

Practical Computing

50p

September 1979

An ECC Publication Volume 2 Issue 9

The Intelligent Computer

Reviews:

**Powerhouse
desk-top micro**

**Acorn — the £80
computer**

**Anadex and
Heathkit printers**

**Build your
own joystick**

**Self-teaching
games program**



Ask for our
free colour
brochure



031-225 2022
(24 HOURS ANSWERING)



Cromemco System Three



The professional one.

Our Cromemco System Three combines the industry's finest micro-computer with the best operating systems, compilers and applications packages available. We'll deliver anywhere in the UK and can arrange maintenance at your premises. On 24 hours call-out if you wish. Interested? Write or call today for our full colour brochure.

Compare these features—

- Fast Z-80A microprocessor — guaranteed operation at 250 nano second cycle time, nearly twice the speed of most others.
- S-100 bus — the industry's standard.
- CDOS — Cromemco's disc operating system, includes all the facilities of CP/M and more besides. Runs the CP/M Users' Library.
- 21 card slots to allow for unparalleled system expansion, and cards for daisy-wheel or dot-matrix printers, analogue-digital conversion, even a card for programming PROMs.
- The industry's most professional software, including COBOL, Fortran IV, 16K extended Basic, Z-80 Macro Assembler, Word Processing Package, Data Base Management System. Each at the remarkable price of £59 from MicroCentre.
- Enormously expandable — up to 16 million bytes memory can be addressed; 11 megabyte fixed disc drives available.
- Multi-user operating system — supports a printer and 7 terminals each with up to 32K memory.
- Rugged, professional all metal construction for rack, bench or floor mounting. Quality cabinets and desking available.
- Price £3293 for 64K computer, two 8 inch floppy discs, RS-232 interface, 220 volt operation, complete with CDOS operating system ready to use.

Micro Centre

Complete Micro Systems Ltd.

Telephone: 031-225 2022

132 St. Stephen St., Edinburgh EH3 5AA

Managing Editor
Dennis Jarrett

Editor
Peter Laurie

Computabits Editor
Nick Hampshire

Staff Writer
Kay Floyd

Production Editor
Harold Mayes

Advertisement Manager
Erica Gruffydd

Advertisement Department
Tom Moloney
Tina Roberts

Subscription Manager
Annabel Hunt

Publisher
Wim Hoeksma

Company Secretary
Carole Fancourt

Managing Director
Richard Hease

Editorial: 01-359 8451
Advertising: 01-359 8151
Production and Subscriptions:
01-359 7481

Practical Computing is published by ECC as a subsidiary of WHICH COMPUTER? Ltd at its registered office, 30-31 Islington Green, London N1

and printed by Eden Fisher Ltd, Southend-on-Sea.

Distributed to newsagents by Moore Harness Ltd., 31 Corsica Street, London N5 and to specialist shops by Practical Computing Ltd.

Subscription Rates:
Single copy: 50p.
Subscriptions: U.K., £6 per annum (including airmail postage).
Europe (excluding U.K.), £12;
Elsewhere in the world: £18.

©Practical Computing 1979
ISSN 0141-5433.
Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of articles and program listing. Practical Computing cannot, however, accept any responsibility whatsoever for any errors.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE MICRO AGE

Introducing our exploration of the present state of artificial intelligence60

REVIEW I — POWERHOUSE

Is this the desk-top micro for you?.....53

REVIEW II — ACORN

We test this low-cost 6502 micro56

PRINTERS REVIEWED

A close look at two printers for micro-users — Anadex and Heathkit57

BUILD YOUR OWN JOYSTICK

Add a new dimension to your computer games87

SELF-TEACHING GAMES PROGRAM

How to teach your processor to teach itself noughts-and-crosses67

THE COMPUTER SCENE IN THE NORTH-WEST

B & B CONSULTANTS AT BOLTON

Writing microcomputer software for the corner shop71

MICRODIGITAL IN LIVERPOOL

Bruce Everiss gives advice to the would-be computer shopkeeper72

KEMITRON ELECTRONICS OF CHESTER

John Drury runs a board-manufacturing operation from his attic73

SCHOOL AIDS TO DEVELOPMENT

How a test-bed for a microcomputer was built to the specification of teachers at Priesthorpe Comprehensive School75

MAJOR MATHEMATICS ON MICROCOMPUTERS

Fourier analysis on the Pet111

NEW YORK SHOW REPORT

Our view of the National Computer Conference90

THE CASE FOR A MICROCOMPUTER CENTRE

Ian Litterick outlines the benefits and Practical Computing replies77

MICROCOMPUTER BUYERS' GUIDE

Our invaluable guide to the microcomputers available on the market122

ALL THIS AND MORE

EDITORIAL43

FEEDBACK45
Your letters and our replies

PRINTOUT48
News and views

FICTION78

CASSETTE SOFTWARE REVIEW81
We try new games on tape

BOOK REVIEWS83
All about what to read

TANDY FORUM93
Tips and ideas for the TRS-80

PET CORNER98
More ideas for the Pet

APPLE PIE103
What is happening on the Apple scene

ILLUSTRATING BASIC105
Teach yourself programming (continued)

GLOSSARY129
What all those funny words mean

DIARY131
What's happening next

ADVERTISEMENT INDEX133

OCTOBER ISSUE ON SALE SEPTEMBER 12

RESEARCH RESOURCES LTD.

Microcomputers for education, science and technology



- Vector and SWTP
- Fortran, Pascal, Cobol, CBasic, Multi-user pilot
- Exclusive to RRL: Lab-Basic, Sam (Statistical analysis) A-to-D, D-to-A converters.
- Showrooms at 40, Stonehills, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. Tel: Welwyn Garden 26633 (24 hours).

● Circle No. 102



Take a fresh bite
at the APPLE II —
— try the APPLE II PLUS!

We are proud to announce:

- * EURAPPLE have appointed the Microsense Computers division of Data Efficiency Ltd., the MASTER U.K. DISTRIBUTOR for the complete Cupertino produced APPLE System.
- * The introduction of the NEW EUROPLUS (European version of the Apple II Plus) with:
 - AUTO-START ROM — permits direct entry on Applications Programs from disc at switch-on, 'reset' protect function and improved screen editing.
 - PALSOF ROM — Applesoft on a ROM saving RAM capacity, the need to buy an Applesoft card, and a slot.
- * NEW LOWER PRICE — only £830 (Black and White version).
- * We are looking for qualified DEALERS who wish to sell this system to whom we offer big discounts and many attractive, additional benefits.

CALL — WRITE — TELEPHONE NOW

Mike Brewer

Bill Mercer

0442 41191

0442 48151

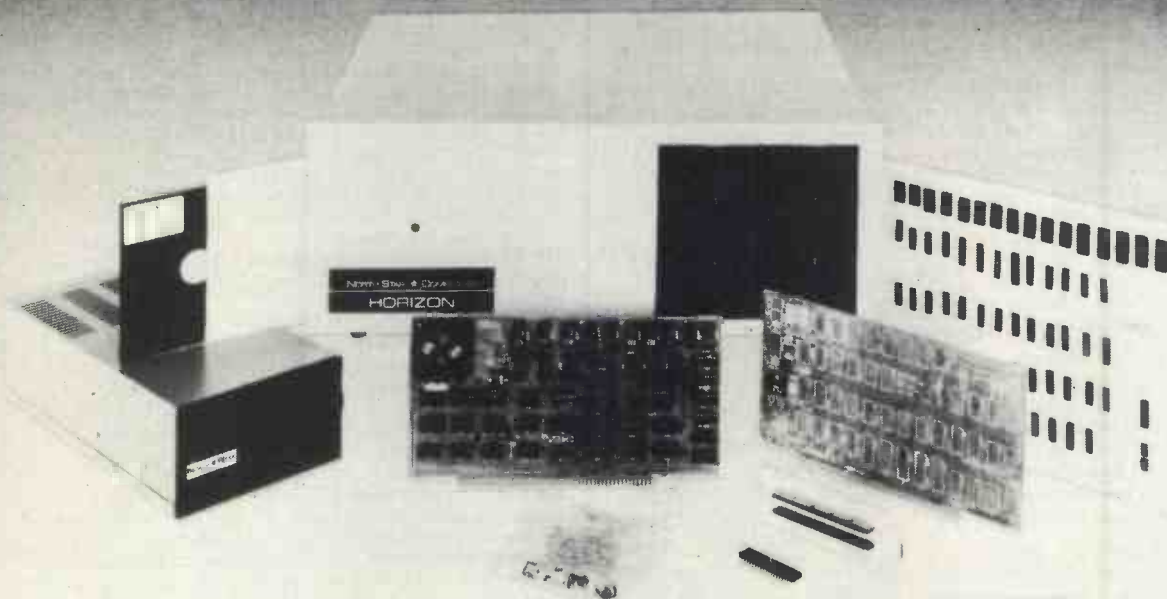
microsense computers

A Division of Data Efficiency Ltd.
Finway Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7PS.
Prices correct at press and exclusive of VAT.

● Circle No. 103

comart

... the specialists



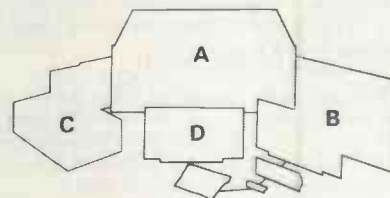
The complete range of North Star computer products in both kit and assembled form is offered by Comart: The Horizon computer, the Microdisk System, memory and floating point arithmetic board. And, Comart being S100 specialists, other items from our computer catalogue may be easily added to meet your requirements.

Teaching, Research, Engineering and Commerce each field has applications where this state-of-the-art technology provides cost effective processing of immediate benefit.

Comart quality. Each assembled module is final-tested by our own engineers. Take delivery of a computer system – plug in a wide variety of peripherals and use it.

Attractive prices, good delivery and a choice of Comart's factory repair or on-site service with a Computer Field Maintenance contract make the acquisition of a Comart computer a safe decision.

Find out more – ask us for the Comart catalogue of Computers.



The North Star dual drive double-density Horizon computer A together with a typical kit product B, the Microdisk system drive C and hardware floating point board D.

Contact us direct or call your nearest Comart dealer

The Byte Shop, Ilford, Essex. Tel: 01-554 2177
Cambridge Computer Store, Cambridge. Tel: (0223) 68155
Microcomputermart Ltd., Manchester. Tel: 061-832 2269
Crayworth Ltd., Camberley, Surrey. Tel: (0776) 34044
Digitus Ltd., London W.1. Tel: 01-636 0105
Holdene Ltd., Leeds. Tel: (0532) 459459
Isher-Woods Ltd., Luton, Beds. Tel: (0582) 424851
Newbear Computing Store, Newbury, Berks. (0635) 30505
Xitan Systems Ltd., Southampton. Tel: (0703) 38740



comart specialists in microcomputers

Comart Ltd., P.O. Box 2, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE19 2AF. Tel: (0480) 215005 Telex: 32514

● Circle No. 104



For Hardware, Software, Peripherals, Consultancy and Competitive Prices.

MICROCOMPUTERS ETC

CAMBERLEY (0276) 62506
BRISTOL (0272) 425077



PET Pet 2001 From £435



NEW PET 2001 with large keyboard.
From £ 630.00

PET 2001-16N (16K RAM and New Large Keyboard)	£630.00
PET 2001-32N (32K RAM and New Large Keyboard)	£750.00
PET 2001-4 (Standard PET with 4K memory)	£435.00
PET 2001-8 (Standard PET with 8K memory)	£515.00
PET 2040 (Dual Drive mini-floppy 343K User Storage)	£745.00
PET 2023 (80 col. dot matrix printer with PET graphics)	£515.00
PET 2022 (as above with tractor feed)	£605.00
IEEE/RS232 Serial Interface 'A' Output only	£106.00
IEEE/RS232 Serial Interface 'B' Input/output	£186.00
IEEE-488/Centronics type parallel Interface	£45.00
PET C2N External Cassette Deck	£53.00
Interface to S100 (4 slot motherboard)	£112.00
IEEE to Pet Kable	£19.00
IEEE to IEEE Kable	£24.00

Sorcerer

Now with the S100 Bus Expansion Interface and Dual Drive min-floppy Disk



Sorcerer 16K RAM (inc.UHF Modulator)	£740.00
Sorcerer 32K RAM (including UHF Modulator)	£840.00
Exdy Video Monitor (High Resolution)	£240.00
Exdy Dual Drive mini-floppy disk (630K Storage)	£1200.00
Exdy S100 Bus with Interface+Motherboard+PSU	£200.00
Exdy Mini-floppy Disk Drive (143K Storage)	£495.00
CP/N for Sorcerer on disk	£145.00

Disk Drives

Shugart Mini-floppy Disk Drive (including PSU)	£350.00
Micropolis Mini-floppy Disk Drive (incl. PSU)	£350.00
Percom FD200 Mini-floppy Disk Drive (including PSU)	£350.00

APPLE II/ITT 2020

ITT 2020 incl. PAL Modulator (16K RAM)	£895.00
Apple mini-floppy Disk Drive (116K Storage)	£425.00
RS 232C Serial Interface for ITT 2020 Motherboard	£110.00
Parallel Output Interface for ITT 2020 Bus	£95.00
Palsoft on ROM Board (extended Basic)	£110.00
RAM Upgrade (16-32K, 32-48K)	£110.00

Advanced Systems

Altair, Equinox, Billings, Heath, Rair, Horizon.
Installations to include hard disk, and multi tasking P. O. A.

Software

Petsoft COMPUSSETTES Personal Software GEMSOFT	
Lifeboat Associates (Authorised Dealerships, Send for Catalogues)	
PILOT (for TRS 80) text orientated language	£18.00
COMAC - Computerised Accounting for TRS 80	£50.00
STOCK CONTROL (TRS 80) Inventory, P/O & Invoicing	£125.00
CP/M for TRS 80	£95.00
CBASIC for TRS 80 & Sorcerer	£75.00
Estate/Employment Agency Systems, Fortran 80, Cobol 80, Pascal	

Etc.

Diskettes 5 1/4 (blank) boxed (min. order 10) each	from £3.00
C12 Cassettes (Min. order 10) each	£0.41
CBM KIM 1 Microcomputer System	£94.00
Computalker Speech Synthesis for S100	£350.00
Books - Large range of Microcomputer related books & magazines.	

If you don't see it - ask if we have it.



TRS 80 From £350

Now available:
TRS 80 Numeric Keypad
Voice Synthesizer
S100 Interface

TRS 80, 4K Level 1 (Keyboard with 4K memory+ VDU+Cassette drive+240v PSU)	£435.00
TRS 80, 4K Level II (as above but with Level II basic)	£535.00
TRS 80, 16K Level II (as above but with 16K memory)	£645.00
TRS 80, 4K Level I - Keyboard+240v PSU only	£350.00
TRS 80, Expansion Interface with 16K RAM	£325.00
TRS 80, Expansion Interface with 32K RAM	£435.00
TVJ 232T Serial Interface for TRS 80	£45.00
TRS 80 Screen Printer (text+graphics) (110V)	£445.00
Centronics Parallel Printer Interface for TRS 80	£45.00
TRS 80 Voice Synthesizer	£345.00
TRS 80 Numeric Key Pad supplied & fitted	£59.00
New Radio Shack Micro Printer	£245.00
Radio Shack Phone Modem	£160.00
NEWDOS Super-enhanced TRSDOS	£49.00
Level III Super-enhanced BASIC	£34.00
RSM Assemble/Monitor on Disk	£25.00
MICROCHESS or SARGON CHESS Cassette/Disk	£14.00
Disk Drives for TRS 80 - see Disk Drives	
UHF Modulators (encased with leads for 625 lines)	£20.00
RAM upgrade (4-16K, 16-32K, 32-48K)	
Supplied and fitted at our premises (Kit £85)	£110.00
Upgrade to increase speed 1.78 MHZ to 2.66 MHZ	£13.00
Switchable selection of Level I or Level II (ROMS required)	£25.00
Automatic volume control (AVC) for CLOAD	£25.00
'Electric Pencil' text/word processing package (on cassette)	£65.00
'Electric Pencil' text/word processing package (disk version)	£115.00
'Electric Pencil' keyboard mod. to give lower case with text/word processing package.	£28.00
S100 Interface for TRS 80	£375.00
'Library 100' - 100 progs for TRS 80 on cassette (Level II)	£39.00

Printers

TELETYPE 43 KSR £875.00	
Keyboard send/receive Serial printer for PET or TRS 80 (interfaces or friction feed extra)	
Teletype 33 KSR Serial (110 Baud) Reconditioned	£550.00
Centronics 779 parallel(friction feed)	£790.00
Centronics 779 parallel printer (tractor feed)	£890.00
Centronics 701 parallel printer, Bi-directional+ tractor	£1375.00
Centronics micro printer (20, 40, 80 columns selectable)	£395.00
PRINTEM 879 Pinfeed (100 c.p.s., bi-directional)	£695.00
HEATH WH 14	£510.00
TRENDCOM 100 (40 c.p.s., bi-directional, thermal)	£243.00
TRENDCOM PRINTER (thermal, interfaces extra)	£243.00
QUME or DIABLO daisy wheel serial printers	

Terminals

Soroc IQ120 VDU/Keyboard - 80 char./24 lines	£660.00
PENTLAND V1 VDU/Keyboard, 80 char./24 lines	
2 page memory	£550.00
Cypher CUB VDU+separate keyboard	£380.00

Ansaback 'Phonemate' Telephone Answering Machine, voice operated twin cassette £190.00

PRICES EXCLUDE VAT, FREIGHT & HANDLING SEND OR PHONE FOR PRICE LIST & BROCHURES

(All prices correct at time of compilation)
Directors: Dr. R.V. King, BA, MIEE, S.G. Johnson, BSc. (Hons.), T.S. Johnson, ABIBA, ACMB, FBSC, MBIM A.S. Barton, ACII, ABIBA, C dipAF.



T & V JOHNSON (MICROCOMPUTERS ETC) LTD.

Member of the TV Johnson Group of Companies
165 London Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3JS
48 Gloucester Road, Bristol BS7 8BH

Branches at: Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds, London, Louth, Newmarket, Nottingham, Oxford, Byfleet, Wokingham.



CAMBERLEY (0276) 62506
BRISTOL (0272) 425077

+ Ansaback eves and w/ends.
Telex 858893

(+ ansaback during office hours)

Hours of business 9.30-5.30 Mon-Fri. 9.30-1.00 Sat.

Everything you always wanted to plug into your PET, APPLE or TRS-80*

HARDWARE

SOFTWARE

DOUBLE DENSITY DISK STORAGE FOR THE TRS-80 (220% capacity of Radio Shack's)

TRS-80 owners can now increase their on-line mass storage capacity to 200K bytes. How? By using the 77 track Micropolis model 1033-II dual drives.

Cost: only £1195 for two drives, to give 400K on-line.

How does it work? By writing on 77 tracks (instead of the conventional 35) with precision head positioning.

How do I use it? TVJ Microcomputers Etc. provides you with a special program to let your TRS-80 DOS know there are extra tracks. This program was written especially by Randy Cook, author of TRS-80 DOS.

Will the double density disk work with my Radio Shack drives? Yes, except of course for copying an entire 77 track disk to a 35 track drive.

NEW

Radio Shack Voice Synthesizer for TRS 80 provides the ability to speak in English and limited foreign languages. Capable of producing 62 phonemes (sound units) that are the building blocks of spoken language. Includes audio amplifier and speaker. £345.

NEW

TRS 80 Printer Interface Cable — allows you to connect a parallel printer (e.g. Centronics 700 series) directly to your Level II Keyboard, i.e. Expansion Interface not required. £45.

NEW

TRS 80 Numeric Keypad Mod. — Calculator Style Numeric Key pad which sits to the right of the standard keypad; has keys for 0 to 9, decimal point and ENTER. Both Keyboards active at the same time. £59.

NEW

Radio Shack Microprinter for TRS 80, 40 column 2½" electro-static Printer, switch selectable RS232 Centronics Parallel and TRS 80 BUS Interfaces £245.

NEW

TRENDCOM Printers for TRS 80, PET or APPLE. 40 cps, 40 column Thermal Printer £292.
TRS 80 Interface for Trendcom Printer £29.
PET/APPLE Interface for Trendcom Printer. £49.

TRS-80

DATA MANAGEMENT/REPORT GENERATOR — easily formats disk files, allows entry, edit, delete & list of records; and retrieves data for display or calculation on screen or printer £200.

ELECTRIC PENCIL — powerful word processor allows full cursor movement, insert/delete, string search, block movement, adjustable line length, justification (on cassette) . £65.

LOWER CASE MOD KIT FOR ABOVE £28

DISK BASED WORD PROCESSING PACKAGE. . £124.95

RSM-2D DISK MONITOR — powerful system manipulates disk data, has Z-80 breakpoint routine. £25

ESP-1 EDITOR/ASSEMBLER £29.95

RSM-IS MACH, LANGUAGE MONITOR tape base. £23.95

DCV DISK CONVERSION UTILITY — use with TAPE-DISK utility to save system tapes on disk (i.e.) Pencil. £9.95

UTILITY PACK 1 — a) Libloader merges from tapes b) Renumber (spec. mem. size); Statement analysis for debussing. £9.95 ea. all 3 for £24.95

SARGON CHESS — 16K Iv II — the 1978 champ £14

MICROCHESS 1.5 by Jennings — 4K any lev £14

LIBRARY 100 — an assortment of 100 programs for . £39

MAZE — random maze on the TRS-80 graphics. . . . £14

Ask about our COMPLETE BUSINESS SYSTEM

FORTRAN IV FOR THE TRS-80! Finally, for high speed calculations on your micro, MICROSOFT's FORTRAN can speed up those computation-bound programs. Complete package includes compiler, relocatable assembler, text editor, and linking loader. £244.

CP/M + CBASIC for TRS-80 £170.

NEW DOS — TRSDOS with corrections & enhancements £25

NEW DOS+ — As above but with further facilities:- KBFIX, RENUM, Screen to Printer one step, DOS commands from BASIC, Level I in II, SUPERZAP, Disassembler, Open 'E' to end of sequential file, Load and Save faster, List variables £49.

PET

JOYSTICK PACKAGE — complete with connector, software, instructiond £39.95 single, £59.95 dual.

MICROCHESS 2.0 by Jennings £14

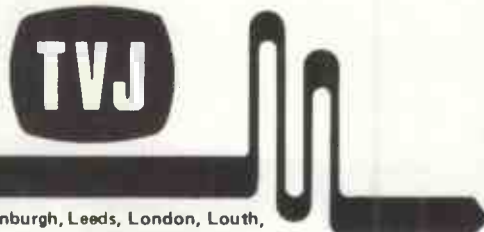
ASTROLOGY/NATAL PACKAGE — sophisticated chart computation with PET graphics £14.95

SUBS — best graphics yet — drop depth charges on the subs below you and rack up points. Complete adjustability for many same variations. £19.95

SUPER MAZE — 2 games in 1: Tunnel vision lets you travel through the maze in perspective with graphics, also Kat'n' mouse chase. £19.95

74 COMMON BASIC PROGRAMS on 1 tape £15
19 different games at £9.95

T & V JOHNSON (MICROCOMPUTERS ETC) LTD.
Member of the TV Johnson Group of Companies
165 London Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3JS
48 Gloucester Road, Bristol BS7 8BH



Branches at: Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds, London, Louth, Newmarket, Nottingham, Oxford, Byfleet, Wokingham.

EUROPE'S LARGEST SELECTION OF MICROCOMPUTER BOOKS, MAGAZINES AND SOFTWARE FOR THE HOBBYIST, EDUCATIONALIST, PROFESSIONAL AND RETAILER.

BOOKS

SUMMER HOLIDAY BONUS: for the purchase of 3 books or more, and paying by cheque, P.O. or cash, give yourself a 10% DISCOUNT!

Introduction to Microcomputers: by Osborne	
Vol 0: Beginners Book	£5.95
Vol 1: Basic Concepts	£6.30
Vol 2: Some Real Microprocessors (without binder)	£18.95
Vol 2: Some Real Microprocessors (with binder)	£24.70
Vol 3: Some Real Support Devices (without binder)	£11.95
Vol 3: Some Real Support Devices (with binder)	£17.70
Updating subscription (6 issues) for Vol 2	£18.95
Updating subscription (6 issues) for Vol 3	£18.95
Updating subscriptions for Vol 2 & 3	£30.00
1 Updating issue (specify for Vol 2 or 3)	£4.00
1 Binder (Specify for Vol 2 or 3)	£5.75

Microprocessors from Chips to Systems	£7.00
Microprocessor Interfacing Techniques	£8.75
Z80 Microcomputer Handbook	£7.50
TV Typewriter Cookbook	£7.50
Cheap Video Cookbook	£4.30
CMOS Cookbook	£7.50
IC OP-AMP Cookbook	£8.95
RTL Cookbook	£4.25
TTL Cookbook	£7.50
IC Timer Cookbook	£7.50
Circias Circuit Cellar	£5.50
First Book of KIM	£7.00

6800 Programming for Logic Design	£6.30
8080 Programming for Logic Design	£6.30
Z80 Programming for Logic Design	£6.30

Introduction to Personal and Business Computing	£4.95
Getting Involved with your Own Computer	£4.75
Buyer's Guide to Microsoftware	£2.40
How to Profit from Your Personal Computer	£5.50
Microcomputer Potpourri	£1.75
Hobby Computers are Here	£3.95
New Hobby Computers	£3.95
Understanding Microcomputers and Small Computer Systems	£6.95

More BASIC Computer Games (coming soon)	£5.50
BASIC Computer Games (also see software section)	£5.00
What To Do After You Hit Return	£8.95
8080 Galaxy Game	£6.95
SUPER-WUMPUS — A game in 6800 Assembler code & BASIC	£4.25
Computer Music	£6.75
Computer Rage (A Board Game)	£6.95
Artist and Computer	£3.95
Games with a Pocket Calculator	£1.75
Games, Tricks & Puzzles for a Hand Calculator	£2.49
Introduction to TRS-80 graphics	£5.75
Take My Computer Please... (light hearted fiction)	£3.25

Instant BASIC	£6.95
Basic BASIC	£6.50
Advanced BASIC	£6.00
My Computer Likes Me... When I Speak in BASIC	£2.75
Calculating with BASIC	£4.95
Users Guide to North Star BASIC	£10.00
Introduction to PASCAL	£3.95

Z80 Instruction Handbook	£2.95
8080 Programmers Pocket Guide	£1.95
8080 Hex Code Card	£1.95
8080 Octal Code Card	£1.95

Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable	£10.95
Payroll with Cost Accounting	£10.95
General Ledger	£10.95

Best of BYTE	£8.95
Scelbi BYTE Primer	£8.95
Best of Creative Computing Vol 1	£6.95
Best of Creative Computing Vol 2	£6.95
Best of MICRO (Issues 1-6 of Micro Magazine)	£5.50

Basic Software Library:	
Vol 1: Business and Games Programs	£17.50
Vol 2: Maths, Engineering and Statistical Programs	£17.50
Vol 3: Advanced Business Programs	£26.95
Vol 4: General Purpose Programs	£7.95
Vol 5: Experimenters Programs	£7.95
Vol 6: Miniature Business System	£32.50
Vol 7: Chess/Medbil/Wdproc Programs	£26.95

Z80 Assembly Language Programming (coming soon)	£6.45
6502 Assembly Language Programming (coming soon)	£6.45
Microcomputer Programming 6502	£7.95
6502 Applications Book (coming soon)	£7.95
8080A/8085 Assembly Language Programming	£6.45
6800 Assembly Language Programming	£6.45
8080 Software Gourmet Guide and Cookbook	£6.95
6800 Software Gourmet Guide and Cookbook	£6.95
8080/8085 Software Design	£6.75
6800 Tracer — An aid to 6800 Programme Debugging	£3.95
Program Design	£4.25
Programming Techniques: Simulation	£4.25

Some Common BASIC Programs	£6.30
Computer Programs that Work (in BASIC)	£2.55
32 BASIC Programs for the PET	£10.10

PIMS — A Database Management System	£5.95
Scelbal High Level Language + Supplements	£15.00
Basex — A Simple Language + Compiler for the 8080	£5.50

8080 Standard Monitor	£9.95
8080 Standard Editor	£9.95
8080 Standard Assembler	£9.95
Special Package: 8080 Assembler, Editor, Monitor	£20.00
Bar Code Loader for 6800, 8080, Z80 and 6502	£1.75
Tiny Assembler for 6800 Systems	£5.75
RA 6800 ML — An M600 Relocatable Macro Assembler	£15.95
LINK 68 — An M6800 Linking Loader	£5.50
MONDEB — An advanced M6800 Monitor Debugger	£3.50

MAGAZINES

SUMMER HOLIDAY BONUS: For the purchase of 3 Magazines or more, and paying by cheque, P.O. or cash, give yourself a 10% DISCOUNT!

Magazine Subscriptions:		
Subscriptions start within 3 weeks		
MICRO-6502 Journal (12 issues)	£12.50	£12.50
Personal Computing (12 issues)	£17.00	£17.00
Interface Age (12 issues)	£25.00	£25.00
Dr Dobbs Journal (10 issues)	£13.50	£13.50
Computer Music Journal (4 issues)	£11.00	£11.00
People's Computers (6 issues)	£8.50	£8.50
BYTE (12 issues)	£24.50	£24.50
Creative Computing (12 issues)	£16.50	£16.50
Kilobaud (12 issues)	£21.00	£21.00

Magazine Back Issues:	
Micro-6502 Journal	£1.50
Personal Computing	£1.95
Interface Age	£2.95
ROM	£1.95
Dr Dobbs Journal	£1.95
Computer Music Journal	£3.75
People's Computers	£1.95
BYTE	£2.95
Creative Computing	£1.95
Calculators and Computers	£1.95
Kilobaud (reprints only)	P.O.A.
73	£2.25
Magazine Storage Box (Holds 12)	£1.25

SOFTWARE

SUMMER HOLIDAY BONUS: For the purchase of 2 or more software packages, and paying by cheque, P.O. or cash, give yourself a 10% DISCOUNT!

Computers Plus Inc.,	FMS-80 (File Management System) Demo Pack (Includes manual & demo disc) £35.00																																																						
Computer Services	Bidirectional driver for Diablo Hytype printers for use on CP/M, CDOS & IMDOS systems. BI-DIRECT Complete System Manual only £65.00 £15.00																																																						
CP/M User Library	40 Volumes (8" only) £4.00 each																																																						
Creative Computing Cassettes:	Pet CS-1001 Logic Games — 1 CS-1002 Number Games — 1 CS-1003 Logic Games — 2 CS-1004 Graphic Games — 1 CS-1005 Graphic Games — 2 CS-1006 Conversational Games — 1 CS-1007 Board Games — 1 CS-1008 Sport Games — 2 CS-1201 Simulations — 1 Apple II CS-4001 Space Games — 1 CS-4002 Sports Games — 1 CS-4003 Strategy Games — 1 CS-4201 CAI Programs — 1 CS-4301 Know Yourself Exidy Sorcerer CS-5001 Graphics Games — 2 OSI Challenger 1P & Superboard II CS-6001 Graphics Games — 3 SOL-20 Coming Soon TRS-80 CS-2001 Games — 1 (level 1) CS-3001 Board Games — 1 CS-3002 Space Games — 3 Each of these are £6.50 CS-3033 Adventure £12.50 CS-3201 Ecology Simulations — 1 £19.50																																																						
Creative Computing Discs:	for CP/M CS-9001 BASIC Games, Volume 1, disc 1 CS-9002 BASIC Games, Volume 1, disc 2. CS-9000 Both discs purchased together These cost £12 each, or £20 if purchased together.																																																						
Digital Research	Operating Systems: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>On 5" Discs</th> <th>On 8" Discs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CP/M for North Star</td> <td>£105.00</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CP/M for MDS-800</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>£65.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CP/M on Cromemco</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>£85.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SID</td> <td>£55.00</td> <td>£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAC</td> <td>£65.00</td> <td>£60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TEX</td> <td>£55.00</td> <td>£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DESPOOL</td> <td>£36.00</td> <td>£32.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CP/M Manuals only</td> <td>£25.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TEX Manual only</td> <td>£12.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SID Manual only</td> <td>£12.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAC Manual only</td> <td>£15.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DESPOOL Manual only</td> <td>£5.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>CP/M Disc only</td> <td>£85.00</td> <td>£45.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SID Disc only</td> <td>£50.00</td> <td>£45.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MAC Disc only</td> <td>£55.00</td> <td>£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TEX Disc only</td> <td>£50.00</td> <td>£45.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DESPOOL Disc only</td> <td>£32.50</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	On 5" Discs	On 8" Discs	CP/M for North Star	£105.00	N/A	CP/M for MDS-800	N/A	£65.00	CP/M on Cromemco	N/A	£85.00	SID	£55.00	£50.00	MAC	£65.00	£60.00	TEX	£55.00	£50.00	DESPOOL	£36.00	£32.50	CP/M Manuals only	£25.00		TEX Manual only	£12.00		SID Manual only	£12.00		MAC Manual only	£15.00		DESPOOL Manual only	£5.00		CP/M Disc only	£85.00	£45.00	SID Disc only	£50.00	£45.00	MAC Disc only	£55.00	£50.00	TEX Disc only	£50.00	£45.00	DESPOOL Disc only	£32.50	£30.00
Name	On 5" Discs	On 8" Discs																																																					
CP/M for North Star	£105.00	N/A																																																					
CP/M for MDS-800	N/A	£65.00																																																					
CP/M on Cromemco	N/A	£85.00																																																					
SID	£55.00	£50.00																																																					
MAC	£65.00	£60.00																																																					
TEX	£55.00	£50.00																																																					
DESPOOL	£36.00	£32.50																																																					
CP/M Manuals only	£25.00																																																						
TEX Manual only	£12.00																																																						
SID Manual only	£12.00																																																						
MAC Manual only	£15.00																																																						
DESPOOL Manual only	£5.00																																																						
CP/M Disc only	£85.00	£45.00																																																					
SID Disc only	£50.00	£45.00																																																					
MAC Disc only	£55.00	£50.00																																																					
TEX Disc only	£50.00	£45.00																																																					
DESPOOL Disc only	£32.50	£30.00																																																					

Information Unlimited Inc.,	WHATSIT for North Star Horizon £50.00 APPLE 2; 48K £72.00 APPLE 2; 32K £59.00 CP/M £75.00
L.P. Enterprises	Diablo Driver runs 300/1200 baud with autoload For CDOS £25.00 For CP/M £25.00
Micah	CP/M for CDOS Users Program to Expand CP/M system to be compatible with Cromemco CDOS S/W. £59.00
Michael Shrayer	Electric Pencil A) SS II for TTY etc., £175.00 b) DS II for a DIABLO £215.00 c) TRS-80 Cassette £75.00 d) TRS-80 disc (on cassette) £130.00
Micropro	WORD-MASTER £90.00 manual only £25.00 TEX-WRITER £45.00 Manual only £15.00 WORD-STAR £300.00 Manual only £25.00
	SUPER-SORT Version 1 £150.00 Version 2 £120.00 Version 3 £90.00 Manual only £25.00
Northshare	** A Multi-User system for Northstar User's Disc only £32.00 Manual only £27.00 £10.00
Automated Simulations	Starfleet Orion Game for PET 8K, TRS-80 (level 2) [6K] £15.00 APPLE 2; TRS-80 (24K) £17.50
Osborne associates	Some Common Basic Programs for PET on cassette with book £10.00 £15.00
Software Systems	CBASIC Disc & Manual £85.00 CBASIC Disc Only £75.00 CBASIC Manual Only £15.00
Software Works	On North Star Discs Inventory — 1 £50.00 Inventory — 2 £75.00 Mail Room £50.00 Housekeeper £35.00 Preventative Maintenance £75.00 FIX-IT £20.00 Manuals Only £10.00
Structured Systems Software	Accounts Receivable (Sales Ledger) Disc & 222 Page Manual £395.00 Accounts Payable (Purchase Ledger) Disc & 177 Page Manual £455.00 General Ledger (Nominal Ledger) Disc & 150 Page Manual £495.00 Inventory (Stock Control) T.B.A NAD (Name & Address System) £45.00 QSORT (Sort Utility) £55.00 Demo disc for SL, PL, NL, CAR, AP, GL) £25.00
Tiny-C Associates	Tiny-C language for 8080, Z80, 8085 systems Manual with Source-Code £35.00 Disc containing all files both source & object code £35.00

STOP PRESS:
To be announced soon a Multi-User, Multi-Tasking operating System for use on Z80 Systems with a minimum RAM of 64K, maximum of 16M RAM.
STOP PRESS:
More Coming
**Please specify if single or double Density 5" discs required. add £1.50 for Postage & Insurance; plus VAT.

THIS LIST CANCELS ALL PREVIOUS PRICE LISTS: EFFECTIVE JULY 1979
DUE TO FLUCTUATIONS OF THE DOLLAR, PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

HOW TO ORDER

Please note our book magazine prices include postage and packing, but not insurance, if wanted add 12p for every £10. of books ordered. Make cheques, PO's etc. payable to: L.P. Enterprises.

CREDIT CARDS accepted
BARCLAYCARD VISA/ACCESS/DINERS CLUB/
AMERICAN EXPRESS

Phone: 01-553 1001 for Credit Card orders (24 hr answering service)

Send to address on page 1 All Orders must be Prepaid ;
Indicate Payment Method; and underline items required. Total Enclosed £

My cheque, P.O., I.M.O, is enclosed in Sterling on U.K. Bank

Charge to Barclaycard/Visa/Access/Diners/American Express

Credit Card No Expiry Date

Name

Address

. POSTCODE

Signature

All publications are published in U.S.A. and shipped into Britain air-freight by L.P. Enterprises. In unusual cases, processing may exceed 30 days.
Prices subject to change without notice

TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

● Circle No. 106

NEW LOW BOOK PRICES AT MICRODIGITAL

Microprocessors: from chips to systems — R. Zaks — £7.95

Microprocessor interfacing techniques — R. Zaks — £7.95

Practical solid circuit design. Olesky — £5.20

Some common Basic programs — A. Osborne — £6.30

Understanding solid state electronics. Texas Instruments — £2.40

Microprocessor systems design. Klingman — £14.00

Designing with TTL integrated circuits. Texas Instruments — £24.80

Fundamentals and applications of digital logic circuits — S. Libes — £6.36

Semiconductor circuit elements — T. Towers and S. Libes — £5.56

TTL cookbook — D. Lancaster — £7.50

CMOS cookbook — D. Lancaster — £7.95

T. V. Typewriter cookbook — D. Lancaster — £7.50

Cheap video cookbook — D. Lancaster — £5.10

Microcomputer problem solving using PASCAL — K. L. Bowles — £7.84

PASCAL User Manual and Report — Jensen and Wirth — £5.52

Best of BYTE vol. 1 — Helmers et al. — £8.95

Best of Creative Computing vol. 1 — AHL et al. — £6.95

Best of Creative Computing vol. 2 — AHL et al. — £6.95

Scelbi-Byte Pnmer — Helmers et al. — £9.95

The Best of Micro — Trnp et al. — £6.95

The First West Coast Computer Faire proceedings — J. C. Warren — £9.56

The Second West Coast Computer Faire proceedings — J. C. Warren — £9.56

Basex — P. Wame — £6.40

Superwumpus — J. Emmenches — £4.80

Ciercia's Circuit Cellar — S. Ciercia — £6.40

Bar Code Loader — K. Budnick — £1.60

Tracer: A 6800 debugging program — J. Hemenway — £4.80

RA6800ML: An M6800 Relocatable Macro-assembler — J. Hemenway — £20.00

The 8080A Bugbook: Microcomputer interfacing and programming — P. R. Rony et al. — £7.95

8080 machine language programming for beginners — R. Santore — £5.10

Scelbi "8080" software gourmet guide and cookbook — Scelbi computer consulting — £7.95

8080/8085 Software design — C. A. Titus, P. R. Rony et al. — £7.50

Practical microcomputer programming: The Intel 8080 — W. J. Weller et al. — £17.56

Scelbi's 8080 standard monitor £9.95

Scelbi's 8080 standard editor £9.95

Scelbi's 8080 standard assembler £15.95

Scelbi computer consultants.

8080 Assembly language programming — L. Leventhal — £7.95

An Editor/Assembler system for 8080/8085 based computers — W. J. Weller — £11.96

Scelbi 8080 Galaxy game — Scelbi computer consultants — £7.95

Z-80 instruction handbook — Scelbi — £3.95

Practical microcomputer programming: the Z80 — W. J. Weller — £23.96

Sargon Z80 Chess Program — D. and K. Spracklen — £9.50

The Z80 microcomputer handbook — W. Barden — £6.95

A-80 Programming for logic design — A. Osborne — £5.95

Z-80 Programming manual — Mostek — £4.50

Sorcerer Technical manual — £8.95

Practical microcomputer programming: the M6800 — W. J. Weller et al. — £17.56

Scelbi 6800 Gourmet guide — Scelbi computer consultants — £7.95

Programming the 6800 microprocessor — Bob Southern — £8.00

6800 Assembly language programming — L. Leventhal — £7.95

Using the 6800 microprocessor — E. Poe — £6.25

APL — an interactive approach — Gitman and Rose — £9.50

Microprogrammed APL implementation — R. Zaks — £14.75

A guide to SC/MP programming — Drury — £4.00

Artist and computer — R. Leavit — £3.96

Illustrating Basic — a simple programming language — D. Alcock — £2.25

Basic computer games — D.H. Ahl — £5.50

Game playing with BASIC — D. Spencer — £5.56

Starship simulation — R. Garrett — £5.10

Game playing with computers — D. Spencer — £13.56

57 Practical programs and games in BASIC — K. Tracton — £6.36

Chess and computers — D. Levy — £7.16

Chess skill in man and machine — P. Frey ed — £11.84

Phone in your Access/Barclaycard Number on **051-236-0707** or complete this order form

PLEASE SEND ME:

I ENCLOSE:
CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER NO.....
BARCLAYCARD NO.....
ACCESS CARD NO.....
NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

COMPLETE AND POST TO
MICRODIGITAL LTD. 25 BRUNSWICK STREET
LIVERPOOL L2 0BJ Tel: 051-236 0707

● Circle No. 107

V. & T. ELECTRONICS

ASSEMBLER FOR NASCOM ON TAPE £10.00

supports all standard mnemonics, occupies 3½K available in sixteen different versions, i.e. one for each page of O to F; please state which page you require.

CONVERSION KIT TO PLACE NASCOM MONITOR & VDU ON ANY PAGE IN MEMORY

please write or phone for details.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER: NATIONAL MM5270 4KxI 200NS CERAMIC PACKAGE £10.00 FOR 8

21L02 450ns	8 off £6.00	Z80 cpu	£13.00
21L02 250ns	8 off £7.00	Z80 cpu	£16.00
4116 250ns	8 off £7.00	Z80 PIO	£15.00
2114 300ns	2 off £11.50	2716 INTEL 1	off £23.50

We apologise to our customers who have tried to contact us at Dartmouth Rd, N. W2., but we haven't moved yet—our address is still as below. Stuck for a bit in the middle of the night? We are often open very late but please phone first. If you don't see what you need in this ad, please phone and enquire. By the time this ad appears, we hope to have some 8 in. floppies in at silly prices—first come, first served.

Please add 40p postage then V.A.T.
V&T ELECTRONICS 01-263 2643
82 CHESTER ROAD, LONDON N.19

● Circle No. 108

BIRMINGHAM COMPUTER CENTRE

Commodore
Authorised agents
PETSOFT DIST.
PETACT
business
programs



Specialists in
Commodore
Hardware
ALL MODELS
EX STOCK

2001-4K 2001-8K 2001-16K 2001-32K

All at special discount prices including large keyboard

Floppy dual disk drive — Printers

KIMI BETSI — KIMSI, etc

Cassette tapes super quality

Diskettes — super quality

Now available ex stock £675 —

Camden BD 80 Printer professional business use. 2K character buffer

Send for free literature
HP terms available



Showrooms open Mon to Sat, 10am-6pm
Camden Electronics (first floor) 462 Coventry Road,
Small Heath, Birmingham B10 0UG Tel: (021) 7738240

● Circle No. 109

PET

SWTP

GRAMA (WINTER) LTD

This is how your business appears on the screen

A complete Business Program Package (version one) free with the purchase of a 32-40K computer system.

Approx 60 entries ★ updates require only 1-2 hours weekly and your entire business is under control.

*** PROGRAMS ARE INTEGRATED**

- 1=ENTER NEW NAMES/ADDRESSES
- 2=* ENTER/PRINT INVOICES
- 3=* ENTER PURCHASES
- 4=* ENTER A/C RECEIVABLES
- 5=ENTER A/C PAYABLES
- 6=ENTER/UPDATE STOCKS REC'D
- 7=ENTER ORDERS REC'D
- 8=EXAMINE/UPDATE BANK BALANCE
- 9=EXAMINE SALES LEDGER
- 10=EXAMINE PURCHASE LEDGER
- 11=EXAMINE ORDER BOOK
- 12=EXAMINE PRODUCT SALES

WHICH ONE (ENTER 1 TO 24)

SELECT FUNCTION BY NUMBER

- 13=PRINT CUSTOMER STATEMENTS
- 14=PRINT SUPPLIER STATEMENTS
- 15=PRINT AGENTS STATEMENTS
- 16=PRINT VAT STATEMENTS
- 17=PRINT WEEK/MONTH SALES
- 18=PRINT WEEK/MONTH PURCHASES
- 19=PRINT YEAR AUDIT
- 20=PRINT PROFIT/LOSS ACCOUNT
- 21=UPDATE ENDMONTH FILES
- 22=PRINT CASHFLOW ANALYSIS
- 23=ENTER PAYROLL
- 24=RETURN TO BASIC

EACH PROGRAM GOES IN DEPTH TO FURTHER EXPRESS YOUR REQUIREMENTS.

FOR EXAMPLE (9) ALLOWS: a. list all sales; b. monitor sales by stock code; c. invoice search; d. amend ledger files; e. total all sales.

THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES, AND ADD TO THOSE HERE IF YOU WISH

Price for above: Version 1 (excluding programs 19, 20, 22, 23) — £275 plus VAT; Version 2 (including programs 19, 20, 22, 23) — £375 plus VAT; Version 3 (including sorts and incomplete account handling) — £475 plus VAT, or full listing plus manual to be typed-in on most computer systems £150. Barclaycard enquiries welcome. Hardware systems tailored to your requirements (SWTP and PET) from £600 to £5,000 approx. Above package is intended to work with processor, twin-floppy and printer. 5 x 1/4in soft-sectored spaced disks £2.55 plus P&P.



—EXAMINE MODE—

PET DISK USERS!!!

MULTI-MODE AND FUNCTION PROGRAM

SELECT MAIN MODALITY

- 1 = GENERAL
- 2 = ADDRESS
- 3 = STOCKS
- 4 = ORDERS
- 5 = BANKS
- 6 = COSTING
- 7 = PROCESS
- 8 = RENTALS
- 9 = DECISIONS
- 10 = SHARES

WHICH?

THE ADDRESS MODE HAS SEVERAL FUNCTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE:

SELECT WHICH YOU REQUIRE

- 1 = EXAMINE ADDRESS
- 2 = AD 2 ADDRESS
- 3 = AMEND ADDRESS
- 4 = DELETE ADDRESS
- 5 = PRINT LISTING
- 6 = COMBINE NUMERICS
- 7 = CHANGE MODE
- 8 = RETURN TO MAIN LIST
- 9 = RETURN TO BASIC

WHICH?

- 01 = NUMBER
- 02 = NAME
- 03 = ADDRESS 1
- 04 = ADDRESS 2
- 05 = ADDRESS 3
- 06 = ADDRESS 4
- 07 = ADDRESS 5
- 08 = PHONE NO
- 09 = DISC CODE
- 10 = AGENT NO
- 11 = 0 SHLASH HEAD CODE
- 12 = CREDIT LIMIT

WHICH NO?

"ALL = 99999 FINISH = 0"

Create your own modes, combine your own numerics, program requires approx. 20K bytes disk space . . . £100

Please telephone for appointment — Tony Winter on 01-636 8210

GRAMA (WINTER) LTD

21B Dryden Chambers,
119 Oxford St., London W1.

(G.W. COMPUTERS LTD)

● Circle No. 110

SMALL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING LTD.

(Incorporating R. BAILEY ASSOCIATES)

62 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LD, Tel: 01-637 0777, Telex: 8813085 Abacus

SUPPLIER OF PET MEMORY BOARDS AND INTERFACES THROUGHOUT EUROPE

IEEE-488/RS232C SERIAL INTERFACE

- Full IEEE address decoding, RS232C or 20mA loop output.
- Switch selectable Baud Rate, Crystal controlled Baud Rate timing.
- Boxed units complete with connectors, full operating instructions and sample programs supplied

- Lower Case Printing
- Serial Interface B, input and output £186
- Serial Interface A, output only £106

IEEE-488/CENTRONICS TYPE PARALLEL INTERFACE

- Low cost unit without IEEE address decoding
- Also suitable for Anadex DP-8000 Printer £45

ANALOG INPUT/OUTPUT*

- IEEE-488, 16 Channel, 8 Bit A-D £300
- IEEE-488, 8 Channel, 8 Bit D-A £400

PET INTELLIGENT TERMINAL SOFTWARE PACKAGE

A software package which, in conjunction with an Interface B

- Video and UHF output (plugs into aerial socket of domestic TV) . . . £35

PET MEMORY BOARDS

- Internally mounting memory boards available in 2 configurations
- 24K . . . £328 —32K . . . £432

NEW MULTIPURPOSE UNIDIRECTIONAL IEEE-488 INTERFACE

Addressable * Pet floppy disc unit compatibility * Code conversion facilities included * Custom units may be supplied with special code sets * Serial Version: switch selectable Baud Rates up to 9600 Baud & a printer busy input; both RS232C & 20MA loop available * Parallel Versions: for CENTRONICS, ANADEx and PR40 Printers . . . £120

*All enquiries on analog I/O ring 01-387 7388

NOW AVAILABLE COMPUCOLOR II MODEL 3

- 13in. 8-colour CRT. 8080 Microprocessor.
- 16K extended disk BASIC in ROM.
- 71-Key detached keyboard.
- 8K RAM memory for user programs.
- 64 characters per line by 32 lines per page.
- Special graphics package with 128 x 128 point plotting.
- Built-in mini-floppy disk drive.
- 50 pin bus.
- RS-232 I/O port for serial printers, etc. . . £1,390

P & T 488 S-100 IEEE-488 INTERFACE

- Interfaces S-100 computers to the IEEE-488 instrumentation bus.
- Functions as a 488 controller, talker or listener.
- Three software packages available: North Star DOS/BASIC interface CP/M interface. Custom systems interface £325.

TERMS: All prices EX. VAT. Please make C.W.O.

Cheques payable to SMALL SYSTEMS ENGINEERING. Post and Package (includes SECURICOR express delivery) £5.00. All goods supplied under 90 days warranty.

● Circle No. 111

MICRO MEDIA SYSTEMS

CONSULT THE EXPERTS

Announcing **COMPUCOLOUR II**

Plus — EQUINOX 300 — CROMEMCO — PROCESSOR TECH. SOL. — NORTH STAR HORIZON. — COMMODORE PET. — MICROSTAR 45.

We supply a complete range of peripherals to suit the range listed, including Texas, Elbit, Teletype, Diablo, Adds, Cifer, etc. (O.E.M. terms available). Send S.A.E. for our Booklist.

Accounting suites — Payroll — Mailing list — Hotel package — Pert — Perspective drawing — Simplex linear programming — Planets (Management Game) PLUS A COMPLETE BESPOKE PROG. SERVICE.

WE ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING A SERIES OF ONE DAY SEMINARS. RING US FOR DETAILS.

Micromedia Systems, 14 Chepstow Road, Newport, GWENT. NPT 8EA.
Tel: (0633) 841691/50528/63310.

● Circle No. 112

THE NEW STANDARD IN MICROCOMPUTER POWER

SIMPLICITY. SOPHISTICATION.

 **apple II PLUS**
AT
MICRODIGITAL



Apple II Plus

APPLE-II PLUS will change the way you think about computers. That's because it is specifically designed to handle the day to day activities of education, business, financial planning, scientific calculation, and entertainment. APPLE-II PLUS is appealing and comfortable (like other appliances that make your life easier), and it brings to personal computing a new level of power through hardware and software sophistication.

The APPLE-II PLUS is faster, smaller and more powerful than its predecessors, and it's easier to use too, because of advanced, built in features like:

*PALSOFIT

A fast, extended 10K BASIC with 9-digit precision and graphics extensions.

*HIGH RESOLUTION GRAPHICS

On a matrix of 280X192 individually addressable points.

*AUTO-START ROM

With power on boot of application programs, reset protection and improved screen editing.

*INTERNAL MEMORY EXPANSION TO 64K BYTES

For big system performance at a low cost.

*EIGHT EXPANSION SLOTS

To let the system grow with your needs.

Apple Pascal

APPLE PASCALTM is the new extension to microcomputer power.

PASCALTM incorporating UCSD PASCALTM, offers extended features in a complete interactive package employing today's most sophisticated structured programming language. It provides advanced capabilities that boost performance and cut development time for large business, scientific, and educational programs.

This software package provides the most powerful set of tools yet available for the microcomputer programmer.

*EDITOR

A fast, screen-oriented editor for program development and word processing applications.

*COMPILER

Standard PASCAL plus full set of extensions for strings, disc files, graphics and system programming. Hi-res graphics "Turtlegraphics": as originated at MIT. INIT turtle. PENCOLOR, TURNTO, TURN, MOVE, TEXT GRAF.

GOTOXY procedure for cursor addressing. FUNCTION Keypress tells whether character available. Library routines include: RANDOM, RANDOMIZE, PADDLE, BUTTON, TTOUT, KEYPRESS etc.

*RELOCATABLE ASSEMBLER

Permits relocatable assembly language routines to be generated and linked to Pascal programs.

*SYSTEM UTILITIES

Includes desk calculator-performs basic calculations and parameter — allows examination and modification of system environment.

Floppy Disks

Gives your system immediate access to large quantities of data. The subsystem consists of an intelligent interface card, a powerful Disk Operating System and one or two mini-floppy drives.

Features

- * Storage capacity of 116 kilobytes/diskette.
- * Date transfer rate 156K Bits/second.
- * Individual file write protection.
- * Powered directly from Apple II.
- * Full disk capability with systems as little as 16K bytes of RAM.
- * Fast access time — 600 m sec (max) across 35 tracks.
- * Powerful disk operating software.
- * Load and store files by name.
- * BASIC program chaining.
- * Random or sequential file access.

Floppy Disk Subsystem		
Nett	Val	Total
425.00	63.75	488.75
Second disk drive and connecting cable		
375.00	56.25	431.25

Parallel Printer Interface Card

Allows you to connect almost any popular printer to your Apple. A BASIC program can produce hard-copy output as easily as it prints to the TV monitor screen. Command interpretation and printer control details are handled by the firmware built into the card, to eliminate user programming requirements.

Nett	Val	Total
110.00	16.50	126.50

Communications Interface Card

Allows your Apple to "talk" (through a modem) with other computers and terminals over ordinary telephone an load programs over the phone, send messages to remote terminals or access your office computer from the comfort of your home.

Nett	Val	Total
110.00	16.50	126.50

High Speed Serial Interface Card

Allows Apple to exchange data with printers, plotters and computers in serial format at up to 19.2 K Baud.

Nett	Val	Total
110.00	16.50	126.50

Speechlab Voice Recognition Card

Allows the Apple to recognise a spoken vocabulary of up to 32 user-selected words. The computer can be programmed to perform any task desired upon recognition of a key word.

Nett	Val	Total
165.00	24.75	189.75

Prototyping Card

Provides the User with a means of building up experimental circuitry for the Apple computer. The 2 1/4" x 7" double-sided board includes a hole pattern that accepts all conventional integrated circuits and passive components. Documentation includes a complete system bus description to aid the interface designer.

Prototyping Card		
Nett	Val.	Total
18.00	2.70	20.70

Carrying Case

The Apple is truly portable and this padded vinyl, leather look case protects your Apple in transit and makes it easier to carry.

Carrying Case		
Nett	Val	Total
25.00	3.75	28.75

Apple Pascal System

A recommended configuration for developing and using Pascal application programs.

APPLE-II PLUS, 48K RAM	£950
FLOPPY DISK system	£425
PASCAL extension card	Ring for price.

Apple Software Bank Vols. 1-5 (5 disks) FREE

Other Prices

	Nett	VAT	Total
8 x 4116 RAMS 162k Bytes	100	15.00	115.00
Joystick	20	3.00	23.00
Diskettes	3	0.45	3.45
10 C13 Cassettes	4.44	0.66	5.10
Golaphin 8.0, 80	595	89.25	684.25
TRENCOM-100 incl. interface	295	44.25	339.25
AXIOM micro Printers	349	52.35	401.35
AXIOM graphics Printers	699	104.85	803.85

Books

Apple operators manual	5.50	NO VAT ON THESE ITEMS
Applesoft extended Basic manual	4.00	
Basic tutor	4.00	
6502 programming manual	7.50	
6502 hardware manual	7.50	

PART EXCHANGE

Pet owners', trade up to an Apple at MICRODIGITAL. We can allow up to £300 for your old PET against the cost of a new Apple II.

MICRODIGITAL

25 BRUNSWICK STREET, LIVERPOOL L2 0BJ.

Mail Order: 051-236 0707

Other Departments: 051-227 2535



MICROSPEECH

Does your computer speak to you?
'WEHL IHT KAAAN DOO WIHTH MEE!'

Features

- Single PCB plugs directly into an SWPTc 6800 bus.
- 9 parameter vocal tract model.
- Realtime software converts any stored phonetic code to speech.
- Computer Games.
- External input for special musical effects.
- Adds speech output to existing BASIC programs.

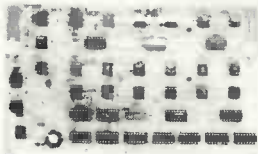
Microspeech package

- Speech synthesizer board (assembled & tested).
- MSP2 Software on floppy disc or cassette.
- Hardware & Software manual.
- Speaking BASIC software option.

TIM ORR DESIGN CONSULTANT
55 Drive Mansions,
Fulham Road,
London, SW6

Make your computer talk

Just by entering phonetic text (as in the sentence at the top of the page). Microspeech with the MSP2 software can make your computer speak. MSP2 uses only 4K of memory. Every extra 1K of buffer space can store 90 seconds of speech.

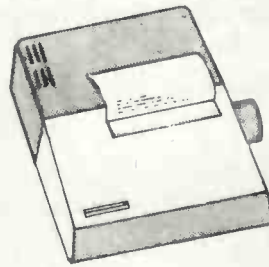


It speaks for itself

COSTRONICS ELECTRONICS
13 Pield Heath
Avenue, Hillingdon,
Middlesex

● Circle No. 114

JUST AVAILABLE !!



TRENDCOM 100 Intelligent Printer

- 40 character per second rate
- Quiet operation
- 96 character set
- Microprocessor controlled
- Bidirectional printing
- High reliability
- Clear 5 x 7 characters

40 characters per line on 4 1/2" thermal paper
8" x 10" x 2 3/4" Weight 7lb.

Trendcom 100	£243
Interface for Pet, Apple	£49
Interface for Sorcerer, TRS80	£29
Thermal paper (2 rolls x 80ft)	£5

Add VAT @ 15%, £2 for delivery

Cash with order to:-

Chiltern Microcomputers Ltd.



7, Amersham Hill,
High Wycombe,
Bucks HP13 6NQ
Tel: High Wycombe (STD 0494) 20416

● Circle No. 115

Select Pet, Apple or Nascom in West London.



Choosing the computer most suitable for your needs can be difficult at the best of times. And when it comes to the final selection from today's three top-value micros it doesn't get any easier.

We won't promise to make your decision for you, but a combination of your requirements and our professional expertise will ensure you get a system that's right for you.

So why not drop in to discuss your personal computing needs with us? Naturally we can arrange a demonstration, but better still try a machine yourself.

When you've chosen your hardware remember that's not the end of the tale. We can provide software packages, tailored business systems and even games. Plus of course systems and programming support, maintenance and finance.

Adda Computers, 17-19 The Broadway, Ealing,
London W5 2NH. Telephone: 01-579 5845.

Open 09.00-18.00 Monday to Friday,
10.00-16.00 Saturdays.

adda
we add up to a great deal.

PETACT PETSOF
COMPUTASTORE
software available

● Circle No. 116

Get it right...

The right machine **PET**

The right programs **Computastore**

PAYROLL This flexible PAYROLL system makes wage calculation fast, easy and accurate. It prints payslips, totals, coin analysis, and year end totals. Updates for tax and NI changes available.

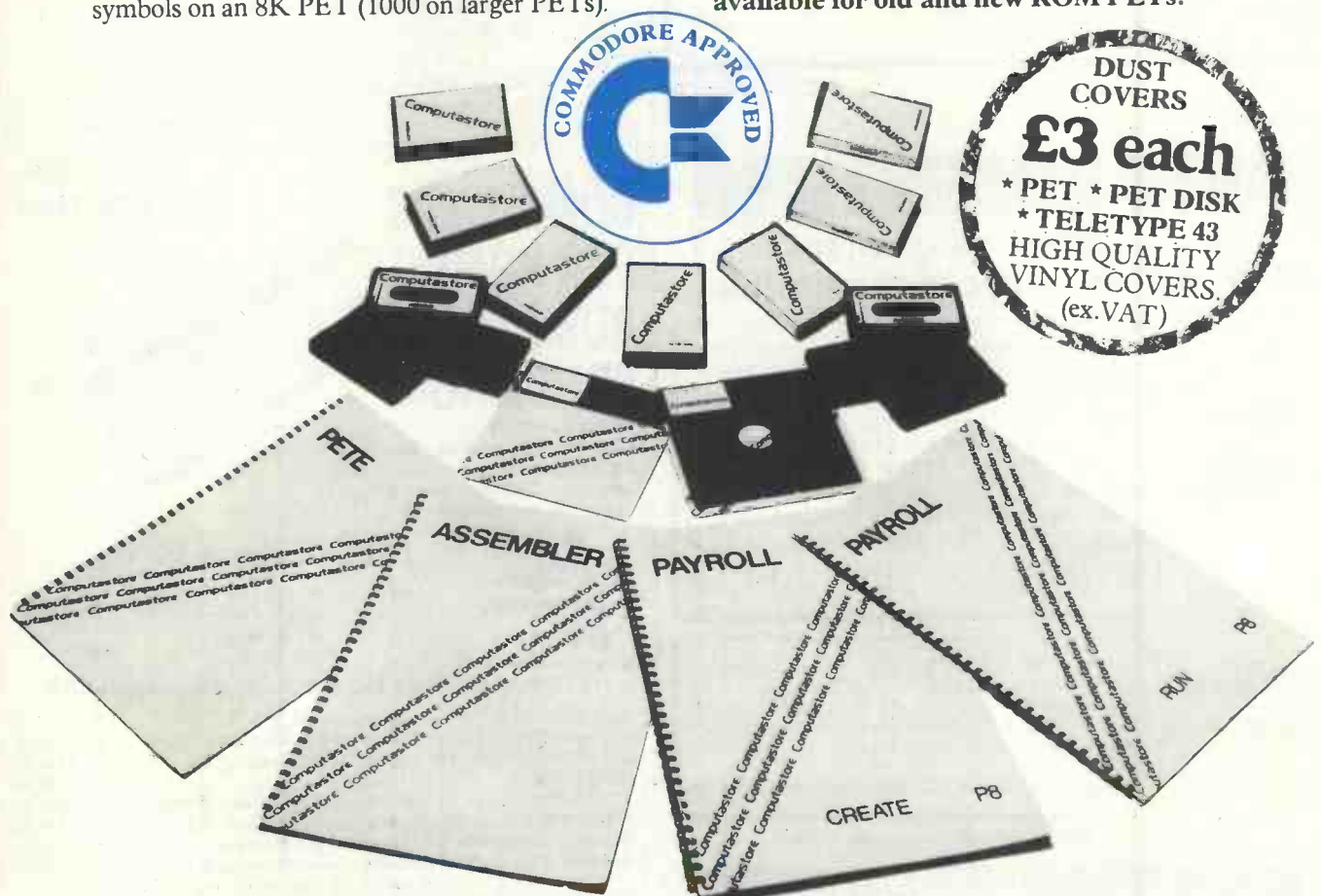
PETE Go on-line with this unique software package which turns your PET into an intelligent RS-232 terminal with user definable transmission parameters.

ASSEMBLER Really fast Assembler written in machine code, assembles up to 500 lines per minute on the Commodore Disk. It allows 200 symbols on an 8K PET (1000 on larger PETs).

DISASSEMBLER Can even display the PET's ROMs, and search them for strings of characters or patterns of hexadecimal bytes. Outputs to screen or printer.

KEYBOARD Big keyboard terminal or printer (e.g. TTY 43) can now be used as a dumb terminal for keying in BASIC programs or data for your PET. The PET can even be in a different location! Also, speeds up data entry for 8K PET owners with keyboard/printer.

Cassette and Commodore Disk versions available for old and new ROM PETs.



Computastore
Software that means business

Ask your local PET dealer or
Computastore for a demonstration
Computastore Ltd, 16 John Dalton Street,
Manchester M2 6HG Tel: 061-832-4761.

● Circle No. 117

★ ★ WE HAVE MEMORIES ★ ★

4096-16	(300ns)	4K × 1 DRAM	£4.00
4116-3	(250ns)	16K × 1DRAM	£9.00
4118		1K × 8 SRAM	£19.50
74188AN		256 bit PROM	£2.00
2708	(450ns)	1K × 8 EPROM	£9.50
Z-80 CPU	4 MHz		£11.50
Z-80 PIO			£9.50

CMOS	p	CMOS	p	CMOS	p
4000	15	4024	48	4053	51
4001	15	4025	15	4060	94
4002	15	4027	31	4066	33
4007	15	4028	54	4068	15
4011	15	4029	70	4069	15
4012	15	4040	65	4070	15
4013	26	4042	53	4071	15
4015	76	4043	57	4072	15
4016	28	4044	57	4073	15
4017	57	4046	82	4075	15
4018	65	4047	95	4076	73
4020	67	4049	28	4077	15
4021	67	4050	31	4078	15
4022	65	4051	51	4081	15
4023	15	4052	51	4082	15
				4093	39

P&P 30p
All prices
include VAT.
Access Cards.
Welcome.

**STRUTT ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING LTD.**
Telex 45263
3C, Barley Market Street,
Tavistock, Devon, PL19 05F.
Tel: Tavistock 0822 5439.

● Circle No. 118

PET 2001 SORCERER APPLE II

HIRE

FROM
MICRODIGITAL

Now you can hire before you buy at no extra cost, at last you can be sure that the machine you buy, is the machine that best suits your needs. You may hire a microcomputer system for as little as £5.00 a day, peripherals available include, floppy disk units, colour and monochrome TV's, cassette recorders, etc.

Each machine is supplied with a selection of relevant software. Delivery is free if within the Merseyside area, otherwise charged at cost.

N.B.

The hire charges can be deducted from the cost of a new machine, no matter which machine you eventually purchase.

Please send for our free Price List.
25 Brunswick Street, Liverpool L2 0BJ
For further details and booking
Ring: 051-227 2535 (Paul Fullwood)

● Circle No. 120

OHIO SCIENTIFIC

World's widest range of micros
from the UK's specialist importers.

PERSONAL



C1P & Superboard — better keyboard than PET! better BASIC than TRS80! cheaper than either! From less than £300.

C2-4P also has better display and graphics than PET or TRS80! **C2-8P** worlds most expandable personal computer. From less than £600.

Software over 60 personal, business, games & educational programs on cassette or minidisc.

Expansion — up to 32K (48K C2-8P), I/F boards for printers, D/A converters, prototyping boards, voice I/O, sound and AC control option (C2 only).

SMALL BUSINESS



C30EM, C3S1, C3A, C3B, C3C — real business systems starting with 32K & dual 8" floppies. Expandable to multiusers, 20 or 75MB hard discs, BASIC, FORTRAN, COBOL RPG11. Applications software and DATA BASE MANAGEMENT PACKAGE.
From £3250-C30EM, £12,350 with 75MB disc-C3B.

Phone for details or to arrange demo!

U-MICROCOMPUTERS

U - Microcomputers Ltd
PO Box 24, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 1RS
Tel: 0606-75627 Telex: 666592

U-Microcomputers are an official Ohio importer
Some dealerships in N. & Midlands still available



● Circle No. 119

COMPUTERS FOR HOME BUSINESS EDUCATION

EXIDY INC.
SORCERER



Exidy Sorcerer
8K-£702 16K-£820.80 32K-£927.72
S100 Expansion Box 6-slot-£226.80
Micropolis Dual Disc Drive-£1,296.00
Centronics Printer-£864.00



PET 2001 House Trained

PET 2001 4K-£496.80	DUAL DISC DRIVE FOR PET
8K-£594.00	£989.28
16K-£729.00	
32K-£858.60	

INTERNAL MEMORY EXPANSION BOARDS AVAILABLE

NASCOM 1 kit £178.20 or Built & Tested	£232.20
3A Power Supply kit £21.50 or Built & Tested	£26.50
Ohio SUPERBOARD II 8K Basic Built & Tested	£284.95
CHESS CHAMPION 6-level Chess Computer	£89.50
STARCHESS Colour TV Game (Space Age Chess) T64-95	£59.50
ELECTRONIC MASTERMIND Pocket-size 3, 4 or 5 Digits	£14.90
TRS 80 LIBRARY 100-100 Programs on Cassettes	£46.95
2K BASIC for NASCOM 1 used in place of Nasbug or B-Bug	£22.00

SAE with all enquiries — All price inclusive VAT

SUPPLIERS TO BUSINESS, EDUCATION & HEALTH AUTHORITIES



N.I.C.

27 Sidney Road, London N22 4LT
01-889 9736

● Circle No. 121

DATA PRECISION (Equipment) Ltd.

proudly present

THE VIDEO KEYBOARD



- 72 key ultra-reliable contactless capacitive keyboard with cursor command keypad
- RS 232/V24 serial I/O up to 9600 bauds
- Composite video output for monitor or modified TV
- Built-in mains power supply

Although low-cost, the Video Keyboard is OEM built in the UK using only top-quality components. Other low-cost products use cheap, low MTBF contact-switch keyboards. The Video Keyboard uses the same professional quality ultra-reliable contactless keyboard used by top-flight UK terminal manufacturers.

DETAILED SPECIFICATION MODEL VDP 10

VIDEO

- One page memory
64 characters per line 16 lines per page
- Full 128 ASCII character set
96 upper and lower case characters 32 control symbols
- Comprehensive cursor controls
Left/right/up/down CR/LF Clear/home/line-erase
- PROM translation of inbound characters, giving:-
Programmable coding for cursor commands
Programmable display control for each input code
- Cursor command codes can be displayed using:-
'Display' key for protocol debugging V24 input bit 8 under remote software control
- European compatible composite video out for:-
TV monitor, or Modified TV set.

V28 I/O

- High/low rates externally switchable and jumper selectable from:-
9600/4800/2400/1200/600/300/150/75 bits/sec.
220/110 bits/sec. (NOTE: at high receive speeds, remote software should allow 8.3 ms for CR, LF and 132 ms for Clear)
Odd, Even or No Parity Full duplex or local mode
One or two stop bits V24 serial I/O using standard 25 pin socket

KEYBOARD

- 72 key ultra-reliable solid state contactless keyboard
- Standard ASCII layout plus programmable cursor control keypad
- QWERTY standard
- Full N key rollover
- Caps Lock with LED for TTY compatibility
- Repeat key.

MAINS POWER SUPPLY

- Built-in - needs 220-240V 50Hz.

CABINET

- Tailor-made to house all electronics, keyboard, video and V24 sockets, switches and power supply.

SWITCHES

- Power on/off
- On-line/Off-line
- Baud Rate Select
Medium/High/Low Normally set to 9600/1200/300
- Display Key
Displays control characters for easy protocol debugging

AVAILABLE IN TWO VERSIONS (Monitor/converted TV not included).

- Complete Video Keyboard £230+VAT (UK p&p paid)
- Stripped Video Keyboard £190+VAT (UK p&p paid)
[stripped version excludes case, case hardware (switches, plugs), 240/9-0-9 VAC transformer but otherwise complete and tested].

Both versions are brand new with comprehensive manual and 12-month warranty.

DATA PRECISION (Equipment) LIMITED,
81 Goldsworth Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 1LJ
Tel: Woking 64444/67420 Reg. in England No. 913775

Please send me:

- Complete Video Keyboards @ £264.50 each, inc. VAT and UK postage and packing
- Stripped Video Keyboards @ £218.50 each, inc. VAT and UK postage and packing
- Video Keyboard Manuals @ £2 each, inc. postage and packing (free with Keyboard)

I enclose my cheque

Charge to my VISA/ACCESS/DINERS Card Not VISA



Name

Address

Signature

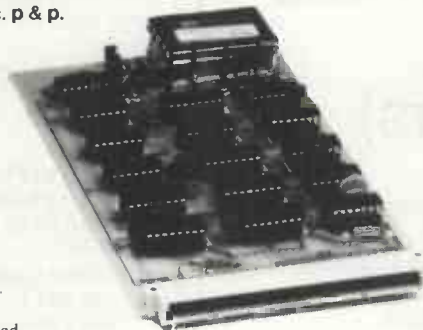
● Circle No. 122

Now, the complete MK 14 micro-computer system from Science of Cambridge

VDU MODULE. £33.75

(£26.85 without character generator) inc. p & p.

Display up to ½K memory (16 lines x 32 chars. with character generator; or 4096 spot positions in graphics mode) on UHF domestic TV. Eurocard-sized module includes UHF modulator, runs on single 5 V supply. Complete ascii upper-case character set can be mixed with graphics.



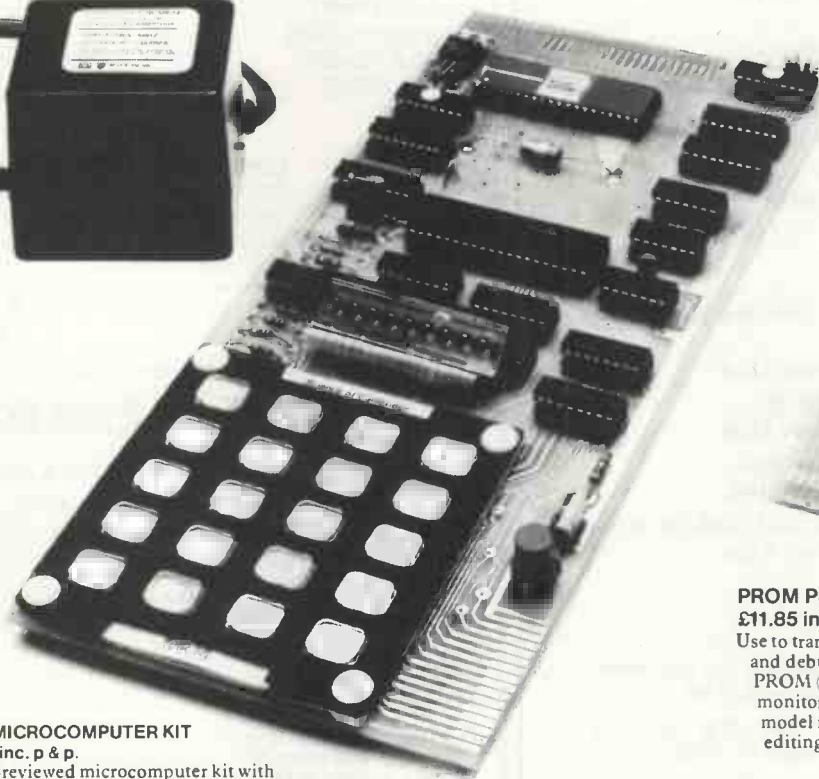
CASSETTE INTERFACE MODULE. £7.25, inc. p & p.

