maroochy, there were two Amiga's up and running during that Saturday.

Those members who did visit our stand on the Saturday will vouch for the fact that ours was one of the most popular stands of the show! The members who had offered their services to man our stand on that Saturday had very little to do, because the Amiga was the big crowd puller, and not the users group!

What to say about the Amiga, that has not already been said in overseas magazines? It is indeed a fantastic machine, but the current Australian prices (see price list on following page) are such that only the wealthiest among us can afford the machine. However in a professional or business situation this may not apply at all. This computer is truly magnificent, but my feelings are that it may actually be too good. Its success will largely depend on future availability of software. Given the right type of software it has to be an outstanding success.

During the first three days of the show we had a steady stream of inquiries about the group. Hopefully many new members will swell our ranks.

Commodore's Brisbane office provided us with a C-64, 1541 disk drive, and 1801 colour monitor for demonstration purposes. Energy Control of Goodna loaned us a CPB-80 printer and CFC 501 (Skaie) drive. C.W. Electronics supplied us with their new Seikosha SP1000-VC printer, with inbuilt Commodore interface. This printer does have a near letter quality mode, as well as italics etc. It also prints out Print Shop! At \$499.00 r.r.p. it is well worth investigating.

On behalf of the group I would like to thank all the above suppliers for their assistance.

Our special thanks go also to our members Barry Wilson and Terry Arnott who made a lot of their time available to man our stand - much appreciated.

We did not have all that much time to look at other exhibits, but we managed to have a look at Anitech's stand who exhibited the Riteman C+ printer, which comes in a Commodore ready version. The printer is rather different from most others on the market, in that it has a front-feed paper loader. This allows you even to type on thin cardboard. As this printer has a R.R.P. of \$529.00, but does not offer a near letter quality mode, I feel that it is rather over priced.

Ralph De Vries

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- 1030 \$ 275. Transformer Accelerator for 1025.
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- 5111 \$ 299. Accounts Receivable.
- 5112 \$ 299. Accounts Payable.
- 5113 \$ 299. Electronic Point-Of-Sale system. Here about Xmas.
- 5700 \$ 225. Telecraft. Communications and terminal emulation.
- 5200 \$ 275. Amiga TLC Logo. Complete with documentation.
- 5201 \$ 550. Amiga Pascal. Also known as MCC Pascal 68000.
- 5202 \$ 850. Amiga "C". 68000 C language compiler.
- 5203 \$ 550. Amiga Assembler.
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BEGINNERS CORNER

Have you seen your computer cry for help? It does, you know. Your computer will obey you to the letter and any mistakes you make - it will try to do what you tell it. It cannot think or correct any of your mistakes so when you tell it to do something it doesn't understand it cries for help.

Just like a baby crying, you must get used to it to understand how to best treat it. There are many different types of cries but most of them will not happen to beginners. Most that do happen to you are quite simple to correct, but as you adventure into programming and other areas they become many and varied in difficulty, and harder to correct.

? SYNTAX ERROR.. it one of the most common cries you will get. It means that you have made a mistake in the grammar of the material you have typed. Just check what you have done and you will spot it.

? OUT OF DATA ERROR.. You will get this when you hit return while the flashing cursor is on the word ready on the screen. The machine does not recognise spaces in most instructions and when you hit return with the cursor on ready it interprets it as read Y and there being nothing representing Y in the computer it cries for help, not knowing what to do.

? DEVICE NOT PRESENT ERROR.. Your computer is telling you that the device (tape disk printer etc) is not in the machine or it is not switched on or connected. Just check these things and start again by placing the cursor on the instruction you have already typed and hit return.

? FILE OPEN ERROR and ? FILE NOT OPEN ERROR.. are two cries which mean the opposite to each other. It means you didn't close the file to the printer etc last time you used it; for file open cry. Just check the hardware you are trying to access and do the same as for device not present error.

? VERIFYING ERROR.. everytime you save something you should have the computer verify it to make sure it has been saved correctly. After saving type VERIFY " the name of the material you have saved " and if a disk ,8 & hit return.

