

We told you so!... "Don't spend a penny until you

They said,



"Wow! Thundercats is brilliant. The graphics can't be faulted: The screen is extremely colourful and the animation topnotch. Great stuff, I bet the T.V. series aint as good as the game."

Rating: Crash Smash 91% - Crash.



"The game grabs you from the moment you load it up. Brilliant graphics and superb action make
Thundercats a real winner."

C & V G

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... we said, ... Ou hear what



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have got for Christmas

"If you'll just load it up, we think you'll agree that in Buggy Boy Elite have definitely done the business."

"It's rare that a computer game

computer game
manages to give a real
feeling of thrill and exhilaration,
but Buggy Boy manages it! The
graphics are absolutely superb - I've never seen
such a smooth realistic 3D effect, and the 'feel'

such a smooth realistic 3D effect, and the 'feel' of the control method is tremendous." ZZAP-64.

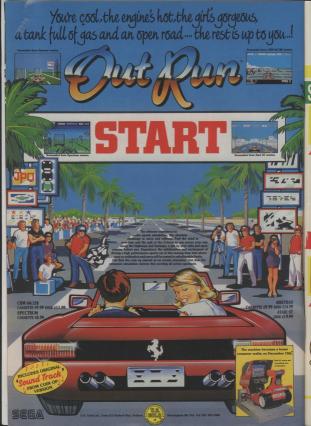
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SYSTEM

THE COLLECTION
THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT !!!
THE ULTIMATE COMPUTER GAMES
COMPILATION !!!



FORMAT PRICE





JANUARY

18 OUT RUN

The biggest coin-op licence of the year is ready. It's a certain number one, but does it deserve to be? Gary Penn gives his verdict.



28 DEMOLITION JOB

The CU Crew go on the Rampage with Activision's cataclysmic coin-op and then offer you the chance to wreak havoc yourself — by winning it.



The software houses play Santa in our great Chrimbo Compo. There are literally hundreds of prizes on offer as the industry says thanks for buying their games.

96 READERS' POLI

Your chance to name the high and low points of the year. You name the best games in the most respected readers' poll of the lot. The CU Crucial



New coin-op licences, Morpheus update, budget deals and the games that didn't make it before Christmas - we get there first.

14 CHARTS

Who's on top for Christmas? Plus definitive placings for Amiga games, adventures and coin-ops. Oh, and the top ten worst Christmas presents you might ever receive.

98 ADVENTURES

Quality graphics from Magnetic Scrolls' Jinxter and 'orrible, 'orrible grisly murders with Jack the Ripper. Valley Rescue is, as ever, on hand to save readers from insanity.

108 LETTERS What you thought of the Cool Spool and Skoolspeak

112 PLAY TO WIN Archer Maclean gives his own player's guide to IK+, plus some pokes to keep you going through the Queen's

118 ARCADES

Heavyweight Champ makes its bid for the top in the New Year. Nick Kelly drops his guard long enough to give you a verdict and there's a surprise return from an old stager — Pacman is

119 HOTSHOTS TRIVIA

back 'Arry!

Some light entertainment to while away the hours after you've stuffed your face full of turkey. A game for all the family!

Right, that's it, I'm off. I just can't take any more of Nick Kelly's odd socks, Ferdy Hamilton's poor taste in football clubs. Mike Pattenden's strange addiction to Branston Pickle, and Elaine Bishop's scalpel throwing. I'm off to be the mean Ed on CU's sister magazine Computer and Video Games. Mike Pattenden takes over as Ed of CU - so you can all feel safe that your favourite mag is in safe hands. Ex Zzap Editor — Gary Penn joins the full time staff of CU to fill Mike's vacant seat. All that it remains for me to say is good luck to Gaz and Mike and thank you all for all your support over the last three years. (Right that's enough Lacey get yourself upstairs I'm in charge now. MP)

SCREEN SCENE

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- **42** Stealth Fighter



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Jan-Jun 1987

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OBLITERATOR

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TOUR DE FORCE

On how we love to don our ridiculous skin-light black half-trees, gazzle a bottle of Luccarda and Luccarda, and the control of the control of



REDIAM

The wind will how!. Sheet will splatter against your window james. You'll be intercented in a many and suppose speech you'll be intercented and suppose speech. You'll be to broke to go out, you'll have 'the and there wor'l be anything out, you likew 'the and there wor'l be anything to be a suppose to





Me-n-n-sinetees Eighty Eight! Yup, it's taken on about! Why, Cascade's new license based on a shout! Why, Cascade's new license based on a shout! Why, Cascade's new license based on the Park Metacades on the win He do a copie of the Park Hetacades on the win He do do a copie of the Park Hetacades on the Park Hetacades on the Park Hetacades of the Park Hetacades of the Park Hetacades on the Par



When Ocean took on the job the vertical shoot 'em up phase in t rebel's HQ. Can Ocean possibly get this speed onto a 64? Well, they've definitely of memory into it — the database is so that three separate loading sequ



AAAA-ROOOOOOO. Not your fault really. Time was you were just another normal huma-time was you were just another normal huma-hair department, and a defice, source in the body hair department, and a defice source in the body that was before some frightful Hooray type, mysteriously en-dowed with supernatural pow-ers, purt a curse on you. Now-







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EXPLICABLE IS GOING TO HAPPEN.....



Ocean sign Robocop

Orion Pictures' Robocon - some two months before the film's UK release date of February 5th | Still. Ocean can't be accused of acting too rashly: this gripping sci-fi-ish story has been raking in the dollars since its release in America and is expected to be a major hit here too.

Robocon is set in Detroit of the

-too-distant future, a time when South Africa has the bomb, rebel forces have taken over Acapulco airport and - no doubt as a result of the worldwide trend towards privitisation begun in the latter half of the Eighties - the policing of this troubled American city is now handled by the wonderfully-named

Security Concepts Inc., a subsidiary

technology and let him loose on the

special with this, which means putting in at least six to eight months work"



Budget labels break out are teaming up with those smart

interesting time for the world of budget software, with different companies vying with one another as never befrore to bring you MORE. CHEAPER, BIGGER and BETTER.

Taking a tip from the even wackier world of pop music, where re-mixes all the rage. Code Masters have come up with the Code Masters Plus range, which will feature doublesided games: the A-side will be the standard game, with a much tougher "expert" version on the other side of the cassette. The first two releases in this format is Super BMX Simulator with a price tag of Telecomsoft, not to be outdone.

retailing at just £2.99 a shot. First off graphics tank game called Oh No! And there's also talk of Telecomsoft producing some budget coin-op conversions - we can hardly wait. Meanwhile, budget giants Mastertronic remain tight-lipped in response to suggetions that they too may be planning some new budget products involving more than one game per cassette, but they did confirm that they have big plans in their pipeline, and that this snace

lads at Sensible Software to bring

the banner of Sensible Silver

sell Pi With the impending release of their

long-awaited conversion of critically-acclaimed 'Nam film

Platoon, Ocean have just succe in tying up a major promotional deal with Video giants RCA/Columbia whereby every copy of the Platoon video will include, after the trailers and immediately before the film

itself, a "commercial" for Ocean's With the video launch a major one, involving a half a million pou promotional campaign, Ocean calculate that the plug for Plato

- the Computer Game will be see by a staggering five million people in the UK alone within the first twenty-eight days of the video's release on January 29th. And with the game scheduled to be in the shops just a week earlier than that it seems that Ocean are wellpositioned to clean up with the



game that they themselves der as "the best thing we've ever

Telecomsoft win Morpheus Rights

There were plenty of smiling faces round at the headquarters of Telecomsoft on the evening of Friday, December 4th, the news came through that a High Court judge had just presented them with an early Christmas gift, in the form of a ruling that they, had the right to Graftgold, Morpheus and

Magnetron. The decision is the culmination of a dispute which began when Graftgold, whose programming team includes Andrew Braybrook. signed a long term exclusive Telecomsoft, and also separate agreements allowing Telecomsoft to publish Morpheus and Magnetron,

two programs which were already under development.

Up until this time, Graftgold had always designed exclusively for Hewson, although it subsequently agreement between Hewson and Graftgold, Hewson seem to have assumed that Morpheus and Magnetron would be coming out on their label (they even went so far as to send out review copies of Morpheus on this basis) and were taken aback when Telecomsoft.

issued legal proceedings preventing Hewson from releasing the games. In the weeks before they came up for hearing, according to Telecomsoft's Debbie Sillitoe, a "very substantial" out-of-court

settlement offer was made by them to Hewson, but this was rejected.

Telecomsoft's reaction to the court's decision in their favour was predictably jubilant. An embittered up his feelings about the judgement by saying that "the decision was not based on the merits of the case so much as on the respective amounts

of financial muscle of the two parties. Obviously British Telecom had the greater financial muscle - I don't know why they don't just buy up the whole market."

To the victors, of course, go the spoils: Telecomsoft are planning to release Morpheus on their Rainbird with Magnetron likely to follow.

Cat Out Of Bag: That master of the wry thought bubble Garfield has just wry thought bubble Garrield has ju-made his debut appearance on the 64, courtesy of The Edge. Big Fat Hairy Deaf finds the fellen world's greatest — and laziest — comedia attempting to release his beloved Ariene from the city pound, booting Odie, avoiding the Giant rat and of course staving off starvation with equent snacks as he goes about hission of mercy

Rocksoft: Mean muthas of lawk'n'Rawl Resistor (well, no, we hadn't heard of them before eit find themselves in the curious position of climbing the computer games chart with their song "The Fight". This strange state of affairs i due to forward thinking label Go! sticking the said musical work on th reverse side of the cassette of th rame Trantor, thereby exposing the p-and-comings to the ears of up-and-comings to the ears of squillions of game-playing persons throughout the cosmoverse. And for those who find themselves hooked by Resistor's debut offering, there are plans to include fresh sample of their genius on future Go! products.

Yabba-dabba-doo: Following a takeover, Argus Press Software are going to be changing their name to Grand Stam Entertainments. And, if that wasn't enough excitement for that wasn't enough excitement for you, one of their first releases due out under the new handle will be a new Flintstone game, featuring the antics of the stone age Hanna Barbera

lig Brother 'Bytes: Ariolasoft's new Ragicbytes label are kicking off the 1988 releases with the aptly-nam Paranole in which you'll find your trying to escape from an Orwellia world dominated by the watchful interface nodes of a huge maley computer. It's out to get you — but you'll be able to get it first in February, on both 64 and Amiga.

rocket Amiga offer: Sprocketeers Evesham Micros hav

announced that they will be giving away a FREE AMIGA to anybody w can find a piece of commercially available 64 software compatible with the 1541C disk but not with the fab new disk drive, the Evesham Excelerator. Just write the name of the program on a postcard and send it to Evesham Micros, c/o Solution P.R., Carlton House, 11-12 Marlborough Place, Brighton, before March 1st 1988.

Coin-ops up for grabs

As we wave goodbye to 1987. there's a fierce struggle in progres among the big software houses for licences for the cream of the year's coin-op hits. Sega's Afterburner, Irem Corporation's R-Type and two from Taito, Operation Wolf and Double Dragon.

So who's in the running to convert what? Well, interestingly enough, the giant US Gold operation have not be signing up any of the four games. In any case, they have signed Roadblasters, Rolling Thunder and Data East's Shackled, Go! having just concluded a long term exclusive tie-up with Capcom (a union which will initially see the release of such titles as Street

Fighter, Black Tiger, 1943 and Tiger Road on the label), US Gold no doubt feel that they'll be well represented in the 1988 market as it is, Ocean, major converters of Taito strong bid for Operation Wolf.

Telecomsoft, Firebird's controlling company, are, according to a spokesperson are definitely chasing one big licence.

Activision weren't so cov: they've confirmed that they'll definitely be the ones to convert Irem's classic horizontally-scrolling shoot 'em up.

R-Type. So who'll end up with that? Well here are our tips: R-Type: possibly the most convertible of the four. Activision have picked up this desirable

license, though we'd imagine it cost them a fair amount

Double Dragon: though competit for this tremendous beat 'em was fierce, the shock news is that Mastertronic have stolen this from under everyone's noses. The product will appear late next year on both 8 bit and 16 bit formats though not at budget price.

Operation Wolf: we can't for the life of us see quite how this shooting game, can be seriously reproduced on the Amiga, let alone the 64, but our money's on Firebird to be the

Afterburner: toughest of the lot to quess, this one, and no doubt both the enormous speed of the arcade £250,000 asking price will have scared many off- but somehow, we have a feeling (just a feeling, mind).

Platoon



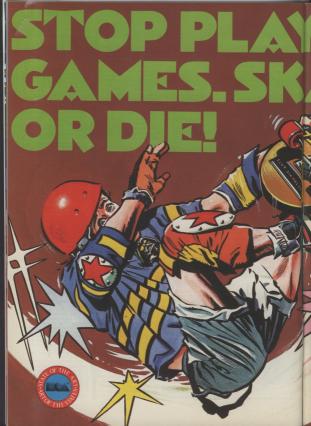
Whreeeeeppp! Mastertronic

While some other software house have been lashing out huge wads of dosh for the rights to use the main characters from various megabuck movies in their games, canny budget house Mastertronic have just signed up the rights to some more minor — but arguably far more interesting - stars of the silver screen. Timed to coincide with the launch

early in the New year of the BBC TV series "Droids", Mastertronic will be bringing up those lovable lumps of metal from the "Star Wars" movies,



R2D2 AND C3PO, now starring in their very own game, Droids M.A.D. And at a piffling £2.99, you can





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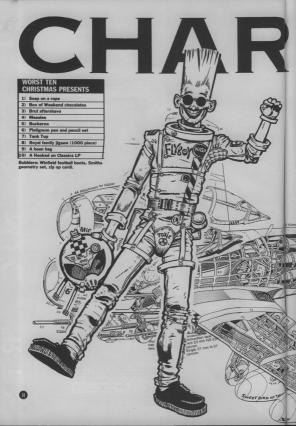












The truth of it is that these charts were collated before *Out Run* was released a end of November. That's why there's no 21 OUTRUN

That Issues California Games up there which is not reminder of warmer climes in 100thing eise. In fact It figures as a new entry along with nine commender of the control o

as highly as usual and that reflects the an spending going on.

Over on Amiga Psyngosis are rapidly establishing themselves as the software house to watch. Argus' excellent Hunt For Red October shows well too and it's clear that by next year things are going to get better still. Watch out for the Amine Well.



1 NE AFTER BURNER

3 2 DOUBLE DRAGON

4 NE 720 5 NE COMBAT SCHOOL







| | NE | | |
|----|----|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | - | CALIFORNIA GAMES | EPYX |
| 2 | NE | GAME SET MATCH | OCEAN |
| 3 | NE | GRAND PREX SIMULATION | CODE MASTERS |
| 4 | 1 | ARCADE CLASSICS | FIREBIRD |
| 5 | NE | INTERNATIONAL KARATE | ACTIVISION |
| 6 | NE | COMBAT SCHOOL | OCEAN |
| 7 | NE | SHOOT EM UP CONST KIT | OUTLAW |
| 8 | NE | KIK START 2 | MASTERTRANIC |
| 9 | NE | STAR WARS | OUTMARK |
| 10 | NE | RENEGADE | IMAGINE |
| 11 | | SOLID GOLD | US GOLD |
| | | JOE BLADE | PLAYERS |
| 13 | | | ALTERNATIVE |
| 14 | | BUGGY BOY | ELITE |
| | 9 | | FIREBIRD |
| | | BUBBLE BOBBLE | FIREBIRD |
| 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | FIREBIRD |
| | | | FIREBIRD |
| 20 | 7 | INDIANA JONES | US GOLD |

| AM | IGA | υп | AΚΙ |
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| TM | LM | | |
|----|----|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 6 | BARBARIAN | PSYGNOSIS |
| 2 | NE | FEUO | MASTERTRONIC |
| 3 | 3 | DEFENDER OF THE CROWN | MIRRORSOFT |
| 4 | NE | HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER | ARGUS |
| 5 | 9 | TEST DRIVE | ELECTRONIC ARTS |
| 5 | 9 | GRID START | ANCC |
| 7 | 2 | TERROPOOS | PSYGNOSIS |
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planes results in a bonus of 1,000 points, while wiping out a red squadron allows you to improve your firepower by collecting the

floating credit which appears. But Flying Shark isn't just planes, planes and more planes . . . tanks, passes and heavily defended battleships are also out for your blood. Should the going prove a

Intile too tough, you can always unleash one of your three smart to hombs to take care of any enemy craft and bullets in the immediate

bombs to take care of any enemy craft and bullets in the immediate vicinity. Extra bombs can be acquired along the way by collecting the respective tokans — and you certainly need them. You see, the smart bombs are activated by

FLYING 64/128 CLIAT

64/128 Firebird Gold Price: £9.99/

£12.95/ disk

With a brilliant conversion of Taito's Bubble Bobble under their proverbial belt, Firebird have now released their second coin-op conversion — the five-level, vertically scrolling shoot 'em up Fixing Share.

It's very much in the 1942 mould, with formations of enemy planes attacking from the top, side and occasionally the bottom of the screen — it's up to you to blow them out of the sky before they get you. Erradicating a squadron of yellow



holding or the fire button and housing forward on the joystick, and it's all too easy to unintentionally release them.

The coin-op version is one of the more playable games of its type, but sadly this conversion is unnecessarily frustrating — almost

to the point of being unplayable. What makes it so annoyingly tough are the enemy bullets — there are a lot of them, and while the scenery is attractive, the colour scheme used makes it difficult to spot the bullets. To make matters worse, the

collision detection is more often than not too generous, and enemy builets don't seem to need to actually hit the plane to destroy it. This drove me up the wall after only a few plays, but I battled on bravely and completed the first level — only to find that Plying Shark is multiloaded? I've no idea withy— It's not as if it's packed with variety. Fortunately, Catalyst the team behind the conversion, had the sense to include a confinue olaw.

I was also disappointed to find the larger installations, and that the layout of the levels differs from the layout of the levels differs from the conversion. That said, Flying Shark on the 64 is one of the better coin-opconversions available—though certianly not in the same league as

option.

Gary Penn







Sound Toughne Endurant Value 1 2 3 4 3 4 7 4

7 1 7 10 7 1 7 10 7 1 7 10 7 1 7 10 Over



64/128 **US** Gold Price: £9.99/cass £11.99/disk

TITE 14 GEORE HUISING CREE O' 88"

The 3D effect in this conversion is





popular coin-ops of 1987, over 20,000 machines sold

In case you were unaware, Out



sides of the road) is bland and blocky and tends to float past — like

ameplay is hardly a progression



and the multi-coloured houses.







| 3 | |
|----------|--|
| Graphics | |

| | _ |
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| | - |
| | 1 |
| | 3 |
| Endurance | - |

| | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | |
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| - | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 | | | | | ı, |







Drive more carefully!

Screen Scene THE A COOL OFFICE (US) D. 24.5

Gary Penn

STRGE 1

Select some cruisin' music.

bother? The prospect of a sure-fire

PUSH FORE BUTTON









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ast moving ... all out areade action for ... one or two players ... and meet the perils of the Battletrack headon...and unleash your Mean Streak!!... C64. Spectrum...



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ne of those games ... any serious games player...cannot be without" ... Popular Computing Weekly... PC, ST, Amiga ...