Store and retrieve programs on any cassette recorder. Use for serial transmission down single line at up to 110 baud (teletype speed), e.g. over telephone line, and to communicate between two or more MK 14s.



POWER SUPPLY. £6.10 inc. p & p.

Delivers 8 V at 600 mA from 220/240 V mains – sufficient to drive all modules shown here simultaneously. Sealed plastic case, BS-approved.



MK 14 MICROCOMPUTER KIT

£46.55 inc. p & p.

Widely-reviewed microcomputer kit with hexadecimal keyboard, display, 8 x 512-byte PROM, 256-byte RAM, and optional 16-lines I/O plus further 128 bytes of RAM.

Supplied with free manual to cover operations of all types – from games to basic maths to electronics design. Manual contains programs plus instructions for creating valuable personal programs. Also a superb education and training aid – an ideal introduction to computer technology.

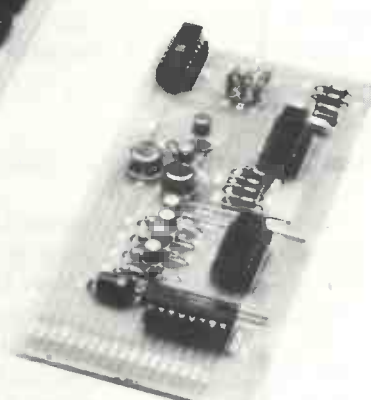
Designed for fast, easy assembly; supplied with step-by-step instructions.

Science of Cambridge Ltd

6 Kings Parade, Cambridge, CAMBS., CB2 1SN.
Tel: 0223 311488.

PROM PROGRAMMER. £11.85 inc. p & p.

Use to transfer your own program developed and debugged on the MK 14 RAM to PROM (74S571) to replace SC10S monitor for special applications, e.g. model railway control. Software allows editing and verifying.



To order, complete coupon and post to Science of Cambridge for DELIVERY WITHIN 14 DAYS. Return as received within 14 days for full money refund if not completely satisfied.

To: Science of Cambridge Ltd, 6 Kings Parade, Cambridge, Cambs., CB2 1SN.

Please send me:

- MK 14 standard kit @ £46.55.
- Extra RAM @ £4.14 per pair.
- RAM I/O device @ £8.97.
- VDU module including character generator @ £33.75.
- VDU module without character generator @ £26.85.

- Cassette interface module @ £7.25.
 - PROM programmer @ £11.85.
 - Power supply @ £6.10.
 - Full technical details of the MK 14 System, with order form.
- All prices include p and p.

I enclose cheque/MO/PO for £_____ (total).

Name _____

Address (please print) _____

Delivery within 14 days.

● Circle No. 126

GPW

electronics limited

(Computers)

GPW 201 8080A CPU with vector interrupt.

Price — Kit: £64. Assembled: £97.

GPW 302 Z80 CPU (2MHz) inc 2708 and power jump.

Price — Kit: £87.60. Assembled: £120.

GPW 303 Z80 Upgrade kit to 4MHz.

Price — Kit: £12.

GPW 501 8K Static RAM 250ns.

Price — Kit: £116. Assembled: £144.

GPW 502 8K Static RAM 450ns.

Price — Kit: £97. Assembled: £126.

GPW 601 Tarbell Floppy Disc Controller.

Price — Kit: £123.40. Assembled: £158.

GPW 506 EPROM Board up to 16K of 2708 (not supplied)

Price — Kit: £45.

GPW 701 Serial/Parallel I/O including Kansas City Tape Interface.

Price — Kit: £74. Assembled: £114.

GPW 801 Video Interface VB1B.

Price — Kit: £76. Assembled: £109.

GPW 850 Tape Interface with DMA.

Price — Kit: £71. Assembled: £104.

GPW 503 Memory Board 8K RAM and 8K ROM.

Price — Kit: £97. Assembled: £126.

GPW 901 Card Extenders.

Price — Kit: £19.70.

TANDY TRS-80 — 16K expansion kits complete with headers/instructions. Price — £70.50

EXIDY SORCERER — CPU including 16K mem. TV modulator output fitted. Price — £760.
CPU including 32K mem. TV modulator output fitted. Price — £859.

S100 EXPANSION BOX. Price — £210.

MICROPOLIS S100 floppy disc (143K) and controller. Price — £499.

MICROPOLIS S100 dual (630K) and controller. Price — £1,200.

Larger range of S100 and other interface boards available. Please write or telephone for a complete list.

All items ex-stock at time of going to press; prices inclusive of post and packing. Please add VAT. 24-hour order service. Terms C.W.O. Access or Barclaycard.



146a London Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire
Tel: Portsmouth 693341. Telex: 86526



● Circle No. 127

LINBURG ELECTRONICS LTD

QUALITY SEMICONDUCTORS WITH FULL INDUSTRIAL SPECIFICATION

MOTOROLA		74LS TTL	
MC6800P CPU	£7.10	74LS00	19p
MC6810 RAM	£3.20	74LS01	19p
MC6820 PIA	£4.50	74LS02	19p
MC6850 ACIA	£4.50	74LS03	19p
MC6875 CLOCK	£3.80	74LS04	20p
D2 EVALUATION KIT (MEK 6800 D2)	£176.00	74LS08	20p
		74LS10	20p
ZILOG		74LS14	74p
280 CPU 2.5MHZ	£14.00	74LS20	22p
Z80 CTC	£9.00	74LS27	32p
Z80 PIO	£9.00	74LS30	26p
		74LS32	26p
PROMS		74LS42	88p
2708 1K x 8 EPROM	£6.75	74LS47	£1.00
2716 2K x 8 EPROM	£17.00	74LS74	30p
(TEXAS TRIPLE SUPPLY VERSION)		74LS75	40p
		74LS90	54p
SUPPORT CHIPS		74LS93	54p
MC1488 V24 Tx	£1.40	74LS155	57p
MC1489 V24 Rx	£1.40	74LS174	80p
8216 BUS DRIVER	£3.00	74LS367	54p
AY-5-1013 UART	£4.83		
8 in. FLOPPY DISCS (SINGLE DENSITY, SINGLE SIDED)	£4.00		

PLEASE ADD 30p POSTAGE AND PACKING AND THEN ADD 8% V.A.T.



LINBURG ELECTRONICS LTD
DEPT PC, MOSS WAY DONIBRISTLE
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HILLEND
DUNFERMLINE, SCOTLAND
TEL: (0383) 823222

● Circle No. 128

Happy Memories

21L02 450ns 78p	2114 450ns £4.95
4116 300ns £7.45	21L02 250ns 95p
2114 250ns £5.40	2708 450ns £7.25
TRS-80 16K	Memory Upgrade Kit: £70
S100 16K	250ns Static RAM Kit:
£195 With 4K	£81, 8K £119

Low Profile Pins:	8 14 16 18 20 22 24 28 40
DIL Sockets Pence:	9 10 11 15 16 18 20 25 35

Our new shop is now open at the address below. We shall be stocking a wide range of items to interest all those of you who are building or plan to build your own microcomputer. Why not pay us a visit? We are open from Mon to Sat 10 to 6 and often much later

We stock a range of books covering fundamentals through to advanced topics (like games)

We are NASCOM dealers for the South Coast.

Do-it-yourself with our range of wire wrapping aids and materials from the O.K. corral, or Box-it-yourself with a Vero enclosure after Soldering-it-yourself with Antex.

Our stocks are rapidly increasing; please write or call for latest lists of available products. We welcome your suggestions for stock lines. What do you find difficult to obtain? (We know about buffers).

Please add 20p p&p to all orders less than £10 in value. Cheques or P.O.s payable to 'Happy Memories'. Access or Barclaycard orders may be telephoned 24hrs a day.



Prices quoted include VAT at 15% Please adjust for any change in rate.



19 Bevois Valley Road, Southampton, Hants. SO2 0JP
Tel: (0703) 39267

● Circle No. 129

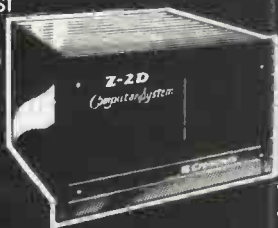


WE'LL SHOW YOU EVERYTHING

Because we've got the biggest and widest range of micro-computers, there's more for you to bite on at a Byte shop.

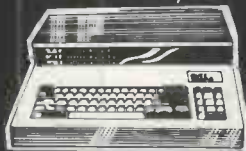
So you're not only sure of finding exactly what you want: you can take the opportunity to experiment before you buy.

And because we're backed by the huge financial resources of a major



investment group, we'll be here tomorrow as we are today. All over the UK.

So whether you want a micro-computer for your home, your business, for industry for education — or if you'd just like to find out which model you get on best with — you'll find a



visit to a Byte Shop a new and invaluable experience.

You can call at a Byte Shop any time from Monday to Saturday.

the
BYTE SHOP Ltd

The Byte Shop
426/428 Cranbrook Road,
Gants Hill, Ilford, Essex
Telephone: (01) 554 2177
Telex 897311

Branches at:
LONDON (WEST END):
48 Tottenham Court Road —
tel (01) 636 0647

NOTTINGHAM: 92a Upper
Parliament Street —
tel (0602) 40576

MANCHESTER: 7-8 Corn
Exchange Building,
Fennel Street —
tel (061) 834 0220

1/2 PRICE SUMMER SOFTWARE SALE

Compusettes for Pets

Games 1—Rhino, Hangman, Reaction Test **£4**

Games 2—Mastermind, Hamurabi, Go **£4**

Games 3—Bridge, Bridge Dealer, 3-D, Tic Tac Toe **£4**

Microchess 2.0 (for 8K Pet) **£7**

Speakeasy for Apple

Warlords

Microtrivia

Kids Stuff **all at £7 per title**

Bulls & Bears

Transactional Analysis

Financial Analysis

**Mail Order only. Infogudies Ltd.,
142 Wardour Street, London.**

● Circle No. 131

COMMODORE BUSINESS SYSTEMS

PET 2001-4 Computer	£460.00
PET 2001-8 Computer	£550.00
PET 2001-16N Computer	£675.00
PET 2001-32N Computer	£795.00
PET 3022 Printer	£645.00
PET 2040 Dual Floppy Disk	£780.00
IEEE to IEEE Connector	£25.00
PET to IEEE Connector	£20.00
C2N Cassette Deck	£55.00
KIM 1 Microcomputer	£99.95
KIM 3B 8K Memory Expansion	£129.95
KIM 4 Motherboard	£69.95

All prices are exclusive of VAT unless otherwise indicated. All items are sold subject to the Company's Conditions of Sale.

APPLE II

APPLE II 16K	£950.00
APPLE II 32K	£1050.00
APPLE II 48K	£1150.00
Disk Drive with Controller	£425.00
Disk Drive without Controller	£375.00
Parallel Printer Card	£110.00
Communication Card	£110.00
High Speed Serial Card	£110.00
Applesoft Rom Card	£110.00
Voice Card	£165.00
Carry Case	£25.00
16K Ram Add-on Memory	£90.00

Books and software packages now available.

EXIDY

Exidy Sorcerer 8K	£650.00
Exidy Sorcerer 16K	£759.00
Exidy Sorcerer 32K	£859.00
S 100 Interface	£197.00
Micropolis Dual Disk System	£1200.00
Video Display Unit	£240.00
1/0 Expansion Kit	£99.00



PRINTERS RS232

Micro Printer M879	£695.00
Teletype 43 Pin Feed	£850.00
Digital Decwriter LA34	£868.00
Digital Decwriter LA36	£840.00
Whymark 201 40 Column	£395.00
Trend Com 100	£245.00
PET APPLE interface	£40.00

PET ADD-ONS

MEMORY BOARDS

Expandamem 16K	£295.00
Expandamem 24K	£320.00
Expandamem 32K	£392.00

INTERFACES

IEEE — RS232 Unidirectional	£85.00
IEEE — RS232 Bidirectional	£185.00
Aim 161 A/D Converter — 16 Way	£130.00
T.V.Interface	£42.00

DISK SYSTEM

Computhink Dual Drive	£840.00
RS232 Printer Connector Cable	£25.00
Dust Covers (4 colours)	£8.00
Sound Box	£12.00

MISCELLANEOUS

C12 Blank Data Cassettes (per 10)	£4.00
5 1/4" Diskettes (per 10)	
Single sided/single density	£30.00
Double sided/double density	£35.00
Continuous single part paper	
8 x 12 (2,000 sheets)	£15.00
9 x 11 (2,000 sheets)	£16.00

Edge Connectors — 12 way	£1.60
24 way	£2.55
80 way	£3.00

Mains Power Adaptor	
Input 240V 50HZ	
Output 6V/7.5V/9V DC-300MA	4.20

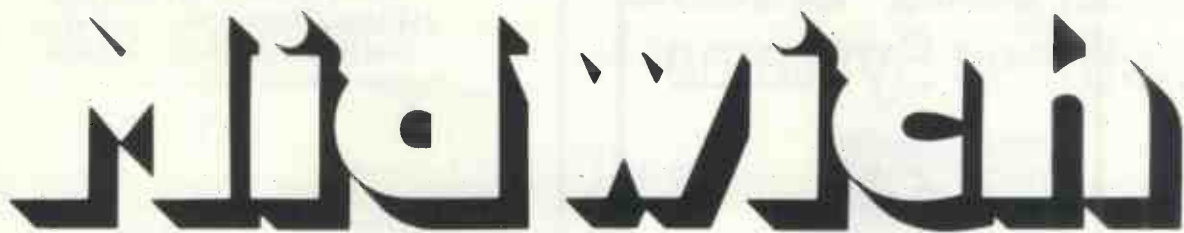
Co-Axial Lead Connector (2 metre)	£2.00
Aerial Splitter	£3.60

HB COMPUTERS LTD

Computers for Business & Home

22 Newland Street
Kettering Northants
Telephone (0536) 83922/
520910 Telex 341297

● Circle No. 132



EUROPLUS APPLE II

The new **EUROPLUS APPLE II** is an enhanced **APPLE II** featuring:—

- ★ **AUTO-START ROM**—permits direct entry into application programmes from disc at switch on. Also includes a reset protect function and improved screen editing.
- ★ **PALSOFT ROM**—Applesoft on a ROM saving RAM capacity and the need to buy an Applesoft firmware card.
- ★ **NEW LOW PRICE!** only £830 for the 16K version (B&W).

COMING IN SEPTEMBER:—

- ★ **PASCAL card**—This powerful new language on a card. Business users will find PASCAL ensures faster and easier programming and permits simpler programme modification. Autostart ROM on card. External 80 x 80 scrolling terminal supported.
- ★ **New UK Colour Board**—Giving much sharper colour definition.

PRICE LIST

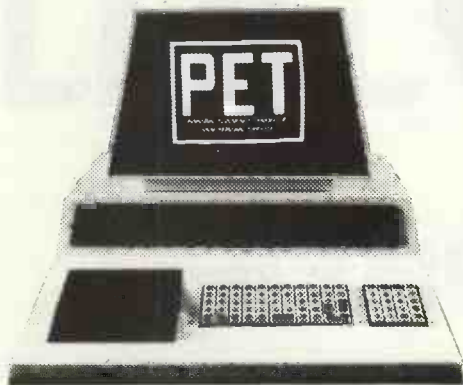
16K (B&W Modulator) Europlus Apple II _____	£830.00
Disc Drive with Controller _____	£425.00
16K Add-on Memory _____	£90.00
Hi-Speed serial Interface _____	£110.00
Parallel interface _____	£110.00
Comms card _____	£140.00
Applesoft Firmware card _____	£110.00
Centronics card _____	£140.00
Clock card _____	£140.00

ALL PRICES EXCLUDE VAT.

AVAILABLE EX STOCK FROM

Midwich Computer Company 9 Churgate Street, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0JS Tel: (0279) 25756

Compfer Ltd. Business Systems



We are the business software experts, specialising in fully comprehensive disc based software for the Commodore Pet & Peripherals.

A working system is only ever as good as its software and we consider that too much of the business software hitherto available for micros has proved to be the weak link.

Business users are entitled to expect the very best from their systems and with this in mind we have developed what we believe to be the most sophisticated business software available.

If you are a business man wishing to acquire a complete system that really does work for you or a dealer who may be interested in promoting our software, please complete and return the coupon below or telephone Don Steele who will be pleased to answer your queries.



Compfer Ltd.
Preston Computer Centre
6 Victoria Buildings,
Fishergate, Preston.

Tel: 0772- 57684

Please send me further information about your business software and systems.

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

Tel.No: _____

● Circle No. 134

MICRO COMPUTER CENTRE,
314 Upper Richmond Road West,
East Sheen, S.W.14 876 6609.
Business Specialists/Authorised Dealers for

PET

Computers

Standard PET with integral cassette and calculator type keyboard. 8K bytes of memory	£550.00
PET with 16K bytes of memory and large keyboard. External cassette optional	£695.00
PET with 32K bytes of memory and large keyboard. External cassette optional	£795.00

Printers

Whymark 201 - 20 columns complete with interface	£400.00
Datac BD80 - 80 columns	£750.00
1-way Interface	£106.00
Teletype 43 - 132 columns - Upper and Lower Case Keyboard	£900.00
2-way Interface	£186.00

Memories

16K Memory Extension for 2001 - 8K	£276.00
24K Memory Extension for 2001 - 8K	£337.00

Disc Drives

Compu/Think Twin Floppy Disc Drive - double sided discs - 100K per side	£833.00
Pet Twin Floppy Disc Dual Drive including cable	£815.00
Cassette Recorder	£55.00

The above prices are exclusive of VAT. All the above items are IN STOCK at time of going to press.

We stock all PET accessories and handbooks PETSOF and PETACT Programs.

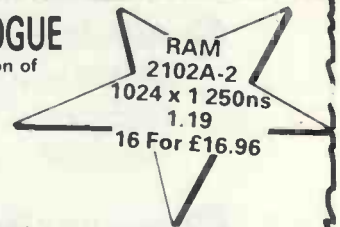
● Circle No. 135

OUR 1979 CATALOGUE

including the first edition of

STOP PRESS

- * LATEST LOW PRICES
- * FASCINATING NEW ITEMS
- * SPECIAL OFFERS
a bargain on their own
- * LOWEST PRICES EVER FOR TTL
- * FREE 45p WORTH OF VOUCHERS



USE OUR "ORDER-RING" LINES
VAT INCLUSIVE PRICES P + P 25p



CHROMASONIC electronics

56 Fortis Green Road,
Muswell Hill London N10 3HN
Telephone 01-883 3705/2289

● Circle No. 136

WHY BUY A MICRO-COMPUTER FROM

PETALECT

ELECTRONIC SERVICING LTD.

BECAUSE

- 1) Established company trading since 1971
- 2) Electronic servicing is our speciality
- 3) We have in house programmers/systems analysts
- 4) We have our own service engineers
- 5) We will demonstrate the PET at your premises
- 6) We can customise the PET to your requirements
- 7) We can arrange finance
- 8) We offer, after the three-month warranty, a service contract from £69.50
- 9) You benefit from our experience of having sold over 150 micro-computers to industrial, educational and business, personal users.
- 10) We specialise in programs and interfaces for weighing applications for average weight control and counting etc.

8K £550.00 + VAT.
16K £675.00 + VAT.
32K £795.00 + VAT.

All 'PETS' sold with a Basic Tutorial Tape

New Large
Keyboard 'PETs'
Now in Stock



In our showroom we sell
Books, Programs etc.

Also available:

24K Memory Expansion Boards (disk-compatible)
only £320 + VAT

PET-compatible dual floppy disk unit
with advanced operating system
only £840 + VAT

Large Extension Keyboard for the PET £89.50 + VAT

Telephone for complete system prices.

Wide Range of Printers Available.

If you require any more information or demonstration regarding the PET 2001/8 or any associated equipment, programs, etc., please contact Mr. P. J. A. Watts or Mr. D. W. Randall at:

PETALECT ELECTRONIC SERVICES LTD

33/35 Portugal Road,
Woking,
Surrey.
Tel. Woking 69032/68497

Shop at:

PETALECT
Chertsey Road,
Woking,
Surrey.
Tel. Woking 20727/23637

● Circle No. 137



INTRODUCING

APPLE II.16K £830.00

- COMMUNICATIONS INTERFACE CARD
£110.00
- HIGH SPEED SERIAL INTERFACE CARD
£110.00
- PROTOTYPING CARD
£18.00
- CARRYING CASE
£25.00
- PARALLEL PRINTER INTERFACE CARD
£110.00

NORTH STAR HORIZON S100 bus Z80 based micro.

- 16K RAM WITH SINGLE DISC DRIVE
(Double Density)
£1265
- 32K RAM WITH DOUBLE DISC DRIVE
(Double Density)
WITH 2 SERIAL AND 2 PARALLEL PORTS
£1983

Please Telephone for
a Demonstration.

All prices subject to 15% VAT.

Head Office:
40 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berkshire
Telephone: 0635 30505 Telex: 848507 NCS

Northern Office:
2A Gatley Road, Cheadle, Cheshire
Telephone: 061 491 2290

● Circle No. 138

AIM 65 £249.50 + VAT

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- * 20 COLUMN PRINTER
- * 20 CHARACTER ALPHANUMERIC DISPLAY
- * FULL 54 KEY TERMINAL-STYLE KEYBOARD
- * TTY INTERFACE
- * TWIN CASSETTE INTERFACE
- * RAM — 1K TO 4K OPTIONS

OPTIONAL EXTRAS INCLUDE:

- 8K 'BASIC' INTERPRETER ROM — £70.00
- 4K ASSEMBLER ROM — £59.50
- POWER SUPPLY — £41.83
- CASE (Including Power Supply) — £78.00
- EXPANSION MOTHERCARD — £136.50

AIM 65 comes to you fully built and tested with a full alphanumeric keyboard, 20 character display and a 20 column printer — for keeping a permanent record of all your work. Available in 1K- and 4K-byte RAM versions, AIM 65 is designed around the 6502 CPU, which has 64K address capability with 13 addressing modes. This is the microprocessor at the heart of many other, more costly, systems such as PET and APPLE.

AIM 65 has a 4K ROM-resident monitor program for all peripheral control and user programming functions. Spare sockets are included for expanding on-board program memory via user PROM-based programs and/or Rockwell assembler, text editor and BASIC interpreter plug-in options. AIM 65 has a connector for external access to system bus for memory and

I/O expansion, a separate connector for interfacing a teletype and two cassette recorders. There is a user-dedicated Versatile Interface Adaptor, featuring three 8-bit, bidirectional ports (two parallel, one serial) and two 16-bit interval timer/event counters — thus allowing the user to interface his own system, without extra interface devices in many cases. AIM 65 is probably the most effective, low-cost microcomputer development system available — an invaluable educational aid to first time users and an ideal general purpose micro-computer for the engineer.

AIM 65 is available in the UK from PELCO ELECTRONICS LTD at £249.50 + VAT, complete with User's Manual and Schematic, R6500 Programming and Hardware Manuals and a handy pocket reference card.

● Circle No. 139

Pelco (Electronics) Ltd

Enterprise House 83/85 Western Road HOVE East Sussex BN3 1JB
Tel: Brighton (0273) 722155

Buy it with your Access or Barclaycard.



Buy a System...Not just a "Pretty Box"

The SD System* — From about 97p per hour (40-hour week)



***The SD System includes:**

SDS-200 Microcomputer T.I. 810 Printer (or equivalent)
i.e., NEC SPIN WRITER £1,899. SDS 200 £4,750, T18 10
£1,499

The SDS-200 TOTAL System features:

System Hardware

The SDS-200 gives you features that are not found in systems costing thousands more. State-of-the-Art Engineering. Quality Production and Full Reliability testing make the SDS-200 a dependable, compact and easy to operate data processing system.

- Up to 256K Bytes RAM
- Full Keyboard with Special Accounting Key Pad
- Large 12in. Video Display Screen
- Full Cursor Control including Addressable Cursor
- Blinking, Underlining, Reverse and Protected Fields
- Uses 8in. Flexible Diskettes for Permanent Storage 2 Mbyte on-line
- Forward and Reverse Scrolling
- Capable of up to 160 Special Characters
- Expandable with Memory and Peripheral Equipment
- Will Operate as a Remote Batch Processor for Large Systems
- S 100 industry standard bus
- 4 spare S100 slots.

System Software

A range of Business Programs are available from CAP-CPP written in Microcobal. The system will support all normal high level languages including:—

Fortran
Cobol
Basic
CP/M

Authorised dealers are:

Anglo American Computers Ltd
Milburn House, Suite D, Dean Street
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Tel: 0632 29593

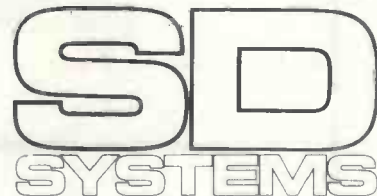
Apple Computers
Anfield, Glenalmond
Perthshire 073-888 267

A Total System

SD Systems knows that small businesses do not keep full-time programmers on staff. We also know that individually designed business programs can be expensive on a one-time basis. That is why we offer the SDS-200 and compatible business software.

Leasing Available

The SDS-200 is available by leasing. This gives the small business the opportunity to select the method of acquisition that best fits their needs.



SDS-200 Expandable

The SDS-200 is designed in a manner to give you expansion capabilities. As your needs change the computer system that you select today should be able to change with you. By the addition of memory and peripheral equipment, the SDS-200 can expand to fit your needs.

Bell Computing Ltd
1 Froghall Lane, Warrington
Tel: 0522 411271 (33137)

Codified Computer Systems Ltd,
69 Calabria Road,
London N5 1HX
Tel: 01-226 1319.

UK Distributor:

AIRAMCO LTD

**Unit A2, 9 Longford Avenue, Kilwinning Ind. Est.,
Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6EX.**

(0294) 57755

Telex 779808

Dealer enquiries invited



NewBear Books



Please contact NEWBEAR for a complete catalogue of books.

NEWBEAR, 40 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5LL

Telephone: Newbury (0635) 30505

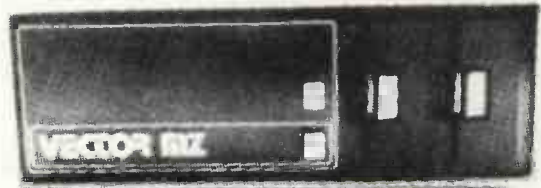
Introduction to Microcomputing Volume 0. The Beginners Book	£ 5.95	Instant Freeze and Dried Programming in Basic	£ 7.20	Practical Microcomputer Programming (6800)	£17.56
Volume I. Basic Concepts	£ 5.95	Illustrated Basic	£ 2.25	The 6800 Microprocessor	£ 3.60
Volume II. Some Real Products	£18.95	Beginning Basic	£ 4.95	D.N. 4 Definite description of the	
Volume III. Some Real Support Devices	£11.95	Learning Basic Fast	£ 6.30	6800 Instruction Set	£ 1.50
Understanding Microcomputer and Small Computer Systems	£ 7.56	Advanced Basic	£ 6.00	Z80 Books	
Introduction to Computers	£11.15	Microcomputer Basic	£ 6.60	Z80 Programming for Logic Design	£ 5.95
Introduction to Computers in Business	£10.45	The Basic Workbook	£ 4.50	Z80 Technical Manual	£ 4.00
An Introduction to Personal and Business Computing	£ 5.75	Discovering Basic (a problem solving approach)	£ 4.90	Z80 P10 Technical Manual	£ 2.75
Getting Acquainted with Micros	£ 7.95	The Users Guide to North Star Basic	£10.00	Z80 Programming Manual	£ 4.50
Home Computers - A Beginner's Glossary and Guide	£ 4.95	Basic with Business Applications	£ 5.56	Z80 Microcomputer Handbook	£ 7.25
Getting Involved with your Own Computer - A Guide for Beginners	£ 4.75	Basic and the Personal Computer	£10.36	Practical Microcomputer Programming (Z80)	£23.96
Introduction to Computer Programming	£ 3.84	A Guided Tour of Computer Programming in Basic		Pascal	
The First Book of Microcomputers	£ 3.60	Basic Basic (An introduction to Computer Programming in Basic Language)	£ 4.16	Pascal: User Manual & Report	£ 5.52
A Consumers Guide to Personal Computing and Microcomputers	£ 5.65	Advanced Basic Applications and Problems	£ 5.40	Problem Solving Using Pascal	£ 7.84
Basic Books		6800 Books	£ 6.00	Programming in Pascal	£ 7.50
Introduction to Basic	£ 6.50	6800 Programming for Logic Design	£ 5.95	A Practical Introduction to Pascal	£ 3.50
Beginning Basic	£ 2.95	6800 Assembly Language		6502	
Introduction to Basic	£ 1.95	Programming	£ 6.95	The Best of Micro 6502 Journal	£ 5.99
Some Common Basic Programmes	£ 6.45	Using the 6800 Microprocessor	£ 5.65	Sym Reference Manual	£ 7.50
Payroll with Cost Accounting in Basic	£ 9.95	77-68 6800 Microprocessor	£ 7.50	Sym Programming Manual	£ 7.50
		6800 Software Gourmet Guide		First Book of Kim	£ 7.00
		Cook Book		6500 Hardware Manual	£ 7.50
				6500 Programming Manual	£ 7.50
				Programming the 6502 SYBEX	£ 7.95
				Fortran	
				Elementary Computer	
				Programming in Fortran IV	£ 6.30
				Fortran with SF/R and WATFEV-S	£ 6.95

● Circle No. 141

ALMARC PRESENTS:

MORE FROM VECTOR GRAPHIC

Now Vector Graphic give you more for your money with the 48K dynamic ram board and the System B



THE VECTOR GRAPHIC MZ

- * 4MHZ Z80A CPU
- * 48K ram
- * 630K Bytes disk storage
- * Serial port and two parallel ports
- * Prom/ram Board with monitor
- * MDOS Operating system
- * Z80 Assembler
- * Basic Interpreter

Price £2300.00 plus VAT

THE VECTOR GRAPHIC SYSTEM B

- * Complete Vector MZ system plus:-
- * Vector Mindless terminal
- * Flashwriter 2 video board (24 x 80)
- * Software driver on prom
- * MZOS North Star compatible DOS
- * CP/M configured by Almarc

Price £2850.00 plus VAT

Plus a large range of CP/M compatible software including Fortran, Cobol, Macro assemblers etc.

Contact: ALMARC DATA SYSTEMS LTD.

29 Chesterfield Drive, Burton Joyce, Nottingham.

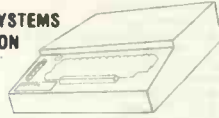
Telephone 0602 248565

● Circle No. 142

TRITON

SINGLE BOARD PERSONAL COMPUTER

THREE NEW EXCITING EXPANDABLE SYSTEMS DESIGNED FOR EASE OF CONSTRUCTION AND FLEXIBILITY. KITS COME COMPLETE WITH CASE, POWER SUPPLY, FULL KEYBOARD, PCB. ALL COMPONENTS AVAILABLE SEPARATELY SEE CATALOGUE.



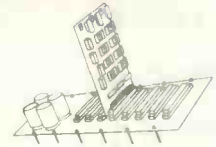
FULL HARDWARE AND PROGRAMMING MANUAL AVAILABLE. THE SYSTEM IS EASY TO EXPAND AND IS WELL SUPPORTED. FEATURES 2, 2.5 OR 7K BASIC IN EPROM (SEE CATALOGUE).

- SINGLE BOARD
- HOLDS UP TO 8K MEMORY
- VHF OR VIDEO OUTPUT
- CASSETTE INTERFACE
- THREE FIRMWARE OPTIONS
- BASIC IN EPROM
- 64 GRAPHICS CHARACTERS
- PLUS IN EXPANSION BOARDS

Personal Computer £286 +VAT
FROM

EXPANSION MOTHERBOARD

TRITON. Expand your Triton simply and easily with our new 8-slot motherboard; complete with its own P.S.U. takes 8 plug-in Euro cards. Plug-in 8K RAM card.

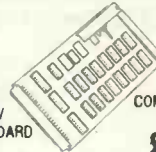


£50 + VAT

AND EPROM CARDS NOW AVAILABLE. KIT COMPLETE WITH PSU-1 SET CONNECTORS

8K RAM CARD

TRITON 8K STATIC RAM CARD KIT USES 2114 LOW-POWER 4V STATIC RAMS. ON-BOARD REGULATION. NEW JUMP SELECT PCB ONLY £5, RAMS £5.50 KIT LESS RAMS £31 INCL 5KTS COMPONENTS



COMPLETE KIT **£97 + VAT**

8K EPROM CARD

TRITON 8K EPROM CARD KIT DESIGNED TO TAKE UP TO 8x2708 EPROMS (1Kx8) AS RAM CARD PCB ONLY £15 KIT LESS EPROMS £31 EPROMS (BLANK) £9 PLUS VAT



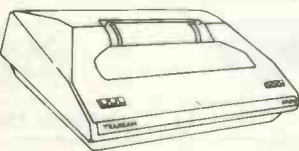
COMPLETE KIT **£97 + VAT**

BI-DIRECTIONAL MATRIX PRINTER

£595 + VAT

THE BD80 IS A LOW-COST, 80-COLUMN LINE PRINTER WITH MICROPROCESSOR CONTROL TO PROVIDE EXCELLENT AVAILABILITY AND PERFORMANCE.

- 5x7 Dot Matrix
- 10 Char. per inch
- 6 Lines/inch
- 400 Char. Buffer
- Full ASCII Char. Set
- 10 Lines/sec Paper Advance
- 112 Char./sec
- 82 Lines per minute
- Self Test
- Fully Cased



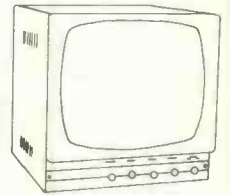
A UNIQUE PRINTER FAST AND RELIABLE

SWITCH-SELECTABLE BAUD RATE FROM 110 TO 9,600 ON A STANDARD V24 AND RS232 INTERFACE. SEND SAE FOR FURTHER DETAILS. IDEAL PRINTER FOR TRITON OR ANY SYSTEM REQUIRING HIGH-SPEED, RELIABLE HARD COPY. WE CAN SUPPLY CONSUMABLES.

VIDEO MONITOR NEW

A BRAND NEW FULLY-CASED (METAL) HIGH-RESOLUTION 10in VIDEO MONITOR WITH PSU FOR ONLY £69 +VAT. IDEAL FOR TRITON OR ANY HOME COMPUTER SYSTEM. CARRIAGE BY SECURICOR CAN BE ARRANGED. SEND SAE FOR DETAILS OR SEE OUR NEW CATALOGUE

ONLY **£69!**
+VAT



PCB CONNECTORS

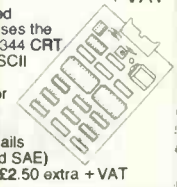
EDGE CONNECTORS GOLD CONTACT DOUBLE-SIDED PCB CONNECTORS

.1 in.	PRICE	.156 in.	PRICE
22/44	£3.20	6/12	£1.62
25/50	£3.60	10/20	£1.40
28/56	£3.90	15/30	£3.00
30/60	£4.15	18/36	£3.00
35/70	£4.60	22/44	£3.00
36/72	£4.75	28/56	£3.40
40/80	£5.00	36/72	£3.90
43/86	£5.50	43/82	£4.60
50/100	£5.80	(S100 BUS)	+VAT

VIDEO DISPLAY INTERFACE MODULE

£69 +VAT

Completely built and tested the SFKE X 68364 card uses the industry standard SFF 96344 CRT control chip and allows ASCII parallel input of data to be output to Video monitor 64 character by 16 line display full cursor control. Single 5V supply. Full details available on request (send SAE) VHF modulator available £2.50 extra +VAT



COMPONENTS 74LSXX

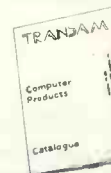
SUPPORT	RAMS	ROMS	LM747CH	7912K	18M	2.90	
8216	2 20 2101	2 32 745287	3 70	0 45 7915K	1 50 48M	2 90	
8216	2 20 2102L 4	1 20 745472	12 00	0 46 7924K	1 80		
8224	2 80 2111	2 32 74570	8 00	LM1458B	0 72	DIL SKTS	
8226	2 20 2112	2 46 745473	12 48	LM1458B-8	0 48	8DIL	
8228	4 20 8150	4 08 745474	12 48	LM1489D	0 85	14DIL	
8238	4 20 8154	8 18 1 0		LM1489D	0 85	16DIL	
8245	11 00 2114	5 50 2513	7 50	LM1489AD	1 25	18DIL	
8246	11 00 2102L 3	1 50 96364	10 95	LM1495A-14	0 99	20DIL	
8251	5 00 74C920	11 00	14412	12 90	LM3302N	0 85	24DIL
8253	11 00 74C921	11 00	14412	12 90	LM3401N	0 85	28DIL
8255	5 00 74C929	11 00	LINEARS		LM3403N	1 20	48DIL
8257	11 00 4027	11 00	LM301AH	0 39	LM3900N	0 54	CRYSTALS
8259	12 50 4044	14 70	LM301AN 8	0 30	TLO80CP	1 49	100K
8292	18 00 4045	9 15	LM (MINI DIP)	0 30	TLO81CP	0 59	200K
6820P	4 50 4060	7 00	LM308N	0 99	TLO82CP	1 29	200K
6821P	4 50 2107	7 80	LM309K		TLO83CN	1 65	1MHz
6830P	4 60 4116	8 00	LM103	1 45	TLO84CN	1 69	100K
6852P	5 50 4118	20 00	LM311H	1 29	LM3800N	1 69	1843K
AY-5-2376	11 50 280P10	10 00	LM318H	2 25	VOLT REGS		2MHz
MC14411	12 00 280CTC	10 00	LM323K	6 00	7805	0 90	2457K
MS7109	12 43 280AP10	14 00	LM324H	0 79	7812	0 90	3276K
MS7160	10 00 280ATC	14 00	LM339N	0 54	7815	0 90	3MHz
MS7161	10 00 EPROMS		LM555N	0 30	7824	0 90	4MHz
TM66011	5 00 1702	6 00	LM555N	0 75	7805K	1 50	4 33M
81LS95	1 30 520K	8 00	LM709CN	0 37	7812K	1 50	5MHz
81LS96	1 30 2708	9 00	LM723CN	0 58	7815K	1 50	6MHz
81LS97	1 30 2716	22 00	LM723CN	0 43	7824K	1 50	7MHz
81LS98	1 30 2516	28 00	LM733CN	1 30	7905	1 10	7 158M
81LS98	1 30 2716	22 00	LM739CN	1 30	7912	1 10	8MHz
			LM741CN-14	0 33	7915	1 10	10MHz
			LM741CN-8	0 25	7924	1 10	10 7M
			LM747CN-14	0 79	7905K	1 80	40DIL

TRITON DOCUMENTATION

available separately as follows, prices include p & p
Triton manual - detailed circuit description and constructional details + user documentation on level 4.1 monitor & basic L4.1 listing - listing of 1K monitor & 2K tiny basic £5.70
L5.1 user documentation on level 5.1 firmware £4.20
L5.1 user documentation on level 5.1 firmware £1.20
L5.1 listing - listing of 1.5K monitor & 2.5K basic £5.20
L6.1 user documentation on 7K basic interpreter £1.70
Motherboard, 8K RAM & 8K EPROM constructional details SAE
User group newsletter subscription £4 per annum
Triton software - Send SAE for list of programs available for Triton.

HOME COMPUTING CATALOGUE

If you're in town, visit our showroom in Chapel Street, next to Edgware Road tube station. We have Tritons on display plus a comprehensive range of components and accessories, specifically for personal computer users. Books, mags, tapes, data, cables plus much more. Showroom open 6 days a week. (Half day Thurs from 1.30 pm)



NEW
A4 SIZE CATALOGUE
FILLED WITH OUR LATEST PRODUCTS
40p + SAE
ALL PRICES EXCLUDE VAT



Which British system can offer the following:

- * **COLOUR.** Aerial Input, Alphanumerics and Graphics
- * **CEEFAX.** BBC Television Teletext service
- * **ORACLE.** IBA Television Teletext service
- * **BASIC.** ROM-Resident Interpreter
- * **MONITOR.** Motorola 6800 Machine Code
- * **VIEWDATA.** Instant Information service

TECS:

TECHNALOGICS
EXPANDABLE
COMPUTER SYSTEM.



Prices start at around £360.

Rack-mounting and Tabletop versions (illustrated)—The Logical Development everyone has been waiting for.

Please send large S.A.E. for details to:

TECHNALOGICS (DEPT. PC)
8 Egerton Street, Liverpool L8 7LY

● Circle No. 144

BUILD THE 12,000 ALREADY SOLD



**NASCOM I
COMPUTER**

★ British Design ★ UK Best Selling Kits
★ FULL AFTER SALES SERVICE & GUARANTEE

We are the Sole Approved London Stockist and National Distributor

FREE MODULATOR and B-BUG

FEATURES

- ★ Supplied in kit form for self-assembly
- ★ Full documentation supplied
- ★ Fully screened double-sided plated through hole printed circuit board
- ★ Full 48 key keyboard included
- ★ 2K x 8 Ram
- ★ 1K x 8 monitor program in Eprom
- ★ Powerful Mostek Z80 CPU
- ★ 16 x 48 character display interface to std un-modified T.V.
- ★ T.V. display memory mapped for high speed access
- ★ On board expansion to 2K x 8 Eprom



£165 8% VAT
POST FREE

- ★ On board expansion for additional 16 I/O lines
- ★ Memory may be expanded to full 60K

EXPANSION

- ★ Expansion buffer board £32.50
- ★ MEMORY KITS (inclusive all hardware)
 - 8K £85
 - 16K £140
 - 32K £200
- ★ I/O board with decoders and all hardware except ICS will accept up to 3 PIOs, 1 CTV and 1 UART £35

OTHER HARDWARE

- ★ 3A power supply for up to 32K expansion £19.90
- ★ 3A power supply for up to 32K expansion Mk II £24.50
- ★ 8A power supply for larger than 32K expansion £60.00
- ★ Expansion card frame £29.50
- ★ E PROM programmer £40.00
- ★ E PROM Eraser £25.00
- ★ Keyboard cabinet £3.50
- ★ Programming manual £4.00

SOFTWARE

- ★ 1K x 8 monitor program providing
 - ★ 8 operating commands, supporting Mem examine/modify, tabulate, copy, break, single step execute tape, load, tape dump
 - ★ Reflective monitor addressing for flexible monitor expansion through user programs
 - ★ Monitor sub-routines include—delay ASCII coding, binary to hex conversion, clr screen, scroll up, string print, cursor shift and many others
- ★ NEW T-4 operating system in (2) 2708 EPROMS upwards compatible from T2 and B-BUG £25.00
- ★ Tiny Basic £25.00
- ★ Super Tiny Basic (with editor and machine utility routines) £35.00
- ★ Zeap assembler editor £32.00

★ VAT 8% ALL ITEMS EXCEPT BOOKS ★ DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUOUS DAILY ★ WE WELCOME EXPORT—EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL ENQUIRIES ★ FREE BROCHURE—SEND SAE 9 1/2 x 6 1/2 STAMP 12p.



HENRY'S
Phone (01) 723 1008

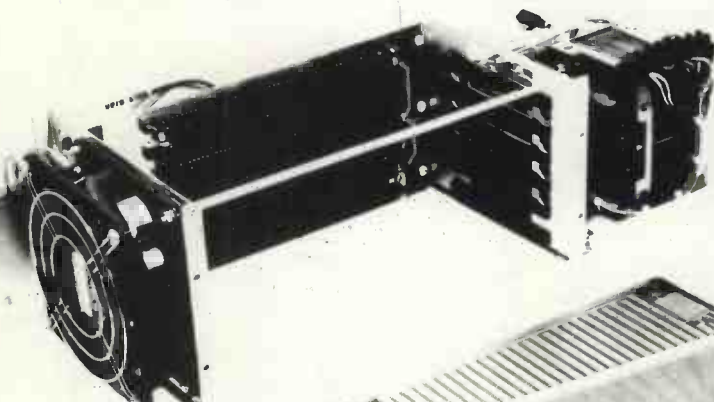
All mail to:
Henry's Radio
404 Edgware Rd
London W2



● Circle No. 145

S100—the British way

The Vero S100 Sub Rack is a 19" rack mountable development kit, complete with its own power supply and backplane motherboard, for the construction and evaluation of microprocessor based systems to the S100 format. The power supply provides three voltage levels — +8V, +18V and -18V. The Sub Rack has its own cooling fan providing airflow across the boards and the power supply. A full range of allied items to enable a complete system to be constructed are available.



VERO ELECTRONICS LTD RETAIL DEPT.
Industrial Estate, Chandler's Ford,
Hampshire SO5 3ZR
Tel: (04215) 2956

ORDER CODE	ITEM DESCRIPTION
188-2341H	S100 Sub Rack
06-0095L	S100 Dip Board
06-2337L	S100 High Density Board
06-2338F	S100 Square Pad Board
15-1630K	Compatible Connector (Solderlug)
15-1632L	Compatible Connector (Miniwrap)
09-2340H	S100 Extender Board
48-8345K	Mk. II D Series Case
75-2867G	Keyboard Console
79-1729L	Verowire Wiring Kit

● Circle No. 146

microBITS

NEW DOLPHIN BD 80 PRINTER

Low cost 80 column printer combining simple mechanical design with sophisticated micro-processor control, upper and lower case, 112 c.p.m., many features. Stand, cables, memory buffers available.

E-stock prices from £595.

Dealer enquiries invited.

SPECIAL OFFERS for August only — holiday reading.

Intro to personal and business computing £4.80.

The mind appliance home computer applications £4.00.

Micros from chips to systems £6.80.

110 cosmos Digital I.C. projects for the home constructor £2.65.

Illustrating Basic £2.10.

Programming the 6502 £7.25.

The microprocessor and its application £12.25.

8080 galaxy game £5.50.

How to build a computer controlled robot £4.75.



NEW PRODUCTS

DOLPHIN PRINTER is plug compatible to the Sorcerer's serial and parallel interfaces and is supplied in a beige cabinet — plug in and print.

The **EXIDY MONITOR** and **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ROM PACS** are on demonstration in our showroom.

SORCERER TECHNICAL Manuals and handbooks are available ex-stock.

A vast amount of software is nearing completion, so please keep in touch for early news of availability.

EXIDY SORCERER — A COMPLETE BUSINESS SYSTEM UNDER £3000 + VAT 32K Machine with Z80 processor and 8K ROM BASIC. 128 character ASC11 keyboard and superb graphics.

DOUBLE DRIVE configured MICROPOLIS DISK SYSTEM with MDOS or CP/M 630Kb. Professional quality monitor, various sizes up to 16". Printer — optional 80 or 132 column printer. Software packages are available or can be written to your own specification.

The system can be expanded to suit your own applications.

UNDER £1000 — BASIC SYSTEM

32K Machine, 10" professional monitor (not a converted TV), quality cassette recorder, necessary cables, manuals etc.

Price £999 + VAT.

Sorcerer Prices from £650 (8K).

OFFICES & SHOWROOM open Monday-Saturday 10.00a.m.-6.00p.m.

Personal callers welcome (Please phone first).

34B London Rd., Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey. Telephone (0276) 34044.

Telex 858893

77/68 BEARBAGS — The well-supported 6800 based kit from Newbear. Active user group.

PRINTERS — CENTRONICS, DOLPHIN, OK11.

MONITORS — Professional quality 9", 10", 12", 16" (ideal for teaching).

COMPUTER BOOKS — for professionals, hobbyists, businessmen and newcomers. Catalogue now containing updates — over 500 titles — Micro, Mini and Mainframe. Quantity discounts available.



CROMEMCO Z2 — The powerful one — ASSEMBLER, MACRO ASSEMBLER, FORTRAN, COBOL, DATA BASE MANAGEMENT, WORD PROCESSOR.

Prices from £395 (Z80 Single Board Computer)

NORTH STAR HORIZON — The popular computer for the business user. Expandable to 48K, 3 diskettes and hardware floating point. Basic system 16K. RAM, serial interface. EXTENDED BASIC, DOS, CP/M, mini diskette and power supply.

Prices from £1295.

SOL 20 — The professional terminal computer renowned for its high quality capacitative keyboard and Word Processing application. Minimum 16K RAM, monitor, serial and parallel interfaces. EXTENDED BASIC, FORTRAN, FOCAL, ASSEMBLER, EDITOR, GAMES, mini floppy disks.

Prices from £1785.

SOL* STAR WORD PROCESSOR from £2500.

THE COMPLETE SERVICE

Feasibility studies — undertaken by our senior consultant analysts with long experience of commercial data processing.

Software packages available and/or specially designed and written for your own applications.

We can supply *work stations* for your computer hardware, standard configurations or made to measure. Insurance, maintenance, HP facilities BARCLAY-CARD, TRUST-CARD, ACCESS.

Universities, Colleges and Schools — official orders welcome.

C

CRYSTAL ELECTRONICS
CC ELECTRONICS

C

**8K XTAL BASIC
FOR NASCOM I**

1. Commands:- CALL CLEAR CLOAD CONT CSAVE READ
..DATA..RESTORE DEF..FN DIM EDIT END FOR..TO..STEP..NEXT
GOSUB..RETURN GOTO IF..THEN INPUT LIST NAS NEW
ON..GOTO ON..GOSUB OUT POKE PRINT REM RUN SPEED
STOP WAIT SPC() TAB() POP PRINT
2. Variables:- Names must start with a letter, but can be up to any
length. First two characters used to distinguish one variable from
another. Strings of up to 255 characters, also Multi-Dim, Arrays
and String Arrays. Numbers range from +/- 1E +/- 38, with an
accuracy of six significant figures.
3. Functions:- ABS ASC ATN CHR\$ COS EXP INP INT LEFT\$ LEN
LOG MID\$ PEEK POS RND RIGHTS\$ SGN SIN SIZE SIZE\$ SQR
STR\$ TAN VAL.
4. Operators:- Arithmetic: + - */** ("To the Power of")
Relational: = < > << >> >= <=
Arith-Logical: And Or Not
String: + (Concatenation)
5. Cassette commands:- CSAVE CLOAD for saving and loading
programs. Also CSAVE@ CLOAD@ for saving and loading of
numerical arrays.
6. Special Commands: EDIT - Powerful line editor. CALL - Machine-
code subroutine call. NAS - Return to 'NASBUG' under software
control. OUT, INP & WAIT - for control of I/O ports.
7. Compatibility:- Tape routine provided for use with T2 Monitor.
Fully compatible with T2, T4 & B-Bug Monitors.
8. Size:- Actually fits in 7K of Ram (1000H-2BFFH), But recommend
>=16K Expansion Ram in your system.
9. Availability:- On C12 cassette tape, with documentation, NOW.
10. Price £35.00 + VAT.

MINIMUM SYSTEM GAMES TAPE £6+ VAT
TINY BASIC GAMES TAPE £12+ VAT
NEW WORD PROCESSOR FOR XTAL BASIC £70+ VAT

**WHY BUY AN IMITATION GREY WHEN
THE REAL CREAM IS AN**

**APPLE
THE SW AGENTS**

APPLE II 16K (colour) £920
●16K MEMORY INCREM £ 90 fitting & testing £10 extra
APPLE II 16K (B&W) £830

ALL APPLE ADD-ONS NORMALLY IN STOCK

APPLE SOFTWARE: MANY GAMES FROM £5-£15.00
STOCK CONTROL £100
NEW WORD PROCESSOR £140, including lower-case
/LETTER WRITER adaptor package

ALL PRICES EXCLUDE VAT & CARRIAGE

DURANGO

THE FIRST FULLY-INTEGRATED DESK-TOP SYSTEM
DUAL QUAD-DENSITY MINI-FLOPPY DISCS FOR 1.9M BYTES ON LINE
9x9 DOT-MATRIX BIDIRECTIONAL PRINTER, 165cps, VARIABLE WIDTH.
48K/64K RAM, WITH 8085 CPU.
FULL KEYBOARD WITH 10-KEY NUMERIC PAD
VDU WITH 24x80 or 16x64 CHARACTERS
POWERFUL DISC BASIC (14-DIGIT ACCURACY).
MULTITASKING TO 4 USERS PLUS OPTIONAL 20 M-BYTE FIXED
APPLICATION SOFTWARE - SMALL BUSINESS, A/C PAYABLE/RECEIVABLE,
GENERAL LEDGER, ORDER ENTRY/INVENTORY CONTROL INVOICE/SALES
ANALYSIS, PAYROLL, ETC.

PRICES FROM £7,500

TEXAS TI-PROGRAMMER. A MUST FOR MACHINE LANGUAGE BUFFS.
HEX-OCTAL-DECIMAL CONVERSION, ARITHMETICS OPS. IN THREE BASES,
SHIFT LEFT/RIGHT, IS COMPLEMENT, OR, AND, XOR, ETC. **£46-25**

SHOP OPEN
0930-1730
EXCEPT
WED & SUN
Closed for lunch
1200-1300 hrs

TEXAS TI99/4
HOME COMPUTER
PHONE
FOR DETAILS

40 MAGDALENE ROAD
TORQUAY
DEVON
ENGLAND
Tel: 0803 22699



C

COMPUTERS
AND
COMPONENTS

C

**INTRODUCING THE HAZELTINE 1400 SERIES OF ECONOMY
VIDEO TERMINALS TO MICROCOMPUTER USERS**

Hazeltine Ltd., the U.K. subsidiary of Hazeltine Corporation, a world leader in Information Electronics for more than half a century, announces the introduction of a low-cost series of interactive video terminals, the 1400 series, aimed specifically at the practical microcomputer market.

The Hazeltine 1400 Terminal, priced at £550 one-off to end-users, contains all the major features required of an interactive video terminal, including all 128 ASCII codes, 64 displayable characters, cursor addressing and sensing, variable transmission rates up to 9,600 baud, EIA standard RS232C interface and remote command facility.

The Hazeltine 1410 Terminal has all the features of the 1400, and in addition has a separate integral numeric pad provided to facilitate efficient numeric data entry. This terminal is believed to offer more of what users want than any other TTY-compatible terminal currently on the market. It is available for around £600 one-off to end-users in the U.K. Hazeltine, has achieved this price/performance by utilising advanced microprocessor design, and produced terminals with an ultra-low component count. The company manufactures all the sub-assemblies including monitor, power supply and controller. Reliability and quality are significantly enhanced since all the electronics are contained on one pcb, eliminating all inter-connections other than input power and monitor connections.

Both terminals are normally available ex-stock from Hazeltine or its distributors throughout the United Kingdom and are supported under one of Hazeltine's Comprehensive Maintenance policies.

Hazeltine Ltd, Terminal House,
14 Petersham Rd, Richmond, Surrey TW2 5BR
Tel: 01-948-3111 Telex: 928572

DISTRIBUTORS

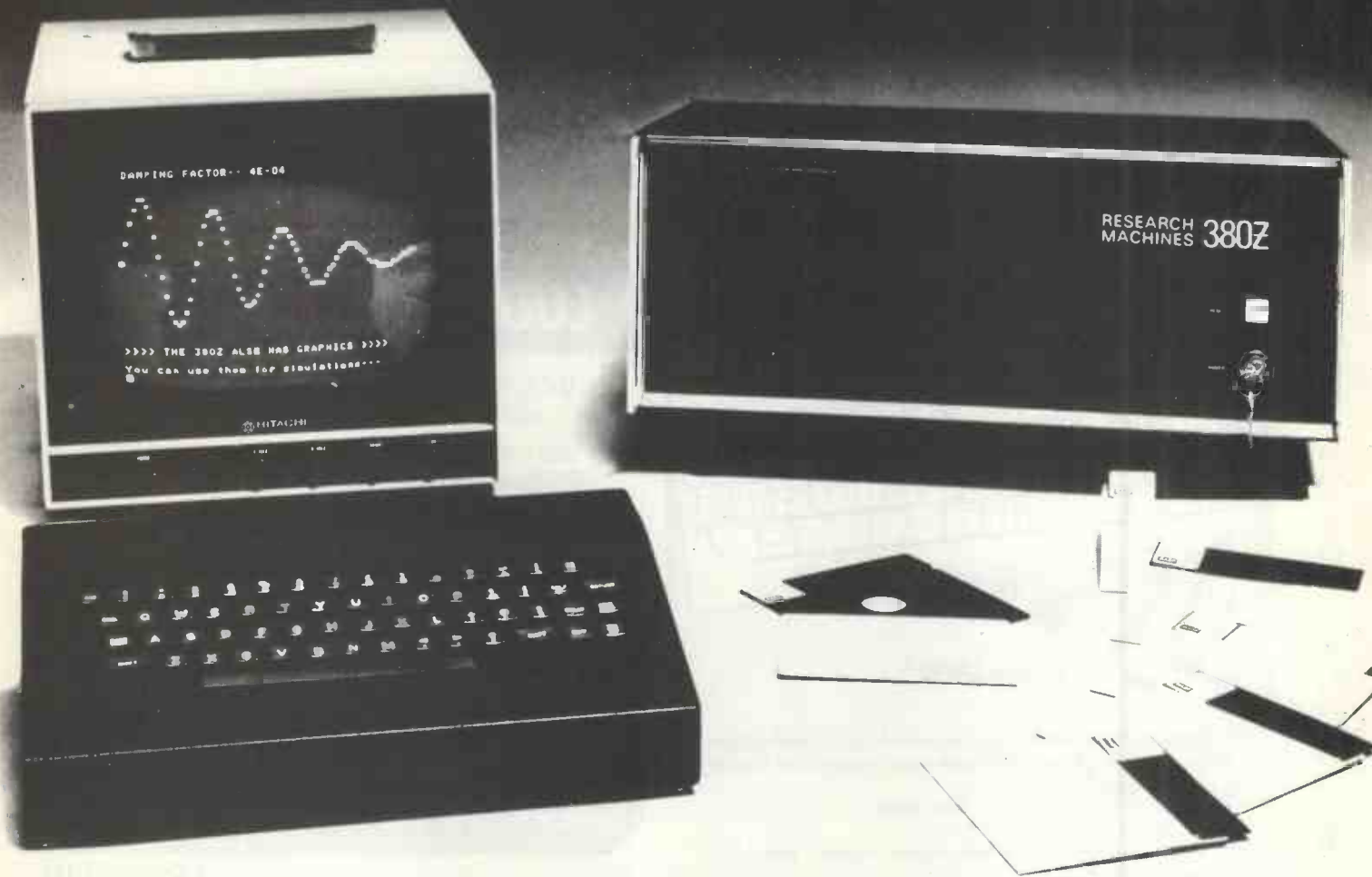
Billing Machines Ltd., Unit 22, Galowhill Road, Brackmills Estate, Northampton Tel: Northampton 66416 Telex: 31504
Fortronic (Fife) Ltd., Donibristle Industrial Estate, Dumfermline, Fife KY11 5JW Tel: Dalgety Bay 823121 Telex 727438
Rair Terminals, 32 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PS Tel: 01-836 4663 Telex: 298452
Specialist Office Supplies, 269/271 Barlow Moor Rd., Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester Tel 061-8610757 Telex: 667151
Technico (Communications) Ltd., Astral House, Adelaide Rd., Dublin 2, Ireland Tel: Dublin 688222 Telex 5129
Gamma Computer Products Ltd., Gable House, Turnham Green, London W4 Tel: 01-995-3721
Hamilton Rentals, (centralised enquiries through) 53 Curtain Rd., London EC2 Tel: 01-739-3444 Telex: 263121



● Circle No. 148

PRACTICAL COMPUTING September 1979

THE EXPANDABLE GENERAL-PURPOSE MICROCOMPUTER



THE RESEARCH MACHINES 380Z A UNIQUE TOOL FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Microcomputers are extremely good value. The outright purchase price of a 380Z installation with dual mini floppy disk drives, digital I/O and a real-time clock, is about the same as the annual maintenance cost of a typical laboratory minicomputer. It is worth thinking about!

The RESEARCH MACHINES 380Z is an excellent microcomputer for on-line data logging and control. In university departments in general, it is also a very attractive alternative to a central mainframe. Having your own 380Z means an end to fighting the central operating system, immediate feedback of program bugs, no more queueing and a virtually unlimited computing budget. You can program in interactive BASIC or run very large programs using our unique Text Editor with a 380Z FORTRAN Compiler. If you already have a minicomputer, you can use your 380Z with a floppy disk system for data capture.

What about Schools and Colleges? You can purchase a 380Z for your Computer Science or Computer Studies department at about the same cost as a terminal. A 380Z has a performance equal to many minicomputers and is ideal for teaching BASIC and Cesium. For A Level machine language instruction, the 380Z has the best software front panel of any computer. This enables a teacher to single-step through programs and observe the effects on registers and memory, using a single keystroke.

WHAT OTHER FEATURES SET THE 380Z APART?

The 380Z with its professional keyboard is robust, hardwearing equipment that will endure continual handling for years. It has an integral VDU interface—just plug a black and white television into the system in order to provide a display unit—you do not need to buy a separate terminal. The integral VDU interface gives you upper and lower case characters and low resolution graphics. Text and graphics can be mixed *anywhere* on the screen. The 380Z also has an integral cassette interface, software and hardware, which uses *named* cassette

files for both program and data storage. This means that it is easy to store more than one program per cassette.

Owners of a 380Z microcomputer can upgrade their system to include floppy (standard or mini) disk storage and take full advantage of a unique occurrence in the history of computing—the CP/MTM[®] industry standard disk operating system. The 380Z uses an 8080 family microprocessor—the Z80—and this has enabled us to use CP/M. This means that the 380Z user has access to a growing body of CP/M base-software, supplied from many independent sources.

380Z mini floppy disk systems are available with the drives mounted in the computer case itself, presenting a compact and tidy installation. The FDS-2 standard floppy disk system uses double-sided disk drives, providing 1 Megabyte of on-line storage.

Versions of BASIC are available with the 380Z which automatically provide controlled cassette data files, allow programs to be loaded from paper tape, mark sense card readers or from a mainframe. A disk BASIC is also available with serial and random access to disk files. Most BASICs are available in erasable ROM which will allow for periodic updating.

If you already have a teletype, the 380Z can use this for hard copy or for paper tape input. Alternatively, you can purchase a low cost 380Z compatible printer for under £300, or choose from a range of higher performance printers.

*CP/MTM Registered trademark Digital Research.

380Z/16K System with Keyboard £965.00

380Z/56K complete with **DUAL FULL FLOPPY DISK SYSTEM**
FDS-2 £3,266.00

380Z Computer Systems are distributed by RESEARCH MACHINES, P.O. Box 75, Chapel Street, Oxford. Telephone: OXFORD (0865) 49792. Please send for the 380Z information Leaflet. Prices do not include VAT @ 8% or Carriage

● Circle No. 149

MAXIMUM CAPACITY COMMERCIAL SYSTEM

INCREDIBLE 1995† VALUE!!



THE PERFORMANCE LEADER!!

THE PRICE LEADER!!!

INTERTEC SUPERBRAIN™

Dual Z80A 4MHz Vector Interrupt
64K RAM plus 1K 2708 PROM Bootstrap
TWO Double Density 5" Floppy Disk
Ex-Stock . . . For A While Anyway!?!

●CP/M* Disk Operating System: The Industry Standard and Most Powerful

- Makes Thousands of Inexpensive Compatible Applications Programs Available From Scores of Suppliers (Including Us)
- Comes With: Powerful Editor, Assembler, Dynamic Debug-Tool, Disk Formatter — We Also Have Low-Cost High-Performance Business Software
- BEWARE of One-Source Non-Standard Operating Systems Offered by Others — Be Free to CHOOSE, Not at the Mercy of One Supplier!
- ANSI Standard FORTRAN, COBOL, BASIC, APL, APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE Available From Any and All CP/M Software Houses at Affordable Cost

●S-100 Bus VIA Direct Connection — Cost Effective Flexible Expansion

- Makes Scores of Competitive Hardware Boards & Functions Available From Dozens of Manufacturers: Be Free to CHOOSE, Be Independent!
- Unlimited Practical Expansion: 2 DSDD 8" Floppies 2·4Mbyte; 8-120Mbyte Hard Disk; Colour VDU, Plotter, Modem, Mainframe Interface, etc.
- MAKES EXCELLENT DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING COMPUTER ON ANY MAINFRAME

●TWO High Quality Commercial Grade BASF 5" Diskettes: 160K Each (320K Total)

- 2 Double Density Minifloppies; Add Two More Inexpensively; Data Files File Security, File Copy, Convenient Operation in All Applications

●VDU High Resolution, Fully Programmable, Dual Keyboards of Highest Quality

- Full Upper/Lower Case ASCII 128 Set With Limited Graphics; 64 User Definable Function Keys, Programmable Cursor & Reverse Video
- 25 Lines by 80 Characters 8×8 in 8×12 Field; Easy Reading Full Size 12" Screen; Numeric and Control Keypad Separate

●DUAL Z80A PROCESSORS — TWO Board Modular Easy-Maintenance System

- Disk and Processor Use Separate Z80s: Computing Can Continue During Disk Operations etc.; Transparent Bootstrap Allows Full 64K Memory
- Two Boards: Computer, VDU & Power Supply: Simple Servicing by Board Replacement — On service Contract or Send in Boards Yourself

●All In ONE Smart Portable Lightweight Console (45 lb): Just Add A Printer!

- Any Size Printer, Any Function: £300 — £2500; Std., Daisy, Two Colour, Full Graphics ON Standard RS-232 CCITT Serial or TRS-80 Parallel

●Can You Find Another Commercial System Which Outperforms This One?

●Make No Mistake About It — The Others Are Mere Students and Cannot Compete With This Year's Honour Graduate, Intertec Superbrain: Top of All Classes!

●All Enquiries Invited From Commercial End-Users and Dealers

ICARUS COMPUTER SYSTEMS

E Floor, Milburn House, Dean Street, Newcastle on Tyne (0632) 29593, 28632

†Yes, That's the ONE-OFF Price, NOT the Delivery Date!?!

*Registered Trade Mark of Digital Research Corporation of California USA

● Circle No. 153

GEMSOFT

are very pleased to announce their new products and services

DISK-BASED BUSINESS PROGRAMS FOR THE PET

- (1) **Mail List:** Up to 450 customers per disk; will print out on labels or the screen and/or delete any customer at any time. £35 + VAT
- (2) **Current Account Package:** Enter data from cheque stubs or bank account and this program will analyse the account into six inputs and 30 outputs, and print the results. Replaces writing-up the books. £60 + VAT
- (3) **Sales Ledger:** Prints invoices and statements, provides complete list of transactions, sales figures, cash flow, outstanding debts, etc. 1,000 per desk. £85 + VAT
- (4) **VAT and General Accounting Package:** Stores all VAT figures, summarises cashflow, works out the VAT 100 form, etc. £85 + VAT
- (5) **Invoice Program:** Prints invoices, works out totals of varying amounts of items, adds or deducts, discounts, VAT, etc. £35 + VAT
- (6) **Order Forms:** Similar to invoice program. £30 + VAT

Under development: Employment agency package, estate agents' package, hotel management, and several more. Available on the Commodore or Computhink Disk Systems.

All programs can be individually customised by us for your own particular application. We specialise in business software for all applications. Please contact us for further information or a demonstration.

Pet Software: The Gemsoft Catalogue now contains nearly 70 titles of interest: games, educational, scientific, business, etc., at prices from £3.80.

Exidy Software: The new Gemsoft Exidy Catalogue has nearly 20 titles available; a selection of games and general programs at very reasonable prices. For either, or both catalogues, send s.a.e. to the address below.

Hardware: We sell complete systems, Pet 2001, Commodore and Computhink Disk Systems, Anadex Printers, etc., as well as all the software to get your business up and running in the most economical manner.

Please contact Tony Dawe, Nick Dunn, or Nigel Tyler at Gemsoft:

ALVERSTONE LODGE, WYCH HILL LANE, WOKING, SURREY

Tel: (04862) 60268

DEALER ENQUIRIES INVITED

● Circle No. 154

ProTechnic
computer
consultants

MULLIONS
YARWELL
PETERBOROUGH

Hardware by

EQUINOX SWTPC TEXAS DIABLO

Software by SOURCE (UK)

ACCOUNTS : PARTS : MAIL : SBASIC [FOR SWTPC SYSTEMS]

One Day Courses each Month

- Introduction to Micros.
- Business Applications.

PROTECHNIC

0780- 782746 / 782913

● Circle No. 155

MoI MINE OF INFORMATION LTD MoI

1 FRANCIS AVENUE, ST ALBANS AL3 6BL ENGLAND PHONE 0727 52801 TELEX 925858

MICROCOMPUTER CONSULTANCY & BOOKSELLERS

CHOOSING A MICROPROCESSOR?

10800	6512	8080A	COSMAC
1650	6513	8085A	CP1600
1802	6514	8086	F8
2650A	6515	8741	IM6100
2901	6701	8748	INS8900
3850	6800	8749	MC2
3870	6802	8X300	microNOVA
			PACE
			SC/MP
6502	8021	9440	TMS1000
6503	8035	9900	Z80
6504	8041	9940	
6505	8048	9980A	
6506	8049	9981	

Details and opinions of the above microprocessors (registers, addressing modes, status flags, pins and signals, instruction timing and execution, instruction set, benchmark program, specific support devices to the same level of detail, data sheets) are clearly laid out for easy comparison in a looseleaf book published in California, the birthplace of the microelectronics industry.

Mine of Information Ltd is offering this valuable reference work for only £14.00 post free—add £1.00 for delivery outside the UK. Binder £3.50 extra; update service available.

Introduction To Microcomputers by Adam Osborne & Associates Volume 2: SOME REAL MICROPROCESSORS (Sept 1978) 1373 pages, 405 figures, 254 data sheets, 25 chapters £ 14.00

● Circle No. 156

P.E.T NEWS

PET BOOM IN BRITAIN!

AUTHORISED PET COMMODORE DEALERS

Birmingham
Camden Electronics
021-773-8240

CPS (Data Systems)
021-707-3866

Taylor Wilson Systems
Knowle (056-45) 6192

Bolton
B & B Consultants
0204-26644

Bournemouth
Stage One Computers
0202-23570

Bradford
Ackroyd T/W &
Add M/C
0274-31835

Brentwood Essex
Direct Data Marketing
0277-229379

Bristol
Bristol Computer Centre
0272-23430

Sumlock Tabdown
0272-26685

Cambridge
Cambridge Computer
Store
0223-68155

Cardiff
Sigma Systems
0222-21515

Colchester
Dataview Ltd
0206-78811

Derby
Davidson Richards
0332-366803

Durham
Dyson Instruments
0385-66937

Edinburgh
Micro Centre
031-225-2022

Exeter
A. C. Systems
0392-71718

Grimsby
Allen Computers
0472-40568

Hemel Hempstead
Data Efficiency
0442-57137

Hove
Amplicon Micro Systems
0273-720716

Leeds
Holdene
0532-459459

Liverpool
Dams Office Equipment
051-227-3301

London N14
Micro Computation
01-882 5104

Rockliff Bros
051-521-5830

**THE
PET 4K
COMPUTER
at
£450 (+VAT)
it's got to
be
Britains
best buy!**



Why the PET is the number one Personal Computer

The Self Contained PETS

The self contained PET models 2001-4 and 8 come complete with TV screen, keyboard and built-in cassette deck as well as the computer circuitry. They are simply plugged into any 13 amp mains and no special knowledge is needed for running standard programs — over 200 of which are available on cassettes.

The Big Memory PETS

The BIG MEMORY PETS contain the same main features as for the 2001-4 and 8 models except that they incorporate a full typewriter size keyboard and have larger internal memory of 16K and 32K bytes RAM respectively.

Professional Printers

High specification printers can print onto paper all the PET characters — letters, numbers and graphics. A tractor feed model has the advantage of accepting mailing labels, using standard pre-printed forms. The only connections required are an A/C lead and PET connecting leads. The PET is programmable, allowing the printer to format print and it accepts 8½" paper giving up to four copies.

Dual Drive Floppy Disc

The Dual Drive Floppy Disk is the latest in Disk technology with extremely large storage capability and excellent file management.

The Floppy Disk operating system used with the PET computer enables a program to read or write data in the background while simultaneously transferring data to the PET. The Floppy Disk is a reliable low cost unit, and is convenient for high speed data transfer. Due to the latest technological advances incorporated in this disk,

a total of 360K bytes are available in the two standard 5¼" disks.

Only two connections are necessary — an A/C lead and PET interface lead.

Software and application areas for PET

There are a large number of programs that can readily be used with the PET. Personalised programming is available from many Authorised Dealers. Over 200 programs are now available from Commodore and other software suppliers for the PET. Popular program titles include Stock Control, Statistics, Payroll, Strathclyde Basic Course, Chess, Lunar Landing and Education Packs.

FOR THE COMMERCIAL USER

The Commodore PET offers for the first time a really cost effective business computer for use in Accountancy, Statistics, Stock Control, Payroll, Invoicing etc.

FOR THE SCIENTIST AND THE LABORATORY

PET has a comprehensive set of scientific functions making it a far superior tool to the best programmable calculators. PET interfaces directly with hundreds of laboratory instruments. PET is an ideal industrial and commercial controller.

FOR THE EDUCATIONAL WORLD

The extensive basic language makes PET an ideal tool for teaching computer programming. Programs can be written to "tutor" the user (pupil) in almost any discipline, including BASIC itself. And, of course, the PET can be used to take care of school records, exam results, attendance figures etc.

IN THE HOME

The PET is an extremely creative and instructive learning medium of the future for young and old alike. There are also large numbers of entertainment programmes available including chess and space games.



Phone about PET now!

CALL YOUR LOCAL AUTHORISED DEALER or in case of difficulty contact:
COMMODORE SYSTEMS DIVISION
360 Euston Road, London. Tel: 01-388-5702

London E2
Ragnarok Electronic
Systems
01-981-2748

London EC1
Sumlock Bondain
01-253-2447

London NW4
Da Vinci Computers
01-202-9630

London SW14
Micro Computer Centre
01-876-6609

London WC1
Euro-Calc
01-405-3113

London WC2
TLC World Trading
01-839-3893

Manchester
Cytek
061-832-7604

**Sumlock Electronic
Services**
061-834-4233

Matlock
Lowe Electronics
0629-2817

Morley, W. Yorks
Yorkshire Electronic
Services
0532-522181

Norwich
Sumlock Bondain
0603-26259

Nottingham
Betos Systems 0602-48108

Oxford
Orchard Electronics Ltd
Wallingford (0491) 35529

Plymouth
J.A.D. Integrated Services
0752-62616

Preston
Preston Computer Centre
0772-57684

Reading
CSE Computers
0734-61492

Southampton
Business Electronics
0703-738248

Symtec Systems
0703-37731

**Sunderland Tripoint
Associated Systems**
0783-73310

Woking
P.P.M.
Brookwood (04867)-80111

Petalect
04862-69032

Yeovil
Computerbits
0935-26522

North Scotland
Thistle Computers
Kirkwall (0856)-3140

Northern Ireland
Medical & Scientific
Lisburn (08462)-77533

● Circle No. 157

We are North London dealers for the best micros on the market.

MICROSOLVE

Microcomputer sales and software.

If you need advice on which Microcomputer to buy WE CAN HELP YOU. We are specialists in writing packages and tailor-made software.

MICROSTAR 45, below, from £4,950 64k RAM, 1.2M or 2.4M char. disc storage. MULTI-USER, MULTI-TASK, database reporting system. A complete system for £6,000-£7,000.

APPLE II, right, (ITT 2020) from £830. A complete business system including printer and software. All for under £3,000.



SOFTWARE

APPLE II
 Stock control £100
 Purchase ledger £275
 Invoicing/Debtors ledger £275
 Payroll (up to 200 employees—I.R. approved) £175
 Incomplete records £250
 Medical Billing/case history £300
 Equipment rental £250
 Financial modelling £275
 School commerce and Physics teaching package £150 each
 Chequebook £20

MICROSTAR
 Stock control/£500
 Sales ledger
 Word processing £300
 Payroll £250
 Incomplete Records £750
 Other software on request

Come and see the computer and discuss your requirements. We promise a personal service H.P. or leasing available

PRINTERS:
 A large selection available. The new **LOW COST PRINTERM** now in stock: 120cps, 80 columns, serial/parallel interface, 9x7 matrix, £695



MICROSOLVE COMPUTER SERVICES LIMITED, 2nd floor, 125-129 High Street, Edgware, Middx. Tel 01-951 0218

● Circle No. 158

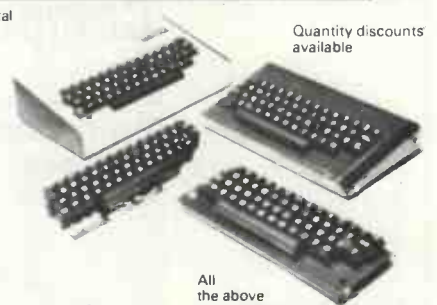
New Low-Cost ASCII Keyboards-Ex Stock Delivery.