Your computer checks the saved material against what it has in memory. If everything is correct the computer prints OK on the screen - if there is a difference then it prints ? VERIFYING ERROR. All you need to do is save the material again over the top of the old stuff. If you have a disk type save "@:name",8 return. That is a zero and AT symbol next to the P key. Don't forget the ":" before the name

Don't be frightened by these cries for help. None of them can do any damage. They may damage your peace of mind but cannot damage your computer.

WORDS FOR THE MONTH:-

DAISY WHEEL PRINTER..A printer with the characters and letters on the ends of arms set in a circle like the petals of a daisy. It uses a ribbon to type like an ordinary typewriter. It types about 20 characters per second. It is among the more expensive printers.

DUMP.. No its not a rubbish heap though some well known advanced types may suggest that a lot of rubbish is dumped. DUMP describes a process of copying a section of memory only. Most times it is used to send the material on the screen to the printer therefore it sends the exhibited screen full of material to the printer.

EMULATOR..is a piece of hardware (it can be software) which, when connected to your computer, make it behave as though it was a different type of machine. Thus programs written for other computers can be run on yours with the aid of an EMULATOR.

EXTENDED BASIC..is a program which makes available additional functions and key words for programming.

I hope you will be able to enjoy plenty of spare time over the Christmas holidays to spend advancing your understanding and therefore your enjoyment of your great computer. Happy Christmas and a great new Year to everyone.

It has been said that drinking and computing do not mix so why not give up drinking!

Don't forget to have fun with your family over Christmas as well.

Reg Campbell

A COMPUTER DESK FOR X-MAS

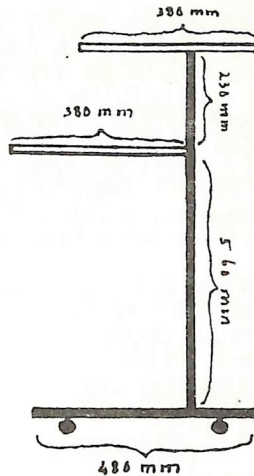
The Group can now offer our members a special desk to hold their computer, disk drive and monitor (TV). It is made out of a steel frame with two laminated shelves. The unit comes with castors, so that it can be wheeled from room to room.

By removing 8 screws the unit can be dismantled for transporting to different locations.

At \$50.00 it must surely be the cheapest computer desk on the market.

By special request we have also ordered a second desk with a bottom shelf which is 700 mm wider, thus allowing space for a printer as well. This unit will sell for \$60.00!

All orders to the Secretary please.



COMPUTER DESK

(side view)

Width of Shelves:
700 mm

Shelves Laminated

Re-inforced Steel
Frame

Unit can be
dismantled

Supplied with
Castors

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. De Vries

I would like to thank your secretary, Norm Chambers, for his recent hardworking efforts in organising our group (the Toowoomba Commodore Computer User Group). On behalf of our Group and our Committee I say thanks for the several visits Norm has made to us and look forward to continuing our association with him.

Our thanks also to Greg Perry and Terry Steer who visited us and allowed us to benefit from their experience and knowledge concerning User Groups.

We extend an open invitation to any of your members to visit us at our monthly meetings held at the DDIAE on the last Friday of each month at 7.30 pm.

John Larkin (Secretary T.C.C.U.G.)

After going to press with the October issue of "CURSOR" I received a letter from Robert Paget of Cunnamulla regarding his Print Shop problems with his CPA-80 printer (see last month's issue). Robert's supplier had also put him on the right track, and he is now in the fortunate position that he can print out his Print Shop pictures in two sizes, depending on which printer option he chooses!

Dear Ralph,

Re your recent article on the CPA-80 printer and Easy Script. Like your author I encountered considerable difficulty with the PPI interface, requiring two to be replaced before obtaining a satisfactory one. However this still failed to resolve some of the difficulties I encountered in accessing the printer. Many of the formatting commands within Easy Script failed to operate. Correspondence with Ozisoft produced a reply which may be of interest to your readers. The comment regarding procedures in the Easy Script manual still evades me. However, a reply from Imagineering produced the article "Controlling the Printer with Easy Script" (reprinted elsewhere in this issue).

Herewith a precis of the Ozisoft letter:

After switching on the computer from Basic-

1. Type POKÉ 0,0 (RETURN)
2. Then load Easy Script

When Easy Script prompts you to select the printer type:

3. Selection 1 MX80

(S) SERIAL

should be used.

