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grammable function keys controlling 16 functions in a 64K computer. (That's twice as many as the Commodore 64). Four new function keys enable you to lock and unlock the keyboard electronically, disable the screen DMA for faster processing time, generate European lan-guage or graphics characters, turn the keyboard sound on and off or access the one-touch cursor control. The unique user-definable "help"

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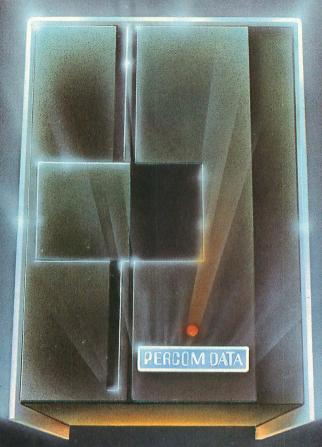
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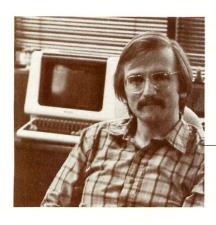


APRIL 1983, Volume 2, Number I









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EDITORIAL

Happy Birthday ANTIC

It's difficult for us to believe, but we are now one year old. What started as a gleam in our eye is now the most widely-read ATARI-specific magazine in existence. We are proud of our accomplishments — and are humbled by those painful lessons some of you have shared with us. Now for our gift to you:

We are now a monthly publication. ANTIC is the first ATARI-specific monthly magazine.

Program listings will now be typeset. We had a typeface designed just for us. This font, as typesetters call it, will contain all the special ATARI-graphics characters. We will be using the ATARI, phone equipment, and state-of-the-art electronic typesetting. Check In the Public Domain to see what I mean.

We were one of the first magazines to include the TYPO feature (see reprint this issue). Of course, we went to one of the best to write it, Bill Wilkinson.

We are the only magazine to place our programs in the public domain. This means you are free to copy them, give them to your friends, improve them. You get no hassle, no impossible-to-enforce ownership problems, just useful information, arcade quality games (almost), and fun.

We have grown in editorial content and advertising pages with every issue. We have been on time with every issue, no small trick.

Now, how do we follow a year that most publications only dream about? Well, we have more regular columns in store. Watch for more tutorial information, jargon-free, and written for you - our active, interested, new reader. Education is a topic we frequently hear about, so look for more coverage.

We'll also be introducing you to those people who make great games and useful software possible. Read Profiles, a regular feature starting in this issue. We will be taking you inside Atari a little more — after all they're right down the road.

We will be providing more color pictures with our reviews — expensive but worth it. And you can expect more question-and-answer format. We intend to lead those of you who want to go, into this ATARI computer age.

Our ATARI audience is growing, more companies start daily. You can expect ANTIC to continue to provide you with interesting reviews, valid comparisons, and how to use your ATARI in ways that you never thought of. We are fortunate that Silicon Valley and Atari Inc. are so near, and we are privileged to call professionally and personally upon some of the most creative people in the ATARI world. We think that adds up to the best magazine you can have on your desk.

Remember, if you own an ATARI you should be reading ANTIC.

Jim Capparell

Publisher

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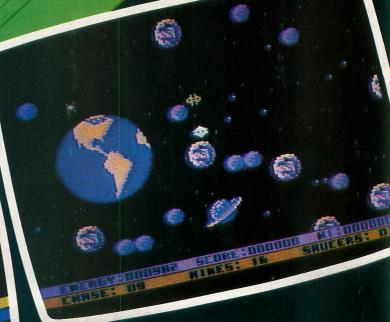
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I/O BOARD

I/O Board is a forum for information exchange, problems and comments from and for our readers. We edit your letters heavily in order to make space for the ones of more general interest. Some correspondents may receive personal replies to specific questions if they provide a self-addressed stamped envelope. We appreciate the many letters of encouragement, and we consider your criticisms even if they do not appear in I/O Board.

-ANTIC ED

DYNAMIC RAM

I would like to report on the 48K memory expansion kit for the ATARI 400, made by Dynamic Technologies.

I installed one of these for a friend of mine. The kit is well-documented with a 19-page manual of step-by-step instructions and a troubleshooting section. It took two hours to do the job. When we turned on the computer and entered PRINT FRE(0); the TV displayed 37,902 — the amount of free RAM space available.

The kit has been in and running for six weeks, and so far no problems. At \$109 this was a very cheap memory upgrade. If you can follow directions and solder, I think this kit will work for you.

Norman McCallum Roseburg, OR

USER GROUP INFO

I purchased my first few ANTICs on the newstand, then asked for and received a subscription as a Christmas present from my wife. Your Christmas card and Valentine have helped me justify that gift to her, and this letter would not have been written without Tiny Text (ANTIC #6). Can you tell me how to link up with a User Group around here?

> Charles Arkebauer Portola Valley, CA

Information about User Groups can be obtained from Atari, Inc.'s User Group Support Staff, (408) 942-6827, or by writing them at P.O. Box 50047, 60 E. Plumeria, San Jose, CA 95150.

-ANTIC ED

STELLAR IMPELLER

We have entered and played Stellar Defense with great success. We discovered that the following changes improved the flow:

add line

183 ST = STICK(0):SQ = STRIG(0): POSITION A,22:? CHR\$(24);

and change line 190 to read

190 POSITION A,22:?CHR\$(24);

If the game is too easy for you, change lines 250, 281, 300, and 751 to limit the number of shots to 50.

Ken Chapman family Norfolk, NB

ROAD WISE

10 POKE 752,1				
15 ?"K		11	"	
20 ?"E	1	11	I "	
25 ?"E	1	11	" "	
30 ?"P	ı	11	1"	
35 ?"	ı	11	"	
40 ?"O			1"	
45 ?"N	I	1	1"	
50 ?"	1		1"	
55 ?"T	1	1	1"	
60 ?"R			"	
65 ?"U		1	"	
70 ?"C	ı		"	
75 ?"K	I	1	"	
80 ?"I	I		1"	
85 ?"N			"	
90 ?"G	1		"	
95 GOTO 15				

Jeff Beausoleil age 9 Coventry, CT

AMBITION

I am 12 years old and have been an ANTIC reader FROM THE START. You guys are doing a great, super, excellent and outstanding job! Do you think you could do a series of articles for beginning Assembly Language programmers? I think it would be good for a lot of us out here.

Nicky Shiame Holbrook, NY

How could we refuse? —ANTIC ED

COSTLY DELAY

Anyone purchasing an ATARI computer should test all functions before the warranty expires. I didn't, and it cost me \$45 labor to replace a 36¢ defective transistor in my cassette I/O circuit. If I had just tried my 400 with a 410 Program Recorder I would have discovered it.

Jim Whelan Moore, OK

BACK SEAT TREATMENT

I'm an ATARI computer owner who enjoys playing games after a hard day's work. I've heard the new 5200 game machine and its cartridges are supposed to top the 400/800 versions. Does this leave the 400/800 in the back seat, or what?

D. P. Adam San Pedro, CA

The 5200 Advanced Game System is really an ATARI computer dedicated to games. It is based on the 6502 microprocessor, as are the 400, 800 and 1200 computers. The 5200 is scheduled to get an adaptor keyboard that will make it programmable (see Inside ATARI, this issue); but no more so than the computers, which remain equally fine game players. ANTIC will begin regular coverage of these game machines next issue. —ANTIC ED

I/O BOARD

DOUBLE DUTY

I'm shopping for a letter-quality printer to use with my ATARI 800, 810 disk drive and LJK's Letter Perfect. Since I don't own a typewriter, I'm considering an electronic typewriter that could be hooked up to print as well as type. I've looked at Bytewriter, a converted SCM Ultrasonic, and a converted Olivetti Praxis 35. With the interface and cable, any of these will cost about \$1000.

I'm comparing this with the SCM daisywheel printer for about \$600. I realize that a converted typewriter is not as fast as a printer, but I need some advice.

Perry Kacik Montpelier, VT

If your volume is light enough, the typewriter conversions should be alright. However, be aware that you will be using a machine for a purpose other than designed — always risky business, especially when remote from service. With any of these be certain they can be configured for Letter Perfect. —ANTIC ED

AGHAST AT APX

As a professional engineer I want to draw the attention of ANTIC readers and ATARI users to the inaccurate and possibly harmful representation of nuclear power in the game "Melt Down" from APX.

While it may appear to be harmless fun, the possible misunderstanding by young users both of the actual technology and danger of nuclear power is not at all helpful in these times. The nuclear power industry takes great pains to assure truthful dissemination of information about atomic power.

I personally will not purchase APX products until "Melt Down" is removed from its catalog.

William Becker, P.E. Hebron, CT

TUFF STUFF

The ATARI 1200XL sounds impressive (ANTIC #6), and I am curious if some of the new features, such as the 14K OS, will be made available for the 400/800? If so, would it be necessary or desirable to wire in the new 6502 variation in a 400/800 to make use of the 14K OS? Does the new OS support floating decimal routines in a manner similar to the Fast Chip made by Newell Industries? Is it feasible to modify the 800 to improve color saturation as evidently has been done with the 1200XL? Will the speech synthesizer in the works be compatible with 400/800 systems? Does Atari have an approximate date of availability set for the speech synthesizer? I have been holding off purchasing a 'voice' for my 800 as I have heard of Atari's intention to market their own model.

Walt Huber Atwater, CA

Gramma always said, "If you don't know, say so." We don't know, but we'll find out, in a full-scale review of this and other new hardware later this year. —ANTIC ED

ATARI WORD PROCESSOR

I'm having problems with the Atari Word Processor program (version 1.0). As my disk fills up, attempts to back it up using Atari DOS II generate gibberish. The pagination functions also produces strange output. Calls to Atari have not solved the problems. Is anyone else having trouble?

Roy Ramirez Northridge, CA

We have not experienced these problems, though we don't use Atari Word Processor much at ANTIC. Atari is coming out with an improved word processing program, called Atari Writer, which we expect to review in the near future. —ANTIC ED

RIGHT-HAND SLOT

I would like to know the use of the right-hand slot on the ATARI 800.

Steve Empey Wilsonville, OR

The right-hand slot is a bay into which properly designed and programmed ROM cartridges can be placed to cause your 800 to do things. There are not many such carts around, but one is Monkey Wrench, by Eastern House.