KB771 - Latest addition to the range - ideal for the VDU-builder 71 Keystations incorporating separate numeric/cursor control pad and installed in a custom-built steel enclosure with textured enamel finish. Case dimensions: 17 1/2" x 7 1/2" x 3 3/8". Total weight: 4Kg



Price £95.00 (mail order total £108.00) 25-way D-Type connector for KB771 £4.25 (mail order total £5.13)

	Mail order total
KB756 56-keystations, mounted on PCB	£49.50 £55.08
KB756MF, as above, fitted with metal mounting frame for extra rigidity	£55.00 £61.02
Optional Extras:	
KB15P Edge Connector	£ 3.25 £ 4.05
KB701 Plastic Enclosure	£12.50 £14.31
KB702 Steel Enclosure	£25.00 £28.62
KB710 Numeric Pad	£ 8.00 £ 9.18
KB2376 Spare ROM	
Encoder	£12.50 £14.04
DC-512 DC/DC Converter	£ 7.50 £ 8.64



Quantity discounts available
 All the above keyboards are fully TTL-compatible, providing the full 128 ASCII character set, and requiring +5V - 12V Power Supply. Full technical data and circuit diagrams supplied.

NEW KEYTOP/KEYSWITCH KITS - ASCII CHARACTER SET BRAND NEW SURPLUS

Pack of 58 keytops and keyswitches comprising 49 "Qwerty" set TTY format + 9 Edit/Function keys.
PRICE: £15.00 (mail order total £17.28)

NEW SHUGART FLOPPY DISC DRIVES

SA400 Minifloppy - 110KB capacity, 35 tracks, transfer rate 125Kbits/sec. AV access time, 550msec. Power requirements +5VDC +12VDC.
PRICE: £195.00

SA800 Floppy - 400 KB capacity, 77 tracks, transfer rate 250Kbits/sec. AV access time 260msec. Power requirements +5VDC +24VDC.
PRICE: £395.00

SEAELECTRO PATCH BOARDS

Programme boards for switching and interconnecting input/output circuits. 11 x 20 XY matrix. Interconnection is by means of shorting Skip and component holding pins (not included). Dimensions: 7 1/2" x 5 1/4" x 1".
PRICE: £12.50 (mail order total £14.58)

Reconditioned EDITING VDU SAVE £100!

HAZELTINE H-2000A NOW ONLY £395.00
HAZELTINE H-2000B NOW ONLY £495.00

Superb specification includes full edit capability, direct cursor addressing, standard V.24 (RS232) interface. 90 days' warranty.

- ★ Teletype Compatible
- ★ 12" Diagonal Screen
- ★ TTY Format Keyboard
- ★ 27 Lines of 74 characters
- ★ 64 ASCII Character Set
- ★ 5 x 7 Dot Matrix
- ★ 5 Switch-selectable Transmission Speeds up to 9600 baud.
- ★ Switch-selectable Parity
- ★ Standard CCITT V.24 Interface
- ★ Direct Cursor Addressing
- ★ Full Edit Capability
- ★ Detachable Keyboard
- ★ Printer Port
- ★ 90-day Warranty

We also specialise in: DEC minis - PDP8 and PDP11 processors, add-on memory, peripherals and spares. Hard copy terminals - ASR33 and KSR 33 Teletypes, Data Dynamics 390, Texas Silent 700. Send for complete lists.

A copy of our trading conditions supplied on request.



Electronic Brokers

49/53 Pancras Road London NW1 2QB Tel: 01-837 7781. Telex 298694

● Circle No. 159

DIODES/ZENERS				
QTY.				
1N914	100v	10mA		.05
1N4005	600v	1A		.08
1N4007	1000v	1A		.15
1N4148	75v	10mA		.05
1N4733	5.1v	1 W Zener		.25
1N753A	6.2v	500 mW Zener		.25
1N758A	10v	"		.25
1N759A	12v	"		.25
1N5243	13v	"		.25
1N5244B	14v	"		.25
1N5245B	15v	"		.25

SOCKETS/BRIDGES				
QTY.				
8-pin	pcb	.20	ww	.35
14-pin	pcb	.20	ww	.40
16-pin	pcb	.20	ww	.40
18-pin	pcb	.25	ww	.95
20-pin	pcb	.35	ww	.95
22-pin	pcb	.35	ww	.95
24-pin	pcb	.35	ww	.95
28-pin	pcb	.45	ww	1.25
40-pin	pcb	.50	ww	1.25
Molex pins	.01	To-3 Sockets		.25
2 Amp Bridge		100-prv		.95
25 Amp Bridge		200-prv		1.50

TRANSISTORS, LEDS, etc.				
QTY.				
2N2222	(2N2222 Plastic .10)			.15
2N2222A				.19
2N2907A	PNP			.19
2N3906	PNP (Plastic Unmarked)			.10
2N3904	NPN (Plastic Unmarked)			.10
2N3054	NPN			.45
2N3055	NPN 15A 60v			.60
T1P125	PNP Darlington			1.95
LED Green	Red	Clear	Yellow	.15
D.L. 747	7 seg 5/8" High com-anode			1.95
MAN72	7 seg com-anode (Red)			1.25
MAN3610	7 seg com-anode (Orange)			1.25
MAN82A	7 seg com-anode (Yellow)			1.25
MAN74	7 seg com-cathode (Red)			1.50
FND359	7 seg com-cathode (Red)			1.25

9000 SERIES				
QTY.				
9301	.85	9322		.65
9309	.35	9601		.20
9316	1.10	9602		.45

MICRO'S, RAMS, CPU'S, E-PROMS				
QTY.				
8T13	1.50	2107B-4		4.95
8T23	1.50	2114		9.50
8T24	2.00	2513		6.25
8T97	1.00	2708		10.50
74S188	3.00	2716 D.S.		34.00
1488	1.25	2716 (5v)		59.00
1489	1.25	2758 (5v)		23.95
1702A	4.50	3242		10.50
AM 9050	4.00	4116		11.50
		6800		13.95
		6850		7.95
MM 5314	3.00	8080		7.50
MM 5316	3.50	8080		7.50
MM 5387	3.50	8212		2.75
MM 5369	2.95	8214		4.95
TR 1602B	3.95	8216		3.50
UPD 414	4.95	8224		3.25
Z 80 A	22.50	8228		6.00
Z 80	17.50	8251		7.50
Z 80 PIO	10.50	8253		18.50
2102	1.45	8255		8.50
2102L	1.75	TMS 4044		9.95

C MOS	
QTY.	
4000	.15
4001	.15
4002	.20
4004	3.95
4006	.95
4007	.20
4008	.75
4009	.35
4010	.35
4011	.20
4012	.20
4013	.40
4014	.75
4015	.75
4016	.35
4017	.75
4018	.75
4019	.35
4020	.85
4021	.75
4022	.75
4023	.20
4024	.75
4025	.20
4026	1.95
4027	.35
4028	.75
4029	1.15
4030	.30
4033	1.50
4034	2.45
4035	.75
4037	1.80
4040	.75
4041	.69
4042	.65
4043	.50
4044	.65
4046	1.25
4048	.95
4049	.45
4050	.45
4052	.75
4053	.75
4066	.55
4069/74C04	.35
4071	.25
4081	.30
4082	.30
4507	.95
4511	.95
4512	1.10
4515	2.95
4519	.85
4522	1.10
4526	.95
4528	1.10
4529	.95
MC 14409	14.50
MC 14419	4.85
74C151	1.50

LINEARS, REGULATORS, etc.					
QTY.		QTY.		QTY.	
MCT2	.95	LM323K	5.95	LM380 (8-14 Pin)	1.19
8038	3.95	LM324	1.25	LM709 (8-14 Pin)	.35
LM201	.75	LM339	.75	LM711	.45
LM301	.45	7805 (340T5)	.95	LM723	.40
LM308	.65	LM340T12	.95	LM725	2.50
LM309H	.65	LM340T15	.95	LM739	1.50
LM309K (340K-5)	1.50	LM340T18	.95	LM741 (8-14)	.35
LM310	.85	LM340T24	.95	LM747	1.10
LM311D	.75	LM340K12	1.25	LM1307	1.25
LM318	1.75	LM340K15	1.25	LM1458	.65
LM320H6	.79	LM340K18	1.25	LM3900	.50
LM320H15	.79	LM340K24	1.25	LM75451	.65
LM320H24	.79	LM373	2.95	NE555	.45
7905 (LM320K5)	1.65	LM377	3.95	NE556	.85
LM320K12	1.65	78L05	.75	NE565	.95
LM320K24	1.65	78L12	.75	NE566	1.25
LM320T5	1.65	78L15	.75	NE567	.95
LM320T12	1.65	78M05	.75		
LM320T15	1.65				

- T T L -					
QTY.		QTY.		QTY.	
7400	.10	7482	.75	74221	1.00
7401	.15	7483	.75	74367	.95
7402	.15	7485	.55	75108A	.35
7403	.15	7486	.25	75491	.50
7404	.10	7489	1.05	75492	.50
7405	.25	7490	.45	74H00	.15
7406	.25	7491	.70	74H01	.20
7407	.55	7492	.45	74H04	.20
7468	.15	7493	.35	74H05	.20
7409	.15	7494	.75	74H08	.35
7410	.15	7495	.60	74H10	.35
7411	.25	7496	.80	74H11	.25
7412	.25	74100	1.15	74H15	.45
7413	.25	74107	.25	74H20	.25
7414	.75	74121	.35	74H21	.25
7416	.25	74122	.55	74H22	.40
7417	.40	74123	.35	74H30	.20
7420	.15	74125	.45	74H40	.25
7426	.25	74126	.35	74H50	.25
7427	.25	74132	.75	74H51	.25
7430	.15	74141	.90	74H52	.15
7432	.20	74150	.85	74H53	.25
7437	.20	74151	.65	74H55	.20
7438	.20	74153	.75	74H72	.35
7440	.20	74154	.95	74H74	.35
7441	1.15	74156	.70	74H101	.75
7442	.45	74157	.65	74H183	.55
7443	.45	74161	.55	74H106	.95
7444	.45	74163	.85	74L00	.25
7445	.65	74164	.60	74L02	.20
7446	.70	74165	1.10	74L03	.25
7447	.70	74166	1.25	74L04	.30
7448	.50	74175	.80	74L10	.20
7450	.25	74176	.85	74L20	.35
7451	.25	74180	.55	74L30	.45
7453	.20	74181	2.25	74L47	1.95
7454	.25	74182	.75	74L51	.45
7460	.40	74190	1.25	74L55	.65
7470	.45	74191	1.25	74L72	.45
7472	.40	74192	.75	74L73	.40
7473	.25	74193	.85	74L74	.45
7474	.30	74194	.95	74L75	.85
7475	.35	74195	.95	74L93	.55
7476	.40	74196	.95	74L123	.85
7480	.55	74197	.95	74LS00	.30
7481	.75	74198	1.45	74LS01	.30

CABLE ADDRESS: ICUSD
TELEX # 697827

HOURS: 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. MON. thru SUN.

INTEGRATED CIRCUITS UNLIMITED

7889 Clairemont, Mesa Blvd. • San Diego, California 92111 U.S.A.

NO MINIMUM

COMMERCIAL AND MANUFACTURING ACCOUNTS INVITED
ALL PRICES IN U.S. DOLLARS. PLEASE ADD POSTAGE TO COVER METHOD OF SHIPPING.
ORDERS OVER \$100 (U.S.) WILL BE SHIPPED AIR NO CHARGE.

PAYMENT SUBMITTED WITH ORDER SHOULD BE IN U.S. DOLLARS.
ALL IC'S PRIME/GUARANTEED ALL ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED.

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED:

Phone (714) 278-4394 BarclayCard / Access / American Express / BankAmericard / Visa / MasterCharge

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

Total Order	Deduct
\$35-\$99	10%
\$100-\$300	15%
\$301-\$1000	20%

● Circle No. 160

CAMBRIDGE COMPUTER STORE

We can help you select the right system for your application. Here in Cambridge your choice won't be limited — we'll demonstrate as comprehensive a range of microcomputers as you'll find anywhere in the U.K.:

**TANDY TRS-80
COMMODORE PET
APPLE II
N-S HORIZON
CROMEMCO
SORCERER
SUPERBOARD II
NASCOM-1**

Where possible we deliver off-the-shelf. Our stock also includes a vast range of **electronic components** as well as **computer books** and **magazines**.

The store is open 6 days a week from 9–5.30 with demonstration systems always in operation. We offer a professional standard of advice and after-sales support and we're ready to discuss your application any time.

CAMBRIDGE COMPUTER STORE

1 Emmanuel Street, Cambridge (0223) 68155

● Circle No. 161

EQUINOX 300

A powerful multi-user
multi-tasking
multi-language

16-bit microcomputer time-sharing system

supporting
· BASIC
· LISP
· PASCAL
· Floppy discs
· Hard discs

including a powerful Text Formatter,
Assembly Language Development System
and disc-based Sort utilities.

Priced from under **£5,000**

Write or phone for further information.

EQUINOX COMPUTER SYSTEMS LTD

"Kleeman House" 16 Anning Street,
New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3FB.
Tel: 01-739 23879 01-729 4460.

● Circle No. 162

Jeff Orr and Graham Knott are now offering:



**400k on the
Pet £840**

**directly interfacing
with 32k pet**

200k on each drive
Random and sequential
access

**AIM161
16 way
A/D Converters
£130**

Analogue to
Digital conversion, Suitable for all
8-bit microcomputers
Connectors
available to suit most machines:
Pet, Apple, ITT, Aim etc.

Memory Expansion

24k Expandamem for Pet £320
16k Apple Ram up grade £85

Interfaces

I EEE to RS232 unidirectional £89
I EEE to RS232 bi-directional £186
625 video adaptors for Pet £25 complete

We also stock and supply Apple II, ITT 2020, Centronics,
Teletype, Anadex, Paper, diskettes, Cassettes etc.

PHONE US ON

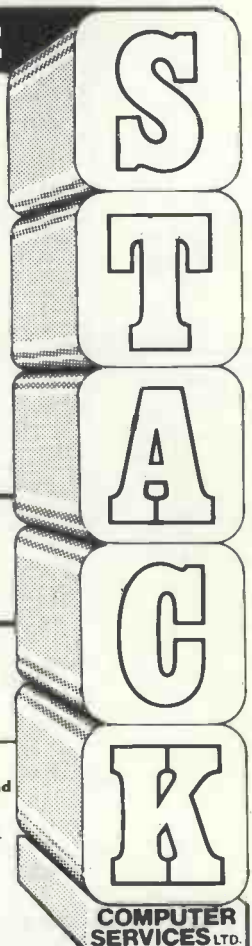
051-924 1125

for details of our
catalogue or write

Stack Computer Services Ltd.

1 Westward View, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 6RB

All prices are +VAT at 15% and
include carriage. Please make
cheques payable to
Stack Computer Services Ltd.



**COMPUTER
SERVICES LTD.**

● Circle No. 163

COMPUTRADE

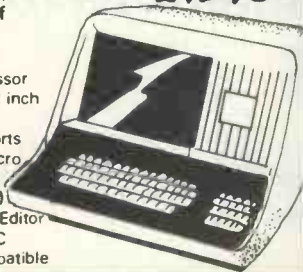
**SUPER
PRODUCT
SELECTION**

NEW AMOEBA

At the price of a sophisticated VDU the AMOEBA gives true intelligent terminal capabilities.

Features of AMOEBA

- * 16k RAM
- * Z80 processor
- * Integral 12 inch VDU
- * RS-232 ports
- * Built in micro cassette (60k bytes)
- * High level Editor plus BASIC
- * 2708 compatible



FROM ONLY £1295

NEW SUPERBRAIN

As a Small Business micro system or intelligent terminal, SUPERBRAIN provides the answer.

Features of SUPERBRAIN

- * 64k RAM
- * 320k bytes Disc storage (expandable)
- * CP/M with BASIC, FORTRAN, COBOL and APL
- * S 100 BUS
- * Word processing
- * Integral 12 inch VDU
- * Twin Z80 processors
- * RS-232 (V24) ports



FROM ONLY £2895

INTERTUBE



PRICE £650

IT ADDS UP TO VALUE FOR MONEY

Feature packed INTERTUBE

- * 24 x 80 upper and lowercase
- * Highlighting
- * Reverse Video
- * Protected Fields
- * Line Drawing
- * X/Y Cursor addressing
- * Conversational, Message, Page modes
- * Word or line insert/delete
- * 25th Status line
- * RS232 Printer port with independent Baud rate

- * Self Test
- * Line Drawing
- * 28 Programmable function keys
- * RS232 or Current Loop
- * Separate Numeric Pad

COMPACT 1



TRULY RELIABLE

Acoustic data modem speeds up to 300 bauds—works either at the computer or terminal end of a datalink.

PRICE: FROM £185

COMPACT 2

BUILT TO TRAVEL

The portable hard copy terminal that's built to last—thousands of satisfied users.



PRICE: £1,360

SLAVE

Probably the best value 80 col, 112 cps printer on the market. Now has variable width sprocket feed and 1000ch Buffer as standard.

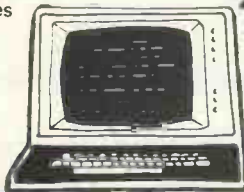
GREAT COST PERFORMANCE



PRICE: £575

COMPACT 3

The VDU that fits most micro, mini and main-frame systems—lots of built in features



FANTASTIC PICTURE QUALITY

PRICE FROM: £600

THE CUB

An economic answer to simple VDU needs, 64 x 16ch, cursor control



LOW COST

PRICE: £349

DISTRIBUTORS REQUIRED -

for many areas—call our hot line 03723-77066

Write or call for details:

COMPUTRADE LTD
Silverwood House, Oxshott Rd.,
Leatherhead, Surrey.
Tel (03723) 79143

South West 01-673 3322
West 0258-72946
North 061-477 4960
Midlands 0533-536077
South East 01-658 5906

CASH 'N' CARRY PRICES. 5% DISC. QUANTITY DISC. AVAILABLE.

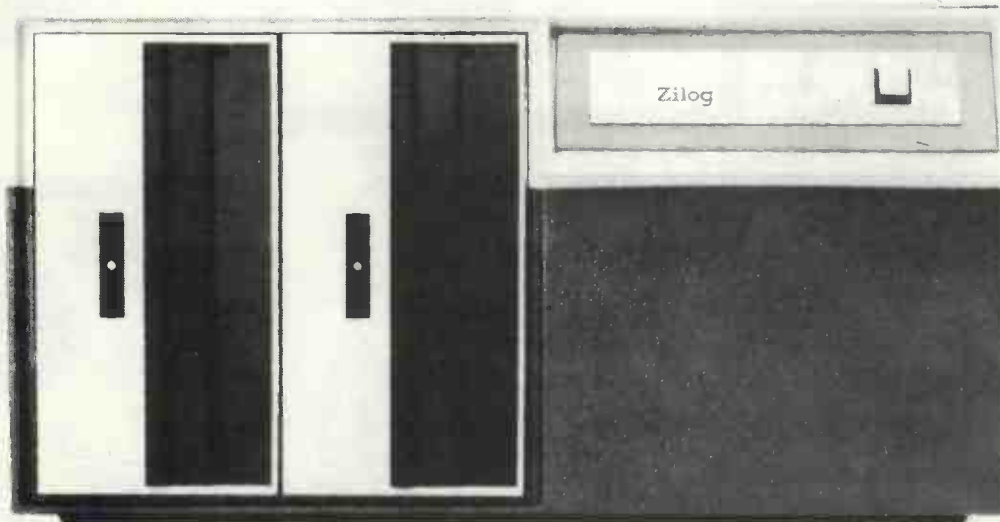
● Circle No. 164

BUY **Zilog**

... NOT JUST Z80

ZILOG microcomputers for solutions to business problems

A lot of microcomputers use our Z80 CPU but only Zilog supplies the MCZ-1 family of microcomputers



Did you know that Zilog, inventors of the Z80 microprocessor, also manufacture high-performance microcomputers supported with high-power quality software and full maintenance in the U.K.?

Zilog computers range from low-cost, portable desk-top units with twin floppy disks to 10 megabyte cartridge disk systems.

This software-compatible MCZ-1 family supports our proven R10 operating system and five popular high-level languages.

● COBOL ● PASCAL ● BASIC ● PLZ ● FORTRAN

Available applications software packages include Order Entry, Payroll, Purchase Ledger, Sales Ledger, Nominal Ledger, Stock Control, Text Formatting and many more.

The MCZ-1 family is ready to start working for you today. From Zilog — the company which brought you the Z80 — the company dedicated to stay a generation ahead.

Call today for further information.



**Zilog (U.K.) Limited, Babbage House, King Street,
Maidenhead, Berks SL6 1DU.
Telephone (0628) 36131**

The Real World

WE HAVE five computers in and around the *Practical Computing* office. At the time of writing, only one is working. To give credit where credit is due, that one is the Pet. What of the others?

We have a £2,000 household name system which is supposed to be doing a useful job in the office. For many weeks, nothing has emerged from it but garbage and the sour smell of burnt ROM. It has been twice already for repair and will no doubt soon be making the journey a third time. We have a second household name with discs. Sometimes it loads, sometimes it doesn't. "Put your finger in the hole and stir", say its masters; we stir and it loads not.

For three days we have been trying to get another cheap but trendy computer to drive a popular matrix printer. Those days have been filled with endless three-way telephone conversations between the computer people, the printer people and ourselves.

One says one thing, the other something different, but it is of no importance — the machine gives not a click. Then a colleague pulled the computer power plug out of the wall accidentally and ended the debate, for now the machine will not work at all.

We have a mini which behaves reasonably well, as it should, considering how much it cost, but on some days it gets into a loop and has to run through its half-million irrelevant calculations before it will re-emerge several hours later into the real world.

Even if the machinery were working correctly, would we be happy? That is a big question and the answer for today must be in the negative. If the machinery is fragile, the software it runs is worse. The Pet works but the batch of sample tapes we are trying from a major software supplier often do not.

We have a good Life game but there are certain input patterns which lock-up the screen and the only remedy is to re-load. The business system alleged to be running on the second household name has no visible escape from many of its routines. It will sit, showing what you don't want to know, its discs buzzing and clicking like demented chickens, and no combination of keys will budge it.

In the wider world, some canny fellow has offered a prize of £100 for a British business system running on a microcomputer which will run for a month, or perhaps a week, without crashing. We think he may not have to pay in the foreseeable future.

Even programs which run are subject to problems. For instance, we published a Zombie game in our June issue. It was written in Basic on a PDP, and you would think that since Basic is a universal language, anyone who wanted to use it could do so.

Yet the office telephones rang for a month with the complaints of unhappy readers who could not get the wretched thing to run. The trouble, as it emerged after many aggravating hours, was in the random number generator. There are dialects of Basic, and one machine's RND is another machine's poison.

The whole thing puts one in mind of the early days of motor cars — well, what one has been told about them, since we're not that ancient. Cars then were very like microcomputers now. There were dozens of different kinds, allied only by their unreliability, incompatibility and the fanatical enthusiasm of their owners.

Those owners would speak disparagingly of "horse and buggy" ideas and would happily spend six hours travelling six miles

because they had had the fun of fitting new big ends after the second mile, re-wiring the ignition after the fourth and then retrieving — as Kipling so movingly describes in one of his stories — the contents of a ball-race dropped along six furlongs of un-metalled road.

Well, so it is now. The difference is that the fans of microcomputing have a more gullible public. Many people are being persuaded to ride in our new bangers. They are holding their hats and waiting for the big thrill. It may come, or, what is more likely, the whole mess of machinery may blow up, cover all concerned with hot oil and sit lifeless by the roadside.

In plain terms, microcomputers and their software are not yet robust enough for the real world. At best, they are being built and sold by people who are fascinated by them, take great care how they use them, and expect others to do the same.

There is, of course, also a fair share of cowboys who do not care about these things, but we shall not mention them. The trouble is that the population of micro-freaks, who have the brain power to wrestle with raw micros, is almost used up. If our industry is to develop, the machines must be sold to people who want answers to their problems, not more problems still.

So far we have managed to make micros do more or less what we want. What we have not yet done is prevent them doing what we do not want, and there is a huge difference between these two states of affairs. For, if there is one way of doing something correctly, there are a hundred ways of doing it wrong.

If it costs £1 to make the thing which works correctly sometimes, it costs £10 to make it work most days and £100 to make it work properly always.

That is particularly true of software. Any intelligent fool can write a program to add a firm's invoices and deduct 15 percent for VAT. It takes a clever chap to write a program which will load and run, time after time; which will not crash or lock up no matter what silly key Minnie the office mouse hits. But it must come.

Next month — Teletext

In a roundabout way, that leads us to the subject of next month's delights. In the October *Practical Computing* we shall be devoting a good deal of space to the important subject of Teletext, or data-at-a-distance.

We shall look at the dissemination of software by television and wire, at *Ceefax*, *Oracle* and *Prestel*; at the coming generation of home data stations with micros built into television sets, which can take-in data and programs from central banks, or transmit them back along the line to friends, colleagues or for general use.

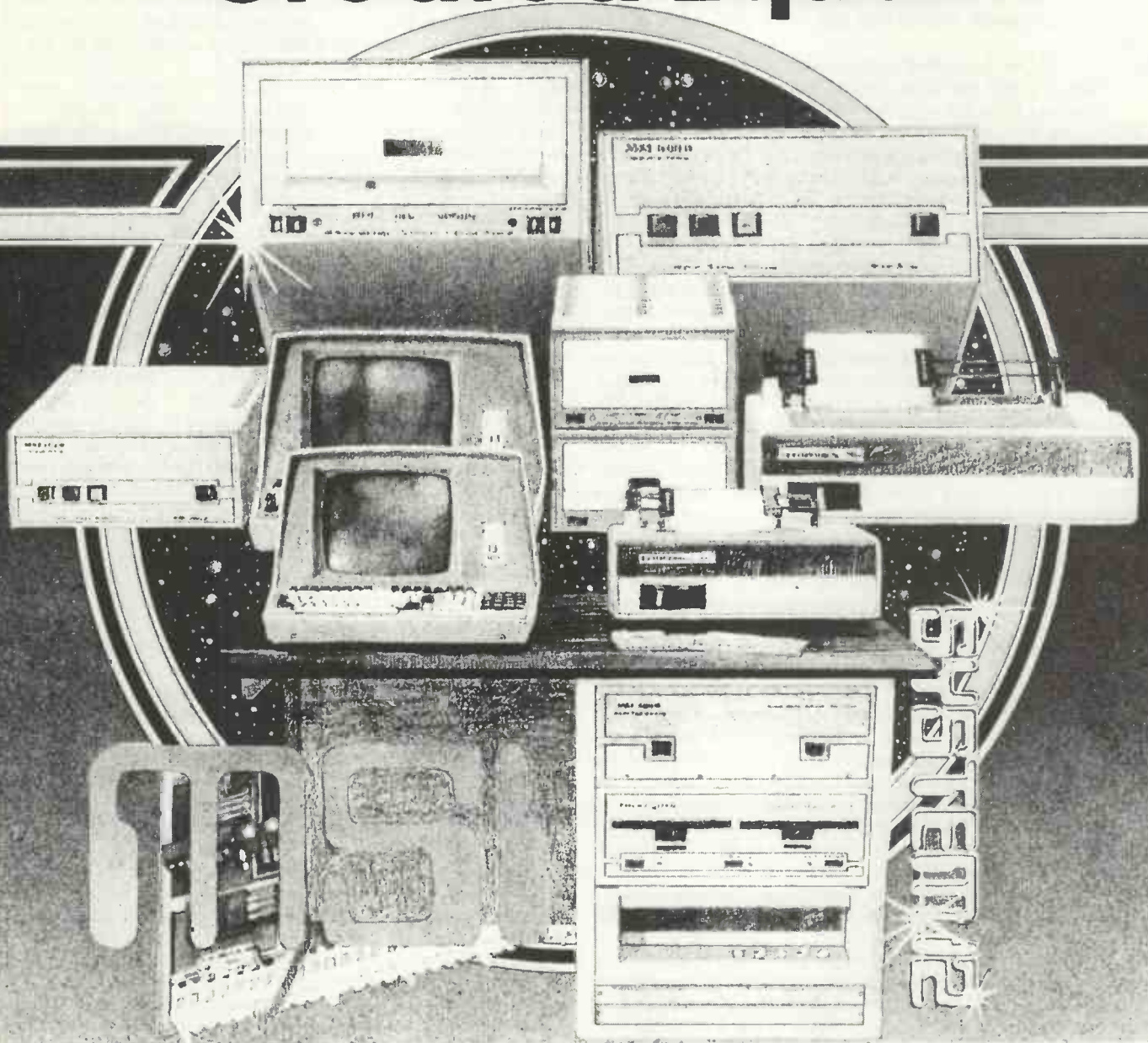
We shall be looking, in short, at the techniques and hardware which will link the many individual micro-revolutions into one — which may well, in time, disperse cities and jobs as we know them today.

It seems likely that the most important effect of this development for *Practical Computing* readers will be to create a vast new market for software. Reliable, never-crash software. It may be that many people who are now hobbyists will work full-time at home, writing programs to satisfy this market and having a better life than they do now. We hope so, anyway.

PROGRAM OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

This competition has now closed, slightly late because of postal problems, and we are happy to report a heavy crop of entries — at first glance of a high standard. It was not possible to do them justice in time to include the results in this issue. All entrants will be informed of the results by post and we hope to announce them in the October issue.

All Systems Are Not Created Equal



Your computer application is unique. It differs from all others. It is because not all applications are equal that MSI has developed a variety of computer systems.

At the heart of every MSI System is the powerful MSI 6800 Computer, one of the fastest and most versatile available. Depending on the System you select, the MSI 6800 has from 16K to 56K of RAM. Mass memory storage in MSI Systems range from 315K bytes in the System 1 to over 10 megabytes in our most powerful System 12.

In addition to the computer and memory subsystem, MSI Systems include a CRT terminal and high speed character printer. The System 12 is housed in a compact desk unit.

As with hardware, computer software is not always created equal. Since there are a myriad of programs available, MSI offers a choice of Operating Systems for use with your MSI Computer System. Of course, our favorite is MSIDOS, but we offer the powerful SDOS operating system as well. All MSI Systems will support the other software products associated with each operating system.

MSI also has a variety of software programs including a complete Accounting Package and a Multi-User Basic program capable of supporting up to four users.

MSI Systems are currently being used in a broad spectrum of personal, scientific, educational, professional and business

situations. In addition to our Systems, we can supply you with individual components for personal and OEM use. All MSI System components are available, some in kit form.

Write or call us for more information about MSI Systems and products and the name of your nearest MSI dealer.

seed

STRUMECH ENGINEERING,
ELECTRONIC DEVELOPMENTS,
PORTLAND HOUSE,
COPPER SIDE, BROWNHILLS.
(0827) 4321 TLX 335243

● Circle No. 166

Suggestions

I AGREE with C Bowden's comments in the June issue and would further like to suggest articles which I, and many of my colleagues, would find valuable.

Assembly languages. A series covering programming techniques, perhaps using the 6502 and 808A derivatives as the basis for discussion. A short summary of the basic instructions and their use in simple routines, increasing gradually, should be included, together with flowcharting techniques and their implementation in assembly code. Perhaps the series could be moulded around a specified project, such as designing a Nascom-type monitor.

Systems software. Covering the principles of monitors, bootstrap loaders, assemblers and common start-up procedures. The series should explain how the software works, why the various techniques are used, and how they are tailored to the hardware.

Hopefully the reader should be able to write his or her own having read the article(s). It would be linked to specific micros, e.g. Kim, Elf, Superboard II, to provide the "10K of your own EPROMs holding self-developed functions" Vincent Tseng mentioned in his Superboard Review.

Hardware design. From the basics of Boolean algebra to TTL logic, leading to the construction of I/O structures and memory units. Simple examples and diagrams should be included, and the series could be based around, for example, designing a memory expansion of a commercial system — Kim, Elf, Nascom, Superboard.

Business applications. When contributors describe their implementation of a system, instead of the generalising on the principles used, I am sure flowcharts, file structures, and program coding would be of more value to readers.

Program codings. When they are reproduced, they are frequently difficult to decipher. If they could be re-set and printed as the tips in the Pet and TRS-80 pages instead of being reproduced from computer printouts I'm sure legibility would improve.

I hope these comments prove of value, and would like to thank you for an excellent, comprehensive magazine.

M. G. Walker.

● Since this is a fully-interactive, hands-on magazine, would any readers like to rise to the challenge and write the articles suggested? We should say, in self-defence, that we reproduce listings from printouts because experience shows that re-setting them into something more legible can cause mistakes.

Rental charges

WITH the advent of relatively cheap silicon chip technology, the price of microcomputer systems has fallen dramatically over the last year. I am sure that we are all aware of the proliferation of micros in the £300-£600 bracket — notably the Pet and TRS-80 — which can be obtained almost as easily as buying a television, however far from civilisation one lives.

What I would like to know — and until now I haven't received a suitable answer — is why the hire charges for renting a small computer are so incredibly high? After all, one does not need to deposit £150 plus approximately £5 a day to rent a £450 luxury colour

Our Feedback columns offer readers the opportunity of bringing their computing experience and problems to the attention of others, as well as to seek our advice or to make suggestions, which we are always happy to receive. Make sure you use Feedback—it is your chance to keep in touch.

TV. So let us have an explanation for what I believe is exploitation and blatant profiteering.

Martin Black,
Manchester, 8.

● To be fair, TV rental companies can offer low rates because they buy sets in huge quantities at low prices. Also, TV sets are much more robust than micros and easier to repair. There seems, however, some substance in the complaints. Would any micro-renter care to defend the position?

Not so difficult

IN HIS REVIEW of the CP/M operating system, Roland Perry makes it sound far more difficult to use than it really is. I have been using CP/M Version 1.44 for a few days and I find it easy to use, although it took an afternoon to master.

In particular, ED 1.4 — the text editor — allows reference to absolute line numbers within the text buffer, a feature which makes it easier to use than other character-orientated editors. The easiest way to change all occurrences of GAMMA to DELTA is

```
#SGAMMA|ZDELTA<cr>
```

where # is the shorthand form for a repeat factor of 65535. Perry's version will also type the lines containing the new string DELTA.

My main criticism of CP/M is the way the "rubout" is echoed as the character is being deleted. For example, if FRAD is typed instead of FRED, pressing rubout twice and then entering the correct letters gives FRAD-DAED. This is so difficult to read that typing control — R will print the line as it appears to CP/M (i.e. FRED). Implementing "rubout" as a physical backspace, or backarrow for TTYs, is much neater.

The difference between CP/M and other systems is like the difference between APL and Basic; the investment in time to learn how to use it pays off in long-term ease of use.

S. J. Withers,
Coventry.

Futile quest

THE ADVERTISEMENTS in your journal proclaim that certain types of microcomputers are available but it is a very different story, and a very frustrating one, when it comes to purchasing the equipment.

I work for a research association and we have been seeking two microcomputers, the Kim and the Exidy Sorcerer, which were widely advertised in the February and May issues of your journal.

In respect to both systems, I have phoned as many as six to eight suppliers asking if we can purchase their advertised systems within a reasonable delivery period. The answer we got from the suppliers is "Sorry, we are waiting for delivery and we don't know when to expect them" or "Sorry, we can't supply within three to six months", or "We are out of this part or the other part", and "We cannot accept an order as we cannot give you any definite date of delivery".

I find this disquieting; if something is advertised, one would think it was available.

I would be interested to know if any more readers have met these "unavailable" products which seem accessible until it comes to ordering.

M. G. Hummel,
Wantage,
Berkshire.

Supply and demand

SOME of your advertisers imply that they have the articles they describe in stock. Very frequently this is not the case and if one cannot check beforehand because they won't answer the telephone or reply to letters — a common occurrence — then an abortive trip may be made.

Could you not assist by declining to publish an advertisement if the goods are not certified in stock at time of placement?

A. S. Goodenough,
North Harrow, Middx.

● This is a serious problem which causes us some anxiety. Because of the world shortage of Schottky ICs, several manufacturers have difficulty through no fault of their own. That, of course, is no excuse for not responding to enquiries.

We regard it as our responsibility to investigate unreasonable delays in supply of goods advertised in our pages, and if a company persists we would have to consider refusing to carry its advertising. To help readers in this way, we have to be informed of specific instances.

Here at last

INTEL has produced its long-awaited one-megabit bubble memory, under the designation 7110. The principal plus is non-volatility — you don't lose contents of memory when you switch off. Compactness also looks good — 128KB on 16 sq. in. of board space (4×4 in.), 1MB on 90 sq. in. Error correction is built in, too.

You need a separate controller and at \$2,000 for the prototype kit, the early prices will not drive out the (much faster) MOS memories we all know and love. Still, the megabit bubble should provide more products to stand alongside the only bubble-using systems in our business, the pioneering terminals from Texas Instruments.

The megabit bubble has some other stories behind it, one of which demonstrates Intel's insight. Noyce is a breakaway entrepreneur (from Fairchild) and the megabit memory maker, a subsidiary called Intel Magnetics, was set up by Intel 18 months ago, when three ambitious youngsters from the Hewlett-Packard bubble memory development squad looked for finance.

The TI 92Kb bubble memory — as used in
(continued on page 47)

SORCERER™

Now becomes a professional word processor...as well!



The Sorcerer Computer is a completely assembled and tested computer system ready to plug in and use. The standard configuration includes 63 key typewriter-style keyboard and 16 key numeric pad, dual cassette I/O, with remote computer control at 300 and 1200 baud data rates, RS232 serial I/O for communication, parallel port for direct Centronics printer attachment, Z80 processor, 4K ROM operating system, 8K Microsoft BASIC in separate plug-in Rom Pac™ cartridge, composite video of 64 chars 30 lines, 128 upper/lower case ASCII character set and a 128 user-defined graphic symbols, up to 32K on-board RAM memory, operators manual,

BASIC programming manual and cassette/video cables, connection for S100 bus expansion unit.

The Word Processor Pac creates, edits, re-arranges and formats text. Features include auto wraparound, dynamic cursor control, variable line length, global search and replace, holding buffer for re-arrangement of text, right justification, line width and line to line spacing, underlining or boldfacing, text merging and a macro-facility permitting tasks such as form letter typing, multiple column printing or automatic forms entry.

NOW CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEALER



OR SEND COUPON FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



PRICES	£
8K Sorcerer	650.00
16K Sorcerer	760.00
32K Sorcerer	859.00
630K Dual Disc Drive	1,200.00
143K Single Disc Drive	500.00
S100 Expansion Unit	210.00
Line Printer	850.00
Video Display	240.00
Development Pack	70.00
Word Processing Pack	70.00
Technical Manual	8.95
Daisywheel type printer	1,900.00
Word processing pack	80.00
Video/disc unit	1,800.00
16K Memory expansion	110.00

- LANCASHIRE**
051-2272535 MICRODIGITAL 25 Brunswick St., Liverpool L2 BJ
- WEST YORKSHIRE**
0535 65094 BASIC COMPUTING Oakville, Oakworth Rd., Keighly
- SHEFFIELD**
0742-668767 E.S. MICROCOMPUTERS 7 Berkley Precint, Ecclesall Rd., S11 8PN
- NORTH WALES**
0248-52042 TRYFAN A/V SERVICES 3 Swifts Bldgs., High St., Bangor, Gwynedd
- AVON**
0272-292375 ELECTROPRINT 5 Kingsdown Parade, Bristol BS6 5UD
- NORTH HANTS**
0536-83922 H.B. COMPUTERS LTD. 22 Newland St., Kettering
- LONDON & Counties**
BERKSHIRE
0635-30505 NEWBEAR COMPUTING STORE 40 Bartholomew St., Newbury RG14 5LL
- KENT**
01-300 0380 INFORMEX 61 Harland Avenue, Sidcup, DA15 7NY
- SURREY**
0276-34044 MICROBITS 34b London Rd., Blackwater, Camberley
- 0276-62506 T. & V.J. MICROCOMPUTERS 165 London Rd., Camberley

Geoff Wilkinson.

FACTOR ONE Computers Ltd. 11-17 Market Place, Penzance, Tel: (0736) 66336 or 66565

Please send me details of the SORCERER COMPUTER

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____

(continued from page 45)

the 763/765 printer terminals — will be joined soon by a 25Kb unit from the company and it reckons to join Intel in the megabit market later this year. The probable standardisation in components looks to be at 256Kb and 1Mb, with Rockwell likely to have them along with TI and Intel by the middle of next year.

IBM and Bell Labs are both reported to be near the technology for 4Mb bubble memories. Meanwhile, HP is probably the most active of the rest of the bunch in this field. The costs and problems of the bubble memory business were exemplified by the recent Univac decision to buy the components rather than make them; the chosen suppliers are TI and Rockwell.

Univac, however, is going ahead with prototype work in the more esoteric areas of bubble memories, designs which will not appear until 1982 or thereabouts, and which Univac may not decide to manufacture even then.

In a speech at the Midcom Electronic Show and Convention at Dallas, Texas, in December 1978, Pasquale Pistorio, vice-president of the Motorola Semiconductor Division, made several predictions about the semiconductor industry which are worth noting:

- The world market for semiconductors will rise from \$80 million in 1978 to \$19 billion in 1985.
- The computer industry will be shaken up by the forward integration of semiconductor houses and backward integration of electronics equipment manufacturers.
- Members of the oil club — corporations or countries — will enter the electronics and semiconductor business.
- A consolidation process will materialise, with a small number of suppliers, with fewer large broad-range companies and more product or regional specialists.

Re-loading

ABOUT 18 months ago we decided to purchase a computer with word processing capability rather than a true word processor. In our ignorance, what an inspired decision it turned out to be. Not only has it revolutionised our marketing and management strategy, it has given us the incentive to read your excellent magazine.

It occurred to me, while reading your Feedback column, that you may be able answer a problem which we are experiencing with our Ricoh printer. It is the speed with which we go through carbon ribbons. We use about one-and-a-half cassettes a day at a cost of £2.25 each. The cassette appears to be very simple and refillable, however, but to date I have not been able to find any supplier to re-load existing cassettes. Perhaps you can help?

**Alan Bosworth,
Sage Consultants,
Fleet, Hampshire.**

Zombies again

HERE are suggested modifications and improvements to the Zombies game (June issue) to allow it to run on the Pet.

The dimensions are changed to allow the board to fill the Pet screen and also to make use of the numeric keypad. To this end, the data statement was changed, as were the instructions at lines 730-750. The alterations in lines 760-790 are to leave the instructions on the screen until a key is pressed. I hope these alterations will be of use to other Pet users.

```
150 Print "†"
160 Dim B(12,20),Z(25,2),P(9),Q(9)
290 Print "†":Z1=0
340 For N2=1to20
390 For N2=2to19
400 R=20*RND(TI)
420 If R 17.90 then 480
540 X=5+int(10*RND(1))
550 Y=3+int(5*RND(1))
760 ??:?
770 ? Tab(7):$Press a key to start"
780 Get AS:If AS="" then 780
790 ?+†
940 For N2=1to20
1100 Input "Your move" A
1110 deleted
1600 Input "Another game" AS
1610 deleted
```

I missed these lines out of order:

```
200 For N1=1 to 9
230 Data -1,1,0,-1,1,1,-1,0,0,0,1,0,-1,-1,0,-1,1,-1
730 ? "789"
740 ? "4X6"
750 ? "123"
```

If the 5 key is pressed, the X stays still but the Zombies move. The ? is short for PRINT. The † is for clear screen. The ‡ is reverse on.

I hope these alterations are of interest.

**Colin Spencer,
London, NW7.**

Superboard aids

FOLLOWING the Superboard Review (June issue), may I just clear up a few points?

We fit a free 5V modulator to all our boards and thus maintain the single supply parameters.

The magnitude of numbers handled by the Basic is up to $\pm 10^{28}$, but remember it is a 6½ digit Basic so it sounds off at the 6th digit. It is easy, however, by programming to recover more information and produce results accurate to 1 part in 10^9 or no errors up to 999,999.99.

Although there are few commands in the machine code monitor, if you wish to work in machine code there are available on cassettes an extremely versatile Extended Monitor and also an Assembler/Editor. A disassembler is also included.

None of our customers has as far as I know, had to reduce the terminal width (characters per line) to fewer than the normal 24. If you have to do so and require to SAVE the programs on cassette, the following will allow you to do so without error:

```
POKE 15,72      return.
SAVE            return.
LIST           return.
```

This will also re-set your terminal width to 24; but you can re-set it to 23 by POKE 15, 23. No alterations are necessary on playback.

We also provide a listing of a machine code program which enables machine code programs to be dumped to tape in auto load format and/or displays blocks of memory on screen. In addition, we have a program which moves blocks of memory, while in Basic we have a re-number program, not yet converted to machine code.

Lastly, while you found that the Superboard performance in benchmark tests was very fast, a simple modification will run the processor at 2MHz instead of 1MHz, thus doubling the speed to make it almost the fastest home computer on the market — my demonstration Superboard runs happily at 2MHz with the standard 550ns memories, although I had to "select" them.

**P. S. Fawthrop,
Calderbrook Technical Services,
Littleborough, Lancs.**

Rotating view

YOU SEEM to have misunderstood Paul Benham's question — Astronomy, (Feedback, June). He wonders if home computers can show us the rotating perspectives and cross-section selections drawn as they are in computers shown on television.

His interests could be assisted by a rotating view of a sun/comet ellipse, as if in 3D. The answer is "no", since home computers produce their characters on the VDU as a dot formation in a definite square, which is large in area.

To obtain a line as an ellipse or circle, access is required to the line and frame scan for the cathode ray tube so that x and y waveform signals may be applied, and Lissajous figures drawn. The size and angles of the figures could be computer-controlled, a new device designed, and a program written.

With the TI 59 programmable calculator it would be truer to say that if it can almost be done on a personal computer it can certainly be done on a TI 59, but without the great display, graphics being limited to the PC 100 printer.

With the 58 or 59, Fourier transforms and functions are a simple programming procedure. Inputs are by "label" keys, complex numbers are handled with explicit ease, and the use of definite addresses for memory makes programming unlaboured. The ability to operate within a choice of degrees, radians or gradians makes life easy.

I have progressed from the Sinclair programmables, through the TI 58 to the Commodore Pet, which is a great delight, but I must admit that I was at first appalled by the careless mathematics of the home computer, compared to the delightful accuracy of the TI 58. Pet says TAN 45 = .999999999; TI 58 says 1.

**Rex Tingey,
Holywood,
Co. Down.**

Exchange

CHRIS CAIN of the Engineering Wing, RAF West Drayton, Middlesex, is interested in starting a TRS-80 software exchange. If you would like to help or contribute to it, write to him there, with a SAE, please.

Assurance

MR WITHNALL writes (July issue) lamenting the changes incorporated in the new ROMs of 32K and 16K Pets. He states specifically that Microchess 2.0 does not work with the new ROMs.

I would like to re-assure him and other Pet users that versions of all 160 Petsoft programs have been amended to run with the new ROMs. Withnall should be able to find a copy of a revised Microchess at his local computer store.

We will be happy to advise if anyone is experiencing difficulty running our programs on the new Pets, I think, however, that most users will eventually wish to upgrade to the new ROMs, which offer a number of significant advantages over the original set.

**Julián Allison
Petsoft,
Newbury, Berkshire.**

TV rental firms ready for computer market

Britain's TV rental companies are about to enter the personal computer market. The companies have for some time been offering TV sets capable of receiving Ceefax and Oracle — the BBC and ITV teletext services.

Since March, when the service was launched, they have also been offering sets capable of interfacing to the Post Office Prestel service, which allows the telephone user to access information from a large computer database for display on a TV set.

It is still very limited, and is available at the moment only in the London area.

The rental companies and the British TV manufacturers expect that more than 16,000 Prestel sets will have been delivered by the end of this year, with production running at about 1,000 sets a week.

Since a TV set capable of receiving Prestel will cost about £1,000, the rental companies expect that the majority of users initially will opt to rent rather than purchase. Rental is expected to be about £24 a month.

Over the next two years TV rental companies expect to have entered the personal computer market with units

which can be linked into the home TV and perhaps can also be connected to the Prestel service. The companies expect to rent systems not only for the home, personal and educational markets but also for business, where rapidly-changing technologies can be tested by a potential user on a weekly rental basis before buying or entering into longer-term leasing.

Big names

Since many of the TV rental companies are owned by companies which also manufacture TV sets, it could be that we will see a range of all-British personal computer systems on the market within the next year to 18 months.

That speculation is to some extent reinforced by fairly persistent rumours that both GEC and Thorn are developing personal computer systems, though neither company has made any announcements.

Philips, however, has announced that it is working on integrating its new range of viewdata sets with some of its existing computer products, in particular word processing systems.

Such a system could consist of a viewdata terminal and a

Philips 2650-based personal computer, together with a modified laser video disc for mass storage; this would probably have a capacity of about 1,000Mbytes.

This system might incorporate a facility for using tele-software, a method of transmitting programs as viewdata frames. This is being researched by at least one of the major ITV companies, in conjunction with a software house. A system of that kind might cost less than £1,500 and be on the market within the next two years.

Investment in the next three years by some of Britain's big TV companies is expected to exceed £200 million. □

Compiler for Z-80

RESEARCH MACHINES has produced an Algol compiler for Z-80 systems with CP/M, such as the Research Machines 380-Z. The Algol will run as little as 21K and one mini-floppy; it implements most of the features of Algol 60, the main exceptions in the current release being multiple assignments and own variables.

Added features include the byte arrays, logical operators, string handling, and interrupt handling — and graphics with the 380-Z.

Other attributes of the compiler noted by RML are "ease of use, speed, economic use of memory, and excellent I/O and file handling". Benchmark tests are available from Research Machines. □

Stocktaking from a briefcase

STOCKTAKING can have a new look with an all-in-one computer in a briefcase developed jointly by Data Logic and Allied Breweries.

Launched at the Microcomputer Show, the Microframe 1 is based on the Intel 8080, weighs 21lb., and can be used "by anybody who moves around" in their jobs.

It is a complete system with 4in. video display, keyboard, floppy disc drive and thermal printer, as well as applications software. Full-size display, keyboard, printer and an extra drive can be attached if necessary. The machine has 16K RAM, expandable to 32K.

Allied Breweries controls more than 2,000 public houses throughout Britain and specified the applications software, which is written in PL/M. The machine will be used by the 120 stocktakers of the brewery, who visit the managed pubs to monitor the sale of beer, wines, spirits and tobacco.

It means that a good deal of paperwork will be eliminated, stocktaking results will be available much quicker, and it will be "a great assistance in overcoming the problem of mis-stocktaking", says Richard Havery of Allied Breweries.

Data Logic is looking at other applications for the Microframe, such as order processing, site management and point-of-sale. A typical cost per unit of the machine will be around £3,000 for bulk orders. It is expected to be available for the commercial market at the end of the year. □

Microframe.



U.S.-Japan link for hand-held unit

THE first hand-held personal computer has been introduced in a joint venture between Matsushita Electric of Japan and Friends/Amis of the U.S. The project "will give birth to an entirely-new field of consumer electronics", according to a spokesman for the two companies.

The key to the system is

Industry growth

IT is estimated that in 1978 some 250,000 personal computers were sold, mainly in the U.S. but with significant proportions in Europe and Japan, the total market value being about £175 million.

The industry is expected to grow at a phenomenal rate and sales for the first four months of this year show that estimated worldwide sales of 500,000 systems, valued at more than £300 million, is not over-optimistic.

If growth rates are maintained, there could be a world market for personal computers worth more than £3,000 million by the mid-1980s, despite the fact that unit prices will continue to fall.

If the trend is correct and there are, of course, numerous factors which could restrict growth, the size of the market in volume terms is enormous, and we could possibly see one in every two households owning or renting a personal computer. □

AMI memory, which holds twice the amount of data of conventional systems in tiny, interchangeable capsules. Through pre-programmed and self-programmable memory capsules, people will be able to carry information on any area of science, business, language, education or the arts in their pockets.

Matsushita Electric and Friends/Amis will develop the hardware and software jointly. The former will manufacture and sell the product under its own label, as well as its private brand names — Panasonic, Technics and National. It will grant sub-licences to other manufacturers and both companies will develop new applications for the system by integrating their technology and software.

Translator

Friends/Amis is a Californian-based microcomputer software systems company which developed the system. It introduced the new technology earlier this year with a language translator.

The new system will be used in applications such as learning systems, a new generation of portable computers for home or business use, electronic dictation equipment, games, and an unlimited range of information systems, from first aid to recipes.

Export sales are planned for next year. A price has not been decided. □



Apex keyboard.

Micro keyboard

APEX MICROSYSTEMS has developed a miniature alphanumeric keyboard suited particularly to small micro-computers.

Designated the MKB.01, it measures 165 × 93 × 14mm and it will be useful for applications where size is important, such as portable or mobile data entry systems, or as an alternative to conventional keyboards in small systems.

It may offer a satisfactory alternative to the 8K Pet keyboard, which is difficult to use.

It is an 8-bit ASCII tri-mode keyboard, in ASR33 format, and uses MOS technology. The unit uses high-reliability tactile response keyswitches with 12.5mm spaced centres. All outputs are DTL/TTL/MOS compatible,

so the keyboard can be interfaced directly to most electronic systems.

There are two uncommitted switches brought out to the connector to enable functions such as repeat and shift-lock to be implemented. It also provides a two-key rollover to ensure the minimum of operational errors.

A choice of eight key colours is available and, for stand-alone applications, a case and AC and DC power supply interfaces and DC packs. You can implement specialist codes such as Selectric by changing the ROM.

The MKB.01 is available at a one-off price of £55 plus 80p post and packing, plus VAT. If you order more than four, it will work out slightly cheaper. Apex can be contacted on (0443) 225578. □

Screen problem for TI 99/4

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS has launched its personal computer amid a row with the U.S. Federal Communications Commission which will not allow the semiconductor giant to sell the machine in the States without a TV screen.

The long-awaited TI 99/4 was to cost around \$300 to \$500 until the company was forced to change its plans as the FCC prevented it selling the computer without a TV screen — because the design required a radio frequency

generator to enable it to be connected to an ordinary TV.

The machine is expected to be available in the U.K. before the end of the year and users will need a separate monitor, unless they have a screen modified to receive PTSC input. It is hoped that later the 99/4 will be fitted with PAL circuitry to enable users to plug it into ordinary U.K. sets.

The European version of the 99/4 consists of a console with 16K RAM (non-

expandable) sound generator, full colour graphics and extended Basic. It uses plug-in modules, much like the Sorcerer, which are all self-contained programs and make for much easier use.

Modules for the system will include home financial decisions, physical fitness, chess, educated eating and pre-school learning. Each module will range in price from around £15 to £45.

Accessories will include a

multi-position joystick for games, a printer, disc memory, RS232 interface and a speech synthesiser. This is designed on the same basis as the successful TI Speak & Spell learning aid and has a built-in vocabulary of 200 words.

It can be used by the home programmer to produce spoken messages and results in his programs. Future command modules will also use it. The TI 99/4 will sell in the U.K. for around £700, including VAT. □

Biproc kit with choice of two processors

A NEW kit for "those enthusiasts who are willing to use a soldering iron and wish to write programs at assembly level language" has been developed by BL Microelectronics.

This home microcomputer kit offers the choice of two processors — an 8-bit Z-80 or a 16-bit TMS9980, without the extra expense of separate RAMs, control and I/O interfaces. Either processor can be inserted in separate sockets, and each has a monitor and line-by-line micro-assembler in a 2K TMS2716 EPROM package.

The BIPROC board, as it is called, is a double-double-Eurocard size 1/16 in. thick, through-hole plated, and is solder-resistant-painted on both sides. It has been laid-out in two sections. Section B contains the TV scanning circuit and keyboard interface which can be cut off in dedicated tasks. Section A may be inserted in a double-Eurocard slot.

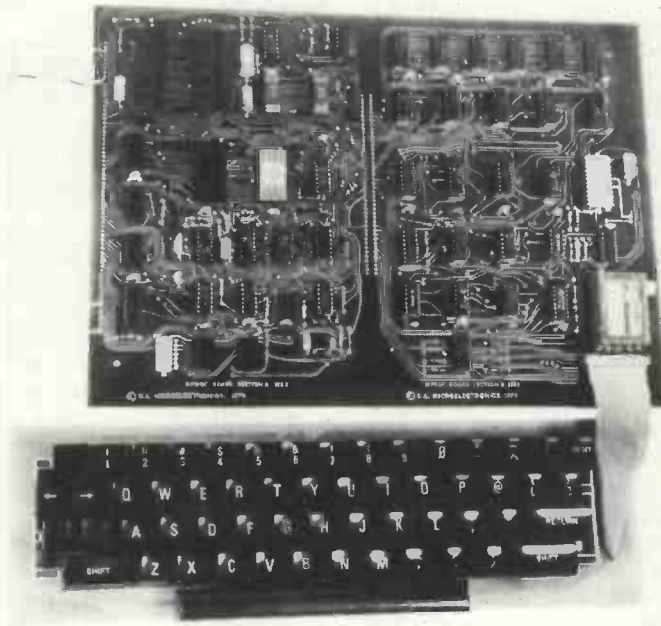
The board is fully socketed in three kits. The processor is either a Z-80 or a TMS9980. There is 1K of static RAM — about four percent of memory space is reserved for the monitor — and 4K ROM.

Interfaces include memory mapped with 1K × 6 static

RAM TV scanning circuit for generating 16 lines of 64 characters each on a domestic TV set, cassette recorder, keyboard, fully-buffered data and address bus, RS232 interface for terminals and memory-mapped parallel I/O lines.

Software includes memory map, prominent cursor display and six commands which can be invoked via the keyboard. Documentation for the system is in the form of a users' manual with circuit diagram, parts

Biproc 8/16-bit mini



lists, assembly and operating instructions. Some programming examples are included.

The Biproc kit 1, with Z-80 only, costs £194; kit 2, with TMS9980 only, costs £199; and kit 3, with both processors, costs £225. Two × 40-way DIL multiple insertion sockets are £7 extra. Contact BL Microelectronics, 1 Willow Way, Loudwater, Bucks (0454) 26670, for more details. □

New Apple software

APPLE II and ITT 2020 users will be pleased to hear that Computech has launched a new range of low-cost business software for those machines.

Called Computaccount, the series comprises sales, purchase and general ledger, payroll and stock control. The packages are designed to run on 32K RAM, one or more disc drives, printer with serial or parallel interface, domestic TV or video monitor and Applesoft in ROM.

A version to run with Applesoft in RAM, needing 48K, is also available. A typical cost of each package is £295 and support and enhancements will be available to existing users at discount prices.

"Particular advantages", says Computech, "arising from this approach mean that the user can define his own parameters, on-demand data display and a random file structure which means that the fast response of the system is not degraded as the volume of data increases."

The packages have comprehensive manuals dealing with everything from the elements of double-entry book-keeping through to notes for advanced users on system expansion. Computaccount packages are available from ITT and Apple dealers. □

Sorcerer group

ANOTHER Sorcerer users' group, Exidy Sorcerer Users' Group (U.K.), is a British offshoot of the U.S. user group.

It aims at communication between owners, to offer software tips and to keep you informed of the latest software and hardware developments. There will be a monthly newsletter, based on the information of the U.S. group and the fee will be £5 per annum. The only stipulation for joining is that you must own a Sorcerer.

Contact is Andy Marshall, Micro44, 44 Arthurs Bridge Road, Woking, GU21 4NT. Tel: (04862) 66084/72650. □

Bubbling at Intel Fair

INTEL FAIR again provided a platform for several products, including bubble memory, CIS-Cobol and Multi-ICE.

The world's first one-megabit bubble memory was there, with its entourage of supporting chips attracting the most attention at the exhibition. It is called the 7110 and is a product of Intel Magnetics, the company set up by Intel to accommodate three personnel from Hewlett-Packard's bubble memory development team. They had the knowhow and Intel had the money to produce the product.

Intel's Vendor Supplied Products. CIS-Cobol, a Micro-Focus production, will run on

the 8080/8085 processors and is a direct descendant of the well-liked version from the software house. It runs under the ISIS operating system on an 8080/8085 processor configured with 64KB memory and single-density floppy discs.

It features relative and indexed file handling, facilities for inter-program communication and library features. For interactive operation through a VDU, there are facilities for field formatting, protected areas and dynamic file-handling which allows file names to be assigned at run-time.

Multi-ICE, a software package for debugging dual pro-

cessor configurations, was also given an airing. It is based on ICE — In-circuit Emulator — which helps to alleviate the problem of tracking where exactly an error has occurred on a processor, but allows two such emulator modules to run on a single Intellec system simultaneously.

Intel sees it being used in the first place on systems using two 8085A processors, or an 8085A and a single-chip processor from the 8049 family.

Intel Fair attracted some 800 visitors, and is turning into one of the company's most important annual events. As usual it was well supported by seminars and a healthy number of exhibits. □

RAIR

- High speed 8085 microprocessor ●
- Priority interrupts and DMA ●
- 64K bytes of RAM memory ●
- Transparent ROM bootstrap loader ●
- Integral dual minifloppy disks ●
- Programmable serial I/O interfaces ●
- Advanced floppy disk operating system ●
- Serial and random file processing ●
- Macro assembler with symbolic debugging ●
- Extended BASIC interpreter ●
- Relocating FORTRAN IV compiler ●
- ANS 74 COBOL compiler ●
- Comprehensive range of peripherals ●
- UK wide on-site maintenance ●
- Quantity and OEM discounts ●
- Leasing and rental facilities ●

New features

- Double sided/density disks (260K bytes/drive) ●
- High speed hardware arithmetic unit ●
- Multi-user operating system support ●
- Dual-drive add-on (over 1M byte on-line) ●



BLACK BOX MICROCOMPUTER

30-32 NEAL STREET COVENT GARDEN LONDON WC2H 9PS TELEPHONE 01-836 4663

● Circle No. 168

Keen Computers take you into the future with the Apple II



Apple II 16K	830.00
Additional 16K Ram	90.00
Applesoft Rom	110.00
RS232 Card	110.00
Colour Card	90.00
Disk Drive and Controller	425.00
Disk Drive W/Ot Controller	375.00
Speech Lab	140.00
Apple Clock	165.00
Printers from	350.00

Software Packages are available for most business applications. A few are:-
Word Processor, Information Retrieval, Incomplete Records Accounting, Sales Ledger, Order Entry Invoicing, Management Information, and a variety of Statistical Packages, Games, and others.

Keen Computers
5b The Poultry
Nottingham
Tel: 0602 583254
Telex 37297

Prices subject to change without notice.

● Circle No. 169

Compact for business

THE POWERHOUSE 2 is a compact, all-in-one microcomputer and it reaches the market in various forms, but all housed in the same cabinet. It probably will draw comparisons with computers like the Commodore Pet, Tandy TRS-80, Apple and the rest.

THE VERSION delivered for review, which was a pre-production model, has 32K bytes of RAM, 14K of Basic in EPROM, a mini-cassette drive and disc operating system (DOS) in EPROM.

Common to the range is a 5in. CRT VDU screen, a 58-key alphanumeric keyboard in the normal typewriter layout for most keys, Z-80 cpu and basic operating system (BOS) or monitor in EPROM. All is packaged in a neat, compact housing which stands on an area about the size of this magazine opened out, and around only 7in. high.

Setting-up

Because the Powerhouse 2 is a complete packaged system, it needs only to be plugged into the mains to be powered-up.

In use

On connecting the mains lead, the computer is powered-up by the mains on/off switch at the back of the unit. Our review model had an intermittent power supply problem which manifested itself on initial power-on — it would power-off momentarily and collapse the screen display.

There was not enough time to trace the fault, but as it happened only on powering-on and eventually it would settle, it did not affect the working of the computer once it has stabilised itself.

Because of this power problem, however, I could not determine whether the Powerhouse 2 does a power-on re-set as it sometimes is ready in monitor, and sometimes is not. Nevertheless, it is a simple matter to press the Re-set key — well, not so simple, it is actually Shift re-set. Although this seems a little awkward it may be intentional. Since the Re-set key is the top left-hand corner key on the keyboard it would be very easy to mis-hit it and possibly lose valuable work, hence, perhaps, the two-key re-set.

The keyboard has 58 keys of which the top row are special function keys and the next four rows have the alphanumerics in the normal typewriter QWERTY layout. Some of the punctuation marks are found in different places and the two shift keys are in a row on either side of the space bar.

The "return" or "enter" key is where the right-hand shift key is normally found; irritatingly, it is also of the same size as the other keys, so it is not convenient to hit.

All these unconventional positions are minor irritations, to which one can accustom, but why have a conventional keyboard layout which is only very slightly unconventional and shows no obvious ergonomic advantages over the standard form?

The keys have a low profile and although they can be hit positively, they lack some feel. Sometimes, on repeating a character quickly, the key does not register the second hit. Having said that, it is still workable and nowhere as bad as, say, the original Pet keyboard.

The CRT screen is of high quality, displaying 16 lines of 64 characters to the row. It is fixed to the keyboard and at the

by Vincent Tseng

working distance it appeared to be about the correct size, clarity and contrast despite the fact that a 5in. diagonal screen sounds small. The brightness can be adjusted by a control at the back of the unit.

The character set displayed was small, 64 characters with upper-case only, from ASC2 Z0 to 5F hex inclusive. There are also flashing versions of the same set of characters defined by A0 to FF hex and a clear screen control character.

Built-in with the unit was a mini-cassette drive for mass storage. This is not

the Philips audio mini-cassette — as for dictating machines — but a digital cassette drive using a certified digital cassette. All the cassette controls are internal so there are no play, record or re-wind buttons.

Monitor

The firmware monitor is in 3K of EPROM which Powerhouse calls BOS or basic operating system. It is to this that the computer is initialised when the (shift) re-set button is pressed. The prompt symbol is an asterisk * followed by the cursor which shows the current position on the screen by an underline.

The usual machine code monitor commands are found, such as memory display "D", change memory location "I", display registers "R", jump to location and start execution "J". There are also some useful commands such as fill memory "F", between two addresses with any user-defined byte pattern and a RAM confidence test between limits of address by "Q".

There are no break points or even hints on how to set them up — e.g., using one of the restraint instructions; also the monitor lacks the single-step facility. This is very unsatisfactory, as the user does not have any convenient facilities to test and debug program.

(continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Another annoying feature is that to enter or terminate a command line, the monitor uses the full-stop key which is situated next to the enter key. Since the other "software systems" on the Powerhouse 2 all use the enter key for termination, it is all too easy to lapse and use this key for the monitor as well; then the monitor shows 'error' by a flashing "<" sign and there is no recovery of that last command line.

The user has to re-enter the whole line again, this time remembering to use the full-stop key. So why have the two methods of working, as again there is no advantage in using the full stop?

Basic

When the DOS key on the top row is hit while the system is in the monitor (BOS) a jump into Basic is made. The Basic is the North Star version 6 in 14K of EPROM and has a useful set of instructions, including many string-handling functions. The functions available are comparable to those in the 8K microsoft Basic, as on the Superboard 2. The range and precision calculation is, however, higher, since the Powerhouse 2 Basic can go into exponential notation — like scientific calculators.

It is good that there is a command to edit a line defined by line number. The editing commands are primitive, using

control keys, but useful. It certainly is far better than not having an edit facility. The now "standard" (by default) eight benchmark programs show that this version of Basic is not particularly fast, but is in the same region as the Pet and Apple Applesoft Extended Basic.

It is very peculiar that, though the Basic is in EPROM, when it is called-up the whole interpreter is loaded into RAM and occupies 15K worth of RAM area (from 2000 to 5BFF Hex). Therefore, the 32K machine becomes an 18K machine — what a waste, when the Basic interpreter is already in memory.

Having written a program and wishing to save it, one uses the Basic "SAVE" command but the system returns an error as the named file has not yet been

Distributor

Powerhouse Microprocessors Ltd
5-7 Alexander Road,
Hemel Hempstead,
Herts HP2 5BS 0442 48422

defined, which leads conveniently into the Disk Operating System.

The Disc Operating System, like the Basic, is by North Star. The DOS allows the creation and storage of files by name and type on floppy discs or cassette tape, but the method of operation is somewhat primitive. For instance, to save a file from Basic, the user needs to drop into DOS

first, and call up the "CR" for create command and specify the length of the file in numbers of 256-byte blocks — how many people know the number of bytes needed to store a Basic program?

Then the file type has to be specified by using "TY" — "0" for default pure machine code/data; "1" for machine code with a jump start address; "Z" for Basic programs and "3" for Basic data.

There are good points, too, like "L1" for listing-out all the files created so far; some files could have been created but not filled, and there are no indications of the file being empty.

Also there is a "CO" for compact, an instruction which, as the name implies, compacts the files stored, i.e. tidies them up, to create more spare storage space; this is especially useful when files have been deleted and holes have been left behind.

Those readers who have been paying attention will have noticed that floppy discs were not included with the review system. Does this mean the reviewer relied on the manuals for all this? The answer is no. This is a really excellent point about the Powerhouse 2 — the disc operating system is one and the same as the cassette operating system.

The two are identical in all operational commands. Naturally, only the access speeds are different. This means a user can upgrade from cassettes to floppies

ROBOX LTD

FOR PET IN SCOTLAND

We stock the famous
PETSOFTE SOFTWARE SUPERMARKET

* ALL THIS AND MORE FROM ROBOX *

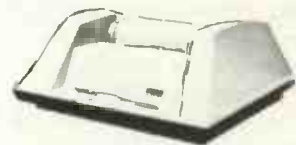
Peripherals, field service and software consultancy
service available

We supply ex-stock the ANADDEX DP8000



ROBOX, Scottish Agents for Kingston Computers
Interfaces
Floppy discs
Memory expansion
Bus connectors

ROBOX, Agents for CBM, Texas, Hewlett Packard
and Casio range of calculators
Full range in stock



Dealer enquiries welcome

ALL THIS FROM ROBOX.COME AND SEE US.

KIRKINTILLOCH: 84 TOWNHEAD 041-776 4388/1253

GLASGOW: ANDERSON SHOPPING CENTRE

ABERDEEN.

ROBOX LTD

● Circle No. 170

and still work the same way. Or he can use the system away from his base on cassettes instead of floppies. I do not, however, know if a system can have both floppies and cassettes working together so that files can be transferred from one to another. It would be a pity if it did not, because some of the advantages cited would not apply.

This, however, could be a simple matter of re-numbering the drives, so that, say, one of the "floppy drives" is the built-in cassette.

Other points

Basic and DOS use a different stack area to the monitor (BOS). This means that different stack pointers are initialised which can be dangerous to your software when returning into the monitor via a jump. The machine program can have unpredictable results, since the stack pointer now points at a different area. This is not very satisfactory. Also, since Basic dumps itself into RAM area 2000 — 5BFF Hex and as the DOS is called via Basic it is hard luck if you put in a 14K program in machine code starting at Z000 Hex and want to store it on cassette. The first really safe free address is 5C00 Hex and the user RAM in our version stretched to 9BFF Hex.

A few words about electrical safety.

The test model was a pre-production version but it had a few potentially-dangerous faults, such as a wide ventilation grill on top of the unit with no protective mesh, so that fairly large objects could be dropped into the high-voltage spots. The plastic case top cover is fixed only by a lip and notch at the front and two self-tapping screws at the back which go straight into the bottom plastic base.

This arrangement does not look particularly robust. Once the cover is removed, the mains cable leading to both the on/off switch and the fuse is very exposed. To be fair to the company, these problems have already been noted and the faults should be corrected in the production versions.

The keyboard is not encased. What appears to be a case board is the PCB on which the keys are mounted, painted white, and again fixed in by self-tapping screws to the case.

Documentation

As this was a pre-production model it had pre-production documentation. The manual (pre-proof read) deals heavily with the hardware description but all the operating instructions are described, if somewhat briefly. The chapters on the different parts, however, appear to be

derived from different sources. A list of usable subroutines in the firmware is given with the starting address. This is useful, but some programming examples would have been more useful. The distributor says that "the appearance, layout and content of the final version will be much improved".

Conclusions

- The major attraction of this system is its compact and neat packaging. The casing could be made more robust.

- Further external expansion is via a parallel interface but not to standard bus. There is an RS232 (or V24) serial interface, so that the Powerhouse could be used as an intelligent terminal.

- There are no particularly outstanding features, except perhaps the use of the same operations for both disc and cassette. There are some shortcomings, of which the worst is the Basic dumping itself into 15K of RAM — but what system is perfect?

- Value for money cannot be judged, because no price has been fixed, but the use of certified digital cassettes cannot be cheap. Although it is claimed not to be aimed at the amateur market, comparisons will be made and so competition from those quarters cannot be ignored. □

Practical Computing evaluation

	Yes/No N/A	1	2	3	4	5		Yes/No N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of construction (where applicable)	NA						Lower power consumption				●		
Quality of documentation				●			Assembly language	M/C code					
Can handle 32K of memory	Y						Basic language				●		
Quality of video monitor (consider resolution and screen size)					●		Other languages	N					
SS-50 Bus	N						Compatibility with other systems		●				
S-100 Bus	N						Appearance						●
Sockets for chips							Portability					●	
Numeric, calculator-type pad on keyboard	N						No. of software applications packages available		●				
Large amount of removable memory, randomly accessible	N						Hobby use				●		
Cassette tape recorder capability: Own	N						Business use			●			
Built-in recorder	Y						Educational use			●			
Floppy disc capability	Y						Ability to add printer(s)	Y					
Communications capability (can talk to other computers)	Y						Ability to add discs	Y					
Speed of instruction cycle	2.5MHz						Ability to add other manufacturers' plug-in memory		●				
Ease of expansion			●										

Ratings
1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = average; 4 = good; 5 = excellent. N/A = not applicable.

AS THE COST of chips continues to fall, the number of low-cost microcomputers available appears to rise in inverse proportion, and one recent addition to the market is the Acorn microcomputer.

It is a two-board unpackaged system from a company called, somewhat confusingly, Acorn Computer, for £81 assembled and £70 in kit form. The Acorn also requires a separate 5V power supply before it will blink into life, as do many other low-cost computers.

In common with Apple, Pet, Kim and Aim-65 the Acorn uses the 6502 processor from MOS Technology. It is capable of addressing up to 65K of memory if all address lines are implemented on the processor board.

The Acorn, in fact, has just over 1K of RAM on the processor board. Additional RAM can be added using an expander board, together with one or more 8K memory boards when they become available.

The two Acorn circuit boards are mounted one above the other and are connected by a 20-way cable. The lower board, which is also available separately

Continuing our reviews of single-board computers, John Bennett looks at the neatly-made Acorn.

as an industrial controller board, contains the CPU, 1K RAM, a 16-way RAM I/O chip used by the keyboard, the monitor RAMs and address decoding circuitry. Sockets for an additional RAM I/O and 2K of EPROM are also included.