4. The first line of your document should be entered as below:
f3 0=2 : SA 24,27 (RETURN)

After following this procedure try printing the MX-80 Demo.
Many thanks for an informative "CURSOR"

Mike Cowie

Many thanks for this information Mike.
I am sure that users of this printer/interface combination will be equally grateful.
As you will have seen the Precision Software article I have published in this issue, because I consider it quite helpful.

As an afterthought, wouldn't it be nice if every interface worked exactly the same as any other on the market? Our problems would disappear like snow before the sun!

Another printer problem cry for help was received from Gerry Michl. He has a copy of the "Practicalc" spreadsheet program, but has problems getting printouts beyond 80 columns on his Gemini-10X printer, combined with a CARD?/+G interface. Apparently there are two printer set-up "prompts", but Gerry does not know how to implement these to make the program print spreadsheets which are wider than 80 columns.

I don't know the program in question, but if the instruction book is of no help I would write to the distributor to get the necessary information. Failing this there is of course always the manufacturer.

In the meantime if any of our members use the program in question and have solved the printing problems, they might care to contact Gerry Michl at 8 Ludwick Street, Cannon Hill, 4170.

Bill Castel send me a copy of an article that appeared in the Commodore Magazine Volume 5, No.3. The article in question covers the subject of Easy Script used in conjunction with a 1520 Printer/plotter, and seems quite useful.

However (!), as the article is part of a commercial magazine we are not allowed to copy this, because this would infringe copyright. I have no qualms whatsoever in "borrowing" articles from other Users Group magazines etc (I always try to acknowledge my sources), but in this particular case I am unable to oblige.

Ralph De Vries

=====

COMING IN THE JANUARY ISSUE!

A full report on our members' experiences with Commodore's new C-128.

We hope to tell you all about C-64 compatability, the C-128's 40 & 80 column mode, version 7 of Basic etc.

We also hope to be able to have some reviews of C-128 software.

All new C-128 owners are invited to submit their views, complaints, praises, programming problems etc. to the editor as soon as possible.

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Librarian - Vic-20:	TOM KELLY	Ph.372 2689

Please Note: The above phone numbers are private numbers, and most of our committee members can only be contacted after hours!

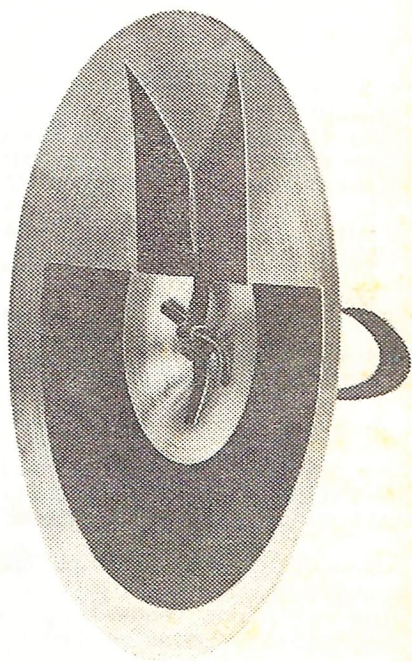
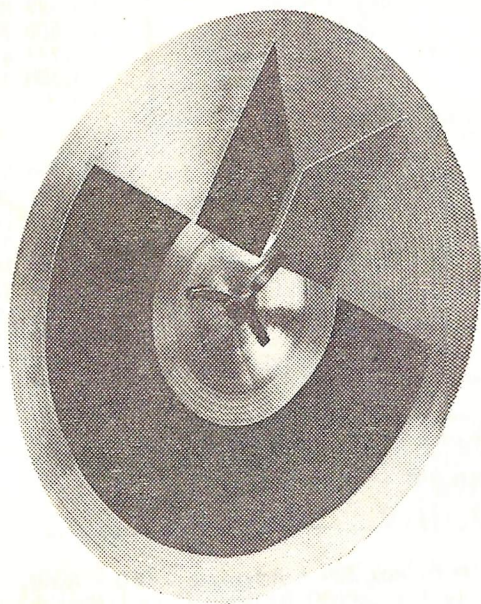
Address for newsletter mail only: **P.O. Box 384 - Ashgrove - QLD - 4060.**
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