-ANTIC ED

BAT HEAVEN

We enjoy BATS very much (ANTIC #5) but had two problems. When a bat eats a poisonous bug "off screen" it dies and falls, but never hits the floor, causing an error that voids the game in progress. We solved that by changing the last statement in line 590 to read IF PEEK (53252) = 0 AND YPOS 127 THEN 590

Second, long play triggers "attract mode," some phases of which obscure the bat and insects. Adding this line seems to fix that.

585 POKE 77,0

Garry Wick Los Angeles, CA

SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS

ANTIC has now transferred its subscriber list to a professional data base service. If you have not received your magazine, please write with all the relevant information to ANTIC Publishing, Subscription Department, 600 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94107.

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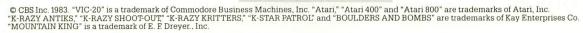
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Try as we may, errors and oversights sneak into our magazine. Our regret takes on useful form in this section, where we will report to you information and corrections that will make past issues of ANTIC more accurate.

In general, you should know that most of the programs that have appeared in ANTIC do run as printed, and that almost all problems reported to us have been due to entry errors on the part of the reader-user.

-ANTIC ED

LETTER PERCOM

In ANTIC #5 we reported on LJK's Letter Perfect as part of a word-processing system for the ATARI 800 (Model System, p. 18). We used PERCOM Disk Drives in that setup, and implied that there were no problems. Actually, we had encountered, and some readers also reported, a problem formatting data disks for LJK using PERCOM drives.

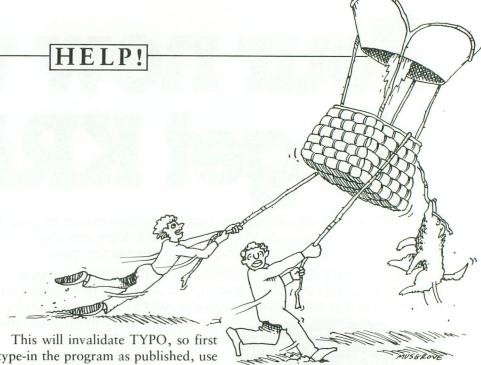
Both companies confirm this problem. LJK does not use ATARI DOS, nor PERCOM DOS, and formats blank data disks for Letter Perfect using its own DOS, which works fine with ATARI 810 drives, but not with PERCOM drives.

PERCOM's solution is to offer a small program which, when used with its drives, will format blank disks to Letter Perfect specifications. This program is available in hard copy free-of-charge, by writing for the Zero Sector Utility, to Customer Service, PERCOM Data Co., 11220 Pagemill Road, Dallas, TX 75243.

CBOOTMGR

In ANTIC #6, page 78, there is an error in the text accompanying this listing. The next to last paragraph of the article should read, in pertinent part, 'SAVE"C:" rather than 'LIST"C:". Some readers have been confused about how to make a cassette version of this program. Change lines 325 and 330 to read:

325 POKE 764,12 330 RUN "C:CBOOTMGB"



This will invalidate TYPO, so first type-in the program as published, use TYPO to verify your work, then go back and change the lines.

PAC INVADERS

This listing of PAC INVADERS that appeared in ANTIC #3 contained three lines that contained more than 120 characters each. It is possible to enter these lines using the following procedures:

1. Type "POKE 82,0" in the immediate mode, that is, without a line number. This places the left margin at the left edge of the screen, and allows space for two extra characters per line.

2. Omit spaces wherever possible — that is, omit all spaces, and then go back and insert where necessary as indicated by error messages (after entering the line).

3. Use abbreviations for all BASIC keywords. These can be found in Appendix A of your ATARI BASIC Reference Manual.

As long as you can enter a line without getting an error message, the computer will accept it and the line will be placed in the program in full. It doesn't matter if the line LISTS out to over three lines — as long as it was typed in as three or less. However, such lines, after being listed their full length, cannot be edited as normal using the screen editor. In this case, to make any changes in the line, the entire line must be retyped in full, using the aforementioned space-saving techniques.

EXTENDED DIRECTORY

A line of code was left out of Extended Directory (ANTIC #6). Line 1430 should be inserted as:

1430 MOD .BYTE "dup.SYS"

This allows the routine at line 1280 (label: LOOP1) to change the name of DUP.SYS to dup.SYS, which prevents loading the new DOS with the old utilities package. Incidentally, the last seven bytes in the assembled listing, as published, represent the new name "dup.SYS."

TUT, TUT; UT, UT

In Starting Line (ANTIC #6) there are three errors. In each case a 1 appeared incorrectly where a \$ should be. In the first listing change line 40 to read:

40 INPUT #1, TITLE\$

In the second listing, lines 20 and 60 should read:

20 PRINT CHR\$(125) 60 PRINT CHR\$(A);: GOTO 40

We very much regret errors like this in material for beginners.

MEMORY MAP

On page 97 of ANTIC #6, Memory Map should show in location 766 (\$2FE) that the hexidecimal value for EOL (end of line) is \$9B, not \$98.

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by RICHARD KUSHNER

What I am about to admit is difficult. I am a MAMA's boy (a Middle Aged Maze Addict). I'm just crazy about maze games. Show me the latest text adventure and I'll yawn. Show me a new shoot-em-up and I'll defer to my sprained thumb. But maze games are something else.

Since I've played them all, or all I can find, I will state flat out that nothing yet has topped PAC-MAN. The ATARI computer version rates very high with me as a good rendition of the arcade phenomenon. It would have been nice to include the intermission "cartoons" of the original, but that is a small quibble.

What makes PAC-MAN so good, and some of the other games fall short? It mostly comes down to what I can only describe as "feel". The compelling thrust of PAC-MAN grows and grows. The sound increases in volume and the ghosts move ever faster as you advance through the maze. The ghosts' movements seem to become less random and more attuned to your every change of direction. Decisions can sometimes be made by careful planning, but, inevitably, success or failure comes to depend on those split second decisions — Should I grab the glowing dot now? Should I duck through the side of the tunnel? Should I go left or right, up or down?

But even that is not enough to capture the imagination of a nation. PAC-

MAN is also manageable, by which I mean that, with a little practice, anyone can get through the first few levels. You don't have to have eyes in the back of your head, or the reflexes of a 10 year old, to survive - at least for a while. This is the chief drawback of maze games like CROSSFIRE or MOUSKATTACK. Both of these are graphically the equal of PAC-MAN, but I simply am unable to look in three directions, move, and shoot, all at the same time (as CROSSFIRE requires). or lay pipe, look for bad joints, avoid cats, manage traps and move, all at the same time (as MOUSKATTACK demands).

Game designers, please remember that the home computer is not like the arcade machine where you need at least 20 quarters per hour to make big bucks. There is room for gradual escalation, and a game that can be played for more than 30 seconds before Armageddon wipes out the good guys. You need to consider the frustration level of your purchasers, who plunk down \$30 to \$50, based largely on the cover art, but who will only recommend your game if it is a "good" one.

Here are a few more observations on the extra touches that make games good:

Please let me skip the introduction. Sure, it looked terrific the first time I saw it, and amusing the fifth time, but after that it was just plain *boring*.

Don't make me start over every time I play. Give me the choice of starting at *some* of the advanced levels, even if you want to reserve the highest for those who earn them. Aztec Challenge lets you continue right where you were when you got wiped out. This allows you to get far into the game, without having to plod through all the "I've been there before" sections.

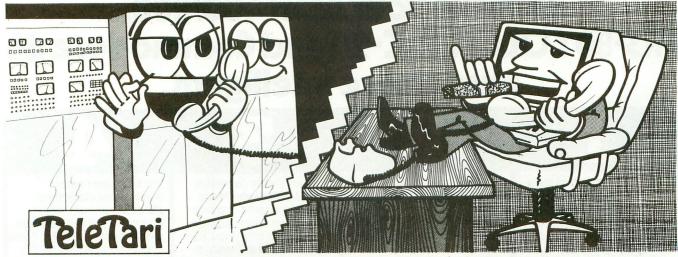
Everyone has discovered vertical blank interrupts and uses them to wedge music into most of the Atari games on the market today. Music should be an option. It wears on the nerves after playing a while, even though it is fun sometimes.

How can you determine if you are a maze game addict? What measures can you take to cure this dreaded disease? The symptoms are easy to describe: damp palms, tension ache in the shoulders, sore wrist, and the search for the "perfect" joystick.

The cure, I'm afraid, is worse than the disease. You can't just taper off. No, like the alcoholic, you have to give it up entirely, and avoid going to arcades. "Cold turkey" is the only sure cure. Probably it would be best to get rid of the computer altogether, so as not to be tempted. But wait a minute . . . I heard that Digdug, QIX and Zaxxon are coming out soon. I'd better go do my joystick exercises so I'll be in shape when they arrive. Oh, well, there are worse habits.

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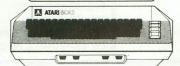


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OF ATARIAN

by RICHARD HERRING

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT THE INSIDE OF YOUR ATARI looks like? Just where is ANTIC anyway? If you are like me, you probably sit down in front of your computer nearly every day. You can find its power switch in the dark. The outside of your computer, like Picture 1, is very familiar. You see four controller jacks in front, side panel on the right, cartridge door on top and TV switch-box cable out back. But what about the inside — the anatomy?

We all know something about the anatomy of the human body. Even though we do not know all the names or understand all the processes. What little we do know helps us. Knowledge of the body's structure allows us to use it properly and abuse or damage it less often. The same is true for your computer. You will probably never need to take apart the ATARI, just as you will probably never have to perform surgery on a person. But if you have a mental picture of the physical object it can help you understand it better.

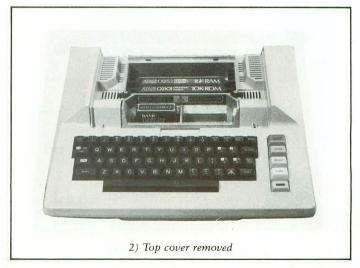
When you open the cartridge door of an ATARI 800, you find two cartridge slots. With few exceptions, all cartridges go in the left slot. Under the cartridge door and just above the break key, is a little slot which contains the ATARI's

second on/off switch. As soon as you open the door, your computer is automatically turned off. This prevents you from inserting or removing cartridges with the power on, so no static charges can be sent through the computer's circuits to damage sensitive chips.

Once the cartridge door is open, you can access the memory bank by rotating the two black clamps and lifting the entire ribbed top cover toward you.

Here (Picture 2) are the Operating System 10K ROM and whatever RAM modules you have installed. That is about as much disassembling as most people ever need to do. So, let's take an imaginary tour through the rest of the computer.