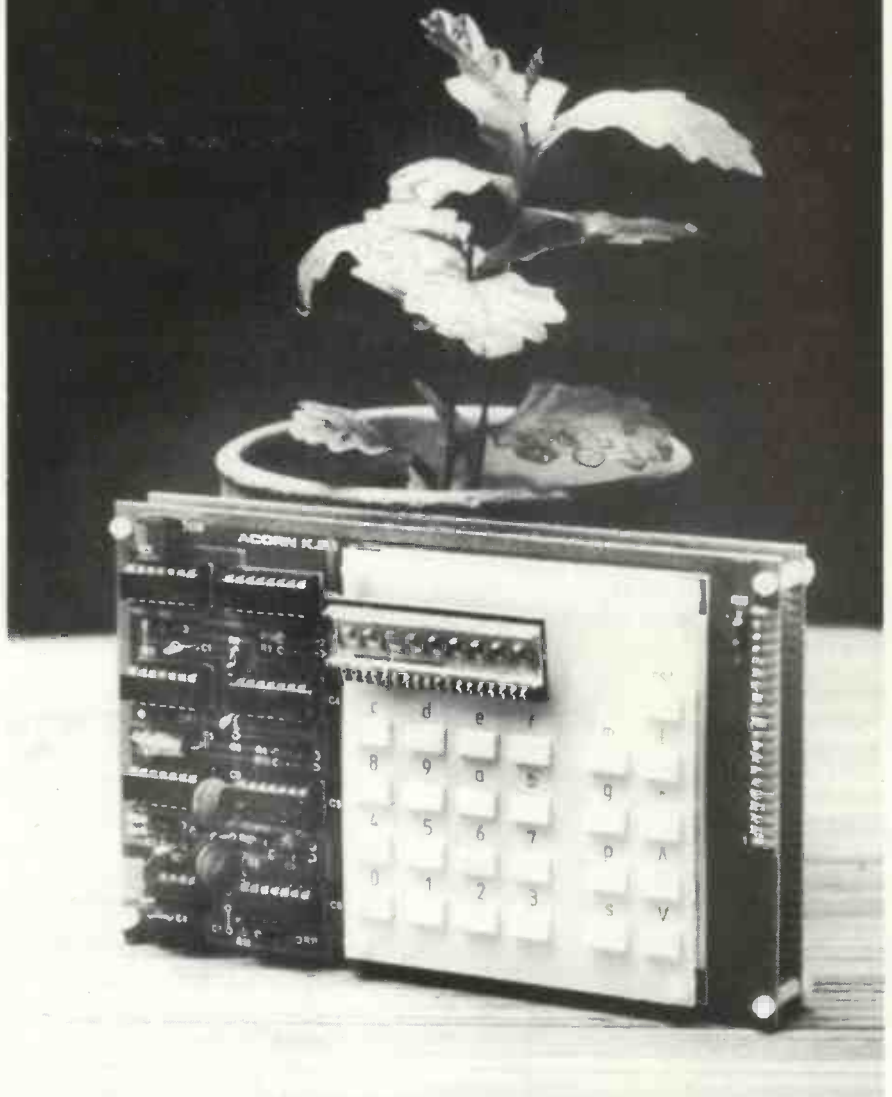
Three switches may be added to the board to generate RESET, Non Maskable Interrupt (NMI), and Interrupt Requests (IRQ) signals, or additional devices may be daisy-chained on to the board when more than one device which generates interrupts — or re-sets — is to be connected.

The re-set switch is duplicated on the upper board since the switches are hidden when the boards are mounted together. The upper board also contains a 25-key Hex keyboard, an eight-digit display, and a CUTS cassette interface.

Our review system was delivered already assembled so it is not possible to comment on ease of assembly. All chips are socketed, however, and their positions are marked clearly on both boards, so there should be few problems with chips being orientated incorrectly. Additionally, the circuit boards are coated in solder mask to prevent solder splashes from sticking to the tracks.

Assembly instructions are detailed in a separate manual, which contains a parts identification list and some useful hints on soldering technique, as well as instructions on assembly. A simple power-supply circuit is included for those who

From little Acorns



The little Acorn computer is one of the neatest we have seen. It is arranged on two bolt-together boards. Notice the calculator-style display and the well-laid-out keyboard. The object in the background was built by Mother Nature Systems.

would like to build their own, together with details on the methods of configuring the available memory.

Our manual was rather flimsy, consisting of photocopied pages stapled together. Presumably a printed version similar to the programming manual is in preparation. As the cost of an assembled Acorn is £10 more than the kit it may well be simpler, unless of course you are an electronics buff, to buy a ready-built Acorn, and avoid those anxious moments before first switch-on.

The Acorn came to life as soon as power was applied, displaying eight dots on its LED display which signifies that all

is well and a monitor command may be entered. The keyboard has 16 Hex keys — 0-9, A-F — and 9 command keys labelled RST, M, G, R, P, ↑, ↓, L, S.

The Re-set key initialises the processor to a known state and is often used to recover control from a program which is in a loop. The memory key M allows the contents of different memory locations to be examined and altered, while the ↑ and ↓ keys allow the next or previous addresses to be examined without entering a physical address.

Entering M,0,0,3,0,k,A,D,↑ — where k is any command key — causes the contents of 0030 to be displayed and then

replaced by AD. The k and ↑ terminate the two phases of the memory command. The first phase allows the contents of a location to be examined and pressing ↑ or ↓ allows the next or previous location to be accessed.

Entering a hex character moves the value into the least significant digit of the current location, the contents of which becomes the most significant digit. This is repeated until a command key is pressed. The command is then executed as in the example where the contents 0031 would be displayed.

The load (L) and store (S) keys are used by the integral cassette interface. They permit the contents of contiguous sections of memory to be saved to and re-loaded from tape by writing the start and end addresses to tape prior to the contents of the memory block.

Breakpoint

A breakpoint may be inserted into a program at a specific location by pressing the P key so that the program may be debugged by examining registers and memory locations. Pressing the R key re-starts the program.

Programs are executed by using the GO (G) key, entering the start address, and pressing a further command key.

Each command causes a different letter to appear in the mode portion of the display

so that it is possible to tell which command is in use. The M key, for instance, causes an A (for memory Alter) to be displayed.

A	01030	AD	display format
Mode	address	data	

An added refinement of the Memory and Go commands is that they remember the last address used, so that it is not necessary to keep re-entering the start address of a program, or a specific memory address. This is possible because the monitor reserves locations in memory for the addresses. The other locations used by the monitor, together with a monitor listing, are detailed in the system manual.

That contains a wealth of information about the system and its use, including a helpful glossary of terms encountered in the manual. As with many low-cost manuals, it suffers from a lack of editing. In fact, it probably attempts too much in the space available, which results in some portions being very readable while others appear to gloss over the finer points. The hardware sections are in parts particularly vague. Perhaps purchasers are expected to be interested in software or hardware, but not both.

The manual is divided into two parts. Part one deals with use of the system, while part two contains a selection of use-

ful programs, including games and utility routines. A monitor listing is included in part one. The monitor, incidentally, includes several subroutines which may be used in other programs — for instance to put characters on to the display.

Part one also contains chapters on the binary number system, using tapes and breakpoints, the Acorn hardware, and three chapters on the use of the system and its commands, and the internal operations of the 6502. Those three chapters provide a clear indication of how to program the system by means of an example which increases in complexity as the chapters develop.

Resemblance

One possible improvement to the manual would be to devote it entirely to software and to develop the construction documents into a hardware manual.

This would in all likelihood push up the cost of what is at present a competitively-priced and well-designed, expandable system.

The Acorn manual bears a passing resemblance in its general layout to that from another Cambridge-based systems supplier, Science of Cambridge, which sells the Mk 14 kit. The Acorn, though, is slightly more upmarket, offering greater expansion capability, an integral cassette interface, and more monitor commands. [2]

Printers

Anadex DP-8000

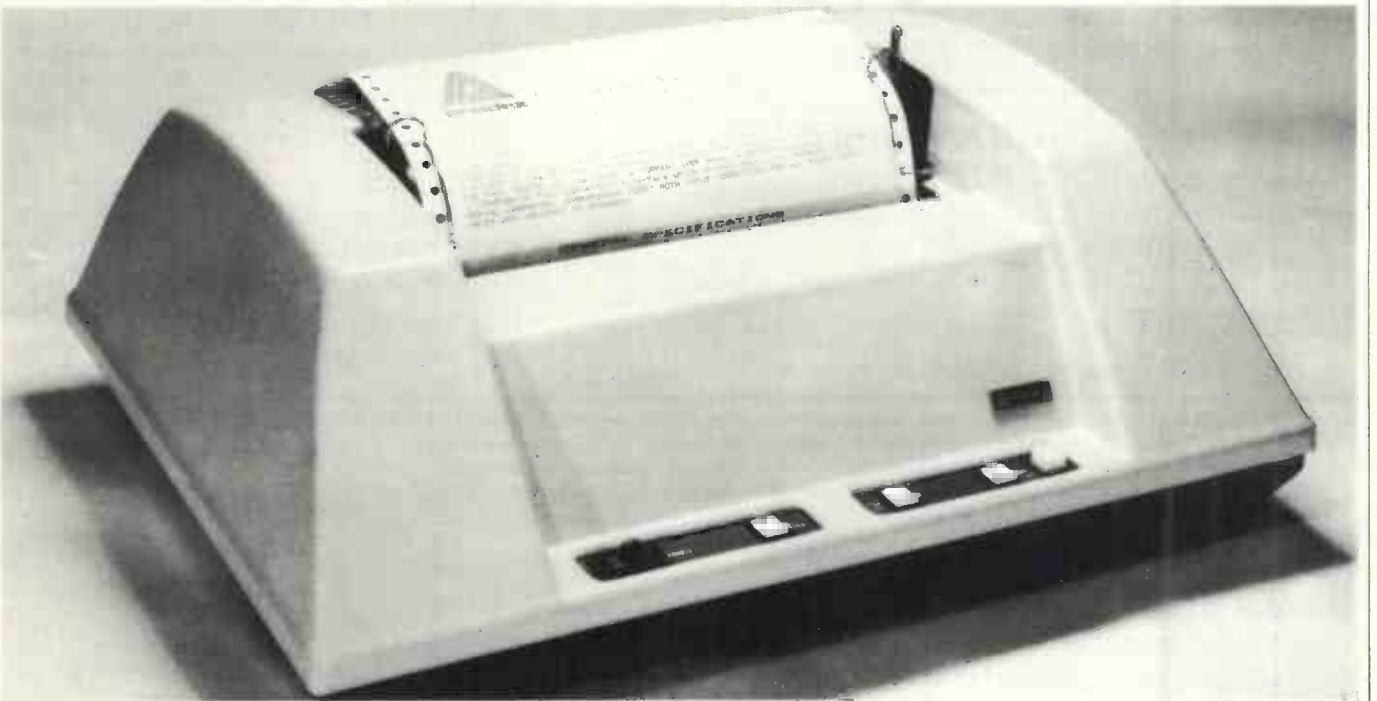
WITH microcomputers now so inexpensive, a large part of the cost of buying a system is in the peripherals attached to it.

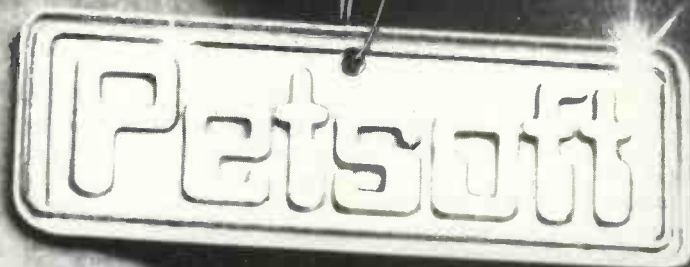
The Anadex DP-8000 is one of the low-budget printers now available.

Its capabilities show why it has been so successful. It is an 80-column, bi-directional, dot-matrix printer using a 9 × 7 dot

format and capable of working up to 112 cps (84 lines per minute).

It has sprocket-feed as standard, and other standard features include three interfaces — RS232C, 20/60mA loop and Centronics — plug-compatible synchronous/parallel input, double-
(continued on page 59)





PETSOFT 1st AGAIN!

1st **CURSOR** The
Cassette Magazine for Pet owners
Each issue contains at least five brand new programs. Plus, editorial coverage, new product announcements, reviews and programmers hints. £36 for ten issues mailed direct to you.

1st **76 PROGRAMS**
for only **£15**
Specially adapted for the PET from Adam Osborne and Associates best-selling book "Some Common Basic Programs". 76 essential mathematical and Financial programs on one cassette.

1st **PET PROGRAMMERS TOOLKIT** ... AVAILABLE OCT.
10 powerful routines that greatly enhance PET BASIC, all on a single plug-in ROM chip. New commands include Re-number, Trace, Help, Find, Unlist, Delete, Append, Auto and Dump.
£55+V.A.T. for 16 and 32k PETS
£75+V.A.T. for 8k PETS with old ROMS

1st **150**
Pet Programs
in the
new Catalogue

including: Word Processor	£25
Assembler	£25
Critical Path	£15
Micro Chess	£14
French Vocab	£10
Music	£10
Debtors Letters	£15
Backgammon	£8
Restaurant Finder	£5
Payroll	£25
Program Development Aid System	£15
Stock Control	£15
Mailing List	£15
PET BASIC Tutorial	£15
Games Pack	£7
<i>PLUS V.A.T.</i>	

1st **PETACT**
POWERFUL
Business Packages ...

PURCHASE ACCOUNTING
Handles Purchase Ledger, prepares a list of outstanding balances and prints remittance advices
SALES ACCOUNTING
All the facilities for maintenance of Sales Ledger, prepares list of outstanding balances and prints statements. Cassette systems from **£225+V.A.T.** Disk versions from **£350** includes training course.

PLUS
STOCK CONTROL
PAYROLL,
NOMINAL LEDGER
and
MANAGEMENT
INFORMATION



Petsoft programs are available on cassette or disk for all models of the **COMMODORE PET**. See them at over 200 computer stores, or contact us direct.

CREDIT CARD orders are accepted by telephone.
PET is the trademark of **COMMODORE** who recommend **PETACT Business Systems**



Petsoft Part of the **ACT**
Computer Group
Raddlyffe House, 66-68 Hagley Road,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8PF
Telephone 021-455 8585 Telex 339396

My name is

I live at

Postcode

Please rush me a copy of your new catalogue of software for the **Pet**.

● **Circle No. 171**

(continued from page 57)

width printing, 96-character set including upper- and lower-case, capability to produce top copy plus three carbons, paper entry through bottom or rear, out-of-paper detector, 1,024-character storage buffer — an extra 2,048-character storage capability may be bought for approximately £30.

This enables a computer capable of high-speed data transfer to run at that high speed, provided that characters transferred do not exceed the capacity of the buffer; or provided hand-shaking is employed, top-of-form and skip-over perforations controls, eight programmable vertical tab positions, and off-line switch which halts printing but retains data not printed in the buffer.

The serial interfaces can accept data at rates from 110 to 9,600 baud (switch-selectable) and character codes of 10 or 11 bits are accommodated. The RS232C interface also generates a Data Terminal Ready Signal to indicate when the internal buffer can accept data.

The parallel interface can accept data at a maximum closed loop rate above 1,000 characters per second and all control signals are Centronics-compatible.

Internal switches are provided to program the printer to print automatically CR/LF at the end of a line; initiate a CR/LF upon receipt of a LF, VT, FF, or CR code only; truncate lines of 80 characters. Form length is also switch-selectable. The printer uses continuous stationery, with 5in. between sprocket holes (9.5in. paper).

The ribbon is a special matrix-printer type but is inexpensive and changed easily in a few seconds.

One of the most important features is the versatility of the Anadex. It can be, and has been, attached to most micro-computers. We managed to run it with the Exidy Sorcerer which is not entirely Centronics-compatible.

As far as availability is concerned, the prospects look good. So far Anadex has tended to sell in bulk to anybody who will buy. There are now plans to sell through recognised dealers and systems houses. This should make support and maintenance more obtainable and reliable. At the moment, a private user would have to send his machine to Kode Ltd, at Calne, Wiltshire, for repair.

Heathkit

AS A RESULT of some complicated deal in the States, Heathkit now call its printer the Heath Schlumberger Data Systems Printer. To save time, we'll call it Heathkit, as we have always done.

It is an obvious comparison with the Anadex. After we had looked at the Anadex we had the chance to try one of the first Heathkits in the country. As far as performance goes, it works. Data goes in and text comes out. To be honest, to that extent there seems little difference between all the small dot matrix printers.

They are all rather noisy, certainly too noisy to try to think next to if they're doing a good deal of printing. They all print

quickly, they all produce rather horrible text — horrible, mainly because the descenders in lower-case can't be printed, and so those letters are squashed up into the line.

So, to compare these printers, one has to look to secondary features, and in comparing the Anadex to the Heathkit, we felt that:

- The Heathkit was packaged more attractively in a flat box, so that one could stand cups of tea on it.
- The Anadex produces slightly more pleasant letters — they were less 'dotty' and easier to read.
- The Heathkit was more flexible. It would print either 80 or 132 characters per line and this could be chosen by a switch on the front.
- A feature we liked about the Heathkit was that one could set the form length into the machine from its front panel.
- Heathkit was slightly faster. It would do a maximum 135 characters per second as against the 112 of the Anadex. On the other hand, it has a print-head temperature warning light on the front panel, which is on about half the time. If it lights all the time, the printer stops to let the head cool. We didn't have this trouble but it might happen.
- Heathkit took wider paper — 9.5in. as against 8in. on the Anadex — and it could be adjusted to take paper down to 2.5in. wide. The Anadex would use only the one size.
- Inside, the Anadex machinery looked rather more robust than that of the Heathkit but Heathkit says that on test a machine printed 150 million characters without a stoppage.
- The Heathkit printer has an auto-test device; press a button and it prints-out its repertoire of characters. This will at least prove that it is not the printer which is at fault.
- On the assumption that every machine breaks down sooner or later, Heathkit looked the easier to cope with. The company has a London shop where machines can be mended, a depot at Gloucester which will do the same, and because it offers kits — of this equipment as well as many others — it has a team of engineers to answer telephone enquiries.
- Because the start is made with a kit, the documentation is excellent, and we felt that with the users' manual in one hand and a telephone in the other, one might often be able to get the machine going again. A broken Anadex, on the other hand, would have to be shipped to Kode at Calne.

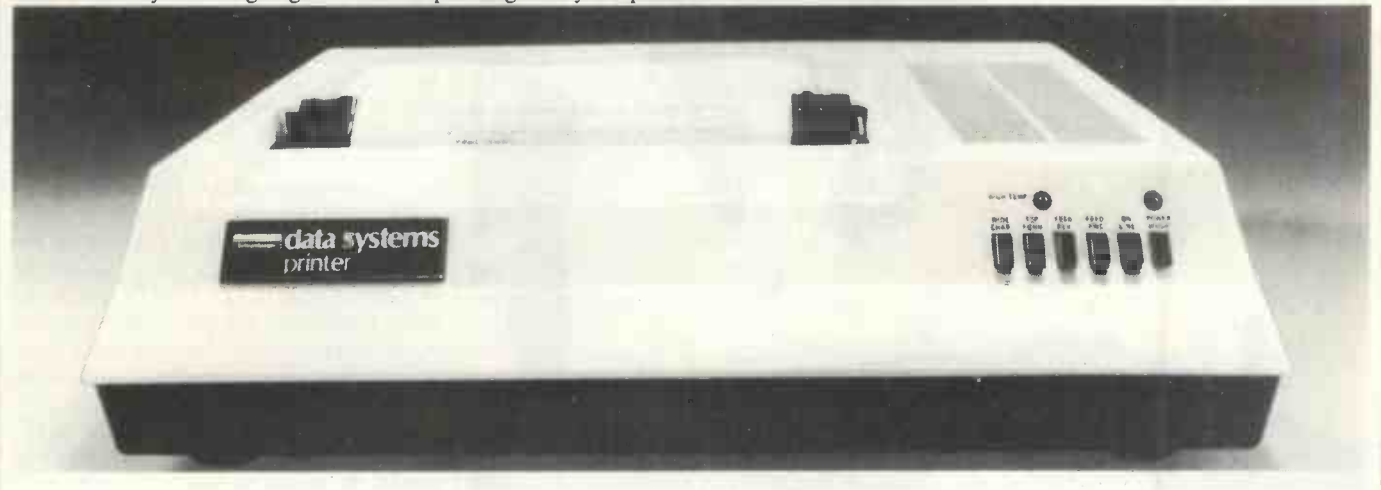
Prices

Heathkit, assembled £53, in kit form £86.28. Anadex, assembled, £75.

Conclusions

● In general, the Anadex DP-8000 looks good value for money. It is versatile and relatively fast with some neat features. The main fault is that it is noisy, which is not unusual for printers at this price. On the whole it can be recommended for most small business applications.

● We felt that the Heathkit was probably better value, though not by a vast amount. Building the kit would save £150 and since there is only one board of electronics in it, it would probably not be difficult.



Preserving the vital link of comprehension

WHAT IS Artificial Intelligence? I will give a quirky answer which should provoke thought.

Figures 1, 2 and 3 depict three superficially similar games. They are Nim — “standard” computation, given one magic principle; Chess — “semi-hard” large catalogue of principles required. Roadblock — for large versions “hard”; no principles exist.

Nim exemplifies the whole class of problems which can be solved *algorithmically*, i.e. by compact computer programs. At the other end of the scale, Roadblock stands for a class of problems of high *inherent complexity*. Except in trivially small versions, they will never be solved by any computing system.

It might seem that Nim and Roadblock between them cover the whole range but this would be wrong — the real action lies in the no-man’s-land between, a territory which I have termed “semi-hard”. In taking chess to exemplify this category, I should remark that it has not yet been *proved* to differ from Nim. A simple mathematical rule for playing perfect chess *might* still be discovered.

I do not know anyone who believes this. Note, too, that the category exemplified by chess, soluble only by non-compact programs stuffed out with large bodies of knowledge-based rules, is the

category which also contains innumerable socially-relevant problems of mental skill.

Computing technologies are about to break into this category on a large scale. The question is whether the break-in should be by AI methods modelled on the human style of cognition, or whether it should be by the brute-force

non-human representations and strategies are those which on criteria of machine efficiency show up as necessarily more cost-effective in action. They are also, pending radical advance in AI, enormously cheaper to construct.

● Hence design philosophies of the humanising kind are likely to be swept aside in the “advanced automation” rush

This issue of *Practical Computing* starts a series on Artificial Intelligence which will, in the coming months, explore the basic ideas of this field and show how they can be made to work on microcomputers. In the first article Professor Donald Michie, head of the Machine Intelligence Research Unit at Edinburgh University, and visiting Professor at Stanford University in the United States, draws some lessons from history and discusses the basic AI task — problem-solving.

technologies of nanosecond processors and trillion-bit stores.

Here are three fundamental propositions:

● No semi-hard problem can be solved feasibly by computer program, unless the program is enriched with a larger or smaller catalogue of logically-redundant heuristic information.

● Solubility can be conferred by a wide variety of such catalogues in each case but very few will do it so as to preserve human comprehensibility of the program and its operations. Unfortunately the

for economic profit.

The 1973 disaster at Edinburgh — of which more later — pre-figures in microcosm what may happen in the larger world of technology if we are not very careful.

I fear that the havoc of the first industrial revolution may be repeated on a more uncontrollable scale. To explain my reasons for this fear, let me repeat that there are two ways to solve a semi-hard problem by computer. The “brute force” way typically gives a “bigger bang for the buck”. So it will be preferred by an institution with clout.

Slow and costly

In the Artificial Intelligence way, *human* representations of problem-solving know-how are built explicitly into the program structure, thus preserving the vital link of man-machine comprehension. In the present state of the art, “knowledge engineering” is a slow and costly process. Research directed towards automating it is thus the urgent task.

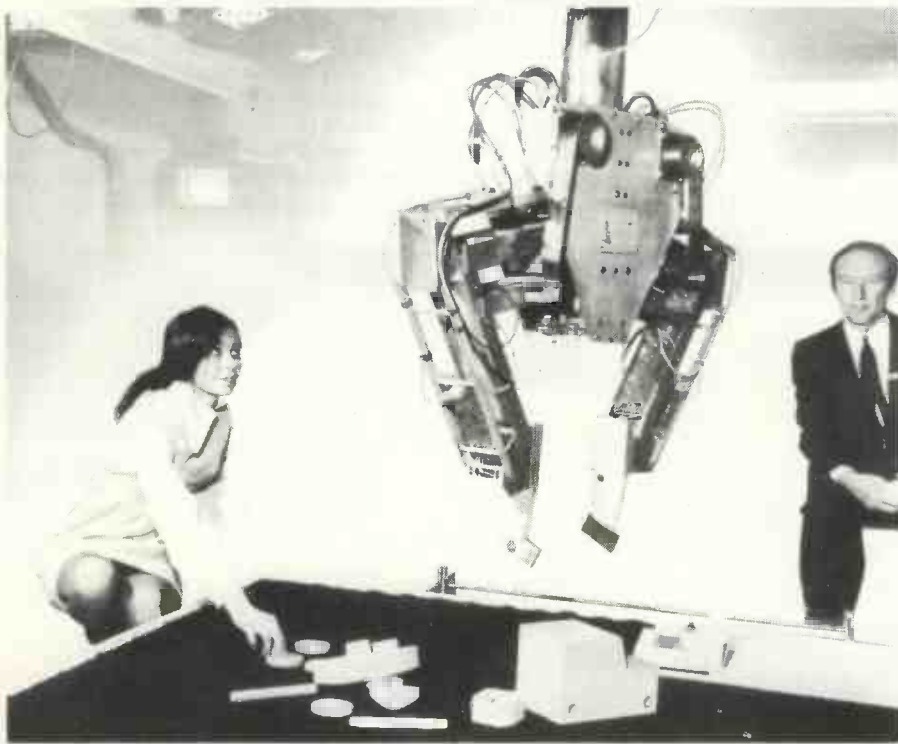
In this country, however, AI tends to be seen as, at best, an esoteric pursuit and, at worst, a shocking expense. There was a time when these snap judgments possessed more than a little truth. They have been once-and-for-all unsnapped by the microelectronics tidal wave.

My friend Ed Fredkin, Director of the celebrated MIT Project MAC, asked me recently about I. J. Good’s predicted *Ultra-Intelligent Machine*, that ultimate breakthrough when someone will exhibit for the first time a machine — to steal words from the calypso:

“Smarter than the man in every way”.

Fredkin’s point was that with computer power as cheap as water it may be a

Professor Donald Michie, assistant and robot.



hobby computerist who, in his home, first works the trick.

I don't go all the way with Fredkin but I think that significant AI work can and will be done by home computer enthusiasts, such as readers of *Practical Computing*.

Let us consider robotics. Can hobbyists build robots? In the U.S. they not only build them but race them, in the regular *Amazing Micro-mouse Maze Contest*. Yet I regard those robots as boring, bad for all concerned, and a waste of good talent. The nature of the contest, running a simple maze against the clock, encourages intense devotion to sensors, to mechanical ingenuity, to clever circuitry, to cheap software tricks — to everything, in fact, which characterises the runaway technology of the larger world outside, with nothing of the more cognitive attributes which make real mice more interesting than micro-mice.

What technical objectives would be encouraged by the more cognitive type of contest? Humanly and nationally they are not without importance. I believe that it would apply a forcing function to systems which should be to some degree *teachable* and *self-programmable*.

Problem solving

Since our computing industries are facing a worsening programmer famine, the timeliness and social relevance of such goals cannot be in doubt and I hope that the imminent announcement of a British AI contest — to be sponsored, I understand, by *Practical Computing* among other bodies — will be a sign of the reversal of an unfortunate prejudice against the discipline in this country.

The first and most drastic manifestation of this prejudice was the withdrawal in 1973 of Science Research Council support for the Edinburgh University's *Freddy* AI project. Britain's chances of leading in robotics R & D were wiped-out for the foreseeable future. Robots are not essential to the study of Artificial Intelligence but Artificial Intelligence is as essential to advanced robotics as aerodynamics is to

aero-engineering.

Still, enough of reproaches. How can computers be taught to think? How can they be made "artificially intelligent"?

The first problem to be solved in creating useful AI systems is to teach machines to solve problems by themselves. On its own, however, machine problem-solving is nothing exceptional.

Like tic-tac-toe or the "5-puzzle" sliding-block problem, the class of problem may just be too easy to be interesting. Alternatively, the problem may be *very hard indeed*, yet perfectly-executed computer solutions could be nothing but a yawn.

In chess, the defence of king and rook, against king and queen, no other pieces

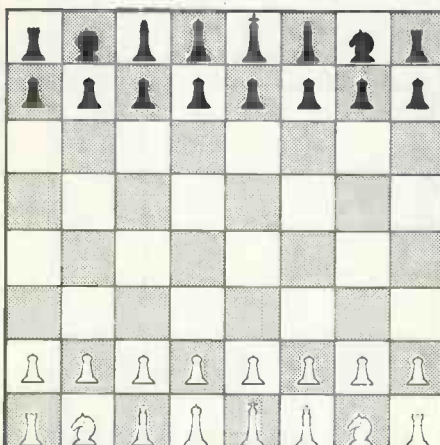


Figure 2. Chess: "A very complicated position".

being on the board, is so difficult that against Master play of the queen's side there is almost certainly no person alive who can solve it.

Moreover, for the queen's side this ending is known to be a theoretical win. So it seems hardly surprising that the task of averting defeat against Master play should be beyond human powers.

Nevertheless, this task can be accomplished by machine-stored expertise, as was demonstrated by Kenneth Thompson at the 1977 meeting of the International Federation of Information Processing in Toronto. He challenged two strong

International Masters, Hans Berliner and Lawrence Day, to demonstrate the play of the king and queen's side against a king and rook's defence conducted by his program running on a PDP-11.

Naturally, the two chess masters accepted the challenge, expecting an easy time. To the amazement of onlookers and their own deep mortification, they could make no progress. Time and again new starting positions were set up, but in the ensuing variations the Masters repeatedly lost the thread. When play was abandoned finally the program remained undefeated.

Surely, then, the computer way of solving problems in the KRQR domain must be very interesting, since it passes with flying colours a gruelling test which chess-masters would flunk. Not at all. The machine's method, however powerful in this task environment, is in itself uninteresting. The machine has memorised a crib.

The total number of legal chess positions in the king-queen-king-rook ending is about three million. So a complete tabulation is possible, in principle, giving for each position the optimal move. Thus if it is a White-to-move position — suppose that the queen's side has the white pieces — a move is entered in the table

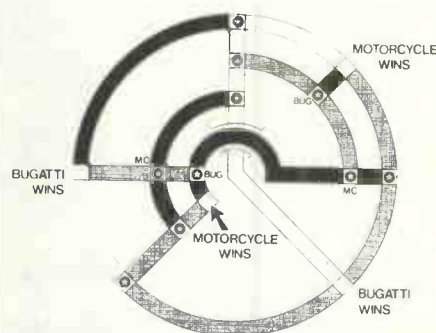


Figure 3. A small game of Roadblock. The running time of even the best program increases as the power of the number of intersections. This reflects the fact that no improvement on brute-force search is possible.

which lies along the shortest forcing path to checkmate or rook-capture.

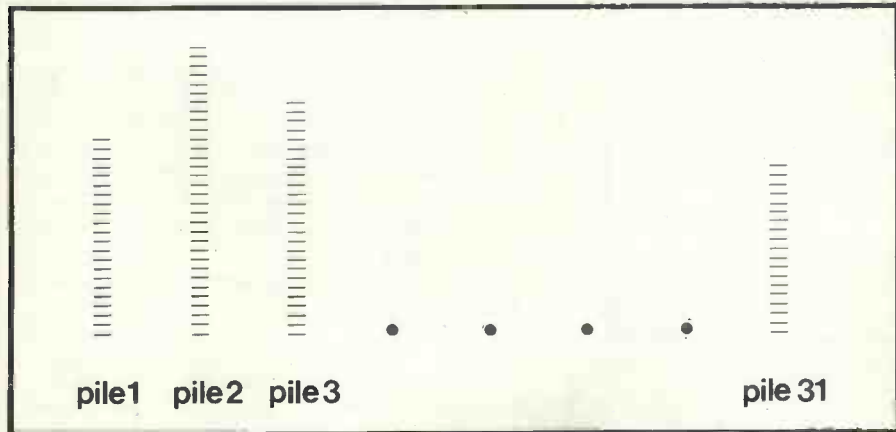
If it is a Black-to-move position, the corresponding table entry will contain a move which allows the length of the residual forcing path to be shortened by no more than one move — Black cannot do better than that against best play.

A program for White which looks up its next move in the table is guaranteed to win in at worst the fewest number of moves needed theoretically to force the win, and with any luck, if the defence makes mistakes, in a good deal fewer.

Likewise a program for Black, such as that with which International Masters Berliner and Day had to contend, is guaranteed to spin-out Black's demise by

(continued on next page)

Figure 1. A large game of Nim. There are 31 counters in each pile. Total number of possible positions is similar to chess.



(continued from previous page)

the greatest amount possible. If White makes frequent small errors, or infrequent large ones, then the table-stored strategy for Black may survive indefinitely, as the two hapless chess-masters discovered. The longest optimal path consists of 16 moves by White and 15 Black replies.

In remarking that perfectly-executed computer solutions of very hard problems can be nothing but a yawn, I do not imply that what happened at Toronto was uninteresting. On the contrary, it was a grip-

ping, even disturbing, experience for all present but the interesting phenomenon was not the machine's behaviour, but the *imperfection of Master performance*.

This leads to intriguing questions about its causes, which centre on the drastic resources limitations of the human brain relative to modern computing equipment. The expert practitioner is obliged to package his knowledge into a set of simplifying rules which he can carry in his head, even at the cost of being let down by his rules from time to time.

Unlike the final stored look-up table,

Figure 4. Tabulation of all legal Noughts-and-Crosses positions which have been won by Nought, the opening player. D, E and M correspond to "diagonal", "edge", and "middle" winning patterns.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Totals	
D51											6	
E51											7	
M51											6	
D71												10
D72											5	
E71											9	
E72											5	
E73											9	
M71											9	
M72											5	
D91											1	
D92											1	
D93											1	
E91											1	
E92											1	
M91											1	
											77	

the process by which such tables can be computed has something to interest the reader, particularly if he has a home computer with enough store to hold a strategy table for games of non-trivial dimensions.

Let us for convenience illustrate with a trivial one, namely Noughts and Crosses, called tic-tac-toe in the States. The method of construction is applicable to all games which, like chess, checkers, Go, and five-in-a-row, are:

- two-person;
- finite — the rules ensure that play must eventually terminate;
- zero sum — what is good for one player is bad for his opponent to an exactly equal degree;
- perfect information — both players have sight of the board and the moves;
- without chance moves — no dice, random draw of cards.

The idea is to start at the end of the game and work backwards. So we must find a procedure for generating all the terminal positions systematically. For a table-based program implementing perfect play for both sides we need construct only two sub-tables, one giving winning play for Nought for all Nought-winnable positions and the other giving Cross strategy for all Cross-winnable positions. If neither Nought nor Cross finds that the current position is missing from both sub-tables, that position is not winnable by either side. The program then has a theoretical draw and must avoid selecting a losing move.

Sub-table creation

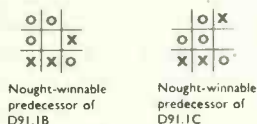
Sub-table creation will be illustrated for the case of building a winning Nought strategy. After eliminating recurrences of the same positions by mirror-imaging or rotation, the number of positions won for Nought can be grouped into 16 Noughts-only configurations, as in figure 4. From each of these, one or more positions can be constructed, according to where the crosses are placed. The corresponding numbers are shown in the right-hand column, making 77 to be stored in all.

The next task is to construct all the possible direct predecessors. They are Nought-to-move positions winnable in one move. They can be obtained by making unit deletions in each position from the three-noughts-in-a-row line. In other words, we ask "What could have been Nought's last move? Un-make it". Going back one step further we want to create all the Cross-to-move predecessors which are winnable for Nought. This is more tricky. Let us start with D91.1 as an example.

The first of the steps is straightforward, and yields



Next we try to find possible predecessors of D91.1A winnable for Nought — and draw a blank. Cross to move can plug the corner square and win. So, no table entry here. The next case, however, yields a winnable-for-Nought predecessor, and so does the last one, D91.1C.



The nought-winnable predecessors of these are generated by deletion of the "nought" which participates in both of Nought's potential winning lines, namely the top left corner in D91.1B and the centre of D91.1C. Other nought-winnable predecessors, if the backwards exploration is being done in systematic "breadth-first" fashion, will be found to have been encountered already and stored during backing-up from other terminal wins.

Proceeding in this way, the strategy-tree is grown backwards until it can be grown no more. Here, then, in essence is our table. The pre-terminal positions are the "arguments" — to use the language of schoolroom table-look-up — and the

moves are the "values", just as the number 25 entered as an argument in a table of square roots has 5 as the corresponding value.

A few details remain, such as the occurrence of the same position more than once at a given level in the tree. These cases correspond to positions which have more than one equally good winning line.

Figure 5 shows another problem, a one-person game. The "5-puzzle" shown in the figure is a poor relation of the formidable "15-puzzle". The latter, incidentally, is discussed in the last published writing of A M Turing, the great mathematical logician and pioneer of computing.

As far as its mathematical properties are concerned, the 5-puzzle has been polished-off in a page by P D A Schofield, who points out an amusing correspondence between the classes of move-sequence in the 5-puzzle and the axes of symmetry of the dodecahedron — the twelve-faced perfect solid. This correspondence arises because in group theory both correspond to the same permutation group, namely the Alternating Group A5.

For any starting configuration of the 5-puzzle it is required to transform to the

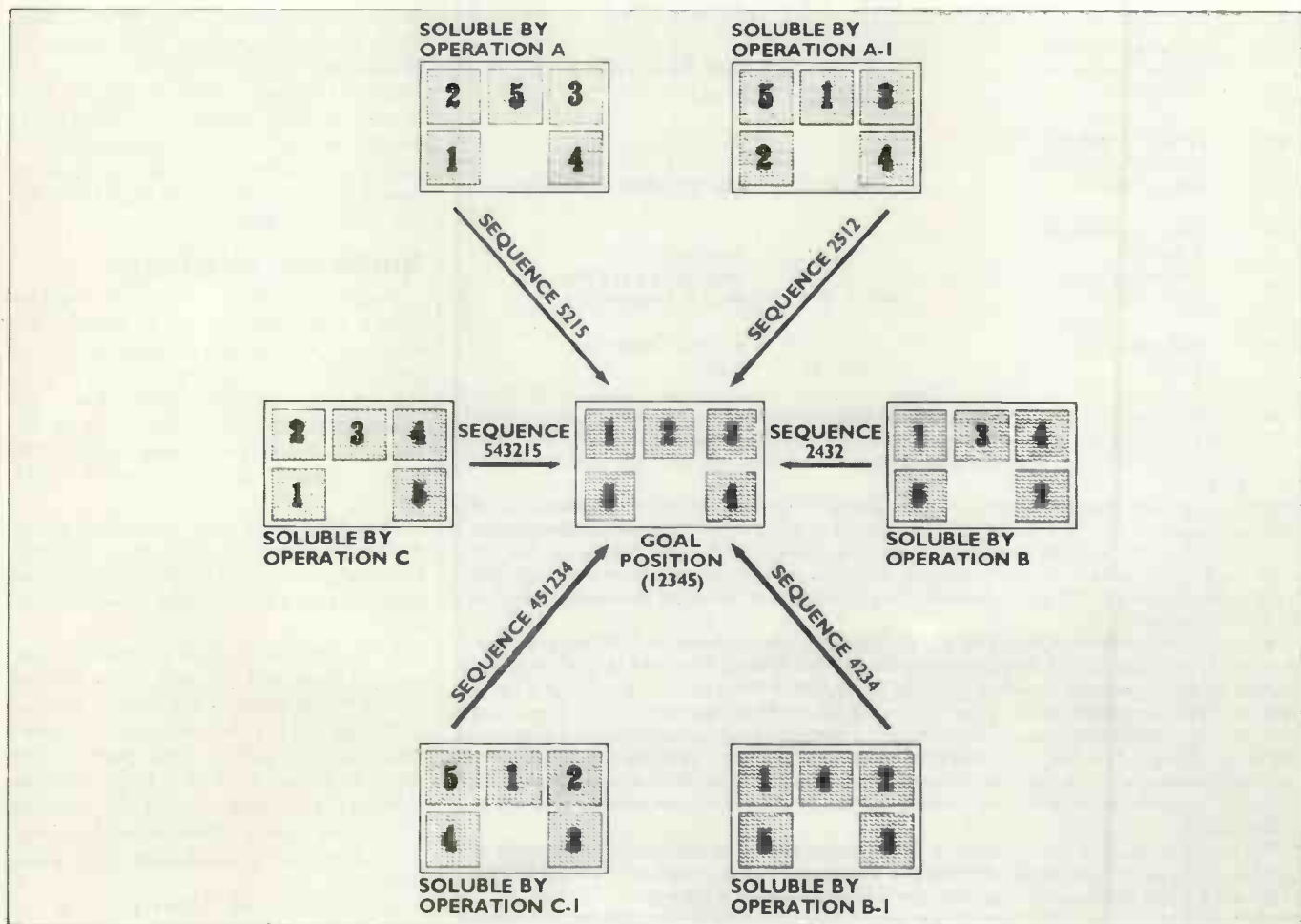
illustrated goal position in the minimal number of moves. In the worst case this minimum is 20 moves. There are 60 distinguishable starting positions — plus another 60 which are insoluble and ignored here — so that store requirements for a complete strategy-table are even smaller than for tic-tac-toe. Construction of the strategy table is easier, too; the procedure is left as an exercise for the reader using the basic facts about the puzzle summarised in the figure.

Now for the point of comparison between these two small problems. I spoke earlier of problems "too easy to be interesting". What objective measures can we use to characterise a problem's difficulty? Mathematicians have devised such measures, and they speak of "complexity". For finite problems there are two different measures, namely the problem's *space-complexity* — smallest number of store-bits needed to house the complete table — and *time-complexity* — smallest number of operations required for solution in the case that it is to be solved by pure calculation.

In terms of space complexity it is clear that tic-tac-toe emerges as the harder, since the strategy table has a few hundred entries compared to only 60 for the

(continued on next page)

Figure 5. The four positions soluble in four moves and the two positions soluble in six moves have been arranged and labelled to explain the notation used in the strategy table for the six basic operations A, A-1, B, B-1, C, C-1. The first four operations correspond to move sequences of length 4, the last two to move-sequences of length 6.



(continued from previous page)

5-puzzle. It is equally clear that on pure calculation the 5-puzzle is harder.

This follows from the circumstances that the only known pure calculation adequate in all cases follows all possible paths to the end of the game; and that some paths, even corresponding to "best play", are as long as 20 moves. The complete "lookahead tree" for tic-tac-toe has an average branching factor of about 3 and a depth of, at most, 8. Corresponding figures for the 5-puzzle are 2 and 20.

The number of nodes in the tree, proportional to the number of basic operations to be performed, is thus 3^8 and 2^{20} for the two cases, i.e., 7,000 and 1,000,000 respectively. So on time complexity the 5-puzzle is the harder.

The magic trick on which human culture and intellectual history have been built, the trick of cognition, lies in ingenious compromise. Each of the two approaches is of impractical cost by itself. But the right blend can shrink costs miraculously.

What does this blend look like? Let me phrase the same question in the form of a

table with a blank entry, as follows:

- Approach
1. A try-everything program
 2. What should we put here?
 3. A situation-action dictionary.
 1. Little store needed; but runs for ever.
 2. Store and computation requirements both moderate.
 3. Little computation needed; but store requirement would more than fill the world.

What belongs in the blank is a dictionary of a kind but instead of zillions of situations entered separately they are grouped into a smaller number of situation-types. Instead of each entry giving an action as a result, an action scheme is entered. A scheme is some general structure — a set of goal-patterns and constraints — from which actions can be recovered by calculation.

So the new kind of dictionary is a dictionary of patterns in place of individual instances. Each entry, in effect, says to

the processor: "If the present situation matches *this* pattern, then see if you can work out a way of creating a new situation matching one of the following *target patterns*, using only those actions which match these *constraint patterns*?"

What this might look like for the 5-puzzle is shown in the pattern-directed strategy-table from which we recover general pieces of advice rather than individual moves. Such a "knowledge-base" of pattern-directed rules might be the only way of getting a strategy into a machine if the latter were a hand-held programmable lacking enough memory for the complete 60-entry exhaustive tabulation. Needed definitions are given in table 2.

The table's strategy follows a well-worn approach often called "problem-reduction", whereby the goal is decomposed into constituent features to be tackled separately. For the 5-puzzle our strategy sets the sub-goal "solve an edge" and then proposes solving the residual problem.

It is common, as in the present case, for such a sweeping simplification to sacrifice the guarantee of optimality in the solutions generated but if the solutions are near-optimal the sacrifice may be judged worthwhile. Table 3 gives the results of running the "advice program" sketched in table 1 on an LSI-11 micro, coded in BCPL.

This last consideration comes to life in the present context as soon as we realise that the sub-goaling ruse adopted generalises to sliding-block puzzles in general. Moving to the 8-puzzle — 3×3 board, central square by convention empty in the goal configuration — problem-reduction takes the form solve one of the four edges, and then solve for the residual 5-puzzle.

Sufficient challenge

Clearly the technique can be pushed higher and higher, to the 11-puzzle, the 15-puzzle, the 19-puzzle, and so on. For a home micro owner, however, I would suggest that a sufficient challenge initially would be to extend to the 8-puzzle the methods illustrated, using Schofield's paper already cited as general background.

Best of all is the kind of program which has so general a structure that different knowledge bases can be slotted in and out according to which puzzle is to be tackled.

If we raise the scale of problems to the level of chess and the scale of the solving device to the level of the trained human brain, we can see the answer to an otherwise puzzling riddle. Since pure search takes us nowhere in such huge problem domains, and since a complete strategy table is also not a thinkable proposition, how does the chess-master find good moves?

Investigations by Alfred Binet at the

TABLE 1

	Condition-Pattern	(Constraint)	Goal-Pattern
Rule 1	total-distance = 0.	(NIL)	HALT
Rule 2	preferred edge-pair 0 apart & edge-pair-distance = 0	(A,A-1, B, B-1)	total-distance = 0
Rule 3	preferred edge-pair 0 apart & edge-pair-distance > 0	(C,C-1)	total-distance is reduced
Rule 4	preferred edge-pair 1 apart & intervening piece at place 2	(A, B-1)	edge-pair-distance is reduced
Rule 5	preferred edge-pair 1 apart & intervening piece not at place 2	(A-1, B, C, C-1)	distance-of-intervening-piece-from-place-2 is reduced
Rule 6	both edge-pairs 3 apart	(A-1, B)	not (both edge-pairs 3 apart)

Note: A CONSTRAINT is applied as follows. Each operation in the bracketed list is applied in turn to the current position and the resulting position is checked against the GOAL-PATTERN. When a match occurs, the successful operation is selected and the Table is re-entered at Rule 1.

Pattern-directed "advice program" for the 5-puzzle generates near-optimal solutions at miniscule cost of store and processor. The rules are taken in order, and the first whose condition-pattern matches the current state of the problem is executed. Each rule is interpreted in the style: given that the condition-pattern has been matched then (using the constraint to reduce needless move-trials) find a move-sequence which creates a match with the goal-pattern and then apply the sequence and then re-enter the table.

Bundles of rules processed according to this regime are often referred to in AI work as "production systems" owing to their resemblance to a formal scheme developed by the celebrated logician E.Post. A neat and eminently revisable framework is thus provided for packaging useful heuristic information about the problem, and keeping the resultant "knowledge-base" quarantined from the "knowledge-interpreter", which does the heavy-duty computation involved in search, pattern-matching and the like. Such knowledge-bases can be treated as data and edited by program — "machine learning" — to improve performance, or they can be modified or augmented interactively by a human expert in the given problem-domain, thus exhibiting the desirable property of "teachability".

The important thing is that the level at which the problem is conceptualised in such sets of pattern-based rules should correspond closely to the human's mental picture and thus lend itself to reciprocal transfer of knowledge between user and problem-solving system.

TABLE 2. Definitions required to implement the strategy of table 1, together with results obtained with a version written in BCPL for the LSI-11 micro.

total-distance: the sum of the five *piece-distances*, where
piece-distance = the shortest number of moves required to get the given piece home if all other pieces are removed from the board — equal to the sum of the absolute values of the x- and y-coordinate differences between present location and home location.
edge-pair: the piece-pair (5, 1) or the piece-pair (3, 4). In the goal configuration these two pairs occupy the left-hand edge and right-hand edge respectively.
edge-pair-distance: the sum of the *piece-distances* of the two members of the *edge-pair*
preferred edge-pair: the *edge-pair* with fewer intervening pieces; in case of a tie, then the *edge-pair* with the lesser *edge-pair-distance*; if still tied, then choose arbitrarily.
edge-pair n apart: starting with piece 5 (or 3 as the case may be) proceed clockwise round the board counting the intervening pieces until piece 1 (or 4 as the case may be) is reached.
place 2: the location on the board occupied in the goal position by piece 2.

turn of the century, by Adrian de Groot in the years after the second world war and by Herbert Simon and colleagues more recently, all point to the same trick. It is based on amassing pattern-based mental catalogues of the same essential kind as the table of advice illustrates for the toy example of the 5-puzzle.

Other work suggests similar conclusions for skilled intellectual know-how in general, whether in medical diagnosis, plant pathology, chemical compound identification and synthesis planning, or decision-taking in geological prospecting. Computing systems capable of this kind of practical thinking in specialist areas of applied knowledge are called "expert systems".

Once the essential principle has been grasped, it is within the resources even of the micro hobbyist to build interesting small systems of this type. The key principle is that programs must be written in a new way, namely in the form of modular and incremental bundles of pattern-based rules.

Rules are invoked by processes of matching with the current state of the problem rather than by explicit sub-routine call. The ability of pattern-directed programming to steer between the clashing rocks — between the Scylla of processor-exhaustion and the Charybdis of store-exhaustion — is as fundamental to the success of today's expert systems as the phenomenon of aerodynamic lift was to the pioneers of heavier-than-air flight.

It may be thought that something has been said to illuminate the nature of human cognition. Certainly these machine models, the so-called "expert systems", throw light on one particular aspect of cognition — the use of the brain for routine execution of acquired skills.

Although this is the cognitive mode in which most of us spend the greater part of our waking lives, it occupies a fairly lowly rung on the ladder of the intellect. The next rung up is the ability autonomously to *acquire* pattern-directed skills. In learning from precept, from example and

from practice, only modest progress has been so far made by the mechanisers.

Above that lie regions of creative insight and the higher flights of abstract reasoning. Machine systems for these higher levels still lie in the future. It may be apposite to close with a problem due to John McCarthy which is intractable to pure search, to pure table look-up, and to all mixtures and blends of the two. Yet it falls apart when the right insight is brought to bear.

The problem is posed in two stages. The first is trivial. Can a checkerboard be covered neatly with 32 dominoes, each domino being of a size exactly to cover two adjacent squares? Obviously, yes. Now cut off the top left and bottom right squares of the board. Can the mutilated board of 62 remaining squares be tiled with 21 dominoes?

If you think that your program might be able to slug it out by trial-and-error exhaustion of possible domino-tiling patterns, then I merely multiply the board's dimensions by 10, so that it has 6,400 squares, and declare the essential problem unaltered.

Finally someone points out that each domino covers exactly one white and one black square. Initially there are equal numbers of the two colours; but two opposite corner squares of an even-sided board must be of the *same* colour, say white, so that their removal creates a surplus of two black squares remaining at the end. Hence the even-sided mutilated checker-board cannot be tiled.

This type of thinking lies beyond current machine intelligence techniques. Extensions will be needed to the present tool-kit of computational logic before it can be brought within reach. A later article will review the present state of this tool-kit, with some illustrative exercises in "artificial reasoning" simple enough to be run on a home micro. □

Suggested reading

Ken Thompson (1979) *Walter Browne v. Belle*, May issue of *British Chess Magazine*, gives the results with commentary of two challenge games between a strong Grandmaster and the KRKQ database.

Articles by D. Michie and M R B Clarke in *Advances in Computer Chess 2*, Edinburgh University Press, 1977.

A M Turing (1954). Solvable and unsolvable problems. *Science News*, London: Penguin, pp. 7-23.

P D A Schofield (1967). Complete solution of the "Eight-Puzzle", in *Machine Intelligence 1* (eds. N L Collins and D Michie) Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 125-33.

Readers interested in the connection between machine problem-solving and certain issues in robotics might look at two popularisations by D Michie; *Machine Intelligence at Edinburgh in Management Informatics* vol. 2 (1973), pp. 7-12 and *Machines and the theory of intelligence*, in *Nature*, vol. 241 (1973), pp.507-12.

TABLE 3 Frequency distributions of lengths of solution-paths for the 5-puzzle.

Position	Program	Optimal	Position	Program	Optimal
12345	0	0	34125	16	14
12453	10	10	34251	10	10
12534	10	10	34512	12	12
13254	14	14	35142	16	14
13425	4	4	35214	20	16
13542	14	14	35421	8	8
14235	4	4	41253	16	14
14352	14	14	41325	14	14
14523	16	14	41532	14	12
15243	20	14	42135	14	12
15324	14	14	42351	10	10
15432	18	18	42513	16	16
21354	14	14	43152	20	16
21435	20	18	43215	18	16
21543	18	16	43521	14	12
23145	16	16	45123	12	12
23451	6	6	45231	10	8
23514	16	14	45312	16	14
24153	20	16	51234	6	6
24315	20	14	51342	4	4
24531	10	8	51423	10	8
25134	10	10	52143	14	12
25341	4	4	52314	10	10
25413	14	12	52431	24	20
31245	16	16	53124	10	10
31452	10	10	53241	20	18
31524	20	16	53412	10	8
32154	24	20	54132	8	8
32415	14	12	54213	14	12
32541	14	12	54321	18	18

MacroFloppyTM goes twice the distance

Micropolis is rapidly becoming the industry standard in 5¼" floppy disc drives; they have been shipping double density drives for over 2 years, thus proving their outstanding reliability and performance.

By completely reassessing the engineering involved in 5¼" floppy disc drives, and using the most modern technology available, Micropolis achieve a formatted density of 315K bytes per single sided unit.

Starter system

The 1041/1 Macrofloppy system includes a 143K byte double density drive with S100 controller card, MDOS and BASIC with a comprehensive manual.

This unit will successfully add on-line disc storage to a wide range of S100 computers at an unbeatable price per byte.

Add to your **Cromemco, North Star, Vector Graphic, Sol, Poly 88, Sorcerer, etc.**

Fully assembled, tested and burnt-in unit
£439.00

Optional regulator for S100 raw power
£14.00

Also available

A full range of hardware and software including:

Mains powered add-on 143K bytes (Also suitable for **Tandy** expansion interface)
£399.00

Single drive 315K byte system
£663.00

Twin drive 630K byte system
£1159.00

CPM
£100.00

North Star compatible operating system
£35.00



Dealer enquiries welcome
Ring Reading 85464 for further details



SINTROM MICROSHOP

14 Arkwright Road, Reading, Berks RG2 0LS
Tel: Reading (0734) 85464
TELEX: 847395 CABLES: SINTROM READING

Program which responds when you beat it

I'll try harder next time. That is how Trevor Lusty's learning program for noughts and crosses responds when you beat it. Compare his solution to Professor Michie's on earlier pages.

Until recently, the best computer algorithms were those where the programmer had foreseen all the possible situations which might arise and designed a suitable response. We examine how an old chestnut of a problem may be solved in a different way, for instead of having to foresee every position, the program "learns" which moves lead to defeat and discards them.

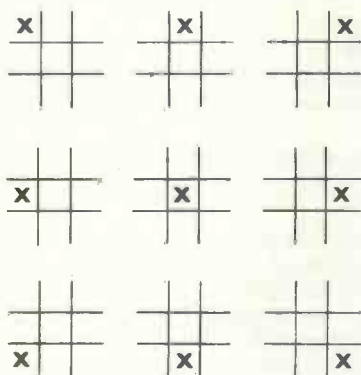
This approach means that you no longer have to worry in case you have overlooked something and opens the possibility of the computer finding an original line of its own — or teaching itself.

The problem

Although the approach is suitable for many problems, a new concept is often best understood if it is seen within familiar surroundings. For this reason noughts and crosses seems an ideal target.

The method

The general idea is that you — the expert — play against the computer and, if you win, the computer rejects the bad move it made immediately prior to defeat. The computer must be able to recognise when it has been in a given situation before and take appropriate action. The apparent simplicity of a noughts and crosses board, however, is deceptive. After the first move there are nine possible situations:



but each leads to a further eight possibilities when the second player has his turn, and things get much, much worse. The enormity of the task is shown in table 1.

Table 1

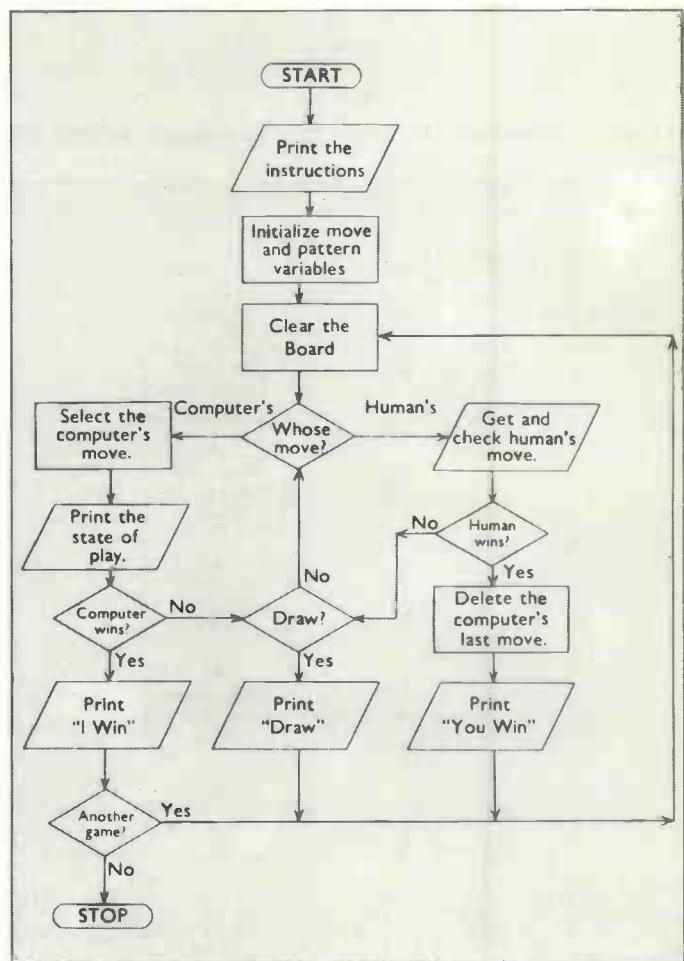
Number of moves		Number of possible patterns
1		9
2	9 × 8	= 72
3	9 × 8 × 7	= 504
4	9 × 8 × 7 × 6	= 3024
5	9 × 8 × 7 × 6 × 5	= 15120
6	9 × 8 × 7 × 6 × 5 × 4	= 60480
7	9 × 8 × 7 × 6 × 5 × 4 × 3	= 181440
8	9 × 8 × 7 × 6 × 5 × 4 × 3 × 2	= 362880

Therefore the total number of patterns is a possible 623,529.

If each board were stored as a 3×3 array we would need at least 5,611,761 bytes — owners of IBM 370s need read no further; what follows is for the rest of the peasants.

(continued on next page)

Outline flowchart for the A.I. strategy.



X	O	O
O	X	O
O	X	X

(continued from page 67)

Some way of reducing storage requirements obviously is needed and two ways are used:

- Only the patterns occurring in play are stored.
- Data packing is used to store the required pattern within a single real variable.

The first of the ploys means that the computer must update its file of stored patterns when it encounters a new one and, by inference, it is not necessary to work them out before you start. The data must, however, be stored in such a way that it is easy to search, for the majority of the running time is liable to be spent in this operation.

Besides the patterns, possible computer responses must also be stored and, again, ease of use is vital. The computer would prefer the board to be numbered 0 to 8, but for human convenience the playing positions are numbered:

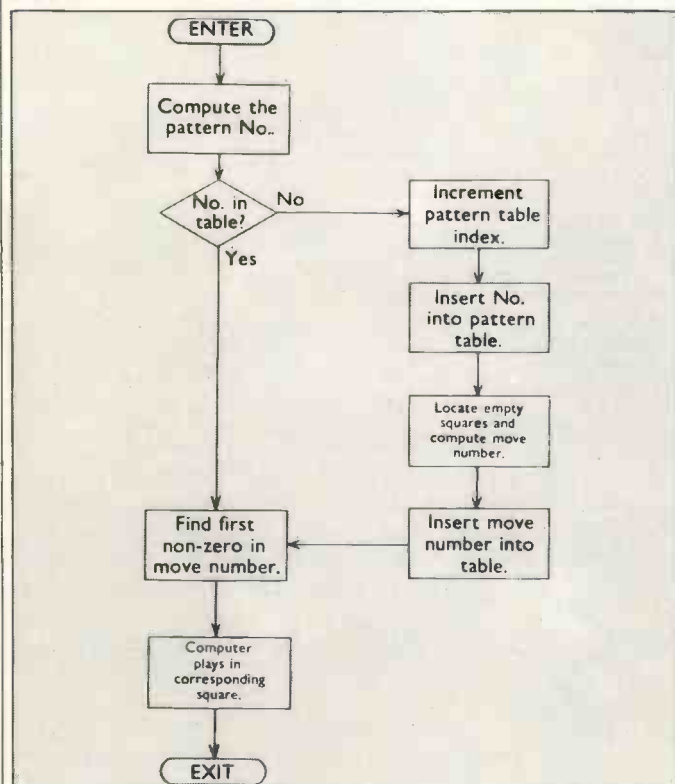
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

If, for example, the position after two human moves (Xs) is the computer must store this state of play and the numbers 3, 4,

X	O	
		X

Figure 1

Detailed flowchart of how the computer selects its move.



5, 6, 7 and 8 which give possible computer moves. This latter information may be stored as the nine-digit binary number 011111100 which is $252_{(10)}$, where a zero represents an occupied square and a one a possible move.

It is worth noting at this point that each bit of the binary number may be set or cleared by the addition or subtraction of suitable powers of 2, and the fact that we represent the numbers in base 10 does not alter this.

Any position on the board has three possible states — occupied by human; vacant; and occupied by the computer; and base 3 numbers are more suitable for this. The position shown can be represented by the base 3 number 201,111,112 which is $14,216_{(10)}$ and this is in many ways the most efficient.

For ease of computation and to preserve more of the original structure, each row is computed separately and the result packed into a six-digit decimal number.

<table border="1"> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>O</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> </table>	X	O							X	$\left. \begin{array}{l} 201_{(3)} = 19_{(10)} \\ 111_{(3)} = 13_{(10)} \\ 112_{(3)} = 14_{(10)} \end{array} \right\}$	$191,314_{(10)}$
X	O										
		X									

This representation works well for most machines but it should be noted that the straight base 3 method saves space and may be used with integer Basic. The method of storage is unimportant as, once the pattern number has been calculated, it is used only for comparison and no manipulation of the number is required.

Flowcharts

Flowchart 1 gives an outline of the strategy to be followed and, with two exceptions, is fairly straightforward. An example helps.

Let us assume that the computer has reached the situation shown in figure 1 for the first time, the sequence of events is (see flowchart 2):

- The computer works out the pattern number. (191314).
- It searches the table of pattern numbers but does not find a fit, so it inserts this new pattern into the table.
- It computes the move number (011111100) as shown earlier and decides to play in the first available position — square 3.

Now any reasonable human will play in square 5 and the computer will lose. The computer notes the loss and removes the possibility of playing in square 3 from its repertoire by setting the third digit of the move number to zero, i.e.:

$$011111100 - 2^{3-1} = 011111000 \text{ (n.b., mixed bases).}$$

Unfortunately, the computer still has to make one further mistake before playing the blocking move but, once learned, it is never forgotten.

The program

Many of the possible patterns are duplicated and others are never reached because the game is already won. Also, the state of play and possible moves are condensed to two simple variables. The storage requirements are therefore not so great as feared.

The state of play of the game in progress is held in the 3×3

array B. The pattern number table is held in array T and the corresponding possible moves in array M.

The dimension of these arrays is variable and should, if possible, be set to a fairly large number, but a size as small as 20 locations is sufficient if you take into account the rotational and line symmetries of the board.

The program is written in a modular form with a number of subroutines. This means that it is easy to alter part of the program if your version of Basic is different.

The win-testing subroutine counts the values of all possible lines and stores them in array S. A flag F1 is then set to zero, one or negative one depending on the state of the game.

The squares of the board are referred to in two ways:—

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

and

1,1	1,2	1,3
2,1	2,2	2,3
3,1	3,2	3,3

and the short subroutine starting at line 3100 is used to convert from the first to the second.

Line 2200 deletes a bad move and is easy to understand, provided you remember that $1 = 2^0$.

The printout shows the initial attempts of the computer and how it improves after a few moves.

Conclusions

- The game is surprisingly interesting to play, as it soon develops into a situation where you must think of new ways to win, and this is not as simple as it appears.

- It is possible to adapt the program so that the machine plays against itself a given number of times before it plays you. This removes some or all of the bad moves and makes it difficult to beat.

- The most successful and enjoyable play, though, is to win the first 12 games easily and then invite a friend — not for long — to try to do the same.

```

2080 REM ***** HAS OPPONENT WON ? *****
2100 GOSUB 3200
2120 IF F1=1 THEN 2200
2140 IF M9<9 THEN 2280
2160 PRINT "DRAW --- I MUST BE GETTING BETTER."
2180 GOTO 1640
2200 LET M(Q2)=M(Q2)-2*(P2-1)
2220 PRINT "I CONCEDE --- YOU WIN --- I'LL TRY HARDER NEXT TIME"
2240 GOTO 1640

2260 REM ***** COMPUTE PATTERN *****
2280 LET T2=0
2300 FOR N1=1 TO 3
2320 LET T1=9*(B(N1,1)+1)+3*(B(N1,2)+1)+(B(N1,3)+1)
2340 LET T2=T2+T1*(10^(2*N1))
2360 NEXT N1

2380 REM ***** SEARCH TABLE *****
2400 FOR Q1=1 TO Q
2420 IF T(Q)=T2 THEN 2660
2440 NEXT Q1

2460 REM ***** INSERT NEW POSITION IN TABLE *****
2480 LET Q=Q1+1
2500 LET T(Q)=T2
2520 LET M(Q)=0
2540 FOR N1=1 TO 3
2560 FOR N2=1 TO 3
2580 IF B(N1,N2) <> 0 THEN 2620
2600 LET M(Q)=M(Q)+2*(3*(N1-1)+(N2-1))
2620 NEXT N2
2640 NEXT N1

2660 REM ***** FIND COMPUTER'S MOVE *****
2680 IF M(Q1)=0 THEN 2200
2700 FOR P1=1 TO 9
2720 IF M(Q1)/(2*P1) <> INT(M(Q1)/(2*P1)) THEN 2760
2740 NEXT P1
2760 LET Q2=Q1
2780 LET P2=P1
2800 PRINT "COMPUTER PLAYS POSITION ";P1
2820 LET H=P1
2840 GOSUB 3120
2860 LET B(Y,X)=H
2880 LET M9=M9+1

2900 REM ***** PRINT THE BOARD AND TEST FOR A WIN *****
2920 GOSUB 3580
2940 GOSUB 3200
2960 IF F1=-1 THEN 3020
    
```

```

2980 IF M9<9 THEN 1880
3000 GOTO 2160
3020 PRINT "I WIN !!! --- DO YOU WANT TO TRY AGAIN "
3040 INPUT A$
3060 IF A$="YES" THEN 1640
3080 STOP

1000 REM *****
1020 REM *****
1040 REM ***** ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE *****
1060 REM *****
1080 REM ***** NOUGHTS AND CROSSES --- 5/2/79, *****
1100 REM *****
1120 REM ***** PROGRAMMED IN BASIC BY TREVOR L. LUSTY *****
1140 REM *****
1160 REM *****
1180 REM *****
1200 DIM B(3,3),T(200),M(200),S(8),A$(10),L$(3)
1220 PRINT "THIS IS A GAME OF NOUGHTS AND CROSSES WITH THE BOARD"
1240 PRINT "NUMBERED AS FOLLOWS :—"
1260 PRINT
1280 PRINT "1 2 3"
1300 PRINT "===I===I=="
1320 PRINT "4 5 6"
1340 PRINT "===I===I=="
1360 PRINT "7 8 9"
1380 PRINT
1400 PRINT "YOU MAY BEAT ME AT FIRST, BUT I LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES"
1420 PRINT "AND I NEVER MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE - - YOU HAVE"
1440 PRINT "BEEN WARNED !!"
1460 PRINT
1480 PRINT "WE WILL TAKE TURNS--- YOU WILL BE X I SHALL BE O."

1500 REM ***** INITIALIZE VARIABLES *****
1520 LET L$="X.O"
1540 LET M7=0
1560 LET Q=1
1580 LET T(Q)=0
1600 LET M(Q)=511

1620 REM ***** CLEAR BOARD BEFORE NEXT GAME *****
1640 FOR N1=1 TO 3
1660 FOR N2=1 TO 3
1680 LET B(N1,N2)=0
1700 NEXT N2
1720 NEXT N1
1740 PRINT
1760 PRINT
1780 PRINT "OK --- LET'S START --- "
1800 LET M9=0

1820 REM ***** DECIDE WHO STARTS *****
1840 LET M7=M7+1
1860 IF M7=2*INT(M7/2) THEN 2280
1880 PRINT "WHAT IS YOUR MOVE "
1900 INPUT H

1920 REM ***** CHANGE MOVE TO COORDINATES *****
1940 GOSUB 3120
1960 IF B(Y,X)=0 THEN 2040
1980 PRINT "ILLEGAL MOVE --- PLEASE TRY AGAIN"
2000 PRINT
2020 GOTO 1880
2040 LET B(Y,X)=1
2060 LET M9=M9+1

3100 REM ***** CONVERT TO COORDINATES X AND Y *****
3120 LET Y=INT((H-1)/3)+1
3140 LET X=H-3*(Y-1)
3160 RETURN

3180 REM ***** TEST FOR A WIN *****
3200 FOR N1=1 TO 3
3220 LET S(N1)=B(N1,1)+B(N1,2)+B(N1,3)
3240 LET S(N1+3)=B(1,N1)+B(2,N1)+B(3,N1)
3260 NEXT N1

3280 REM ***** TEST DIAGONALS *****
3300 LET S(7)=B(1,1)+B(2,2)+B(3,3)
3320 LET S(8)=B(3,1)+B(2,2)+B(1,3)

3340 REM ***** SEARCH TABLE FOR A WIN *****
3360 FOR N1=1 TO 8
3380 IF S(N1)=3 THEN 3480
3400 IF S(N1)=-3 THEN 3520
3420 NEXT N1
3440 LET F1=0
3460 RETURN
3480 LET F1=1
3500 RETURN
3520 LET F1=-1
3540 RETURN

3560 REM ***** PRINT THE BOARD *****
3580 PRINT
3600 FOR N1=1 TO 3
3620 FOR N2=1 TO 3
3640 LET M8=2-B(N1,N2)
3660 PRINT L$(M8,M8);" ";
3680 NEXT N2
3700 PRINT
3720 NEXT N1
3740 PRINT
3760 RETURN
3780 END
    
```

Why wait for a kit computer when you can buy a fully built & tested Superboard III off the shelf?



Ohio Scientifics

SUPERBOARD III

Now only **£229** + VAT

Full 8K basic and 4K user RAM
Power supply and R.F. Converter P.O.A.

Built and tested

(Delivery within 7 days)

The machine can be economically expanded to assist in your business, remotely control your home, communicate with other computers and perform many of the tasks via the broadest lines of expansion accessories in the microcomputer industry.

This machine is super easy to use because it communicates naturally in BASIC, an English-like programming language. So you can easily

instruct it or program it to do whatever you want, but you don't have to. You don't because it comes with a complete software library on cassette including programmes for each application stated above. Ohio Scientific also offers you hundreds of inexpensive programs on read-to-run cassettes. Program it yourself or just enjoy it, the choice is yours.

Features

- Uses the ultra powerful 6502 microprocessor
- 8K Microsoft BASIC-in-ROM
- Full feature BASIC runs faster than currently available personal computers and all 8080-based business computers.
- 4K static RAM on board expandable to 8K
- Full 53-key keyboard with upper-lower case and user programmability
- Kansas City standard audio cassette interface for high reliability
- Full machine code monitor and I/O utilities in ROM
- Direct access video display has 1K of dedicated memory (besides 4K user memory), features uppercase, lower case, graphics and gaming characters for an effective screen resolution of up to 256 by 256 points. Normal TV's with overscan display about 24 rows of 24 characters, without overscan up to 30 x 30 characters.

Extras

- Available expander board features 24K static RAM (additional mini-floppy interface, port adapter for printer and modem and OSI 48 line expansion interface).
- Assembler/editor and extended machine code monitor available.

Commands

CONT	LIST	NEW	NULL	RUN	
Statements					
CLEAR	DATA	DEF	DIM	END	FOR
GOTO	GOSUB	IF...GOTO	IF...THEN	INPUT	LET
NEXT	ON...GOTO	ON...GOSUB	POKE	PRINT	READ
REM	RESTORE	RETURN	STOP		

Expressions

Operators

-, +, *, /, ↑, NOT, AND, OR, >, <, <>, =, <=, =
RANGE 10⁻³² to 10⁺³²

Functions

ABS(X)	ATN(X)	COS(X)	EXP(X)	FRE(X)	INT(X)
LOG(X)	PEEK(I)	POS(I)	RND(X)	SGN(X)	SIN(X)
SPC(I)	SQR(X)	TAB(I)	TAN(X)	USR(I)	

String Functions

ASC(X\$)	CHR\$(I)	FRE(X\$)	LEFT\$(X\$,I)	LEN(X\$)	MID\$(X\$,I,J)
				RIGHT\$(X\$,I)	STR\$(X)
					VAL(X\$)

Plus variables, arrays and editing facilities.

Fully built and tested. Requires only +5V at 3 amps and a videomonitor or TV and RF converter to be up and running.

What the magazines say

"The Superboard represents good value with plenty of potential"
Practical Computing June '79

"Certainly one of the most exciting (computers) on the present market"
Practical Electronics June '79

"A useful machine.....represents value for money"
Computing Today June '79

Dealer Enquiries welcome at Morgan St. address

Watford Electronics
33/35, Cardiff Road,
Watford, Herts.
Tel: Watford 40588/9

Videotime Products
56, Queens Road,
Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1REA
Tel: 0256 56417

Lotus Sound
4, Morgan Street,
London E3
Tel: 01-981 3993

Kay Floyd toured the North-west to look at microcomputing in its various aspects. She reports visits to a "Software cottage", a computer shop and a board manufacturer.

Happy to stay local

THE WORD consultancy conjures-up opulent offices, with several Chester Barrieclothed young men wandering around with important-looking leather briefcases — to my mind at least. So it was something of a surprise and a delightful shock when I visited B&B Consultants in Bolton to find one of the principals soldering an interface together and the other in his cardigan explaining to a misguided woman that they couldn't fix her dentures — she needed the dentist upstairs.

John Blackburn, who started the firm, is a good-humoured Lancastrian and describes himself as "a salesman with a management background". He runs the firm with Peter Binks, who takes care of the technical side, writing programs and, in this instance, making an interface which Blackburn was preparing to take to a customer.

The company was set up about a year ago and the showroom has been open since early 1979. As well as the con-

sultancy and shop, B&B Consultants is heavily involved in microcomputer software.

It is writing packages for the garage industry (spare parts and stock control), insurance brokerage (financial and client records), finance house (financial and client records), employers' personnel records, plumbers' stock control and price list, estate agents' package, stock control in relation to electronic manufacturing and, finally, yarn converters which control a textile manufacturing process from the reel of cotton to the invoicing of the finished material.

Selling aid

The cost can range between £150 for the payroll to £1,000 for the insurance brokerage, depending on how much work and modification of a standard package is involved. "We see software as an aid to selling machines," says Blackburn, "not as

a big money-maker."

There is a small range of educational software available which includes maths and programming, and one program which aids the deaf with their speech. As well as its special packages, B&B Consultants stocks off-the-shelf lines from Petsoft, Commodore and the PETACT range.