GO!/U.S. Gold 64/128 Price: £9.95 cass

here's nothing I like better than casting my critical eye over an offering from a new label, especially one backed by such financial giants as U.S. Gold. Trantor is one of their opening batch of offerings from their much hyped

new label GO! In order to save his planet Zybor.



Screen Scene

seriously aid you on your quest.

Such as a shield, which when activated will surround Trantor in a haze of energy particles. One touch mmediate disintegration Unfortunately this little gift has a very short life

Refills of fuel, energy, and time resetters, are among other useful little pressies to be found in the cupboard. But not everything in these things will make life easier You may activate a time bomb. when you do you will be given a mere twenty five seconds to de-

Trantor has been ordered in to defeat the evil of Nebulithone, a new world with some ambitious thoughts on dominating the universe. Trantor - the last

can hope to stop them. Jet into the enemy's H.O. and do your worst, it's p to you from here!

The way in which to complete this mission successfully is to search the complex for computer terminals. In many of these you will find letters for the crucial password, needed to hack into the enemy's computer

The complex is made up of many different levels, each level changes graphically but consists of the same najor elements. Each level has aliens whizzing about, some larger and more spectacular than others but each can be plown away with one short, sharp blast of Trantor's fire-breathing lethal weapon, Don't be too trigger-happy though bécause Trantor doesn't pack

enough ammo to last the whole nission. Also avoid too much G.B.H. from the aliens as this will result in Trantor no longer being the

last stormtrooper. He will become the last dead stormtrooper. Each level will also have a erminal where you will find the ecessary letters, among other goodies. Hacking into the terminal hould not be something taken at a

eisurely pace. You must log-on to a new one at least every ninety seconds, or two bye Trantor

A supply cupboard is another little reat that you should make a point of looking for. There is one to be found on each of the levels. Inside these are to be found items that will

activate with the (No telling now/-Ed.Jor KABOOM! Also on each level there are two

lifts. One takes you further on your current level, and the other descends to take you on to further your adventures. Your job is to find the one which will take you furth down, but quickly Finding the password is obviously

the main part of the quest, but don't expect to see stars when you do. No. then you must find the correct computer terminal in which you can enter the password.



Trantor wreaks havor on some allens

Trantor's ship dro your final objective). In other

erminals are assorted objects, from screwdrivers to computer passer some of these may seem trivial, but beware - all of these objects are used in one way or another if you are to complete your mission uccessfully

Graphics Sound Toughness Endurance Value

Large well-animated sprites, and colourful detailed backdrop, not to

mention quite a funky little syntho number, show that Go! have nise as a new label. But the al diluted gameplay of this let

Ferdy Hamilton





Featuring the World's First Break-Out Construction Kit



TRAZ THE CAME.

Battle your way out of this multi-screen complex. Avoid Monsters - Country

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power# against Finger - use ... and above al. - SURVEYE.

the veloces Purer Carring Pills - But above al. - SURVEYE.

FINAZ THE CONSTRUCTOR NET...

Contrast your own surveyers of this highly additions, fungitized garden

Five and the surveyers are surveyed to the purpose of the contrast of the contras

ОСМАРОООВЕ 64 САЗЕСТВИ МОТИВ БИТЕТИИИ МОТИВ ОБЕСТВИИ РІЛЬВ 3 СОВТОВИ ОБЕСТВИИ РІЛЬВ 3 СОВТОВТВИ ОБЕСТВИИ РІЛЬВ 3 СОВТОВЕ ОБЕСТВИИ РІЛЬВ 3 СОВТОВИ ОБЕСТВИ РІЛЬВ 3 СОВТОВИ ОБЕСТВИ ОБЕСТВИ РІЛЬВ 3 СОВТОВИ ОБЕСТВИ РІЛЬВ CASCADE





Activision 64/128 Price £9.99/ cass £14.99/disk

skyscraper but were afraid it might the game for you.

heap of rubble.

- it has a loval and devoted band of sometime in 1993.

and Japanese B-movies, Three

simultaneously - two on the

日本はは日 walk right and left, jump from good fun but it would have been

Bond away Mums and Dads - voo

can't see anything offensive — Ed)
My personal favourite is watching





your monster punches skywards. Rampage fans are not going to be disappointed with this one. Sure it lacks a bit of graphical polish but all of the essential game play elements that made the Bally Miloway game he smash that it was in the arcades are here to play on your 6K. Good from and definitely one of the games I'll be playing on Boxing Day and long after.

Eugene Lacey











Rampage: set to wreak havoc in your homes.





MILLE, KUMBLE.— look out!— its CU's monstrous rampage compo. What a go prize. Those over generous people at Activision have donated a full sized, nost new, slightly played by the CU Crew, well we had to make sure it work to the control of the con







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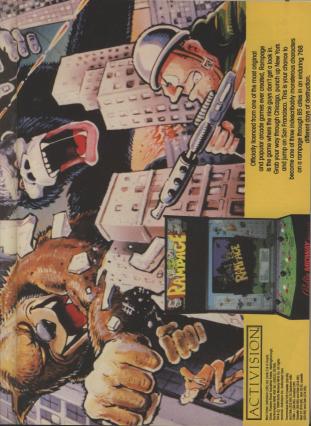
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oard and by the way did Someone on a skirteboard and by the way you know the Ed of CU is the same age as Linda Lusardi. ICKETS .

K TIMES

NEXT TIEKET RT

helmets, shoes, and boards. The Downhill is one of the

The Ramp event looks familiar you've seen it in California Games. you've seen it in Skate or Die and

parks is the Jumps. It takes the same that you have to make to earn those

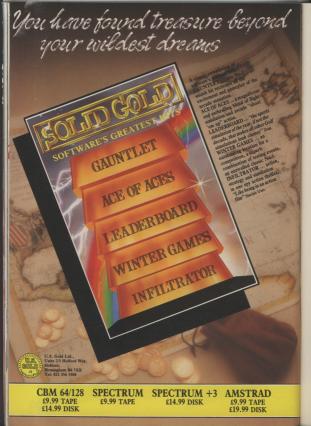
Skate City itself has many hazards

Eugene Lacey

An Ed who is exactly the same age as Linda Lusardi wins a silver medal.



Graphics Sound





64/128 Superior Software Price: £11.95

ou've had comic heroes in your favourite games, you've had games based on your favourite T.V. show, you've played your favourite arcade games in the

Glooks are probably the most common type of annoyance in the But once you have been to the cauldron and made some soap, this is where a glook comes in to its own. often than not that direction is towards you! Spiders also come round every so often. These are quite



Dirty tyke! Bono picks his nose and wipes it on the wall. Bluurgh!

ONE

(disk)

comfort of your own home, NOW play a rock star. Yes, you too (U2 pony-tailed Celtic wailer from Dublin. This Bono is in fact a dragon

This Bono has a far less glamorous occupation than his namesake, his job is to sell soap to giant monsters with a massive B.O. this is that he owns a castle by the sea, and in this castle are lots of skeletons. Far from scaring our hero. business. When he finds the skeleton he must take them to the nearest cauldron and boil them! Five skeletons produce just enough soap warm bath.

Well, as you may have guessed your job is to control Bono, and make his enterprising little business

What could be more simple than that? God you lot are gullible, you really believe that this was all there is to it? Nor, no, no there are many hazards more locked doors is just one Bonecrusher is no different. If you find yourself trapped you are going to have to press the self destruct button that has so thoughtfully been included.

Value

RUNCHER each one deadly in its own way. The aren't so innocent, if you should about their own way, walking around in circles, but don't go up they mean well, they'll kill you if you

release them they will chase directly after you and, unless you can trick them into falling through a trap door, or trap them in a hord of

And then wonders why no-one likes him.



Graphics Sound Toughness Endurance

glooks, Bono is a goner Not too easy eh? There is

someone who will help you through, moose) friend Foozy. Foozy will kill monsters if they should cross his path, but as he is stupid he will often get lost and killed so you will have to

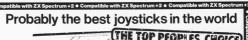
off somewhere and die Despite initial scoffing by one Nick

'Fat Lad' Kelly at the main character's in starting resemblence to a rather famous Celtic rockstar, the game is rather good. The sprites are large and boldly represented. It's about didn't require a magnifying glass to identify the main character. But the trickiness. Learning what to do is so easy, but mastering it is nigh

I have to say that many will find this game a little drab looking but don't judge a game by its packaging Go out and buy it. Many a lesser reviewer would have ended this but not me, I shall retain my pride! (Groan!-Ed.)

Ferdy Hamilton







The Explosive Joystick

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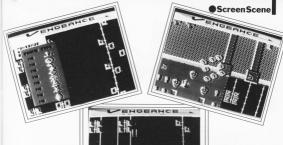
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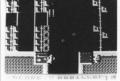
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CRL 64/128 Price: £9.95

espite ten years at the top of the gamer's popularity, the bog-standard, save the world, blast all in sight, but don't lose any of your three lives' style



intellectual part of the game is the key to completing Vengeance. The object is to board all eight of the different types of alien crafts to be found, and then once you're on them find and destroy their vital circuits. The way to do this is to shoot enough of the space station in the backdrop (this builds up your power) until you get about five hundred power points. Power points.

VENGEANCE

shoot 'em up, is still a formula re-designed and, occasionally, improved upon by software houses who know from which direction the dosh is flowing.

Far be it from me to criticise this, it seems natural that the average teenager loves nothing more than to kill things from other planets. Are you the type to eat a banana

without peeling it? Are you the type to face an army of derranged Browers fans under the influence of potent West Country Scrumpy, wearing your Bristol City scart proudly? (Yeq., Mar's met-Eol (Liar)-Ad Man.) Are you the type with the gusts to tell your headmaster when he can stick his detention? ... If you answered yes, then you are a fool! Exactly the type needed for the mission presented to you in

Vengeance.

Dare you fit single-handedly into your nippy little space craft, and face the oncoming alien onslaught. Sounds familiar, eh? Still, this tacky waffle has been the scenario for many a good shoot 'em up, so I suppose I'd better not moan until I find out the find out the find out the find out the side.

The game is a vertically scolling shoot 'em up, your fighter is placed at the bottom of the screen and can be moved in any direction. Its twingun lasers are hanging eagerly off the side of each wing just wating to blast a hole in some green slimeball's kidney. Blam!! you get your first chance when a group of

blue suckers came careering head on towards you. I was forced to let three of those mothers live, as they had already gone past my line of fire, oh well just as I was ready to take on another fileet with my bullet-proof ego, two mettalic rust-buckets appeared at either side of me and pumped me full of photon death.

Once I got the feel of the game. I began to discover that there was a little more to it than just blasting everything that moves. It's also possible to blast things that don't move, such the little squares on the space station type backdrop. This

nest. But even neater when I discovered that when you shoot a cortain type of square you are given a random bonus. Unlike other games where the bonus is given once the icon is shot, in this one you really have to earnit. You have to catch the bonus as it floats down any point in the screen often forcing you to swift in some seemingly impossible spirals in order to avoid of an oparticular and the point of the point of

"So that's it! Sounds like a pretty average blast eit?" said one hardened, shoot 'em addict of en addict eit on another, "No, that's not it" replied a very handsome, modest and particularly perceptive little games reviewer by the name of Hamilton. "Inside the crispy shoot 'em coating, is a smooth, velvety, tasteful little arcade adventure. This more arcade adventure. This more

more powerful laser to be picked up.

are needed to board the ships. You will use anything from ten to a thousand power points simply getting to the ship depending on how far away it is. Once you have boarded the ship, the rest of your power points are transferred to time allowed on the ship. You will have to build up enough power to last at least a minute on each ship, allowing you enough time to find these vital circuits. To find these circuits you must use a small map of the three-dimensional ships, which appears in the top right-hand corner. These will show up as little targets on the map, and on the main screen you must line up your fire and blow

As if stands I would buy this, which to me is all that matters. The graphics are nice but not amazing the sound is a very boring syntho number, but nothing that a quick twist of the volume control doesn't solve. The saving grace is in the heart of the game itself, quite a rarity nowadays. Definitely worth a shot.

these away, but remember, time is

the key!!

Ferdy Hamilton.

3

Screen Scene

Jinks

Misk was produced by Rainbow Arts, a software house I've never heard of before because they're German. The Germans are good at building cars and making up words with lots of letters in them. But after playing Jinks for what seems like three conturies. I advise them to give up writing computer games

immediately and take up yodelling. Jinkis is one of the most annoying. Fustrating and inanely difficult games I've played since melting down my Vie-20. It's a mixture of Breakout and ping-pong all rolled into one with some graphics added. The net effect of all this is a load of mind-numbing bouncing combined with mind-numbing bouncing.

noises — and nothing much else.
The scenario, which has absolutely nothing to do with the game, goes something like this. On second thoughts, why bother? The aim of the game is simply to pilot a pingpong ball from one end of a

Pinball — like bumpers in your way.

sided bat. Pressing fire flips the bat so that you can bounce off the horizontal side or the two angled

sides.

There are lots of bricks and things to hit as you go. Some of them will disappear thereby adding to your points tally, whilst others will just got in the way, making the ball bounce back in the direction you

don't want to go. To make matters worse, both the



bat and the ball are subject to a gravitational pull. The bat moves up and down, and from side to side. But if you move it upwards, it will sink down of its own accord. So it's not the easiest of things to control. In fact, it's annoyingly cumbersome

and difficult — a bit like stirring a pot of porridge. You'll bump into various curious

moving nasties as you progress from left to right. Say hell to one of these boys and your bat halves in size. Do it again and the game's over. To gain extra lives and your rightful bat sixe, you must bounce the ball onto vanous flashing objects as you proceed. Since these appear mostly at the top of the things of the proper mostly at the top of the things of the proper mostly of the your own of the problem you do not you for your problems. You can set the level

of ball speed and gravitational pull at the beginning of the level. Set them to slow/week and you can have a nap for a few hours. With both at peak levels, the game approaches the realms of the interesting. Added to the increased speed, you get increased nasties, with some of them actually crawling around at the bottom of the screen.

around at the octorion of the screen. Complete the first level and you're sent bouncing to the interfued screen, and yet more bouncing. Here's what the interfued screen looks like. It's blank except for four numbers, 1 to 4, which appear at the top of the screen. Bounce your ball onto any of these numbers and you go to that level. From this you'll gather the game has four levels for

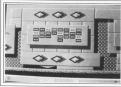
Not to be too harsh on the game, the levels are graphically reasonable. The nasties aren't badly done either and the scrolling is very smooth. There's a little bit of digitised speech at the beginning

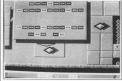
and a reasonable tune.

The only problem, and it's not a minor one, is that playability is catastrophic. There's no real aim,

Level four — it's a wacky one.

Downright abstract this one.





64/128 Rainbow Arts Price: £9.99/ cass £11.99/disk



there's nothing strategic to do, no real speed of reaction or skill involved. You just bounce mindlessly from one level to the next. It wears you out, and it's all for nothing. I think I'll go for a lie down

Bohdan Buciak.



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64/128 Microprose Price: £14.95/cass £19.95/disk

Project Stealth Fighter is Microprose's most ambitious and most realistic job to date. Coming from a company that prides itself on the accuracy and realism of its simulations that has to he

accuracy and realism of its simulations that has to be something of a recommendation. But one look at the operations manual will convince you that this is more than just a game. Its 120 pages will tell you everything there is to know about flying the F-19 Stealth

Fighter and a whole lot more. In addition to the manual and the double-sided program disc you can get a technical supplement (an at-side of the control of t

The first task, once the software is loaded, is to correctly identify a screen pic of an aircraft. There are over 20 to choose from all of which can be found af the back of the manual. Failure to correctly identify the aircraft will automatically assign you to training, which you will have to undertake anyhow; you are to stand any chance of succeeding at

Although Project Stealth Fighter is a sophisticated and complex simulation there are more than enough options with varied levels of difficulty to provide a challenge for PROJECT

STEALTH FIGHTER

every kind of pilot from inexperienced rooikes to veteran campaigners. A good place to start is Libya training which is a simulation (within a simulation!). This has the advantage that enemy hits don't damage your aircraft so you can experiment with different tactics without getting shot down. In the real world' you can choose scenarios from Libya, the Persian Gulf, The North Cape and Central Europe, in order of increasing difficulty.

There are several other choices to make, all of which will have a bearing on the nature and difficulty of the mission. There are three levels of conflict; cold war, limited war and conventional war. As well as the relacular first the cold war and conventional war. As well as the relacular first the cold war and conventional war. As well as the relacular difference, shooting up everything in sight is slable to make you less, rather than more popular. You can choose between strike missions—against land-based targets like oil refineries, missile and made in online normal.— or all to be missions—against—a or all to the

One factor which has a large bearing on your chances of success in any mission is the skill and experience of enemy forces, which can also be predetermined. You can select the level of flight performance for the aircraft. No crashes makes you virtually invincible. Enemy hits



mmm, where's that ma

The lonely fate of the disgraced pilot.



Sneaking up on a carrier.

Screen Scene



Picked up after bailing out.

Ten visibility lights

your sights.

on, but an enemy in

do before take off is arm your probably wise to take a last look at the mission briefing and make a note of your main objective. You can also check out the intelligence brief which will give you an idea of the kind of enemy resistance you are likely to meet.

You obviously need to take the right weapons for the job. The F19 has four weapons bays and you have enough space to take unexpected encounters. There is a vast array of weaponry to choose from and the manual devotes a large section to this subject. In addition to can choose from various air to air

cockpit. You can run through the controls and instruments on the ground, but I find you learn a lot more quickly in the air, when the pressure's on. There's a pause things on hold if you need to look something up. It helps to have the

at this stage. You will take off and land either from an aircraft carrier or on an airfield, the former being more difficult for both operations. It's also a lot easier to get up, this being flaps, throttle up, brakes off and away. The pitch and roll of the other controls, apart from weapon firing are operated via the keyboard. into detail, but broadly speaking they can be divided into three groups: those for manouvering. weapons control and avoiding detection - so called stealth

Initially your objective is to reach the target whilst maintaining as low a profile as possible. Navigational aids include the INS (inertial the correct compass heading to follow). A colour CRT toggles between strategic and tactical maps which show the whole geographic plane respectively. You can also, of

technology.



have little effect as does crashing into the ground - not very realistic Easy landings gives you just that, but don't be mislead, it's not that easy. Realistic landings are stictly for budding Chuck Yeagers.