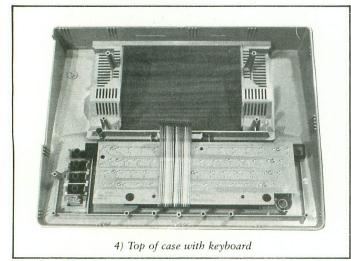


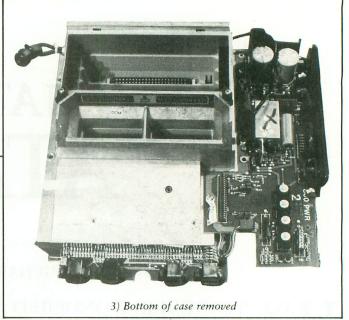


When it's turned over and the screws are removed, the bottom of the case lifts off. The view (Picture 3) is not terribly revealing. Notice that one side, under the [ESCAPE] and [TAB] keys, is basically empty space. In the corner under the [CONTROL] key, you see the little speaker which is responsible for the beeps, as well as for other sounds. This speaker simply sits in a circular ridge formed in the top of the computer's case (Picture 4). The motherboard is shown (Picture 3) occupying the center half of the computer. Looking at its bottom is not very interesting, since most of it is covered with a metal plate. On the side opposite the speaker, you see the bottom of the power-supply board.

Removing more screws and unplugging one connection allows the boards to be lifted out as a unit. This leaves the case top with the keyboard still installed. The detached keyboard ribbon (Picture 4) can be seen with the bottom of the keyboard still visible in the otherwise empty top half of the ATARI's case. The four yellow keys are seen clipped into housings formed in the case top. The bottoms of these keys rest on switches located on the power-supply board.

The ATARI 800's components reside primarily on three circuit boards. Lying horizontally under the keyboard and memory bank, is the motherboard. This is the largest circuit board in the computer. The motherboard runs from front to back and is about one-half as wide as the 800's case. It is still covered (Picture 5) by the metal case which surrounds the memory bank, but we can see it completely exposed (Picture 7). Attached to the right side of the motherboard is the power-supply board, one side of which is the black side of the computer. That panel holds the on/off switch, power jack, etc.

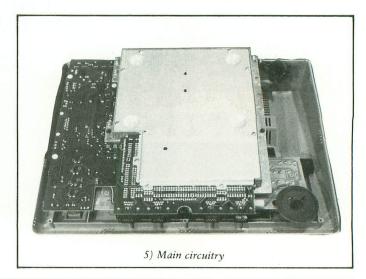


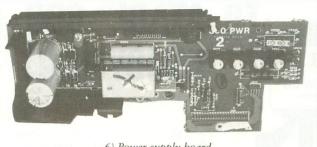


The last board in the 800 is the personality board. It plugs vertically into the motherboard and stands behind the memory bank. It is still inside the metal case (Picture 5), but you can see its top (Picture 7) and how it looks when removed (Picture 8).

Here's a good view (Picture 6) for the power-supply board after it has been detached from the motherboard. Along the bottom of the picture is the black side panel of the 800. Among other functions, this board converts AC from the external power adapter to DC used by the computer. The four round white posts on the left side of Picture 6 are the [START], [SELECT], [OPTION] and [SYSTEM RESET] switches. The power-supply board connects electronically to the motherboard via the long twenty-two hole connector on the arm protruding toward the top of Picture 6 and by the four-pin connector just below the left end of the twenty-two hole connector.

The motherboard is shown (Picture 7) with its metal case top removed. The four joystick controller jacks are at the bottom of the picture. The plug sticking out at the lower right connects to the power-supply board. Just above that





6) Power supply board

plug is the twenty-two pin connector which also attaches to the power-supply board. The two pins protruding from the lower left of the board, just above the #1 controller jack connect to the 800's speaker.

Also on the motherboard are the two chips POKEY and PIA. POKEY, the higher of the two big rectangular chips is responsible for the four semi-independent ATARI audio channels. In other words, POKEY is the music expert chip. But its responsibilities do not stop there. In addition to scanning and controlling the keyboard, POKEY also serves as timer, random number generator, maskable interrupt control and serial communications port.

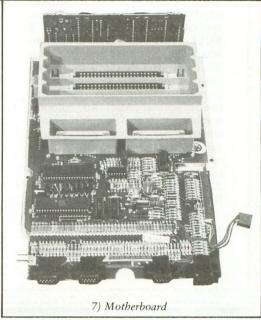
The PIA is the big chip just below POKEY. PIA means Peripheral Interface Adapter. Like POKEY, PIA acts as a maskable interrupt control for peripherals. Further, PIA is responsible for peripheral control and interrupt lines and, for all you game fans, reading from and writing to the joystick jacks.

The upper half of the motherboard (Picture 7), basically consists of slots for ROM and RAM boards. The rearmost slot, however, contains the ATARI's third circuit board, the personality board, also called the CPU board. The personality board plugs into the motherboard using the same type of connector as a RAM cartridge. Its chips face the rear of the computer so they are just above the hole where the TV switch box wire comes out of the back of the ATARI.

On the personality board (Picture 8) lie the three remaining major chips of the ATARI. To the left is ANTIC. ANTIC is responsible for controlling vertical and horizontal fine scrolling and light-pen registers. It is also a vertical line counter, direct memory access (DMA) control, non-maskable interrupt control, and WSYNC. Do not worry if you do not know the purpose of all those functions, just know that ANTIC has a lot of responsibilities.

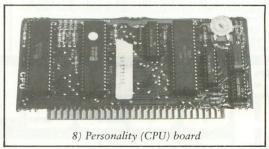
The big chip in the center is the CTIA or GTIA. Depending upon how old your ATARI is, you have one or the other, never both. The GTIA chip adds Graphics Modes 9, 10 and 11 to the CTIA's Modes 0 through 8. Although the GTIA is downward compatible (virtually all software designed for the CTIA will still run) the colors of the graphics displays for some software may change.

The GTIA is responsible for color luminance and Player/ Missile objects. With four players and four missiles available, GTIA must keep track of their individual sizes, horizontal positions, collisions and priority. By priority, I mean determining which of two overlapping objects will be visible. GTIA also controls miscellaneous input/output functions like switches and triggers.



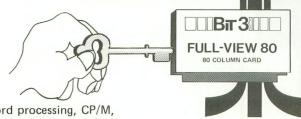
The last big chip, on the right side of the personality board, is the 6502 CPU. This is the brain around which the ATARI computer is designed. Since the 6502 is used in other personal computers, the ATARI has a number of peers. The use of the same CPU by two different computers does not mean that they are compatible or that software written for one will run on the other. It does mean that Assembly Language programmers may be able to convert software from one machine to the other with relative ease. This is because all versions of the same CPU will have similar sets of commands, or instruction sets, at the machine language level.

Now that we've looked at the inside of an ATARI 800, please do not take this little tour as a manual for disassembling your computer. All 800's are not put together in exactly the same fashion. But do use your new knowledge of machine anatomy when you try to make your computer do tricks.





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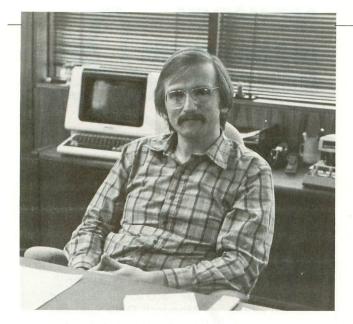


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IHOR WOLOSENKO

Hanging ten on the software wave

by ROBERT DEWITT

Ihor Wolosenko is a partner and co-founder of Synapse Software, an originator of FileManager 800 and FileManager +, as well as many popular games. He was born in Austria of Ukrainian parents, and immigrated to the U.S. following World War II. His parents, both professional people, settled in Queens, New York, where Ihor attended Stuyvesant High School, widely known for its science graduates. At the time, however, Ihor was more interested in drama and psychology (not to mention science fiction), and he followed these interests through college at C.U.N.Y.

After graduation he gravitated to Boston where he established a successful photography studio and agency, doing still shots for many major accounts. After about ten years he sold out, "to escape the winters and find new interests." Berkeley, California, became his landing pad. For some time he studied Tibetan Buddhism and a form of psychology known as neurolinguistic programming. He began to counsel clients and hold workshops in this field, and it was about this time that he discovered computers. Since then, of course, the company he started has grown tremendously and is a driving force in computer game design, not just for ATARI, but in general.

ANTIC: So you decided a computer would make a neat toy? WOLOSENKO: Yeah, I looked at the Apple and a bunch of others. I saw Star Raiders on an ATARI and asked if the Apple could play Star Raiders. They said "no," so I knew I wanted the one with Star Raiders. I got an ATARI 800.

A: What kind of things did you do with it?

W: BASIC programming, and a little bit of everything. When it's new, everything is exciting. I read the books, then I got into the Assembler Editor, but by that time I had met Ken already.

A: You mean Ken Grant, your partner in Synapse?

W: Yes. He was working for the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco, where he was Vice President in charge of data processing. I figured, well here's a heavyweight who's been in computers a few years.

A: You met him as an ATARI user?

W: Yes, a mutual friend told him about me and he called me out of the blue. He lived in Kensington and I lived in Berkeley, so I went over to his house and we talked about computers. He showed me some of the programs he had written, including his data base. I thought it was great because I needed a data base for all my clients and workshop people. I used it a bit, but it kept screwing up. I said, hey, let's get this thing together, and I think you can probably market it. He said, "Well, I really don't have the time, but let's form a company to put this thing out. You do the documentation, the implementation, the interface and the graphics — what it's going to look like." I said, fine, and we did. That's how FileManager 800 started.

A: He did the actual routines?

W: The architecture, the structure. Then we decided we really couldn't go to market with just one program. There was another guy at the user group, Rob Re, who had written Dodge Racer. We invited him to make his game our other product, and he agreed. Now the FileManager, to get it into the shape we wanted, took longer than we thought. We started working on it seriously at the end of November, 1980, and hoped to get it out by May of '81, but we didn't ship any until about August. We had to recall the first hundred or so because there were a lot of bugs in it. We finally got it finished about October. It took a year to get it done right, and I was working on it almost full time. Ken was working hard on it too, even though he had another job. We were really cranking.

A: Were you surprised at the amount of work it took to bring a product like that to market?

W: Oh sure! We had been optimistic, but I just didn't feel right about letting it out until it was the way I wanted it to be and that is: completely easy to use, completely friendly. We have piles and piles of notes from that period.

A: Can you chronicle the growth of the company?