The software indicates that B&B Consultants is heavily involved with the Pet, and although it is the company's best seller, Blackburn explains:

"We can supply anything advertised. The Apple, Horizon, ITT 2020, Exidy Sorcerer. You name it, I can get it, but we don't stock them in quantity."

The consultancy has recently taken a dealership for the revolutionary TECS system, the full-colour computer which can turn a domestic television into a Teletext-cum-viewdata facility.

"I think it's one of the biggest things to hit England," says Blackburn. But he won't be giving up the Pet yet.

In the market

"I think Pet is a good machine, the price is right and it's readily available. For the small business it is ideal."

Blackburn has put the machine to good use in local businesses. He has attached a till to it and sold it to a two corner shops as a sophisticated cash register. When a receipt is issued to a customer, the Pet updates the stock order automatically, thus cutting out a good deal of paperwork. These modified Pets have been installed with a tobacconist and a toy retailer. The staff don't want to be computer operators, says Blackburn; people are buying the latest business machines which happen to be computers.

Blackburn is doing his best to dispel the myth of the computer by taking it to every local exhibition, computer course and demonstration in the area. Once he took a Pet to the town centre, set it up in the middle of the market and proceeded to demonstrate its capabilities. It drew terrific crowds and, he says, "I did a lot of good business that day".

He stood in the foyer of the local technical college when it ran its one-day

(continued on next page)

John Blackman with the Pet.



(continued from previous page)

management course, attracting a good deal of attention. In fact, that particular attendance paid off, as he has received an order worth £4,000 from Bolton Technical College for systems to be used in a full-time computer course.

B&B Consultants works on a simple system. "I find the customer, define the problems and give them to Peter to solve", says Blackburn. "We have a good team. I can sell and Peter handles the technical side. The two things go hand in hand."

There is one other person working full-time on the administration side and two part-timers. "I am seriously looking for full-time programmers," says Blackburn, "so that Peter is left free for more design work."

Binks writes almost all the software and is the technical back-up service. Occasionally B&B Consultants enlists the aid of another company to write the financial packages which are very time-consuming and not really Binks' forte. "He's good at number-crunching and that kind of thing," says Blackburn.

Customers are found by advertising in the local press and national computer journals and then there are those who visit the showroom. He is mainly concerned with the small businessman but he will cater for the hobbyist if necessary.

B&B Consultants would like to do more design work and is marketing its own interface. It drives a Teletype or other serial printer and it was one of them which Binks was soldering during my visit.

Blackburn feels that the interfaces on the market are over-priced and do not always work properly. His own model sells for £75 and can run both bi-directional and single-directional printers. He thinks there is a need for a standard computer-type interface on the market and hopes that this is it.

Most of B&B Consultants' assignments are in the Bolton area. "I don't particularly want to become a national firm," says Blackburn. "I'm happy to stay local."

He also believes in the personal touch when dealing with customers. "I don't want to be a mail order house. The competition here is healthy but we try that little bit harder. If anyone comes into our showroom, they will not be ignored, as I have seen happen in some places." □

Shop route to success

HAVE YOU ever thought of starting your own computer shop? It may seem like a snip. You think you know enough about computers, and you've heard that there's a fortune to be made from selling microcomputers to the unsuspecting public.

Well, it's not so easy as it sounds, as I discovered when I spoke to Bruce Everiss, chairman and managing director of Microdigital. He describes the drawbacks and gives advice to the would-be shopkeeper.

Everiss started Microdigital more than a year ago, with his brother as the only full-time member of staff. Since then it has flourished into a successful mail order house, a hire company and, of course, the shop through which many of the big orders are made.

When he started, Everiss admits he had no real business experience. He had been running a dp department when he realised he really wanted to be involved in microcomputers.

Raising finance

"I played it by ear and asked advice from my father, who's a successful businessman and I had a friend who owns a chain store. I had a good deal of help and asked for advice when I got stuck," he says.

The first thing to do was to raise finance. "I went around begging for money," he said. "It is always the problem, even now." The next thing was to secure dealerships from various companies, so that he had something to sell.

"I just telephoned suppliers and got the dealerships — it was as simple as that." One of Microdigital's luckiest breaks was getting a dealership from Nascom. "No-one else on Merseyside can sell it," he said.

When Everiss had some cash and dealerships, the next item on the agenda was

to find suitable premises. Having always lived on Merseyside, it seemed a natural choice to base himself in Liverpool.

"It was very difficult to obtain a shop here," he says. "It cost us a small fortune." But he found one in the "city"



Bruce Everiss

area, the financial quarter where the banks and lawyers are located.

Why did he choose that site rather than a popular shopping precinct? "Business — that's where the future of microcomputers lies," he maintains. He wants to be on the spot when the financial world realises it.

Everiss knew that if he was to make a success of the venture, he would need a good back-up service. Initially he subcontracted all the necessary engineering work. "A number of people came to help us. We used a number of moonlighters."

That was not an ideal situation and Microdigital recently has employed a number of engineers with whom it is to establish a professional workshop to deal

with repairs and development work.

Finding good staff who know about microcomputers is difficult. They are rare and very much in demand. "I have been lucky with my staff. They found me, I didn't have to go and look for them," says Everiss. Most of them are ex-customers.

In the city area of Liverpool, Everiss realised there would not be many people calling to buy £3,000 worth of equipment, so he devised a way of generating additional business quickly. It was the mail order firm, based on all items sold in the shop. Setting it up was "a matter of survival" and Everiss now receives more than £1,000 worth of business a day through it.

Prompt service is essential. "The goods or a letter of acknowledgment is sent the day the order is received."

Believer

Another important consideration is to define the market. It's no good trying to attract the hobbyist with a Sorcerer and it's no use trying to attract the businessman with something like a MK14. Microdigital caters for both markets, as well as the computer engineer. The Acorn, MK14 and Nascom serve the hobbyist sector, and for the small business user there is the Apple, ITT 2020, Pet and Exidy Sorcerer.

Finding the right staff, premises and financial support were all obstacles on the path to success but Everiss maintains that "judging how to advertise was the most difficult thing". He now writes all his advertisement copy himself and believes that it is one of the most important aspects to any business.

"You sell only what you advertise" is his motto. Certainly, Microdigital advertisements are prolific. Everiss advertises locally as well and has had a series of posters distributed to manufacturers and

even has them displayed in the Merseyside underground system.

Microdigital has a few other products on the sidelines, to enhance systems, including discs and printers. One of the best-selling lines is cassette tapes — an average of 100 a day leave the shop.

Everiss tells what led to his involvement in this lucrative trade. "I realised that there would be a shortage, so I went to a manufacturer who made special tapes. They are top quality and people can use them at very high baud rates.

"We sell more of our tapes than Com-

modore or Petsoft," he claims. "They, incidentally, have now gone to the same manufacturer, but I sell the tapes more cheaply."

Books and magazines also constitute a large part of the business, with more than £20,000 worth in stock. Along with the Nascom-1, books are the biggest money-spinners this year.

A frequent problem with setting-up a shop is obtaining the supplies. "Customers are always harassing you," says Everiss. "I take a lot of stick over this."

Microdigital is undoubtedly successful

but it hasn't been all plain sailing. "I've been unlucky at times," says Everiss. "I bought unsaleable stocks and created demand when there were no supplies. The business made a loss from April to September last year when we started."

It seems that you should not be discouraged when things go wrong, and learn from your mistakes.

Does Everiss have a final word of advice for anyone wanting to set up a shop? "Specialise," he says. "Choose software, interfacing or robots, and make sure you get plenty of publicity." □

Boards in the attic

YOU COULD not find two companies more dissimilar in operation than our last manufacturer, Nascom, and Kemitron Electronics, although they both make the same product — computer boards.

Kemitron is a small operation run by John Drury from the attic of his Chester home. The peaceful countryside, the wife-secretary and tea in the garden seemed a long way from the swish offices and large manufacturing facilities which one comes to expect in the computer industry.

Drury trained as an electronic chemist — hence the name — Kemi from chemist and tron from electronic. After working for Shell for several years, he decided that life in a multinational wasn't for him.

He began on his own three years ago. He planned to base his business on electrochemical equipment and designed a multimeter to start the venture. "Sinclair did one at the same time and that was the end of that market," he said.

Drury then allied himself with Crofton Electronics and, while there, designed his microcomputer. It was not a happy venture and Drury left Crofton in 1978, taking his design with him.

Exceptional

His microcomputer, the Kemitron UBS 3000, is made up of a series of modular boards which you can plug into a rack to any configuration of your choice. The computer has an exceptional bus structure which is simple and cheap — less than half the price of the S100. The boards range from £5 to £6 and include such things as memory, PROM, processors and VDU.

Drury has perfected the technique of putting several processors on to one bus. He works with the 8060, Z-80, 8080 and is looking at the possibility of the 6502 and the 6800.

Kemitron is one of the few firms to work with the National Semiconductor SC/MP. "Most people think it's a useless processor; I don't," says Drury. He has re-written the Basic software for the chip and it now runs faster than the National

version.

He became involved with National through the SC/MP introduction kit, which uses a calculator-like display. He found it difficult to work with, so decided to design a VDU board for it. When National heard of his work with its processor, it was naturally interested, and he now works closely with the company.

He has just taken delivery of a new processor from National, the 8070, and Drury reckons that it is "more powerful than the Z-80". He has written the operating system and the resident assem-



John Drury

bler for the processor and is hoping to base a single-board computer on it for around £100.

Drury most enjoys the creative side of his work — designing boards and programming. The administration and sales side of the business has become too time consuming, so Drury has a partner to help.

"I always said I would keep it to one man but that has proved impossible," he says. "The company will grow and I will expand the workforce to an optimum of 15 people."

Kemitron is obviously a small operation, so I was intrigued to discover where the manufacturing of the boards was done. They are produced under sub-contract, by outworkers who call once a week to deliver the finished goods.

"I was surprised by the initial response I had to an advertisement for assemblers in the local paper. There were 200 applicants, so there will be no shortage of workers when I want to increase production. Each worker produces between 30 and 40 boards a week. The potential is tremendous," he says.

With so much work on the technical side, something has to suffer in administration and Drury admits that marketing is a "weak link". He would like to expand his distributor network — he has two — and generate additional systems business.

He does a little advertising and runs training courses at Leeds Polytechnic. He uses his own systems on the course and students often want to buy them when it is over.

Profit maxim

Drury says that he is not the "business school type". "It's more profitable to grab opportunities when they come. I think this policy pays. At the moment I have one job which could run into 100 units. They are all Z-80-based for one specific application."

So far, he has sold some 20 systems, costing anything between £800 and £1,000. No precise figures are available for company turnover, but "it is increasing all the time", he says. He is looking for more than £100,000 this year.

Drury's formula for success is simple. "High volume equals low profit. Small volume equals high profit. There is high profit in applications, and electrochemistry is high-profit throughout. I want to weld computers and electrochemistry together."

What of the future? "We shall be developing software support and looking to new processors. We are hoping to lay out the 6502 on a processor card, and develop a rival to the Ohio Superboard. That market sector is crying-out for a product and the Superboard isn't here to fill it. Ours will probably be a little more expensive but it will be modular and have an edge connector." □

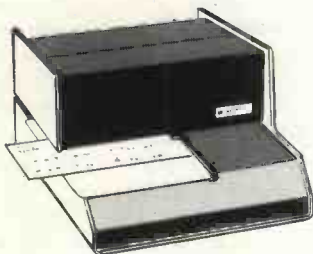


WHYMARK Instruments Ltd



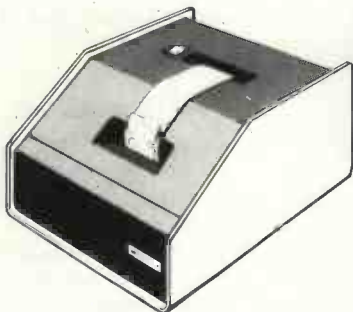
201 TALLY ROLL PRINTER

Available with motorized take up for copy,



301 DOCUMENT PRINTER

Prints lines of 40 characters on right hand side of any size form.



401 LABEL PRINTER

Prints standard 3½ ins width labels for addressing, or labelling products. Labels can be peeled off individually or stored on rolls.

All the above printers feature:- 40 characters per line, software control of 4 character sizes, tabulation settings, multiple line feeds, and can produce multiple copies. Interfaces to IEEE 488, RS 232, Parallel TTL etc.

Direct connections for P.E.T., Apple II.

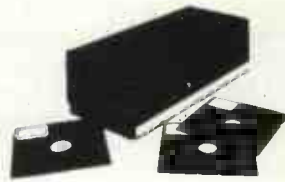
WHYMARK INSTRUMENTS Ltd
6 Holmesdale Road
Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0BQ
Tel enquiries (04254) 77012

● Circle No. 174

* News from ROSTRONICS *

TRS-80

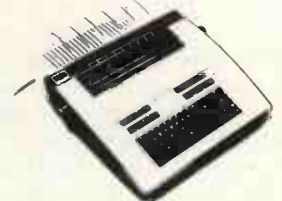
micro floppy disk system
price £290



With a 1.2 MB disk drive, TRS-80 is the most powerful micro computer available. It has 64K bytes of RAM, a built-in keyboard, and a high resolution monitor. It can be expanded to 128K bytes of RAM and 2 MB of disk space. It is compatible with the TRS-80 software library.

Teletype 43

New Low Price £825



True 30 cps Data Printer

Applications

WANT TO REALLY UNDERSTAND THE BASIC LANGUAGE?



From the author of the highly acclaimed TRS-80 Users/Learners Manual comes the book you've been asking for! **The BASIC Handbook** is THE definitive reference and "idea" book, explaining in detail the BASIC language as used in over 50 favorite micros, minis and mainframes.

It's not a dictionary and it's not a reference. It's a practical ENCYCLOPEDIA of the BASIC language with everything you need to know about the most important BASIC statements, functions, operators and commands explained in a way that you can try them right now.

The HANDBOOK is written to be used! With the BASIC Handbook you can make better program decisions, understand your computer program, the reason why they fail!

If there is a problem with a program using either BASIC, check the Handbook ahead of time. If there is a problem with your machine, check how the Handbook guides you to a solution that will improve the same thing. About the only thing I don't help you with is accidental 10% of program.

Order Today!

DIRECT MAIL ORDER FORM

ROSTRONICS LTD
118 Wandsworth High Street,
London SW18
England

Please send me _____ copies of the BASIC Handbook. My cheque for £11 each + 50p is enclosed.

Please debit my Access/Banquecard/Mastercharge/Visa Card No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

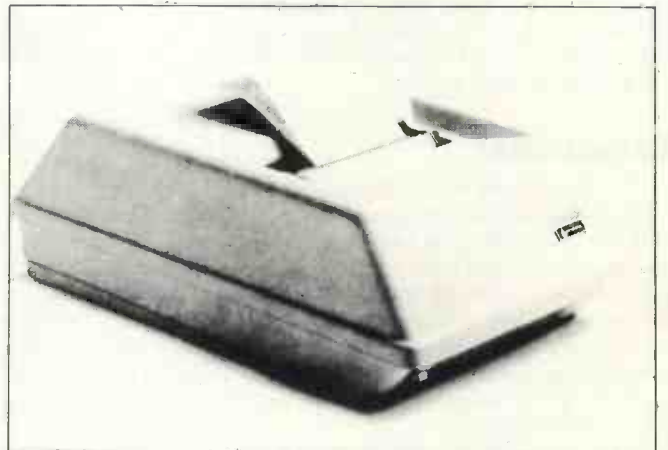
Post Code _____

I understand my order will be shipped promptly.
My computer is a _____

● Circle No. 175

DP-1000

Series Printers



Prints 40 cps in 40 columns.
Plain paper, multiple copy.
Data storage - 168 characters.
Current Loop, RS.232
Parallel Bit inputs.
Double width printing selection.

OEM quantity price £295



Anadex Ltd.

Dorna House, Guildford Road,
West End, Woking, Surrey
GU24 9PW

Phone: Chobham (09905) 6333
Telex: 858762 ANADEX G

● Circle No. 176

Pudsey is test-bed for Elite system

THE PROJECT was set up at Priesthorpe Comprehensive, Pudsey, Leeds, with the help of headmaster Ian Philp. "The experiment has resulted in the design for a machine which should fulfil most of the requirements for both computer education and computer-assisted education," say Peter Jackson, commercial director of MBS.

"The machine is an upward-expandable model which enables the school to buy, in small increments, a sophisticated piece of equipment which will cope with requirements of assembler language and machine-code programming and the needs of the departments within the school. It is also capable of tackling administration tasks, such as

ficult," says Philp, "but it helped to find out that what was going on inside the machine. Now we can write simple Basic programs and make our own mistakes.

"Purely from the company point of view, the whole thing was an experiment," Philp continued, "but one in which the school was delighted to take part. We had been thinking about getting a computer in the school before we were approached by MBS, but there was the financial problem and also that of who looked after the machine, as none of us had any experience. So it looked as though there was no way we could have one until Jackson stepped in and was prepared to help us."

The installation of the machine has

Students who will use the machine range in age from 14-18. The computer studies will start gradually with a small O level group in the sixth form, then an O level in the fourth year with a limited number of students and, hopefully, a higher examination for older members of the school.

The administration staff expect the machine to be a great help to them. "I don't think it can run the whole school records," Philp says, "but it will keep basic records, which include production of form lists in alphabetical order and transfer of classes.

"This will be very useful, as we have many students who join us halfway through the year. It takes a great deal of secretarial time and the computer will simplify things like that. We hope to put book-keeping on it as well."

MANY SCHOOLS using established microcomputers for computer studies have received attention from Practical Computing, but this is the first report on a school which has been the test-bed for a new computer — the Modular Business Systems (MBS) Elite — which has been built to teachers' requirements.

computerising school records, within the school budget.

"The MBS Elite is designed around an all-in-one concept which encloses VDU, central processor and disc unit. External video outputs are provided to drive monitors which are found at most schools, and the overall size is determined by the standard school trolley.

"The machine can be expanded in memory capacity and disc storage by the addition of several cards. The standard operating system was designed for use with high-level languages, CP/M and a comprehensive Basic. It was designed for and specified by teachers.

Priced competitively

"The system is priced competitively at around £4,000 to meet the tight budgets of many schools. This has been made possible due to the upward-expandability of the system and because MBS is able to rationalise on cost and avoid overheads usually found in the field of manufacturing activity."

Jackson became involved with Priesthorpe Comprehensive a year ago through one of the maths teachers. "He felt there were strong reasons for going into a school which had no experience with computers," say Philp.

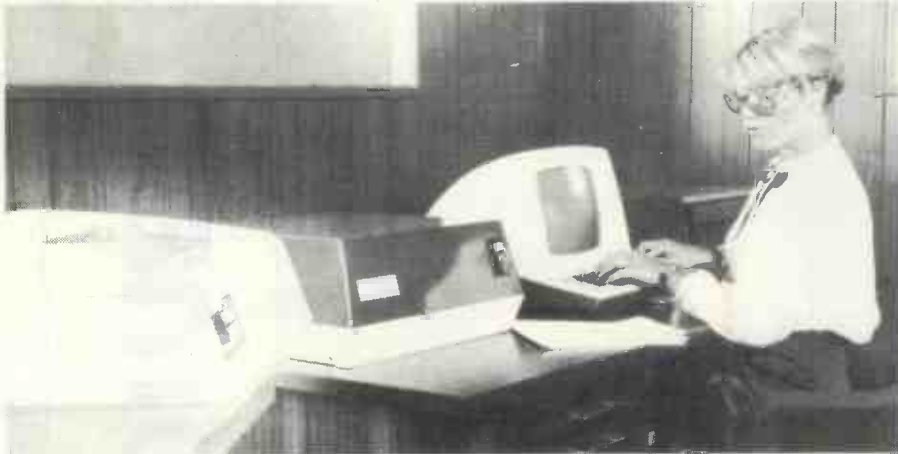
Jackson gave the teachers lectures on how to use the system and they referred to books and anything else they could find to increase their knowledge.

"We started programming at the assembler stage, which was a little dif-

ficult," says Philp, "but it helped to find out that what was going on inside the machine. Now we can write simple Basic programs and make our own mistakes. meant that a new and exciting future has opened-up for Priesthorpe Comprehensive in the computer field. Philp envisages computer studies, with software written by the pupils, some standard packages and others which will be modified by the school.

Computerised learning is high on the list and Philp hopes to put together some software for remedial maths and English classes. "Some students have problems with the basic rules of numbers and with simple maths programs and a computer; I feel that this totally different approach will do much for the student. If he can see the old problem in a new and exciting way by using the computer, it will give him prestige and confidence, as well as increased motivation," Philp explains.

The MBS Elite



Something for all

One point Philp stresses is that the computer is there for everybody's use. "The big danger is that it may become something for the maths teacher and his classes to play with — I want to prevent that," he stresses.

"As soon as we get to the stage where the machine is instantly available to anyone, then we will accept it as being a useful addition to the school.

"I will do anything to encourage people to use the computer. It doesn't matter what they do with it — even playing games helps. The fact that young people are using it is the most important thing."

There are around 1,000 pupils in the school and "if in five years' time, everyone in the school has not had some benefit from it, or experience with it — whether it be seeing it in action or operating it themselves, I will be disappointed," says the headmaster. ▲

**MICRO
COMPUTERS
FROM
COMART
COME LIKE
THIS!**

comart



comart

**SPECIALISTS IN
MICROCOMPUTERS**

URGENT

**SPECIALISTS IN
MICROCOMPUTERS**

comart

**We care about what leaves
our factory. After all it's got
our name on it.**

The next time you want
reliable microcomputer
products - single card
computers, floppy disk
systems and disk systems -
take a look at what we put in
our boxes.

**A Comart Computer Catalogue will
show you.**

Write to



comart

**Comart Ltd., P.O. Box 2, St. Neots,
Huntingdon, Cambs.
Or telephone (0480) 215005.**

Is the time ripe for a technology centre?

THE GROWTH of sales of microcomputers over the next 10 years will be astounding. There are, for instance, some two million small businesses, a high proportion of which will be able to make economic use of a micro. In addition, many lower-level managers in large firms and many home users will also be buying micros.

If you don't believe that such a sudden, widespread sale is possible, look at electronic calculators. Did you have a calculator in 1969? Did you know what they did or how to use them? How many small businesses are without one today?

Now computers may not spread at the speed of calculators — which took only five years — but the increase will still be fast.

Microcomputers are much simpler to understand than bigger machines and their operating systems. This is just as well, because almost all the micros sold in the future will be bought by people who know nothing about computing today.

Worse, many of them distrust it, are afraid of it, dislike the jargon and mystification which surround it, and are generally anti-computer.

Yet it is important that, as a nation, we adopt the new technology at the fastest possible rate, for two reasons.

Firstly, we need to regain our position in terms of international competitiveness. Secondly, if we want to have our own micro industry, rather than importing everything from the Americans or the Japanese, we need a home market to build sales before we export.

For those reasons the Government is spending money on telling people about microprocessors and encouraging their

help to improve the quality of hardware and software by publishing unbiased and objective comparative data — in the way WHICH COMPUTER? and *Practical Computing* do in the magazine field. It would help to improve reliability by collecting feedback from users. The Centre information would, of course, be available to suppliers and consultants, as well as to the public.

WOULD YOU like to be able to use an independent Microcomputer Centre to find out about micros? By the time you read this, the author, Ian Litterick, hopes to be carrying-out a feasibility study to see whether such a centre should be established, and how it should be run. It would form part of the Government programme to encourage small businesses and the application of microprocessors.

Similar to the Design Centre, Building Centre or Crafts Centre, the Microcomputer Centre would probably be based in central London, with an exhibition area showing systems running and available for the public to inspect.

A library and book-shop would form part of a service which would provide comparative information on hardware and software, as well as a broader education about micros in general.

The Centre might also run satellite centres in regional cities, or "travelling circus" caravans visiting smaller towns, or run stands at trade exhibitions.

The author would like to hear the views of *Practical Computing* readers, particularly micro-users or would-be users, on the proposal and on what the Centre should do. Please write to him care of *Practical Computing*.

The important thing is that the information would have a very low cost to the "client". Traditionally information — like software — for computers has been very expensive. If you are installing a £40,000 minicomputer you think nothing of going to a three-day seminar for £400 to learn about computing, or of employing a consultant at equal expense to make recommendations.

If, however, you are to spend only £2,000-£3,000 on a system, you will not spend hundreds of pounds getting information about it.

use; and it has also shown great interest in the idea of a Microcomputer Centre.

The Centre is regarded as a means of providing the education and information needed to progress from complete ignorance of computing to buying a system.

In the process, the Centre would also

So the Centre will need to avoid the face-to-face information-giving which is so expensive. Literature, designed carefully to give the information you need without confusing you with jargon, or things which are irrelevant to you, will probably be the main medium.

Microcomputer Centres — our view

IN PRINCIPLE what Ian Litterick suggests is perfectly correct and the need for such centres has been felt, and to some extent, met in many other industries. There is always, however, a fundamental difficulty about impartiality. Such a centre is either funded by the industry through a voluntary levy or by some outside source, like Government, a trust or a university.

In the first case the job of the Centre is regarded by the people who pay for it as being to protect their interests; and therefore they resent it publishing 'unbiased and objective data', much of which is likely to be uncomplimentary. In the second case, it tends to settle into stodgy inactivity as the best way of avoiding pressure on its backers.

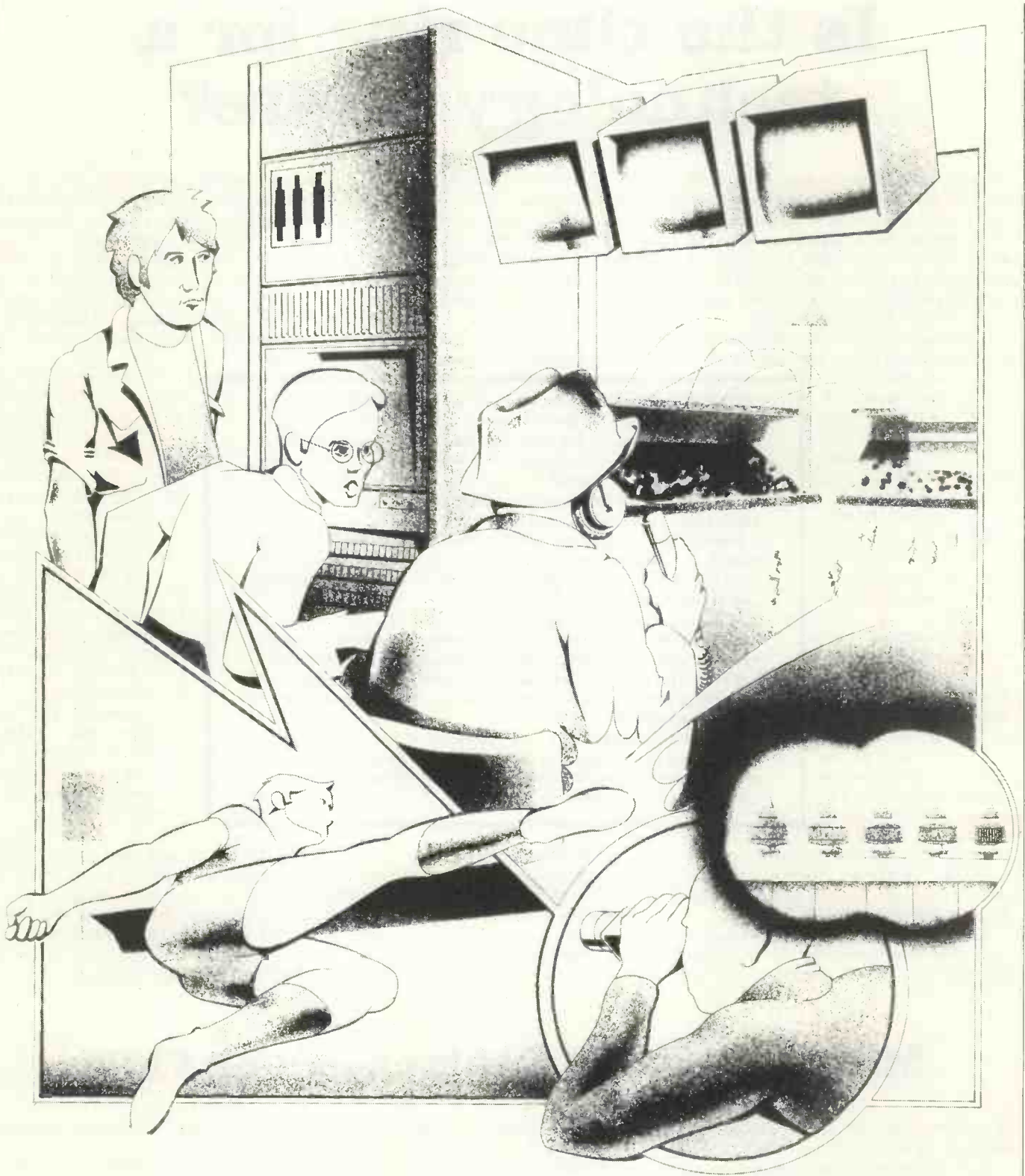
The only organisational escape is through building an 'editorial' reputation which is worth enough to its consumers to give it an independent existence, apart from the good- or ill-will of

trade or Government. That is part of the function of magazines like this, and it is one we can partly fulfil.

Of course, if we decided that every manufacturer of software and hardware in the microfield produced rubbish, we might find ourselves short of advertising revenue; to that extent, we are not and can scarcely be absolutely impartial. No-one who earns a living by selling advertising space could properly discharge the functions of the Centre.

One of the few organisations to escape has been the Consumers' Association. To make enough to ensure an unbiased existence, however, its publication, *Which?* has to appeal to a huge number of people, by surveying the widest possible range of goods and services — from divorce lawyers to cat-mange cures.

It is most unlikely that an organisation devoted solely to microcomputing would be strong enough to withstand the pressures which would be ranged against it. □



A whole new ball game

'HE STARED at the video screen on which each player was transformed into a moving dot of light and each movement into a silver snail's trail.'

Mackinaw, the referee, had an idiosyncrasy. At the start of each game he would not toss a coin. Instead, he used a large, silver medallion, won by a great-grandfather in some forgotten war. As he spun it in the air it caught the sun and sparkled. For three seconds it silenced the roars and shouts from the throats of the 50,000 crowd.

The audio-microelectronics were baffled temporarily by the moment of silence; they over-reacted by sending the banks of phallic sound booms sliding out on their telescopic arms to hunt from side to side; and the commentators saw the sparkle and pressed their lips to the microphones to explain about Mackinaw's idiosyncrasy to the watching millions.

The panels of experts in the sterile studios made notes on their pads; the scene was scanned by dozens of electronic eyes; and it was torn into shreds and pumped straight up the long antennae and streamed out through the stratosphere towards the huge weightless dishes; and the space stations scooped up the signal and cleaned it, tidied it and magnified it with the power from the sun and then pulsed it out, bouncing it around the globe from wire to wire, component to component.

Never a chance

In the double-glazed Alaskan huts, and the rain-soaked slums of Rio, and the tar-paper shacks of Johannesburg, anonymous people stared into cathode ray tubes and were joined in spirit with the boisterous crowd.

by John Abbatt

City won the toss, Carter kicked-off and passed to Wardle, who back-heeled to Thompson, who ran round a defender, feinted left and then hit a high cross of Malloney, who leapt high into the air at precisely the right moment and nodded the ball perfectly to the feet of Fairclough, who belted it solidly into the top right-hand corner of the net. The defence didn't stand a chance.

Nobody congratulated Fairclough and, as he walked back to his position, he gave a thumbs-up sign to the glass-fronted City control box high in the West Stand.

In the box was Strickland, the City manager; squat beneath his archaic trilby hat, his lips clamped on an unlit cigar. He had given up smoking but retained the cigar for the image. He had binoculars slung around his neck and headphones over his ears. At intervals he spoke into a microphone. He spoke to a man who was lying flat on the roof of the stand with glasses trained on the rival United control box.

Faraway look

In the corner of the box, not even looking at the game, sat Mullen, the aged trainer, and Polchard, the groundsman. They had dragged out an old and well-worn relic of conversation and were tossing it between them.

"Charlie George, Kevin Keegan and George Best," said Mullen. "They had style and a feel for the game. They were artists." Another roar outside. One-all.

"Goalless draws," prompted Polchard. "Do you remember goalless draws? Now it's 20 or 30 goals a game."

Mullen nodded. "They were real teams; squads we used to call them. Now you pull them off of the street and in six weeks they are

top-class players. When they are injured you throw them aside and get another one."

All for a few weeks of glory," said Polchard, "but nearly all the money goes to them."

He nodded towards the other side of the box where Dearlove, the chief tactician, stared at a video screen, on which each player was transformed into a moving dot of light and each movement into a silver snail's trail. Beside him was Walker, the principal programmer, peering at another screen full of bunches of figures and characters.

Walker looked up. "Analysis read-out, Jim. That was one of their disc Beta attacks, track 3G."

Dearlove punched B3G into his console and looked at the screen again. "In that case we can stay with our Omega Disc and try attack 8Z. None of their defences on that disc can handle it."

Secret weapon

He punched more buttons and on the field the players responded. Carter kicked-off again and four minutes later Malloney had the ball in the net. Two-one.

Strickland clutched at his earphones. "He says they are changing discs," he shouted.

Dearlove and Walker looked at one another.

You know what the model predicted," said Walker. "They should be trying their Gamma disc attack 4J at this stage if they are being consistent."

Dearlove nodded. "So now we try our secret weapon, we'll give them the new Alpha defence, 9Q."

Walker already had the diskette in his hand and he pushed it in the slot as Dearlove keyed-in the code. The battery of 11 antennae below the box swivelled and locked on to each member of the team.

A fresh beam of micropulses was generated and sped unerringly to activate the pressure pads superglued between the shoulder blades of each player. The 12 pressure points in each pad were invoked. Each man responded as he had been trained; trained to react blindly and without thought to the patterns of pressure as they came. Swerve. Right. Leap. Kick. Shoot.

As the United winger executed a beautifully-positioned pass, Fairclough, to the delight of the crowd, got a head to the ball by split-second timing and nodded it down to the feet of Carter.

"Right," said Dearlove, excitement lifting his voice, "now we hit them with a 7C."

Mr. Fixit

He punched-in the code and two minutes later Thompson scored with an incredible shot. He had his back to the goal and kicked the ball backwards over his head. Three-one.

There came a whistle and the cigar fell out of Strickland's mouth. "The referee's given us offside," he said.

He turned to berate Dearlove but then touched his earphones. "He says to look at their aerials."

He focused his binoculars on the other box. "Twelve of them," he announced.

He panned downwards and fastened his gaze on Mackinaw. He could just make out the tell-tale circular shape under the back of the man's shirt.

He turned again, letting the binoculars fall to his chest. "O.K. so they must have fixed the ref. Get the jammers out boys — we've got a fight on our hands." □

NEWTRONICS KEYBOARD TERMINAL



The Newtronics Keyboard Terminal is a low-cost, stand-alone Video Terminal that operates quietly and maintenance free. It will allow you to display on a monitor 16 lines of 64 characters or 16 lines of 32 characters on a modified TV (RF Modulator required).

The characters can be any of the 96 ASC11 alphanumerics and any of the 32 special characters. In addition to upper-lower case capability it has scroll up features and full X-Y cursor control. All that is required from your microcomputer is 300baud, RS232-C or 20ma loop, serial data, plus a power source of 8v DC & 6-3v AC. The steel cabinet is finished in IBM Blue-Black. And if that is not enough the price is only £135.55 + VAT as a Kit, or £175.00 + VAT assembled and tested. Plus £2.00 P & P.

Dealer and O.E.M. enquiries invited.
To order, phone or write to:-

Newtronics 138 KINGSLAND RD. LONDON E2
8BY. TEL: 01-739 1582.

Manufacturers & Distributors of
High-Fidelity and Electronic Equipment

Access/Barclaycards accepted.

● Circle No. 178

EQUINOX 300

A powerful multi-user
multi-tasking
multi-language

16-bit microcomputer time-sharing system

supporting
· BASIC
· LISP
· PASCAL
· Floppy discs
· Hard discs

including a powerful Text Formatter,
Assembly Language Development System
and disc-based Sort utilities.

Priced from under **£5,000**

Write or phone for further information.

EQUINOX COMPUTER SYSTEMS LTD

"Kleeman House" 16 Anning Street,
New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3HB.
Tel: 01-739 23879. 01-729 4460.

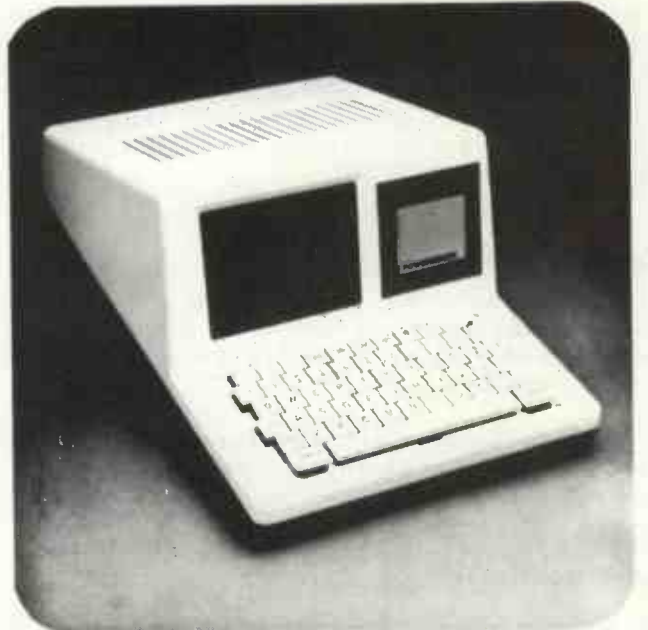
● Circle No. 179

POWERHOUSE 2 Microcomputer

NEW

- Z80A microprocessor. 16 or 32k byte of dynamic RAM
- Central processor, RAM, PROM/EPROM, Keyboard encoder and serial I/O interfaces on one p.c. board
- Space for two further option boards
 - True X-Y graphics
 - IEEE 488 interface
 - Additional serial I/O channels
 - Customer designed boards
- Mini cassette option, built into standard housing
- Interfaces with up to four mini or standard floppy discs
- Genuine desk-top unit – 43 x 28 x 17 cms; 6.4 kg
- Centronics interface on main board. Extended BASIC in EPROM (optional)
- Standard software controls all functions including screen editing

POWERHOUSE MICROPROCESSORS LIMITED
5-7 ALEXANDRA ROAD
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
HERTFORDSHIRE HP2 5BS
Telephone: (0442) 48422 Telex: 826339



● Circle No. 180

Same and Different — Letter Builder

Cassette for Apple, Pet and TRS-80 Levels 1 and II. Available from Program Design Inc, 11 Idar Court, Greenwich, Connecticut; \$9.50.

THIS American package software house advertises a range of educational software for Pet, Tandy and Paale; it claims its programs to be of tested educational value. We bought the Apple version using VISA, and it took some four weeks to arrive.

Incidentally, it is very easy to buy U.S. products using Visa or Mastercharge or Amex Credit cards — much easier than sending a dollar draft. Whenever possible we use this method of payment, always assuming, of course, that the vendor can accept the credit cards.

Same and Different is a suite of six similar programs in which the pupil (target age 3-6 years) starts by identifying as 'same' or 'different' a range of large colour squares. It then moves on to increasingly-complex letter-like shapes — like large boxes, and plus and minus signs — and finally to matching ordinary screen-sized letters.

Letter Builder takes this process a stage further but the pupil has to find the letter displayed on the keyboard which is displayed on the screen. Again the level of difficulty can be selected, starting with distinctive letters (A and S) and moving by stages to the whole alphabet.

Smile, please

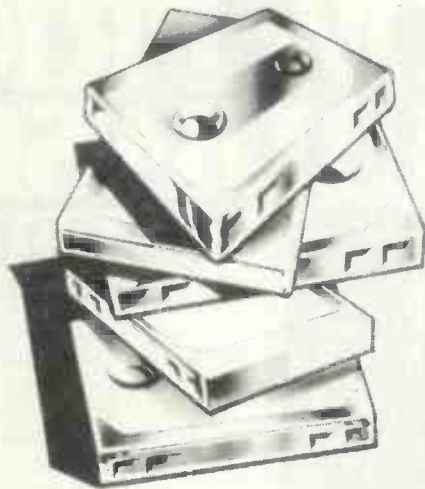
The program is accompanied by a six-page leaflet. For *Same and Different* this tells you to put 'smile' and 'sad' faces on the S and D keys on the keyboard, and to screen the rest of the keyboard with cardboard.

We didn't think young children would be too happy with this arrangement; the experience of some researchers in this area is that large buttons are preferred to small keys. So we altered the program slightly (line 350, and print statements in 140 and 180) to use H instead of S to separate the letters. We then made some large keys from plastic wall hooks from Woolworths, which were loose on top of the keyboard keys.

We used Loctite Handystrip on the bottom of the keys to provide a shape which would slot over the keys — an alternative might be Bluetack or something similar. The extension keys were held in place by the cardboard screening the rest of the keyboard.

Baby Suzanna being still too young to try, we took our Apple to a day nursery. There six four-year-olds tried *Same and Different*.

The conclusion was encouraging. All the children eventually grasped the idea after some patient explanation by the matron. Just as important, they enjoyed the exercise. A little to our surprise, two



managed the level 6 stage of *Same and Different* matching letters. The steady rhythm of changing patterns and the 'well done' and 'raspberry sounds', which I thought well-chosen, seemed to hold the children's attention well, although a longer test would be needed to see how this persisted.

One weakness in the arrangement was that the children tended to concentrate on the colours on the screen and not look too carefully at the keys. They distinguished keys as much by touch as by sight.

Next time we tried keys with different shapes and textures, and spaced them further apart at the edges of the keyboard, so the children had to turn clearly from one to the other. That seemed an improvement.

As to the educational value, it should take an elaborate, controlled test to prove the worth of the computer in relation to traditional instruction. For our review each child was supervised closely and encouraged by one of the staff. The exercise, however, seemed reasonably convincing as a development aid.

Convincing

The main defect from this point of view is that the letters are capitals. Children are taught normally to read and write using lower-case letters. Apple high-resolution graphics could be used with advantage to overcome this particular problem.

We also thought the reinforcement could be improved by some special display after, say, 10 correct answers. The programs score for the child but this is not directly to provide feedback.

The crux of the matter, however, is the children. They like the programs and I was convinced they were learning to look at shapes in the way they need to do to learn to read.

They definitely liked the programs. Better advice could be given on making the keys distinctive to the child but the price is very reasonable — as an educational aid you may not have to pay duty or VAT — and there were no technical hitches. — K. F.

Escape

Templeman Software Services, PO Box 7, Stratford-on-Avon, for cassette or mini-floppy in 16K. No price decided.

MOST computer games are abstract entertainments. *Star Trek*, for instance, is an almost completely intellectual business of dots and numbers, though, if one had to fight a deep space battle with the Klingons, this might well be how it felt.

Adventure is played through text messages on the screen; all the visual settings have to be erected in the player's head.

We have found one game, however, which is both intellectually gripping and visually striking. It uses the Apple graphics to create a crude but astonishingly compelling world from which you have to *Escape*.

On the surface, it's just another old maze. What you see on the screen is your view as you stand in a maze with 10-ft. walls. If you have colour, better yet — because the sky, walls and floor are different and this adds to the realism.

This view takes the top half of the VDU; below it is a little map of the directions in which you can move at that particular position in the maze, and the keys to press to execute a change.

Gripping

So, if you want to turn round and see what's behind, you hit the appropriate key. If you turn round again, there's the scene you had to begin with. If you move forward, turnings to left and right appear — you can look down them, go down them or pass on. As you explore the maze, you can sketch a map of the bits you've seen and traversed. But every so often you meet a denizen of the labyrinth.

You were warned that these people either always tell the truth, sometimes lie, or always lie. Each will make some cryptic remark like 'I always lie', which must mean that he sometimes lies because if he always lied he would have to say 'I always tell the truth.' He will offer a map of the maze but, since he may not be truthful, it may be misleading; and a compass which will indicate direction but, of course, it may be a 'joke' compass.

By correlating all the information from the maze, the maps, the denizens and their compasses, it is possible to find a way out.

There is nothing esoteric about the computing for this sort of game. The essential ingredient is imagination — making it possible for the player, or victim, to see things realistically.

For instance, it seems that the new computer games on the West Coast are about 'contact' sports. In a basketball game we've heard of, the players run and twist and their faces show pleasure, anger, pain, frustration. This is the way games must go. Why can't the U.K. produce some? — P. L.

NEW LOW PRICE FOR LEVEL II BASIC 16K



TRS-80 Microcomputer

the world's biggest selling personal microcomputer

This is a fantastic opportunity to own a TRS-80 personal microcomputer. Designed and built by TANDY, the TRS-80 is the world's biggest seller, with over 100,000 in use.

The 'silicon chip' revolution is here, now, at your nearest TANDY store. If necessary you simply add-on extra modules to suit your individual requirements. See a TRS-80 at your Local TANDY today.

- * Level refers to version of BASIC computer language.
- * 16K is size of Random Access Memory Capacity.
- * All systems include 232 page users manual & games cassette program.
- * No prior knowledge of computing is required to use the TRS-80.
- * Fully wired and tested —NOT a kit.
- * Designed and Manufactured by TANDY Corporation.

£519 + VAT

26-1006

Total £596.85 Old price £752.81

inc. VAT at 15%

**SAVE
£155.96**



TRS-80 Expansion is easy!—Just add the units to suit your needs.

	Old Price incl. 15% VAT	New Low Price (less VAT)	New Low Price incl. VAT	SAVE
26 1120 ROM	£84.12	£73	£83.95	
26 1101 16K Upgrade	£137.36	£105	£120.75	£16.61
26 1003 16K Level I	£668.69	£480	£552.00	£116.69
26 1004 4K Level II	£615.45	£448	£515.20	£100.25
26 1006 16K Level II	£752.81	£519	£596.85	£155.96
26 1140 Expansion Interface	£243.84	£199	£228.85	£14.99

Offers subject to availability. Instant credit available in most cases. Access, Barclaycard and Trustcard welcome. Check your telephone directory for your nearest store.

OVER 170 STORES AND DEALERSHIPS NATIONWIDE.

KNOWN AS RADIO SHACK IN THE U.S.A. MAKERS OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SELLING MICROCOMPUTER TRS80

TANDY

BRINGING HIGH TECHNOLOGY DOWN TO EARTH

Please send full details and new low prices of TRS-80 systems.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

TANDY CORPORATION, BILSTON ROAD, WEDNESBURY, W. MIDLANDS, WS10 7JN.



● Circle No. 181

Peanut Butter and Jelly Guide to Computers

By Jerry Willis. Published by Dilithium Press 1978 (distributed by ISBS); paperback, 207 pages; price, £5.80.

WHETHER it's the fact that this book was written on a word processor or that the author is a specialist in instructional materials and methods which is responsible for its readability is anyone's guess. But it is, and it covers as much of the computer field as some books twice the size.

It's possible to write a book on a subject about which you don't know a great deal but that will certainly show in what you write. On the other hand, if you know your subject it will be clear in the finished work. Willis obviously knows his subject. He has learned a good deal, the hard way, about assembling kits and buying second-hand peripherals and writing programs.

Satisfying

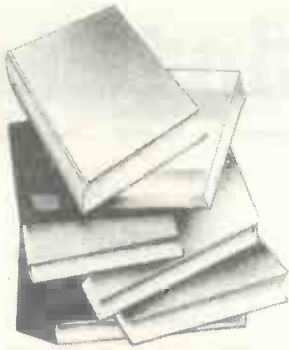
It would be no exaggeration to say that you'll obtain more solid information from this book than you would in several months of other reading. The details make it a satisfying read, plus the feeling that you're getting good, friendly and unbiased advice from a fellow fanatic.

The book includes introductions to micro architecture, memories, languages, a run-down on some typical computers, as well as sections on simple applications and computer art. The final three chapters cover the author's experiences with computer stores, mail-order buying and kit building. Most of it is U.S.-orientated, predictably enough, but let us hope that some of the sad stories are not repeated here.

The only real complaint we could make is on his explanation of number systems. It is not the best we've seen, perhaps because it's compressed into three or four pages. There are plenty of better introductions to the subject.

Conclusion

● If you're a beginner, you'll learn plenty from this book. It's especially worth reading if you're thinking of buying your first microcomputer. The author has succeeded in his aim "to keep the writing style as light and comfortable as possible and to include technical material only if it would be helpful and understandable to a reader who didn't have a degree". Highly recommended.—R.G.



The Future with Micro-Electronics

By Iann Barron and Ray Curnow. Published 1979 by Frances Pinter Ltd. hardback, 243 pages; price, £7.95.

THE HEALTH of *Practical Computing* is a living witness to the future outlined in this important book, probably the first practical — as opposed to science fiction — assessment of how the micro will change our lives. It was written originally for the Department of Industry early in 1978 to help shape government policy in relation to micro-electronics, microprocessors and microcomputers, and it aroused controversy at the time because of its "leaked" projections of the unemployment which might result from the micro revolution.

It estimates the number of jobs lost as 10-15 percent and a high proportion of them will be today's female jobs. Will this result in more equal opportunities for women? Or in a drastic decline in female employment?

The main lesson of the book is that we must plan for and so minimise the bad social and economic consequences of this huge dislocation; and to maximise the chances of replacing the lost jobs. Ironically, it seems the only way to do so is to make sure that we embrace the micro revolution at least as quickly as anybody else.

Five percent only

That is not so much because it is important to replace redundant jobs with a healthy microcomputer industry, although Barron has now become director of strategy at Inmos, the deposed Labour government's answer to Texas Instruments and Motorola.

For, the authors argue, micro electronics will never provide more than five percent of the economy, even if telecommunications is included; as fast as the volume of turnover soars the cost per item plummets and the labour input also drops. So, overall, there is little growth.

No, the main reason why we must embrace the micro revolution is that unless we use the damned things we will become totally

uncompetitive — an undeveloped country by international standards. The Japanese, Americans, French, Germans, Koreans and all will be using them — and indeed are using them — to produce goods and services much more cheaply than we will be able to do.

Fortunately, recent governments and some of the unions — at least at TUC level — are beginning to realise the importance of accepting the challenge of the micro. The question is whether or not it is too late and whether or not our built-in resistances to these innovations can be overcome.

The major part of the book is the authors' forecast of how the technology will develop and how it will be used. They cover a wide area, from international packet-switched networks and mainframe computers to microprocessors and home computing.

Too difficult

They don't believe in the "computer-controlled home". It would have to be programmed by the owner, and programming, they think, is too difficult for the man in the street. Rather, microprocessors will be hidden for specific activities in the same way that electric motors are taken for granted today. Did you know that the average home has some 15 electric motors? Count your own.

Barron and Curnow predict that solid-state memory — ROMs and RAMs — will continue to get denser and cheaper. Discs and tapes, which are so slow, bulky and unreliable, will be superseded for storage by plug-in solid state silicon-cassettes, at one-hundredth of today's cost.

In the longer term, perhaps we will access books and records through the public information network, of which Prestel is the beginning.

The other major development which will affect the hobbyist market is the electronic typewriter. It will have a solid-state flat screen, probably using liquid crystals and of A4 size. The flat screen should appear by the mid '80s and in the long term the electronic typewriter should cost no more than a calculator today.

The television, on the other hand, they say, has no role to play in the long-term development of the home information system.

Other changes in the way the householder receives information would be:

- selective radio and TV — ordered over the telephone.
- direct access to libraries.
- newspapers transmitted by telephone or radio.
- far more specialised information services — e.g., on sports.
- remote shopping and ordering.

- home electronic mail, delivered electronically to your computer rather than through the letter-box.

Social problems

In home, factory, and, above all, in the office, the electronic revolution will have a major effect on how we live; but time and again the authors emphasise that it is social, not technological, problems which must be overcome if the revolution is to happen at the necessary speed. They are pessimistic that they can be overcome quickly enough.

They identify two types of barrier to achieving the necessary adoption of micros in this country — the question of who derives the benefits and who suffers; and the problem of awareness.

The first is the problem as seen at Times Newspapers. The typesetters stand to lose their livelihood — not to mention public respect for their hard-won skills — if single key-stroking takes over, as it must be expected to do in the long term. Single key-stroking is when journalists type their copy directly on to the computer which will produce plates for printing, so eliminating the need for typesetting, which has until now been a skilled and very highly-paid job.

The second critical problem is awareness. Most people know nothing about computers or what they do, except that they are vaguely hostile to them because they go wrong, and that they cannot understand the computer jargon.

Removing fears

There is a huge job to do informing people about computers, removing their fears, de-mystifying them, providing them with the information they need to decide for what they can use micros, help them to choose the right hardware and software for their needs, and learn how to use it.

This book is the most important effort to explain the micro revolution so far. All the more pity, therefore, that it costs almost £8, though which, I suppose, is only the cost of a computer games program.

Conclusion

- This book is probably the first of many about the micro-electronic future. It is expensive and sometimes too dry and technical. Many of its ideas and suggested policies are now old and widely-accepted.
- Its views and projections are important and deserve wide consideration, particularly by anybody who wants to keep ahead of the electronics game. — I.L.

Practical Computing Back Issues

If you are interested in microcomputers you will want to read the *Practical Computing* reviews of the machines in which you are interested. Each month *Practical Computing* carries at least one hands-on test of a popular microcomputer for use in business, the home, schools and colleges. Each review contains the kind of information you need - technical data and unbiased critical comment on the strengths and weaknesses of each system.

Each issue is packed with essential reading on microcomputers, including all our regular monthly features: Book and cassette reviews; Glossary of computer terminology; Computabits; Pet Corner (February onwards); Apple Pie (May onwards); Tandy Forum (March onwards); serialised *Illustrating Basic* (October 1978 onwards).

All this makes *Practical Computing* the invaluable source for the whys, wherefores, hows, ifs and buts of microcomputing.

October 1978

Review 1: Commodore Pet I. Review 2: VDUs - Computer Workshop CT-64, Strumech Engineering ACT-1. Music on a KIM; Micro v. Calculator; VAT accounting complete program Part 1.

November 1978

Review: Tandy TRS-80. Projects for KIM: Pet goes to school; VAT accounting complete program Part 2; Complete game program - Mastermind; Software Dynamics Basic compiler review.

December 1978

Review: Research Machines 380Z. Choosing your first computer; ITT interview; Complete games programs - Battleships, Racing Cars and Monsters; A microcomputerised reservation system.



Playing with the Pet in the Panther

Turning IBM typewriters into terminals

Learn typing by computer

January 1979

Review: Nascom I. Convert an IBM typewriter into a terminal Part 1; In-car computing - Pet in the Panther; DeVille; Report from the Los Angeles Computer Faire; Pascal v. Basic.



February 1979
Reviews: Cromemco Z-2D, Low-cost peripherals; Systems for estate agents and doctors; A £1000 payroll system; IBM typewriter conversion Part 2; Complete game program - Warlock Warren.



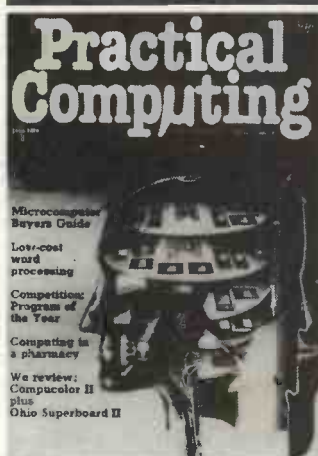
March 1979
Review: Single-board computers for less than £50. Low-cost stock-control systems; IBM typewriter conversion Part 3; New monthly column - Tandy Forum; Complete game program - NIM



April 1979
Review: North Star Horizon. Business accounting systems; Apple II design story Part 1; Computerised school meals; Finance for school computing; Build your own frequency meter; Star Trek game.



May 1979
Reviews: Eddy Sorcerer; Science of Cambridge Mk 14; Printers for less than £1000; Order processing/invoicing packages; Retire with your computer; Apple II design story Part 2; Sialom game.



June 1979
Reviews: Compucolor II, Ohio Super-board II; Low-cost word-processing; Computing in a pharmacy; Designing a small business application Part 1; Computer v. Brain; Zombie game.



July 1979
Reviews: AIM-65, SOL-20. Choosing your first computer; Interfacing Pet with a mainframe; Nascom story; Designing a small business application Part 2; Biorhythms program.



August 1979
Reviews: Pet II, KIM. Pros and cons of PASCAL; Microcomputer user groups; Designing a small business application Part 3; Interfacing Pet with a mainframe Part 2; Life game program.



To keep your copies of *Practical Computing* in good condition and convenient for reference you will need a special binder. In blue, with *Practical Computing* in silver-style lettering on the spine, each holds twelve issues

Only the above issues are still available. Fill in the coupon opposite and return it with your remittance to *Practical Computing*, 30-31 Islington Green, London N1 8BJ.

If you buy the wrong personal computer, you can't re-program your bank account!

Buying a personal computer is not an easy task.

So many people selling them neglect the little things that enable you to get the most from your computer, such as documentation, spares, add-ons and maintenance. We believe that these 'details' are essential. We are the only British company to put all our time and energy into the personal computer market and are in the best position to advise you on your initial purchase and keep you fully informed about all the new developments relevant to your computer.

Personal Computers Limited — *the name of the game.*

Say 'hello' to a graphics Apple II



A business Apple II



Exclusive to Personal Computers Ltd. German Apple II. Available shortly.



Personal Computers Limited

194-200 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4NR.
Tel. 01-283 3391

● Circle No. 182

PRACTICAL COMPUTING September 1979

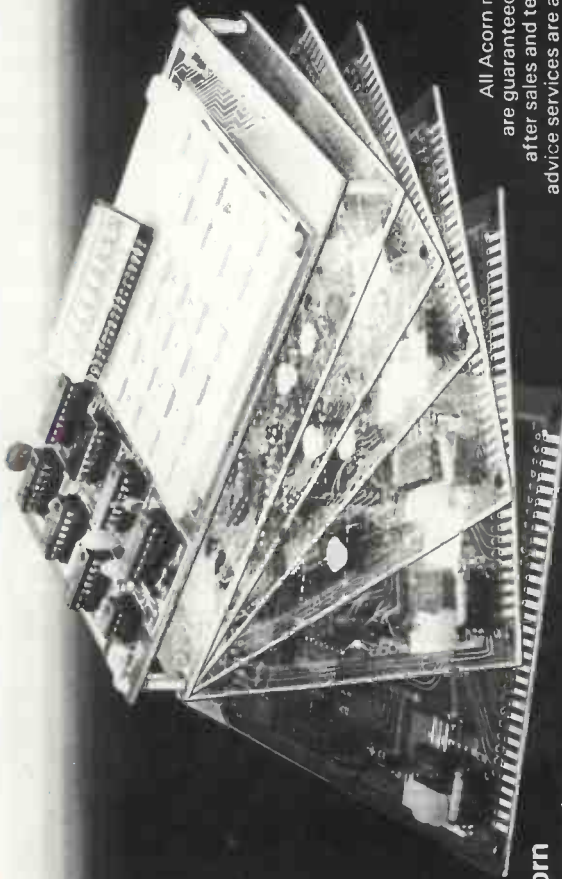
Apple Software Bank
Free membership to all Apple owners
POST TO: Personal Computers Ltd. 194-200 Bishopsgate
London EC2M 4NR.
NAME
ADDRESS

Three Trumps from Acorn



Acorn Controller

Designed as an industrial controller module, it is based on the 6502 CPU with 2K Eprom, 1.25K ram and 32 I/O lines. In eurocard format it is provided with an onboard monitor (2 x 745571) giving comprehensive development and debugging facilities. Also available in minimum configuration for low cost OEM applications.



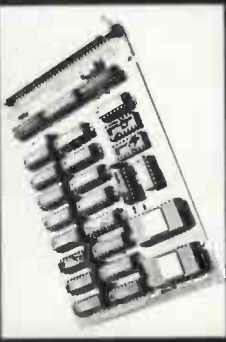
The Acorn Microcomputer

The Acorn controller module mounted beneath a matching eurocard with hex keyboard, 8 digit seven segment display and CUTS tape interface requires only a single unswitched power supply to form the powerful Acorn microcomputer.

All Acorn modules are guaranteed and full after sales and technical advice services are available.

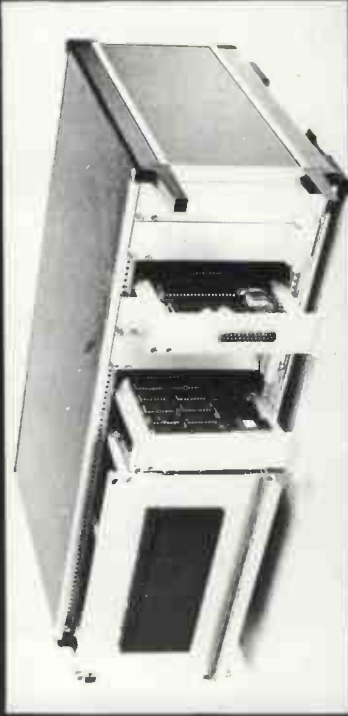
Although designed for expandability the Acorn Microcomputer is a complete development system for the Acorn controller and together with the Acorn Users Manual provides the perfect introduction to hex programming; the carefully optimised monitor has the following functions:

- System Program
- Set of sub-routines for use in programming
- Powerful de-bugging facility displays all internal registers
- Tape load and store



Acorn Memory

The first in our series of expansion cards is the Acorn 8K + 8K "state of the art" memory module. On a matching eurocard it provides 8K of ram (2114) and 8K of Eprom (2732) or 4K of Eprom (2716). It requires a single 5V rail, is designed for direct connection via a 32 way edge connector to the Acorn bus and is fully buffered for wiring into any system. Two onboard sockets provide independent positioning of Eprom and ram.



Software available soon includes 4K-Editor-Assembler-Disassembler, 4K Proprietary Fast Basic, Disc operating system with full file handling. Although a standard strip of

veroboard is all that is required for a full backplane, a racking system can be made available by Acorn Computers. The rack shown includes the VDU interface, two memory cards and dual floppy disc interface.



Order form

Send to: Acorn Computers Ltd. 4A Market Hill, Cambridge, Cambs.

- (qty) Acorn Microcomputer(s) in kit form at £65.00 plus £5.20 VAT
- (qty) Acorn Microcomputer(s) assembled and tested at £75.00 plus £6.00 VAT
- (qty) Acorn controller(s) (minimum configuration) at £35.00 plus £2.80 VAT
- (qty) Acorn Memory(s) assembled and tested at £95.00 plus £7.60 VAT

N.B. Price shown is for full 8K of ram, prices for smaller memory options and Eprom additions available on request.

I enclose a cheque for £..... made out to Acorn Computers Ltd.

Name _____

Address _____



How to build your own

THE ADDITION of joysticks to games programs can be very rewarding. They speed the action and allow the players to concentrate on the screen instead of the keyboard. The players can also sit away from the computer and avoid getting in each other's way. Fights are therefore less likely. Drawing on the screen becomes easy.

For most applications, computer game joysticks need not be similar to those used by radio-control enthusiasts. In their case, precise control is needed and is obtained usually by the use of two variable potentiometers set at right angles to each other.

The resistance of each potentiometer alters with the position of the 'stick' and an infinite number of positions and combinations is possible. To enable this type of control to be used on a computer we should need to convert the output from analogue to digital form. That would involve the use of external circuits and more complicated programs.

The majority of games and drawing programs require information only as to whether the cursor — man, tank and the like—is to move up/down/right/left/or to stay still. The joystick has to be able, therefore to output only five states, each of which is absolute — either yes or no. That is a task suited ideally to a simple switch. We will need four per stick. With those four switches we can cater also for diagonal movements and the firing of guns. If two joysticks are used together, it is essential that they do no interference to each other.

The ideas for joysticks offered here

were formulated with the Pet in mind and software will be given for Pet users. There is no reason why users of other machines should not adapt the methods to their own use. So long as an eight-bit parallel input port is provided on the computer, only the address will have to be changed.

The Pet possesses a very versatile user port through which data can be read or output. The port is provided with sophisticated handshake lines but we need only the eight bit lines, PA0-PA7. We do not

used directly for the main movements as shown but, in addition, diagonals can be utilised by pressing two switches at the same time e.g., Up and Right to move diagonally in that direction. Any combination can be used for other instructions but the method becomes clumsy if three pushes have to be pressed at the same time.

A refinement is to turn over the box and use it on a hard surface, such as a table. Miniature push-buttons with fairly large operating movements work best in

David Annal describes how easy it is to make up joysticks to input graphical commands.

need to program these lines to be used as inputs, since, in default of instructions to the contrary, Pet sets them as inputs at switch-on.

Each bit line is set high, i.e., to a '1', unless the line is grounded when it becomes low, i.e. a '0'. As soon as the line is disconnected from ground, the bit reverts at once to the high state. All we need to do to cause a bit, or several bits, to go low is to place a push-switch between the pin and digital earth and press the button. The joysticks described do that.

Push switches

The simplest device which will perform all the tasks outlined is a small box with four push-buttons mounted on it. Each is a push-to-make type. They are connected as in diagram 1. The push switches can be

that way. The position of the left and right buttons must, of course, be reversed.

In use, the box is covered by the palm of the hand and moved as a whole with a downward tilting motion towards the direction required. The box acts as a joystick. Diagonals can be obtained by pressing down a corner so that two neighbouring pushes will close at the same time.

Other combinations of two or three are impossible but that with all four buttons closed can be used easily by pressing the box hard down on to the table. This could be made to fire a gun. It may be necessary to place small pieces of felt on the tips of each push-button to take-up any differences in operating movement when all buttons are pressed at once.

(continued on next page)

Diagram 1: Simple push-switch arrangement.

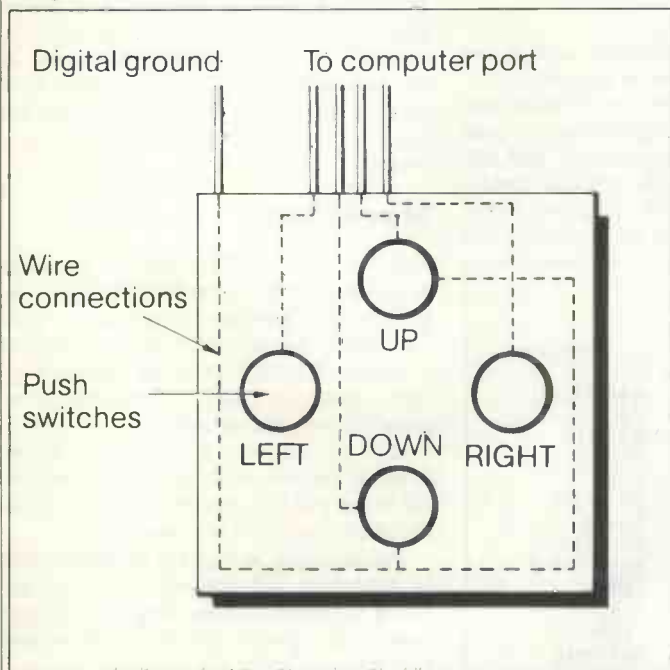
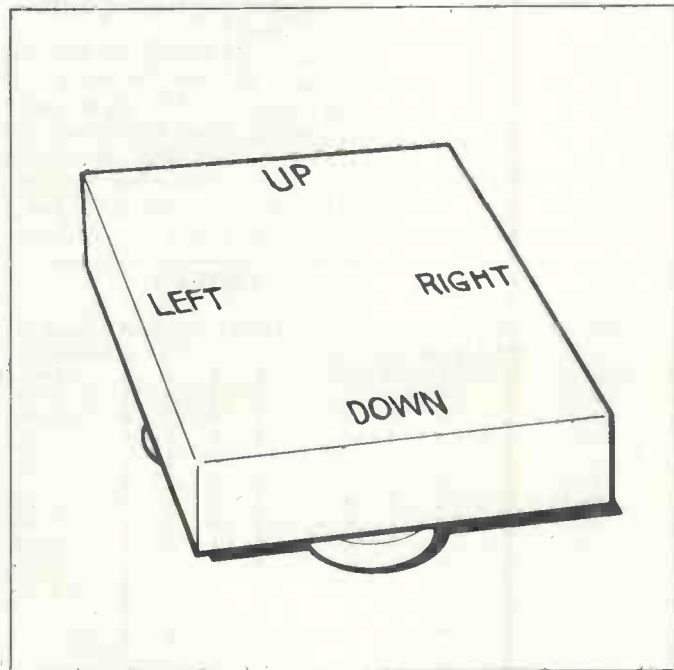


Diagram 2: Upside-down box.



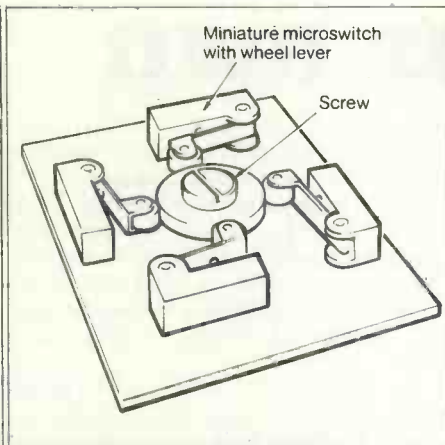


Diagram 3: Arrangement of microswitches.

Moving stick

A true compact joystick which works well and uses only easily-available components can be made with miniature microswitches. They must be the type operated by levers. They can be bought in lots of 10 from several electronic shops and are inexpensive. The switches are mounted as shown in diagrams 3 and 4.

The operating levers bear on a washer of about 3/4 in. diameter. The bolt hole must be larger than the diameter of the bolt by about 1/4 in. so that all-round movement is possible. Another washer and a knob, or terminal, is placed above the panel as shown. The switches can then be used to detect movement in the four main directions and also diagonally, when two switches will operate. The natural spring action of the levers returns the knob to the neutral position when the hand is removed.

This joystick works smoothly and I think it has a nicer 'feel' than those mentioned earlier. The disadvantage, however, is that no other easily-accessible codes are available to operate other functions. This can be overcome by using one or two extra push-switches with two make poles. They are connected across a pair of opposite switches as shown in diagrams 5 and 6. This then forms a compact box with satisfying, positive actions.

Other possibilities

Sliding bars Many commercial joysticks use the principle of a control rod moving

in slots of two actuating levers at right angles to each other (diagram 7). Setting them up to operate switches is not easy without workshop facilities. Also, some form of centralising device must be provided but it could be two elastic bands.

Magnets can be made to operate sets of reed switches. Such a method can easily be made to operate the four cardinal switches but diagonals are difficult. Four more double-pole reed switches could be added at each diagonal.

Direct switching. The control lever can be made to contact spring metal slips situated round the eight directions required. Centring will have to be provided. This method seems easiest of all but it is difficult to obtain positive switching and prevent double movements.

Software

We will continue ourselves to reading the joystick positions in Basic. This is fast

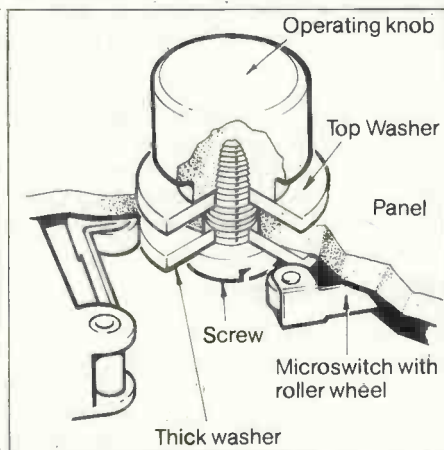


Diagram 4: Construction of operating button.

enough for most applications and, in any case, the whole routine is very short.

The eight input bits are divided into two lots of four. The higher four are used to read the left-hand joystick, and the lower four the right. The possible combinations of the two sides are shown in the table 1. 'O' shows an earthed line. For

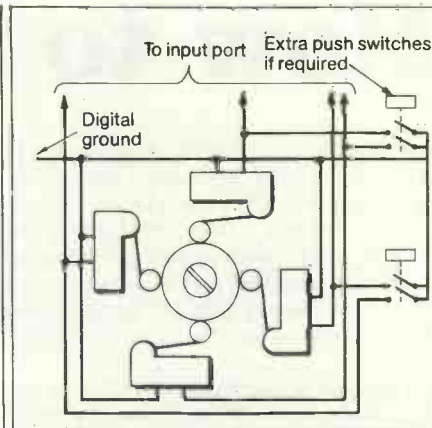


Diagram 5: Wiring for extra control buttons.

the reason given, combinations of three are not included. The state of all four lines grounded is shown, as it can be used in the upside-down box.

The numerical value given by the combination of inputs from one joystick is shown, together with the decoded function to which it is put. There is no set convention and those used are my own choice. The value is obtained, in the case of the lower 1/2 byte, by ANDing with 15 (i.e. 8+4+2+1), and in the higher by ANDing with 240 (i.e. 128+64+32+16). By dividing the value of the copper 1/2 byte by 16, a number corresponding to the lower half is given. If this is done, the same subroutine can be used to interpret both sets of figures.

The program required to decode the switches will depend on the configuration of the input port. The one given will work only on a Pet. Numerous IF THEN statements have been avoided by the use of an array with 15 subscripts. This leads to a very compact program.

In the demonstration program, the array contains statements which give the joystick position in words. In a games program they would be replaced by instructions relating to the movement of the cursor or tank. The Pet user port input is situated at dec.59471, hence the use of this number in the PEEK statements.

Movement

The Pet video RAM is located between 32768 and 33767. The former is the top left position, the latter the bottom right. The symbol for the 'man' required is first poked on to the screen in the desired position, using a number between those given above. Subsequent movement is made by adding a number, which depends on the joystick position, to the old value and then poking the result on to the screen to show the new position.

Before doing so, the old position could be poked out with a blank (,32) if a 'trail' is not required. For drawing, or trapping games, this would not be necessary and the old position is left showing.

TABLE 1

AND 240 Gives Value of	LEFT JOYSTICK PA7 PA6 PA5 PA4	RIGHT JOYSTICK PA3 PA2 PA1 PA0	and 15 Gives Value of	MEANING
240	1 1 1 1	8 4 2 1	15	NEUTRAL
224	1 1 1 0	1 1 1 0	14	UP
208	1 1 0 1	1 1 0 1	13	RIGHT
176	1 0 1 1	1 0 1 1	11	DOWN
112	0 1 1 1	0 1 1 1	7	LEFT
192	1 1 0 0	1 1 0 0	12	UP & RT
160	1 0 1 0	1 0 1 0	10	Special
96	0 1 1 0	0 1 1 0	6	UP & LFT
144	1 0 0 1	1 0 0 1	9	DOWN & R
80	0 1 0 1	0 1 0 1	5	Special
48	0 0 1 1	0 0 1 1	3	DOWN & L
0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0	"FIRE" (see text)

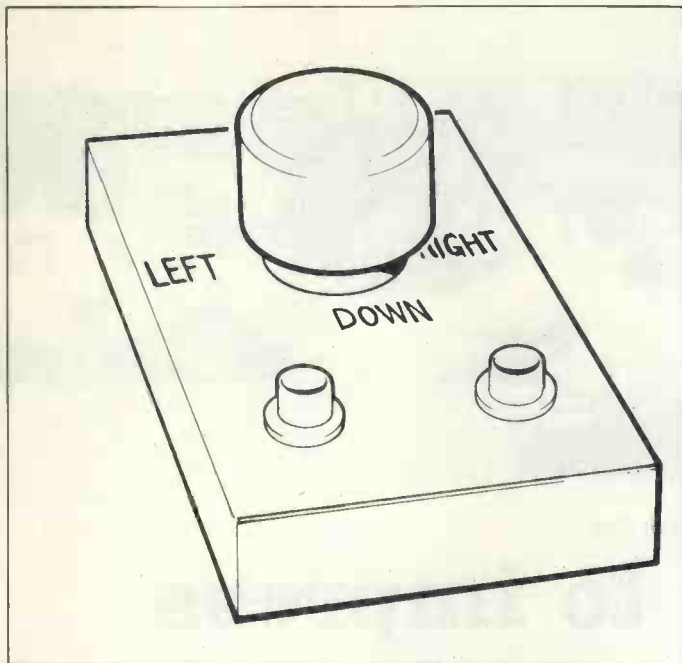


Diagram 6: Finished joystick with extra controls.