Next up, you are given the mission brief. This will obviously area chosen, the mission type (strike Photo reconnaissance missions are common in cold war. Limited war often involves strikes against economic targets like oil terminals. In conventional war anything goes. destroy SAM missile batteries and their radar controllers, bomb HQ bunkers and airfields and put miss ships out of action. Air to air missions involve shooting down a variety of aircraft from AN-72 Coaler military personnel to MiG fighters. With all your options decided and

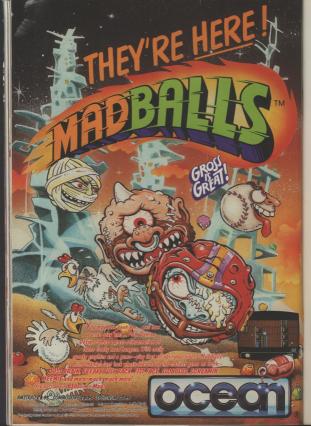


missiles, air to ground missiles, laser guided bombs, retarded and camera and extra fuel. As well as choosing the right weapons you must use them correctly and at the right altitude for full accuracy and With these few preliminaries out

of the way you can now actually get into the air, or at least into the

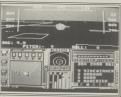






C.U. Screen .Star





M

Missed the target again, eh?

where you will see sea or land, sky and any visible landmarks.

and they valued sendomare, and they valued sendomare of the control of the contro

All the time the enemy is looking looking for them. Your threat display radar can be scaled to look 100, 22 and 12 miles ahead of you. It shows radar, enemy aircraft radar, and enemy missiles in flight. The threat display is backed up by warning lights which indicate radar search warning, detection warning, missile things get that bad you can take evasive action and make use of you radar and infra-red jammers and always bear in mind that your best defence against that kind of situation is to use the stealth technology at your disposal to make

a good look at you to fire missiles is

when you are attacking, in which case your presence would be somewhat difficult to hide.

It's when attacking that the F19's head up display, or HUD, really makes itself useful. The HUD provides you with all critical flying and weapons targetting information in graphic format. The great thing about the HUD is that all this information is displayed on the cookint screen in front of you so you

can keep your eye on what's going

Assuming you are close enough to you can great the your carget to see if you should be and hadding it. There are the and one for a transpire, it has been and one for a transpire. The HUD displays a white meta-poly to show and one for a transpire to show one of the state of the folial poly weapons button. The HUD display weapons button. The thind display weapons button. The thind display weapons button. The read displayed on the water being but the folial poly weapons button. The state displayed on the read button is present displayed on the read button is present the property of the state of the property of the pro

As targeting accuracy improves the white rectangle changes to an oval. You can let him have it now, or wait until the oval changes colour

sights at the moment.

for even better accuracy. Tactics vary for different weapons and targets, but most weapons are of the fire and forget radar guided type which means it's time to make yourself scarce by hitting the EMCON button which will close the bay doors and turn off all tracking radar. Now it's time to go home.

includes those its time to go formate, as filter slow for you, you can accelerate time to make them pass more quickly. Assuming you're not damaged and you are a reasonably channe of making it a successful mission, in which case you'll be congratulated on your return, congratulated on your return, you might be shot down, or creah and be injured or killed. You might be shot down, or creah and be injured or killed. You might be shot down, or creah and be injured or killed. You might be you result with might have to eject and be picked up by a rescue helicipate.

Generally, as long as you achiev the mission objective you will be looked upon favourably by your superiors and your buddies in the officer's club, or OC. Even if you come back without several million dollars worth of airplane they don's eem to mind. Successful mission:

Stealth fighter — poised to sneak up the charts.

end with a raucous celebration in the OC, but failure is a much lonelier affair — dirty looks in the locker room and a solitary Jack Daniels in the bar. Those who thought Microprose

had taken air combat simulation to the limit with Gurship will be astounded with the depth and detail of Project Shalth Fighter. The accompanying literature is always a good indicator of the effort that's good indicator of the effort that's gone into a program. The stealth lighter operations make uncortaine page upon page of ancillary information in addition to the usual perfunctory operating instructions —very comprehensively dealt with here. There are sections on basic

very comprehensively dealt with here. There are sections on basic flying, firing weapons, debriefing, equipment and tactics (including aerodynamics, manoeuvres, radar and weapons data), regional briefings (politics, friendly bases, naval forces, targets and ordinance loading), common military aircraft, diagrams and a olossary.

In terms of aircraft specifications and performance, attention to geographical and political detail, and diversity of mission assignments Project Stealth Fighter far outclasses anything else in the air. Once you've tried it anything else will seem mundane in comparison.

Ken 'Top Gun' McMahon



GARY LINEKER

GARY LINEKER'S SUPERSTAR SPORT

ith England qualifying for the European championships and Gary Lineker finally finding his scoring form again, Gremlin could not have picked a better time to be sponsored by England's most revered striker But Gary Lineker or not, there has not been a really good soccer arcade game for the 64 for a long time, is this the one to change that, or is it just another over-hyped mediocre effort?

Before you actually get down to the serious business of playing football, you must go through the compulsory trivialities such as picking your team's colours. selecting how long you wish the matches to be, and whether you wish to play the computer or a friend, All this is fairly straightforward, until you come to selecting the team you wish to be. Casting my eye across the names of Division One teams, I noticed something was drastically wrong. No Q.P.R. Can you imagine how I and millions of others must have felt. I was emotionally devastated. come on Gremlin! Wake up to the world of class football! You also have the option of not

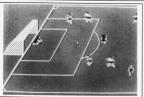
only playing your team's centre-You thought you'ad scored . . .

forward, but being the brains behind of skill is confined to your player the football and taking over as the coach. This involves selecting your team's strategy every time there is a stoppage in play. For instance, should you be leading by one goal with two minutes till full-time and the opposing team have a corner, then you will want to play defensively . . . right? You have the option of letting the computer or a friend control your goalie. It is

probably wise to let the computer do it as it is not an easy job, that is unless your mate's is a bit of a Shilts

Once you get down to the nittygritty of the big match itself, you will notice something rather strange. Each player appears to keep about two tons of solid dynamite in their boots. They make Hot Shot Hamish look like Norman Whiteside. It is not that I'm moaning about being whipped, on the contrary after only one minute, and two goal attempts on my first go I scored one from what would have been a good ninety yards. Obviously I'm used to doing this in real life (!) but I'd like to find opponents that can at least attempt to hold me in a computer game!

The players also have an uncanny knack at the of overhead kick. When the ball is in the air, a simple welltimed flick of the fire button will send your player sparing acrobatically into the air and thumping the ball goalwards. A manoeuvre Mirandinha would be proud of. But don't think this piece



only. This ability is shared amongs all the players, on both teams. Another move than your player will pull off is a header, again timing is the key, press fire and your player will, with one giant leap . . . NUT!! and it doesn't matter where he is either, the header will always leave

Gremlin **Graphics** 64/128 Price: £9.95 cass

It's there!

the keeper with some work to do. The only problem with these amazing skills is that due to rather fidgety controls, you may find it difficult to pass with certain joysticks, as I did. It can be most aggrevating when in your own area you get the ball and send a long. hard, pointless boot towards the goal in true Sheff Wed fashion. When what you wanted to play was a neat little ball, favoured by superior teams such as . . . (West Ham - M.P.J (Bristol City - Ed.) (Q.P.R. - me) (er... Chicago Bears?! - N.K.)

To be blunt, as I always try to be, Gary Lineker's does not fit the bill, as the first real football game for the 64, our wait continues. It is not totally awful, and is quite a jolly game if you don't take your football too seriously which clearly the programmers at Mindscape don't This is one of the pitfalls of giving

the job to a bunch of Americans. The main problem is with the playing of the game itself. The player's ability to shoot like that makes the whole thing a bit of a farce. Also because each team has a different skill level, one team is always better than another. This is fine when you have a compute opponent and you wish to have a better/worse team than it. But when you are playing your mates you want to be dead equal, all square, before a ball is kicked. If not arguments along the popular line of "5-0, Ha-Ha!" "Not fair! your team's a higher skill than mine" "crap! you're simply not as good as me develop as they do when you're playing with such a juvenile team as the C.U. crew.

If you're desperate for a footer game, there are worse about. But just don't expect too much Ferdy 'Donkey' Hamilto

CH

64/128 Ocean Price: £8.95/ cass

MATCH

DAY II

missed out on the original Match Must have come out when I was Day (don't worry too much - Ed). busy playing Commodore's International Soccer. That venerable oldie still rates as my favourite footie sim, to be prized along with my Oldham Athletic (who? Ed) programs. So there's a buzzing on the terraces as I load up Matchplay II, supposedly International Soccer with Terry Venables in charge. After first glance, Match Day II doesn't look all that special. You get the usual Match of the Day view of

the pitch, complete with side-to-side scrolling and a set of players that look like overweight Mardonnas. As usual, you're offered a large range of pre-match options probably to make you think that there really is something to this game. Customising options include the team name, the strip, one or two player mode, and a unique twin-

player mode which gives separate glancing headers the boy Linacre control over two player mode, and a does so well. unique twin-player mode which Secondly, there's the kickometer gives separate control over two Apart from being displayed at the players on the same team when top of the screen, a smaller version What a cracker!

you're playing the computer. Got that? Added to that, there are options for playing a league season consisting of eight teams, and a knockout cup, also consisting of eight teams. Since such options tend to make the game drag on, the programmers have thoughtfully included a 'save position' option. More unusual options include the ability to change the colour of the

pitch and to assign player or computer control to your goalkeeper. Choosing the latter option is tantamount to suicide since the computer-controlled goalie is so useless he should not have been allowed inside the stadium never mind kitting up. There's also a Tactics Selection option which, although it sounds impressive, is merely a matter of setting each team to play either an

Two more things need explaining before we get the teams out onto the turf. The programmers have developed something they call DDS (Diamond Deflection System), in an attempt to make the game play more realistically. What DDS does. according to in the blurb, is to take into account the direction in which a player is moving when the ball deflects off him. DDS should also work when a player heads the ball. thus producing those subtle

appears above the head to whichever player is currently under joystick control. The kickometer looks like one of those LED graphic equaliser things on your ghettoblaster, with the display going up and down rapidly. Press the firebutton with the bar at its high to get the most powerful kick. At the nearest the ball gains control over it

disconcerting at first, but you soon get used to it. And timing your shot to produce the required strength of kick becomes almost like second nature with a little practise. If you've ever played a football sim, you'll have no difficulty controlling this one. The player

It's a draw 5-5

lowest point, you can actually produce a backheel. By continuing to hold down the joystick, you can set the kickometer to remain constantly at a particular level

The only occasions in which you can't control the power of a kick are during deadball kicks, corners, throw-ins etc. The only element of control here is the direction, the computer controlling the power This, to me, is less than satisfactory since deadball kicks invariably land way inside your own half. No wonder my defenders are asking for free transfers. This doesn't bother me much since I've detected an unwholesome tendency on their part to face the wrong way when the

opposition is attacking So how do all these things shape up when you're playing? Primarily, seeing a constantly flashing display above your player's head is a bit

1 2 2 4 5 6

and can kick or dribble. The opposition player can try to get the ball off him and can shoulder charge. Fouling is not implemented. the programmers having realised that Nobby Stiles tactics are more

fun than Roy of the Rovers play. The major problem with Match Day II, as I see it, isn't the degree of control achievable but the actual speed at which the game is played. I've no doubt that the DDS system does enhance play and that subtleties of touch can be achieved that go beyond football sims we've alrady seen, but the play just isn't fast enough. Dribbling a ball up the field amounts to sheer drudgery

What makes Ocean's latest attempt so disappointing is that it doesn't really mark any advance in that crucial area. Sorry boys, get back to the dressing room.

Bohdan Buciak









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CTAPOLIS

64/128 English Software Price: £9.99/cass £12.99/disk

y the year 3987, the Galactic imperium was mightier than swallower. One by one, it had swallower to he yone, it had allen races. Except for a small defiant planet. . Octapolis'. Now, where have you read that before? Yep. On the cassette inlay for practically every space shoot-out that you've ever played. What happens on-screen in

Octapolis is every bit as original as the hackneyed prose of its packaging. There are few surprises in its fusion of horizontallly-script space doglight with static platform sequences. Yet the whole thing sequences with the fact that you've been playing games like this ever since your first were big enough to hold a joystick.

Play begins with split-screen

and a spiral with spiral-orders and a spiral order planted Octapoli. The later fairly planted Octapoli. The later fairly of the socreen displays your craft fixing over the by now very familiar bird is sey view of futuristic city architecture (pieze, ducts, condustic, flanges, grids...), while the top half shows the same some but from sideways on. Both views scroll to left and right, depending on the direction of your flast-moving craft, direction of your flast-moving craft, second of the condustry of the condus

All very flash indeed, and very confusing at first, as your eyes try to take in simultaneously the two viewpoints. But you'll probably end up watching one view only—



usually the top — and only glancing at the other occasionally. It's easier letting the enemy craft line themselves up in your sights, than trying to chase them around the three dimensions.

After several minutes of feverish zapping, your ship will start to flash accompanied by appropriate sound effects. It's time now to bring the craft down on the landing strip, and enter the planet's interior.

It's a this point that graphic pryrotechnics are abandoned in favour of what is a polished but nevertheless unexceptional platform format. Static screens, full platform format. Static screens, full of little ledges coupied by webbling eyeballs and waddling stocky aliens. You're now controlling a midget spaceperson, and ahead lie five chambers of pracing and leaping until you reach the next city and the next shoot-out.

You can shoot at the eyeballs, but the other lifeforms seem to be invulnerable, so a fair amount of acrobatics are called for in order to reach the exit sign on the opposite side of each screen. Some people apparently enjoy this type of thing. When you reach the next city, the

whole thing starts over again, and it won't surprise you that each shootout, and each series of platform screens increase in difficulty. That's the game in a nutshell.

That's the game in a nutshell, though there are some pleasing refinements as you go along. If you think the dog/fight sequences are too short, then don't dook immediately you're told to. You can go on fighting for as long as your five lives will allow you — in fact, it's easier to notch up a high score in this sequence than it is in the platform

chambers.

Most of the game's appeal lies in its presentation, with its crity, colourful graphics, fest and fluid comment, and nest sounds effects. But whether you think that instant-reflex, joystick-bashing space warfare works well with the slower, more precise skills required by the hop, skip and jump sequences will depend on how much you enjoy either type of game.

For me there's no contest — I'd rather have a super-smooth shoot 'em up than a poxy platform frolic any day of the week. But I've tried not to let my prejudice influence the ratings below.

Bill Scolding

| Graphics | | | | 4 | 5 | | 7 | * | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Sound | | 2 | 3 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | |
| Toughness | - | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | |
| Endurance | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | |
| Value | _ | - | | | | | | | | |

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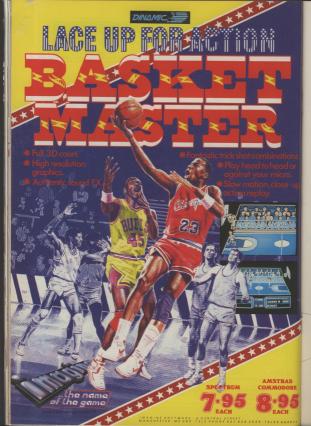


SCREEN SHOT FROM ARCADE VERSION

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COMPANIES EVEN BOTHER...

Coming early 1988 HALLS OF KYROS (SEGA), ROLLING THUNDER (NAMCO) ROADBLASTERS (ATARI GAMES)



64/128 Price: £8.95/cass £13.95/disk

#HEN the original Trapdoor game came out exactly a year ago, we thought it was so good we gave it a Screen Star. The cartoon itself has lasted the pace and still appears on Number 73 on Saturday morni (Frank Sidebottom rules—Ed!). So Piranha have decided to cash in on continued Berkmania by producing another Trapdoor game in much the same mould as its predecessor.

Through the Trapdoor retains all those elements and continues with the same main characters - Berk Drutt and Boni - but this time they start the game going down through the trapdoor itself. Its a pretty simple and straightforward storyline that's more an adventure than a set of

and use things, like opening a door with a key.

Berk is relatively easy to control and he moves in exactly the same plodding cumbersome way in both games, picking things up with that characteristic sweep of his enormous hands

Drutt presents more of a problem in terms of control. He has a mind of his own and will go his own way, usually to eat the nearest worm, if you're not actually controlling him when he's under control - if you know what I mean. Since you need to position him very accurately to accomplish a particular task, controlling him becomes min frustrating and annoying. In fact, if the bat had kidnapped Drutt instead of Boni, me and Berk would be putting our feet up.



Don't just stand there you Berk!

hrough the Trapdoor

CANADA SA CALCADA DA C

Watch out for the spider.

First of all, you see Boni being kidnapped by a giant bat who snatches him up and deposits him somewhere down in the underworld below the trapdoor. That's where you start. You, as Berk and Drutt, must rescue Boni. This is done by completing the four sections of the game, each one representing a

different region of the underworld. To progress through the regions. they must find and use a key to open the respective doors. To make things more difficult, both characters are hindered by a succession of monsters and nasties. So the emphasis lies very heavily on solving problems or finding ways to accomplish samething.

An advance on the original game is that you control both Berk and Drutt, though not at the same time. You toggle control between the two. So this is more a teamwork effort. It becomes obvious as you play that

Drutt gets around much guicker. He can bounce up and down. He can't pick things up but he can knock down objects positioned out of Berk's reach and shove them towards Berk. On the other hand. only Berk has the dexterity to pick up

You've simply got to put up with Drutt. The game does try to make things a little easier by providing 'druttmarkers'. These are conveniently situated on the exact spot Drutt must be in order to accomplish something. Send Drutt to the left of a marker and he should jump onto it. Apart from some of the markers being invisible, they didn't

stem to have much effect.

But Drutt is useful because he usually goes first, followed by Berk when the coast is clear. So it's Drutt that gets all the keys, and generally protects Berk from dangers For example, he'll bounce up and knock down all the sharp icicles hanging from the roof so that Berk doesn't get speared as he walks beneath. Druft also gets things like the magic sweet and magic mushroom which help Berk solve a problem. When Berk is down the bit in the first region, eating the magic sweet makes him sprout wings that

lift him to the top. I won't tell you any more - solve it for yourselves. Solving these problems is the biggest drawback in Through The Trapdoor. If you thought the original was tough, this one is well nigh impossible - and that's

compounded by Drutt being such a pain. It strikes me that Don Priestly (he wrote the original too) has made it so difficult because there's not really much to the game

Take the first region, all you have to do is get the key, negotiate the pit that stands between you and the door, and then open the door into the next region. Compare this with the imagination used in the original and it really is lacklustre stuff. Graphically, Through The

Trapdoor is not quite as good as its original. I've not seen all the monsters yet, but the ones that have appeared so far don't look anything like as bizarre as the first set. Similarly the background scenes are too black and sparse for my liking. I reckon a little more effort could have been used here.

Like the original, Through the Trapdoor has levels of depth but this is not exploited to the same degree. You get only two levels, the foreground and background. This adds to your problems because some tasks, like picking up keys, can only be accomplished if Drutt is bouncing up and down in the background area. Position him up front and he'll bounce all day

But there are areas in which Through the Trapdoor is an improvement, and that's mostly in terms of 'cuteness'. Berk is particularly cute. When he falls down a hole, he ends up on his face looking puzzled and confused. It

takes a few floundering movements before he can get up. Berk also seems remarkably concerned about Drutt and will always turn in Drutt's direction with his arms sticking out as though he were trying to give him a hand There are occasions when Berk

must pick up Drutt (to go through doors etc) and he seems to have as much difficulty controlling him as we do. Unlike me, Berk is pretty patient I'd hoped for big things from the

new Trapdoor and finished up being disappointed. There's no doubt this is still a very clever and accomplished piece of programming but the aim of the game is too single-minded and much too difficult. You just can't carry on until you solve the roblems in the order they arise Too many people are going to give up on this in despair. That's a pity

because the game deserves better. **Bohdan Buciak**

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amparts is a curious variation on those medieval knights in armour combat games, Instead of taking it out on each other with axes and spikey shotputts, our stainless steel heroes let loose on stone walls

That's right, they go about punching walls with their fists until they fall down - the walls, that is, Were this not the Dark Ages, these blokes would be certified as complete nutters, or given lucrative contracts with McAlpines.





sideways to take out bricks and upwards to punch the birds. Unfortunately, there's not much you can do about the grounded nasties, simply climb a wall or try to jump over them.