W: First we had FileManager and Dodge Racer. Then, around November of '81, Mike Potter came to us and said

continued on page 23

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IHOR WOLOSENKO continued from page 21

that he didn't want to work for Crystalware anymore. He asked if we would be interested in picking up Protector. We were very interested in Protector, but I wanted to see some changes in it and take some of the bugs out. So we agreed to that, and once we got it out, people really responded positively to Protector — because it *worked*. Then we began working on two other games I had in mind, Chicken and Slime. Mike and I were working on Chicken and I hired another guy to work on Slime. But, he turned out to be pretty flakey . . . He wasn't getting anywhere and he became impossible to work with. Finally he started having psychic experiences with his disk drive — such as fire coming out of it. He just flaked out.

I realized I simply had to go with my gut feeling as to whom we could and couldn't work with. I then gave Slime to Steve Hales; he just started with it from scratch since he wasn't able to use any of the obscure code this other guy had written.

A: Were you taking on these programmers on a project basis rather than as employees of the company?

W: Yeah. Steve was working on Slime and Mike finished Chicken and began developing Nautilus.

A: Who came up with the idea for Shamus?

W: Well, William Mataga came to us with a game that was really a replica of Berserk that he'd put together. But, as interesting as it was, I didn't want to put out just a reproduction of another game. For one thing, I don't want to get sued and, also, I just don't think it's kosher. So we decided to take the action of Berserk and turn it into a much more interesting game.

A: After Shamus, the ball really started rolling for Synapse? W: Yeah. More and more people were attracted to us because of the quality of our products. Russ Segal, a student at University of California at Berkeley, came to us and I put him on the project of working up Picnic Paranoia.

A: Are these all Assembly Language products or BASIC products with Assembly Language routine?

W: All Assembly Language. Well, now, FileManager was not all machine language. It was BASIC with about a third of it Assembly Language.

A: Were Synapses' first offices at Ken's house?

W: Well, actually the mailing address was Ken's house, but the actual office was in my room at Berkeley. Then I moved to a larger apartment; one bedroom was the shipping room, one was my sleeping quarters, and the living room served as the office.

A: Very similar to ANTIC's situation.

W: Exactly. From there we moved up to Coventry, where we had six bedrooms and five people working. Our next move was into 6500 square feet on Jacuzzi Street last August. We just recently moved to this place, which has 22,000 square feet housing 35 employees.

A: Of course, 20,000 of that is your office!

W: Well, I like to play basketball in my office.

A: What do you have on the drawing boards right now? W: We have a three-dimensional point-of-view game called Dimension X which will be out shortly. We also just released Fort Apocalypse and another one, Survivor.

A: Tell me something about Survivor.

W: Survivor is a space game. There are four space fortresses with gun emplacements all around. The object is to break through these gun emplacements and blow up the fortresses. Because there are continuously-scrolling vertical and horizontal screens, there are no spatial limits to the game. It's very important to me when I design a game to have as little limitation and as much flexibily as possible. For instance, Pac-Man is very set. But with Survivor you can go anywhere you want, even though there are ships constantly attacking you. In Survivor there are three different kinds of enemy ships: one mimics your motion, another goes directly for you, and one circles around you, and they change their strategies all the time. This means you can't use the same kind of maneuvers with each ship because it won't always work.

The same holds true for characters. We're releasing a game called Pharaoh's Curse in about two weeks. The action takes place inside a pyramid which has about 18 rooms holding lots of treasure. There's a pharaoh, a mummy and a bird that carries you away. Graphically it's very interesting — another dynamic game like Shamus. One of the nice things about the characters we're creating for games now is that they have a degree of existence independent from the operator of the joystick. In other words, when one of the characters is just standing around he might turn from side to side, look around, and perhaps even take a step in one direction. If the operator is not doing anything with the joystick, I want those characters to seem alive, so that there's a sense that they exist without you controlling them. I think that is very important psychologically, and I want to create that kind of life in our games.

We also have Shamus, Case II, coming out; Drelbs, and Necromancer. Necromancer is a totally unique game. It consists of three phases. In the first phase you grow an army of apprentice trees; in the second phase you go down through these caverns, using your trees — which are actually animated — they walk around crushing out spiders. At the third phase you meet the evil wizard, and so on. There's a whole apocalypse at the end.

A: Do you spend a good portion of your time on game design, and do you consider that your specialty in this company?

W: Well, actually there are two things. I focus both on game design and management of the company from the point of view of growth, and what we need to do to become the most successful software company. So far we've been able to make the right decisions. We're branching out now to make products for the other computers. We'll be out on

continued on next page

the Commodore 64, the TI, the Radio Shack Color Computer and Apple. Synapse now has 40 programmers working on projects.

A: Do all of them work here at Synapse?

W: No, some work here and others work out of their homes.

A: What kind of a deal do you offer a programmer?

W: Well, it depends on whether it's an original game or a conversion. We offer anywhere between 10–20% in royalties on disk and cassette games. We offer a lower royalty on ROMs because those sales are much greater than disks or cassettes, and also there's more up-front money needed to make ROMs.

A: Does Synapse solicit games from individuals outside the company?

W: No, we develop our material internally. We do receive ideas from outside individuals, and while we review them, most of the time we are not interested. That's the nice thing about having internal development of our programs; we don't have to start at ground zero each time. If a company has to rely on outside people submitting material, there isn't much security and it becomes a matter of hit or miss regarding the quality of the games. Right now we're working on 30 projects internally and are constantly attracting new people.

A: The ATARI seems the central machine around which the development of Synapse products for other machines revolves. Is that true?

W: Well, for right now, because most of what we're doing on the other machines are conversions of ATARI titles. Once we have similar products for all the machines we can begin evaluating each machine's unique capabilities and develop products accordingly.

A: From a manager's point of view, what looms out there as your biggest probable danger? Are you afraid of growing too fast?

W: No, I think we have managed to control our growth. We have not required any outside investors and we've been able to boot-strap ourselves on cash flow, even when that's been difficult. We have a very successful company. I think the biggest danger for a company our size is not perceiving how the role of management changes as the company grows. When you're small it's a matter of putting out fires and bottom-up management. After a certain point you have to start hiring for the future and going from the top down. Some people are good at certain jobs but not very good at management. We want to provide a certain amount of job satisfaction while getting the products out.

In terms of threats out there, there's obvious danger with the large companies that have big advertising budgets. We have a lot of advertising money scheduled. We're also looking at alliances so that we don't have to come up against companies like Thorne or CBS, which have megabucks to spend on advertising. We've been able to get both our product and our name out there.

The market is also significantly different from a VCS

market. A company like ACTIVISION has 10 million units as a base, with one SKU for that particular machine. Here we have five computers with three different media for each computer, so that's 15 SKUs for each title. How do you manage that?

A: What's an SKU?

W: That's one unit, one product line.

A: So, because each computer can each have programs on cassette, diskette and ROM cartridge, you have three different SKUs for each title?

W: Right. So for someone getting into mass merchandising from the game machine experience it can be overwhelming. There's the TI, the VIC, the 64, the Apple, the ATARI 400/800, with three different media for each one; which means you have to carry 15 separate items for one title. It's exponential. It's crazy! That's why a lot of the mass merchandisers are going to rack jobbers like Andleman and Lieberman, Softsell or SKU. It's up to the rack jobbers to bring in their racks and service them because it's impossible for the manufacturer to know what to do. That's the really difficult transition.

A: What was Synapse's volume in 82?

W: Well, we're shipping somewhere between half a million and a million dollars worth of product each month.

A: Before we end this, let me ask some personal questions. How is Ihor doing? Are you having a lot of fun?

W: Oh, very much.

A: Are you a millionaire yet?

W: I don't know. I'd say I've got an investment in something that's really good. I'm not a millionaire at the bank but I've got the potential for making a very comfortable amount of money.

A: Was it ever a particular life goal of yours to be running a company of this size?

W: No, I don't do it for the money or because I wanted to run a company. I do it because it's fun to do. When it stops being fun I won't do it any more.

A: What are your plans when and if it stops being fun?

W: Two things. I want to write children's story books and I want to produce some more movies. Oh, yeah, and I'd also like to live in the South Pacific!

A: It sounds like you just might do that. Do you have a movie idea you're just dying to make?

W: There are a couple of scripts I've written.

A: Are they fantasy scripts? Anything you'd like to share with us?

W: Not really. Not at this point.

A: Does Synapse have any plans for going into video production?

W: We're sticking with the computer although we are starting a business division which will handle the FileManager type of program. We have a TrendManager program ready to come out and we just released FileManager for the IBM-PC and we're currently working on some other business programs. As I said, my function is to design games and see to it that the company succeeds.



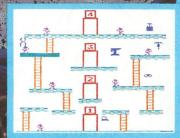
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VOYEUR

The Case of the Homely Cousin

by MARK GRICE

My students in BASIC programming often ask, "Why do some programmers *love* to use POKEs and PEEKs?"

It is a valid question, especially considering the ATARI computer. Why use a POKE for your color instead of SETCOLOR? It seems to be unnecessary work. It is not, however. There are several good reasons why a programmer might use POKEs and PEEKs.

To understand the whys and wherefores, let us consider memory. Memory is a lot like money: first, you can never have enough . . . second, it is hard to come buy . . . and third, it is wise to use it sparingly . . . and last, the more you have, the more you want!

The sad truth, friends, is that SETCOLOR and SOUND commands eat up memory. Why? Well, let's look at the BASIC process . . .

First, it is important to understand that BASIC is NOT a compiler, it is an interpreter. Your computer, like all computers, understands only one language . . . machine language. That's it. Period. It is quite incapable of ever learning any other language. The unfortunate part of all this is that humans are not well-equipped to work with machine language. And so we have a stalemate.

Enter the interpreter, in our case, named BASIC. A wonderful person, our interpreter, he understands machine language perfectly; and he *almost* understands English. At least he understands enough so that it is

possible to talk to him if we learn BASIC's language. Then, away we go, we give BASIC a command, he breaks it down into machine-language commands, hands it to the computer, the computer rushes about to do its duty, tells BASIC the result, and BASIC relays the progress report to the programmer. Stupendous! But slow.

Where is all of this leading? You guessed it, POKE and PEEK use less memory, and execute faster than do SETCOLOR and SOUND, etc. Ergo, the first reason for using POKE and PEEK is that it is faster. The second is that it requires less memory. And the third . . . because there are times when there is simply no other choice . . .