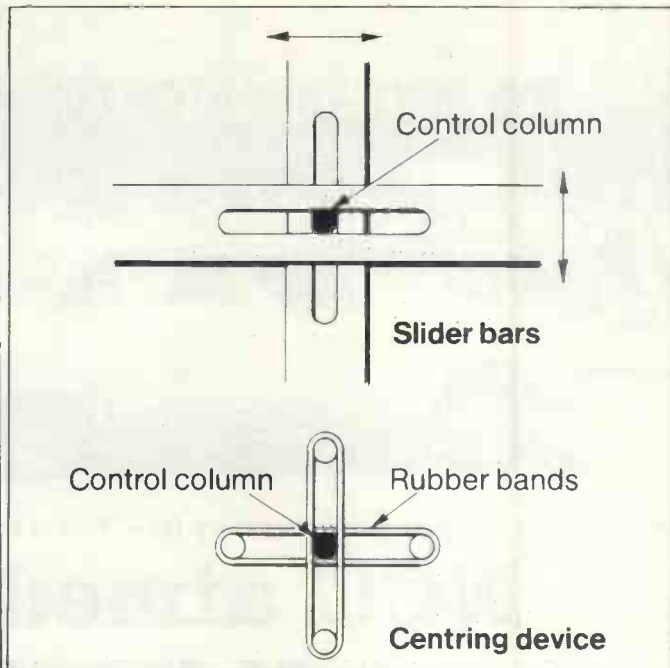


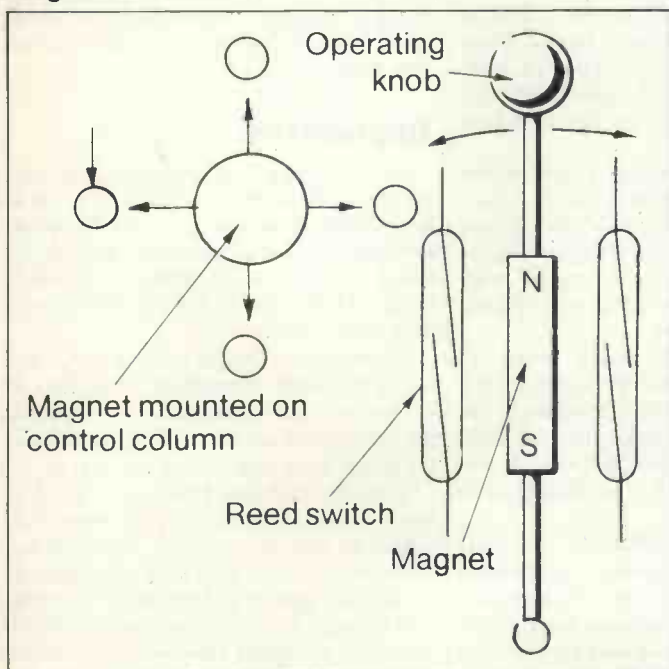
Diagram 7.

The SATA statements are altered to give the number needed to be added to the old screen position to give the new one. So, for instance, 40 will be inserted instead of Down. This is because there are 40 characters per line on the Pet. Other substitutions would be made as in diagram 9. It may be necessary to ensure that a man cannot be moved off the sides or top and bottom. This can be done easily with extra lines and is not detailed here.

Program listing

Note that we have connected the switches as per table 2. Note also the nul strings used to cover unused combinations in the data statements. Each

Diagram 8.



data statement must be a total of 12 characters long to ensure erasure of the previous position.

```

100 REM JOYSTICK TEST PROGRAM
110 DIM JS(15)
120 FOR P=0 TO 15: READ JS(P): NEXT
130 PRINT "clr.cdx 12"
140 P+PEEK (59471) AND 15: PRINT TAB (25); JS
(P); "cu"
150 P+(PEEK (59471) AND 240)/16: PRINT TAB (2);
JS(P); "cu"
160 GOTO 140
1000 DATA "BANG!!", "O.O.", "DOWN & LEFT",
"O", "SPECIAL POSN", "UP & LEFT",
1010 DATA "LEFT", "O", "DOWN & RIGHT", "SPECIAL
POSN", "DOWN",
1020 DATA "UP & RIGHT", "RIGHT", "UP",
"NEUTRAL"
    
```

Line 130 is — Print clear screen followed by 12 cursor downs. cu in lines 140 & 150 is cursor up.

TABLE 2

Switch Connections

	LEFT	RIGHT
UP	PA 4	PA 0
RIGHT	PA 5	PA 1
DOWN	PA 6	PA 2
LEFT	PA 7	PA 3

The author would be most interested to hear of any other home made joystick mechanics.

Diagram 9: Portion of Pet screen to show relationship of surrounding positions.

-41	-40	-39
-1	Present position	+1
+39	+40	+41

1979 NATL COMPUTER CONFERENCE JUNE 4-7



NCC Street scene with the obligatory New York Yellow Cab.

NCC aimed to impress small business buyer

IF YOU are American, and if you sell, buy, yearn for or just read about computers, the chances are that you were at the National Computer Conference.

The NCC is the world's biggest annual computer trade fair and every year it gets bigger. The 1979 model featured some 500 exhibitors who paid for 1,700 exhibition spaces and talked to at least 70,000 visitors in the four days of the show. On the morning of day one, the queue was taking more than three hours to move in. Fortunately your correspondent had the magical pin-on Press pass which gained instant admission to a Press room well equipped with Budweiser and Diet Pepsi.

The show is too big to hold in a single Olympia-style cattle market and it sprawled across several of the expense-account hotels in the centre of New York City. That meant journalists trekking through corridors of distressed Italian cornices and generally fake baroque joinery — hotel designers in New York seem to have impressively poor taste.

One mouse cheated

The Sheraton Centre did not seem to be in that league, though, and in its well-appointed basement were the 92 booths of the personal computing 'festival'. Elsewhere in the hotel was the associated personal computing conference, and the finals of the Amazing Micro-Mouse Maze Contest.

The aim was to design a mouse-like robot which would negotiate a maze course; and since the winner would receive \$1,000, there was a good field. Most mice missed the finals and some which did not preferred to turn and retreat halfway through their run. One

seemed to us to cheat — it kept turning left until it found a path to the end. "Heuristics is dead," said the designer.

The winner and the runner-up were both from a specialist research organisation, the Battelle Institute. Moonlight Flash earned the \$1,000; Moonlight Express was second.

The exhibitors in the cellar generally outshone their expensive and glossy big-computer competitors in the main exhibition area. Apple Computers had a very impressive presentation in a suite away from the rest of the personal computers, emphasising discs and business software — as well as its own general corporate standing.

The aim, at least for the NCC, was to impress the small business buyer. Most new Apple products on show in New York were software, U.S.-orientated business packages and the new Pascal, which looked very good.

Another very interesting Pascal promotion was in the main NCC show. Pertec showed its Pascal Blaiser — after Blaise Pascal. It combines the Western Digital Pascal Microengine — a micro with Pascal on ROM — with two Pertec floppies in the cabinet.

Commodore also aimed hard at businessmen and sited its stand in the main exhibition. Tandy stayed with the personal computer fraternity, though, with a large booth in the Sheraton. It was worth it; the new TRS-80 Model II is most impressive.

Like the existing TRS-80, Model II uses the Z-80 micro, but running it rather faster, at 4MHz. Built into the screen is one full-size double-density floppy disc (512KB). An expansion unit supports up to three more of those discs.

The keyboard is new and has a numeric pad as well as two user-programmable function keys. Unlike the Model I, the Model II does not have Basic resident in ROM. It loads the operating system immediately and Basic from disc when power is turned on. Tandy says that is to allow the use of other languages without having ROM space go to waste; languages available include Fortran.

Five business software packages were unveiled with it, all for the U.S., priced between \$150 and \$400.

We were told that the U.K. wouldn't see Model II for "a few months". In the States the basic Model II system, with one disc drive and 32K of RAM, is priced at \$3,450. A full-blown system with 64K, three drives, a line printer, and a workstation desk sells for \$7,998.

Impressive

At the other end of the scale was another good-looking product. The New York-based Computer Systems Store has a relational database manager for micros, called REINS, which runs on a 64KB Pertec/Altair 300. The presentations were impressive.

Elsewhere on the floor there was much to try but little innovation. The likes of Cromemco and CompuColor were pulling the crowds but so were the many computer stores shouting their many wares.

Several established software vendors were there. Micropro had its word processor on two stands; GRT and Personal Software continued to look very professional with games and graphics; Lifeboat was listing "the latest and best" in 8080 and Z-80 packages from several sources, including Micropro.

Exidy had a new and neat screen-plus-floppy disc organisation and was at last demonstrating the plug-in ROM-PAC word processor — much-delayed but apparently fast and effective in operation.

There were fewer dramatic advances among peripherals than one might have expected. The cheap rigid disc is not yet with us and there seems little real opportunity to get away from screen and keyboard for communication between people and electrons.

Things are happening on the printer front, though, with falling prices on small matrix printers proclaimed by several vendors. Integral Data Systems had its BrighterWriter range there — more than 5,000 sales to date — but also showed a new printer called Paper Tiger. Aimed at



The new Exidy screen and dual mini terminal. What you can't see — the ROM-PAC word processor inside.

bulk buyers, it offers 80 to 132 columns, full upper- and lower-case, tractor feed and a quantity price of \$995 each.

In general, though, the personal computer side of the NCC was not a show for hobbyists or computer freaks. Most of the stallholders to whom we spoke were looking for the proprietors of small businesses or for people from systems builders and computer shops who would buy in large quantities.

The talks at the personal computing conference covered some good ground and if you have the opportunity to buy a copy of the papers, do so. Sadly you will not acquire the impressive evangelical favour of Ted Nelson's keynote speech — computers won't save the world, but they might make it a more pleasant place in which to live. On second thoughts, perhaps they will save the world at that.

Why Petsoft went to the NCC

AT PETSOFT we have been developing software for the Commodore dual mini-floppy. Now we were starting work on material to run on the Compu/Think device — hence my visit.

The Micromax has an enormous 105K internal memory plus up to 2.4 megabytes of on-line disc storage, substantially more than on other micro systems. The double-density dual drive stores or retrieves its 2.4 megabytes at 15,000 characters per second.

Of particular interest is the full-screen data-entry and editing capability. The screen can be divided into several distinct and separate application areas, each with its own separate data entry and display.

The screen is a 12in. integral CRT monitor with a format of 64 characters by

30 lines, giving a total of 1,920 characters per screen.

The internal memory consists of a 108,544-character semiconductor memory allocated to resident system software, Microsoft Basic with string capability and extended precision floating point. There is also a complete disc-operating system

by Julian Allason

which includes random access datafiles. Space is also allocated to video memory, disc directories and disc data buffers.

Other resident features include the high-resolution graphics commands, a FIFTH language micro-programmed interpreter and a complete machine language monitor with Tiny Assembler, dis-

assembler, dump facility and a debugging aid with break-point capability.

Some of the commands for the Disc Extended Basic are entered directly from the video/keyboard terminal. Others can be coded in Basic to perform disc-file input/output. Sequential and random access are supported on the disc drives, as well as the program and data files.

Visitors to the show particularly liked the high-resolution graphics, which are very sharp indeed.

The central processor is a hybrid 6502 which runs at 2MHz and executes all of the 6502 instructions, plus 64 additional user-definable instructions. At initialisation the instructions are microprogrammed to execute 64 instructions of the FIFTH universal machine language. Despite the pun, FIFTH appears to be a useful combination of FORTH and Pascal. Whether the world is ready for yet another computer language is another matter.

The user may also microprogram the 64 instructions to perform Pascal operations, FORTH operations, or to emulate any other computer whether on or off the drawing board.

Compu/Think is offering a database called Page Mate, which is a set of five programs designed to perform most of the common data manipulation functions for the computer user without requiring him to resort to programming.

I suspect that in developing what is arguably the most advanced microcomputer yet, Compu/Think has blazed a trail which other manufacturers will be obliged to follow.

At the time of writing, the Micromax was on sale in the States at \$4,495 for the model with 800K of external memory and \$5,995 with 2.4 megabytes of on-line disc storage. It should be available in the U.K. by November. A specification is available from MicroAct Ltd, 5 Vicarage Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3ES.

A runner in the Amazing Micro-Mouse Maze contest.



COMPUTER FIELD MAINTENANCE

Keeps SWTP running smoothly

Keeps Cromemco running smoothly

Keeps Sol running smoothly

Keeps Horizon running smoothly

Keeps Abacus running smoothly

Keeping things running smoothly



Computer Field Maintenance

A CWT company, a Member of the IAL Group.

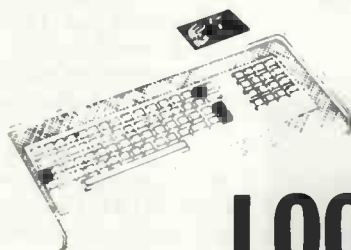
Excell House, Trust Industrial Estate, Wilbury Way
Hitchin, Herts SG4 0UZ

Tel: (0462) 51511 Telex: 826649

● Circle No. 184



**Introducing the personal
computer you've waited for.**



The Exidy Sorcerer.

LOOK AT THESE FEATURES

16K £760

32K £859

add 8%
VAT

The Sorcerer Computer is a completely assembled and tested computer system ready to plug in and use. The standard configuration includes 63 key typewriter style keyboard and 16 key numeric pad dual cassette I/O, with remote computer control at 300 and 1200 baud data rates RS232 serial I/O for communication, parallel port for direct Centronics printer attachment, Z80 processor 4K ROM operating system 8K Microsoft BASIC in separate plug in Rom Pac cartridge composite video of 64 chars 30 lines, 128 upper lower case ASCII character set and a 128 user-defined graphic symbols, up to 32K on-board RAM memory, operators manual, BASIC programming manual and cassette/video cables connection for S100 bus expansion unit giving access to the spectrum of exciting and useful peripheral devices, such as Floppy disk drives, voice recognition synthesis battery back-up board in case of power failure, additional memory boards, E-PROM cards give you the facility to program and re-program your own ROM memories etc etc. This is the most useable and flexible system that's now available to the home and business user at such a low price.

* WORD PROCESSING, COBAL, FORTRAN etc

* PLUG IN ROM CARTRIDGES

* WORKS WITH NORMAL TV

* S100 EXPANSION UNIT

* CASSETTE INTERFACE

* Z80 CPU

* 32K RAM ON BOARD

* A REAL BUSINESS MACHINE

please make cheques and postal orders payable to JADE
phone your order quoting ACCESS or VISA number
for technical information or advice phone 0736 66565

Supplied by - Factor One Computers

JADE

17 Market Place, Penzance, Cornwall.

● Circle No. 185

Lien times

DAVID LIEN visited the office recently. So who's David Lien? Well, he is one of the three original designers of the TRS-80. He wrote the excellent Level I handbook; and his company, Compusoft Publishing, was responsible for the *Basic Handbook* we reviewed so enthusiastically in May.

David has just arranged an exclusive U.K. distributor for the handbook, the Rostronics Computer Centre, 118 Wandsworth High Street, London SW18, telephone 01-870 4805. The U.K. price will be £10.

Other works are due from the Lien stable later this year, and we like the sound of two of them. *Learning Level II* will be a Compusoft-produced equivalent of the *Level Users/Learners' Manual*, written in the same style and by the same author.

How about *Controlling the world with your TRS-80*? This promises to teach you how to use your computer to water the lawn, monitor a home security system, control an electric train, dial the telephone and "endless other applications". We'll keep you posted.

Birthdays problem

HOW MANY people do you have to cram into the same room before it becomes statistically likely that two of them have birthdays on the same day? John Dodridge contributes this program to find out:

```

10 B=1
20 Q=1
30 PRINT "DO YOU WANT WEEKDAY (ENTER
   '7') OR BIRTHDATE (ENTER '364')?"
40 INPUT D
50 A=D
60 N=D
70 B=B+1
80 N=N+1
90 Q=Q*N/A
100 P=1-Q
110 PRINT "WITH"; "PEOPLE IN THE ROOM
   THE CHANCE IS"; P
120 IF P=1 THEN END
130 GOTO 70
    
```

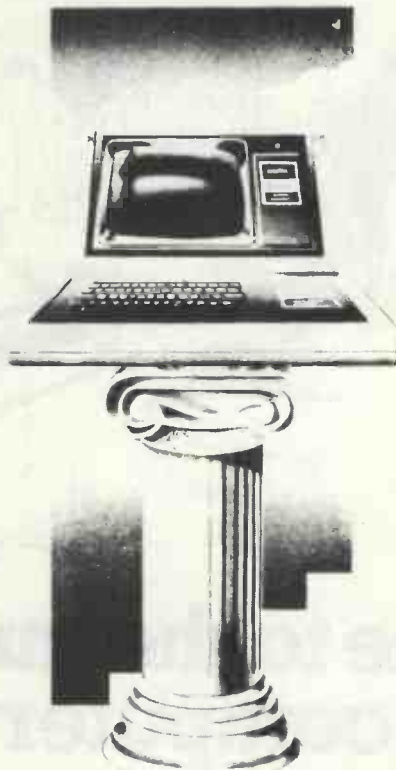
Working out the chances of two people in the room having the same day or date of birth is a classical one but the program proves to be simple, because of the repetitious nature of the calculation used to find the solution.

The proof hinges on the use of the probability theorem $P+Q=1$, where P is the chance of an event happening and $+Q$ is the chance of it not happening. The re-arrangement of the formula gives $P=1-Q$ and it is this which is used to reach the answer via the complement.

Entering '7' finds the number of people in the room needed for two to have the same day of birth in the week; for birthdays the program takes the number of days of the year as 364, but 365 gives only a slightly different answer.

It is surprising to find that only 23 people are needed in the room for the chance

TANDY FORUM is devoted to the Tandy TRS-80. We will be using it to pass on news about the TRS-80 and its supplier and product announcements from Tandy and other vendors of compatible equipment. Above all, these are pages for users, and would-be users, of this personal computer. We want you to send tips, queries, moans and comments, and we want this page to become a market-place for TRS-80 information.



of the same birthday to be greater than 50/50, or odds-on. The last line reads:

$$Q = \frac{364 \times 363 \times 362 \times \dots \times 343 \times 342}{364^{23}} = .491725$$

and so $P = .508275$.

Tiddleywinks

THIS ONE COMES from Stephen Toop. Although the game is very simple, it illustrates the parabola function well.

The function, which is given $y=x^2$, can be plotted easily, but because of the large variation between the values of x and y , we must use different scales on the axes to make the graph as large as possible and so ensure the greatest possible accuracy of the results.

To use the TRS-80 SET/RESET functions we must start the plot at $x+n$ — where x is negative and n is a number that when added to x makes x a positive number.

In the program the function is used to plot the trajectory of the tiddleywink. The height and length of the plot are calculated easily, although changing one will result in a change of the other.

The parabola subroutine has a number of variables for such a simple function. This was necessary for total control. x and y are exactly the same as they are in the

formulae, but we plot z,y rather than x,y so it will all fit on to the screen. L is the variable controlling the length of the plot.

```

5 REM *TIDDLEYWINKS:PROGRAMMER
  S.G.TOOP:1/3/79*
10 CLS
15 PRINT AT 470 ""*TIDDLEYWINKS""
20 PRINT AT 904, "JUST SET THE LENGTH AND
   TRY TO FILL THE HOLE."
25 FOR A=0 TO 800
30 NEXT A
35 LET G=0
40 LET P=RND(110)+10
45 CLS
50 PRINT AT 960, "O";
55 SET(1,42)
60 FOR X=1 TO 127
65 SET(X,43)
70 NEXT X:LET X=127
75 PRINT AT 1020, "100";
80 FOR X=42 TO 7 STEP-1
85 SET(X,Y)
90 NEXT Y
95 RESET (P,43):RESET (P+1,43)
105 PRINT AT 0, "SET LENGTH";
110 INPUT C
115 IF L<0 THEN 105
120 GOSUB 1000
140 LET Z=Z-L/19
150 IF (INT(Z)=P)+(INT(Z)=P+1) THEN 220
160 LET G=G+1
165 PRINT AT 14, " ";
170 IF G<3 THEN 105
180 PRINT AT 0, "GIVE UP BUSTER, YOU'RE
   HOPELESS!"
190 FOR A=1 TO 1000:NEXT A
210 GOTO 35
220 SET(Z,Y+1)
225 PRINT AT 0, "WELL DONE YOU GOT IT
   IN";G+1;";"
230 GOTO 190
    
```

Parabola subroutine

```

1000 LET X=-6
1010 LET Z=X+7
1020 LET Y=X*X+6
1030 IF Z>=127 THEN 2000
1040 SET(Z,Y)
1050 LET Z=Z+L/19
1060 LET X=X+0.5
1070 IF X<>6.5 THEN 1020
1080 RETURN
2000 PRINT AT 0, "OVER SHOT A BIT DIDN'T
   WE MAC?";
2010 GOTO 190
    
```

Encore

T&V JOHNSON telephoned to say that our enthusiasm for Percom add-on discs can be qualified by their availability in this country; TVJ has them ex-stock from about £350. You will need the expansion interface and controller, which TVJ can also offer at prices better than Tandy.

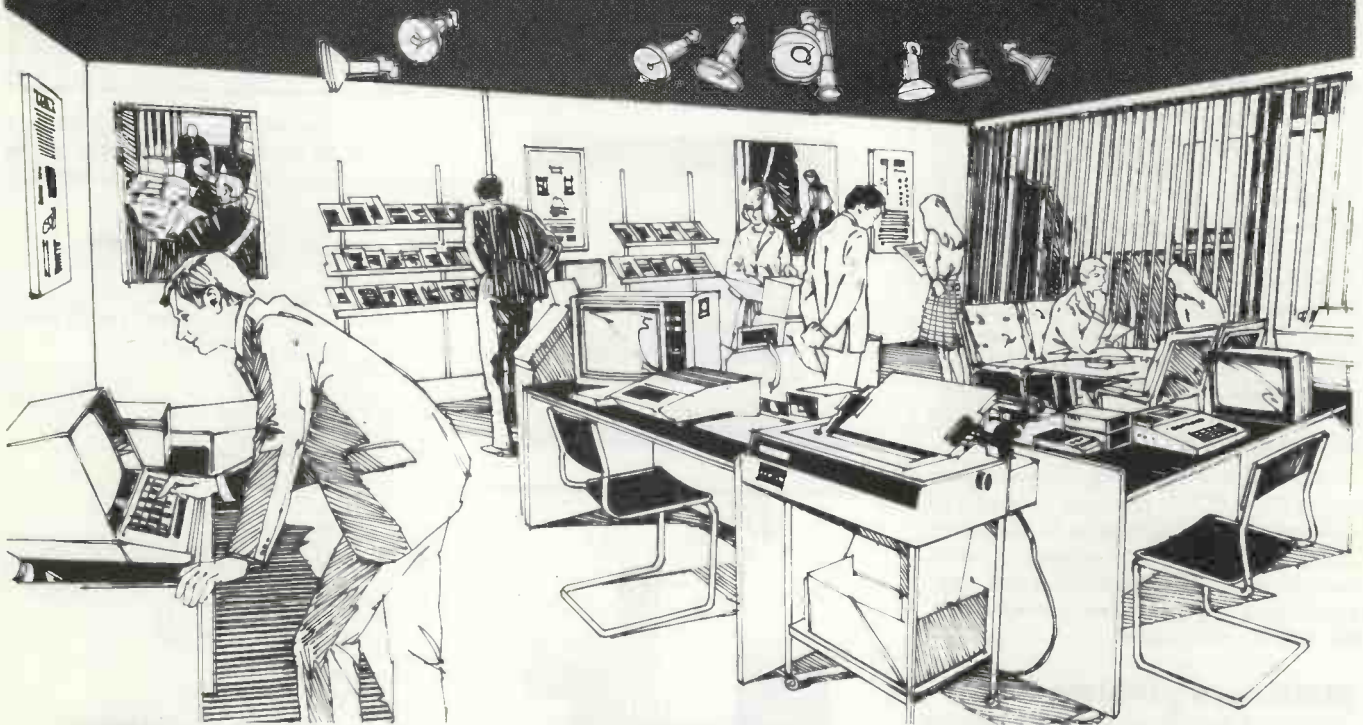
If you want to consider other alternatives to Tandy, TVJ also has plug-compatible Micropolis and Shugart drives.

Enthusiasm

THE GENERAL impression put forward in Tandy Forum and in last year's review of the TRS-80 is that it is a vague, unre-

(continued on page 95)

Thinking Computers?



Then come to the number one micro-computer centre

If you're wondering if a micro-computer can help you, we are here to advise you. At Lion House—London's leading centre for micro-computers—you'll find:

- * Experts who'll explain the equipment in a way you can easily understand, showing how and where it applies to your work.

- * Demonstration areas where you can get immediate experience of using micro-computers yourself.

- * Probably the biggest range of software in the UK.

- * Programmes can be tailored for your particular commercial needs by our In-House Analysts and Programmers.

- * Total service—including the availability of full maintenance after you've bought an installation.

- * Leasing and H.P. facilities immediately available.

- * A computer book section with publications that give you new insight into the world of micro-computers.

How will micro-computers help you? In thousands of ways—only a few can be mentioned here...

MICRO-COMPUTERS FOR BUSINESS



For business and professional, the versatility of compact micro-computers means that all the benefits of big computers are made available to all at low cost. The businessman can now computerise his accountancy, his stock control, his records and much more—cutting his overheads and improving his efficiency.

For the home, micro-computers have innumerable uses and considerable value too—sometimes in unexpected ways.

MICRO-COMPUTERS FOR THE HOME



Budgeting... investments... controlling heating or security... storing information on things like recipes... designing complex and fascinating games... education...

Come and see. We invite you to visit us and investigate the possibilities and the potential. If you're too far away, phone or write and we'll send you more information. **You need a micro-computer. We can supply it.**



LION MICRO-COMPUTERS

SMALL COMPUTERS—TO MAKE YOUR BUSINESS BIGGER

Lion Computer Shops Ltd, Lion House, 227 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (First Floor). Telephone: 01-637 1601.

Telex: 28394 Lion G.

Open 9 to 6, Monday to Saturday (Thursday to 7).



● Circle No. 186

PRACTICAL COMPUTING September 1979

(continued from page 93)

liable machine. I have been using a 4K Level II TRS-80 since October and have been extremely pleased with it. It is a remarkably well-thought-out product when compared to most of the rest in its price bracket, writes N. J. Powell, of Yorkshire.

To set the record straight I have listed its attributes under several headings, which reflect the longer-term use of the machine rather than the 24-hour, review-type impressions.

Retail Organisation

- One-year guarantee; U.K. repair centre; all retail outlets are repair agents.
- Local retail outlets; over-the-counter service — no long journeys or six-month delivery delays after cashing your cheque; all Tandy products readily available and demonstrable locally.
- Full service manual available with detailed trouble-shooting routines.
- Software/hardware availability from Tandy. Some of the Tandy hardware is

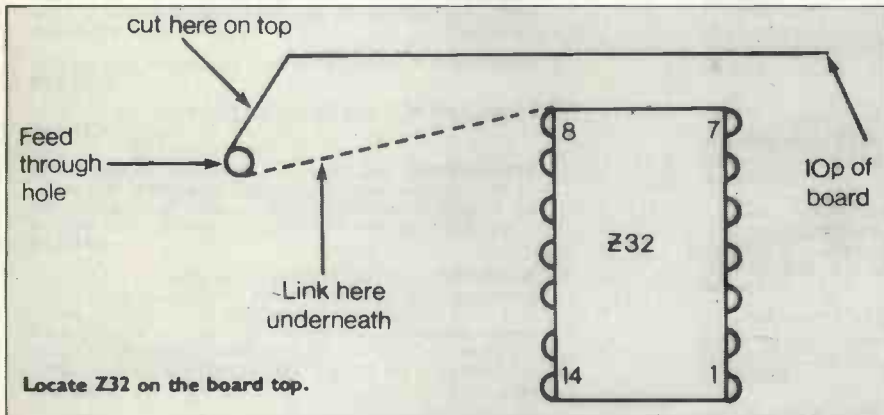


Figure 2.

exceptionally good value; for example, the expansion interface contains decoding for an extra 32K RAM, a second cassette interface (for a standard cassette recorder), the Micropolis diskette controller (for four drives), real time clock, Centronics parallel printer interface, bus buffering, and power supply — all for £229.

Operational Use (Level II)

- User-definable memory map for machine code routines. Pet owners please note, there's no poking into the second cassette buffer.
- Z-80 processor for running machine code programs.
- Superb line-editing and trace facilities for program debugging.
- Very compact code storage — 4K bytes goes a long way on a Level II.
- Very good output format control, and addressable PRINT statements — not a plethora of tab and cursor statements as with Pet.
- X-Y addressable graphic locations for plotting low resolution (6,144 points) graphics, which can be mixed with text

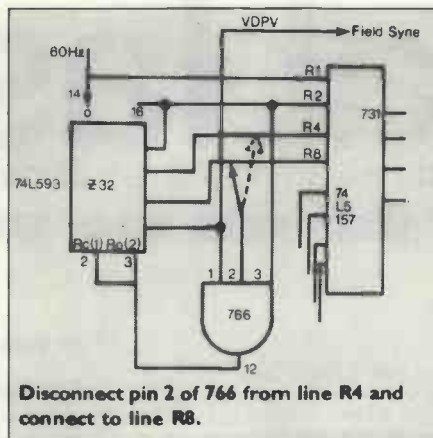


Figure 1.

on the screen. (Apple users, please note). High-resolution graphics could be written to a suitable plotter or printer by a machine-code subroutine. High-resolution plots on a screen are unlikely to be of much use other than as an expensive doodlemaster.

- Level I is better than most Tiny Basics as it supports floating point arithmetic.

Hardware design

- Works with ASCII internally, including lower-case letters — unlike PET, the TRS-80 doesn't need an intelligent printer.
- Uses cheap dynamic RAMs which make it easily and cheaply upgradable.
- Has a proper keyboard which can be used by the nimble-fingered for program entry, word processing, and the like.
- Uses a standard cassette recorder.
- Lower-case letters are available to a printer without modification; the video is modified easily to display lower-case.
- Standard video out, modified easily to 50Hz if required.
- Compact, keyboard, power supply,

cassette, and modulator fit easily into a briefcase.

- 40-pin expansion bus with all the required signals instead of enormous sockets and 100-way ribbon cables — a domestic controller circuit is given in the technical handbook.

Reliability (over six months)

- A dry joint in the power-on re-set was fixed under guarantee.
- Overheads and crashes occurred only if the air vents under the keyboard unit were covered or restricted.
- I have had no problems with the cassette — a very old Philips 3302. I use Memorex MRX2 tape.

Tips

So much for the banner-waving — now for three tips:

- PRINT (HRS)(28) converts back from 32 characters per line to 64 without clearing the screen.
- To hook up a modulator, go for a high-resolution unit — which means spend £4.50 rather than £2.50 — running off +5V. Video goes to pin 4 of a 5-pin 180-degree display via about 2in. of co-axial cable; +5V goes to pin 1 via 2in. audio-screened lead. Both screens go to pin 5 with the co-ax screen only forming the common return on the modulator. I use a modulator from Computer Workshop, Manchester.
- Locking-in on a British TV will need adjustments of the line hold (from 15,625Hz to 15,835Hz) and the frame hold (50Hz to 60Hz). If the TV set is an old one — without flywheel sync or with valves — the picture is likely to be unstable due to the presence of 50Hz mains hum. In these cases the video chain should be converted to 50Hz as below.

A modification for the 50Hz frame is shown in figures 1 and 2. The video divider chain divides the 15,835Hz line frequency by 12, 2 and 11 to give 60Hz (264 lines per raster). We require about $625 \div 2 = 312$ lines per raster, dividing by 12,2,13. This gives a frame frequency of 50 to 75Hz. This should enable most TVs to lock in, but with valve sets there may be some pronounced ham bars at 1.5Hz. The $\div 13$ modification is accomplished easily.

If hum bars still persist a frame frequency of 49.95Hz can be obtained by allowing 317 lines per frame. This requires an additional three input AND gate wired as in figure 3.

After either of these modifications the display should be centred with R20/R21. □

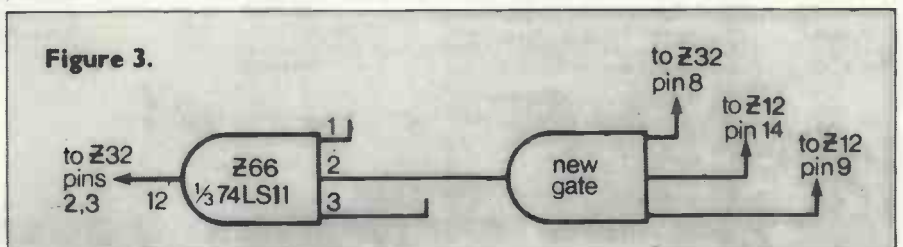


Figure 3.

Here at last!

Super software from the world's leading microsoftware supplier.

DIGITAL RESEARCH

- CP/M* FDOS** — Diskette Operating System complete with Text Editor, Assembler, Debugger, File Manager and system utilities. Available for wide variety of disk systems including North Star, Helios II, Micropolis, iCOM (all systems) and Altair. Supports computers such as Sorcerer, Horizon, Sol System III, Versatite, Altair 8800, COMPAL-80, DYNABYTE DB8/2, and iCOM Attache. Specify desired configuration **£75/£15**
- MAC** — 8080 Macro Assembler. Full Intel macro definitions. Pseudo Ops include RPC, IRP, REPT, TITLE, PAGE, and MACLIB. Z-80 library included. Produces Intel absolute hex output plus symbols file for use by SID (see below) **£55/£10**
- SID** — 8080 symbolic debugger. Full trace, pass count and break-point program testing system with back-trace and histogram utilities. When used with MAC, provides full symbolic display of memory labels and equated values **£45/£10**
- TEX** — Text formatter to create paginated, page-numbered and justified copy from source text files, directable to disk or printer **£45/£10**
- DESPOOL** — Program to permit simultaneous printing of data from disk while user executes another program from the console **£30/£1**

MICROSOFT

- Disk Extended BASIC** — Version 5, ANSI compatible with long variable names, WHILE/WEND, chaining, variable length file records **£155/£15**
- BASIC Compiler** — Language compatible with Version 5 Microsoft interpreter and 3-10 times faster execution. Produces standard Microsoft relocatable binary output. Includes Macro-80. Also linkable to FORTRAN-80 or COBOL-80 code modules **£195/£15**
- FORTRAN-80** — ANSI '66 (except for COMPLEX) plus many extensions. Includes relocatable object compiler, linking loader, library with manager. Also includes MACRO-80 (see below) **£205/£15**
- COBOL-80** — ANSI '74 Relocatable object output. Format same as FORTRAN-80 and MACRO-80 modules. Complete ISAM, interactive ACCEPT/DISPLAY, COPY, EXTEND **£325/£15**
- MACRO-80** — 8080/Z80 Macro Assembler. Intel and Zilog mnemonics supported. Relocatable linkable output. Loader, Library Manager and Cross Reference List utilities included **£75/£10**
- EDIT-80** — Very fast random access text editor for text with or without line numbers. Global and intra-line commands supported. File compare utility included **£45/£10**

XITAN (software requires Z80** CPU)

- Z-TEL** — Text editing language. Expression evaluation iteration and conditional branching ability. Registers available for text and commands. Macro command strings can be saved on disk for re-use **£40/£12**
- ASM** Macro Assembler — Mnemonics per Intel with Z-80 extensions. Macro capabilities with absolute Intel hex or relocatable linkable output modules. New version 3 with added features **£40/£12**
- LINKER** — Link-edits and loads ASM modules **£40/£12**
- Z-BUG** debugger — Trace, break-point tester. Supports decimal, octal and hex modes. Disassembler to ASM mnemonic set. Emulation technique permits full tracing and break-point support through ROM **£45/£12**
- TOP** Text Output Processor — Creates page-numbered, justified documents from source text files **£40/£12**

- A4 package** includes Z-TEL, ASM, LINKER, Z-BUG, TOP **£155/£30**

EIDOS SYSTEMS

- KISS** — Keyed Index Sequential Search. Offers complete Multi-Keyed Index Sequential and Direct Access file management. Includes built-in utility functions for 16 or 32 bit arithmetic, string/integer conversion and string compare. Delivered as a relocatable linkable module in Microsoft format for use with FORTRAN-80 or COBOL-80, etc. **£275/£15**
- KBASIC** — Microsoft Disk Extended BASIC with all KISS facilities, integrated by implementation of nine additional commands in language. Package includes KISS.REL as described above, and a sample mail list program **£495/£30**

MICROPRO

- Super-Sort I** — Sort, merge, extract utility as absolute executable program or linkable module in Microsoft format. Sorts fixed or variable records with data in binary, BCD, Packed Decimal, EBCDIC, ASCII, floating, fixed point, exponential, field justified, etc. etc. Even variable number of fields per record! **£125/£15**
- Super-Sort II** — Above available as absolute program only **£105/£15**
- Super-Sort III** — As II without SELECT/EXCLUDE **£75/£15**

- Word-Master Text Editor** — In one mode has super-set of CP/M's ED commands including global searching and replacing, forward and backwards in file. In video mode, provides full screen editor for users with serial addressable-cursor terminal **£75/£15**

- Word-Star** — Menu driven visual word processing system for use with standard terminals. Text formatting performed on screen. Facilities for text paginate, page number, justify, center, underscore and PRINT. Edit facilities include global search and replace, read/write to other text files, block move, etc. Requires CRT terminal with addressable cursor positioning **£255/£15**

SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

- CBASIC-2** Disk Extended BASIC — Non-interactive BASIC with pseudo-code compiler and runtime interpreter. Supports full file control, chaining, integer and extended precision variables etc. **£75/£10**

GRAFFCOM SYSTEMS

- PAYROLL** — Designed in conjunction with the spec for PAYE routines by HMI Taxes. Processes up to 250 employees on weekly or monthly basis. Can handle cash, cheque or bank transfer payments plus total tracking of all year to date figures. Prints emp master, payroll log, payslips and bank giro. Requires CBASIC-2 **£475/£15**
- COMPANY SALES** — Performs sales accounting function. Controls payments of invoices and prints sales ledger and aged debtors report. Suitable for any accounting period. Comprehensive VAT control and analysis of all sales invoices. Requires CBASIC-2. **£425/£15**
- COMPANY PURCHASES** — Performs purchase accounting function. Controls invoices, credit & debit notes. Prints purchase ledger, aged creditors report and payment advices. Comprehensive VAT control and analysis of all purchases. Interfaces with the NAD system. Requires CBASIC-2. **£425/£15**
- NAD** — Complete control of all your names & addresses including suppliers, clients, enquiries etc. Assign your own coding system and select all output via the report generator. Will print anything from mailing labels to directories. Requires CBASIC-2. **£225/£12**

*CP/M is a trade name of Digital Research
**Z80 is a trademark of Zilog, Inc.

Software for most popular 8080/Z80 computer disk systems including
**NORTH STAR HORIZON, VECTOR MZ, OHIO SCIENTIFIC,
 CROMEMCO, PROCESSOR TECHNOLOGY, RAIR BLACK BOX,
 DYNABYTE, SD SYSTEMS, RESEARCH MACHINES, ALTAIR,
 EXIDY SORCERER, IMSAI, HEATH, and 8" IBM formats**

STRUCTURED SYSTEMS GROUP

- OSORT** — Fast sort/merge program for files with fixed record length, variable field length information. Up to five ascending or descending keys. Full back-up of input files created. Parameter file created, optionally with interactive program which requires CBASIC. Parameter file may be generated with CP/M assembler utility **£50/£12**

GRAHAM-DORIAN SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

- APARTMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM** — Financial management system for receipts and security deposits of apartment projects. Captures data on vacancies, revenues, etc. for annual trend analysis. Daily report shows late rents, vacancy notices, vacancies, income lost through vacancies, etc. Requires CBASIC. Supplied in source code. **£300/£25**
- INVENTORY SYSTEM** — Captures stock levels, costs, sources, sales, ages, turnover, markup, etc. Transaction information may be entered for reporting by salesman, type of sale, date of sale, etc. Reports available both for accounting and decision making. Requires CBASIC. Supplied in source code. **£300/£25**
- CASH REGISTER** — Maintains files on daily sales. Files data by sales person and item. Tracks sales, overrings, refunds, payouts and total net deposits. Requires CBASIC. Supplied in source code **£300/£25**

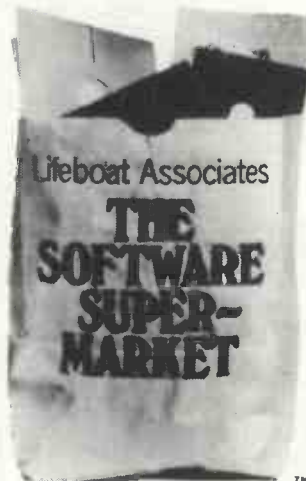
MICRO FOCUS

- CIS COBOL** — Version 3 is ANSI 74 subset with extensions which offer powerful interactive screen formatting and built in cursor control. Version 4 additionally offers full level 1 ANSI for Nucleus, Table Handling, Sequential Relative and Indexed I/O, Inter-Program Communication and Library
 Version 3, **£295/£25**
 Version 4, **£395/£25**
- FORMS** — Interactive utility to create CIS COBOL source code to perform CRT screen handling in application programs. Supports full prompt text, protected fields and input validation against data type and range expected **£65/£10**
 When purchased with CIS COBOL **£55/£10**

OTHER

- tiny C** — Interactive interpretive system for teaching structured programming techniques. Manual includes full source listings **£45/£30**
- C Compiler** — Supports most major features of language, including Structures, Arrays, Pointers, recursive function evaluation, linkable with library to 8080 binary output. Lacks data initialization, long & float type and static & register class specifiers. Documentation includes "C" Programming Language book by Kernighan & Ritchie **£65/£10**
- Z80 Development Package** — Consists of: (1) disk file line editor, with global inter and intra-line facilities; (2) Z80 relocating assembler, Zilog/Mostek mnemonics, conditional assembly and cross reference table capabilities; (3) linking loader producing absolute Intel hex disk file for CP/M LOAD, DDT or SID facilities. **£50/£12**
- DISTEL** — Disk based disassembler to Intel 8080 or TD/ Xitan Z80 source code, listing and cross reference files. Intel or TD/Xitan pseudo ops optional. Runs on 8080. Standard CP/M and TRS-80 CP/M versions available **£35/£7**
- DISILOG** — TEL to Zilog/Mostek mnemonic files. Runs on Z80 only. **£35/£7**

- TEXTWRITER II** — Text formatter to justify and paginate letters and other documents. Special features include insertion of text during execution from other disk files or console, permitting recipe documents to be created from linked fragments on other files. Ideal for contracts, manuals, etc. **£45/£3**
- WHATSIT?** — Interactive data-base system using associative tags to retrieve information by subject. Hashing and random access used for fast response. Requires CBASIC **£70/£15**
- XYBASIC** Interactive Process Control BASIC — Full disk BASIC features plus unique commands to handle bytes, rotate and shift, and to test and set bits. Available in Integer, Extended and ROMable versions.
 Integer Disk or Integer ROMable **£165/£15**
 Extended Disk or Extended ROMable **£215/£15**
- SMAL/80** Structured Macro Assembled Language — Package of powerful general purpose text macro processor and SMAL structured language compiler. SMAL is an assembler language with IF-THEN-ELSE, LOOP-REPEAT-WHILE, DO-END, BEGIN-END constructs **£40/£10**
- Selector II** — Data Base Processor to create and maintain single Key data bases. Prints formatted, sorted reports with numerical summaries. Available for Microsoft and CBASIC (state which). Supplied in source code **£105/£12**
- Selector III** — Multi (i.e., up to 24) Key version of Selector II. Comes with applications programs including Sales Activity, Inventory, Payables, Receivables, Check Register, Expenses, Appointments, and Client/Patient. Requires CBASIC Supplied in source code **£155/£12**
 Enhanced version for CBASIC-2 **£185/£12**
- CPM/374X Utility Package** — has full range of functions to create or re-name an IBM 3741 volume, display directory information and edit the data set contents. Provides full file transfer facilities between 3741 volume data sets and CP/M files **£125/£7**
- Flippy Disk Kit** — Template and instructions to modify single sided 5¼" diskettes for use of second side in singled sided drives **£6**



Orders must specify disk type and format, e.g. North Star Horizon single density.

Add VAT to orders for software (not manuals alone). Add 50p per item postage and packing (minimum £1).

All orders must be prepaid (except COD or credit card). Make cheques POS etc. payable to Lifeboat Associates.

Manual costs are deductible from subsequent software purchase.

The sale of each proprietary software package conveys a license for use on one system only.

Lifeboat Associates, 32 Neal Street, London WC2H 9PS, 01-379 7931 TMThe Software Supermarket is a trademark of Lifeboat Associates



Plotters

SEVERAL members of IPUG have expressed interest in using X-Y plotters with their Pets, writes IPUG secretary Mike Lake. Investigation has turned up the following:

Sylvanhill Laboratories Inc, of Box 646, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762, offers plotters in assembled and kit form at sizes ranging from 11in. x 17in. to 22in. x 17in. at prices from \$795 to \$1,300. Postage is about 12 percent of cost.

Sintrom Electronics Ltd, Arkwright Road, Reading, Berkshire, is the U.K. distributor for the HILOT X-Y plotter, 7in. x 10in., at £656 and the HIPAD digitiser at £521.

District Computing, 174 Ifield Road, London, is the agent for the TALOS range of digitisers which sell for around \$450 in the U.S.

Feed program

BETOS SYSTEMS, 155 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, has produced a program aimed at farmers with animal feed problems. The program allows the user to define the nutritional requirements of the animals — depending on yield and weight for cattle — and also the characteristics of up to 15 kinds of possible feeds.

The program then uses a linear technique to produce the cheapest possible food mix to meet the needs of the animals and any other constraints the farmer might include, such as "I want to use as much silage as possible".

The program outputs to the screen and/or a printer and runs in 8K. Betos offers it complete with 8K Pet and PR40 printer for about £950. The program is available separately.

Challenge

KESWICK Chess Club secretary was quoted in a local newspaper as saying that "microcomputers were just chess-playing Daleks", and suddenly found the club being challenged to pit its skills against six Pets.

The challenge was from David Fabri, a tutor at the local further education college, who set up the machines with the Microchess-2 program, written by Peter Jennings, and which finished fourth in the 1978 World Microcomputer Chess Championship.

The venue was a local hotel, but at the end of the evening, the Pets were second best. The humans beat them 5-1.

These pages represent an independent collection of news and views for owners of the Commodore Pet. If you wish to contact Pet Corner, send articles or ideas directly to us. We are not connected with Commodore or with the official Commodore-run Pet Users' Club, though we wish it well. We give space to Mike Lake, of the Independent Pet Users' Group (IPUG).

Paper

THE APPEAL for cheap stationery for the PR40 printer produced a letter from Rockcliffe Brothers, of 2 Rumford Street, Liverpool, L2 8SZ. The company is offering 10 PR40 rolls at £6, 10 C15 cassettes at £3.99, and 10 C60s at £4.99. All prices include VAT and postage, and there is an additional 10 percent discount if you are in IPUG member.

Rockcliffe is also seeking a supplier of cheap paper for the Teletype 43; if you know of a source please contact the company.

Conversion

IF YOU are converting any programs from the old ROMS on the 8K Pet so that they will run on the new ROMS, then the table provided is vital. Many programs make use of locations in the first 1K of Pet memory and this has been changed completely in the new machines. The old and new locations — and meanings — are given in the table.

Thanks to Roger Gentry and Barry Miles of IPUG for their efforts in producing the list; they were helped considerably by Commodore.

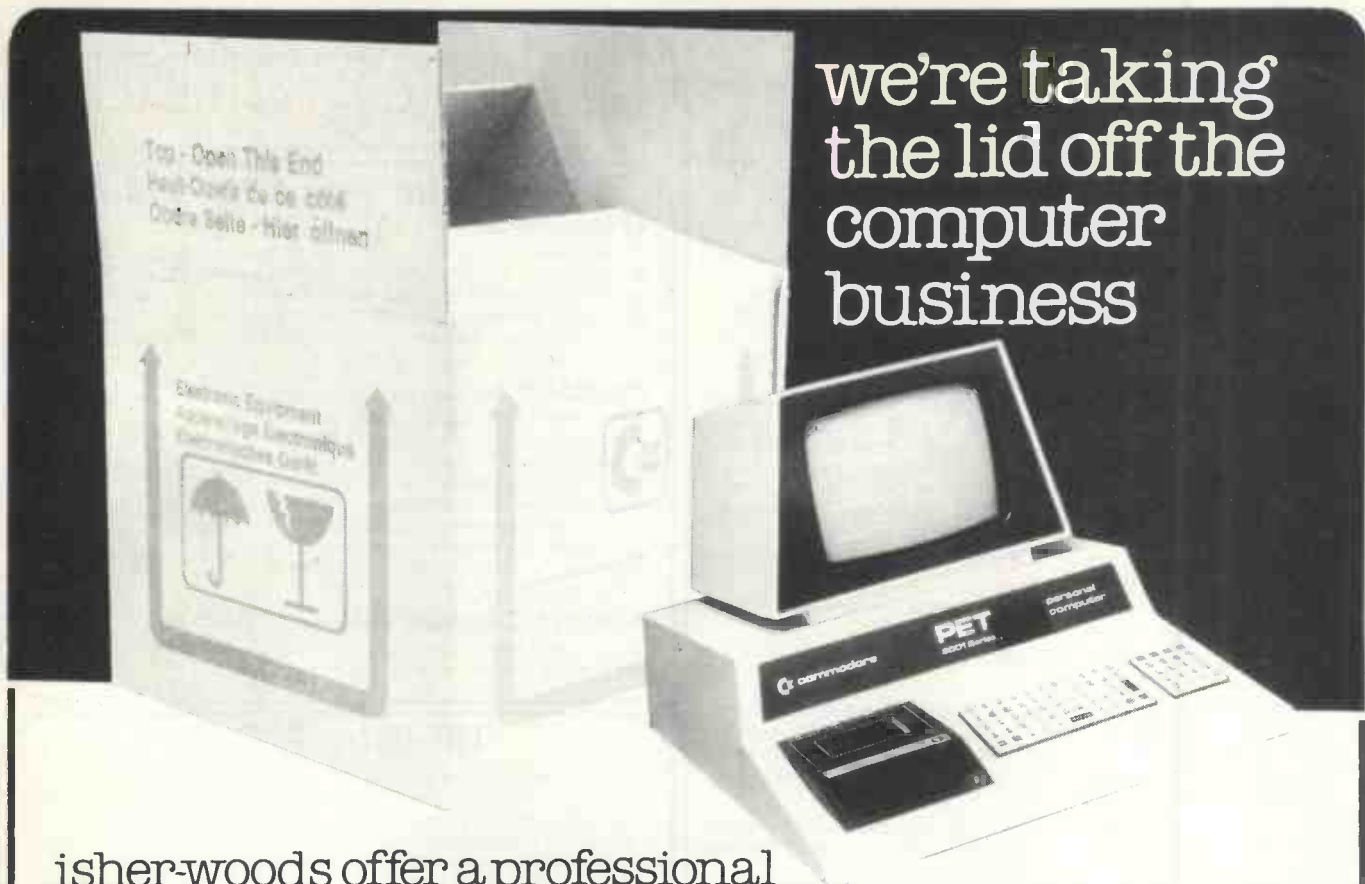
Memory locations for ROM upgrade on PET computers

Jim Butterfield, Toronto

0000-0002	0-2	USR Jump instruction
0003	3	Search character
0004	4	Scan-between-quotes flag
0005	5	Basic input buffer pointer; # subscripts
0006	6	Default DIM flag
0007	7	Type: PF=string, 00=numeric
0008	8	Type: 80=integer, 00=floating point
0009	9	DATA scan flag; LIST quote flag; memory flag
000A	10	Subscript flag; FNx flag
000B	11	0=input; 64=get; 152=read
000C	12	ATN sign flag; comparison evaluation flag
000D	13	input flag; suppress output if negative
000E	14	current I/O device for prompt-suppress
0011-0012	17-18	Basic integer address (for SYS, GOTO etc)
0013	19	Temporary string descriptor stack pointer
0014-0015	20-21	Last temporary string vector
0016-001E	22-30	Stack of descriptors for temporary strings
001F-0020	31-32	Pointer for number transfer
0021-0022	33-34	Misc. number pointer
0023-0027	35-39	Product staging area for multiplication
0028-0029	40-41	Pointer: Start-of-Basic memory
002A-002B	42-43	Pointer: End-of-Basic, Start-of-Variables
002C-002D	44-45	Pointer: End-of-Variables, Start-of-Arrays
002E-002F	46-47	Pointer: End-of-Arrays
0030-0031	48-49	Pointer: Bottom-of-Strings (moving down)
0032-0033	50-51	Utility string pointer
0034-0035	52-53	Pointer: Limit of Basic Memory
0036-0037	54-55	Current Basic line number
0038-0039	56-57	Previous Basic line number
003A-003B	58-59	Pointer to Basic statement (for CONT)
003C-003D	60-61	Line number, current DATA line
003E-003F	62-63	Pointer to current DATA item
0040-0041	64-65	Input vector
0042-0043	66-67	Current variable name
0044-0045	68-69	Current variable address
0046-0047	70-71	Variable pointer for FOR/NEXT
0048	72	Y save register; new-operator save
004A	74	Comparison symbol accumulator
004B-004C	75-76	Misc numeric work area
004D-0050	77-80	Work area; garbage yardstick
0051-0053	81-83	Jump vector for functions
0054-0058	84-88	Misc numeric storage area
0059-005D	89-93	Misc numeric storage area
005E-0063	94-99	Accumulator#1: E,M,M,M,M,S
0064	100	Series evaluation constant pointer
0065	101	Accumulator hi-order propagation word
0066-006B	102-107	Accumulator#2
006C	108	Sign comparison, primary vs. secondary
006D	109	low-order rounding byte for Acc#1
006E-006F	110-111	Cassette buffer length/Series pointer
0070-0087	112-135	Subrtn: Get Basic Char; 77,78=pointer
0088-008C	136-140	RND storage and work area
008D-008F	141-143	Jiffy clock for TI and TIS

(continued on page 101)

we're taking
the lid off the
computer
business



isher-woods offer a professional
service, tailor made to fit your personal requirements

With the help of Commodore Systems and the PET® Computer isher-woods can offer both the technically minded and the business man ready made or tailored solutions to most of your particular problems. The Commodore PET® comes in 4 different memory sizes and is priced from as little as under £500 (ex. VAT) for the 4K version. We can supply 8, 16, and 32K versions from stock, fully tested and guaranteed. Floppies and printers are on order.

If you have a PET® or are considering buying one then we can look after it for you. We give a fixed price labour charge of £20 + parts at list price + VAT, irrespective of the fault; just deliver to our door and we'll put it right.

If you just want the parts then we can supply them from our "CHIP SHOP". Maintenance contracts are obviously available for those who prefer "on site" cover.



isher-woods

Computer Systems Group

110/112 Leagrave Road. Luton Tel: (0582) 424851/39570

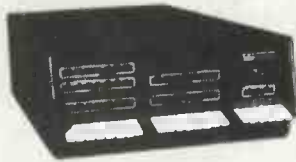
Sellers of PET® and other fine computer systems.

● Circle No. 188

DPS-1

Introducing the DPS-1 the full IEEE S100 bus computer system from Ithaca Intersystems — the S100 experts.

FOR EDUCATION, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH and all professional uses, including hardware and software development, low cost OEM systems, teaching applications etc.



A MINI COMPUTER using MICRO technology at a ridiculous MICRO price!! The front panel with a backplane and power supply accepts S100 bus boards from many manufacturers.

Just look at these professional features!

- ★ FRONT PANEL (we won't ask you to debug our hardware, but we will give you the tools to debug yours!) Has lights and switches to allow inspection and control of addresses and data. Other features include programmed input switches, and output lights, Examine, Examine next, deposit, deposit next, single or slow step (0.1 to 1000 IPS), hardware breakpoint on any data or address byte, repeat instruction and many other hardware diagnostic facilities.

- ★ 30 Amp, 8V power supply. 5 Amps on + 16v rails (all rails are separately fused)

- ★ 20 slot IEEE S100 Motherboard with active termination and shielding between bus lines

- ★ Suitable for 6800, 6502, 8080, 8085, Z80, Z80A processors.

- ★ Guaranteed operation at 4MHz.

The DPS1 comes as a mainframe with front panel, Motherboard, power supply and 4MHz Z80A cpu board. The system is truly modular allowing the user to build up the system he requires in his own time. S100 boards from a number of manufacturers will plug into the DPS1 IEEE S100 bus.

Just add S100 Memory Boards — S100 disk controller boards — S100 I/O boards — S100 video and/or graphics boards — S100 EPROM boards

All Ithaca Intersystems OEM products including K2 disk operating system and PASCAL/Z on 8" floppy drives will run in the DPS-1.

Fully assembled and tested

DPS-1 with S100 4MHz Z80 cpu board **£695**
DPS-1 less S100 4MHz Z80 cpu board **£645**



OEM S100 boards from the experts!

	Assembled and tested
8K Static RAM board (45 ons)	£123.75
8K Static RAM board (25 ons)	£146.25
Z80 cpu board (2MHz)	£131.25
Z80 cpu board (4MHz)	£153.75
2708/2716 EPROM board	£63.75
Prototype board (bare board)	£18.75
Video display board (64x16, 128U/L Ascii)	£108.75

New products from Ithaca audio!

High density graphics (1024 x 512 points)	£660.00
Disk controller (up to 4 single or double sided drives)	£131.25
I/O board (serial and parallel outputs)	£210.00
S100 front panel (as used in DPS1)	£245.00
Analogue I/O board	£295.00

Available soon: ZBC-1 Single board computer for OEM market. Available in basic through to fully expanded. 4MHz Z80A, 64K RAM, memory mapped 4K screen buffer, composite video, up to 16K power on EPROM monitor, 4 parallel ports, 2 serial ports, 4 channel counter timer. 1 off **£895** — please phone for a quote for your needs. (quantity discounts available).

Over 15,000 boards delivered worldwide

InterSystems

Software for your S100 system

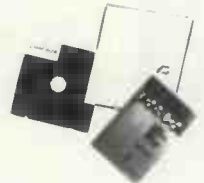
K2 operating system

8" disk based operating system — distributed on Shugat compatible 8" floppy disk ★ TED — 52 command character orientated text editor with Macros. ★ PIP — File and directory handler. ★ ASMBLE — full Z80 2 pass assembler. ★ HDT—Hex debug tool. ★ QCI—Utility overlay/command decoder. ★ SYSGEN—System builder. ★ COPY — disk to disk file copier. ★ DUP—disk duplicator. **£56.25**

PASCAL/Z The new language for Micros **£131.25**

Runs under K2 operating system.

- ★ Compiler that produces Z80 macro assembler code — NO NEED for slow run time P-code interpreter. ★ Comes complete with Macro assembler. ★ Produces binary object modules — small and fast.
- ★ Modules are re-entrant and can be put into ROM. ★ IMBED. TRACE and ERROR debug facilities. ★ Recursion



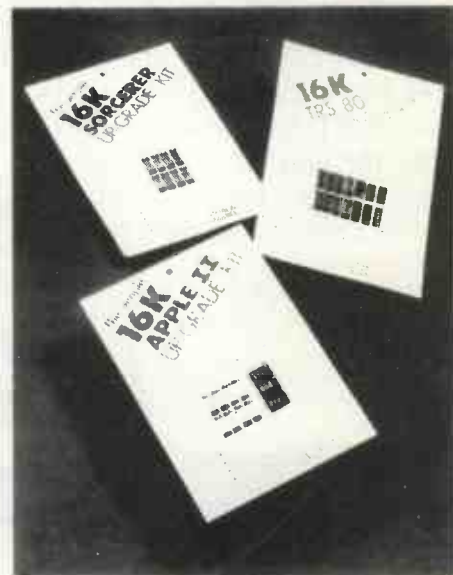
ASMBLE/Z Z80 Macro assembler **£37.50**

- ★ Full 2 pass Macro Assembler. ★ IF and ELSE — 255 nesting levels.
- ★ Produces symbol table. ★ Relative jumps.

UP-GRADE KITS

Trying to add computer memory is not much fun if you don't get everything you need. Receiving unprogrammed jumpers and having to program them yourself is not much better. Most important, that's the place where the problems are introduced. So Ithaca Audio's better idea is the Simple Up-Grade. Each Simple Up-Grade is specially designed to make adding memory foolproof. We include all the parts you'll need: 8 prime, tested 16K RAMs, along

with concise step by step directions and diagrams. And if a personality jumper is required, it's *premade*. The TRS-80* memory expansion was our first Simple Up-Grade. Now there are two more — for owners of Apple II** and Exidy Sorcerer*** computers. Each kit is 100% guaranteed — if a part ever fails, we replace it FREE. Your Ithaca Audio dealer has them in stock, only £69. Now you can afford to add high quality, high density memory to your



system for remarkably little — far less than you would expect to pay from Radio Shack, Apple, or Exidy directly. These Simple Up-Grades are Ithaca Audio's first step in adding more capability and reliability to your computer at lower cost. Other Up-Grades are on the way to your dealer now.

Now only **£69**

CONTACT THESE DEALERS

All prices quoted are exclusive of VAT.

NEWBEAR COMPUTING STORE—Telephone: Newbury (0635) 30505 Telex: 848507 SIRTON PRODUCTS—Telephone: 01-660 5617
AIRAMCO — Telephone: 0294 57755 Telex: 779808 COMPSHOP LTD — Telephone: 01-441 2922 Telex: 298755

UK & EUROPEAN DEALER ENQUIRIES INVITED — CONTACT

ITHACA *InterSystems*
(formerly ITHACA AUDIO of New York)

NEW EUROPEAN SUBSIDIARY
58 Crouch Hall Road, London N8 8HG. UK.
Telephone: 01-341 2447 Telex: 299568

● Circle No. 189

(continued from page 98)

0090-0091	144-145	Hardware interrupt vector
0092-0093	146-147	Break interrupt vector
0094-0095	148-149	NMI interrupt vector
0096	150	Status word ST
0097	151	Which key depressed: 255=no key
0098	152	Shift key: 1 if depressed
0099-009A	153-154	Correction clock
009B	155	Keyswitch PIA: STOP and RVS flags
009C	156	Timing constant buffer
009D	157	Load=0, Verify=1
009E	158	# characters in keyboard buffer
009F	159	Screen reverse flag
00A0	160	IEEE-488 mode
00A1	161	End-of-line-for-input pointer
00A3-00A4	163-164	Cursor log (row, column)
00A5	165	PBD image for tape I/O
00A6	166	Key image
00A7	167	0=flashing cursor, else no cursor
00A8	168	Countdown for cursor timing
00A9	169	Character under cursor
00AA	170	Cursor blink flag
00AB	171	EOT bit received
00AC	172	Input from screen/input from keyboard
00AD	173	X save flag
00AE	174	How many open files
00AF	175	Input device, normally 0
00B0	176	Output CMD device, normally 3
00B1	177	Tape character parity
00B2	178	Byte received flag
00B4	180	Tape buffer character
00B5	181	Pointer in filename transfer
00B7	183	Serial bit count
00B9	185	Cycle counter
00BA	186	Countdown for tape write
00BB	187	Tape buffer#1 count
00BC	188	Tape buffer#2 count
00BD	189	Write leader count; Read pass1/pass2
00BE	190	Write new byte; Read error flag
00BF	191	Write start bit; Read bit seq error
00C0	192	Pass 1 error log pointer
00C1	193	Pass 2 error correction pointer
00C2	194	0=Scan; 1-15=Count; \$40=Load; \$80=End
00C3	195	Checksum
00C4-00C5	196-197	Pointer to screen line
00C6	198	Position of cursor on above line
00C7-00C8	199-200	Utility pointer: tape buffer, scrolling
00C9-00CA	201-202	Tape end address/end of current program
00CB-00CC	203-204	Tape timing constants
00CD	205	00=direct cursor, else programmed cursor
00CE	206	Timer 1 enabled for tape read; 00=disabled
00CF	207	EOT signal received from tape
00D0	208	Read character error
00D1	209	# characters in file name
00D2	210	Current logical file number
00D3	211	Current secondary addr, or R/W command
00D4	212	Current device number
00D5	213	Line length (40 or 80) for screen
00D6-00D7	214-215	Start of tape buffer, address
00D8	216	Line where cursor lives
00D9	217	Last key input; buffer checksum; bit buffer
00DA-00DB	218-219	File name pointer
00DC	220	Number of keyboard INSERTs outstanding
00DD	221	Write shift word/Receive input character
00DE	222	#blocks remaining to write/read
00DF	223	Serial word buffer
00E0-00F8	224-248	Screen line table: hi order address & line wrap
00F9	249	Cassette#1 status switch
00FA	250	Cassette#2 status switch
00FB-00FC	251-252	Tape start address
0100-010A	256-266	Binary to ASCII conversion area
0100-013E	256-318	Tape read error log for correction
0100-01FF	256-511	Processor stack area
0200-0250	512-592	Basic input buffer
0251-025A	593-602	Logical file number table
025B-0264	603-612	Device number table
0265-026E	613-622	Secondary address, or R/W cmd, table
026F-0278	623-632	Keyboard input buffer
027A-0339	634-825	Tape#1 buffer
033A-03F9	826-1017	Tape#2 buffer
03FA-03FB	1018-1019	Vector for diagnostic program
0400-7FFF	1024-32767	Available RAM including expansion
8000-8FFF	32768-36863	Video RAM
9000-BFFF	36864-49151	Available ROM expansion area
C000-E0F8	49152-57592	Microsoft Basic interpreter
E0F9-E7FF	57593-59391	Keyboard, Screen, Interrupt programs
E810-E813	59408-59411	PIA1 - Keyboard I/O
E820-E823	59424-59427	PIA2 - IEEE488 I/O
E840-E84F	59456-59471	VIA - I/O and Timers
F000-FFFF	61440-65535	Reset, tape, diagnostic monitor

Graphics printer

SIGMA SYSTEMS of Cardiff (telephone 21515) sent a sample of the output from what it describes as the first available printer to print Pet graphics. The advantage when reading a program listing is terrific, of course. Since this is the Axiom electrostatic printer working at a speed of 120 lines per minute with 40 characters per line on paper 5in. wide, it is interfaced directly to the IEEE bus, so you need no long subroutines in memory to run the printer. It costs £499 plus VAT.

Instant addition

WE HAVE heard of an interesting collection of add-ons from Palo Alto ICs, 810 Garland Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

The Basic Programmer's Toolkit is a collection of firmware aids designed to enhance the development, debugging and polishing of programs for the Pet.

The toolkit provides 2KB of additional machine language tools permanently in ROM. No tapes need to be loaded, nor do you lose any RAM. The toolkit adds these helpful new commands to the Pet:

AUTO	enter auto-numbering mode, with the Pet providing evenly-spaced line number prompts.
APPEND	appends a Basic program from tape to the program in storage, using normal SAVED tapes
DELETE	deletes a range of lines as easily as LIST.
DUMP	displays the names and values of variables in the symbol table during or after running a program.
HELP	used after an error in Basic to display the erroneous line, with the offending token highlighted.
RENUMBER	renumbers a Basic program — and all references — by specified step-size.
TRACE	allows you to see the line numbers of statements as they are executed, in a small scroll window in the corner of the screen. Also operates in single STEP mode.


The toolkit will cost \$75 for 2001-8, \$50 for 2001-16, 32; that includes documentation and examples of use.

You will need to order directly from the States, but the company is interested in arranging U.K. representation.

Takeover

THE TAKEOVER of Petsoft by Applied Computer Techniques (ACT) seems to have had a propitious effect. Twenty-five new programs are listed in the latest catalogue, ranging from a £5 program to teach maths to children of six to 12 years old, and a tutorial to teach beginners how to write programs in Basic.

New games include space simulation for £5, and for £10 there is a steeplechase game. For £10 you can buy Gypsy Petulengro, an astrology program which might start a new trend on the seaside piers of Britain.

Copies of the latest free catalogue are available from Petsoft Division, Applied Computer Techniques Ltd, 5-6 Vicarage Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3ES. Tel: 021-454 5348. 

£79.50
+ VAT

A NEW TOOL FOR A NEW TECHNOLOGY

SOFTY is not just another training aid for the engineer wishing to become acquainted with microprocessors - it is a **BENCH-TOOL** for the system designer.

"A revolution will probably take place soon, with the appearance of complete development systems costing less than £1,000..."



Until quite recently all the electronics design engineer really required was a scope and a meter. Now even the smallest of companies are investing thousands in microprocessor development laboratories — afraid of being left behind in the technology-race. But SOFTY is here to help, and a microsystem can be developed without expensive equipment right through the design and prototype stages and even into production.



WHAT SOFTY WILL DO

- IT COPIES MEMORY DEVICES (ROMs &c) presenting the data as an address-mapped hexadecimal display on the screen of a monitor or TV set.
- IT DEVELOPS PROGRAMS for virtually any microprocessor with facilities similar to an ASSEMBLER: you may enter, insert or delete instructions, shift blocks of data, match specific bytes, calculate displacements to labelled locations — and all with the overwhelming advantage of being able to test the program instantly and even develop it one instruction at a time!
- IT RECORDS PROGRAMS on ordinary cassette tape using an ordinary cassette recorder at ultra-high-speed — around 2000 baud equivalent!
- IT PROGRAMS EPROMS of the 2708 family at a speed which is close to the theoretical minimum (2 mins per 2708). It may therefore be used as an "instant-copier" for software.
- IT IS A HANDY COMPUTER which may be programmed to do useful jobs in the home or workshop, and may even be included as the "brains" of larger equipment, performing sequential or combinatorial control functions. SOFTY has a microcycle length of exactly one microsecond and there is a programmable timer. The manual lists a simple interpretive language which anyone may learn to use in ten minutes!
- IT IS A FABULOUS LEARNING AID because the trainee can actually see what is happening — SOFTY is completely transparent! The internal MPU will cease execution at a breakpoint, which may be substituted for any program step, and display contents of internal registers.
- IT FILLS THE GAP BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE for the serious user who already has a computer and dedicated assembler to develop his software. The computer makes documentation — not prototypes. SOFTY places the program in addressing space to be actioned by the MPU of his choice in a real system — the proof of the pudding! Simple debugging and condensing of code may often be handled without recourse to the assembler.

SOFTY can be assembled in a couple of hours. No extras are required except for a power supply providing +5, +12 & -5 volt rails and +30 volts for the EPROM programmer. The kit includes sockets for all the 23 ICs, UHF modulator for TV use, 4MHz crystal, DIN socket and lead for cassette interface, 21 key keyboard, a quality double-sided PCB of fibreglass with solder mask and component overlay and a comprehensive manual covering assembly and use.

A DEVELOPMENT KIT is also available which includes all of the above and a lever-operated ZERO INSERTION FORCE SOCKET for the EPROM programmer, 43 way card edge connector, ribbon cable and 24 pin header (for connection to the system under development as firmware) and a spare 2708 EPROM.

It is not possible to present a full technical specification in the space available here. We will therefore send you a SOFTY on the understanding that you may examine it and read the literature and, if you wish to do so, return the goods for a complete refund within 14 days.

VIDEOTIME PRODUCTS, 56, Queen Road, BASINGSTOKE, Hants, RG21 1RE
TEL: (0256) 56417 TELEX: 858747.
We welcome Barclay & Access orders by telephone.

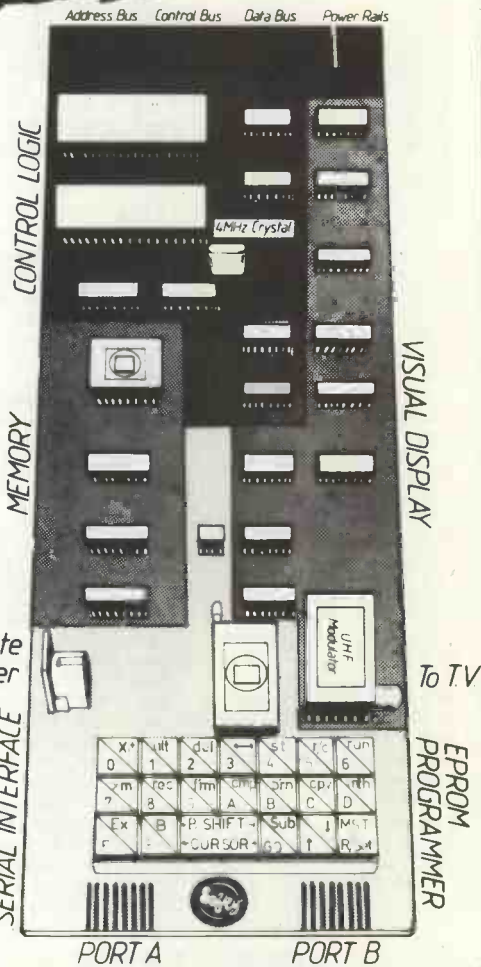
Please send me: (I enclose Cheque/Company Order)

- SOFTY Kits @£92.00(Incl. VAT & 50p p & p)
- DEVELOPMENT Kits @£113.85(Incl. VAT & 50p p & p)
- BUILT DEVELOPMENT Kits @£136.85(Incl. VAT & 50p p & p)
- POWER SUPPLY Kits @£17.25(Incl. VAT & £1 p & p)

Name

Address

VIDEOTIME PRODUCTS, 56, Queen Road, BASINGSTOKE, Hants, RG21 1RE



● Circle No. 190

PRACTICAL COMPUTING September 1979

Pascal

ANNOUNCED at the NCC trade fair in New York was a language card designed to run Pascal. It is in the form of a 16K RAM card, bringing the total capacity of Apple II to 64K.

The card supports the full USCD Pascal and the high-resolution colour graphics extension designed by Apple; Pascal is compiled, making program running shorter. Features of the package include:

- A fast, screen-orientated editor for program development and word processing.
- 80-character lines in the standard Apple with horizontal scrolling.
- 80-character lines — upper- and lower-case characters — with external CRT terminal.
- Standard Pascal plus extensions for strings, disc files, graphics and system programming.
- Text procedures for cursor addressing, split screen, horizontal scrolling.
- FUNCTION Keypress tells whether a character is available.
- Library routines include randomising, support for a game paddle, and several others.
- Re-locatable assembly language routines can be generated and linked to Pascal programs.

Apparently Pascal operates only on a 48K Apple from disc with the language card installed. Because of the way the memory is mapped it may not be possible to use it with smaller machines.

Required reading

WE'VE MENTIONED *The Rainbow* previously in this page; it's the only independent newsletter of which we know for Apple II users, and is from Aresco, which also does newsletters for Pet and the RCA Cosmac VIP.

Rainbow carries news, reviews, tips, programs and explanations; and the potential of the newsletter to react to readers' input can justify a subscription.

Rainbow has some 24 pages and is monthly. Assembled and written largely by Rick Simpson, it uses two contributing editors and a number of readers' articles.

In issue 1, the major piece is the code and description for a data management system using Applesoft, 32K RAM and a disc. It's not exactly a full-scale DBMS but it provides a common format for storing files of numeric data which can be analysed subsequently by various applications; it can be used without any great understanding of programming techniques, and it looks well-suited to the production of business and technical charts and graphs. It has two bugs, corrected in later issues.

There is also an excellent piece on how to use the Apple I/O connectors. How many other computers have built-in interfaces for paddles and pushbuttons?

Issue 2 contains another good intro-



duction, this time to high-resolution graphics and shape tables. There are four software reviews, including plaudits for Muse's great *Escape* game and the Quality Software *Fastgammon*.