To climb a wall, your knight must be positioned at exactly the right spot. Once on the wall, he sticks there like a fly and can be moved up and down with the joystick. He can also walk across the tops of the turrets.

That's it really except to tell you how the two-player option works. Each knight is controlled by its own

One quirk is that if you can destr a turret whilst your companion is still on it, it falls down leaving him suspended in mid air - slick

programming Ramparts might be a reasonably original and enjoyable game if it didn't rely, right down to its logo, on Rampage for its inspiration. At least the characters are large and the graphics fairly bold. My biggest criticism is that there's not enough variety; the castles on each of the

levels look pretty much the same, so do the nasties. Bashing bricks and watching

Apparently, the Evil One has turned our two knights into ferocious marauding giants and then scarpered. The two knights must hunt him down by demolishing all the castles they can until they find the one he's hiding in. By the way, you only get two knights if you're playing the two-player option. This story sounds pretty crur

To my mind there are lots of good points to becoming a ferocious marauding giant, not least of which is getting to the front of the cashpoint queue. Anyway, you start by demolishing

a castle with five turrets. Each turret must be dealt with individually by knocking out the required number of bricks on either side. You simply climb up the walls, punching bricks out as you go. When you've done enough brick punching, the turret falls down with an impressive crumbling sound, and you move to the next one.

Carry on like this until all the turrets are down. Then it's on to the next level where there's a surprisingly similar castle with six turrets - and so it goes on.

To make things difficult, there are various nasties both in the air and on the ground. The airborne variety look like vultures which drop white specks onto you, the kind of white specks you'd see splattered on a car windscreen. Being attacked by a vulture or hit by its fallout makes your damagemeter display (at the top of the screen) go down.

Nasties on the ground also increase your damage. These include fire-breathing monsters that pace up and down, and gnomes that shoot catapults (that white stuff again) and fire canons. To repair damage, you must pick

up various items hidden in the walls of the castle. You'll find them as you punch the bricks out. You must pick these up immediately (funnily enough, by punching them). If the turret goes down before you've got them, they're lost for good. And you'll really need them on higher levels, where the nastiness factor increases dramatically. Here you'll find those white specks coming at you from turnet windows

Your knight is graphically pretty big and moves well. He can punch

joystick, and works independently of turrets fall down is good fun for a the other, climbing and punching bricks in the same way. But it's best to work as a team, since it gets you through the levels quicker. Even if one knight dies, the other can still carry on

while, but there's little else to do. I reckon you could get bored with this game pretty quickly if you didn't use the two-player option. And even then, you can't bash your co-player. Bohdan Buciak

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or all of you who might have thought Guadalcanal had something to do with the oil super tanker that was hit in the gulf. you're forty-five years out. Guadalcanal is in truth one of the small Pacific islands occupied by the Japanese during World War II. The background to Guadal goes

back toward Japan's first strike at America at Pearl Harbour where they caused serious damage to the American navy. From there they attacked the Philippines. Using the Philippines as a jump off point Japan then preceded to capture the Pacific islands one by one until they had reached Midway Island, only thirteen hundred miles away from the United States western seaboard. Meanwhile the Americans had, unknown to the Japanese, cracked their enemy's code. Now alert to the Japanese naval plans, the American admirals brought together the aircraft carriers which had been 'out to lunch' during the attack on Pearl Harbour. And thus ensued the famous battle of Midway. America won and the top brass were then ordered to retake the Pacific Islands starting with Guadalcanal (thanks for the history lesson Mark, it was joily interesting - Ed.) Guadalcanal is really nothing more than an inspectacular rock jammed near Midway Island, all it contained was two Japanese bases and an American airfield named after a

TAR.

Henderson airfield had been easy to capture and was America's first military capture of the war in the pacific. Now the solitary Marine Corps had to hold the Island against obvious Japanese retaliation

After many months of fighting the Marines began winning major victories on the island itself. The old units were being replaced with fresh ones without almost any naval intrusion by Japan. By the middle of January 1943, American scouts had to report that the island was now clear of the Japanese.

Guadalcanal is an easy game to get into (that's more than can be said for the review - Edl, and a first for me in actually being an icon driven war game that shows the first inclings of being a war game

The game does not restrict you to one field of battle, instead you have complete control over land, air and sea forces, though most action happens through airforces and navy. You also have a party of scouts to send out at your discretion to try and view the enemy military situation. A seaplane is available for scouting purposes, these I tended to keep in the gulf between Guadal and her neighbouring islands so I could get an advance warning of any enemy convoys.

You get messages constantly bleeped up at the top of the screen.

history before you can play this one

While informative, the noise that makes has the same effect as the brain washing in the Ipcress File. A continuous clock racks up the time all through the game with one minute of game time being represented by ten seconds of real time. This cannot be stopped and can only be speeded up, which then leaves with a back log of messages and bleeping to keep you amused.

You need a degree in

The weather effects the game in several ways too, on bad days reconnaissance is hampered, and on really bad days planes cannot be used at all. Control of the ships planes and army units is easy, you select the route you want them to

take and leave it at that. The naval groups are stronger on Japan's side, but America could compensate by having an initially more powerful Marina unit of Guadal, and the advantage of being able to land planes there. One problem which I found was when I sent my planes out to intercept enemy convoys. By the time I

realised they hadn't got enough fuel left to return home I had to let them

There are only three scenarios in Guadalcanal, a training spenario, a full campaign with American forces and a campaign with the Japanese. The Japanese scenario appealed more to me as I have always had a soft spot for changing the course of history. Playing the Japanese the best tactics I found were to blockade Henderson rather than go all out in an attack or play a fairly quiet game supplying my troops until they were at maximum strength. Because once the American transport ships have been totalled there is no way the

Marines can be supplied. Guadal is absorbing, fun and playable but a bit too easy with more of an emphasis on strategy rather than the true war game element, ideal for beginners or people of an intermediate standing on the wargaming podium (and a degree in history - Ed)

Mark Patterson

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.. I swivel my turret to take a shot . . .



Saturday night but a nuclear power station in orbit which has become infested with nasty little bugs. Your job, as cosmic Rentokil man, is to clear up this infestation, in your trusty megatank.

Yup, this is another one of those overhead view games that scrolls you around a vast scenery of bas-

relief graphics. The object of the game is to track down and destroy a total of eight Flexible Robot Caterpillars which crawl around the power station at high speed. Apart from the FRCs. there's an assortment of minor nasties which don't matter much except that they get in your way and kill you.

You travel around in a tank with a revolving turret, armed with a not very impressive array of weapons. You get a laser gun with a limited supply of energy and a forcefield. also limited in energy. Trundling through the power station, you'll be able to nick up smart hombs, heatseeking missiles and more laser power. But to start with, you've nothing to brag about

Picking up weaponry as you go, then, is all-important. If your laser power goes down it will only temporarily stun the minor nas although it will still shoot bits off the FRC. Similarly, your forcefield goes down whenever it's turned on for long periods. That can also be topped up by picking up force cannisters. The few smart bombs and missiles dotted around will also

come in pretty useful. Since weapons are always enclosed by walls, you need to blow up sufficient space for your tank to get in. Simply driving over a weapon

The all-important FRCs don't appear very often and you'll manage restart the game. to get a few shots at one before it disappears again. No point in

chasing after it, as I said - it's much quicker than your tank You'll know an FRC when you see one. It's a caterpillar built out of dots, the body being a string of red dots with a blue one at the head. The idea is to shoot away all the red dots until only the blue one is left. The FRC then stops and you drive over it. etc. Apparently the head has a nuclear fuel rod in it, and you need eight of

these to complete the job of

stabilising the station - that's what it says here anyway. The eight FRCs are scattered around the three levels of the game which you take in order. And although you have three tanks (lives), the game ends if either the minor nasties catch you with your

shields down or an the FRC bumps into you head first.

You must use your Escape option if things start looking bad. Only by pressing Escape do you eject from

the tank (which blows up) and get to use the next one without having to This scenario may not sound very

inspired but it's curiously enjoyable because there's no limit on any of this and no really manic zapping to do. You simply bide your time, knowing that sooner or later an FRC will show itself. If you explore long enough, you'll get to know the place. where the weapon dumps are, where the FRCs usually hang out,

Graphically, Lifeforce is no great shakes, we've seen this type of scenery too often before. But the programmer does have a good time with minor nasties and explosion effects. Apart from those, both the

tank and the FRCs were pretty disappointing creations. Lifeforce is a good and competent game that becomes pretty absorbing once you've got into it. The play area is large enough to give a feeling of space but, to my



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64/18 Gremlin Price: £9.95/

cass

and docks of London, the sewers and Ratigan's den. To proceed from clues. Like most platform games there are nasties to be avoided, in

one level to the next, you must have collected the right number of correct the shape of Ratigan's henchmen, er

@BASIL@ n

In through the letterbox.

GREAT MOUSE *FCTIVE* down should you bump into them. only to be replenished by finding and eating a piece of cheese. Throughout the game, you see things from a mouse-eye point of view. So in the first level, only the

Detective is yet another in a succession of 'cute' Walt Disney cartoon rodents. Gremlin must have paid big bucks to get him. And then what do they do? They turn him into a ye olde platforme

I was expecting Basil to be like on of those Infogrames thrillers where you use staggering deductive

bottom third of shop doors can be seen as you proceed along the street. Boxes, barrels and sacks on the waterfront become huge

correct, but not which ones they are Only when you've got all five correct clues in your pocket will a message appear, telling where to go to find the exit to the next scenario

So how do you find clues and pick them up? The blurb tells you that you'll find them when you examine objects like jam jars, tin cans, small sacks, carpet bags, chests etc. All you need do is position Basil in front of one of these and press the spacebar. If an object is there, its picture will appear in the magnifying

glass on the bottom right of the screen. You then have an option to pick it up or leave it. If you pick it up. it will appear in one of the five squares representing your pockets Deciding which clues are real or false involves little thought. It's just a matter of putting the hours in. It works like this: if you collect five clues, press the '?' and find none of

them are right (it happend to me) you now know which five of the 13 are false. So that cuts your range down to eight. And so it goes on until you get the

five correct ones - not much to it really. The only problem is collecting five before your energy runs out. By the way, clues are never in the same place when you start a new game.

There are mousetraps dotted around which can be picked up and then dropped in the path of Ratigan's nasties to stop them following you around. The nasties will only follow you along a particular level and never from

the screen) in

which to store

them, When he's

got five, you press the '?' key and a number have to drop them in order to get five clues.

Graphically, the game is competent but not special, the scenes being about as adventurous as any platform game you've ever seen. Basil himself is adequate in size but compared with Yogi Bear or Berk in the *Trapdoor*, he's just not in the same league. The baddies are disappointing too, they look just like Basil. One nice touch is that Basil can scramble through the letterbox of various shop doors in the first level. This puts him inside the short The same happens when he clambers out of the back door. Another thing I found

disappointing about this game was the number of bugs in it. The game supposedly ends when Basil runs out of energy. Well, it finished on me twice before the meter was even half depleted. There are also lots of instances in which Basil seems to manage to walk on thin air. And if he gets stuck, say between a barrel and a henchmouse he's caught in a trap, there seems to be no way of getting him out except to turn off the

computer and reload. With fou good clues already in your pocket. this can be pretty annoying. I can't say I enjoyed this game very much. Basil could have and should have been much better. It's a reasonable idea which, to my mind,

has been wasted by presenting it in the form of just another platform Bohdan Buciak

Basil, a barrel and a bunch of doirty rats. powers to nab the villain. Well. it's obstacles that must be hopped onto nothing like that. There's no real and jumped over. Basil's sleuthing to be done. movements are restricted to left. right, jump and climbing stairs. Imagine yourself in Victorian London — "cor, real pea super Now for the clues. The blurb tells tonight, guy'ner". Your dear and you that there are a total of 13 chubby friend Dr Dawson has been objects on each level. Only five of kidnapped by the dastardh them are real clues. professor Ratigan. The rest have Your job is to been planted by make your way Ratigan to put through seedy Basil off the old London scent, Basil has town, collecti five pockets. (depicted as order to rescue squares at The game has the bottom of

Graphics Sound Toughness Endurance Value

game.

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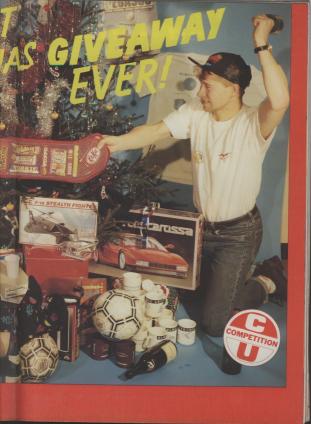
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n the first day of Christmas my true Ove gave to me...
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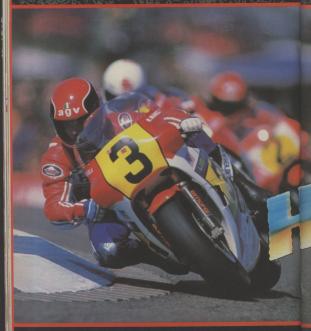
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he one remarkable thing about this new Mastertroinc game is that it isn't. New that is. From beginning to end there isn't one new idea in it. There are lots of old ones though. In fact Star Force Fighter is the ultimate shoot 'em 'up cliché, right down to the loading screen which features an almost exact rendition of space invaders at 4X normal speed for you to amuse yourself with while the game is loading.

STAR FORCE FIN

suggest that Star Force Fighter ought to be on the load screen with Invaders as the main feature. But I think that would be a little unfair to Mastertronic, who else after all. offers you a double bill for less than the price of a family size box of

This time its the Imperial forces of Deisarn who are overrunning the galaxy. Only you and the rest of the

crunchy nut cornflakes. nitifully depleted terran star force

Deisarns don't have on there side is the element of surprise. As an experienced star force fighter you expect them to do what thousands of aliens have done before them and approach from the right hand side of the screen in attack formation. They play right into your hands and you decimate them with your laser

cannon as they break formation and drop their shields. But, even with the blood of four aliens on your hands you know it's not all over yet. Another four approach, this time adopting a cunningly different formation, tight packed with shields fully extended and cannons blasting. No contest, You raise your own shield give the joystick lots of right, watch them disappear off the left of the screen and wait for something a little easier. Who said all Earthmen were

cowards? Some 20 or 30 aliens later there's so much blood on your hands you can't see your fingers to count - and a supply capsule makes a welcome appearance on



Prepare to spill glien blood the right of your screen. It will contain an extra life, shields, new more powerful weapons, possibly even a Klingon cloaking device. Your morale boosted you rejoin the

battle with a fresh lust for alien



64/128 MELBOURNE HOUSE Price: £8.95

proudly announced, back in '86, that it had acquired the rights to the French cartoon TV series, Inspector Gadget, the world waited with less than bated breath. After all, the Aussies' track record

in the field of cartoon computer games was hardly epoch-making In the nick of time along came the jolly budget giant Mastertronic, who gobbled up little Melbourne House and promptly scrapped inspector Gadget on the eve of its release. According to Mastertronic the game was not up to standard.

Now, nine months or so later, the hapless 'tec has turned up again, starring in a game which has undergone some radical changes. Gone are the supersize sprites and the comical animation. Gone are the speech bubbles, gremlins and pitfalls. Gone are even some of

INSPECTOR GADO AND THE CIRCUS OF IE

Gadget's gadgets. In fact, gone is just about everything except the title, Inspector Gadget and the Circus of Fear.

Instead what we've got is a very average hunt 'n' dodge game depicted in unremarkable graphics across a tiny playing area. If Melbourne's new bosses think that this Inspector Gadget is up to scratch, then the earlier version

must have been really awful In the TV series all this hardware gets him nowhere, and the mysteries are usually solved by his sidekick Penny and her dogs Brains. while Gadget leaps about tripping over his Gadget elastic-legs.

In the game, though, Penny and Brains are held captive by the evil MAD agents somewhere in the Big Top, and Gadget has to comb the circus tent to first find his missing gadgets, then unmask the spies.



KHTER



blood and a packet of Kleenex Moments, possibly hours later and it's all over. The last of the Deisarns explodes into a vapour cloud. Once again your experience tells you there's more to come and sure enough the meteor storm is upon you in seconds. All you can do complete the bonus level. No star force fighter likes to let a few meteors come between him and his bonus points, especially when its simply a case of picking up a few pods here and there.

Experienced star pilots might have an inkling of what comes next That's right, it's round two, more of it's by no means easy, even on the first level. It's just that I'm so brilliant and skillful, not to mention modest.

that I make it sound that way. Anyone who has more than half a dozen games must have something vaguely resembling this, but I can see it appearling to software hungry Christmas recipients of C64s.

Ken McMahon.

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Tou



before rescuing his friends. He's got bumping into objects and With a time limit like that, it's just as well that the big Top isn't all that big, comprising only 12 screens of sawdust and striped canvas, and a patrolled by a small number of circus characters - lions, seals,

midgets and the like - who monotonously prowl back and forth merely run-of-the-mill. Considering touches any of these he's returned that it's come from a once-great to the starting screen and 30 seconds are lopped off his time Six of the screens have doors leading off them into what seem to

be cottage interiors, with blazing fires and stripped-pine floorboards What these are doing in a circus is anyone's guess, and all but one are. Gadget collects these items by

examining them, and after picking up a few he can use them, in the correct order, to identify and arrest the Mad agents. I told you how to do this then I would destroy what little challenge there is in the game, but through trial and error Gadget will soon discover how best to employ Inspector Gadget isn't terrible,

software house, it's particularly tragic. There's no score facility, and no sound effects to speak of; just some irksome music that you can't switch off. Neither is there an abort key, so if Gadget shoots the midget on the high-wire he's stuck up there for the rest of the game. And worst still is the repetitive scenery. A sad, sorry show.

Bill Scolding

HAMSTER

you-know-what out of the whole opinion has gone on guite long enough, I don't care how many people buy The Last Ninja as long as it really is the last. (It isn't - Ed) The trouble with Ninja Hamster is that the joke is a bit short lived. The name of the game and the loading illustration brought a smile to my lips, but the game itself is actually is actually ten times worse than the worst of the stuff it parodies. The only difference is that instead of grown men in pyjamas rolling about

infront of pagodas you are presented with a succession of small rodents and other animals. After about five seconds the joke begins to wear very thin.

Problem number one is that this is a conversion job and the graphics are still very Spectrumesque. Come to think of it that's not really the major failing. The game is actually dead boring. What happens is that you, Ninja hamster on the left of the screen beat the living daylights out of a succession of opponents who

enter stage right. You hack and chop at the other

guy until he falls over and then he loses a bit of his apple - once down

Funny joke, tee hee.