I like to think of my computer as

being a lot like me. I have a notorious reputation for being absent minded. In fact, as I sit here writing, I see that the biggest item in the room is my "external memory board," a 4' × 6' White Marker Board that I jot reminders on. Whenever someone calls be about something, I write it on my memory board. Then, religiously before I leave at night, I look at the memory board to see what I'm forgetting.

Let's take a fantastic example. I am hard at work, and the phone rings. I answer, and on the phone is the sexy voice of this gorgeous girl I met at a computer convention. She is in town at a hotel, and asks me if I could get away and meet her somewhere. Naturally, I

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tell her that I am busy at the moment, but that I will get away when I can. She gives me her hotel's name, and her room number, and hangs up.

Immediately, I go to the white board, and jot down the information. Just then, I hear my door buzzer. I go to the door and find the UPS man there. While I am busy, my brother sneaks into the room behind me, goes to the white board, and *changes* the precious information that I had put there.

At the end of the day, I turn off my computer (a smile playing about my lips), look at the white board and get the information: Holiday Inn; room 234. Of course when I get there, I find not my lovely out-of-town visitor, but rather my sister-in-law's homely cousin that she has been trying to fix me up with for the last eight months!

This rather bizarre example is similar to what happens when the computer first boots up. The term "Boot" is derived from the phrase "Pulling yourself up by your own bootstrap". When it first boots up, the computer stores certain values in parts of its external memory board, much the same as I write important information on my white board. As it goes about its duty, it will look into these "memory locations" and get the information that it needs. For example, 60 times each second, it looks into memory location 710, takes the value it finds there and produces a color for the background in Graphics Mode 0. Suppose you are in a program, and the screen is black with white letters. You know that the area in memory that the computer refers to to get the color for this screen is location 710. So what's the numerical value that is equivalent to black? Take a PEEK. It is done like this:

PRINT PEEK (710)

The computer will now look into location 710, see what is there, and print the result. In our example, it will print a 0, since that is the value of black. There is something else rather nifty about this . . . you don't *ever* have to know what the value of a location is in order to use it.

Suppose you did this:

A = PEEK(710)

What good does that do? Well, now you can keep the value for future reference, so that we can restore the original value back to the location when we are done playing around. More on that later.

Okay, so the PEEK command is the "voyeur" of the computer world. What is POKE?

In my example of the sexy out-oftown visitor, the part of POKE was played by my brother. POKE is the wise-guy who sneaks in when the computer is not looking and changes the value. Turn on your computer, and notice the screen. It is blue. Type in:

POKE 710,0

No doubt all of you scholars out there knew that the screen was going to change to black. Those of you who didn't, take heed. When you type in a POKE command, you are telling the memory (in your best Edgar G. Robinson voice) "All right, you listen, and listen good. I don't care WHAT value WAS in that location, now it's a 0, seee, and if you don't like it . . . tough!"

In less extravagant terms, you are taking a value of 0 and POKING it into that location, thus changing it. When the computer checks that location it grabs the new value and acts accordingly. You may wonder why the computer neither knows, nor cares, what values are stored. It is too busy carrying out its instructions to be bothered (except for hardware registers and their shadows, which we will ignore for the moment).

What happens if I POKE a value there that shouldn't be there? Maybe nothing, or maybe you'll have one *very* confused little computer.

What happens if I POKE something into a location that the computer never checks? Nothing. Nothing at all. That is why, although you have 48,000 bytes of RAM, you only have a couple hundred memory locations that do anything. All that matters is what the Operating System and company check

regularly. To use the previous example, if my brother had changed the information on a scrap of paper that I never bothered to look at, his practical joke wouldn't have succeeded.

Enough of theory. Let's try some examples.

FOR X = 1 TO 125: POKE 710,X: NEXT X

I am assuming that we all know what a FOR-NEXT loop is and what it does. This little ditty changes the value in location 710 one hundred and twenty-five times, and, I might add, it does it Pretty Darn Quick.

Remember what I said about storing a value without looking at it and using it later? The time has come to explain that. Hit [SYSTEM RESET] and try this:

10 A = PEEK (710) 20 FOR X = 1 to 125: POKE 710,X: NEXT X 30 POKE 710,A

This I call the "Brings Us Back To Doe" program. Notice what happens . . . We peek into location 710, and store that value in what we call A. Then we change the value of location 710, (and hence the color of the screen) one hundred twenty-five times, and when we're finished, we have the decency and foresight to put everything back the way we found it.

I have been asked in my classes, "Why doesn't the value of A change when the value of 710 changes?" Because, we are setting A up before, not during, the change. Let us say that there is a 0 in location 710. In line 10, we say, A is equal to whatever is in 710. So the computer says, "Oh, A is equal to 0." THEN we change the value in location 710. But we never go back and change the value of A. It remains the same. Understand, PEEK is not a dynamic process. It does not continue to happen once you call for it. It only happens when you tell it to.

I understand that this is not the most accurate dissertation on POKEs and PEEKs, but I hope that it may have helped some of you understand it better.

STAR AWARD WINNER

Seventeen-year-old David Buehler of St. Paul, Minnesota, has been awarded Atari, Inc.'s \$25,000 Star Award for writing the best program of 1982 on his ATARI Home Computer. The high school junior won the first-place cash prize for his program called Typo Attack, a fast-paced educational game for learning the location of keys on the keyboard.

The Star Award is an annual prize given to the author of a home computer program judged the most outstanding entry in the Atari Program Exchange (APX) contest. APX awards \$100,000 annually in ATARI products and cash for winning home computer programs, including the \$25,000 grand prize given to the author of the year's best program.

The object of the game is to prevent animated letters from descending — in successively faster order — to the bottom of the screen and destroying "bases." The only way to stop them is to type the correct letter on the keyboard.

Twelve prize-winning programs vied for the Star Award in 1982. The choices were narrowed to four finalists, and the remaining three received Awards of Merit. They are:

Lee Actor of San Jose, California, created Advanced MusicSystem, a program to create and listen to music and modify it at will. A former professional concert violinist and composer, Actor originally wrote this program to create and store his personal works.

Douglas Crockford of Sunnyvale, California, designed Galahad and the Holy Grail, a computer game that allows players to become Knights of the Round Table and overcome a



Star Award Winner, David Buehler, demonstrates his winning program, Typo Attack, at the Awards luncheon in New York last January.

variety of obstacles. Crockford is now a game designer for Atari.

Harry Koons and Art Prag of Los Angeles designed Astrology, a program which will prepare detailed astrological charts for the user, based on time and place of birth.

All entries accepted by the Atari Program Exchange are published in the quarterly APX Catlog and remain the property of their developers. Atari pays a royalty for each sale made.

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GAME MACHINE GROWS UP

Keyboard converts VCS to Computer

The turbulent whirl of electronic development has offered up a new and welcome addition to the Atari product line — a low-cost, plug-in keyboard that converts the popular Atari VCS 2600 game machine into a programmable computer. A similar adaptor for the 5200 game machine will be announced later this year.

Called My First Computer, the keyboard will have 8K RAM (expandable to 32K), built-in BASIC, raised "button" keys, and an expansion port for peripherals such as printers and disk drives. It will display on color TV sets just as the VCS did. It snaps onto the VCS in minutes, and requires no prior knowledge of programming or computers by its user.

Once connected to the VCS, the unit will accept standard VCS game cartridges as well as a new library of software titles with emphasis on home management, education and personal development. Mass storage for My First Computer is immediately available using a standard portable cassette tape recorder, according to company sources. The system is also designed to work with a modem for telecommunication.

There are ten million VCS units already sold, and many of their owners are expected to buy a computer in the next few years. My First Computer, retailing at less than \$90, will allow them to do this inexpensively and still retain the values of their game libraries. New games for this system — with enhanced graphics made possible by the additional memory — are in preparation.

The first production models are expected to be available by late 1983, by





My First Computer, an easily-installed, plug-in keyboard converts the Atari 2600 video game player into a programmable 8K computer. Lower photo shows unit installed on VCS. A standard cassette tape player can be used for external memory.

which time much of the new software will have been developed. Standard game controllers will continue to be used.

ANTIC plans to cover this new hybrid, as well as its sibling, the 5200

Advanced Game System, announced last month. One way or another, they are all ATARI computers, and ANTIC *is* the ATARI Resource.

-Robert DeWitt



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Requires: Atari, 16K RAM (cassette), 24K RAM (disk).



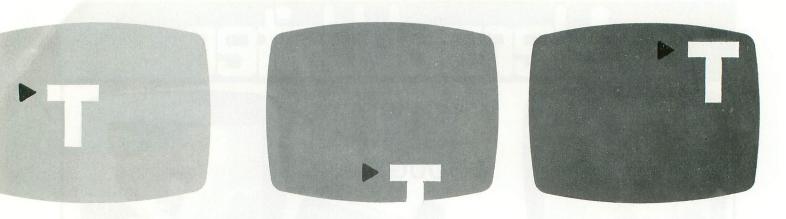
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Then debugging a BASIC program it is often very **V** valuable to have some way to trace the order of execution of statements within the program. This is frequently done by inserting "debug" print statements within the program and later deleting them. We could also sit down with the program listing and "play computer", simulating execution of the program. Neither of these ways is completely satisfactory. It is a nuisance to insert print statements for debugging and later have to delete them. We all know that when trying to follow a program listing, we can be completely blind to an obvious error because we see a statement as it "should be" rather than as it actually is.

The BASIC Trace Utility program given here is intended to be an aid in situations like this. It monitors the execution of your program, displaying each line as it is executed, and can display values of variables when requested. At any time, you may halt the execution, modify or display other variables, and then resume execution where you left off. This utility may be used to determine where a variable takes on an erroneous value or at what point the program takes an execution path contrary to the programmer's intention. In addition, the beginning programmer can use the trace utility to better understand what happens when a BASIC program executes.

The BASIC Trace Utility is written in BASIC and may be run on any ATARI 400 or 800 system with the BASIC cartridge and at least 16K RAM. The principal limitation on the user program is that it may not use line numbers greater than 30999, since this upper range of line numbers is used for the trace utility program.

o use the program, it must first be loaded with the program you want to debug. In order to do this conveniently, the trace utility program should have been stored on disk in source form using the command "LIST D1: TRACE.LST" (rather than the SAVE command) and should be merged with your loaded program using the command "ENTER D1:TRACE.LST" (rather than the LOAD command).

Alan Filipski responded to our challenge to develop a trace routine (see ANTIC #4, page 6) and is the winner of that contest. His prize is a copy of Basic A+, by Optimized Systems Software. His program and explanatory article is published for the benefit of all of us.