In issue 3 there is a handy DOS memory map, a look at the good points of integer Basic, a tip from Steve Wozniak, a good review of low-resolution graphics, and a fine high-resolution plotting program for polynomials. There are also the plans for an add-it-yourself colour killer to improve text display by showing monochrome alphanumeric; some production Apple IIs are now incorporating this modification but yours may not have it.

There is an introduction to assembly language programming in issue 4, designed deliberately to fill the gaps in published books on 6502 machine language coding. More articles will follow in the series. There are also several reviews, including the Programmer's Aid ROM and the Mountain Hardware clock board

— "well-designed, well-constructed and well-documented. If you have an application which requires precise time-of-day information or precisely-timed interrupts, this unit will do the job — and do it well".

Issue 5 looks in more detail at the Programmer's Aid and recommends its extra high-resolution facilities. Also a fairly unfruitful interview with Apple's marketing manager, letters and reviews — including a look at the Eclectic Corp Superchip we noted two issues ago.

The superchip is a ROM package for special graphics, including lower-case letters and plenty of text display variants. The reviewer found several small limitations with it, especially when running programs not designed for use with the Superchip, and concluded that "it does everything they say it will — and very well — but it also does some things you wish it wouldn't".

Our verdict is unqualified approval. There is no U.K. outlet so far as we know, though Aresco is interested in talking to dealers and shops here. Meanwhile, individuals can subscribe for \$25; Aresco accepts Mastercharge and Visa. The address is *The Rainbow*, P O Box 1142, Columbia, MD 21044.

Number painting

S W HILTON of Lambeth sent a program which allows the more artistically-inclined user to paint by numbers, in 'Etch-a-Sketch' fashion. Hitting the space bar, or the next required colour code, allows the "electroartist" to change colour as desired. Well, at least it's not so messy as the real thing:

```

10 REM COLOUR ETCH-A-SKETCH PROGRAM FOR APPLE II
20 REM
30 REM FOR COLOUR CODES REFER TO APPLE II BASIC PROGRAMMING MANUAL
40 REM
50 GO
60 PRINT "COLOUR ETCH-A-SKETCH"
70 PRINT "X = PADDED 0, Y = PADDED 1"
80 PRINT "HIT SPACE BAR TO START/CHANGE COLOUR"
90 PDL = 16368:0
100 X = PDL (0) : Y = PDL (1)
110 PLOT X,Y
120 IF FEEL (-16384) < 127 THEN GOSUB 200
130 GOTO 90
140 REM
150 REM SUBROUTINE PLOTS REQUIRED COLOUR...
160 REM
170 PRINT "CHOOSE A COLOUR..."
180 INPUT C
190 IF C=15 THEN GOTO 316
200 GOSUB (300+C)
210 COLOR C
220 POKE -16368:0
230 PLOT X,Y
240 RETURN
250 PRINT "BLACK" : RETURN
260 PRINT "MAGENTA" : RETURN
270 PRINT "DARK BLUE" : RETURN
280 PRINT "PURPLE" : RETURN
290 PRINT "DARK GREEN" : RETURN
300 PRINT "GREY" : RETURN
310 PRINT "MEDIUM BLUE" : RETURN
320 PRINT "LIGHT BLUE" : RETURN
330 PRINT "BROWN" : RETURN
340 PRINT "ORANGE" : RETURN
350 PRINT "GREY" : RETURN
360 PRINT "PINK" : RETURN
370 PRINT "GREEN" : RETURN
380 PRINT "YELLOW" : RETURN
390 PRINT "AQUA" : RETURN
400 PRINT "WHITE" : RETURN
410 PRINT "OUT OF RANGE, TRY AGAIN" : GOTO 200

```



P.I.P.S.



COMPUTER SERVICES

North-East England Dealers for a range of Microcomputers and Printers

HARDWARE:

APPLE II
ZENTEC ZMS-70

AIM 65
ACORN

PRINTERS

ANADIX
DIABLO DAISYWHEEL

SOFTWARE:

INVOICING PACKAGE, CASHFLOW PACKAGE, DENTIST PACKAGE

Selection of Software from Keen Computers Ltd

Tel: John Page on (0632) 482359 482984 to discuss your requirements.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

● Circle No. 191



Gentlemen, the Petdisk
has landed . . . **£499**
(single disk)

The U.K.-designed and manufactured Novapac disk system for Commodore's PET*, first seen at Compec '78, is (after extensive industrial evaluation), now available to the domestic user. Its unique saddle configuration continues the integrated design concept of your PET, with no trailing wires or bulky desk-top modules.

- * Novapac may be used with any available RAM plane.
- * May be used with latest versions of PET.
- * Data transfer takes place at 15,000 char/sec - effectively 1,000 times faster than cassette!
- * Storage capacity is 125 K/bytes (unformatted) on 40 tracks per diskette side.
- * Dual index sensors permit dual-side recording for 250 K/bytes per diskette.
- * Easy operation full-width doors prevent media damage.
- * System expandable to 3 Mbyte on-line storage (4 drives).
- * Dual head and 2D versions provide 2 Mbytes on-line.
- * Industry Standard IBM 3740 recording format for industry-wide media compatibility offered only by NOVAPAC.
- * Dedicated Intel 8048 microprocessor and 1771 FDC minimise PET software overhead.
- * Local hardware and software support available, including applications packages for small business use.

The sophisticated Disk Operating System is disk-resident, which allows for future DOS-enhancements without hardware alterations. PDOS supports multiple file handling, allocating disk space dynamically to each as and when necessary. Any file may occupy from 1 to 600 sectors as required, at up to 16 non-contiguous locations on the disk, PDOS may be used alone, or within a BASIC program and offers user-specified password security for any file. Multiple access-modes simplify BASIC program construction, and the user may generate tailored DOS modules.

Novapac dual-disk system complete with PDOS and BASIC demonstration programs on disc £899 + VAT.

Available from the manufacturer or selected dealers. Terms: 50% with order, balance on delivery. Full cash with order is subject to 5% discount. VAT-FREE Export arranged (Must be shipped by us).

analog electronics

47 Ridgeway Ave,
Coventry
Tel: (0203) 417761

● Circle No. 192

ILLUSTRATING BASIC

(A SIMPLE PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE)

WE CONTINUE our series of articles on how to program in Basic, probably the most widely-used programming language for small computers. For the series, we have obtained the serialisation rights for one of the best books on the subject, *Illustrating Basic* by Donald Alcock.

★

Each month, we are publishing a part of the book, so by the end of the series you will have the complete book. It is written with a distinct informality and has a rather unusual presentation; but it is this style, we believe, which makes it one of the most easy to read tutorials.

★

Alcock *Illustrating Basic*.
© Cambridge
University Press.
Reprinted by permission.

★

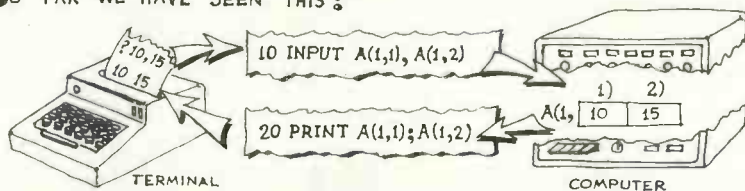
CONTENTS

PREFACE	
1. COMPONENTS OF THE LANGUAGE	1
2. INPUT & OUTPUT, EXPRESSIONS AND FUNCTIONS	15
3. CONTROL	39
4. ARRAYS	59
5. MATRICES	75
6. COMPLETE EXAMPLE PROGRAMS	101
7. COMMANDS AND SIGNING ON	111
8. FILES OF DATA	119
FILES OF DATA ≈ THE COMPUTER'S LONG-TERM MEMORY	120
KINDS OF FILE ≈ A ROUGH ANALYSIS	124
9. SYNTAX	127
INDEX	132

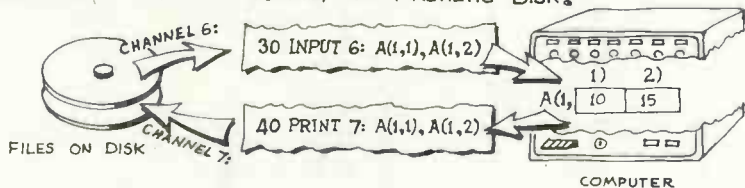
FILES OF DATA

THE KEYBOARD IS NOT THE ONLY MEANS OF INPUT NOR IS THE TERMINAL THE ONLY DESTINATION FOR OUTPUT.

SO FAR WE HAVE SEEN THIS:



BUT YOU MAY ALSO SEND DATA TO AND FROM A FILE IN THE FILES AREA WHICH IS USUALLY ON MAGNETIC DISK:



FILES ARE NEEDED MAINLY FOR:

★ **COMMUNICATION:** RESULTS OF ONE PROGRAM MAY BE STORED IN A FILE FOR SUBSEQUENT USE AS INPUT DATA FOR OTHER PROGRAMS.

★ **BACKING STORAGE:** A PROGRAM MAY GENERATE MORE INTERMEDIATE INFORMATION THAN BASIC CAN HOLD IN THE FORM OF ARRAYS (EVERY SYSTEM HAS ITS OWN LIMIT ON SIZE OF ARRAY).

TO TRANSFER DATA BETWEEN ARRAYS IN A PROGRAM AND FILES IN THE FILES AREA USE:

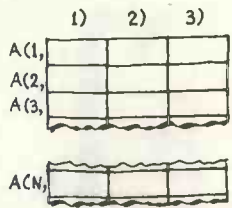
INPUT	(PAGE 18)
MAT INPUT	(PAGE 96)
PRINT	(PAGE 28)
PRINT USING	(PAGE 34)
MAT PRINT	(PAGE 98)

EXCEPT THAT YOU INSERT A CHANNEL NUMBER (FOLLOWED BY A COLON) AFTER THE WORD "INPUT" OR "PRINT".

HERE IS A SUBROUTINE TO TRANSFER ROWS 1 TO "N" OF ARRAY A(,) TO A FILE ON CHANNEL 7:

```

1000 REM SUBROUTINE TO TRANSFER N ROWS
1010 REM OF A(,) TO FILE ON CHANNEL 7:
1020 FOR I=1 TO N
1030 PRINT 7: A(I,1), A(I,2), A(I,3)
1040 NEXT I
1050 RETURN
    
```



IF YOU "CALLED" THIS SUBROUTINE A SECOND TIME THE NEW CALL WOULD CAUSE MORE ROWS OF NUMBERS TO BE APPENDED TO THE FILE FOLLOWING THOSE TRANSFERRED IN THE PREVIOUS CALL. THUS YOU CAN STORE AN "ARRAY" IN A FILE MANY TIMES LONGER THAN ALLOWED FOR BY THE "DIM" STATEMENT FOR THAT ARRAY.

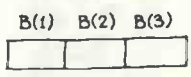
HERE IS A SUBROUTINE TO INPUT JUST "RECORD R" FROM A FILE ON CHANNEL 6: . WE ASSUME THIS FILE HAS THE SAME STRUCTURE AS THE FILE ON CHANNEL 7: ILLUSTRATED ABOVE. A FILE IS SIMPLY A STREAM OF SINGLE ITEMS; YOU HAVE TO ORGANISE ITS STRUCTURE (SUCH AS ROWS OF THREE AS "RECORDS" AS IN THIS EXAMPLE).

```

2000 REM SUBROUTINE TO INPUT SINGLE RECORD
2010 REM "R" INTO B( ) FROM CHANNEL 6:
2020 REM FIRST RESET FILE TO RECORD 1
2030 RESET 6
2040 REM WIND THROUGH (R-1) RECORDS
2050 FOR I = 1 TO R-1
2060 INPUT 6: A,B,C
2070 NEXT I
2080 REM NOW INPUT RECORD R TO B( )
2090 INPUT 6: B(1),B(2),B(3)
2100 RETURN
    
```



"WASTE" R-1 RECORDS



THIS EXAMPLE ILLUSTRATES THE INSTRUCTION "RESET" WHICH IS COMMON TO MANY BASICS ALTHOUGH AT LEAST ONE VERSION USES THE WORD "RESTORE" INSTEAD. YOU ARE USUALLY PERMITTED TO RESET SEVERALS CHANNELS BY A SINGLE INSTRUCTION:

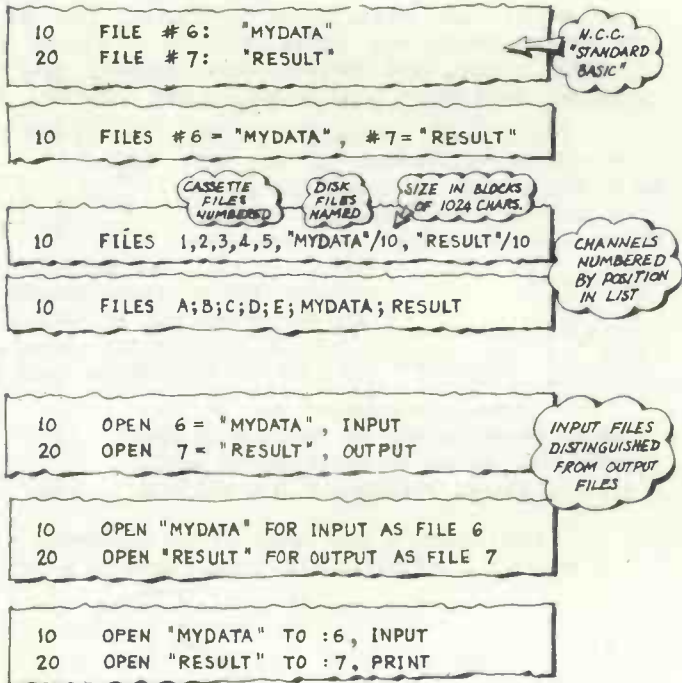
```

100 RESET 1,3,6
    
```

THIS INSTRUCTION MOVES A CONCEPTUAL "POINTER" TO THE BEGINNING OF THE FILE ON THE SELECTED CHANNEL SO THAT THE NEXT "INPUT" INSTRUCTION TO BE OBEYED PICKS UP THE FIRST ITEM IN THE FILE. DO NOT USE "RESET" WHILST PRINTING A FILE .

FILE NAMES * CHANNELS

WHEN THERE ARE FILES IN A BASIC PROGRAM YOU HAVE TO ASSOCIATE NAMES OF FILES AS THEY APPEAR IN YOUR "CATALOG" WITH THE CHANNEL NUMBERS USED IN "INPUT" AND "PRINT" INSTRUCTIONS. ("CATALOG" IS EXPLAINED ON PAGE 115.) THERE ARE ALMOST AS MANY WAYS OF DOING THIS AS THERE ARE VERSIONS OF BASIC. ASSUMING YOU WANT TO INPUT FROM A FILE CALLED "MYDATA" ON CHANNEL 6: AND PRINT A FILE CALLED "RESULT" ON CHANNEL 7: HERE ARE JUST A FEW DIFFERENT WAYS DIFFERENT BASICS REQUIRE YOU TO DO IT. (NAMES YOU INVENT ARE USUALLY LIMITED TO ABOUT 6 LETTERS AND DIGITS OF WHICH THE FIRST MUST ALWAYS BE A LETTER.)



A FURTHER COMPLICATION IS THAT SEVERAL BASICS DEMAND YOU FIRST USE THE "JOB CONTROL LANGUAGE" (i.e. THE CODE UNDERSTOOD BY THE COMPUTER'S OPERATING SYSTEM) TO DECLARE AND GIVE DETAILS ABOUT ALL THE FILES YOUR BASIC PROGRAM REFERS TO & IN SHORT TO GIVE DETAILS TWICE.

FILES (CONTINUED)

YOU CAN FILE TEXTS AS WELL AS NUMBERS :

```
100 REM FILE NAMES AND DATA
110 PRINT 7: "CUSTOMER'S NAME "; N$; S$
120 MAT PRINT 7: A
```

BUT SOME *BASIC*S RESTRICT SUCH MIXTURES OF TEXTS AND NUMBERS TO FILES CODED IN *CHARACTER FORM* AS DEFINED OVERLEAF.

FROM THE PRECEDING EXAMPLES YOU WILL APPRECIATE HOW EASY IT WOULD BE TO PRINT A FILE AND GET IT OUT OF PHASE DURING RE-INPUT : REMEMBER YOU CAN'T SEE THE CONTENTS OF A FILE. HERE IS A ROUTINE TO INPUT ON CHANNEL 6: THE FILE PRINTED BY INSTRUCTIONS 100 TO 120 ABOVE ON CHANNEL 7: :

```
200 REM RE-INPUT CUSTOMER'S NAME & DATA
210 INPUT 6: M$, Q$
220 MAT INPUT 6: A
```

BUT THERE IS A HORRIBLE BUG. THE TEXT "CUSTOMER'S NAME" WAS PUT ON THE FILE IN FRONT OF THE CUSTOMER'S TWO NAMES STORED IN N\$ AND S\$ & LINE 210 FAILS TO PICK THIS UP, THUS MAKING S\$ INTO THE FIRST ITEM OF MATRIX INPUT WHICH IS RIDICULOUS.

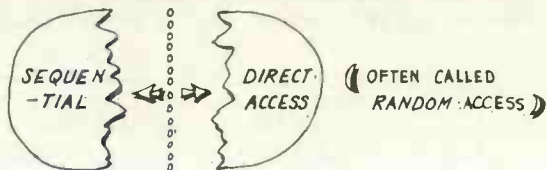
WHEN DEVELOPING PROGRAMS THAT USE FILES IT HELPS TO SEND, SAY, THE FIRST OR LAST ITEM IN EACH TRANSFER TO THE TERMINAL AS A RUNNING CHECK. THE (CORRECTED) DEVELOPMENT VERSION OF THE ROUTINE ABOVE BECOMES :

```
200 REM RE-INPUT CUSTOMER'S NAME & DATA
210 INPUT 6: T$, M$, Q$
211 PRINT 210; Q$
220 MAT INPUT 6: A
221 PRINT 220; A(1,1)
```

LINES 211
& 221 JUST FOR
DEVELOPMENT

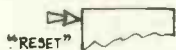
KINDS OF FILE

THERE ARE ESSENTIALLY FOUR KINDS OF FILE: SOME *BASICS* OFFER ONLY ONE KIND, OTHERS MORE. HERE IS A ROUGH ANALYSIS:



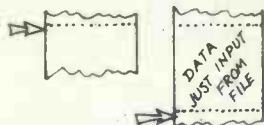
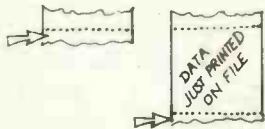
IN THE DOMAIN OF FILES THERE IS A "VERTICAL" DIVISION SEPARATING SEQUENTIAL FILES FROM DIRECT ACCESS FILES.

SEQUENTIAL FILES



EACH FILE HAS A CONCEPTUAL "POINTER" WHICH STARTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FILE AND MAY BE SET BACK TO THE BEGINNING AT ANY TIME BY THE INSTRUCTION "RESET".

WHEN YOU SEND INFORMATION TO THE FILE BY THE "PRINT" INSTRUCTION THE NEW INFORMATION GOES ON THE END OF THE FILE AND THE POINTER MOVES ON JUST PAST THE NEW END THUS CREATED.

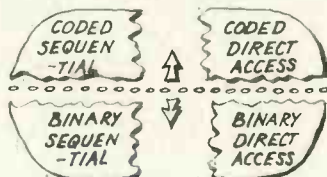


WHEN YOU INPUT INFORMATION FROM A FILE YOU GET THE INFORMATION POINTED TO BY THE POINTER THEN MOVES ALONG TO THE NEXT SET OF INFORMATION READY FOR THE NEXT "INPUT" INSTRUCTION.

OBVIOUSLY, THEN, YOU CAN'T "INPUT" FROM A FILE BEING "PRINTED" UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED WITH PRINTING AND "RESET" THE CONCEPTUAL POINTER. IN SOME *BASICS* THIS MEANS CLOSING AN OUTPUT FILE AND OPENING IT AGAIN AS AN INPUT FILE ON THE SAME OR ANOTHER CHANNEL. EXAMPLES ON PREVIOUS PAGES ILLUSTRATE THE USE OF SEQUENTIAL FILES.

DIRECT ACCESS FILES (THESE ARE OFTEN CALLED *RANDOM ACCESS FILES*; A MISNOMER BECAUSE NOBODY WANTS RANDOMLY CHOSEN RECORDS.) WITH DIRECT ACCESS FILES YOU MAY CONTROL THE POSITION OF THE POINTER. WHEN THE POINTER IS IN POSITION YOU MAY TREAT THE FILE AS THOUGH IT WERE A SEQUENTIAL FILE. SO *BASICS* THAT PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS FILES MUST ALSO PROVIDE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MOVING POINTERS TO "RECORD N" AND FUNCTIONS FOR DISCOVERING WHERE THE POINTER HAS GOT TO. DIRECT ACCESS FILES ARE LESS COMMON IN *BASIC* THAN SEQUENTIAL AND ARE NOT FURTHER COVERED HERE.

THERE IS ALSO A "HORIZONTAL" DIVISION OF THE DOMAIN OF FILES SEPARATING CODED FILES FROM BINARY FILES.



CODED FILES YOU CAN PRINT THESE AT A TERMINAL OR ON A LINE PRINTER ⇒ EVERY LETTER, DIGIT AND SYMBOL IN THE FILE IS UNIQUELY STORED; USUALLY IN A.S.C.I.I CODE. A PROBLEM WITH CODED FILES IS THAT COMPUTERS USING BINARY ARITHMETIC HAVE TO CONVERT NUMBERS FROM CODED DECIMALS TO BINARY DURING INPUT ⇒ AND FROM BINARY TO CODED DECIMALS DURING OUTPUT. THIS IS WASTED WORK IF YOU DON'T NEED TO PRINT THE FILE AND READ IT; THERE CAN ALSO BE SOME LOSS OF ACCURACY DURING BOTH CONVERSIONS.

BINARY FILES THESE STORE DATA MORE COMPACTLY THAN IS POSSIBLE WITH CODED FILES AND REQUIRE NO CONVERSION DURING INPUT AND OUTPUT. ON THE OTHER HAND THEY WOULD PRODUCE GIBBERISH IF YOU WERE ABLE TO PRINT THEM AT THE TERMINAL. BINARY FILES ARE STRICTLY FOR STORING INTERMEDIATE RESULTS OF A CALCULATION ⇒ AND READING THEM BACK INTO THE COMPUTER FOR FURTHER COMPUTATION. SEVERAL *BASIC*S OFFERING BINARY FILES IN ADDITION TO CODED FILES HAVE DISTINCT INSTRUCTIONS FOR BINARY INPUT AND OUTPUT; TYPICALLY:

THE WORD "GET" IN PLACE OF "INPUT"
THE WORD "PUT" IN PLACE OF "PRINT"

AND SOME USE THE WORDS "READ" AND "WRITE" RESPECTIVELY. SOME *BASIC*S ALLOW BINARY FILES CONSISTING OF TEXTS. A FEW *BASIC*S ALLOW BINARY FILES COMPOSED OF A MIXTURE OF NUMBERS AND TEXTS.

THERE IS NO HOPE OF WRITING COMPLETELY PORTABLE *BASIC* PROGRAMS WHICH USE FILES ⇒ BUT IF YOU STICK TO USING CODED SEQUENTIAL FILES YOUR PROGRAM SHOULD NOT NEED MUCH ALTERATION TO MAKE IT RUN ON SOME OTHER INSTALLATION.

XITAN SYSTEMS

THE SOUTH'S PREMIER MICROCOMPUTER SUPPLIER.

WE SUPPLY SYSTEMS — LOOK AT THESE TYPICAL CONFIGURATIONS!

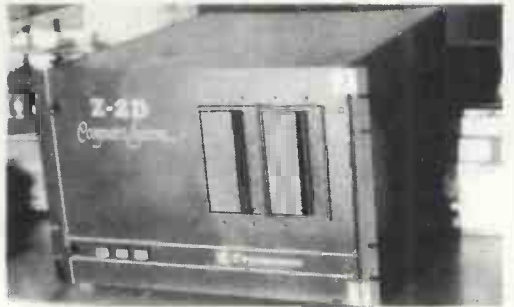
System A 32K Commodore PET + Commodore model 2040
Dual floppy drives and cable. £1,610



System B NORTH STAR HORIZON, 32K RAM, dual
double-density drives, 2 serial, 1 parallel port,
DOS and BASIC, high-quality brand name 24 x
80 char VDU £2,505



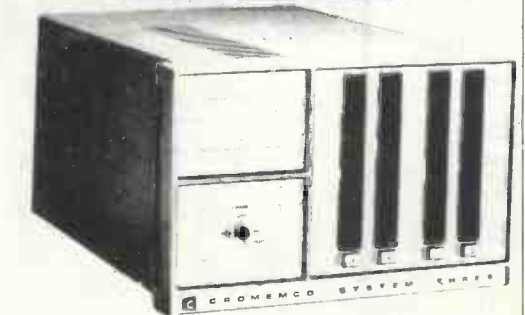
System C CROMEMCO System 2, 4MHz Z-80, 64K RAM,
dual minifloppies, 21 connectors, 1 serial, 1
parallel printer port, CDOS 1.07 and Extended
Disk BASIC High-quality brand name VDU
etc £3,020



System D CROMEMCO Z-2, 4MHz, 1 megabyte floppy disk
storage, 64K RAM, 3 serial ports, 2 parallel ports,
CDOS 1.07 and BASIC, High-quality 24 x 80 char
VDU £4,600



System E CROMEMCO System 3 (the "Rolls Royce") 64K
RAM, 4MHz, 1 megabyte floppy disk storage, 1
serial and 1 parallel printer port, high-quality
brand name 24 x 80 char VDU etc, including
CDOS and BASIC £5,710



We supply Centronics, Teletype 43 and Diablo Printers, plus the normal range of ancillary equipment. CPIM for Cromemco and Horizon systems is available from us, as well as Microsoft Fortran, Tex etc.

23 Cumberland Place, Southampton SO1 2BB.

Tel (0703) 38740 Tues-Sat

● Circle No. 193

Your Own Complete

PERSONAL MICRO COMPUTER
for only **£305.00** (Exclusive of VAT)

THESE ARE THE FEATURES

- Standard Keyboard (ASCII Encoded)
- Ready Built 12" VDU Monitor (uncased)
- Complete Kit of Parts to construct a powerful Microcomputer
- Full Documentation
- On Board PROM Programmer
- Tiny Basic Interpreter
- Programmable in Machine Code or Basic
- Powerful Motorola Software Available
- Additional options available as standard without obsoleting any previous purchases

Such as: More Memory both ROM and RAM, Hard Copy Printer, Floppy Discs, I/O User Ports and Software for the above, i.e. Disc Operating System and Disc Interactive Extended Basic.

ORDER NOW!! We take plastic or real money!!

CROFTON
Electronics Limited
35 Grosvenor Road, Twickenham
Middlesex • Tel: 01-891 1923

● Circle No. 194

U NO THE ELF BUT DO YOU KNOW OUR PRICES?

*Basic Computer Kit	£79.95
or wired and tested	£99.95
Cabinet & Flexiglass cover	£22.00
*Constructors/Users Manual	£4.00
4K Static Memory Board	£63.00
or wired and tested	£83.00
ELF II Expansion Power Board	£15.00
ELF II Tiny Basic Generator	£12.00
*R.F. Modulator	£3.00
Giant Board Kit	£32.00
Giant Board Kit wired and tested	£52.00
*Power Supply Transformer	£5.00
*Micro Processor/Computer Book	£4.00
Pro ASC 11 Keyboard Kit	£53.00
Pro ASC 11 wired and tested	£73.00
Pro ASC 11 Keyboard steel cabinet	£15.00
ELF Bug Monitor	£12.00
*SUGGESTED MINIMUM INITIAL ORDER	

Please tick items required, add 8% V.A.T. to total cost, enclose your cheque, print your name, address and telephone No. below and post complete to C.A.V.S. Ltd., 171 Chase Side, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 0PH

Name Telephone No

Address

● Circle No. 195

ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II



BUY A minicomputer for less than some TV games only £79:95 + VAT

- *Power Supply (6-3v AC) for ELF II 5.00
 - *ELF II Deluxe Steel Cabinet (IBM Blue) 23.01
 - *Giant board kit system/monitor, interface to/cassette, — RS232, TTY etc. 35.00
 - *4K Static RAM board kits (requires expansion power supply) 69.44
 - *Expansion power supply (required when adding 4K RAMs) 19.00
 - *ASCII Keyboard kits 96 printable characters etc 50.58
 - *ASCII Deluxe steel cab. (IBM Blue) 15.02
 - *Kluge prototype board (build your own circuits) 12.83
 - *86-pin Gold-plated connectors (ea) 4.00
 - *ELF Light pen writes/draws on TV screens 6.50
 - *Video graphics board 32/64 characters by 16 lines on TV/monitor screens 69.95
 - *ELF II Tiny Basic on cassette 13.50
 - *ELF II Bug/monitor powerful systems monitor/editor 13.50
 - *T. PITMAN'S short course on programming manual (NIL VAT) 4.00
 - *T. PITMAN'S short course on tiny basic manual (NIL VAT) 4.00
 - *RCA 1802 users' manual (NIL VAT) 4.00
 - *PLUS — On-cassette test editor: assembler, disassembler (EA) 16.95
- (Save 10% and buy all three together)
ALL UNITS CAN BE SUPPLIED WIRED AND TESTED
SEND SAE FOR COMPREHENSIVE BROCHURE
ADD 15% VAT TO ALL PRICES SHOWN. PLUS £2 P+P
OVER £20.

ELF II BOARD WITH VIDEO OUTPUT

STOP reading about computers and get your "hands on" an ELF II and Tom Pitman's short course. ELF II demonstrates all the 91 commands which an RCA 1802 can execute, and the short course instructs you speedily how to use them.

ELF II's VIDEO OUTPUT makes it unique among computers selling at such a modest price. The expanded ELF II is perfect for engineers, businesses and industry, as well as scientific and educational purposes.

SPECIFICATION

- *RCA 1802 8-bit microprocessor with 258 byte RAM expandable to 64K bytes.
- *RCA 1861 video IC to display program on TV screen via the RF modulator.
- Single Board with professional hex keyboard, fully-decoded to eliminate the waste of memory for keyboard decoding circuits.
- Load, run and memory project switches.
- 16 registers
- Interrupt, DMA and ALU
- Stable crystal clock
- Built-in power regulator
- 5-slot plug-in expansion bus (less connectors)

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Barclaycard/Access

To: NEWTRONICS, 138 KINGSLAND ROAD
LONDON E2 5BY TEL: 01/739 1582

ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II ELF II

● Circle No. 196

Fourier transforms on the Pet

WE PRESENT an entirely practical, non-mathematical and basic — and Basic — description of how to take a single cycle of any waveform and reduce it to its component parts, revealing in some detail the 'nuts and bolts' which go to make up all kinds of sounds and vibrations. This should prove of considerable interest to Pet owners who also happen to be musicians, engineers, mechanics, teachers and students in various branches and stages of physics and elementary mathematics.

It is possible, and sometimes useful, to describe any periodic waveform in terms of a number of pure sinewaves. Fourier analysis is a technique which can be used to extract each of the possibly numerous harmonics that constitute a complex waveform. Harmonic content distinguishes the tone of one musical instrument from another, even though they are playing the same note.

Spoken vowel sounds are different because the throat, nose and mouth form filters with different resonant frequencies which emphasise certain of the harmonics

by Nick Hampshire

inherent in the sound produced by the vocal cords. As we speak, the shape of the mouth changes continually, altering the patterns of the harmonics produced in the sound, so allowing the varied range of sounds we use for communication.

The number of times a waveform — which could be sound or vibration in any material or structure, or a mathematical function — repeats in a given period — or axis space — is called the fundamental frequency. Harmonics are tones which are integer multiples of the fundamental. Thus, if a waveform has a fundamental frequency of 100 cycles per second (Hertz), then the second harmonic is twice that frequency — 200Hz, the third 300Hz, the 10th 1000Hz, and so on.

A complex waveform, such as the tone produced by an oboe or the human voice, can be regarded as containing a certain amount of a pure sinewave at the fundamental frequency, a certain amount of sinewave at the second harmonic, some at the third and so on. Most complex waveforms will have harmonics stretching to a theoretical infinity — i.e., an infinite number of harmonics must be added to the fundamental to build up the exact waveforms.

In practice, the higher fundamentals tend to add only a very small proportion of energy to the total and may be ignored at some arbitrary level. An audio amplifier being fed with a squarewave, which is rich in harmonics, of 1KHz will pass only the first 20 harmonics or so

the Pet

because it has an upper frequency limit of 20KHz. That will lead inevitably to a distorted squarewave being fed into the loudspeakers, since the theoretical harmonic series of a squarewave continues to infinity in the sound spectrum.

Figure 2 shows the relative content of the first 15 harmonics, showing that the higher harmonics are less and less significant and contribute less to the final sound. Such distortion may not be particularly important, as the human ear cannot hear these higher harmonics. This transcription error, however, would be detected by audio test equipment.

It may not be immediately obvious that

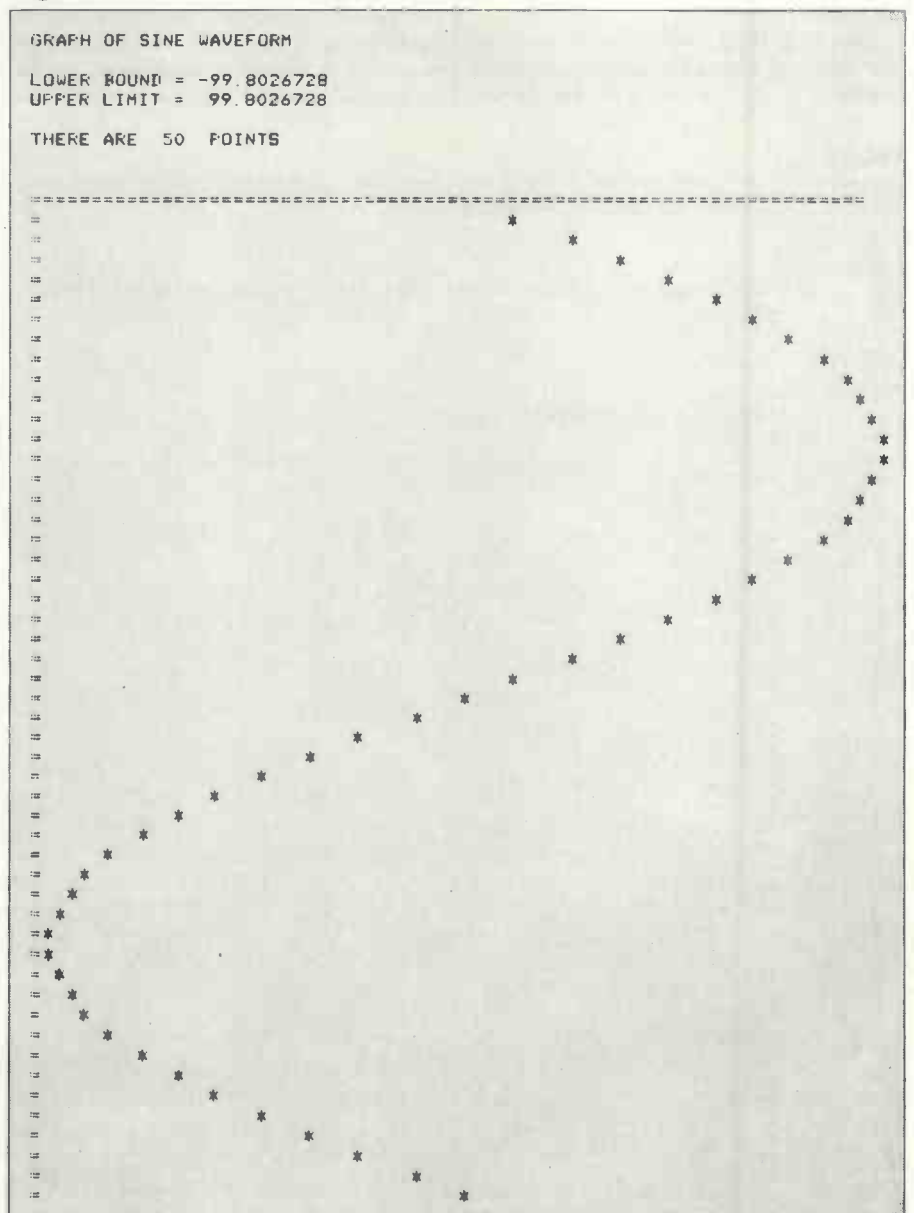
a periodic waveform need consist of only its fundamental — the period with which it repeats — and harmonics of that fundamental. Note, however, that fundamental frequency means just that. If the waveform contains any component waveform not an integer multiple of the fundamental, the fundamental was chosen incorrectly.

Harmonic analysis of the tides might show that the fundamental frequency of oscillation was the lunar month. After all, it is the attraction of the moon which causes the tides. Should the sun have any effect on the tides, the periodic fundamental would have to be the lowest common denominator between the effect of the moon and the sun.

A practical tide predictor, which is one application for such analysis, may, for the

(continued on next page)

Figure 1.



(continued from previous page)

sake of simplicity, ignore the minor effect of the sun if the prediction is accurate enough.

Figures 2 and 4 show the harmonic content of a square wave and a triangle wave. Figure 2 shows that the square wave contains a greater proportion of harmonics than the triangle. Both contain only odd harmonics — fundamental, third, fifth, seventh and so on — yet in one case they add up to a square wave and in the other a triangle. This is due to phase differences between the harmonics.

If one considers two sine waves of the same frequency (as figure 1) and superimposes them, when the peaks occur in the same place both the peaks and the troughs are magnified. The new waveform is the sum of the two.

If the second waveform is shifted along half of the total wavelength (180 degrees) the peak of the first would be summed with the trough of the second, similarly with the trough of the first and the peak of the second.

The nett result would be of the two waveforms cancelling-out to leave nothing at all. When two stones are

dropped in a pond and the ripples meet, the wavelets are amplified in some places, reduced to still water in others.

Three peaks

The third harmonic has three peaks in the same length, space or time as the one of the fundamental. When the third harmonic is added to the fundamental in such a way that the peak and trough of the fundamental are accentuated, then a triangle wave is produced. When the third harmonic reduces the peak and trough of the fundamental, a squarewave is formed.

All the examples were generated by the program given at the end. Fourier analysis is set firmly in the realms of applied mathematics, although we settle for a descriptive, and, where possible, a pictorial approach. No attempt will be made to prove, or even show, that the technique or theory is soundly based.

The program is in several logical subsections. First, the user has the option to generate a waveform within the code by calling one of a number of subroutines, or to input a sequence of numbers representing a digitised waveform. In the second section the user may print-out a

graph of the waveform so produced, either on the Pet screen, or to an external printer through an IEEE bus-to-RS232 converter.

The third stage is to analyse the waveform once for each harmonic, printing the amplitude of that harmonic and its phase angle. They are the two items of information required to say how much of each harmonic must be added to the fundamental, and in what phase relationship.

In the last section the user may print-out a pictorial representation of the harmonic content, either on the screen or the external printer. As a further option the bar chart of the harmonics may be displayed as a logarithmic value; this has the effect of compressing widely-diverging values, so making the display more usable.

When the program is started it asks the user for the number of sample points the waveform is to contain (120). Ten or fewer are too few for a meaningful analysis, more than 255 would not fit in a Pet Basic array (130-150).

Next, the user must select one of six options to set up the waveform in the array WV (160-250). If a zero is entered the program executes subroutine 1000 (260-280). This subroutine then asks the user to input NO — the number of sample points — digitised waveform points.

If the user typed "1" when selecting the waveform option, WV is set equal to a sine wave (1100-1150). The inherent SIN() function is called. It takes a value in radians — there are $X \cdot 2 \cdot \text{PI}$ radians in a full circle, equivalent to 360 degrees; this accounts for the 6.283... constant in the calculation (1130).

Normalising

SIN() returns a value in the range -1 to +1; this is multiplied by 100 to normalise it partially with the other waveforms and also to provide reasonably large numerical values from the calculations.

By selecting option "2" a square wave is placed in WV (1200-1290). The first half of the array is set to -100, the second half to +100. A triangle wave, option "3" (1300-1375), is constructed by starting a counter at zero (TM, statement 1310) adding +10 for the first quarter of the cycle (1315-1330), then subtracting 10 for the next half of the cycle (1335-1350).

The last quarter of the cycle is constructed by adding +10 to the counter until it reaches zero again (1355-1375).

A sawtooth waveform, option "4" (1400-1470), is produced by starting TM (1420) at a negative value chosen to give a ramp equally above and below the zero line. The last option "5" (1500-1520) shows a 'clipped' sine-wave, as might be produced by an overloaded audio amplifier. Here the sample point is limited to 85 percent, both positive and

Figure 2.

HARMONIC	VALUE
1	*****
2	**
3	*****
4	**
5	*****
6	**
7	*****
8	**
9	*****
10	**
11	** ****
12	**
13	*****
14	**
15	*****

negative, of its full value. In each case the string variable HDS is loaded with the name of the waveform which will be used later as a header for graphs.

Having placed one cycle of a periodic waveform in WV it might be useful to print it out, either on the Pet screen or to an external printer. A "YES"/"NO" reply is expected to two questions — "DO YOU WANT A PET GRAPH" (320-340), in which case subroutine 3000 is called; and "DO YOU WANT A PRINTER GRAPH" (350-370), in which case subroutine 4000 is called.

Printing a graph like this is a useful general subroutine. It is unfortunate that two separate subroutines are required, one for the screen and one for the printer, but in Pet Basic it appears to be impossible to use one type of write statement to write both.

Values

The algorithm, however, is the same and remarks about one generally will apply to both. A line-printer graph is most conveniently produced by drawing the Y-axis first as a line across the page or screen. Then, for each point, printing a single character for the X-axis line, a number of spaces, followed by a "*" or some other character to represent the point value. It is also important to 'normalise' the upper and lower limits of the graph to the smallest and largest value in the array of points to be displayed.

Subroutine 4500 places the smallest and largest values to be found in WV into MN and MX. Again the algorithm is a simple and effective one. MN and MX are loaded with the first value in WV — WV(1) (4510-4520). Then the remaining values are checked; if any value is greater than MX it is placed in MX (4540) and if any value is smaller than MN, it is placed in MN (4550).

Both the graph plotting routines first print-out a header consisting of the name of the waveform — from HDS, the upper and lower graph plot limits and the number of points which make up the plot (3030-3050 or 4030-4120). Next a line of 'hash' characters is printed to form the Y-axis line (3060-3090 or 4130-4160).

The line length is fixed at 39 for the Pet as its screen is 40 columns wide, but it will be varied for the printer according to the paper width in use. The column width is stored in the variable PW, which is set initially to 70 in statement 54. One line of output is generated for each waveform point.

TW contains the total width of the plot (3120 or 4190) and each point will be some proportion of this (3130 or 4200). 0.5 is added to the value generated before the function INT() is applied, which has the effect of rounding the value in SP to the nearest integer. This is a useful trick — well worth remembering.

SP contains the number of spaces

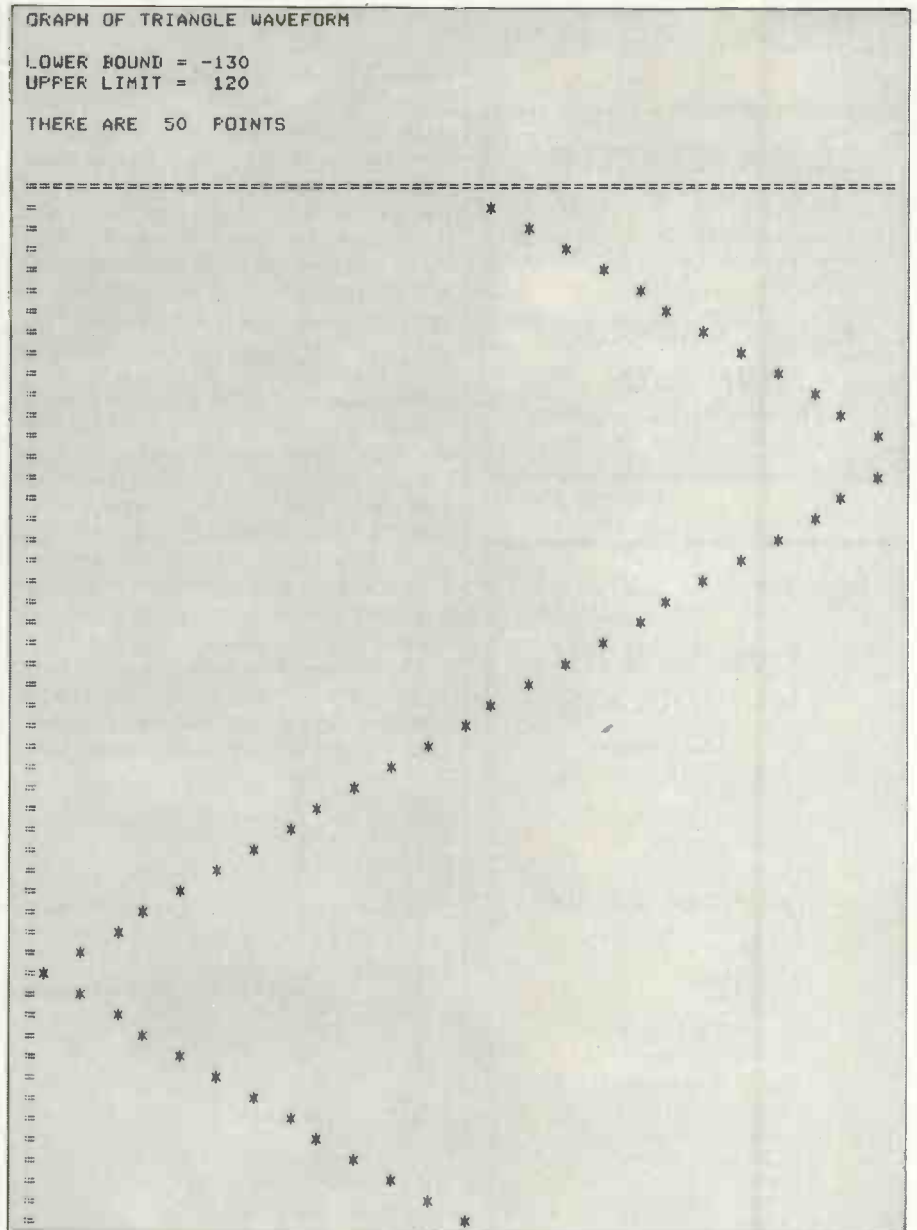


Figure 3.

which must be printed between the X-axis line and the graph point. The PRINT function SPC() can be used on the Pet screen. It moves the cursor X places to the right, and is much faster than printing-out spaces in a FOR-loop.

Due to a Pet Basic bug, referred to in the manual and certainly present in the earlier Pets, in which SPC(O) is incorrectly handled, the special case SPC=O must be treated separately (3140-3160 or 4210-4230).

Our Pet-to-printer interface is a microprocessor simulating the IEEE to RS232 converter. It has its eccentricities but it handles the cursor control characters produced by SPC(). If you use an interface which does not map these characters, subroutine 8000-8040 has the same effect, but using space characters.

CH contains the channel number of the IEEE printer. It is set initially to four in statement 16; change this and every instance of the channel number will be

altered. As an added precaution against various 'time-outs' in the interface, the channel is opened and closed each time a routine using the printer is called.

It is the statements 400 to 600 which calculate the harmonic content of the waveform. The process is very simple. For each harmonic every point in the waveform is multiplied by a point on a sine wave in the corresponding place in the wavelength, and then by a cosine point.

A cosine wave is always 90 degrees out of phase with a sine wave of the same wavelength — one-half PI radians, a quarter wavelength. The inner loop (480-520) multiplies each point in the waveform by the value a sine wave and a cosine wave would have at that point.

For the first harmonic — the fundamental — there is one complete sine and cosine wave. The products are

(continued on next page)

HIRE A PET MICRO FOR JUST £5.00

For personal, educational and small business use. Hire a PET from £5/day or £25/week.

Essex Computer Services

Tel: Canvey 61663 (anytime) or 61926 (office hours)

● Circle No. 197



The POLYTECHNIC WOLVERHAMPTON

Courses in Computing

BSc & BSc (Hons) COMPUTER SCIENCE

4 years sandwich or 5 years part-time.

Dip HE in COMPUTER SCIENCE
2 years full-time or 3 years part-time.

BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY PART 1
5 terms part-time.

BSc & BSc (Hons) COMBINED STUDIES including Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Economics, Environmental Science, Geography, Physics, Technology.

Details from the Secretary, Faculty of Science, The Polytechnic, Wolverhampton WV1 1LY. Tel: Wolverhampton 27371 (24-hour answering service).

● Circle No. 198

FULLY-DOCUMENTED SOFTWARE FOR PET

Usually 2 or more programs per pack, or available separately. All packs supplied complete with cassette and booklet including hints, BASIC code, program structure and instructions.

e.g. TAPES pack, from KIDS pack. £8.95 Mail order only. per pack SAE for full list to: inclusive.

POSBET SOFTWARE Dept. P1, 14 Slade Rd Portishead, BRISTOL, BS20 9BS.



● Circle No. 199

(continued from previous page)

summed into CS and SS. BN is an indication of how much cosine component there is in the waveform at the fundamental frequency, and AN how much sinewave component. Inherent in this pair of numbers is the phase angle, and the harmonic is often interpreted as having so much sine component and so much cosine component. This is sufficient to describe the harmonic completely.

Always positive

Alternatively, we can use the harmonic amplitude — the square root of the sum of these two components squared ($HA = \text{SQR}(AN^2 + BN^2)$) and the phase angle — the arctangent of AN/BN. The harmonic amplitude will always be positive, as there cannot be less than zero harmonic amplitude. The phase angle will always be in the range of $-\pi$ radians to $+\pi$ radians.

This process is repeated, so that each sample point is multiplied by points generated as though there are two complete sine and cosine cycles in the wavelength.

This gives the sine and cosine components, the harmonic amplitude and phase angle for the second harmonic. Then with three cycles, and four, and so on.

The variable DG is used to determine how many harmonics will be tackled. With DG set to 10 (statement 20) a harmonic series up to one-tenth of the number of sample points will be produced — i.e., five harmonics for 50 points, 15 for 150.

If DG is reduced more harmonics are computed for the same number of sample points. It should not be reduced to one, as then only one point would be sampled in each cycle of the highest harmonic and the result would be meaningless.

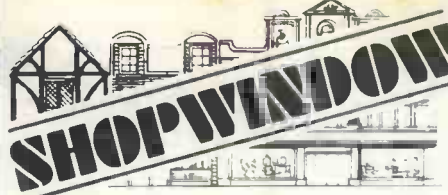
The graphs show a sample containing 50 points and the harmonic charts show one containing 150 points. There is no particular reason for this discrepancy, except that it looks better that way.

Distorted

Figure 6 shows what the numeric table output looks like for a clipped sine-wave. Note that although this example contains

Figure 4.

HARMONIC CONTENT OF TRIANGLE WAVEFORM	
HARMONIC	VALUE
1	*****
2	**
3	*****
4	**
5	***
6	**
7	**
8	**
9	**
10	**
11	**
12	**
13	**
14	**
15	**



GRAPH OF CLIPPED SINE WAVEFORM

LOWER BOUND = -85

UPPER LIMIT = 85

THERE ARE 50 POINTS

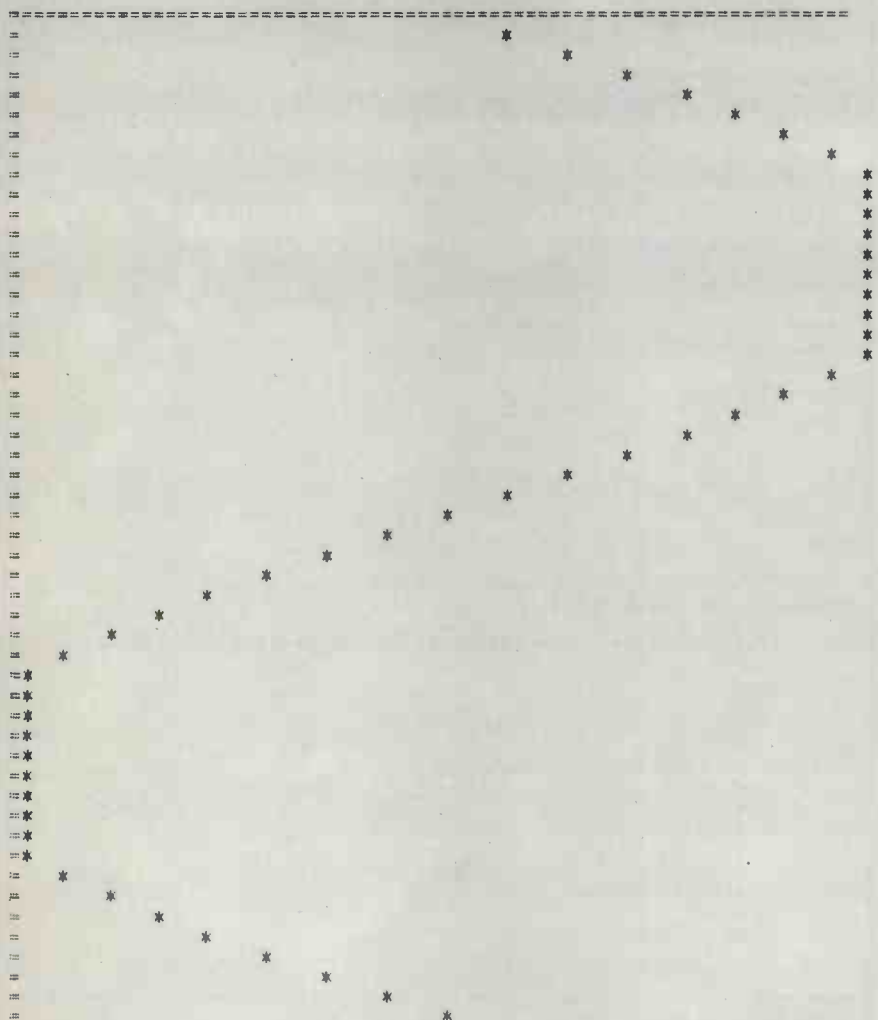


Figure 5.

harmonics, there is no cosine component — they are all very close to zero. This is hardly surprising, as it is only a distorted sine-wave, computed with the Basic SIN() function.

The last stage in the Fourier analysis of the chosen waveform is to print-out the bar chart of the harmonics. Subroutine 6000 displays a series of lines of stars on the screen, one for each harmonic produced. The bars are normalised so that the harmonic with the most power (greatest amplitude) stretches right across the screen and all the others are some percentage of this.

Subroutine 7500 finds the largest value in HB and puts it into MX. HB contains all the values of the harmonic amplitudes, HA, as they are produced. SP contains the number of stars which will represent the harmonic (6030 or 7070). A FOR-loop is set to print-out the stars (6040-6060 or 7080-7100).

The printer routine has a few extra aids to improve the layout. For instance, there are two blank lines between each of the bars, thus increasing legibility many times (7024-7040).

The harmonic number is printed. It is unfortunate that the printer interface did not like the use of a comma as a tabulate function in the PRINT statement. Because of that, subroutine 8100 was written to print a number padded-out to 10 columns with spaces.

This is also something of a cunning trick; convert the number to a string with STR\$(), concatenate 10 spaces, and then print only the first 10 characters of the resulting string using LEFT\$().

Fourier analysis is used widely throughout the engineering sciences to examine sounds and vibrations. Every building or bridge has its own natural

(continued on next page)

NICOMTECH

Cornish and West Devon distributor for the ITT 2020 and range of accessories.

Amateur radio software available for PET, APPLE, 2020 and TRS-80.

European Distributor for MICROTRONICS MORSE and RTTY software for PET and TRS80.

Blank C10'2 etc. on sale.

Mailing services available.
Phone Nigel Huntley on (075-55) 2066.
Address: 212, St. Stephens Road,
Saltash, Cornwall.

● Circle No. 200

BIAS POWER SUPPLIES FOR SYSTEM 64K EXPANSION

BIAS 1 for general micro use

+5v @ 10amps ±12v @ 2amps
-5v @ 1amp KIT £37.04

BIAS 2 for analogue /peripheral use.

± 12v to 25v @ 3amps.
Adjustable. KIT £32.41

BIAS 3 for S100 systems

+ 8v @ 10amps
± 18v @ 3.5amps. KIT £35.19

Over Voltage Protection — optional
B1 — £12; B2 — £7; B3 — £9

HEAVY ALLOY CASE 150x150x200
includes switches, connectors, predrilled £12

Assembled & Guaranteed add £10

Mail order to: **TOOTING COMPUTING**
157 ROBINSON ROAD
LONDON SW17

p & p
£2.50

Tel: 01-543 1398

● Circle No. 201

CASH & CARRY

- * PET 2001 8K & 32K
- * PET Serial Interfaces
- * PET Parallel Interfaces
- * PLESSEY 24(32)K Memory
- * CENTRONICS 779 Printers

Also some ex-demo/hire units available.
(with full warranty).

Phone John Handy, 042 050 374.

● Circle No. 202

TOPMARK Computers

dedicated to
APPLE II



Simply the best!

Full details from Tom Piercy on
Huntingdon (0480) 212563 or circle
enquiry card.

● Circle No. 203

EXIDY SORCERER

in the
MIDLANDS

contact
Midland Microcomputers
Nottingham (0602) 298281
for all your hardware and
software requirements

● Circle No. 204

Computer Supplies

	PET		TANDY	
4K	£460	4K	£462.00	
8K	£550	4K, level II	£535.20	
16K	£675	16K	£581.50	
32K	£795	16K, level II	£655.00	
Twin Discs	£795	Disc Drive	£415.75	
Printer	£645	Roll Printer	£925.00	
Cassette Deck	£ 55	Trac Printer	£1,045.00	
Kim 1	£ 99.50	Zero Interface	£212.00	
Dust Cover	£ 5.30	16K Interface	£331.50	

RentaPet from £20 weekly. All prices
show ex-VAT. Petsoft and Petact
dealers. Tailor-made systems and
software. Quotations for your
business or educational needs from:

Radio Supplies Ltd
80 Gower Road, Sketty.
Telephone: Swansea (0792) 24140.

● Circle No. 205

```

HARMONIC NUMBER 1
COS COMP= 2.56050262E-07 SINE COMP= 93.2256294
HARMONIC AMPLITUDE= 93.2256294
PHASE ANGLE= 2.74656512E-09

HARMONIC NUMBER 2
COS COMP= -9.71951522E-09 SINE COMP= -1.2501856E-07
HARMONIC AMPLITUDE= 1.2539581E-07
PHASE ANGLE= .077588509

HARMONIC NUMBER 3
COS COMP= 1.18365278E-07 SINE COMP= 5.28212875
HARMONIC AMPLITUDE= 5.28212876
PHASE ANGLE= 2.24086318E-08

HARMONIC NUMBER 4
COS COMP= 4.56365524E-08 SINE COMP= -1.35236187E-07
HARMONIC AMPLITUDE= 1.42728838E-07
PHASE ANGLE= -.325458277

HARMONIC NUMBER 5
COS COMP= 2.72912439E-08 SINE COMP= -2.98098795
HARMONIC AMPLITUDE= 2.98098795
PHASE ANGLE= -9.15510039E-09
    
```

HARMONIC CONTENT OF CLIPPED SINE WAVEFORM

HARMONIC	VALUE (LOG)
1	*****
2	**
3	** *****
4	**
5	*****

Figure 6.

(continued from previous page)

resonant frequencies, since it is impossible and undesirable to make them totally rigid. Cracks and faults can be detected in such things as pipes and locomotive wheels by the way they ring when tapped.

The defects will cause different harmonics to appear; this is not to say that there are not more direct methods of testing:

High accuracy

An analogue-to-digital converter could be added to this program to enable the user to analyse many waveforms. For instance, the clipped sine wave could have been produced by an audio amplifier under test. It shows that the amplifier has saturated, and has produced harmonic distortion, primarily the odd harmonics. It must be realised, however, that results obtained with these waveforms are an ideal, produced to high accuracy by the internal SIN() function. Real digitisation will upset the results by introducing spurious harmonics.

For those who wish to experiment with

the program, try the ramp waveform, since it should contain all harmonics, both odd and even. A pure sine wave will produce only one harmonic bar, at the fundamental frequency.

Try also placing a sheet of transparent graph paper over some oscillograms and inputting some real waveforms using the "O" option.

In a later part of this article some further waveforms will be analysed, including a pulse and pseudo-random noise. Further, having dissected a waveform in this way, it is possible to reconstitute it.

In practice this is like dismantling a complex mechanism — there is always something left over which should have been included. By using only some of the constituent harmonics, the effect of a perfect filter can be investigated. Those familiar with imperfect audio filters will notice the difference. In any case, we will continue to ignore such wonders as the fast-Fourier transform and vast amounts of mathematical theory.



```

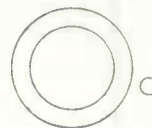
10 REM DICTIONARY
12 REM AN - COSINE COMPONENT
14 REM BN - SINE COMPONENT
16 CH=4:REM PRINTER CHANNEL
18 REM CS - SUN OF COSINE
20 DG=10:REM HARMONIC INTERVAL
22 REM DX - SINE INTERVAL
24 REM FG - A FLAG
26 REM HA - CURRENT HARMONIC AMPLITUDE
28 REM HB(NO) - HARMONIC AMPLITUDES
30 REM HD$ - WAVEFORM NAME
32 REM I - LOOP COUNTER
34 REM J - LOOP COUNTER
36 REM K - LOOP COUNTER
38 REM L - LOOP COUNTER
40 REM MN - MINIMUM VALUE IN ARRAY
42 REM MX - MAXIMUM VALUE IN ARRAY
44 REM NO - NUMBER OF POINTS IN SAMPLE
46 REM OP - OPTION SELECT
48 REM P - NUMBER OF HARMONICS
50 REM PA - PHASE ANGLE
52 REM PR - 0 IF NOPRINT, 1 OTHERWISE
54 PW=70:REM PRINTER WIDTH
56 REM SP - SPACE/BAR LENGTH
58 REM SS - SUM OF SINE LOCATIONS
60 REM TM - TEMPORARY LOCATION
62 REM WV(NO) - POINTS IN SAMPLE
64 REM Y$ - YES/NO OPTION
100 PRINT "FOURIER ANALYSIS PROGRAM"
110 PRINT "===== "
120 INPUT "HOW MANY SAMPLE POINTS"; NO
130 IF NO > 10 AND NO < 255 THEN 155
140 PRINT NO; " OUT OF RANGE - TRY AGAIN"
150 GOTO 120
155 DIM WV(NO), HB(NO)
160 PRINT "PLEASE SET OPTION"
170 PRINT "0 - INPUT WAVEFORM FOR ANALYSIS"
180 PRINT "1 - FOR SINE WAVE"
190 PRINT "2 - FOR SQUARE WAVE"
200 PRINT "3 - FOR TRIANGLE WAVE"
210 PRINT "4 - FOR SAWTOOTH WAVE"
220 PRINT "5 - FOR CLIPPED SINE"
250 INPUT "OPTION"; OP
260 IF OP < 0 THEN 290
270 GOSUB 1000
280 GOTO 330
290 IF OP > 0 AND OP < 6 THEN 320
300 PRINT "NO SUCH OPTION - TRY AGAIN"
310 GOTO 160
320 ON OP GOSUB 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500
330 INPUT "DO YOU WANT A PET GRAPH"; Y$
340 IF Y$ = "YES" THEN GOSUB 3000
350 INPUT "DO YOU WANT A PRINTER GRAPH"; Y$
360 IF Y$ = "YES" THEN GOSUB 4000
370 PR = 0
380 INPUT "DO YOU WANT RESULTS TO PRINTER"; Y$
390 IF Y$ = "YES" THEN PR = 1
400 REM DO THE HARMONIC ANALYSIS
410 REM INTERVAL DEGREE
420 P = INT(NO/DG)
430 FOR I = 1 TO P
440 DX = 2 * 3.14159265 / NO

```

(continued on next page)

FLOPPY DISKETTES

5 1/4" and 8" single and double sided/density. Available from stock at competitive prices.



Also all other computer media and supplies, including

Cassettes
Ribbons
Print Wheels



Storage Systems
Computer Files
Stationery

Michael Collins Computer Supplies Limited,
52, Canbury Passage, Kingston, Surrey.

Telephone: 01 549 9441

● Circle No. 206

NEW LOW OHIO PRICES

4K Superboard	£245
8K Superboard	£287
Challenger IP	£360
Challenger IP with mini floppy	£1,050
Extra mini floppy drive	£385
610 expansion board with 8K	£265

All prices exclusive of VAT

Please send SAE for details

CTS 1 Higher Calderbrook,
Littleborough,
Lancs., OL15 9NL,
Tel: Littleborough
(0706) 79332 any time.

● Circle No. 207



30 St. Johns Road,
Tunbridge Wells,
(STD 0892) 39591.

Digital Microsystems DSC-2 Low Cost
Computer System incorporates

- 1 Megabyte of Floppy Disc storage on two
- single sided 8in. Shugart drives
- 64K bytes of Main Memory Standard 32K or
- 48K available
- CP/M Disk Operating System Standard-TEXT PROCESSING BASIC-COBOL-FORTRAN available

EXPANDABLE—Add on Hard Disk System up to 28 Megabytes per drive

MODATA ARE LOOKING FOR
DEALERS AND DISTRIBUTORS

● Circle No. 208

Intex Datalog Limited,
Eaglescliffe Industrial Estate,
Eaglescliffe,
Cleveland TS16 0PN.
Telephone (0642) 781193

Stockists of Commodore and Petsoft
software also accessories for your

PET MICROCOMPUTER

For instance:—

Pet Dustcover £6.00

Pet Head Demagnetiser £4.00

Prices include VAT but please add 50p per item for post.

● Circle No. 209

profcomp

HELP YOUR MICRO TO HELP YOU

- * Micro-computers and peripherals
- * Feasibility studies
- * Machine evaluation and selection
- * Systems to your requirements
- * Software packages
- * Books

For our PROFessional COMPuter advice, service or products, write or phone:

Profcomp Ltd., 107 George Lane,
London E18 1AN 01-989 8177

● Circle No. 210

EXIDY SORCERER

32K Micro Computer

£859.00+ VAT

Dealer for

Bristol and South West

ELECTROPRINT (Mr. Tasker)

5 Kingsdown Parade • Bristol 6 • 292375

● Circle No. 211

ANNOUNCING....

A ONE DAY INTENSIVE COURSE

including: Basic Programming, Systems, Flow-Charting, Machine Code, etc., etc.

(50% of programming time spent actually using micro-computers)

Date: 16 OCTOBER 1979

Venue: EUROCREST HOTEL - WEMBLEY

Price: £ 34.50 (inc: LUNCH & VAT)

LIMITED NUMBERS: FIRST COME.....

PROGRAMMES & APPLICATION FORMS FROM

L & J COMPUTERS

3 CRUNDALE AVENUE KINGSBURY LONDON
NW9 9PJ 01-204 7525

● Circle No. 212

Dyna-Byte

fully assembled
burned in S100

16K Dynamic	RAM	£198
16K Static	RAM 250ns	£271
16K Static	RAM 450ns	£266
32K Static	RAM 250ns	£506
32K Static	RAM 450ns	£470

80 x 24 video terminal, just add keyboard and monitor £177.

Cable set for video terminal £7.20

Postfree. Add VAT to all prices.

S.W.C. Electronic distributors, P.O.
Box 30, London E.4.

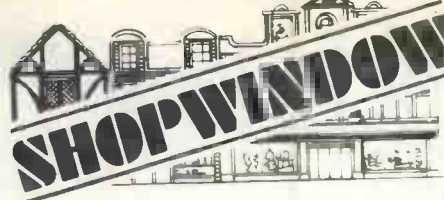
● Circle No. 213

(continued from previous page)

```

450 CS=0
460 SS=0
470 REM THE SUMMATION
480 FOR J=1 TO NO
490 TM=J*J*J*J
500 CS=CS+WV(J)*COS(TM)
510 SS=SS+WV(J)*SIN(TM)
520 NEXT J
530 REM COSINE COMPONENT
540 AN=2*CS/NO
550 REM THE SINE COMPONENT
560 BN=2*SS/NO
570 REM HARMONIC AMPLITUDE
580 HA=SQR((AN*AN)+(BN*BN))
585 HB(I)=HA
590 REM PHASE ANGLE BETWEEN AN AND BN
600 PA=ATN(AN/BN)
610 PRINT"HARMONIC NUMBER ";I
620 PRINT"COS COMP= ";AN;" SINE COMP= ";BN
630 PRINT"HARMONIC AMPLITUDE= ";HA
640 PRINT"PHASE ANGLE= ";PA
650 PRINT
660 IF PR=1 THEN GOSUB5000
665 NEXT I
670 FG=1
680 INPUT"DO YOU WANT HARMONIC CHART ON PET";Y$
690 IF Y$="YES" THEN GOSUB6000
700 INPUT"DO YOU WANT CHART ON PRINTER";Y$
710 IFY$="YES" THEN GOSUB7000
720 IF FG=0 THEN STOP
730 FG=0
740 INPUT"DO YOU WANT LOG(AMPLITUDES)";Y$
750 IF Y$(0)"YES" THEN STOP
760 FOR I=1TOP
770 HB(I)=LOG(HB(I))
780 NEXT I
790 GOTO680
1000 REM INPUT WAVEFORM POINTS
1010 INPUT"NAME WAVEFORM";HD$
1020 PRINT"THESE ARE ";NO;" POINTS TO BE ENTERED"
1030 FOR I=1 TO NO
1040 PRINT"INPUT POINT ";I;
1050 INPUT WV(I)
1060 NEXT I
1070 PRINT"O.K."
1080 RETURN
1100 REM GENERATE SINE WAVE
1110 HD$="SINE WAVEFORM"
1120 FORI=1TO NO
1130 WV(I)=SIN(I/NO*6.28318531)*100
1140 NEXT I
1150 RETURN
1200 REM GENERATE SQUARE WAVEFORM
1210 HD$="SQUARE WAVEFORM"
1220 TM=NO/2
1230 FOR I=1 TO TM
1240 WV(I)=-100
1250 NEXT I
1260 FOR I=TM TO NO
1270 WV(I)=+100
1280 NEXT I
1290 RETURN

```



```

1300 REM GENERATE TRIANGLE WAVE
1305 HD$="TRIANGLE WAVEFORM"
1310 TM=0
1315 FOR I=1 TO INT(NO*.25)
1320 WV(I)=TM
1325 TM=TM+10
1330 NEXT I
1335 FOR J=I TO INT(NO*.75)
1340 WV(J)=TM
1345 TM=TM-10
1350 NEXT J
1355 FOR I= J TO NO
1360 WV(I)=TM
1365 TM=TM+10
1370 NEXT I
1375 RETURN
1400 REM GENERATE SAWTOOTH WAVE
1410 HD$="SAWTOOTH WAVEFORM"
1420 TM=-NO*5
1430 FOR I=1 TO NO
1440 WV(I)=TM
1450 TM=TM+10
1460 NEXT I
1470 RETURN
1500 REM GENERATE CLIPPED SINEWAVE
1520 GOSUB 1100
1530 FOR I=1 TO NO
1540 IFWV(I)>85THEN WV(I)=85
1550 IFWV(I)<-85THEN WV(I)=-85
1560 NEXT I
1565 HD$="CLIPPED SINE WAVEFORM"
1570 RETURN
3000 REM PRINT GRAPH OF WAVEFORM
3001 REM IN WV ON PET SCREEN
3010 PRINT "GRAPH OF ";HD$
3020 GOSUB 4500
3030 PRINT "LOWER BOUND = ";MN
3040 PRINT "UPPER LIMIT = ";MX
3050 PRINT "THERE ARE ";NO;"POINTS"
3060 FORI=1TO39
3070 PRINT "‡";
3080 NEXT I
3090 PRINT
3100 FOR I=1 TO NO
3110 PRINT"‡";
3120 TW=MX-MN
3130 SP=INT(((WV(I)-MN)/TW*36)+0.5)
3140 IFSP>0THEN3170
3150 PRINT"*"
3160 GOTO3180
3170 PRINT SPC(SP);"*"
3180 NEXT I
3190 RETURN
4000 REM PRINT GRAPH OF WAVEFORM
4001 REM IN WV ON EXTERNAL PRINTER
4010 OPEN CH,CH
4020 GOSUB 4500
4030 PRINT‡CH
4040 PRINT‡CH
4050 PRINT‡CH,"GRAPH OF ";HD$
4060 PRINT‡CH
4070 PRINT‡CH,"LOWER BOUND = ";MN
    
```

(continued on next page)

WANTED: TRS-80 PROGRAMS

Business, games, programming aids, scientific or any application. Outright purchase or generous royalty payment.

Send your tapes to:
Dataplus,
 67 Bridge Street,
 Manchester M3 3BQ.

● Circle No. 214

IF YOU NEED . .

HIGH SPEED CASSETTE PROGRAMME DUPLICATION AND THE SUPPLY OF TOP QUALITY CASSETTES . . .

Why not ring us on 01-399 2476/7 and let us quote you for your next requirements.

MEDIATAPE LIMITED, 29a Tolworth Park Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

01-399 2476/7

● Circle No. 215

COMPUTERS FOR BUSINESS

We understand what is needed from a computer. Our comprehensive turnkey service provides a versatile computer system with packaged or bespoke commercial software, at very reasonable prices. Evaluation, design, installation and full on-site training.

Ring **Richard Mortimore at MICRO-FACILITIES, 01-979 4546,** for free survey or demonstration. 127 High Street, Hampton Hill, Middlesex.

● Circle No. 216

HUMBERSIDE MICROPROCESSOR SERVICES THE COMPLETE INDEPENDENT SERVICE

Application areas:-
 Business, process control, education,

Personal Computing
 We can provide for you:-
 Consultancy, training, supply, maintenance and software to suit your individual requirements

Including
 Commodore PET M6800
 Compec 202 and full ancillary equipment.
 Microprocessor Services,
 139 Beverley Road, Hull
 Humberside.
 For further details ring (0482) 23146

● Circle No. 217

ROCKWELL AIM 65

Now in 3 important ways

1. AIM 65 (ex-stock)

Comes complete with display, printer, keyboard, monitor in ROM and 4K RAM. £310.

2. AIM 65C (30 days)

Has everything in item 1 plus 4K Assembler desk-top case and power supply unit £475. (8K Basic interpreter can be substituted for £10 more.)

3. PDS 65. (30 days)

The truly portable version of AIM with 4K RAM, 4K Assembler, 8K Basic, portable carrying case and power supply unit. from £750.

All the above prices include the extensive Rockwell documentation but are exclusive of VAT.



Portable
Microsystems
Limited

Forby House,
18 Market Place,
Brackley, Northants.
phone 0280-702017
telex 'Micro' 83147.

● Circle No. 218

COMPUSTAT

**Continuous Stationery
for the Micro Computer**

All sizes of listing paper stocked.
Specialists in the preparation of
Printed continuous stationery



Design Service available
Spacing Charts £1.00 C.W.O.

Commercial prices to all.

Phone or write for a
quotation to Miss Berry.

01-520 6038
63 ORFORD ROAD,
LONDON, E.17.