64/128 CRL Price: £9.95

to the core it's goodbye. The first opponent, Sinister Rat looks like Mickey Mouse gone wrong and, perhaps because of this, is particularly easy to defeat. Lizard of Death is more of a handful and so it goes on through a succession of

""Young Hamster" said old Master Yong, "an acorn is but a small nut Years pass and it becomes king of the forest" The hamster sighed "But master, for how long must I remain a small nut?" The master closed his eyes, "as the snow falls so the grass disappears" he muttered

No? I thought it was quite funny Anyway the point is the only thing worth worth buying the game for is paragraphs on the back, and I've just told you the best bit, so there's no point buying it now

Ken McMahon



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Zone, a classic shoot-'em-up on the Sega Master System, You pilot a £12.99/disk spacecraft which can fly left or right.

the icon is activated. In this way your replaced by the awesome sevenway shotgun, which scatters bullets all over the screen, for as long as its energy lasts or until you replace it with another weapon.

ut of this World has just could possibly want from a horizontally-scrolling shoot 'em up - weird alien landscapes; a bewildering array of weaponry; level upon level of non-stop bobbing, weaving and firing: and

scenery as assorted Things come at you from all directions. Armed with a Quark cannon and infinite ammo, you zip back and forth, firing constantly with one eye on the

target and the other watching out for the next wave of nasties. The scenery is a vivid landscape of grotesque technicolour toadstools.

up and down, over the scrolling course, frustratingly brief. Your puny cannon and meagre six lives

Yet despite all the trimmings, Out

of this World owes a lot to Fantasy

are scarcely sufficient, and all you can do is try to find a (relatively) safe area of the screen where you can avoid most of the aliens and pick off the stragglers. Once you start collecting pods,

and gaining access to the more Well, a little bit. Actually, not very much at all. Finishing the first level

- The Forest - is a matter of battering the enemy into submission, and believe me, this takes a hell of a lot of shooting When the beggars have finally had

Life in this Other World is, of

There are seven icons, including enough, a large E for Exit appears on the screen, and if you give this a strengths, a laser and a 'wide beam', quick blast with whatever's to hand. you're warped into the next level. Except that before you reach it you've got to battle through any one of them reaches maximum. thousands of swarming vellow pods

in what is dishonestly called a Bonus Level. If you die in the middle of this you're zapped right back to the start. Level Two, should you reach it, is more of the same. The scenery has changed, the toadstools swapped for icicles and snowmen, the aliens them. Level Three, the bubble world. lies beyond a Bonus Level even more horrible than the last one, and

there are still another five worlds and five bonus levels after that.

Obviously I didn't get where I am today without using a cheat mode, and this involves using both hands on various keys and some other part of your anatomy to hold down the fire button. This can give you a few, or a lot, of lives. depending on how often you press it initially, but more important, it

boosts the energy levels of all the icons, so that they only need a pod or two to be activated.

Everything about Out of this World is slick and well-oiled, and there's enough variety in the landscapes and aliens to prevent it from being tedious. But it's also very, very difficult, which might put off less lunatic zappers, and it would have been a better game without those bonus levels. Still if your idea of fun is a blistered trigger-finger. Bill Scolding

Pick up the coins. LEVEL 1 FOREST

YOU A LITTLE CHEAT C



Step into the fantasy zone.

of animated rocks, organs, winged things and much more besides. They come at you in groups, sometimes flying in vertical waves sometimes horizontal: sometimes they approach in large formations, sometimes they curve around you in double helixes. Each alien you destroy

drops a bouncing coloured down and collect these humanoids in Defender? you boost the energy reserves of the various e screen.

Graphics Sound Toughness Endurance Value

Carfield

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hoot 'em ups are coming thick and fast for the Amiga thick and rast for the Anny but not the racing games. Crazy Cars is one of the first (and hopefully not the last) game of its kind on the Amiga. You don't go through six American tourist attractions which are Challenge Florida, Challenge New York, Challenge Space Shuttle, Challenge Mountain, Challenge Arizona and finally Challenge Malibu.

As soon as you load Crazy Cars you are confronted with a simple but effective title screen which is accompanied by some digitised rock on Amiga games nowadays. Then there comes the information on your

car, this sequence reminds me of Test Drive except that Test Drive is a heck of a lot more detailed. Now you're ready to run! Ignite that engine, release the break and hit the pedal and try to control the car up and down ramps and bumps at 200 mph. As if that wasn't exciting enough your car gets upgraded every now and then, what will they

think of next? Now we come to the graphics, on the whole they are extremely detailed with subtle touches such as Disney World and the Statue Of Liberty but they remain firmly on the acceptable but could have been a lot

> Prepare for the challenge course.

smoother. The cars themselves are nicely detailed and immediately Ferraris, but the one slightly disappointing feature is, that the game is very fast the approach of Thankfully though there is no flickering on anything in the game. However, there is also a lack of graphics on the sides of the road, it looks like 20,000 multi-coloured bees trying to get into a single hive at the same time. The most you get to see on the side is the occasional sign post; which is terrible and way below the Amiga quality and detail we now demand. Sound is also disappointing. The revs of the car dyslexic, otherwise the only other



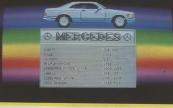




as I mentioned earlier is digitised. There should have been music all the way through the game, that could have compensated for the bad engine sounds.

Nevertheless despite the bad sound and jerky graphics the game kept me up all night, something about it makes it very addictive and playable, maybe it's because the game has a hint of Out Run in it because it uses popular road cars instead of the ubiquitous Formula 1 cars. Nevertheless that's as far as Crazy Cars get in similarity to Out Run. One toher is that there are absolutely no crashes, all that happens is that the car jumps up a foot off the ground like it had a bad case of hiccups and you end up

losing half your speed. I also think



the game seems quite easy, it gives you a generous time limit . Even though it's far from the Amiga's best, somehow it will still keep you playing for hours.

Vipul Kapadia











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Amiga **Argus Press** Price: £14.95

novel conversion this one. Transferred from the literary masterpiece and best seller by Tom Clancy, it's based on the tale of a Soviet commander's attempt to defect with a top nuclear submarine. Submarines play an important part in the world defence network in case you didn't know, and are often described as "Capital Ships" of today. Whereas a plane or a missile can easily be tracked and observed, it is difficult to tell if there is an

enemy submarine in your coastal

waters. There is one way though: a

tracking network can be set up, and if your craft is discovered it is easy to place a one ship sonar 'tail' on it. You play the captain of Russia's most top secret nuclear submarine. It is also the Soviet's most powerful. Your objective is not to wage the now familiar computer gaming single handed querilla war behind enemy lines, but to defect to the West. The Americans desperately want to get their grubby little

capitalistic paws on the world's most state of the art submarine. The Russians meanwhile are trying their damndest to stop you. The submarine's main enemy is

sonar, such devices as anechoic titles on the hull still offer only a slim protection from the all-seeing sound pulse. If the submarine is located the only attack a surface vessel can offer is the traditional depth charge or the ultra-sophisticated anti-submarine missiles. But the biggest threat by far comes from underwater mines. You can try and trigger these off with an acoustic torpedo, cut your speed and perform a one-eighty

degree turn. Combat with a submarine is rather reminiscent of the World War One aerial dog fights. With both vessels weaving and accelerating out of the

path of the enemy's torpedo. Or you can use a tactic which I have tried and tested on lethel enemy fishing boats. They don't fool me, they only pretend they're harmless. Anyway. you sneak up on the ship at a discreet distance of six nautical miles, at periscope depth. Lock the craft on visual, then let rip with a full salvo of four torpedoes. Even if only one connects, the enemy vessel is left pouring smoke from a gaping wound. This is my fave effect in the

game, because although the ship The Red sub draws a bead on the treacherous trawler.



THE HUNT FO



So just where are we now, sir? hasn't taken enough damage to sink, it still looks solendidly trashed as it tries to limp away from the imminent threat of you finishing it off. You can select elevation angles of launch for the missiles, very difficult this as you also have the

the more susceptible to discovery you are as the noise your torpedoes make at the time of launching gives a sonar reading somewhere between an Iron Maiden concert and the eruption of Mount St Helens.

The submarine incorporates one of the latest developments in anti-



OCTORFR

caterpillar drive, it works by sucking in water at the front of the craft then blowing it out the other end, causing a slow maximum speed of twelve knots. The noise given off by the motors is almost undetectable by

sonar. A variety of different maps are at your disposal, plus sonar blips of ships, mines, and other submarines. Terrain maps show the depth between your hull and the sea bed. Cross sections and side views of the ship showing again the depth between you and a ruptured hull. Red October is a stunning game Highly accurate and absorbing. The graphics are stunning, not in their

complexity but in the effectiveness to which they are used: for instance, if you surface or go to periscope depth in the centre of a pack of Russian ships, the visual display and representation is so realistic that it leaves you with a real feeling of Oh jobbie, what have I done? Another



infra-red feature on the periscope which portrays the surrounding ocean and ships in glorious shades of red and pink. The sound is adequate with the almost to be expected blip noise of the sonar if you activate it.

I really liked Red October and to my mind it is the best submarine simulator on the Amiga. (Not that there's much choice!) The only problem I incurred was that everything happened in the same order in each and every game, so I often found myself almost

subconsciously dealing with situations I knew would arise at that point in the game. My other stumbling block came when I found that although I had just checked my

Graphics

incidentally is the front page of the New York Times. A good game with a lot to do in it and it should last - it took me half an hour to get to the North Sea from Scandinavia, let alone, America! As my alter-ego might say: "Wow, 'sa 'mazing!"

maps I got blown out of the water at

the most unlikely moments. And I

didn't find this out until the game

over message came up, which

Mark Patterson



but there's an enemy ship close



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he most immediately attractive thing about /nsegin made no attempt to dress mutton up as lamb. There is no novella recounting the exploits of some boring starfighter, and even the packaging is remarkably free of "the greatest game ever seen" blurb. Simply there are a series of accurate screenshots which do a good job of reflecting the quality of the game's graphics.

Insanity Fight, is, in the truest

which use a 3" × 2" window for all animation.

Screen Scene

As you fly along, there are various obstacles which you must either blast and/or avoid. Although these are pretty dangerous, death is

bullet lire, or unintentional turbos. map the game, but I found that it was much more simple just to learn depending on the severity of the

situation you are in at the time. To add to the excellent graphics, Insanity Fight has some of the best spot effects yet on the Amiga. Thunderous crashes, mega explosions and various other drones

sense of the phrase, a shoot-'em up. The object of the game is to fly your spaceship up a vertically scrolling bas-relief landscape, blasting everything that moves — and a great deal that doesn't. Anyone who has played the original mega-blast, Andrew Braybrook's Uridium, will immediately feel at home with Insanity Fight, although under the surface this game has a great deal more to offer

What Insanity Fight does is take the best elements of Uridium - the graphics, speed and general blastability — and improve them,



then add a few tricks of its own. As well as gawd knows how many levels the game uses Salamander like bonus elements to stop the game becoming too repetitive. mirroring, steering changes. bonuses and energy are all up for

grabs if you manage to fly over the appropriate area, indicated by a strobing rainbow, of the screen

a machine with the potential of the Amiga. Even the loading screen, with its excellent left-right scrolling starfields, is excellent, and as for the backdrops

To capitalise on these graphics the Swiss programming team, (Linel) have used the whole screen, with only the bottom 1/4 reserved for the display panel, the rest being dedicated to the game. This is a refreshing change from games

Rip that scre

well and truly alive. The same cannot be said for the theme tune which sounds like a sound sampled

What makes Insanity Fight such a good blast is both the quality of the simplicity of the game. No blitterkeep the arcade feel of the game driven line graphics, no quasi-3D effects, no boring storyline, just a good wholesome blast — with a few surprises (as you will find out the first time the mothership arrives!!). As with most Amiga games, it is overpriced at £24.95, but it is well worth scraping the money together if you can.

Ian J Frogsac



The graphics on Insanity Fight are exactly what you would expect from





Don't you hate flash blokes like him?

Porsche acceleration in first.

Amiga Accolade/ Electronic Arts Price: £24.95

I you usually go off to make a cup of coffee while waiting for games to load, get the kettle on well before you boot up Test Drive. You don't want to miss he loading screens on this one. Never have I encountered a program where the introductory screens made me want to play the game as much as this

Test Drive is the sort of game that dreams are made of. It's all about sports cars. Bleek, shiny, fast sports cars. The loading screens flip through the five on offer for you to drive in the game — the Porsche 911 Turbo, Perrail Testarrossa, Lotus Turbo Esprit, Lumborghini Contach and Chery Corvette — all so graphically detailed as to make you







drool, with digitised speech, some great music, and appealing touches such as the windscreen of the car on display being wound down, and a gleam of teeth and flash of shades from the driver as he roars off-screen. (Flash b'stard! Ed).

The object of the game is to select one of the five cars, and test drive it up a winding mountainous road to the top, avoiding oncoming cars, highway patrols, oil slicks, and potholes. The faster you do it, the more points you score.







Driving is controlled by keyboard or joystick: left and right for steering, directional movement (with the fire button pressed) related to the gearbox layout for changing gear. Run over oil slicks, and you'll get mucky marks on the windscreen; potholes affect the

steering slightly. With the highway patrols, you can either slow down to within the speed limit (there are road signposts as well) which will lose you points, or speed up to try to shake them off Assuming you don't crash into

anything, or go over the edge of the

a gas station for status reports at various stages. Here, you'll generally get a sarky comment such as, "What's the matter - couldn't find second?", your average speed and time, and a points score. If you do crash you experience the game's most disappointing moment, the screen simply cracks unrealistically Even if you drive over the edge. No sound effects either. Very disappointing. Given the beautiful graphics of the cars' exteriors and dashboard, the road is drawn slightly less impressively.

Graphics Sound Toughness

Endurance Value



Christina Erskine

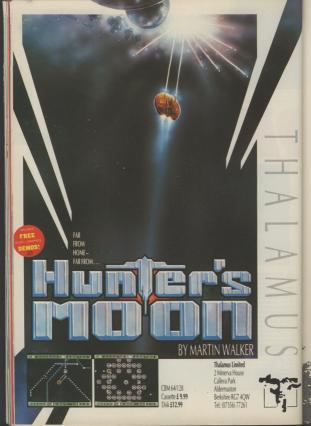
Geoff Brown's

Performance statistics

on the Porsche. The program falls into two distinct parts: car selection and the driving. Flipping through the selection screens, you get a picture of each technical specification of its performance: acceleration speeds tyre types, dimensions, braking distance, etc. This is the drooling bit.

Having chosen your car, you take to the road, with a driver's seat (left hand drive, since it's an American game) view of the dashboard and the road ahead. You also have your rear-view mirror, a radar display to warn you of approaching speed cops, and your gear box. Would that I had sat in any of these cars for long enough to be able to tell you how accurate the dashboard layout for each car is - from the attention to detail in the selection screens. I would imagine they are fairly faithful reproductions.





Amiga Mastertronic Price: £14.95

hen I saw Ninja Mission on the Atari ST 1 thought to myself "It's a nice little game, a bit hard, but nice Unfortunately, on the Amiga it's a case of "Nice graphics, but where's the game?"

Yep, Ninja Mission is one of those strange Amiga games with pleasing backdrops, soooth sprites, vivid colour and no gameplay. Well it has



And don't argue with me again!

high kicks to low punches. There are also a few moves which are unique to NM, like death star throwing and

a sword thrust. When you beat an opponent who is guarding an idol, collecting it gives your score a boost and battle. Once you have completed the first five screens of the game, you

must go to the screen called 'Shio Here you will see a small hole in the roof which is the entrance to Akuma's temple. Seems like a silly place to put a door, but there you go.

Each screen inside the temple has a strange name. These range from 'Green Door' through to things like

NINJA MISSION

got gameplay, but it's so easy that you could clock it twice without loading it!

The idea of the game is very simple. A nasty, evil, son of a prawn cracker named Akuma has invaded the tiny village of Tambo Machi and stolen seven magical idols. In desperation, the villagers have asked you, a mighty Ninia warrior.

to go and ask for them back. And so the game begins with you strolling up to the front entrance ready to tackle anybody who tries it

As the first screen is empty, you must move to the left or right in order to find someone to talk to. It is at this point you will notice that Mastertronic haven't really got to grips with the Amiga's graphics

The speed at which the locations are displayed is so amaziangly slow that you could have your dinner, telephone a friend, take the dog for a walk and feed the budgie before it eventually shows itself Using the joystick you can perform 16 moves ranging from

Graphics Sound Toughness Endurance Value



Fancy a spot of ballet?

5 4 7 8 9 10

'Takiraki', 'mikeyrooni' and various other film stars.

While you tackle Akuma's hordes. you get to listen to a piece of music which, although catchy, has to be amongst the shortest tunes ever heard on a micro. When will we get full blown Rob Hubbard classics on the Amiga?

After a few more battles you should have collected six idols and are now ready to collect the seventh from Akuma's chamber. If you don't have all six when you reach this point, go back and find the ones you

Once in the chamber, you must destroy five assorted guards before capturing the final idol. When this has been achieved make your way back through the screens to Tori

And this it, end of game. I can't for the life of me figure out why Mastertronic made the game so easy. This is in fact the only part of the game which beats the hell out of

Chris Cain

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MY TOPTEN by

GAVIN GREENHALGH & CJ HUGHES



The ceremonial spraying of the bubbly.

any of Anco's early releases for the Amiga were frankly disappointing, with little, if anything to distinguish the titles from 8-bit renderings. Now, however, its range appears to be settling down, and at a set price of £9.95, the titles represent better value for money than many

to brake, left and right, press the fire button to change up or down a gear depending on the current joystick position. There is also a 'boost' feature to give extra acceleration for overtaking other cars. It looks as though it's joystick controlled only, despite the instruction card stating that joystick or mouse control is

available from the main menu, this option is nowhere to be found.
Such simplicity makes *Grid Start*

Such simplicity makes Grid Start very playable and easy to get into; it just a question of getting used to the controls, screeching down the straights, getting into position and timing your gear changes for the bends, and notching up the times. It also means that its is very much aracing 'game' rather than a true

Screen Scene

simulation. None of this full set of Formula 1 controls compares with Revs for example (the Silverstone chicane is a lot easier to negotiate on Grid Start than on Revs as well). In both practice and competition there are other cars on the track to avoid colliding with: this is fine when they're in front of you and you're speeding up to overtake. However, as there's no mirror view, and your own car is drawn right at the bottom of the screen, it's all too easy to crash into someone coming up behind, whom you can barely glimpse before the big pile-up hits

Grid Start is nicely presented, with clear graphics, attractive background scenery, a jolly opening tune and lots of growling engine noises. Real Formula One enthusiasts will probably want to erelbased, but if you just want to zoom round Brands Hatch et al. Grid Start is very playable. And at fess has half the price of most Amiga software, it makes for an extremely decent little gard.

Christina Erskine

GRID START

Amiga Anco Software Price: £9.95/ cass

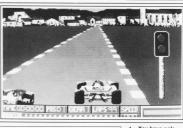
competing products.

Grid Start, as its name suggests, is a racing game, with you in a six gear Formula 1 car competing against 23 other drivers over six tracks of the world.