To start the trace, type "GOTO 31000". The trace utility program will then ask you for the following information: the line number at which to begin tracing, and the number of lines to trace. The trace utility will then begin to execute your program. As each line of your program is executed, that line will be printed out. Any output from your program will be printed out interspersed with this trace listing. This will continue until the number of lines you have requested have been traced. (DATA statements, not being executable, are neither printed out nor counted.) At that point, the trace utility will aks you how many more lines you wish to trace.

After tracing these lines, the program will again ask you how many more lines you wish to trace. This cycle will continue until either your program ends or you enter a "0" in response to the query. At this point, control is returned to the immediate mode. If you wish, you may now print out or modify variables, GOTO 31000 and restart the trace, either at the beginning, or at the line where your previous trace left off. If you start at the beginning, all variables will be cleared, and arrays and strings will be deallocated.

If there are any variables which you want printed out automatically at every step of the trace, you may insert your own PRINT statements anywhere in the line-number range 31122-31126. These PRINT statements will not be traced, but will be executed before each line of the user program is executed. To produce a more compact display, end each PRINT statement with a semicolon.

There are a few cautions and limitations to be observed when using this program:

- The user program should not contain any TRAP or CLR statements.
- If the user program terminates by executing a STOP or END which is not the first statement of the line in which it appears, for example:

910 PRINT "NORMAL TERMINATION": END

910 INPUT A: IF A = 0 THEN STOP

then the user program will be seen to contain some garbage when it is listed. If this happens, re-enter the trace utility by typing GOTO 31000, and exit by requesting 0 lines to be traced. This minor nuisance cannot be reasonably repaired within the framework of the existing design of the trace utility.



• It is wise to maintain a backup copy on disk of any program being traced (or just being run).

 The trace utility program uses some BASIC variable names, all of which begin with "DBG". Avoid using variable names in your program which start with this sequence of characters.

 As mentioned before, the program being traced should not use any line numbers greater than 30999.

 Do not expect the traced program to run as fast as the original program.

How does the BASIC Trace Utility program work? Since BASIC is an interpreted language, the simplest and most straightforward way to produce a trace utility would be to modify the interpreter. In the case of ATARI BASIC however, this alternative is not available, since the interpreter is in a ROM cartridge. The approach taken here is more similar to the approach that might be taken to trace a compiled language and involves setting trappable errors in each line of the user program, and then listing the line when the error trap is taken. This is admittedly a kludge, but I could not think of a better way to do it.

This is what happens when the user types in "GOTO 31000": The program first sets a TRAP so that any execution error causes control to go to statement 31046. Then the first command token in each line of the user program (except DATA statements) is set to 55, meaning "syntax error" to the ATARI BASIC interpreter. The real command token is stored by adding it into the "end-of-line" token for that line so that it may be retrieved later. The program then transfers control to the line number input by the user. Since the first statement of this line contains an error, control passes to 31046. This portion of the Trace Utility program re-introduces any errors which were cleared on a previous cycle, clears the error in the line which caused the trap, and LISTs this line. The line containing the most recently executed FOR or GOSUB statement, if any, is also cleared of its error. This is necessary, because whenever the interpreter encounters a NEXT or RETURN, it checks to see whether the corresponding FOR or GOSUB is still there. Control is now transferred to the (now corrected) statement which caused the error trap and the statement is executed. When control passes from this line to any other line, however, an error trap is taken and the cycle repeats. When the user indicates that he is done by entering a "0",

errors are removed from all lines and the program stops.

The fact that this program was written in BASIC has several advantages. First, it is compact, consisting of less than 90 lines of executable code with only 12 variables. The primary advantage, however, is that it may be readily modified by the user. For example, if it were desired to print only the line number of the statement being traced and not the entire statement, it is only necessary to change line 31130 to

31130 ? PEEK(DBGPTR) + 256*PEEK (DBGPTR + 1);" ";

This ability to easily modify the source gives the user quite a bit of flexibility once he understands the code. Understanding the source code may take some work because of the high density of PEEK\$ and POKE\$ and the lack of such niceties as WHILE loops and indentation in ATARI BASIC. To aid understanding, here is a description of variables used in the program:

DBGCOM — Variable used to store the command token of a BASIC statement.

DBGEOL — Variable used to store the end-of-line token of a BASIC statement.

DBGLN1 / DBGLN2 — used to hold two-byte line number of a statement which triggered trap.

DBGPTR — Pointer to beginning of current statement; used in a loop to search for a particular line number.

DBGSAVE — A temporary holder for the value of DBGPTR.

DBGSAV1 — Statement-table offset of most recently executed FOR or GOSUB statement.

DBGSAV2 — Statement-table offset of statement most recently cleared for execution.

DBGST — Address of beginning of BASIC statement table.

DBGSTART — Line number at which trace execution is to start.

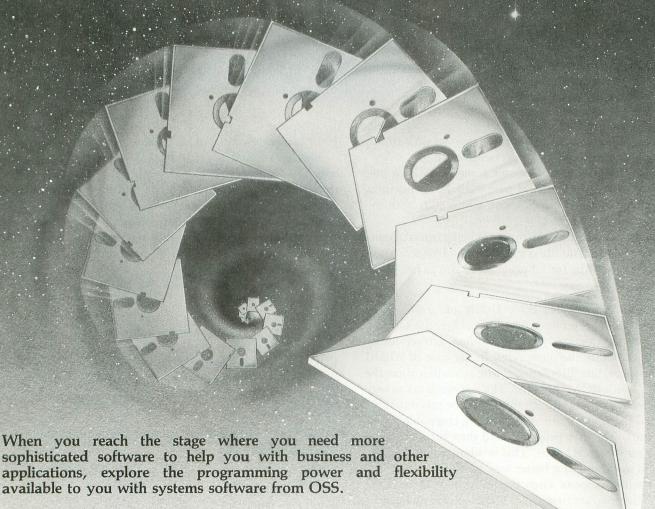
DBGTC — Count of number of lines left to trace.

DBGTOP — Address of top of BASIC run-time stack.

A further explanation of these concepts may be found in the book *De Re ATARI*.

continued on page 37

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TRACE UTILITY continued from page 35

Writing this program was very instructive and required some experimentation to discover undocumented details of the BASIC interpreter. Given the limitations described above, it provides a useful utility for debugging programs written in ATARI BASIC.

RAM REQUIREMENTS

TRACE 3K + traced program

```
31000 TRAP 31046
31002 REM
31004 REM BASIC TRACE UTILITY
31006 REM ALAN FILIPSKI 1982
31008 REM
31010 REM FIND START
     OF STMNT TABLE
31012 DBGST=PEEK (136) +
     256*PEEK (137)
31014 REM SET ERR
     IN EACH STMNT
31016 GOSUB 31152
31018 ? " ":? "BASIC
     TRACE UTILITY":? " "
31020 ? "ENTER LINE NUMBER
     AT WHICH"
31022 ? "EXECUTION IS
     TO START"
31024 ? " (FIRST LINE IN PROG IS
     "; PEEK (DBGST) +
     256*PEEK(DBGST+1);")"
31026 INPUT DBGSTART
31028 REM CLR ARRAYS IF STARTING
     AT FIRST STATEMENT
31030 IF DBGSTART<>PEEK
     (DBGST) +256*PEEK
     (DBGST+1) THEN 31038
31032 CLR : DBGST=PEEK
     (136) +256*PEEK(137)
31034 REM RESTORE DBGSTART
31036 DBGSTART=PEEK
     (DBGST) +256*PEEK
     (DBGST+1)
31038 ? "HOW MANY LINES TO TRACE
     ": INPUT DBGTC
31040 IF DBGTC <= 0 THEN 31064
31042 GOTO DBGSTART
31044 REM TRAP HERE AT
     EACH ERROR ENCOUNTERED
31046 DBGST=PEEK
     (136) +256*PEEK(137)
31048 IF PEEK(195)=17 THEN 31054
31050 REM UNEXPECTED ERROR TYPE
31052 ? "ERR TYPE "; PEEK
     (195);" AT LINE "; PEEK
     (186) +256*PEEK
     (187):GOTO 31064
31054 IF DBGTC>0 THEN 31072
```

```
31062 REM TIME TO
     QUIT. REMOVE ERRS
31064 GOSUB 31212
31066 ? "TRACE ABORTED"
31068 STOP
31070 REM REINTRODUCE ERR INTO CLEARED
     "FOR" OR "GOSUB"
31072 IF DBGSAV1=0 THEN 31086
31074 DBGSAV1=DBGSAV1+DBGST:IF PEEK
     (DBGSAV1+4) = 55 THEN 31086
31076 DBGEOL=DBGSAV1+PEEK
     (DBGSAV1+2)-1
31078 DBGCOM=DBGSAV1+4
31080 POKE DBGEOL, PEEK
     (DBGEOL) + PEEK
     (DBGCOM)
31082 POKE DBGCOM, 55
31084 REM REINTRODUCE ERR INTO
     LAST STATEMENT EXECUTED
31086 DBGSAV2=DBGSAV2+DBGST:
     IF PEEK (DBGSAV2+4)
     =55 THEN 31098
31088 DBGEOL=DBGSAV2+PEEK
     (DBGSAV2+2)-1
31090 DBGCOM=DBGSAV2+4
31092 POKE DBGEOL, PEEK
     (DBGEOL) + PEEK
     (DBGCOM)
31094 POKE DBGCOM,55
31096 REM CLEAR ERR FROM "FOR" OR
     "GOSUB" ON TOP OF RUNSTK
31098 DBGSAV1=0
31100 IF PEEK (142) = PEEK
     (144) AND PEEK
     (143) = PEEK
     (145) THEN 31114
31102 DBGTOP=PEEK (144)
     +256*PEEK (145)
31104 DBGLN1=PEEK (DBGTOP-3)
31106 DBGLN2=PEEK (DBGTOP-2)
31108 GOSUB 31176
31110 DBGSAV1=DBGPTR-DBGST
31112 REM FIND STATEMENT WHICH
     TRIGGERED TRAP AND CLEAR ERR
31114 DBGLN1=PEEK (186)
31116 DBGLN2=PEEK (187)
31118 GOSUB 31176
31120 DBGSAV2=DBGPTR-DBGST
31122 REM ******
31124 REM INSERT USER PRINT
     STATEMENTS HERE
31126 REM *****
     ******
     ******
31128 REM LIST TRAPPED STMNT
31130 LIST PEEK(DBGPTR)+256*PEEK
     (DBGPTR+1)
31132 TRAP 40000: TRAP 31046
31134 DBGTC=DBGTC-1
                             continued on next page
```