● Circle No. 219

TRS-80 SOFTWARE

We have the largest TRS-80
Program Library in the country.
Business, finance, scientific and
games. LEV11 and DISK.
New programs daily. We pay good
prices for original programs.
S.A.E. for lists to:-

**MICROCOMPUTER
APPLICATIONS
11 RIVERSIDE COURT,
CAVERSHAM, READING
RG4 8AL.**

● Circle No. 220

(continued from previous page)

```

4080 PRINT#CH, "UPPER LIMIT = "; MX
4090 PRINT#CH
4100 PRINT#CH, "THERE ARE "; NO; " POINTS"
4110 PRINT#CH
4120 PRINT#CH
4130 FOR I=1 TO PW
4140 PRINT#CH, "=" ;
4150 NEXT I
4160 PRINT#CH
4170 FOR I=1 TO NO
4180 PRINT#CH, "=" ;
4190 TW=MX-MN
4200 SP=INT(((WV(I)-MN)/TW*PW)+0.5)
4210 IF SP>0 THEN 4240
4220 PRINT#CH, "*"
4230 GOTO 4250
4240 PRINT#CH, SPC(SP); "*"
4250 NEXT I
4260 CLOSE CH
4270 RETURN
4500 REM FIND LARGEST (MX) AND SMALLEST
4501 REM (MN) VALUES IN WV
4510 MX=WV(1)
4520 MN=WV(1)
4530 FOR I=2 TO NO
4540 IF WV(I)>MX THEN MX=WV(I)
4550 IF WV(I)<MN THEN MN=WV(I)
4560 NEXT I
4570 RETURN
5000 REM PRINT RESULTS ON PRINTER
5010 OPEN CH, CH
5020 PRINT#CH
5030 PRINT#CH, "HARMONIC NUMBER"; I
5040 PRINT#CH, "COS COMP= "; AN; " SINE COMP= "; BN
5050 PRINT#CH, "HARMONIC AMPLITUDE= "; HA
5060 PRINT#CH, "PHASE ANGLE= "; PA
5070 CLOSE CH
5080 RETURN
6000 REM PRINT HARMONIC BAR CHART ON PET
6010 GOSUB 7500
6020 FOR K=1 TO P
6030 SP=INT(((HB(K)/MX)*38)+0.5)
6040 FOR L=1 TO SP
6050 PRINT"*";
6060 NEXT L
6070 PRINT
6080 NEXT K
6090 RETURN
7000 REM PRINT HARMONIC BAR CHART ON PRINTER
7010 GOSUB 7500
7020 OPEN CH, CH
7022 PRINT#CH, "HARMONIC CONTENT OF "; HD;
7024 PRINT#CH
7026 PRINT#CH
7030 PRINT#CH, "HARMONIC VALUE ";
7035 IF FG=0 THEN PRINT#CH, " (LOG)"
7040 PRINT#CH
7050 FOR I=1 TO P
7055 GOSUB 8100
7060 PRINT#CH, "# ";
7070 SP=INT(((HB(I)/MX)*(PW-10))+0.5)
7080 FOR J=1 TO SP
7090 PRINT#CH, "*" ;
7100 NEXT J
7105 PRINT#CH

```

```

7110 PRINT#CH, "      #*
7120 PRINT#CH, "      #*
7140 NEXT I
7150 CLOSE CH
7160 RETURN
7500 REM LARGEST VALUE IN HB TO MX
7510 MX=HB(1)
7520 FOR K=2 TO P
7530 IF HB(K)>MX THEN MX=HB(K)
7540 NEXT K
7550 RETURN
8000 REM PRINT SP SPACES TO THE PRINTER
8010 FOR K=1 TO SP
8020 PRINT#CH, " ";
8030 NEXT K
8040 RETURN
8100 REM PRINT NUMBER IN I ON PRINTER
8101 REM IN 10 COLUMNS
8110 PRINT#CH, LEFT$(STR$(I)+", 10);
8120 RETURN

```

READY.

Hotting-up in the 16-bit war

THIS COULD well be described as the year of the 16-bit microprocessor with devices due or already available from all the major semiconductor manufacturers. Single-chip 16-bit microprocessors are not, of course, new, since devices like the Texas Instruments 9900 and the General Instruments 1600 have been around for several years. What makes the new devices different is their power and memory addressing capability, writes Nick Hampshire.

While the 9900 can address 64K bytes of memory, the Z-8000 can address 8 megabytes. The new devices are the 8086 from Intel, the Z-8000 from Zilog and the MC68000 from Motorola. Of the three devices, the first two are already available and the MC68000 is scheduled for this month.

Intel first

The first of the new 16-bit microprocessors to reach the market was the Intel 8086, which is available both as a component and as a prototyping system (the iSBC 86/12). Probably the most significant feature of the device is its use of dual-processor architecture to produce an advanced pipe-line machine.

Pipe-lining is a process in which the next instruction is fetched while the processor is still executing the previous one. The dual-processor architecture of the 8086 does this by having one processor as the execution processor and the other as the bus interface and instruction fetch processor.

The Z-8000 has just reached the market in volume and is claimed by Zilog to be more advanced than the Intel 8086 — a claim which only time and user experi-

ence will verify. There are two versions of the Z-8000. The Z-8002, the smaller version, is capable of addressing directly just one megabyte of memory and the Z-8001 can address a full eight megabytes of memory.

High speed

The Z-8000 is best described as a general register machine, which, like the 8086, incorporates dual processor pipelining to obtain high speed of execution. The processor has 16 16-bit registers which can be subdivided logically into 16 8-bit registers, eight 32-bit registers and four 64-bit registers, giving a high degree of symmetry to the architecture and offering the user great flexibility.

All the 8- and 16-bit registers are general-purpose accumulators and 15 of them can also act as index registers. There are two pairs of stack pointers, one containing the address and the other the segment number.

The reason for two pairs is that the Z-8000 has been designed to support multiprocessing and can run both a supervisor and user program concurrently by using one stack pointer for the supervisor and the other for the user.

There is also a 64-bit status register which contains the flags, control bits and a 32-bit program counter. So that the system can use dynamic memories easily, a rate-programmable refresh counter is included as one of the registers.

There are 115 instructions in the Z-8000 instruction set and, like the 8086, many of them more closely resemble high-level language instructions than those found on the current generation of 8-bit micros.



NASCOM SOFTWARE

FOR EXPANDED SYSTEMS (8K upwards)

Level C Basic — Full Floating Point Arithmetic. Supplied on cassette £12.50 or in 4x2708 Eproms £42.00.

Debug with Superstep — for machine code debugging £5.00.

Relocator — relocates and re-addresses machine code programs £4.00.

Octal Loader — handles true and split octal £3.00.

Superstartrek — runs using Level C Basic £4.50.

Superstartrek — runs using Nascom's 2K Basic £4.50.

FOR STANDARD SYSTEMS

Level A Basic Insert in place of your monitor Eproms.

Supports ALL normal Tiny Basic commands.

Supplied in 2x2708 Eproms £21.50.

ALL products are fully documented.

CCSOFT (Southfields)

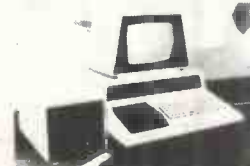
83 Longfield Street, London SW18

Tel: 01-870 4891

● Circle No. 221

B&B Consultants

THE CONSULTANTS FOR THE NORTH WEST



"You can rent me for 10 pence an hour"

For further details please contact

B&B CONSULTANTS

At: 124 Newport Street,

Bolton, Lancs.

Or Telephone: Bolton

(0204) 26644

● Circle No. 222

MANAGER/PARTNER required

for new microcomputer shop opening in Dublin.

Must be dynamic and enthusiastic. Some experience with microcomputers would be helpful.

Good salary and prospects.

Box No. 389.

PROGRAMMERS

Experience of Micro-Systems. Well-paid full- and part-time work. Developing programs for Euro-cust.

All details of c.v. to:-

ETAG, 14 Elstree Road, Hemel Hempstead.

Exidy Sorcerer

Full range of hardware and software, including the new Professional Word Processing ROM/PAC. Business systems including printer, dual disc drives and professional quality VDU for around

£3,200 + VAT

Now available

MICROSTOCK

Microstock stock recording package for the Sorcerer offering facilities usually found only on large machines, e.g., instantaneous access to item details.

Package cost £120 + VAT or send £5 for manual only (allowed against future purchase).

Mike Collier

Basic Computing

Oakworth Road,

Keighley, W. Yorks.

Tel: Keighley (0535) 65094.

● Circle No. 223

COMPUTECH FOR APPLE SYSTEM. APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE

Professional business software packages now available are turnkey systems with comprehensive manuals, built-in validity checks, interactive enquiry facilities, user options, satisfying accountancy, Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise requirements on diskette with DOS space 3.2.

Not adaptations, written specifically as packages for the Apple System.

COMPUTECH SYSTEMS

168 Finchley Road, London, NW3 6HP. Tel: 01-794 0202.

Dealer enquiries welcome.

● Circle No. 224

MICROTEK COMPUTER SERVICES



Agents for North Star Horizon. Personalised software for small business applications. Stock control, budget control, client information, VAT and accounting packages.

50, Chislehurst Road, Orpington, Kent
Tel 66-26803
evenings 0474-872630

● Circle No. 225

BUYERS' GUIDE

If a computer has been reviewed by *Practical Computing*, the date of the appropriate issue is indicated.

ACORN COMPUTERS

Acorn. Single Eurocard-sized microcomputer with 6502 processor, 1KB RAM, 16-way I/O. Max size: a second Eurocard adds hex keypad and CUTS cassette interface. Monitor and machine-code programming now. Basic and disc operating system in the future. "Highly cost-effective basis for a computer or an industrial development system". Available from Acorn (0223) 312772 or Microdigital (051) 236 0707.

£74.75 kit, £86.25 assembled

APPLE COMPUTERS

Apple II. Min size: 16K memory; 8K ROM; keyboard; monitors; mini assembler; colour graphics; Pal card; RF modulator; games; paddles and speakers; 4 demo cassettes. Max size: Expandable to 48K memory; floppy discs and printers are now available. Two versions of Basic, PASCAL; Assembler; games; business packages. An American system regarded as suitable for any kind of applications. Maintenance contracts offered. Personal Computers Ltd (01-283 3391) is the sole U.K. agent but has a distributor network of 20 dealers. (Reviewed July, 1978.)

Around £1,000

ATTACHE

Attache. Min size: system with 10 slots, S100 bus, 8080 processor and 16KB housed in desk-top case with built-in keyboard. Max size: 64KB, parallel printer interface, two single- or double-density 8in. floppies, video screen. Disc Basic; business applications produced by Moncoland, the sole U.K. agent. Distributors include Keen, GBH, Alba, and Lion.

From £1,737. Full business system about £5,000

BRUTECH ELECTRONICS

BEM-CPUI: Single-board processor with 6502 and no RAM. Applications software. Available from Data Precision Equipment (04862 67420). (Reviewed March, 1979.)

£133 exc VAT

COMART

Microbox. Chassis with three to six PCB sockets for S100 boards, plus fan. Several S100 boards available. Aimed mainly at OEM industrial users and perhaps the serious hobbyist. It will take Cromemco, North Star and other processors. Available from Comart (0480 215005).

£255

COMMODORE SYSTEMS DIVISION

Pet. Single unit containing screen, tape cassette and keyboard. Floppy disc, printer and full-size keyboard are options, as are external cassettes. Basic; games; business packages. The British subsidiary of Commodore Systems of the U.S. sells Pet for home, educational and small business applications. About 80 distributors.

£460-£795 exc VAT

Kim-1, processor (6502 chip); small calculator-type keyboard; LED six-digit display; built-in interfaces for audio-cassette and Teletype; 1K RAM; 2K ROM (can add up to 64K). No software available, but it has three good manuals. An American import which gives Pet-type capabilities with a maximum configuration. For the hobbyist but used mainly as an evaluation board for the 6502 chip. Twelve to 15 dealers. (Reviewed October, 1978.)

£99.95

COMPELEC ELECTRONICS

Series 1. Z-80 processor 512KB floppy, 32KB, Centronics printer, VDU. Up to 4MB disc and 64KB. CP/M, Basic, Cobol, PASCAL, Fortran IV, Assembler, Business and word processing packages available. From Compelec (01-580 6296), which is also sole supplier of Altair systems.

*Less than £5,000
for basic system*

COMPUCOLOR

Compucolor II. Packaged system including 13in. eight-colour display with alphanumerics and graphics, 72-key detachable keyboard, 8KB, and built-in mini-floppy. Max size: 32KB. Extended disc Basic in ROM, graphics programs and games. The system now ranks fourth behind Pet, TRS-80 and Apple in personal computer sales. Abacus (01-580 8841) is sole U.K. agent and is arranging distributors, including the Byte Shop and Transam. (Reviewed June, 1979.)

From £1,390

COMPUCORP

610: desk-top unit using Z-80 and incorporating screen, 150KB floppy, 48KB. Up to 60KB memory, four floppies, printers. Basic, Assembler, DOS, text editor, file manager; business packages. Nine dealers.

From £3,890

COMPUTER CENTRE

Mini kit: Z-80 CPU, CTC, USART, serial and parallel I/O, 16 bytes memory, Western Digital disc controller, SA400 5in. drive plus CP/M, cables and connectors.

Mini kit: £786

Maxi kit: As above but with DRI 7100 8in. drive instead of 5in. drive. All (33) volumes of CP/M user group library available for cost of media. Library includes utilities, games. Basic compilers/interpreters and Algol compiler. Microsoft Basic, Cobol, Fortran also available. Computer Centre (02514 29607).

Maxi kit: £886

COMPUTER WORKSHOP

System 1. Typical size: 40K memory; dual 8in. floppy discs, total storage capacity 1.2MB; Ricoh daisywheel printer.

*System 1, £5,000
plus; System 2,
around £3,000*

System 2. Typical size: 24K memory; dual minifloppy discs of 80K bytes each; Centronics 779 dot matrix printer; VDU.

System 3. 12K memory, cassette interface; 40-column dot matrix printer. Editors, Assemblers, Basic, games, information retrieval package. The systems were designed and built in Peterborough and are suitable for educational and small business users and perhaps the more serious hobbyist. Twenty-five dealers.

*System 3, from
£1,300*

CROMEMCO

Single-card computer. 4MHz Z-80 CPU, S100 bus, 1KB RAM, sockets for 8K ROM. 20mA/RS232 serial interface and parallel bi-directional interface. Basic in ROM and Z-80 monitor. For OEM and industrial users; used with backplane for "full computer capability". Datron Interform and Comart are agents, the latter with 12 distributors. (Reviewed February, 1979.)

£247-£281

Z-2. Min size: chassis, 30A power supply, motherboard, Z-80 processor, 16KB memory. Max size: 512KB, 21 sockets, three mini-floppies or four 8in. floppies. Basic, Fortran, Cobol, assemblers. For serious hobbyists, OEMs, educational applications, and industrial/scientific users.

*£372 (in kit form)
to more than
£4,000*

System Two. Min size: factory-assembled system with 32KB, dual 90K minifloppies, dual printer interface, serial interface. Max size: two additional floppies, 512KB, up to seven terminals. CP/M-compatible operating system (DCOS), Fortran, Cobol, Basic, assemblers, word processing, database manager. Multi-user system for software development, or scientific/industrial/business users.

£2,294 upwards

System Two/64. New configuration featuring mini-diskette drives and 64K bytes memory. Software and applications as System Two.

£3,050

System Three. Min size: 32KB, dual 256KB floppies, dual printer interface, 20mA/RS232 serial interface, Z-80 processor. Max size: two additional discs, 12KB, seven terminals, multi-channel A/D and D/A interface, PROM programmer. Software as for System Two. Described as appropriate for small to medium business, scientific and industrial users — "rivals minicomputers at more than twice the price".

*£3,444 to more
than £10,800*

System Three/64. New configuration featuring dual 8in. diskette drives; Z-80A processor; 64K of 4MHz memory; console and printer interfaces. Macro Assembler, Fortran IV, Extended Basic, Cobol, Multi-user Basic.

£4,385

APPLE II comes to SCOTLAND

Why not call and see the fantastic Apple II, the finest micro currently available?

Demonstration without obligation

We also have in stock the following top-quality items:

Nascom 1, including all available expansion.

Division Monitor Kits — If you are thinking seriously about a monitor for your micro we have the best. Beware of cheap imitations which may use TV tubes. Ours use professional quality tubes which we have on demo. The difference has to be seen to be fully appreciated. Nine and 12 inch in stock now. Price £100 + VAT.

High Speed Tape Cassette Interface. Comes complete with instructions showing how to interface to Nascom giving "normal" and high speed operation. 300, 600, 1200, 2400 baud. At the highest speed this will load our 8K basic in about half a minute. Price (Kit) £17.50 + VAT.

8K Tape Basic. The best basic yet written for Nascom. Fully floating decimal point. Complete with all documentation. Price £35.00 + VAT.

Brand New Product. Chiptester. Converts Nascom to a super powerful I.C. tester. Plugs into existing ports. Send now for full details.

Also newly arrived. Totally new games to play on any standard Nascom. Send for full details prices, etc.

Software and Books ideal for schools and colleges now available.

STRATHAND

44 St Andrews Square
Glasgow G1 5PL

Tel: 041-552 6731.

Tel orders welcome

Callers welcome

Callers welcome

Now on telex 777268

24 Hour Service

● Circle No. 226

**A COMPLETE SERVICE FOR
THE SMALL BUSINESS USER**

SYSTEMS FROM £4,500

Ring: 01-653 0835 for brochures.

IRSTAR

Business Systems Ltd.

The Croydon-based Micro House

● Circle No. 227

EQUINOX

Equinox 300. Min size: 48K memory; dual floppy discs giving 600K bytes of storage; 16-bit Western Digital m.p.u. Max size: up to 256K memory; up to four 10MB hard discs. Basic, Lisp, PASCAL, Macro Assembler, Text Processor. All software bundled. The system is a multi-user, multi-tasking, time-sharing system for two to 12 users. Application software available for general commercial users. Sole distributors Equinox Computers Ltd (01-739 2387). **£5,000-£40,000 plus**

EXIDY

Sorcerer: based on Z-80. 16K and 32K; cartridge and cassette interfaces; 79-key keyboard; 256-character set (128 graphics symbols), 12in. video monitor; expandable with Micropolis floppy discs. Basic, Assembler and Editor; games, word processor. Other pre-packaged programs plus EPROM pack for your own programs on cartridges. Factor One is sole distributor for U.K. (Reviewed March, 1979.) **From £760 without VDU to £1,200 with floppy discs**

HEWART MICROELECTRONICS

Mini 6800 Mk II. 1K monitor; 1K user RAM, 1K VDU RAM; CUTS. Upper- and lower-case VDU with graphics option. 128-byte scratchpad; decoder/buffer; power supply; Basic in ROM; monitor command summary, SWTPC programs; Newbear 6800; Scelbi 6800 Cookbook. Markets are small business, education and home user. Cash with order to Hewart. (0625) 22030. **From £127.50 plus VAT**

6800S. 16K dynamic RAM; 1K Mikbug-compatible monitor; room for 8K Basic in ROM; upper- and lower-case graphics; single floppy disc drive; printer and high-speed tape interfaces. "Mountains of software available." Test tape with CUTS test tones, test message and games with kit. **From £275 plus VAT**

DIGITAL MICROSYSTEMS

DSC-2. Min size: 32KB, but 64K standard; Z-80; over 1MB floppy disc on two single-sided 8in. drives; four programmable RS232 and one parallel interface. CP/M and Basic included in price. Extended Basic, Fortran, Cobol, text processing, Macro Assembler, Link Loader, business packages and CAP-CPP business software. Add-on rigid disc system (14 and 28MB) available soon. Modata (0892 39591) is sole U.K. distributor; dealers being appointed. **From £4,465**

IMSAI

VDP 40: 32K or 64K RAM memory; 9in. display screen, standard keyboard. Two 5¼in. floppy disc drives; serial I/O. Full software support, and packages available for the VDP 42, which has larger disc capacity. Packages for VDP 80 could be converted for smaller systems. This would be from about £700 per package. Two main dealers in the country. **£4,507 for 32K model. £4,950 for VDP 42**

ITT

2020. Identical to Apple II. Min. size: 4K memory; 8K ROM; keyboard, monitor, colour graphics, mini assembler; Powell card; RF modulator, games, paddles and speaker; Max size: 48K with floppy discs and printers. Basic, Assembler, games, business packages. Generally suited to any type of application. Fifteen wholesalers, including Fairhurst Instruments. **From £827 to £3,003 for 48K, two floppies and printer**

LUXOR

ABC 80. Min size: 35K with keyboard, CPU, 12in. screen and cassette. Max size: 40K RAM with discs. Z-80 processor, loudspeaker with 128 effects, real-time clock. Options: printers, plotter, discs, module cards, digitiser, modem. 60 compatible I/O memory boards. Software: Basic with resident editor; assembler; games; business and educational packages. Personal computer aimed at home market, small business and education. CCS Microsales is U.K. agent and is looking for distributors. **£795 plus VAT**

MICRONICS

Micros. Typical size: 1K monitor; 47-key solid state keyboard; interfaces for video, cassette, printer and UHF TV; serial I/O, dual parallel I/O ports; 2K RAM; power supply. 2K Basic; British-designed and manufactured system. Claimed to be the cheapest data terminal - a system with an acoustic coupler and VDU for £1,020. Prospective applications for small businesses, process controllers and hobbyists. Manufacturer is sole distributor (01-892 7044). **From £400, assembled**



MICRO V

Microstar. Single box with twin 8in. floppy discs, 64K RAM, three RS232 serial inputs, STARDOS operating system enables system to have three VDUs, plus a fourth job running simultaneously. Word processing software available. Packages being developed include invoicing system, payroll, accountancy type system. Price includes a reporter generator language. Imported by a Data Efficiency subsidiary, Microsense Computers, Microsolve is London agent; other distributors being arranged.

£4,950 machine and software

MIDWEST SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

MSI 6800. Min size: 16K memory Act I terminal; cassette interface. Max size: three disc systems - minifloppy system with triple drives of 80 bytes each and 32K memory, large floppy system with up to four 312K-byte discs and 56K of memory mounted in a pedestal desk, or hard disc system with 10MB and 56K. Basic interpreter and compiler; editor; assembler; text processor on small disc system. American-designed system being manufactured increasingly in the U.K. Sole U.K. agent is Strumech (SEED) (05433 4321) but a distributor network is being established.

Basic system: £1,100 (£815 as kit); Minidisc, £2,500; floppy disc £3,200; hard disc, £8,000-£12,000

NASCOM MICROCOMPUTERS

Nascom I. Min size: CPU; 2K memory; parallel I/O; serial data interface; 1K monitor in EPROM. Max size: CPU; 64K memory; up to 16 parallel I/O ports. Mostly games, but also a dedicated text editor system written by ICL Dataskil. Nascom is working on large versions of Basic, and 8K Microsoft Basic should be available soon. Eleven distributors in U.K. Nascom is negotiating to increase the number. (Reviewed January, 1979.)

£165 exc VAT

NATIONAL MULTIPLEX

Pegasus. Min size: 48K; Z-80; double-density floppies (320KB); S100 bus; 12in. CRT; 58-key keyboard; two serial and one parallel interfaces; bi-directional printer. Options: 8in. drives; 1-2MB additional drives; digital recorder 9,600 baud. Assembler, Cobol, Fortran, Extended Basic. General business package available as well as text editing and mailing list. All run under CP/M. Suitable for education, business and home users. London Computer Store (01-388 5721) sole supplier.

£2,700 exc VAT

NETRONICS

Elf II: single-board computer in kit form or assembled. RCA Cosmac 1802 processor, hex keyboard, 256 bytes RAM; options include up to 64KB, ASCII keyboard, cassette and RS232 I/O, and video output. Machine code or Tiny Basic. Promoted as a teaching system in minimal form, but expandable for more general use. Sole U.K. distributor HL Audio (01-739 1582).

Basic kit £79.95. Assembled £99.95. I/O board £35

NEWBEAR

7768. CPU board, 4K memory, cassette and VDU interfaces. Range of Basics and games, British-manufactured system for hobbyists. Expandable to 64K memory available only in kit form. From Newbear; also from Bearbag dealers, Microdigital, Microbits.

From £45

NORTH STAR

Horizon. Min size: 16K memory; Z-80A processor, single minifloppy disc drive (180KB). Max size: 56K memory, four minifloppy disc drives (180KB), any acceptable S100 peripheral boards. Basic (includes random and sequential access), disc operating system and monitor. Options: Basic Compiler, Fortran, Cobol, Pilot, PASCAL and ISAM. The system is suitable for commercial, education and scientific applications. Application software for general commercial users. Twenty distributors. (Reviewed April, 1979.)

£995 to £2,500

OHIO SCIENTIFIC

Ohio Superboard II: Min size: 6502 processor, 8K Basic in ROM; 2K monitor in ROM; 4K RAM; Cassette I/F, full keyboard; 32 x 32 video I/F, 8K Basic in ROM; Assembler/Editor; American single-board system with in-board keyboard. Aimed at hobbyist/small business. Ohio makes games, personal maths tutors, and business programs. This and other Ohio products have six U.K. distributors. (Reviewed June, 1979.)

From £298

Challenger C24P: similar to Superboard but with a 32 x 64 character set. Supplied as two separate boards with open slots for expansion.

£343 to £1,204

MAINS INTERFERENCE?

Our no wiring, plug in Suppressor helps stop mains-borne interference which can be a threat to data in micro systems. Handles 1500 watts at 6 amps, reduces interference between 150 kHz and 100 MHz.

£19 (inc. VAT, p & p)

BEYTS LOGIC

Windmill Rd, Sunbury, Middx. (tel) 09327 86262
Telex: 928185

PETs (& software) Hewlett Packard, SWTP paper, discs and much more — all from ...

Logic box

Planer Building, Windmill Road, Sunbury, Middx. (09327) 86262

And opening in September another branch at Palmer Street, Westminster — near Caxton Hall.

SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE

We supply complete small business systems; hardware such as S.W.T.P. and Compelec;— software including Mailing Lists, accounting and information systems, stock control, invoicing etc. and instruction in the use of micros.

Windmill Rd. Sunbury, Middx. (tel) 09327 86262
Telex 928185

● Circle No. 228



Instant Software™

JUST ARRIVED

TAMAYS & FARR LTD.

4 MORGAN ST. LONDON E3 5AB 01-981 3993

FROM ONE OF
THE WORLD
LARGEST
MICRO SOFTWARE
SUPPLIERS
A COMPLETE
RANGE OF
INSTANT
SOFTWARE
PROGRAMS
(Dealer Enquiries Invited)

FOR:-
TRS80
PET
APPLE II

● Circle No. 229

sion. The 'professional portable'; similar to Superboard but packaged and ready to use. Aimed at small business, education, research.

Challenger C28P: similar to 4P but expandable to include two 8in. floppies, allowing use of Ohio software. Personal computer for larger business/commercial programs. Aimed at small business, education and research.

£435 to £1,900

Challenger C3. Min size: 32K RAM, dual 8in. floppies, triple processor architecture (6502A, Z-80, 6800). Max size: 768K RAM, 74MB hard disc, multiple terminals, printers. Can run virtually all 6502, 6800, 8080 and Z-80 code. Runs Basic, Cobol and Fortran under OS CP/M. Full business software packages available, including word processing and database management. Multi-programming available.

£2,450 to £13,000

PERTEC

System 1300. Min size: 32K memory; dual minifloppy discs 71 bytes each, formatted; serial interfaces. Max size: 64K memory; four serial ports. Basic (single and multi-user), Fortran, Cobol. The hardware for Compelec Altair systems is from Perotec but the software is Anglo-Dutch. Sole distributor Compelec (01-580 6296).

£3,000-£5,500

PROCESSOR TECHNOLOGY

Sol. 808-based S100 microcomputer packaged with cassette and video interfaces (including graphics), keyboard with numeric pad, and 16KB RAM. Basic, assembler, word processors. Floppy disc systems available. Several distributors including Comart (0480 215005), which can offer nationwide maintenance contracts. (Reviewed July, 1979.)

From £1,750
(excluding monitor
and cassette).
Complete floppy
disc systems with
word processing
about £5,000

RAIR

Black Box. Min size: 32K memory dual minifloppy discs, 80K bytes each; two programmable serial I/O interfaces. Max size: 64K memory; eight serial interfaces; 1MB disc storage (or 10MB hard disc); range of peripherals. Basic, Fortran IV; Cobol. Hardware distributors are being signed and agreements made with software houses to add software. A warranty and U.K.-wide on-site maintenance is given. From manufacturer (01-836 4663) and systems houses.

From £2,300

RESEARCH MACHINES LTD

380-Z. Min size: 4K memory; 380-Z processor, keyboard. Max size: 56K memory. Options: cassette, single or dual minifloppy discs, dual 8in. double-sided discs (1MB); serial interfaces; parallel interfaces; analogue interface; printer available. Basic Interpreter, Z-80 Assembler; interactive text editor; terminal mode software; data logging routines; CP/M, DOS, text processor, CBasic, Fortran, Algol, Pilot, Cobol, CP/M users' club library. Sold principally to higher and secondary education, and for scientific research, data processing and data logging. Available from Sintel and the manufacturer. (Reviewed December, 1978.)

From £830-£3,500

280-Z. Board version of 380-Z system, 4K or 32K (identical in performance to the 380-Z). Interfaces, software as for 380-Z.

4KB version at
£398; 32KB for £722

RCA

Cosmac.1802 micro with hex keypad and output to TV screen. Assembler and machine code programming; options include Tiny Basic. Available by mail order from HL Audio (01-739 1582).

Kit £79.95.
Assembled £99.95
exc VAT

ROCKWELL

Aim-65: Kim-compatible with full keyboard and on-board printer. 1K or 4K RAM. The 4K version is described as a development system rather than a personal computer. Assembler, editor. Basic. Available from Pelco and Microdigital. (Reviewed July, 1979.)

1K - £249.50
4K - £315

SCIENCE OF CAMBRIDGE

Mk14: SC/MP processor, 256 bytes user memory; 512-byte PROM with monitor program; hex keyboard and eight-digit, seven-segment display; interface circuitry; 5V regulator on board. To this can be added: ¼K RAM (£3.60); 16 I/O chip (£7.80); cassette interface kit (£5.95); cassette interface and replacement monitor (£7.95); PROM programmer (£9.95). No software provided but a 100-page manual includes a number which will fit into 256 bytes covering monitors, maths, electronics systems, music and miscellaneous. Based on American National Semiconductor chips. Science will soon have a VDU interface and large manual on user program-

£39.95 basic



ming. Mail order from manufacturer (0223 312919) and by selected dealers. (Reviewed May, 1979.)

SDS

SDS 100. Single unit containing 32K memory (expandable to 46K); up to 8K PROM; twin double-sided floppy disc drives of 500 bytes each, serial and parallel RS232 interfacing; keyboard; 12in. video display; power supplies; SD monitor program; line printer available. CP/M, 8080 assembler, E Basic, Editor supplied with system; M Basic, Fortran, Cobol available for business use, industrial process monitoring and control (with additional hardware). All CP/M games and business packages. Sole supplier Airamco (0294 65530). *From £3,750*

SEMEL

Semel 1. Min size: 4K with CPU, keyboard and monitor. Max size: 64K with single floppy disc unit, printer, VDU and keyboard. Can be coupled to any external device and controls up to 8x250K floppy disc units. Four configurations available. Options: Light pen attachment; 12V DC power supply; remote terminals. Software: Editor, Assembler, debug, full file-handling capabilities in Basic. Fortran and Cobol available on 64K machine; user-defined programs written and compiled by agreement; word processing. General-purpose unit for use as a terminal controller. Suitable for small business and OEMs. Available from Semel exclusively (0822) 5439. *£1,950 with Basic*

SORD

M100. Min size: 16K RAM; 4K ROM monitor; full keyboard plus function keypad; two-channel joystick dual cassette I/F; 11K EBasic on cassette; video; graphics; printer; S100 bus; converters; speaker; 24-hour clock. Max size: 48K RAM; 8K ROM; black and white or colour graphics; mini-floppy discs. Suitable for OEMs, small business, education, laboratory and scientific and home computing. Main distributor is Dectrade, but for London and South contact Midas Computer Services (0903) 814523. *From £726*

M222. Min size: 64K RAM; VDU; full keyboard; numeric keypad; graphics; real-time clock; 70K minifloppy disc drive; audio cassette interface; two serial ports; programmable 110 to 9,600 baud; three S100 slots; power and interface for two external minifloppy drives; ROM bootstrap. Max size: 70K byte minifloppies; black and white or colour graphics; bar code reader; TMS-1000 development system. EBasic interpreter; compiler EBasic; matrix Basic; Fortran; Cobol; assembler editor; re-locatable linker/loader; debugger. Application software includes word and graphics processor; business demonstration packages and games. *From £3,450-£4,123 including desk and printer*

M223. Min size: 64K RAM; hardware as M222 plus one or two 350K byte minifloppy drives. Max size: Four 350K minifloppies; up to four 11.4Mb hard discs; range of S100 devices. As M222 plus Cobol-80, CAP-CPP BOS MicroCobol. Application software includes word and graphics processor; personal information processing system; games; CAP-CPP range of MicroCobol software. *From £3,775-£4,448*

SYNERTEK

Sym 1: 6502 chip and keypad with memory available in 4K blocks to 64K. Any Kim software. American, meant to be the foundation system for very small business and hobbyist users. Available from Newbear (0635 49223). *From £200*

TANDY CORP.

TRS-80. Min size: Level I 4K memory; video monitor; cassette; power supply. Max size: Level II 48K up to 350K on-line via floppy discs; line printer; tractor feed printer and quick printer; floppy disc system. Modern, telephone interface soon available. Basic; some business packages. Level I aimed at the hobbyist and education market and Level II at small business applications. Hundreds of dealers. (Reviewed November, 1978.) *Level I - £499
Level II - from £578-£4,700*

TRANSAM COMPONENTS

Triton: British-made kit computer. Up to 65KB. Full graphics capability, 64 characters. Power supply; cabinet. Communications interfaces. Tiny Basic or 2K Basic, 1KB monitor plus new option 4K firmware on board. Available from manufacturer. (01-402 8137). *£286 kit with 5KB*

VECTOR GRAPHIC

48KB RAM, Z-80 micro; 63K bytes, mini-discs are standard. Options: graphics. Monitor, MDOS, Basic; business packages from dealers. Several distributors. *£2,300*

DYLE HOUSE BUSINESS COMPUTING SYSTEM 2000

£5000

FEATURES

- Dual 8 in. discs providing 2.5 megabytes of storage
- 140 cps 132 char. printer
- 80 char. x 24 line terminals
- Full Z-80A power & system within the terminal
- Multi-cluster terminals (superb multi-user power)
- Dyle House business basic & disc operating system
- Accountancy suite free
- Payroll suite free
- Parts control suite free
- Typist & clerks not required

For:

- Sales acknowledgments
- Sales Invoices
- Delivery Notes
- Purchase Orders
- Customer Statements
- Remittance Advice

**Dyle House Ltd,
Brook Crescent
London E4
Tel: 01-529 2436**

● Circle No. 230

MICRO ADS

are accepted from private readers only, pre-paid and in writing, 20p per word, minimum charge £2.

For sale two months' old, hardly-used Pet 32KN new QWERTY board personal computer. Including two cassette tapes and many programs. Price asked £790 — contact Mr. Gregory, Tel: 01-940-3930.

Expand KIM.4K board (2114). Fully socketed and tested. Plugs on to KIM. £55. S. Ramsbottom, 20 Roydene Rd, Plumstead.

For sale. Tandy TRS-80 Level 2 4K. Perfect condition. Little used. £500. Buyer collects. Phone: Gillingham 31757 (code Medway).

For sale — Data Dynamics Teletype KSR-33 in excellent condition, £350. Also keyboard in plinth, £20. Call 01-894-3761.

Do you want to buy a MicroComputer?

Digitus stocks a wide selection of micros and provides expert advice, sizing and design.

Test some robust, proven computers:

- Apple 11
- Cromemco
- DG MicroNova
- North Star Horizon

Choose from a range of peripherals: Shugart, North Star, Sanyo, Sony, Lear Siegler, Cifer, Centronics, Teletype.

Discuss and select a system to fit your present and future needs.

Digitus

Call, write or visit:
Digitus Ltd
Dumbarton House
68 Oxford Street
London W1
Tel: 01-636 0105

PS Also provided:
micro skill, software, books and training.

Does your MicroComputer need software?

Digitus supplies application programs, systems, and tailor-made software systems.

We specialise in business and administration programs for Z80/8080 and MicroNova computers including:

- Wordprocessing
- Mailing
- Sales Ledger
- Purchase Ledger
- Nominal Ledger
- Stock Control

Also supplied: systems software for Z80/8080 including CP/M, Extended Basic, Fortran and Interactive Cobol.

Digitus

Call, write or visit:
Digitus Ltd
Dumbarton House
68 Oxford Street
London W1
Tel: 01-636 0105

Do you need help to design and process your MicroSystems?

Through its MicroSkill Register of over 200 professionals, Digitus provides experienced programmers, designers and engineers to develop systems on most micros including:

- Z80/8080
- LSI 11
- 6502
- MicroNova
- 6800

Some of the Register people have their own machines. Others work on customer or Digitus equipment.

Whether you require a small program written or a large system designed and engineered, Digitus MicroSkill can provide support.

Digitus

Call, write or visit:
Digitus Ltd
Dumbarton House
68 Oxford Street
London W1
Tel: 01-636 0105

PS Applications to join the Register are welcomed. Please send C.V. and two professional references.

Do you want a MicroSolution for your business?

Some people want to buy equipment and software and bolt it together for themselves.

Others want to buy a solution, a complete system to meet their needs economically and reliably.

Digitus provides MicroSolutions for business, administration and professional practices.

We analyse your requirements, specify systems, choose suitable equipment and software, tailor it to fit your people and organisation, hold hands during transition, train operators and managers, arrange regular maintenance and support.

In short, provide a total MicroSolution.

Digitus

Call, write or visit:
Digitus Ltd
Dumbarton House
68 Oxford Street
London W1
Tel: 01-636 0105

● Circle No. 231

A PRACTICAL GLOSSARY

Continuing the terminological gamut from M to N

Microcomputer

Really it's a small computer. Look at the glossary reference to "C" and check what we wrote there on *computer* — a computer is more than just a *processor*. It's a functioning whole with I/O and some storage capability as well. So microcomputer includes a microprocessor but it involves enough extra equipment to be usable — like a VDU, floppy discs, memory and perhaps a printer.

Microinstruction

One statement of microcode.

Microprocessor

The \$64,000 definition. What exactly is a micro? Simple; it's a central processor — a programmable, electronic, logic-driven, rule-following idiot.

Microprogram

A bunch of microinstructions.

Microsecond

One-millionth of a second, usually abbreviated as μ (μ being one of those Greek symbols mathematicians use which typewriter manufacturers do not include on typewriters). Incidentally, you might see " μp " used: it's a witty shorthand for microprocessor.

Millisecond

One-thousandth of a second, abbreviated as ms.

Minicomputer

A small computer. Nobody really has a better definition so here's a pragmatic one. A minicomputer — colloquially a mini — is a small computer which is not a micro and which is made and sold by a company interested in volume production and low overheads. A mini is sold as a system component, usually in quantities larger than one and without the nolsy support, software, customer service people, pamphlets, manuals and prices of the mainframe computer vendors.

The mini makers want volume sales and high turnover; their profit margin per machine is small, so they want to sell plenty. Micro manufacturers take the same line.

By contrast, the mainframe makers sell comparatively few high-cost systems; they make their high profits per sale by all the extra services, products and general support provided with the computer.

MITS

The personal computer business really got under way late in 1974 with an unlikely parent. MITS was Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems, a small company in the southern United States which began life in 1969 making electronic control systems for model rockets

but moved to \$199 programmable calculators in 1971.

In 1974, MITS put together a microcomputer kit and featured it in a U.S. magazine *Popular Electronics*. The technical editor persuaded MITS to look for a catchy name, and his daughter offered "Altair" — she derived it from the TV as *Star Trek* was showing.

MITS sold the 8080-based Altair kit for \$398 and expected 800 orders in 1975. In fact, it sold 1,500 in two months.

MITS and Altair effectively defined the home micro market. MITS was sold to Perect two years later and the Altair name is now being submerged under newer product developments.

Mnemonic

A memory aid. So mnemonic code is an assembly language code in which the instruction names are easy to remember, like MPY and for multiply STO for store — and ADD for add, too.

Monitor

The kid who used to look after the milk at school. Also the most basic kind of operating system; we treat it as being synonymous with *executive*.

MOS

Metal Oxide Semiconductor. A number of semiconductor technologies are used in micros but this is the most widespread. It is a fairly obvious way of manufacturing integrated circuits by using metal for the electrical conductor and laying it on an insulating layer of silicon oxide.

The two popular alternatives to MOS are bipolar semiconductors and SOS — silicon-on-sapphire. MOS is king at the moment — cheap and simple to manufacture and to use. The availability of MOS made LSI possible.

MOSFET is an IBM version of MOS; don't worry about it, though.

MPU

Motorola abbreviation for microprocessor unit, now used widely to mean "microprocessor".

MSI

Medium Scale Integration. See LSI.

MTBF

Mean Time Between Failure. As an indication of reliability, an MTBF figure — given usually in hours — can be useful to someone who wants maximum performance, though you have to be careful about what exactly has been measured and in what circumstances.

MTRR

A much less-frequently-quoted statistic, the Mean Time To Repair.

Multi-access

A multi-access system is one several users can access at the same time. The term is usually associated with time-sharing — organising the resources of the computer so that all users have a bite at the cherry — and multi-programming — so that several users can run different programs concurrently.

Multidrop

You probably won't ever hear this term. Generally, each peripheral — printer, disc drive, VDU — is connected to the computer by a cable. A multidrop line is something like an electricity line, in that several different units can be connected to it. So several VDUs, say, can be connected to a computer but take up only one I/O port.

Of course, this requires some clever internal extras, notably an operating system which can decipher which terminal wants to do what. If you are sitting at a multidropped VDU and you want to call-up the *Practical Computing* index to check back references, the computer will require some means of identifying you as the recipient of the index rather than any other terminal on the line.

Multiplex

Another term the personal computer user will rarely encounter. Multiplexing is using one communications channel to send several messages at the same time. What happens is that individual messages are chopped up and the pieces interleaved in a single long message. You need a special hardware item called a multiplexer (or multiplexor) to do this. At the other end of the link you need another to decode the chopped stream and re-assemble it into several messages.

It means you can economise on transmission line charges, because if you have eight 30 cps terminals you would be paying for eight 300 baud lines; multiplexing allows you to have all that traffic on to one 2,400 baud line.

Multipoint

Synonym for multidrop.

Multiprocessor

Obviously a bunch of linked processors. There is much to be said for this, particularly for throughput reasons — each processor runs one part of the system or one part of a program, so there's no waiting; and for improved reliability, things might be set up so that if one processor fails another can take over without interruptions.

A number of the cleverer microcomputers use two processors,

one to handle data into and out of floppy disc storage while the other runs programs. Normally a single-processor system has to stop executing program instructions while it looks after a transfer of data to or from disc.

Multiprogramming

Multi is almost as popular a prefix as micro, isn't it? Multiprogramming is a clever way of obtaining as much work as possible from the computer. It means the operating system can run two or more programs at the same time, switching from one to another and giving each a few milliseconds of operation.

Multiprogramming becomes very complicated, though. The operating system has to be able to decide on an order of priorities for programs and the actions they will want to perform. It must also watch that programs do not over-write any of each other's workspace. It has to make the best possible use of memory by detecting when one program is finishing and perhaps loading another from disc into the memory space thus vacated. And so on.

That means full-blown multiprogramming operating systems tend to be too complex, too expensive, and too big to run economically on micros. Some microcomputers allow a limited kind of multiprogramming, with an interactive foreground program (some use of a VDU, typically) going on at the same time as a background batch job (like printer output).

MUX

Abbreviation for multiplexer.

Mylar

A trade name for a polyester film used widely as the base for magnetic tape. It can be coated with magnetisable particles.

NAK

Ephemeral mid-60s play and film. Whatever happened to Anne Jellicoe? Still, that one had a "c". This one is "negative acknowledge", an ASCII (qv) character code sent between computer and terminal to indicate that some duff transmission has occurred.

Nanosecond

One billionth of a second. That's a U.S. billion, which, by the way, is the one we prefer — it's 1,000,000,000, or 10^9 .


National Semiconductor

One of the giants in the U.S. electronics business, a \$500 million company which makes most of its money from bulk manufacture of semiconductor components like

(continued on page 131)

DATRON MICRO CENTRE

Microcomputers – Peripherals – Software – Books

 **Cromemco**

ITT 2020 (Apple II)

 **commodore**



WHY PAY MORE?

"Construction never less than excellent" (Practical Computing Feb. '79)

System 2 – Dual Disc – 64K – **£2294**
 System 3 – Dual Disc – 32K – **£3444**
 System 3 – Dual Disc – 64K – **£3786**
Z - 2D II MB Hard Discs + Dual Floppies
64K – £5748

plus VDU's, Printers,

Software:—

Database, Word Processing, 16K Basic,
 Fortran, Cobol at **£65.00**

Cromemco-Appointed Dealer 

Complete Business System including
 software and printer

from **£3500** or
 16K – **£950**
 32K – **£1114**
 48K – **£1278**

plus Discs and Printers

Software:—

Sales Ledger, Purchase Ledger,
 General Ledger, Payroll and Stock Control
 from **£295.**

ITT Appointed Dealer 

The well-established PET with integral
 keyboard and screen.

4K – **£460**
 8K – **£550**
 16K – **£675**
 32K – **£795**

Plus all popular games and

VAT – **£15**
 Address book – **£6**
 Current Account – **£12**
 Stock Control – **£12**
 Payroll – **£25**
 Invoicing – **£20**
 Basic Tutorial – **£15.**

Send s.a.e. for full list.

plus Centronics, Lear Siegler and Teletype Peripherals + National Maintenance by CFM Ltd.

Books

Our Most popular titles:—

Introduction to Personal and Business Computing **£5.45**
 A comprehensive and simple introduction

Microprocessors-Chips to Systems **£7.95**
 Basic text for Technically Minded

Introduction to Microcomputers
 Vol 0 – The Beginners Book **£5.95**
 Vol I – Application Techniques **£6.30**

Microcomputer Primer **£6.35**
 How they work for beginners

Microprocessor-Interfacing Techniques **£7.95**
 Introduces basic concepts

Z80 Microcomputer Hand Book **£6.95**
 Essential information on Z80

Illustrating Basic **£2.25**
 Serialized by Practical Computing

Instant Basic **£7.20**
 The fun way to learn

Basic Basic **£6.50**
 One of the most widely sold

Advanced Basic **£6.00**
 What it says

How to Program Micros **£6.95**
 Assembly Language for 8080, 6800 & 6502

Z80 Prog. for Logic Design **£6.30**
 For programmers and logic designers

Some Common Basic Programs **£6.45**
 76 programs, finance, maths etc.

Basic Computer Games **£5.50**
 Why not? Complete listing and sample run, plus description

Computer Quiz Book **£5.45**
 Test your knowledge

Fun with Computers and Basic **£5.45**
 Intro. to Computers and Basic

The Best of Byte **£8.45**
 From first 12 issues

The Best of Creative Comp. **£6.95**
 Vol. 1 or Vol. 2

General Ledger **£10.95**
Accounts Payable/Receivable **£10.95**
 Complete testing source listing
 File layouts, formats all in Basic

ITT 2020 Handbook Set **£10.00**
PET Handbook Set **£6.00**
 Read before you buy
 Cromemco Catalogue **£1.00**
 from Single card to System 3
 Send s.a.e. for full list

NEW Computer Capers **£5.95**
 Tales of electronic thievery,
 embezzlement and fraud!

Send s.a.e. for lists or
 visit our easily
 accessible showroom
 for demos

 **Inter-City**

or

M1
 A1 (M)
 M62

Cheque Enclosed or
 Charge £..... to Card No:—



Name (as on card)

Cardholder's address

Signature

MAIL, PHONE or TELEX YOUR ORDER – 24 HOUR SERVICE
 Please send me

Hardware prices plus p. & p. Add 12p insurance on books if required.
 ADD 15% VAT to all items except books. Prices correct at going to press.

DATRON

INTERFORM LTD.

Datron Micro Centre,
 Latham House,
 243 London Road, Sheffield. S2 4NF

Telephone: 0742 585490
 Telex: 547151

(continued from page 129)

computer memories. It also makes some microprocessors, notably the SC/MP micro the Science of Cambridge MK14 uses.

Needle

Remember the discussion of matrix printers? Impact matrix printers build a character by firing metal pins against a ribbon, so that a dot is transferred on to the paper. Using the correct dot positions gives you a recognisable character, even if it is not in proper joined-up writing. Those metal pins are also called needles, funnily enough, and some people speak of "needle printers" to mean an impact dot matrix mechanism.

Network

A network is any system comprising a series of interconnected points. So a TV service with local stations connected, by signals, to a central service is a good example. In computing generally, a network is either a number of terminals connected to a computer, or it is a number of computers connected together.

That second definition is the more usual one. Networks are complicated technically, since there are all kinds of traffic control and routing considerations, apart from what is actually being sent. Network control usually involves add-on black boxes and complex special software,

though, so that the user does not have to do too much of the network management.

A few systems are now appearing allowing inter-connection of micro computers — your Pet can talk to someone else's TRS-80 over telephone lines, if you have the proper connectors. A more usual configuration would probably be a bunch of computers all sharing each other's local storage, or local peripherals, and this, too, is becoming possible now.

For instance, you could load a program on your computer, send it to another computer, and run it there. Or you could pick up information stored on another computer's discs or cassette files and use it in your own program. You'll probably have to know the correct passwords and access codes, of course.

Say you have a cheap computer with no printer, you might want to dump a load of program listings quickly to give yourself a paper copy of your programs. So how about this for a scenario? You send a message to every other computer in your friendly neighbourhood network saying: "Does anyone have a fast printer doing nothing?" Someone answers "Yes", plugs in the printer, and you can run a little code dump program which prints its output on that friendly faraway printer. The results arrive in the post next morning.

NMOS

Also N-channel MOS, a type of MOS (qv) used widely in microprocessors and other electronics circuits. We're not going to tell you exactly how it differs from PMOS, an earlier technique for making MOS circuits but, in general, NMOS is faster, although PMOS can usually put more circuits on to a chip.

Noise

The otherwise undefinable and thankfully sole quality shared by the St. Matthew Passion and the Bay City Rollers — and transmission lines, for noise is unwanted electrical signals on a cable or some other connection. Since computers work electrically, a spurious electrical effect of some kind can cause errors; an extra amount here or there will totally destroy the meaning of a single-character code, and misapprehension of a single character can affect the computer's comprehension of a whole message.

Noise is unavoidable in all electrical circuits. It's a property of all materials, including those used to make computers, that they will generate a certain amount of electrical activity on their own. Generally, though, the signals being generated and passed around in a computer system are powerful enough, and the receiving ends sensitive enough, to separate the desired signals from the dross.

Non-volatile

Some types of memory lose their contents when you turn off the power; that's because they need a permanent electric current so that they can hold information. Because switching-off loses contents, they are termed *volatile*.

This doesn't happen with non-volatile memory because those devices don't store information by requiring a constant source of electricity.

Examples are discs and tapes, which work by altering the magnetic characteristics of the medium; this alteration is done electrically but once that has happened, the whole thing is only encoded *magnetically*. This also applies to some types of internal memory, notably core and ROM. The one big advantage of core memories is that their contents aren't lost when you switch off.

By contrast, the semiconductor MOS memories used normally these days in computers are volatile. MOS has many advantages over core, though, notably its speed; reading and writing information is much faster with MOS; its heat output — MOS runs much cooler, so reliability is better; and its cost — MOS is already much cheaper and it's becoming even more so.

ROM (read-only memory) is the other significant form of non-volatile storage. These are semiconductor chips with data sealed-in. □

Diary

September

- 3-5 **Computer Appreciation.** Venue: London. An introduction to computers — what they are, what they do, how they do it. The three-day course is organised by Control Data Institute, 77-79 Wells Street, London, W1. Fee: £180.
- 10-11 **Computer appreciation for beginners.** Venue: Worthing. Very basic introduction, designed apparently for those involved in clerical systems which may be computerised. Fee: £190. Organised by MSS, 18A Chapel Road, Worthing, Sussex.
- 10-12 **Technology Employment Education International Conference.** Venue: Southampton University. The topic is changing technology and our future and constitutes "an exploration of the consequences of fast-changing technology upon our education and work". Each day there will be a separate examination of industry, education and Government policies on employment. The list of speakers includes Basil de Ferranti and Barrie Sherman (ASTMS). Each day costs £40 (non-residential) or £75 (residential). It is sponsored by the Southern Science and Technology Forum and registration forms can be obtained from that organisation at Building 25, The University, Southampton. Tel: 559 122, ext. 2430.
- 11-13 **Electrical & Electronics Exhibition.** Venue: Exhibition Centre, Bristol. This is the second year Exhibitions for Industry has run this show and there will be more than 100 exhibitors displaying electronic equipment and microcomputers. Entry is free. More information from Exhibitions for Industry Ltd, 157 Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey. Tel: 988 4373.
- 12-13 **User Involvement in Computing.** Venue: London. An introduction for non-data-processing staff who will be

involved with computer systems. The fee is £175 and the course is organised by Learmonth Burchett Management Systems.

- 18-19 **Microprocessors.** Venue: London. Unequivocal if somewhat general title for this two-day introduction. These seminars promise a non-technical introduction plus a look at applications in "business, industry, government and education". Speakers are promised from manufacturers, consultancies and users. The fee is £78 and the seminar is organised by Informex, 61 Harland Avenue, Sidcup, Kent.
- 17-21 **Microcomputers for the Uninitiated.** Venue: London. This five-day course is aimed at industry, management and people "with a wide range of backgrounds". It is designed to give an insight into what a microcomputer is, covering the basic principles of languages and programming, binary counting, memory, CPU storage, addressing systems and 8080 instruction sets. There is a good deal of practical work in the course and each delegate has his own I/O device and microprocessor. The fee is £125, to include refreshments, lunches and course material. Further information from the Course Co-ordinator, Babcock Controls Training College, 165 Great Dover Street, London, SE1. Tel: 01-407 6373.
- 24-28 **Microprocessor-based Equipment Design and Development.** Venue: Sevenoaks, Kent. This five-day residential course is intended for project managers and engineers concerned with incorporating microprocessors into measurement and control equipment. It covers design methods and good practice, development procedures, development aids and how and where to obtain further help. The fee is £480 plus VAT, which includes accommodation, course documentation and full board. Further information from Sira Institute Ltd, South Hill, Chislehurst, Kent. Tel: 01-467 2636.

The microcomputer for those who need more than the minimum. The right processor for business, scientific and educational use. Proven applications include Games • Educational • Word Processing • Invoicing • Stock Control • Sales Ledger • Purchase Ledger • Mailing • Scientific.

THE NEW HORIZON

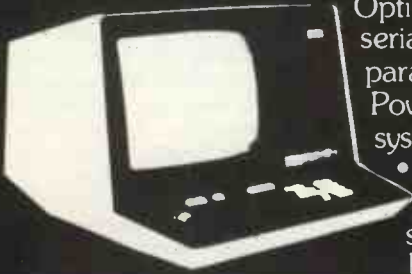
Languages

Powerful Basic including sequential and random access disc files • formatted output • strings • line editor • machine language CALL • many other facilities. Optional additional software (under CP/M operating system) includes BASIC

The Horizon computer includes:-

Specification

Zilog Z80A MPU • S-100 bus (12 slots) • Solid well-built case • Up to four Shugart mini-floppy disc drives, 180KB each • Serial port for CRT or Teletype • Real-time clock on motherboard • Optional additional serial port and parallel port • Powerful operating system and monitor • Access to wide range of S-100 special application boards.



compiler, FORTRAN and COBOL.

Horizon Z80A computer with 2 double-density disc drives and 24K RAM £1,823 (exclusive of VAT and carriage).



Equinox Computer Systems Ltd.
"Kleeman House"
16 Anning Street,
New Inn Yard,
London EC2A 3HB.
Tel: 01-739 2387/9.
01-729 4460.

For North Star Horizon systems and software contact the people with experience:

LONDON

Equinox Computer Systems Ltd.,
16 Anning Street, New Inn Yard,
London EC2A 3HB.
(Tel: 01-739 2387/9-01-729 4460)

HUNTS

Paxton Computers, 26 High Street,
Great Paxton, Huntingdon,
Cams. PE19 4RF. (Tel: 0480-
213785).

HANTS

Claisse-Allen Computing, 5 Upper
High Street, Winchester.
(Tel: 0962-69368).

BERKSHIRE

DISKEL Ltd., 120 High Street,
Slough, Berks. (Tel: 75-22855).

LANCS & NORTH WALES

Cortex Computer Centre, 25/35
Edge Lane, Liverpool.
(Tel: 051-263 5783).

DORSET AND SOMERSET

Blue Chip Micro Systems Ltd.,
(Formerly Micro Systems
Specialists), Market Place,
Sturminster Newton,
Dorset DT10 1BB.
(Tel: 0258-72946).

YORKS

Weyfringe Ltd, Marske, Redcar,
Cleveland TS11 6HO.
Tel: (06493-70121).

SCOTLAND

Scotia Software Services Ltd.,
29, Chester Street, Edinburgh
EH3 7EN. (Tel: 031-441 6031).

CAMBS

Wisbech Computer Services Ltd.,
10 Market Street, Wisbech,
Cams.
(Tel: 0945-64146).

DEVON

J.A.D. Integrated Services
(Plymouth) Ltd.,
21 Market Avenue, City Centre,
Plymouth, Devon. (Tel: 0752-
62616).

MIDDX

Jacobs Computer Systems Ltd.,
36 Bengeworth Road, Harrow,
Middx. HA1 3SE.
(Tel: 01-908 1134).
Micro Facilities, 127 High Street
Hampton Hill, Middx. TW12 1NJ.
(Tel: 01-979 4546).

SOUTH WALES

Micro Media Systems,
12 Clarence Place, Newport,
Gwent.
(Tel: 0633-50528).

LINCS

Loveden Computer Services,
167 Bartowby High Road,
Grantham, Lincs. (Tel: 0476-
72000).

KENT

Microtek Computer Services, 50 Chislehurst Road,
Orpington Kent. (Tel: 66-26803).
Tor Business Systems, 83 Timberbank, Vigo Village,
Meopham, Kent. (Tel: 0732- 822956).

ESSEX

PROFCOMP Ltd., 107 George Lane, South Woodford,
E18 1AN (Tel. 01-989 8177).

EQUINOX

COMPUTER SYSTEMS LTD.

"Kleeman House" 16 Anning Street,
New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3HB.
Tel: 01-739 2387/9. 01-729 4460.

SERVICING BY PROFESSIONALS

THE COMPANY

Kode Services Limited, part of the British-owned Kode International Group of Companies, is rapidly becoming a major U.K. service operation specialising on a whole range of equipment from basic terminals to microprocessor-based systems.

Over 100 Field Service Engineers nationwide, coupled with full depot and workshop facilities, are available to support the following equipments:

Model 33, 40, 43 TT, Lear Siegler ADM1A, 2A, 3A, ADM42 and 31, Microstar V, Anadex D8000 Printer. We have the capability to service new products and are always evaluating new DP equipment.

Fully-comprehensive maintenance contracts or a full depot repair service can be offered.

THE CAREER

Opportunities are available for experienced professionals and gifted amateurs who have a full understanding of TTL logic and digital techniques, and wish to move into a service-orientated career applying their knowledge to the servicing of sophisticated electronic equipment.

For further details on maintenance or job prospects, please call or write to Mr C. Marklew on 0249 813771.

Kode Services Ltd.,
Station Road,
Calne,
Wiltshire.



BASIC PROGRAMMERS

WITH BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

MML seeks programmers and business applications experts to join a team developing commercial packages in CBASIC on CP/M driven micro-computers.

If you can develop high quality systems in Basic and if you have rudimentary knowledge of accounts packages, we can offer you a rewarding opportunity with profit sharing.

Please send your details to:

D. POWYS-LYBBE
MML
11 SUN STREET
FINSBURY SQUARE
LONDON, EC2
01-247 0691

Advertisement Index

Acorn Computers	86	Datron Interform	130	LTT Electronics	18	Robox (Office Equipment Systems)	54
Adda	14	Digitus	128	Microbits	31	Rostronics Computer Centre	74
Airamco	27	Electronic Brokers	38	Microcentre	2	Science of Cambridge	19
A J Harding	18	Equinox Computer Systems	40, 80, 132	Microcomputer Store	24	SEED	44
Almarc Data Systems	28	Factor One Computers	46, 92	Microdigital 10, 13, 16, 34	34	Sintrom Microshop	66
Anadex	74	Four on Four	34	Micromedia (Systems)	12	Small Systems Engineering	12
Analog Electronics	104	Gemsoft	36	Microsolve Computer Services	38	Stack Computer Services	40
Byte Shop, The	21	GPW	20	Midwich Computer Co	23	Strutt Electrical and Mechanical Engineering	16
Cambridge Computer Store	40	Grama (Winter)	11	Mine of Information	36	Tandy	82
Camden Electronics	10	Happy Memories	20	Muller (Anglo-American Computers)	35	T & V Johnson (Microcomputers) Etc	6, 7
Chiltern Microcomputers	14	Hazeltine	32	Newbear Computer Store	26, 28	Technologies	30
Christian Audio	110	HB Computers	22	NIC Models	16	Tim Orr	14
Chromasonic Electronics	24	Henry's Radio	30	Pelco (Electronics)	26	Transam	29
Citadel Products	34	HL Audio	80, 110	Personal Computers	85	U Microcomputers	16
Comart	5, 76	Integrated Circuits Unlimited	39	Petalect Electronic Services	25	V & T Electronics	10
Commodore Systems Division	37	Inter Systems	100	Petsoft	58	Videotime Products	102
Comp Computer Components	134, 135	Isherwoods	99	PIPS	104	Vero Electronics	30
Computastore	15	Keen Computers	52	Powerhouse	80	Whymark Instruments	74
Computerbits	22	L & J Computers	18	Preston Computer Store	24	Xitan Systems	109
Computer Field Maintenance	92	Linburg Electronics	20	Protechnic	36	Zilog (U.K.)	42
Computer Workshop	136	Lion Computer Systems	94	Rair Timesharing	51, 96, 97	Careers	133
Computrade	41	Lotus Sound	70	Research Machines	33	Shop Window	114-127
Crofton Electronics	110	LP Enterprises	8, 9	Research Resources	4		
Crystal Electronics	32						
Data Efficiency	4						
Data Precision	17						

JUST COMPARE OUR CASH AND CARRY PRICES!

PET COSTS LESS AT COMP and it's a pedigree

RRP £550

The No. 1 Personal Computer in the U.K. Affordable for the first time user and the professional check out the PET, the world's most popular personal computer.



8K — £499 16K — £590

32K with GREEN SCREEN — £690 Cassette recorder now in stock £55

ADD A PRINTER TO YOUR PET

RS232C I/O CARD

Attach to any RS232 printer, modem, acoustic coupler to your PET. Easy to assemble. £89 in kit form. Add £20 for fully assembled and tested.

PET TO S100 FOR MEMORY EXPANSION

Convert the IEEE 488 bus to the well supported S100 bus. Comes complete.

Connectors and documentation included. Ready assembled and tested. Our price £89.

SOUND BOXES FOR PET

Fully assembled with documentation how to add sound effects to your programs. £14.90

BEST GAME EVER!

Petball — £5 for program

This game will have you and your family in tears for hours! For full effect buy sound box too! Best seller in U.S.A.

NASCOM IMMEDIATE EXPANSION S100 from COMP — strongly recommended

The only available S100 motherboard kit (fully buffered) that plugs directly into your Nascom. Designed for the insertion of S100 boards (e.g. Static RAM, EPROM and discs etc.).

S100 Motherboard/Buffer (Complete kit + documentation) £47.50
 Suitable 8K Static RAM Memory £125 £110
 (fully assembled tested and guaranteed) } Buy both and get 2K Tiny Basic On cassette FREE.

MODULATORS UHF Channel 36

Standard 6 meg band width £2.25
 High Quality 8 meg band width £4.90 EX-STOCK

UNIVERSAL POWER SUPPLY

Suitable for Nascom I, Nascom II, Superboard and all computers requiring these specifications.

+5V @ 3 amps +12V @ 1 amp -5V @ 500 mills -12v @ 500 mills
 Easy to construct — complete with transformer. Our price £24.90

TRANSFORMER

Primary 220V with 2 individual secondaries £5.90

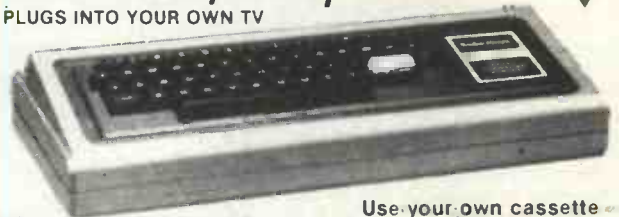
8V —0 —8V @ 1½ amps 16V —0 —16V @ ½ amp

HITACHI PRO MONITORS

Superb definition 9" — £132 12" — £210

THE TRS-80 (SPECIAL SCOOP) Low Priced, Ready to Go!

PLUGS INTO YOUR OWN TV



Use your own cassette

Level-II with 4K RAM

Improved graphics, print formatting, and a faster cassette transfer rate are features of Level-II Basic. £350 + VAT

Level-II with 16K RAM

A combination of 16K RAM and the powerful Level-II BASIC produces a system capable of handling most demands. £399 + VAT

64 chars x 16 lines — double length characters available at a single keystroke giving 32 chars x 16 lines. Super graphics a 2 x 3 cell arrangement. Masses of software available.

World's most popular machine. Fully converted to English Television standard. Rock steady picture — exclusive to COMP.

UK POWER SUPPLY SUPPLIED

KEY BOARD ONLY — Complete with UHF Modulator

RS232C I/O CARD for TRS80

Connect your TRS80 to any RS232 printer. Assembled and tested £55

SOUND BOXES FOR TRS80

Fully assembled with documentation how to add sound effects to your programs. £14.90

ATTENTION ALL NERVOUS TRS80's

Cure the video shakes. Upgrade your video to English Standard. Simple modification. Only £7.50 including easy to follow instructions. Only 15 minutes of your time needed. You owe it to your eyesight. Fitted as standard to all our machines.

NEW! AT LAST 8K BASIC FOR NASCOM 1

COMPLETE ON S100 EPROM BOARD

£160 + VAT EX-STOCK

BEST GAME EVER!

Android Nim — for TRS80. £5 for program

This game will have you and your family in tears for hours! For full effect buy sound box too! Best seller in U.S.A.

TRS80 TO S100 BUS

for memory expansion £95

TV UHF MODULATOR FOR TRS80

Encased ready to use — £15

ELECTRIC PENCIL

Text Wordprocessing package on cassette £59

Please add VAT to all prices — Delivery at cost, will be advised at time of purchase. Please make cheques and postal orders payable to COMP, or phone your order quoting BARCLAYCARD, ACCESS, DINERS CLUB or AMERICAN EXPRESS number.

OPEN — 10am to 7pm — Monday to Saturday

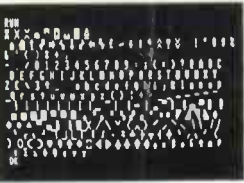
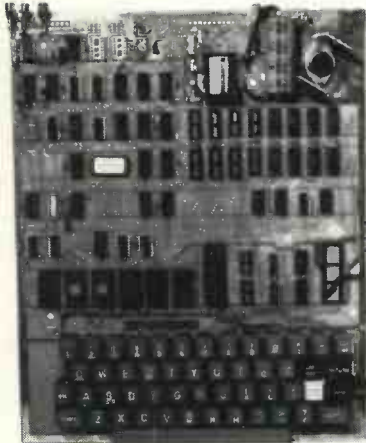
CREDIT FACILITIES ARRANGED



EUROPE'S FASTEST SELLING ONE BOARD COMPUTER —
JUST CHECK THE SPEC'S.

COMPUKIT UK101

LOW COST SUPERBOARD IN KIT FORM



The CompuKit UK101 Character Set

FUNCTIONS

ABS(X) ATN(X) COS(X) EXP(X) FRE(X) INT(X)
LOG(X) PEEK(I) POS(I) RND(X) SGN(X) SIN(X)
SPC(I) SQR(X) TAB(I) TAN(X) USR(I)

STRING FUNCTIONS

ASC(X\$) CHR\$(I) FRE(X\$) LEFT\$(X\$,I) LEN(X\$) MID\$(X\$,I,J)
RIGHT\$(X\$,I) STR\$(X)

The CompuKit UK101 has everything a one board 'superboard' should have.

- * Uses ultra-powerful 6502 microprocessor.
- * 50Hz Frame refresh for steady clear picture (U.S.A. products with 60Hz frame refresh always results in jittery displays)
- * 48 chars by 16 lines — 1K memory mapped video system providing high speed access to screen display enabling animated games and graphs.
- * Extensive 256 character set which includes full upper and lower case alphanumeric, Greek symbols for mathematical constants and numerous graphic characters enabling you to form almost any shape you desire anywhere on the screen.
- * 8K full Microsoft Basic in ROM compatible with PET, APPLE SORCERER hence taking the headache out of programming by using simple English statements. Much faster than currently available personal computers.
- * Professional 52 Key keyboard in 3 colours — software polled meaning that all debouncing and key decoding done in software.

FULL CONSTRUCTION DETAILS IN P.E. AUG 1979 EDITION

Delivery date June 1979
at the 1979 MicroComputer Show
Customer orders in strict rotation only.

COMMANDS	NEW	NULL	RUN
CONT LIST			
STATEMENTS			
CLEAR DATA	DEF	DIM	END FOR
GOTO GOSUB	IF GOTO	IF THEN	INPUT LET
NEXT ON GOTO	ON GOSUB	POKE	PRINT READ
REM RESTORE	RETURN	STOP	

EXPRESSIONS

OPERATORS
+ * / ^ ↑ NOT AND OR >> << > < = RANGE 10⁻³² to 10⁺³²

VARIABLES

A.B.C...Z and two letter variables
The above can all be subscripted when used in an array. String variables use above names plus \$.e.g. A\$.

- * Video output and UHF Highgrade modulator (8Mz Bandwidth) which connects direct to the aerial socket of your T.V. Channel 36 UHF
- * Fully stabilised 5V power supply including transformer on board.
- * Standard KANSAS city tape interface providing high reliability program storage — use on any standard domestic tape or cassette recorder.
- * 4K user RAM expandable to 8K on board £49 extra.
- * 40 line expansion interface socket on board for attachment of extender card containing 24K RAM and disk controller. (Ohio Scientific compatible)
- * 6502 machine code accessible through powerful 2K machine code monitor on board.
- * High quality thru plated P.C.B. with all I.C.'s mounted on sockets.

A tape of 10 programs on cassette — educational games, etc. will be supplied free of charge with each kit.

Simple Soldering due to clear and concise instructions compiled by Dr. A.A. Berk, BSc.PhD

NO EXTRAS NEEDED JUST HIT
'RETURN' AND GO.

Build, understand, and program your own computer for only a small outlay.

ONLY £219 + VAT
including RF Modulator & Power supply.
Absolutely no extras.

Due to the new prices of TTL this price will be increased shortly. So order now to beat the price increases and the rush.

SPECIAL CHARACTERS

@ Erases line being typed, then provides carriage return, line feed.

◀ Erases last character typed.

CR Carriage Return — must be at the end of each line.

⋮ Separates statements on a line.

CONTROL/C Execution or printing of a list is interrupted at the end of a line.

"BREAK IN LINE XXXX" is printed, indicating line number of next statement to be executed or printed.

CONTROL/O No outputs occur until return made to command mode. If an input statement is encountered, either another CONTROL/O is typed, or an error occurs.

? Equivalent to PRINT

THE EXIDY SORCERER.

SORCERER COMPUTER SYSTEM

The Sorcerer Computer is a completely assembled and tested computer system. Standard configuration includes 63-key typewriter-style keyboard and 16-key numeric pad, Z80 processor, dual cassette I/O with remote computer control at 300 and 1200 baud data rates, RS232 serial I/O for communications, parallel port for direct Centronics printer attachment, 4K ROM operating system, 8K ROM Microsoft BASIC in Rom Pac™ cartridge, composite video of 64 char/line 30 line/ screen, 128 upper/lower case ASCII set and 128 user-defined graphic symbols, operation manual, BASIC programming manual and cassette/video cables, connection for S-100 bus expansion.

CPM NOW



LOOK!

- *32K RAM on board
- *RS232 interface
- *8K BASIC ROM
- *CUTS interface
- *4K MONITOR
- *KANSAS CITY interface
- *\$100 BUS
- *Z80 cpu
- *User defined graphic symbols

16K £260 £725 * 32K £350 £790 * Credit facilities available. * + VAT

THE ATARI video computer system



Atari's Video Computer System now offers more than 1300 different game variations and options in twenty great Game Program™ cartridges!

Have fun while you sharpen your mental and physical coordination. You can play rousing, challenging, sophisticated video games, the games that made Atari famous.

You'll have thrill after thrill, whether you're in the thick of a dogfight, screaming around a racetrack, or dodging asteroids in an alien galaxy. With crisp bright color (on color TV) and incredible, true-to-life sound effects. With special circuits to protect your TV.

Cartridges now available
Basic Maths, Airsea Battle, Black Jack, Breakout, Surround, Spacewar, Video Olympics, Outlaw, Basketball, All at £13.90 each.

Years and years of fun and satisfaction are assured

SAVE £30

£169 £138.85

All prices exclude VAT. Our VAT rate is 8%. We will pay any extra. Please quote this number PC 100 when ordering

IBM GOLF BALL SELECTIVE PRINTER

Refurbished to new specifications.

RS232C serial interface. Comes complete

on stand — floor mounting. Small and compact. Interfaces to Exidy Sorcerer,

TRS80 Apple and ITT 2020, Pet, CompuKit and Nascom.

Complete your word processing system with a

top quality printer for only £990.50.

COMP COMPUTER COMPONENTS

14 STATION ROAD, NEW BARNET, HERTFORDSHIRE TEL: 01-441 2922 (Sales)
CLOSE TO NEW BARNET BR STATION — MOORGATE LINE 01-449 6596
OPEN — 10am to 7pm — Monday to Saturday TELEX: 298755



VISIT OUR NEW SHOP AT 1 WALLCOT BUILDINGS, LONDON ROAD, BATH, AVON. All Products Ex-Stock Please check availability (Part of the Compshop Ltd. Group).

The World's Most Powerful 8-bit Microcomputer



Two types of central processor are available for use in your system. The standard /09 has a maximum random access memory (RAM) capacity of fifty six thousand (56K) bytes. It can have as many as eight input/output (I/O) devices such as terminals, printers, etc, attached. This capacity is adequate for business systems requiring up to four terminals and two printers. If the application involves moving large amounts of data, or scientific and engineering calculations, our larger CPU should be used.

The S/09 CPU has a maximum RAM memory capacity of 384K bytes. It is normally supplied with 128K bytes of memory which can be expanded to 256K, or 384K by adding additional memory arrays. This CPU will support up to 16 I/O devices.

Both CPU's are designed around the Motorola MC6809 microprocessor. This is the most powerful eight-bit microprocessor available.

Featuring the world's most powerful MPU—the Motorola MC-6809

The MC6809 has more addressing modes than any other 8-bit processor. It has powerful 16-bit instructions, and a highly efficient internal architecture with 16-bit data paths. It is easily the most powerful, most software efficient, and the fastest 8-bit general purpose microprocessor ever.

The greatest impact of the Motorola MC6809 undoubtedly will be software related. Ten powerful addressing modes with 24 indexing submodes, 16-bit instructions and the consistent instruction set stimulate the use of modern programming techniques, such as structured programming, position independent code, re-entrancy, recursion and multi-tasking.

C/09 CPU 56K **£1,050 + VAT**

CS/09 128K **£2,100 + VAT**

/09 board (will directly replace existing SWTPC processor board) **£195 + VAT**

CT-82 Terminal



- ★ Software function controls
- ★ 56-key "Cherry" keyboard
- ★ 12 key numeric or cursor control pad
- ★ 128 control functions
- ★ Graphics capability
- ★ User programmable character sets
- ★ Software selectable Baud rates (50-38, 400)

£550 + VAT

Write or telephone for latest brochure including 16MB disc and new printer range.

SWTPC

Southwest Technical Products Co.

CW

Computer Workshop

38 DOVER STREET · LONDON · W1X 3RB · Telephone: 01-491 7507 · Telex: 268913