The instructions suggest that you practise hard for several laps before attempting to take on a championship race; also that you begin at Novice, rather than Amateur or Professional level. Wise

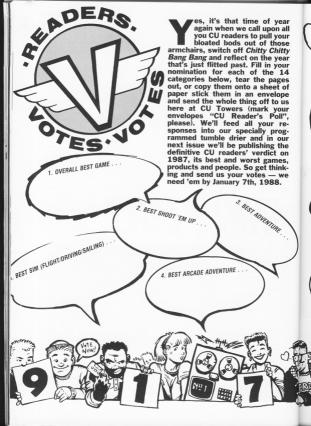
words.
The presentation of the venues themselves on-screen is fairly abstract, while the bends and straights are reproduced where you would expect them to be, the track surrounded is a uniform green, and only the scrolling backtrop gives a flavour of the geographical setting; scrub and desert for Mexico; pine forest and snow-capped Alps for Austria, for instance.

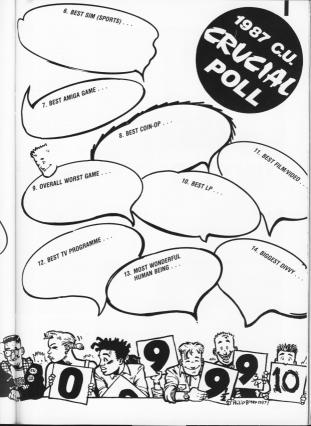
Your car is easy to control, with most of the joystick movements selfevident: forward to accelerate, back



| Value | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | ٠ | 7 | 3 | , | 10 | Overal |
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| orupines | | - 2 | • | • | , | ۰ | | ٠ | • | 10 | |

You have pole position





JINXTER

Rainbird/ Magnetic Wossnames 64/128 disk Price: £24.95

Go dahn the baker for a loaf

old on while I tether me unicorn, and I'll tell you about this wossaname wot I been that's fixed the blighter, so here goes. One minnit I was getting orf this bus, and the next, this Grudiana feller appears from nowhere, and tells me I'm a gorner. My fault, I s'pose should never have bothered to pick up me keyring. Me Dad warned me when I was a kid about bending over

in public. Dangerous. Narwhamean? This Grudiana feller hands me a watchercallit. "Here, read this," he says, "so's I can get back to the trouble and strife." And bugger me if it don't turn out I been given the job of collecting all them charms from orf the Green Witch's bracelet - something to do with breaking their power so as Len Crikey and 'is lot can get 'old of a cheese samie with a bit a

Lucky I'm an adventure wossa name, 'cos in no time flat I was through me country cottage like a dose of salts. Pity I missed the old sock, might have helped with the samies, nar wha mean? But when I crash out I chuck me clothes all over the place. Never can find 'alf of them.

Getting over the Xam's place was dead simple. Honest - no bull! Now where was I? Oh vuss. I soon got the boat, but then this cheese-mad gardener runs orft in 'elluvurry. Pound to a pinch of salt there was some dodgy goods in that sack of 'is. Still, ne'mind, other things are happening. Up staggers this postman -Lebling I thinks 'is name is. 'E was a-puffin' and a-pantin' all the way up the drive. Stuffs the wossaname in the bleedin' ooiimy, narmean? Then 'e only goes and SHUTS it, don't 'e? Silly bunt. Spent hours and hours over that one, didn't I? Huh! Wind, indeed!

Any road up, soon I find myself dropping through the sky like a stone. Flippin' Granudia pulls up alongside, munchin' a cheese sarnie "Hullo, in some sort of trouble then, are we squire?" he asks, a bit nonchalant, narmean? "Sell you a parachute can I?" Saucy sod!

"Naff orff" I exclaim. Not stupid. am. I? Got a saved game, 'ain't I, only 'e 'asn't cost on!

'Ad a lost of fun at the bakers, I did - not 'arf! Blew meself AND 'is flippin' oven up more than once (felt a bit unlucky at the time) until I tried things a different way Tell you what though. That village postmistress is a carmy old bird, no messing. Vigilant? I should say so! But ugly? Cor. strike a light! Even if I 'ad a few chances to lay my hands on her

handles, I'd turn 'em down, narmean? Anyway, it never rains but wot it pours, and I soon lost count of how many times I sat through the weather forecast, constantly 'aving to go back for a bit of soothing music. The further forward I went, the further back I 'ad to go to get anywhere. And then I got to the point where I thought I 'ad it all roped up. And guess wot? I 'adn't bothered to doodah the bleedin' watchercallit, and all the wossaname had gone! Crikey! Saved

Cor, wouldn' mind kippin' 'ere for a while



game? I might as well start orl over

Wanta get onto a good doofer, then? Find a mate, and pirate this Jinuter wossname. Har har! Hope you

read a half decent paper! We apologise for this review being late and all that but that bleeds Campbell's gone and lost 'is marbles. Just in case any of the above review doesn't sound totally kosher or make



buge oven stands next to a trestle table, stairs lead upwards, and there's

any more sense than yer Dutch aunt here are a few notes so's you an make out what the silly arse is on abart. We hope this makes it all much clearer. 1. Any words containing the letters

DUGNAIRA should read GUARDIAN.
2. For DOODAH read RAIN.
3. The game comes with a copy of

contains clues to the puzzles.

21. The clues to the puzzles in The Independent Guardian are puzzles.

5. When it is not thingy, take care not to get oojimy.

19. There is no connection between the postman who appears in Jinxter, and any other person, whether living, dead, or employed by Infocom.

During solution, some of the puzzles give the appearance of being vocabulary problems — which they are not. They are puzzles, and this confusion leads to the ever so slightly.

In for the 'igh jump, knoworrimean?



Files and figure sear considerily security of a second endeath of



lower playability rating than might otherwise have been the case. OK, your Arithship? (Grovei, shrp.).

9. Some of the finny text, most of which is so incredibly fanny that most people in the office became extremely doofered, is a bit overdone. Shades of Bureaucracy, Narmean, Michael?

NTO

by Keith Campbell

GRAPHICS
PLAYABILITY:
PUZZLEABILITY:
OVERALL:

▲ Wouldn't 'appen to 'ave the time, guy?





JACK THE







CRL/St. Brides 64/128

Price: £9.95 cass

Tack The Ripper was the nickname of the villain responsible for a series of murders which took place in London's East End between August and November 1888. They were never solved. The Ripper's victims were prostitutes, and all but one were slain whilst soliciting. The method of the murderer was to cut the throat, and usually to mutilate the body in a way that indicated some anatomical knowledge

Gruesome stuff indeed, and there is today a pub, not far from the dark twisting lanes where these foul deeds took place, whose name commemorates those grisly events.

Not the sort of story on which to base an adventure, you might think. But why





not? The Ripper has provided the theme for a number of novels and plays so why not a computer game? And so it comes to pass that you find yourself in the Whitechapel area, wandering down Bow Lane, when you

come upon a shape lying on the ground at the end of a darkened alley. Examine it, and examine it you must if you are to proceed through the game, and two screenfuls of detailed text follow, describing the gory state in which you find a body - slit from ear to ear, with its stomach ripped open. This text is followed by a digitised and equally gruesome picture. But it was the text far more than the graphic, that disturbed me - and that surely proves that text in an adventure stimulates the imagination more than graphics.

The game was submitted to the British Board Of Film Censors, and as a result, some alterations were made before it was awarded an 18 certificate, and published. Now, of course, this is partly commercial gimmicry - there is really no obligation for a game to be subjected to such scrutiny. However, it does mean that publishers CRL are covered, should someone try to get it banned. And it really is a sensible guide - this game is quite definitely not suitable for children or even young

The text, though full of gory detail, is impeccably written, and conveys a sense of narrative, being written in the first person. But how does the game

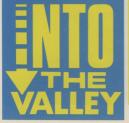
perform as an adventure? After discovering the body, you are mistakenly taken for the villain, and from then on it is a race against time to keep ahead of the police, and try to solve the murder yourself. There are some clever puzzles, and as the game is played in real time, the STORE option. which saves a position to memory, is a very useful aid that allows you to quickly go back and overcome developments that you hadn't foreseen.

The Ripper was written using the PAW, and is the first commercially available PAW-ed adventure. Multiword input is accepted, and is often necessary during the course of the game. The parser, in fact, starts off by giving the appearance of being as powerful as Magnetic Scrolls' - but it isn't. I tried PUT RAZOR AND SOAP ON WASHSTAND and only one of the items went down. Nevertheless, it is very

There is an obvious comparison to be made with Rod Pike's adventures, also published by CRL. The Ripper seems to be a little more relaxed, if a horror adventure can be so described. There is less emotional build-up, and more emphasis on the physical level. Also, it has the advantage of being written on a superior system to GAC and Ouill. PAW apart. I'd say it was a matter of personal choice as to which you'd

If you have enjoyed Rod's adventures, or fancy a bit of horror, then this game is for you. But do heed the 18 certificate on the package.

GRAPHICS PLAYABILITY PUZZLEABILITY: OVERALL:



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ESCUE

Have you ever overheard two adventure players discussing a game? If you didn't know anything about adventure games, you would think they were mad, wouldn't you? Take Michael Walsh, who wrote from Australia. His problem is that he is locked in a bathroom on a BUS, and trying to get out of a basket! Strange fellow, you would think! No doubt he is perfectly same - it could only happen to an adventure player! And the answer's simple — check it out under Zzzz, in the class section!

Mr. Trueman, like many puzzied adventurers, is in a brown study. He is in the company of Macbeth, and needs to know the five letters required to avoid failure.

How can Lee Hanney of Port Taibot open the sliding door in the reception in 21st Street, in The Big Sleage? It you have mastered this, or any of the other problems mentioned, your help would be appreciated at the address

Remember The Ouest? It is a disk adventure from Commodore, at one time bundled free with a 1541 drive. Paul Kersch of Ingatestone is a Quest player of three years standing, but despite being ranked as 'experi enced player' he still has a major problem - how to kill the serpent. Paul sent in some useful hints, so if you are stuck in Quest, look in the chies section

If YOU are stuck in an adventure. help is at hand! Pour out your troubles to me at: The Valley, Commodore-User, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane. London EC1R 3AU. Make sure to include your address - for at CU we don't leave readers high and dry. We WILL get back to you, hopefully with an answer to get you going again, perhaps a 'Thank you' for a hint or two, and even, occasionally, a grovelling apology when we can't come up with the solution.

CAMPBELL'S

Who takes any notice of reviews? There we all are, us reviewers, slaving away over hot computers, boring ourselves silly before slagging off a really grot adventure, and what do we find? A couple of months pass. and it has made it into the Adventure Chart

Of course, it's not cruite as simple as all that. There's nothing I like better than a really absorbing adventure and it's really good ones that are worth shouting about. So usually, these reviews will occupy more space, have more colour, and be featured very prominenetly.

It is pleasing, then, to see a game that has received excellent reviews, like The Pawn, doing well in the marketplace, and winning awards. But that doesn't always happen. Look at Kayleth, for example - a game praised by reviewers and players alike, but purchased by very few of the latter. A disappointment like this bodes ill for further adventures of similar quality from the same source. Conversely, it is irritating to see a really naff adventure doing well. Ha-

ven't the punters taken notice of

any raview reflects some degree of personal taste, but so often many reviews convey the same message, yet still the duff game does well:

This raises two questions. How are the charts are compiled, and what actually sells an adventure? The answer to the first is confused since the source of charts seems to be limited to certain distributors and retail outlets.

To make things worse, it seems that those who produce the charts do not really understand how to classify a game as 'adventure'. One only has to look at a typical list, to see that half of them are not what a 'real' adventure player would call an adventure, but what the general mass of computer games players mistakenly think is an adventure.

Look at the Adventure Chart in CU for September - among the entries were: Defender Of The Crown, Portal, Killed Until Dead, and Alternative Reality, none of which are true adventure cames. But what of the others? The list also contains: Star Wreck, a travesty of an adventure if ever there

RAINRIRD

ADVENTURE CHART

TM IM

6 10 PAWN

1 1 DEFENDER OF THE CROWN MIRRORSOFT

2 NE KNIGHT ORC RAINBIRD

3 2 GUILD OF THIEVES RAINBIRD

4 RE KOBOYASHI MASTERTRONIC

5 3 KILLED UNTIL DEAD US GOLD

7 4 STAR WRECK **ALTERNATIVE**

7 LEGACY OF THE ANCIENTS **ELECTRONIC ARTS**

9 SYDNEY AFFAIR INFOGRAMES

8 FRANKENSTEIN CLR



was one, (although the chart entry in this case has to be forgiven, for it came before the reviews); Shadws Of Mordor, which got reviews ranging from unenthusiastic to downright dreadful; and Koboyashi; an unengame, but as an adventure—sheer mediocrity.

So one is drawn to the conclusion that it is either the hype or the price that sells a game, irrespective of quality. Lucky indeed is Catif Of Thieves, also in the same chart. It had excellent reviews, and it had plenty of advertising. But which got it into the chart?

So I'm left scratching my head!
How do you, dear reader, decide
which adventures to purchase? On
the spur of the moment when you see
it in a shop? Because you've seen so
many attractive ads? Or do you
actually take note of reviews?
When and let me know — I'm drying
to find out, and I'l report back with

WENTURE C

SPYTREK ADVENTURE:

Peel the onion to help the pilot. THE HELM:

THE HELM:

To find a needle in a haystack, find a lens to start a fire! KENTILIA-

Store sunlight in crystal for a bit of troll bashing.

THE PAWN-

The dragon is VERY short sighted! Illuminate an alternative meal, and then make the point! 7777.

Fire the gun at the duck, take the balloon, go west to the exit and open it.

KNIGHT ORC: Bop the hermit while he is putting something

in the cabinet.

GUILD OF THIEVES:

Take the cushion apart for your stake money! BUREAUCRACY:

It is important to note the order in which you collect the mail, to help with the unlabelled cartridge. The outcome requires both lateral thinking and non-lateral thinking.

NEWS Ingrid set to return

Shaggishness in getting fully working titles out into the marketplace is leading Level 9 away from British Telecom software arm, Raimbird, and back to publishing their own adventures.

Time and Magik, a trilogy comprising Lords Of Time, Red Moon, and The Price Of Magik, ready for some weeks, has still not appeared at the time of writing. This, and their belief that a Rainbid amoth of Chome Ranger would have been unlikely to occur this side of Christmas, whereas the Austins wanted something new to show at PCW— and got it— seems to be behind Level 9s recent reversion to publishing their own produces.

publishing their own products.

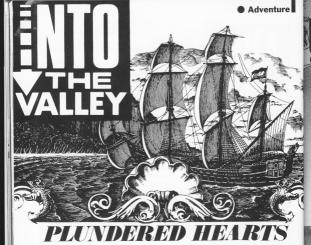
Ingrid Bottomley is scheduled to return in a Gnome Ranger sequel, to be published by Level 9, around May.

Echoes round

With Enchantress and Mindfighter postponed until the New Year, a whole host of titles are being lined up by Fergus McNei and Anna Popkees, for both the Abstract Concepts and Deha 4 labels.

Goodnight Cruel World will be followed by a spoof horror adventure, and its original working title Nightmare On Oak Street has undergone a change to Nightmare On Seasame Street It's going to be sold in the States, and you know what they're like — they'd never get it if we stach to Oak" explained Anna.

To produce these titles without undue delay, a number of programmers are being taken on. Artwork for the packaging is being done by Mark Wilkinson, who did Merillion, and Anna claims that it looks 'herrillic'.



Infocom/ Activision Amiga 64/128 Disk £24.99

Amiga Disk £29.99

"Time stops as you and Nicholas gaze at one another, adoring and amazed. Slowly he bows and offers you his

'Chestnut hair, tousled by the wind, frames the tanned oval of his face. His eyes, twin seas of blue, devour you with a love deep and true-hearted, and you are pulled into his embrace, your mouth on his, lips parted, thirsting, arching into his kiss.

Yuk! So ends Plundered Hearts, a tale of adventure and romance on the high seas. You play the heroine, voyaging to meet your father, who is reported ill on the Isle of Sinistra. In reality imprisoned by the tyrant ruler Lafond, Dadsy has managed to com-mission Captain Nicholas Jamison, The Falcon, to intercept your schooner and warn you that it is a trap, and then to recome him.

The game starts with a good few screenfuls of preliminaries, in which you can do little except watch the game playing itself. Soon lamison leaves for the island, little suspecting that Crulley, one of his crew, is following not far behind, and about to warn Lafond of the rescue attempt. But you have troubles of your own the ship is drifting onto the coral, and there's a fire down in the ammunition.

All this is left to you to sort out, whilst the remaining crew are oblivious of the danger. Not to worry, it's a doddle, and before long you are yourself on the island, having scored at least half of the 25 available points.

Here a ball is in progress, and dressing suitably for the occasion, you soon discover the whereabouts of your father by operating a secret mechanism whose combination can be hit upon by pure luck, without even realising quite what you have done right. Seems Papa has a soft spot for Lucy the kitchen maid, (wink,

better known as the infamous pirate III wink, nudge, nudge() and once rescued, he deserts you to fend for yourself and collect the intrepid lamison, whilst he goes in search of his fancy piece Inevitably you end up in the clutch-

es of the dastard Lafond (yes, it's begins with a 'd' - this is far too genteel a game for stronger words) and, if you're lacking in curning, you're likely to suffer a fate worse than death. I tried to lie back and eniov it C... brings your wildest fantasies to life . . . says the blurb on the package') but all I got was a warning of what my mummy would think. Suffice to say that Plundered Hearts is the antithesis of Leather

Goddesses

Most of the 25 points give themselves up with little effort, but there are a couple of sticking points, where a degree of openness in the plot combines with an inconsistency in the actions, and makes things rather frustrating. For example, at about the time you are likely to start taking an interest in the chandelier, it is on the cards you will get killed whilst experimenting. However, when the same action presents-itself more obviously towards the end of the game, you score a huge success. One other feature can cause diffi-

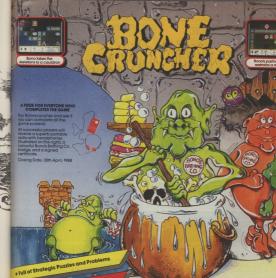
culties - if you leave the ship without finding or taking certain essential objects. Although this is down to you. there is no hint in the later puzzles that you are missing something. A saved game here will give you plenty of re-tries, (with no chance of success, if you only knew it?)

Plundered Hearts is now probably Infocom's easiest title. There's no harm in that, but it's a pity that some of the more sugary text was not put to making the plot a bit more intricate. and the play more consistent.

If you're an experienced adventurer, you can reckon on completing it in time to get a pint or two in at the Skull and Crossbones before closing time! So just tell me - is that worth £25?

Graphics: Playability 6 Puzzleability 6

Overall



Bono The Dragon and his Flourishing Business You are Bono, a friendly dragon residing in a picturesque sea-castle. As a shrewd business-dragon, keen on "nice little earners", you make your living by selling soap to the giant monsters who bathe in the sea

With the aid of your business partner, named Fozzy, you produce the soap by collecting skeletons amongst the castle caverns and then

However, the castle caverns are fraught with danger: there are monsters who will kill you, spiders who will eat you alive, and glooks

who will block your path. It will pay you dividends to also avoid the perilous trapdoors and hidden volcannes.