31056 ? "HOW MANY MORE ";

31060 IF DBGTC>0 THEN 31072

31058 INPUT DBGTC *

31136 REM IF STMNT IS END OR STOP, CLEAR ALL STATEMENTS 31138 IF PEEK (DBGPTR+4) = 21 OR PEEK (DBGPTR+4) = 38 THEN GOSUB 31212 31140 REM EXECUTE STATEMENT 31142 GOTO PEEK (DBGPTR) + PEEK (DBGPTR+1) *256 31144 REM 31146 REM SUB TO SET ERRS 31148 REM SET COMMAND TOKEN IN ALL USER STATEMENTS (EXCEPT DATA STATEMENTS) TO 55 (=ERROR)31150 REM SAVE ORIGINAL USER COMMAND BY ADDING TO END-OF-LINE BYTE 31152 DBGPTR=DBGST 31154 IF PEEK (DBGPTR+4) =55 OR PEEK (DBGPTR+4) =1 THEN 31164 31156 DBGEOL=DBGPTR+PEEK (DBGPTR+2)-131158 DBGCOM=DBGPTR+4 31160 POKE DBGEOL, PEEK (DBGEOL) +PEEK (DBGCOM) 31162 POKE DBGCOM, 55 31164 DBGPTR=DBGPTR+PEEK (DBGPTR+2) 31166 IF PEEK (DBGPTR) +256*PEEK(DBGPTR+1) <31000 THEN 31154

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YSTEMS

31168 RETURN

31170 REM

31172 REM SUBROUTINE TO FIND STMNT AND REMOVE ERR. 2-BYTE LINE NO. EXPECTED IN

DBGLN1 AND DBGLN2.

31174 REM PTR TO LINE IS RETURNED IN DBGPTR.

31176 DBGPTR=DBGST

31178 IF DBGLN1=PEEK(DBGPTR) AND DBGLN2=PEEK(DBGPTR+1) THEN 31186

31180 DBGPTR=DBGPTR+PEEK(DBGPTR+2)

31182 GOTO 31178

31184 REM REMOVE ERR

31186 IF PEEK (DBGPTR+4) <>55 THEN RETURN

31188 DBGEOL=DBGPTR+PEEK (DBGPTR+2)-1

31190 DBGCOM=DBGPTR+4

31192 IF PEEK(DBGEOL)>100 THEN 31200 31194 POKE DBGCOM, PEEK(DBGEOL)-22

31196 POKE DBGEOL.22

31198 RETURN

31200 POKE DBGCOM, PEEK (DBGEOL) - 155

31202 POKE DBGEOL, 155

31204 RETURN

31206 REM

31208 REM SUBROUTINE TO CLEAR ALL ERRORS

31210 REM

31212 DBGSAVE=DBGPTR:DBGPTR=DBGST

31214 IF PEEK (DBGPTR+4)

<>55 THEN 31228

31216 DBGEOL=DBGPTR+PEEK (DBGPTR+2) -1:DBGCOM=DBGPTR+4

31218 IF PEEK(DBGEOL)>100 THEN 31226

31220 REM NON-REM LINE HAS 22 FOR EOL

31222 POKE DBGCOM, PEEK (DBGEOL) -22: POKE DBGEOL, 22: GOTO 31228

31224 REM REM LINE HAS 155 FOR EOL

31226 POKE DBGCOM, PEEK (DBGEOL) -155: POKE DBGEOL, 155

31228 DBGPTR=DBGPTR+PEEK(DBGPTR+2)

31230 IF PEEK(DBGPTR) +256*PEEK(DBGPTR+1) <31000 THEN 31214

31232 DBGPTR=DBGSAVE

31234 RETURN

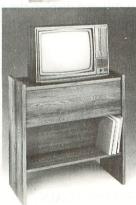
TYPO TABLE

Variable checksu Line num range 31000 - 3102	Code	D72 Length 284
31024 - 3104		395
31048 - 3107	70 DO	337
31072 - 3109	94 WK	315
31096 - 311	18 KN	331
31120 - 3114	42 VX	373
31144 - 3116	66 MT	387
31168 - 3119	9 0 JK	317
31192 - 312	14 BO	205
31216 - 3123	34 FY	291

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Have you heard of *Dungeons and Dragons*, *Runequest*, *Tunnels and Trolls* or *Worlds of Wonder*? These are fantasy role-playing games. For information, write to the following publishers.

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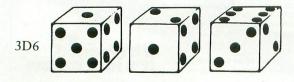
To play any of these games, you must create one or more characters, then guide your character(s) through adventures in a universe created by a game master. To create a character, you will roll three six-sided dice several times. We will use Runequest as an example.

A Runequest character has seven characteristics: strength (STR), constitution (CON), size (SIZ), intelligence (INT), power (POW), dexterity (DEX), and charisma (CHA).

These characteristics determine a character's ability to use weapon

a character's ability to use weapons, fight, learn and use magic, sustain damage, solve problems, lead others, and so on.

Each characteristic is determined by rolling three sixsided dice. Or, in the jargon of role-playing games, you roll 3D6.



When you roll 3D6, you get a number in the range, 3 to 18.

For example:

We wrote a program to roll and display the seven basic characteristics for a Runequest character. Here is the first run of our program.

STR 17 We call him Barostan.

CON 17 He is big and strong,

SIZ 13 but not too bright. He

INT 8 is good to have on your

POW 7 side in a fight, if someone

DEX 15 will tell him who to hit.

CHA 6 He acts first, then thinks later, if at all.

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TO DO AGAIN, PRESS SPACE BAR

We record the information on the screen on a sheet of paper, then press the space bar. The

computer immediately rolls another character, whom we name Joleen.

STR 13 Joleen is a clown, mime, acrobat,

CON 11 dancer, or whatever else might

SIZ 7 entertain an audience. She wants

INT 13 to travel with a troupe of

POW 8 wandering entertainers, and perform

DEX 17 at fairs and festivals. She will

CHA 13 charm you.

TO DO AGAIN, PRESS SPACE BAR

continued on page 44

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GAME MASTER'S APPRENTICE continued from page 40

Now write a program to roll and display the seven characteristics for a Runequest character, as shown above. Follow this outline of REM statements.

100 REM ** RUNEQUEST CHARACTER
300 REM ** ROLL & DISPLAY 7 CHARACTERISTICS
500 REM ** TELL HOW TO DO AGAIN
900 REM ** SUBROUTINE TO ROLL 3D6

IMPORTANT! In block 500, the computer prints "TO DO AGAIN, PRESS SPACE BAR" then waits until someone presses the space bar. When someone presses the space bar, the computer starts at the top and rolls another character.

SCRABBLE SCORES

For all you word game fans, here is our program to compute simple scrabble scores.

In SCRABBLE, each letter has a letter score (LS), as follows:

A = 1G = 2M = 3S = 1Y = 4B = 3H = 4N = 1T = 1Z = 10C = 3I = 1O = 1U = 1D = 2J = 8P = 3V = 4Q = 10E = 1K = 5W = 4F = 4L = 1R = 1X = 8

We will put these 26 letter scores into an array of subscripted variables, as follows.

LS(1) = Letter Score for A = 1 LS(2) = Letter Score for B = 3 LS(3) = Letter Score for C = 3 LS(4) = Letter Score for D = 2 LS(5) = Letter Score for E = 1, and so on, down to: LS(26) = Letter Score for Z = 10

Here is the first part of the program.

100 REM ** WORD SCORES 110 DIM LS(26), WORD\$(50), L\$(1)

200 REM ** CLEAR SCREEN 210 PRINT CHR\$(125);

300 REM ** READ LETTER SCORES INTO ARRAY LS 310 FOR K = 1 TO 26 320 READ LS: LS(K) = LS

330 NEXT K

340 DATA 1, 3, 3, 2, 1, 4

350 DATA 2, 4, 1, 8, 5, 1

360 DATA 3, 1, 1, 3, 10, 1

370 DATA 1, 1, 1, 4, 4, 8 380 DATA 4, 10

Next we will ask for a word, find out how long it is, and initialize the word score to zero.

400 REM ** ASK FOR A WORD 410 PRINT: PRINT "YOUR WORD"; 420 INPUT WORD\$

500 REM ** WL IS LENGTH OF WORD 510 WL = LEN(WORD\$)

600 REM ** START WORD SCORE AT ZERO 610 WS = 0

The word score is the sum of the letter scores in a word. If a word contains stuff other than letters, we want to ignore it and use *only* letters. Here is the part of the program that computes the word score. Lines 730 and 740 tell the computer to ignore characters that aren't letters.

700 REM ** COMPUTE WORD SCORE 710 FOR L = 1 TO WL 720 L\$ = WORD\$(L,L) 730 IF ASC(L\$) < 65 THEN 770 740 IF ASC(L\$) > 90 THEN 770 750 K = ASC(L\$) - 64 760 WS = WS + LS(K) 770 NEXT L

 $D_2 \quad R_1 \quad A_1 \quad G_2 \quad O_1 \quad N_1$

 $W_4 \quad I_1 \quad Z_{10} \qquad R_1 \quad D_2 \quad \ \, H_4 \quad B_3 \quad B_3 \quad I_1 \quad T_1$

Lines 720 through 760 are done for L = 1, L = 2, L = 3, and so on up to L = WL. Remember, WL is the length of the word.

Lines 720, 730, and 740 pick out the L character of the word and check to see if it is a letter. If not, lines 750 and 760 are skipped.

If the character is a letter, its ASCII code will be a number from 65 (for A) to 90 (for Z). Thus, in line 750, K will have a value from 1 (for A) to 26 (for Z).

In line 760, the value of K is used to add the appropriate letter score from the array LS to the old word score to obtain the new word score.

All that's left to do is print the word score and tell the computer to report back for more work.

800 REM ** PRINT THE WORD SCORE 810 PRINT "THE SCRABBLE SCORE IS"; WS

900 REM ** GO FOR ANOTHER WORD 910 GOTO 410

continued on page 46

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- "The system is disk intensive. All data is saved automatically and immediately following all routines that either enter data or modify it."
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- "In effect it gives you your bank statement on the screen, a complete list by month of all your checks and deposits."
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GAME MASTER'S APPRENTICE continued from page 44

Suppose, instead of the letter scores used in Scrabble, you want a different set of letter scores. Easy — just put the letter scores you want in the DATA statements in lines 340 through 380.