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'Scuse us

I'd like to tell you that your charts in the November-issue (1987 of course) were sooo cool. But I disagree with the 'Ton ten crap excuses for being late', they're marvellous, they're brilliant, splendid excuses indeed, except no. 1 maybe. which sounds a bit ridiculous and which I haven't tried. But the other excuses are sooooo good that I'll use them a dozen times even though I haven't got a cat (excuse no.6) etc. Anyway, I believe the best excuse is no. 4 (1) thought it was Sunday') which I tried out at first on you-know what-day-of-the-week, 29/11/87 !!!!! I can't describe in words how puzzled my poor friend became when I've told him this excuse! So here is my version of excuse no.4: If you are late on e.g. Monday morning, just say 'Oh, I'm sooo sorry, but I thought it was Monday morning!' and have a good laugh! Alexander Schütz Graz, Austria

Er, OK

Anti American feeling

I am an American reader of your magazine and I get sick of the comments made when a U.S. game is bad such as the review of Decentors. So what if it is had? There are bad games from every country that makes them. I don't hear you say how the British do things bad when they have a had game (which is most of them.) The U.S. games are not more expensive seeing how you usually get a full disk or two or three. instead of some single load limited game that comes from England. Also tell your reviewer to stay out of politics and stick to

reviewing games as they probably don't know what is happening in the real world Steve Davis Queensland, Australia

Well thanks Steve for the great socio-economic and political insight. If we read between the lines we could almost be forgiven for thinking you think Brit games are naff. Far be if for us to tell an American about politics. You all know so much. Just look at your President.

in that case I must have bought a different game to Terrapods because my copy has no music whatspever

Please tighten up your reviews as no way did this game deserve an overall score of 8. Thankyou for letting me speak my mind. P.S. All the screen shots weren't from the Amiga version, were they?

I paid £24.95 for Terrapods and to put it bluntly it is crap.

Amiga. You made this game both

look and sound good. It was

written "The music and spot

effects are also excellent." Well

Yes, all the screen shots were from the Amiga version—good weren't they? As for the music you're right there isn't any. Don't ask . . !

Amiga for conversions

I have read your magazine for about two years now and it is the second time I write to you. The last time I wrote to you I criticised you for having too few Amiga reviews, now I think that you are OK, but you can still be much better Yesterday I saw a picture from

Out Run on the Amiga. It was just one picture so nothing moved. but that picture was totally amazing. If U.S. Gold only can put speed into the game it is going to be the game we Amiga owners have waited for. And hev. what are you other companies doing out there? We wanna see some good arcade conversions an the Amiga. I want games like 720°, Le Mans, R-Type, Road Runner, Super Sprint and Rampage. And when someone is taking the licence to Afterburner,

511



converted to the Amiga. And as last a little message to Psygnosis. It was good that you put in Swedish text in the game Terrapods, but next time can a Swede do it. (The game was excellent). Over and out from me

now. Christian Erlandsson Gothenburg, Sweden

Spool drool

Well what can I say fantastic, brilliant, mega, wicked! Yes I am referring to the Cool Spool stuck to the front of last month's ish

month s ish.

I must admit even though it
was only one section of each i
just had to go back for more,
especially 720°. Hurry up U.S.
Gold we'r eall waiting for the
finished version of it (See
reviews, Ed.) Anyhow how you,
Elite, Firebird and U.S. Gold
produced that without raising the
price of the mag was terrific.
Paul McClounan



Embarrassed

I have written this letter to make a complaint. Not about your great mag, but about some of the readers who write to you.

Ever since you printed a map of English arcades, idiots have been writing to you complaining you never visited their town. No-one cares except them, I certainly

don't.

I would also complain about the lack of C16 and Plus/4 articles and game reviews, but I won't because I am too embarrassed to mention I am a Plus/4 owner.

C Chippendale

Don't get embarrassed, get a 64 or an Amiga.

Unexpected

I have just bought your issue and was delighted to receive the FREE tape. I have just seen ZZap in my friend's house. They have added 25p onto their cover

Skoolspeak

Following Softspeak and its highly acclaimed sequel, Softspeak 2.1 bring you

Skoolspeak. Homework to be done in

No homework.
I'll give you an aural test in the vocabulary.

No homework again, but sit next to a square. The book we shall be reading in

The book we shall be reading in class is a literary masterpiece that is intriguing, thought-evoking. . . Avoid reading.

It's all quite straight-forward if you look at it logically.
Don't even try to understand.
That date is irrelevant.
That wasn't in my degree course.
Comments in reports:
David tries very hard.
But fails miserably.
Matthew is a very quiet boy.

I've never noticed him before.
Michael is a popular member of
the class.
Michael is rich.
Jeremy is an introvert and shy

boy. Jeremy will become a

psychopath.
Halley is an extremely advanced

girl.
Size 40D.
Neil excels at the arts and crafts.
Neil is a smarmy crawler.
Do I win anything?
Al Rijhoush

Willesden, London NW10
We'll look into it . . .

NO.

Slip up

With great interest I read your Bobsleigh review in Commodore User, December 1987 issue.

Digital Integration applied powerful 3D techniques used in air-combat simulations to create a realistic tunnel effect from the rider's perspective.

Competitor's products mentioned in your article, provide a flat, sprite-based action area, which is much smaller than in our product. I am surprised therefore, that

such a crucial conceptual difference was completely overlooked by your reviewer. Suggestions that Bobsleigh's "featured action . . looks very familiar" and does not provide "improved realism in the action sequences" are misleading and miss the main point.

Bobsleigh represents the first serious attempt to use 3D graphic representation to raise the standard of sports simulations, and the product was received very favourably by all the leading magazines including your sister

publications.
I feel that a lukewarm review given to Bobsleigh was based on a wrong assumption, and I would appreciate your comments.

Ilva Girson

Digital Integration

Whilst we accept that Bobsleigh was a serious simulation, it does still bear a similarity to the gameplay of other games. Our review said the game was above average and the mark reflected this

Dragon slays reader

Double Dragon, the arcade game you reviewed in August's issue of your brilliant mag. I read the review and then went down to the local arcade to play it.

local arcade to play it.
When I finally got to it, I had a
look at the demo game. Pretty
Impressive. So I put my forty
cents in (that's what it costs in
Australia), and listened to the
opening music. It sounded good.
The girl gets one in the head and
these two guys walk off with her
over their shoulders. The garage
door opened and I get beaten to
death immediately. Game over

I put in another forty cents.
Music. Girl over shoulder. Door
opens and, surprise, I got to the
second or third screen where the
woman with the whip beat me to
death without mercy. What does
it take to play this game?
My friend claims that there are

eight moves, yet he won't tell me what they are. I don't think he knows what they are. I can only figure out four — kick, punch, jump and elbow. Could you tell me what the eight moves are and how to kneel down so that you can pick up a weapon?

Also, could you tell me if Double Dragon has been converted, or is it going to be converted for the 64, and if it has, does it require a special joystick? Thanks.

Victoria Australia.

Double Dragon is, we believe up for grabs or may even have been signed up. We can't remember all the moves but there's the throw, headbutt and knee job. You pick up the baseball bat by hitting the bottom left button. It won't need a special stick.



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erent sea and sky col

Continuing our series of hints and tips with programmers we asked Archer Maclean for his thoughts on how to play the beat'em up of all time, the sequel to International Karate, IK+. Without a moment's hesitation Archer hammered out reams of useful script for us. So, grasshoppers, if you want the agility of a tree monkey and the strength of a gorilla whilst retaining spiritual oneness follow the way of the great sensei



KEY OPTIONS

F1 one player game start/restart F3 two player game start/restart F5 turn off/on the music

F7 turn off/on the sound fx FIRE BUTTONS can be used to start games when in the demo 1/2/3/4/5 varies speed of game

5=vawn time. RUN-STOP pressed during the fight will put game into one of 2

* gives one of four reflection C+O+L alters the sea and sky

colours



A change of colours again but what does he mean by that me

P+T+N changes the way the ripples are generated. Incidentally, there were some cheat keys for IK 1. Hold down ADZM for 5 seconds to change backdrop, for speeds hold down the X key then press 1 to 4, then release the X key before the number key. S+E made the men look out of the screen.

SUNSET CHANGES

The *key selects one of four

colour layouts for the sun's rippling reflection in the water The COL option changes the sea and sky colour to one of eight combinations. Using the PTN option selects one of four slightly different ways of generating the suns reflection, but it won't be immediately obvious unless you've been staring at it for an hour or two

Each of the four sun reflection patterns is generated at the rate of 25 images per second taking 2.7 minutes to repeat, giving about



takes you to realise that it hasn't selected the move you wanted, the game has ended, all your teeth have been kicked out and the 64 has become obsolete. So don't be a bit brain, go and get a decent tactile joystick.

BALL PROBLEMS

If you can master the ball mode you will continually get huge borus scores. The main thing to remember about this part of the game is that you never have to deflect more than one ball at a time. There are 64 balls to deflect, and the maximum speed they can reach increases with the level number you are on. With practice you should be able to get all of them and the 5,000 point all of them and the 1,000 point all of the 1,000 possible score of 11,000 possible score o

You can duck under the high ouncers but this will probably

Into ball mode with another colour change

attack to make in response to your opponent's actions.

* Try slowing the speed down to

★ Ify slowing the speed down to give yourself more time to think about your next move. If you put the speed to maximum life will be a lot more hectic, but if you are good you'll be able to finish the round quicker and get more of a time bonus.

time borus.

* Instaad of panicking or backlinging away from an attacker, try hitting back with a move which not only evades their his but attacks back as well. Eg, if being shin kicked, do a flying kick back, or do a stomarch punch in response to a head butt etc.

* Always try and attack from in front of your opponent as this rivent of your opponent as this way you get two combat points for each hit and will finish the

* After being knocked out you can get up as soon as the stars have stopped twinkling by movin the joystick. But it is best to leave it a few seconds until the immediate area is clear of computer men waiting to attack.

time you can stay on the ground decreases, and you will be forcer lown to to get up.

* You can only be hit once you thave fully stood up, so if there is an irate bloke waiting to kick your brains out, make your man get up be selecting an immediate attack move or do a back flip to get out the way.

★ Some moves knock players out for longer than others. Eg the double head kick and head-butt can KO somebody for four to five seconds, whilst face kicks are about three seconds. This can give you time to get the other

give you time to get the other fighter.

* Stomach kicks and punches can be the most effective moves, especially on the higher levels

especially on the higher levels, because they have the largest area to hit.

* Also the reverse back face kick

cathe other fighters who might be standing back from the fracas.

* Flying kicks can actually KO both men in one move and get you four combat points as well as a score of 2 000.

KARATE



OK guys on the count of three drop 'em. Three!!

11 minutes in all. So if I had used a simple program to go through a sprite sequence I would have needed one mega byte of sprite data

WOBBLY WASTES OF TIME

There are some big wobbly joysticks out there which are as much use as a stereo diskdrive and won't improve your gameplay. They are so amazingly unresponsive that in the time it

d upset your rhythm. The flashing a balls indicate that they are alternately bouncing between two

So the three key things you must do are to look ahead one ball, listen out for the clang before moving to the next

FIGHTING TIPS

* Basically it's all down to timing and learning what type of move or



INTERNATIONAL KARATE+

* On some of the higher levels player into third place and turn the computer men will go totally the fight into a one player game. ape trying to get you. The best defence is to do just the same ONE PLAYER GAME back. If you can get them first it is

a lot easier to finish the round by

catching them as they stand up.

But if you're the first man down

you'll find it hard to get back into

in a one player game (ie you begin

each round in the middle of the

screen), then start a two player

game and just make/wait for the

white bloke to be eliminated in

the fight. * If you want to be the red man

third place.

This is where IK+ really comes into its own in that the computer men will operate one of eight fight strategies. There are also six further variations. Basically each strategy has three control parameters. 1: the evasion rate, 2: the attack rate, and 3: the target type. Have a look at the strategy table, as well as details

of the first 30 levels in the game.

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Archer fails to get to grips with his own



Close up of the hall of fame with a hidden message in the name column

* Good players should be able to KO both men within two to three seconds of the round starting. If you wait on the correct side of one of the fallen men you can get him as soon as he gets up and have the round finished within six or seven seconds. This will earn you a 2300/2400 bonus score * To be a black belt you have to score over 50,000 points and being good at the ball mode increases your score significantly, Extraordinarily

gifted natural born IK+ players might just be able to get black belt by level eight, but don't worry if you can't do it until level 20 or so.

TWO PLAYER GAME

In a two player game the computer man will increasingly go for the person with the most combat points. If that person is already flat on his back, he will turn on the remaining person. The idea being to force the weaker

The evasion rate controls how quickly and effectively the computer responds to your attacks. That is they will jump up from your footsweeps, dodge your face punches, and on the higher levels attack back at the same time. Try playing level eight in one player mode. You'll find the computer men will hardly do anything except dodge your attacks or maybe attack back if

you provoke them The attack rate alters the aggressiveness of the computer men from docile, almost friendly blokes, up to schizoid psychotics

The target type tells the computer fighters who's going to be the attack priority. If they have you as their target then they will generally try and smack hell out of you, except when you're KO'ed, then they'll go for each other. But if they are going for each other, they'll be scoring all the points and before you know it you'll be out of the game for

_______ COMPUTER FIGHT STRATEGIES IN ONE PLAYER GAMES STRATEGY TYPE 2

FVASION RATE OF COMPUTER MEN MAX DIF DIF MED MAX LOW MAX DIF

п ATTACK RATE OF п OMPUTER MEN LOW DIF DIF MAX DIF MAX MAX MAX

г TARGET TYPE YOU YOU YOU YOU THEM YOU THEM low/med/max = fixed rate, dif = varies with the difficulty level)

LEVE STRATEGY DIE COMMENTS FOR ONE PLAYER GAME

RALLS BALLS BALLS BALLS

BALLS

All normal balls, lowest maximum speed Computer men go flat out for each other All normal balls, high top speed Quite hand. Men at full attack rate Men on full evade and high attack rates

flashers, nearly impossib They will go flat out for each other All normal balls, max top speed 4 flashers, is imp rmal balls. But you won't survive it Same as level 5, but faster still Back to the first ball level. Easy again

Same as level 19 BALLS From now on the level sequence is the same as above except the fight difficulty will be on maximum.

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ATHENA Type in and RUN listing for

unlimited energy 100 DATA 32 44 247 32 108

245 169 32 110 DATA 141, 202, 2, 269, 181,

141.203.2 120 DATA 169.1.141.204.2.96.

130 DATA 255, 169, 195, 141, 126, 1 169 1 140 DATA 141.127.1.96.169.

173,141,105 150 DATA 59,76,0,128,0,0,0,0

160 DATA 0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.

170 DATA 0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0. 180 FOR L = 415 TO 458:

READA: POKE L.A. 190 NEXT: SYS 415 200 REM + R.TROUGHTON +

210 REM + DECEMBER 1987 01 + Robert Troughton, Cowling Keighley.

MICRO BALL

For unlimited lives, you should type in and RUN this listing. 100 POKE 53280.0: POKE 53281 0

PRINT CHR\$(147) 110 FOR L=52992 TO 53051 READA: POKE L,A: NEXT

120 SYS 52992 130 DATA 169 1 168 170 32 186,255,169,0,32,189,255

140 DATA 32,213,255,169,26, 141,212,2,169,207,141,213 150 DATA 2.96, 169, 39, 141, 4 198 169 207 141 5 198 76

160 DATA 0 198 169 52 141 23 198 169 207 141 24 198 170 DATA 76.0.29.169.173.141.

179.101.76.0.86.169.15 180 DATA 141,32,208,76,32,3, 169,17,32,132,255,169,0 190 DATA 173.32.208.189.32

212.76.238.206.173.0.128 200 DATA 141.32.192.141.34. 192,173,1,128,141,33,192 210 DATA 141,35,192,96,169,2, 141 32 208 169 173 141 PO DATA 34, 196, 76, 37, 192 230 REM + MICRO BALL CHEAT +

240 REM + R. TROUGHTON 250 REM + UNLIMITED LIVES + Robert Troughton, Cowling Keighley.

ICE PALACE

LOAD the game, and reset the computer before entering POKE 12755, 173: POKE 13416 173 SYS 3200 The game will now start with Unlimited Energy. Robert Troughton, Cowling,

OUT WORLD

Here's a cheat for this budget blaster. Type in and RUN this 100 FORL=49152 TO 49200:

READA: POKE L,A: NEXT: 110 DATA 32.86.245.76.226.252

1,14,4,25,32,7,18,9,6,15 120 DATA 32,9,19,32,1,32,12,9 20 20 12 5 32 16 18 1 20 Robert Troughton, Cowling. Keighley.

RED L.E.D.

This will give you unlimited energy, and unlimited time. Type in and RUN the listing. LOAD part one (type LOAD, and press return - don't press shift/runstop, or it won't work). Now enter: POKE 1010.76: POKE 1011.77 POKE 1012 1: RUN The game will load and start. OK? 100 FOR L=333 5o 378 110 READ A: POKE L, A 120 NEXT: POKE 53280.0 130 POKE 53281 0 FND 140 DATA 169,88,141,217 150 DATA 2 169 1 141 218 160 DATA 2.96.169.94.141 170 DATA 217.2.96.169.100 180 DATA 141,217,2,96,169 190 DATA 106,141,217,2,96 200 DATA 169, 165, 141, 144 210 DATA 166, 141, 169, 166 220 DATA 141,31,166,141 230 DATA 213, 187, 141, 35 240 DATA 85,76,226,252,0 260 DATA 15.18.5.52.21.19 270 DATA 5.18.32.9.19.32 280 DATA 3.18.1.16.0.0.0

Robert Troughton, Cowling CRAZY COMETS

Keighley

This game has just been rereleased by Ricochet. Oddly enough, the cheat for the new version doesn't work on the old one. Here they are then: Ricochet — POKE 40522,189 SYS 24882

Original Martech - POKE 40362. 252 SYS 24882 Robert Troughton, Cowling,

LIVING DAYLIGHTS LOAD the game, and reset the

computer. Now enter this for Unlimited Lives POKE 4390 173-SYS 4352 Robert Troughton, Cowling Keighley.

ARCADE CLASSICS Here is a short program that will

give the player infinate lives for Space Invaders and Asteroids on the game Arcade classics O REM Hacked By Andy Grifo B:POKE A.B:NEXT

30 SYS 53242 40 DATA 32,44,247,32,108, 245 32 185 2 50 DATA 169, 173, 141, 70, 16,

169.165.141 60 DATA 245,76108,61,3 Andy Grifo

BARBARIAN

This cheat gives unlimited energy - but only on the 1 player game. It won't work if you load in the 2 player version, selecting 1 player mode, either. Just type in and run the listing 100 DATA 32.86.245.169.238.

110 DATA 123,3,169,207,141, 124

120 DATA 3.96.169.76.141. 243.4

130 DATA 169.0.141,244,4,169. 140 DATA 141, 245, 4, 76, 224, 3,

160 150 DATA 0.141.193.135.108. 0.128 160 FOR L=-53216 TO 53255

170 READ A: POKE L,A: NEXT 180 POKE 53280 O POKE 53281.0 190 PRINT CHR\$(147) 200 POKE 646,1: POKE 157,128

210 SYS -53216 220 END 230 REM + BARBARIAN CHEAT+ 240 REM + R. TROUGHTON 87+

250 REM + UNLIMITED ENERGY+ Robert Troughton, Cowling,

Keighley.





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This is where it all happens, kid. Alex Allegro comes out fighting.

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP

 $(3 \times IOp)$

So spoules best em upor en control per la certa en la





Down for the count.

RAPHICS: OUND: OUGHNESS

Ocooh, that looked like it hurt.



Keep that guard up, Mike.

thought I, I'll go into a nice restful sequence, give a few dressing room interviews, perhaps do an aftershave commercial or two, maybe even try my hand at hosting my own chatshow. But it was not to be.



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the cuttings—nest a hardware or software required. Includes supercast, warpasse, scratch, filecopy convert Integrated with normal dist turb for supercompatibility—auto detects warp or normal format so no special load commands are required. Turbo and Marp 25 speed are entirely independent of the cuttings with SUPERBOOT.

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 COMPLETE VILLED. White and the complete villed villed and the complete villed vi

programs.

O PRINTER DUMP. Freeze any game and print out the screen.

En loading nicture, birth score acreen at: Works with most printers.

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WICTURE SAVE. Save any Hires multicolour screen to disk at the push of a button. Compatible with Blazing Paddles, Koala, Artist 64, Image System etc.

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SOUND: TOUGHNESS ENDURANCE VALUE OVERALL

ON MUS

Sprite storage

I own a Commodore 64
and I like to program arcadetype games, but the problem is
I am stuck with just eight
sprites. I would be very
grateful if you could tell
how to store more than eight
sprites for animation, etc.
James Burton,
Mexborough,

5. Yorks

While you can only display eight sprites without a lot of extra work, it is relatively

without a lot of extra work, it is relatively straightforward to slow as many gains as supplict where the present and the size of the registers are loaded with the address of which the spite data is stored, a lot at by changing the address it be prite can be made to go fitnough a series of changes very rapidly. This can be easily shown by creating your eight spites in your normal locations and then displaying them at lin sequence using only Spite! Of claptar register, Only one spite will be shown, but it will change immediately from one spite to comber.

By extending the sprite storage area you can then have, for example, 64 definitions, eight for each sprite position, or even 64 separate definitions making up one sprite sequence.

Bad memory

I have recently bought a Cumana 3.5' drive for my Amiga 1000. However, I have begun to have loading problems with some programs that worked before while the

drive is plugged in.

I presume this is because the disk uses some of the 512k RAM for its operating system. Does any firm, to your knowledge, produce a lead or

a "box" that would enable me to "ut off" the drive (so treeing the RAMI) without pulling out the coble (and so putting wear on the Amiga port) because coditional RAMI to the Amiga port) because coditional RAMI to the Amiga 1000 is very expensive and don't really need it anyway. Marr Layeau, Witney, Oxon

You sound very much as fixedly you have the 256 besic Amiga, rether than the 512 king the RAM cartridge fixed the 1512 king the RAM cartridge fixed the case then you are incleed going to have all sout of problems. He this When you realize that adding a second drive "loses" easily 236 of memory, and that some of the graphics problems cannot be even load on less than 512% accounts of the problems cannot be even load on less than 512% according you will realize float these is tables to provide and the problems cannot be seen as the problems cannot be even sout on less than 512% according you will realize float these is tables to the problems cannot be seen as the problems are the problems and the problems are the problems are the problems and the problems are the problems are the problems are the problems and the problems are the problems are the problems and the problems are the pro

increasing the memory to all least 512k. The ASO0 comes with 512k as standard, and the ASO00 comes with 1 Mbyte. I realise that the 250k contridge is expensive (amount \$1.00), but our really aren't going to get the best out of your machine without it. Very few people indeed have a 250k machine, as the chances of anyone producing a box to "witch-out" the external drive is were remother.

Sorry I can't be of more help, but then only Commodore could have produced a mochine as complex and exciting as the Amiga and then lumbered it with a pathry 256k of memory (yes, I know 10 years ago 7 dk was a lot of memory, but that's progress for you!).

Pascal plea

I have just bought an Amiga 500 and I am trying to write programs using MCC Pascal. However, I am having difficulty finding out how to do things like clear the screen, open windows and many other



Now if we could only remember how to put it all back together. . .

things that can be done using Amiga BASIC. Can you help please? James Scott,

Aberdeen

I am afraid that the Melacomca NMC. Passal complete is written to the ISO standard, which means that it can only handle those elements of the longuages which are laid down in that standard. This is not strictly cornect, though, since the standard does not cover things like lapsel? Usuful II/O in detail and the lapsel? Usuful II/O in d

For example, it is possible to tisse CII commands from whithis Parcel program. Likewise, by sing the "PCIERNAL" rigidity on you and a reading within a mother longuage (normally "C") which can call the graphics libraries, but this in not much help unless you also have a "C" compiled The result is that of present Parcel cannot occess routines from the Amiga graphics libraries which would allow you to take withdowing commands etc. in the same way as BASC. The sound have its fortil have a BASC. The sound have its first libraries which was a sound to the program of the same way as BASC. The sound have its first libraries.

spoken to Metacomco, who say that

which will have these facilities. Watch this space.

Scroll on

Could you explain the theory behind scholling and any appropriate addresses on the 1287 Hit is too complicated to fit into your pages, then could you recommend a book on the subject and other devened graphic principles? seemingly obscure books. Could you, one of mighty connections, tell me where I could you do not fine following: a programmer's reterence amount of the fee and 128, a mountain for the could get hold of the following: "Learning Assembly Language and the C-128" (yellenty).

preferably with a section on

and a book containing useful

memory locations on the 128

using Machine Code for games)



hand side

Now, while this is relatively easy for the 40-column VIC-II controlled screen, life is much more complicated for the 80-column screen controlled by the 8563 VDC chip, since this uses 1 dk of RAM that is outside the normal 128

A very good book, which would also fit in as a follow-up to the "Learning Assembly Language" book, is "Commodore 128 Assembly Language Programming" written by Mark Andrews and published by SAMS. In case you have difficulty getting hold of it, the ISBN number is 0-672-22541-7 but Pitman Publishing (01-379 7383) should stock it. As for the Reference Manuals, as far as the 64 is concerned I the CBM 64" better than the official ref avide, and it has the advantage that he covers screen scrolling in some detail. As for the 128, the Programmers Reference Guide is obtainable from Computer Manuals Ltd 1021-708 0118), who also do other books which have the full memory map of the 128.

Machine code

I have some problems with my 64 and hope you may be able to help me. The first is which book gives you the most help on learning the machine code for the Commodore, how much does it cost and where can I buy it?

can I buy it?
The second is what is the best
assembler around? I would
hope to buy one on cartridge,
but tape would be alright. How
much it is and where can I buy
it?

Stuart Reece, Derby

Recommending a good book on learning m/code on the 64 is a bit like being asked to recommend a good wine; it is all down to personal conference.

preference Having said that, my personal recommendation is the book by Raeto West Programming the Commodore 64'. Not only does this contain a lat of useful information generally about the 64, but it goes quite steadily through the methods needed to carry out all sorts of useful functions in m/code. It includes the full 6502 instruction set and because it deals specifically with the 64, it scores heavily over those books which seek to teach the 6502 assembly language in general terms. I think it costs about £10 and if your local dealer can't get it, then the ISBN number is 0 9507650 2 3. which should allow your local bookshop to order it for you. A possible alternative is the 64 version of the Dr Watson series

by Honeyfold. It costs just £10 and sets out to teach m/code and and assembly language on the 64 using a cassette based program and a book. Honeyfold

are on 01-441 4130.

As for an assembler, I would recommend a contridge as being for less bother, particularly when you are learning m/code (and therefore crashing the system a lotf). A suitable one is the "Micro" cartridge at £55, available from Supersoft [01-861] 1166).

Resets

I own a Commodore 128 but due to the lack of software in Holland for the 128 I use it in 64 made. My problem is how do you find the \$Y\$ number to restart a game once you have reset the computer? I now advestud the thonging the understand the thonging the you will not be \$Y\$ number to restart the game? You have not you will not be \$Y\$ number to restart the game? Your help would be much oppreciated.

Steve Jones, Amsterdam

Without some sort of "assistance" it can be very difficult and/or time-consuming to find out exactly where a game starts. By using an m/code monitor, clues can metimes be found at the start of the BASIC area, or in the cossette buffer, but there is no foolproof answer to cover all games since they differ so widely. If you really want to extend lives and generally POKE around in games then the best way is to buy one of the "freeze" cartridges that allow you to break in and do whatever you wish (almost). Having made your changes you can either continue with the game. or save the result and then the next time you load up, the changes are already

Drive away

I wonder if you could explain and verify the following questions. I was a years, but now have upgraded to the Amige 500. My questions concern the amazing differences in price for the Amige 100, not the computers but their disk drives. Firstly, except for the Commodore 1010 drive which costs £220, the rest e.g. Cumanc CAX 354, LAN and Triangle 1Mb cost approximately £125.

What is the stronge reason for this large difference in price, don't these cheep versions work or something? Looking through their specifications compared to that of the Commodore 1010 there doesn't seem to be any difference. Does it all come down to logos and trade marks even in this era of rational spending.

Please can you tell me if there is any important information I have not noticed as I have decided to purchase a disc drive. Also why is it that 3.5 inch drives such as those mentioned above are cheaper than the cheapest 5.25 inch drive?

Simon Lee Pittington, Co Durham

You are quite correct when you say it is all a matter of 'the name'. Every time Commodore have launched a new product range they seem to leave the market open for other manufacturers to provide alternative products at lower prices, or to provide the better products that Commodore never got round to producing. There is nothing wrong with any of the cheaper 3.5" drives and some of them take up a good deal less space than the Commodore drive. Indeed, since they are specifically advertised as being for the Amiga computer, you would be entitled to a full refund if any of them failed to work correctly with any Amiga computer As for the 5.25 inch drives being

more expensive, Evesham are about the only people to have produced a really close compatible drive for the Commadare 64 and 128 computers, mainly because the disk poperating system is built in the drive traft. This has proved very difficult to capy without infringing copyright, hence there has been little competition so the price



(i.e. joystick input receivers

I await your reply eagerly and look forward to reading one of the best parts of CU. M. Goodwin, Stoke-on-Trent

One of the complications with the 128 is that there are two of everything; two screens, two methods of accessing them and two different display chips! You are right when you say! don't have room to go into data! there, even on one of them, but I can certainly point you in the right direction.

age affection. Scalling is local on the Members of the Section of



Amiga programmer

I am an Amiga A500 owner, and I want to learn to program the Amiga in machine code with a view to publishing the programs professionally. so I would greatly appreciate your advice on which assembler/dissembler/monitor

to buy. Also could you tell me which Amiga machine code teaching book would be the best to buy for my purposes, bearing in

mind that I have not programmed in machine code before.

P. J. Westgate. Norwich.

The very first thing I will say is that if you have never touched machine code before, the Amiga is probably not the place to start. For a start it is a multitasking machine, which means that your program must be capable of running at the same time as several others, all using

the same memory. While there are correct ways to access the features of the Amiga, equally there are other methods which may work fine as a single program, but which will cause the machine to crash quite spectacularly the minute

something else tries to share the machine as well. If I tell you that in order to write professional programs that use the full features of the Amiga you really need to purchase a variety of manuals. about 6-8 in total, costing around £20 each, then you will see that even for the fully experienced programmer, there is an awful lot to learn.

My personal suggestion is that if you want to program the Amiga to a high level, then learn the 'C' programs language. This is easier than assembler, fast to develop, can access all the Amiga libraries, and the compiler will produce fast code that will behave correctly in a multi-tasking environment This is not a cheap option either, with the Lattice C compiler costing £190 and

suitable 'C' programming books about another £20-£40. You will still need things like the numerous ROM Kernal manuals for the Amiga, and probably one of the many programmer's andbooks as well

If you are really intent on driving into m/code then there are three possible asemblers, K-Seka (£80), Macro Assembler (£70) and Devpac (£60). As for learning 6800 assembler language. you will probably benefit from buying something like "First Steps in Assembly Language Programming - 6800" ished by Bantam Books (£19), and '68000 Assembly Language

Programming, 2nd Edn" written by Leventhal and Hawkins (£20). All the software mentioned can be obtained from Silica Shop (01-309 1111) and the books, including all the Amiga manuals, are available from Compute Manuals Ltd (021-708 0118).

Freeze sucker!

I have recently acquired a Star NL10 printer with a odore interface and would be very grateful if you could tell me if there are any programs or cartridges for sale that would allow me to print out hi-res screens of games to

the printer. Andrew King Wembley You are in luck! Not so long ago I would

have said that there was nothing that could stop a game in mid-play and then dump the hi-res screen to a printer. Now, Trilogic have come to the

rescue with the 'EXPERT' cartridge. For only £30, this cartridge will allow you to freeze a game at any point, save the hi-res screen (and later it as well for alter usel) and/or dump the screen (hi or law res) to any dat-matrix printer, either serial or centronics. It also does lots of other fancy things as well, like the ability to save the sprites from a game, and speed up disk accesses. Trik contacted on (0274) 691115

Car control

I am a 64 owner who is having difficulties with a program. I am doing a car game but I can't find a way to control the car using a joystick. Can you help??? Simon Stolling

You don't say whether you are using a BASIC program or m/code. However, unless you want the car to leap across the screen every time you even think about moving the stick, BASIC is more than fast enough for that sort of thing. The following routine changes two variables which represent the x and y screen co-ordinates of an object Provided you set the variables to the correct start position, you can use this inside loop to move the object anywhere you like. Note that you will

- still have to include checks for collision, etc. inside the loop as well. 10 PRINT"<CLR>": POKE2040.13 REM DEFINE A SPRITE FOR
- DEMO 20 FOR 5=0 TO 62:POKE832+ 5.255:NEXT S
- VR53248:SP=1: REM SP IS SPEED
- 40 LX=160:Y=100 100 REM MAIN ROUTINE 110 POKE53281.0 120 POKE+39.3: REM MAIN
- SPRITE COLOUR 130 X=LX:IF X > 255 THEN
- X=X-255 POKEV,X:POKEV+1,
- Y:POKE+21.1 150 JR1=56320: REM **IOYSTICK PORT 1**
- 160 JV=PEEK(JR1):II JVAND31)-31 THEN 160 170 IF (JVAND1)=0 THEN Y=
- Y-SP:IF Y < THEN Y=0 180 IF (IVAND2)-0 THEN Y-Y+SP:IF Y<255 THEN Y= 190 IF (JVAND4)=0 THEN
- IX-IX-SP-IFIX-255 THEN POKEV+16,0:IF LX<0 THEN LX=0 200 IF (JVANDS)=0 THEN LX=LX+SP:IF LX>255 THEN POKEV+16,1:IF LX>
- 370 THEN LX = 370 210 IF (JVAND16)=0 THEN SP=SP+2:IF SP=7 THEN SP=1
- 220 GOTO130 230 REM FIRE BUTTON

Video

I own a C16. About a week ago I tried to tape (onto a video) some of the things I had done on my computer - music, pictures etc. This was quite easy, I connected my compa to the video, then the video to the television. Then comes the first problem, my video needs to be switched off before the computer can transmit a picture through the video onto the TV — BUT! I have found out that if the video is switched on (causing the screen to fuzz and flicker) and I record, then the video will record what I have done on my computer. But when I tried the tape to see what my efforts had done, I was shocked to find that the video had recorded the music araphics but the picture was awful and the sound wasn't up to scratch, can you help me? Is there a way of recording what I

video cassette? John McBride Lancs You don't whether you are trying to use the video output from the C1 6 or the RF (TV) output. If you trying to use the video output then there is a possibility that you are interfering with the video frequency used by the recorder itself. This would explain the bad picture quality. There is no reason why you cannot record and view at the same time, since that is one of the things that video recorders are designed to do. Provided the signal coming into the recorder looks like a signal from an antenna on the roof then you should have no problem, so if you are not already using the computer RF output into the video RF input, then try it Set up the video recorder exactly as if you were going to record a TV program which you were also going to watch. Once the video recorder is turned into the right channel for the computer you should be able to record without

problem. There is one thought: some

TVs do not work well with computers

recorder has the same problem. The

reason is that the computer drives the

colour signals to much greater levels

than a normal TV signal (sometimes

called colour saturation) and some

equipment just cannot cope with this.

and there is a possibility that your video

do on my computer onto a



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SOUTH THE STATE OF THE STA at all makes as the left state for Et in the pumini was form to a few years. MONTH



CHRISTMAS

sight you've stuffed yourself stupid and helped yourself to far more wine than helped yourself to far more wine than helped you've allowed and put're bored. The old pud's lying heavy and youst had not sit quietly somewhere with something stake your mind off the Queen's speech. Because it was a sit of trivia to do the trick! Gather the family and ask them the following incredibly rough questions and prove to yourself that you've for the following incredibly rough Queen's mind the following incredibly rough Robistot's Trivia — The Board Game, coming when I can sell the licence.

A) Which rebellious company was this news story (taken from the Sun) written about?



 Which one of these is not a computer game?

- a) Communist Mutants
 From Outer Space
 b) Attack of the Killer
 Tomatoes
- c) Surf Nazis must Die

Is Ad Manager Mark Scriven's favourite phrase:

- a) Those be roight tasty radishes.
 b) There's nowt as queer as folk.
- as folk. c) Datel Electronics

- Firebird Silver recently released Ubik's Music, a budget music program.
 Writer Ken McMahon sparked a bitter dispute by calling Ubik:
- a) A divvy b) A fart
- c) A nobhead

4) Which brand of sweets caused a flurry of correspondence in the CU Letters column and why?

5) Who holds the rights to Morpheus.

- b) Hewson
- c) Don't care but wish they'd put it out
- manager Tim Cheney's profession before he moved into the software business?
- moved into the software business? a) A deckchair salesman b) A magazine editor c) A lorry driver

7) Which one of these celebrated footballers

has not sponsored a football game? a) Peter Shilton b) Gary Lineker c) Mark Dennis 8) Which one of these pop stars didn't appear in the pages of CU this year?

a) Mark Kelly b) Zodiac Mindwarp c) Rick Astley 9) Which one of these page three models have not appeared in a computer game?

a) Samantha Fox b) Maria Whittaker c) Debbie Ashby



C) This game has just made it onto the Atari ST, but how late is it on the 64? a) 12 months b) 18 months c) Two years

10) Commodore User's May issue cover artwork for the Last Ninja has since turned up on another publication. Where?



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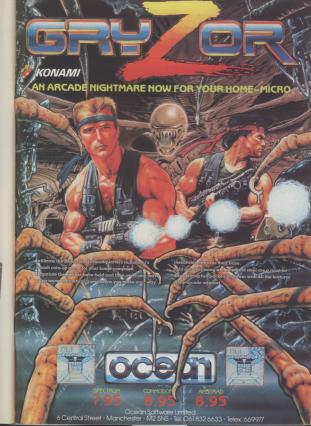
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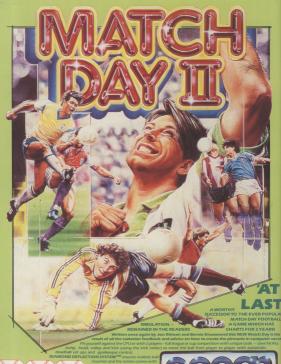
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