A variation. Assign letter scores as follows.

A = 2	G = 17	M = 41	S = 67	Y = 97
B = 3	H = 19	N = 43	T = 71	Z = 101
C = 5	I = 23	O = 47	U = 73	
D = 7	J = 29	P = 53	V = 79	
E = 11	K = 31	Q = 59	W = 83	
F = 13	L = 37	R = 61	X = 89	

Do you recognize the numbers? They are the first 26 prime numbers. Now, modify the program so the word (WS) is the *product* of the letter scores. For example,

Word Score for CAB =
$$5 \times 2 \times 3 = 30$$

Word Score for DOG = $7X47X17 = 5563$

A number greater than 1 is either a prime number or a composite number. A composite number can always be written as a product of prime numbers. for example,

$$60 = 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 5$$
$$175 = 5 \times 5 \times 7$$

The first ten composite numbers are 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 18. For these, or any larger composite number, can you find a dictionary word (not an abbreviation) whose word score is equal to the composite number? Here are some examples.

NUMBER	WORD	WORD SCORE
6	ab	$2 \times 3 = 6$
12	baa	$3 \times 2 \times 2 = 12$
14	ad	$2 \times 7 = 14$

Carry on! Remember, no abbreviations. Can you find a word for every composite number up to 100? How close can you get to 1000? To 10,000? To 100,000? To 1,000,000?

MUSIC FROM WORDS

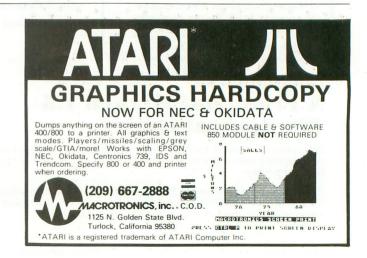
Make music from words or from any string of letters.
We challenge you to write a program to:

- (1) Assign 26 pitch numbers to P(1), P(2), P(3), through P(26). Each pitch number must be a whole number from 0 to 255.
- (2) Ask for a word or phrase. When someone enters a word, phrase, or any string, put it in WORD\$.
- (3) For each letter of WORD\$, play the pitch that corresponds to the letter. For A, play P(1); for B, play P(2); for C, play P(3); and so on for Z, play P(26).
- (4) Ignore spaces. In fact, ignore everything except letters.
- (5) After playing a tone for each letter, go back and ask for another word or phrase. Or, play the same stuff again and again until people yell, "Turn that BLEEP thing off!"

Is your name musical? Is MATHEMATICS melodious? Can you contrive some tuneful talk?

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Window on GTIA

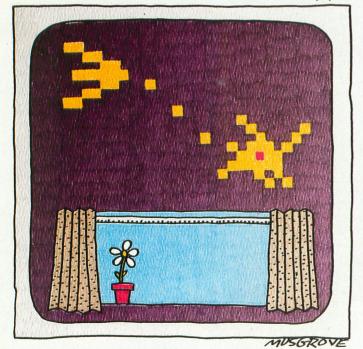
by DAVID SANDERS

Lots of excitement has been generated by the new GTIA chip now being installed in ATARI computers. The older CTIA chip could support only a maximum of five playfield colors at one time, and only in a few modes. The GTIA chip offers three modes which allow up to nine arbitrary colors, 16 shades of one hue, or 15 hues of one luminance plus black.

The real power of the GTIA, however, is that each and every point in the GTIA modes can be set to any of the available colors. They could also be set independently of all other points on the screen.

While it is possible to extend the number of colors on the screen at one time with the CTIA by using Player/Missile graphics, display-list interrupts, or page flipping, all such techniques suffered from serious limitations. Either you could not place colors wherever you wanted, or you experienced unpleasant side-effects such as flicker or wash-out.

It also turned out that ATARI BASIC and the OS have been designed so that they could eventually support these three modes. These modes are set up as Graphics Modes 9, 10, and 11. Each mode uses the same amount of memory as Graphics Mode 8. There is one difference in the support of these modes, though, as compared to Modes 1 through 8. Modes 1 through 8 can be specified either as full-screen modes, by adding 16 to the mode number or as split screen modes with four lines of text at the bottom. Normally, you



may use the three GTIA modes only as full-screen modes.

So, why aren't the GTIA modes supported with text windows? If you examine the hardware setup you will discover that all of Graphics Modes 0 through 8, with or without text windows, are supported by the display list which is processed by the ANTIC chip. ANTIC gets display data from memory, interprets it, and sends out simple point-by-point codes to CTIA/GTIA. The new GTIA modes are handled by the GTIA chip itself. There is no provision to manipulate GTIA modes from ANTIC's display list.

Even with these features it would still be nice to have a text window available just below the GTIA graphics for use by BASIC programs. Here I have described exactly how to do that.

Program Listing 1 is a BASIC demonstration that shows GTIA modes combined with a text window. While the demo is rather attractive by itself, its real purpose is to show how to set up a GTIA mode combined with a four-line text window. It also fools BASIC into thinking this is a "normal" configuration.

First, line 10 POKEs 64 into 54286, which is the location of the "interrupt enable" for both vertical blanking and display lists. This ensures that the display list interrupts are turned off while the setup is being created. Then, Graphics Mode 8 is opened with a four-line text window below it. Note that the display list is the same for all three GTIA modes and for Mode 8, except for the fact that the GTIA modes do not normally support the text window.

Line 20 modifies the display list so that a display-list interrupt is generated at the end of the graphics portion of the display. The display-list byte to be modified is at a fixed point from the start of the display list. Locations 560 and 561 point to the start of the display list.

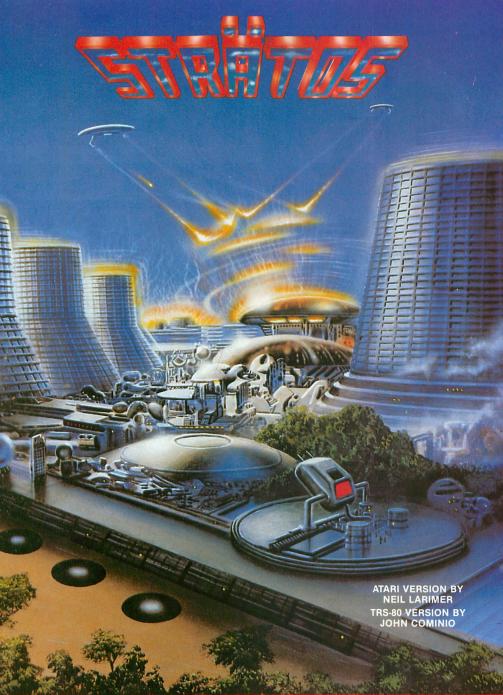
Lines 30–50 set up a short machine language routine at the top of Page Six, then POKE its location into locations 512–513, which is the point for the display-list interrupt. The actual data for the routine is from lines 220–240.

Program Listing 2 shows the Assembly Language code for the machine language routine. This routine does two things when it is executed. It copies the color from the color shadow register for Player/Missile 0 into the background color register (making changes as necessary for attract-mode operation). This is done because of the fact that the GTIA modes assign color-register usage in a completely different manner than normal CTIA usage.

For example, the background color for Mode 10 comes

continued on page 51

FROM THE ARCADES OF TOMORROW...

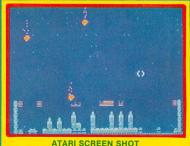


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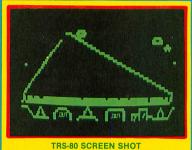
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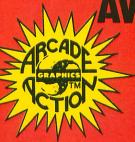


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WINDOW ON GTIA continued from page 48

from Player/Missile 0's color, rather than the normal background color. And, more importantly, the priority register is set to zero, which causes any further display to be shown in normal CTIA mode. Since the OS will set the priority register to the value contained in the shadow location at the top of the display, the result is that the display will be segmented into GTIA and non-GTIA portions.

Use of the display-list interrupt permits the mid-display changes to be synchronized to a fixed part of the display to ensure that there is no annoying jumpiness to the point of change.

Computer buffs who want to try playing around with this routine should remember that codes corresponding to lines 0180–0200 and 0270–0280 in the Assembly Language listing are essential. Novice machine language programmers should probably not bother with this for now.

Line 50 also POKEs 192 into location 54286, enabling the display-list interrupt, then POKEs 9 into location 87 to fool BASIC into believing that Mode 9 had originally been set up. BASIC believes that our text window is still present. This is exactly what we wanted!

Remember that Modes 9, 10 and 11 all look alike to BASIC: 80 pixels (dots) across, 192 down, with 16 color codes to choose from for each pixel. Mode 10 has only 9 colors actually available. Codes 9–15 are duplicates of other colors. The POKE to 87 is necessary, otherwise BASIC will believe that it is still in Mode 8 (which is what we started with) and will not plot points as expected for a GTIA mode. Also, because of the text window, there are actually only 160 pixels in the vertical direction.

Lines 60–80 set up the color by POKEing into the nine shadow registers for the colors. Locations 704–707 are used to shadow the Player/Missile colors which are available in Mode 10, and locations 708–712 shadow the

- 1 REM DEMO PROGRAM TO SHOW GTIA MODES WITH TEXT WINDOWS
- 2 REM THE PROGRAM DRAWS RECTANGLES IN THE 3 GTIA MODES
- 3 REM AND PRINTS MODE/COUNT IN THE TEXT WINDOW
- 4 REM OPTION = ADVANCE TO NEXT GTIA MODE
- 5 REM SELECT = CLEAR SCREEN
- 6 REM START = FREEZE OR RESTART
- 10 POKE 54286,64: GRAPHICS 8
- 20 POKE PEEK (560) +256*PEEK (561) +166,143
- 30 FOR I=1768 TO 1791:READ A: POKE I, A:NEXT I
- 40 POKE 512,232: POKE 513,6
- 50 POKE 54286, 192: POKE 87,9: M=1
- 60 POKE 704,0:POKE 705,26: POKE 706,54:POKE 707,84
- 70 POKE 708, 104: POKE 709, 130: POKE 710, 184: POKE 711, 218
- 80 POKE 712,6+122*(M=1)+6*(M=2):POKE 623,64*M:C=0
- 90 COLOR (8+6*(M<>2))*RND(0)+1
- 100 I = INT(72*RND(0)) + 4:J = INT(72*RND(0)) + 4

usual five playfield color registers.

Line 80 also POKEs location 623 which is essential to enable the GTIA display. If the mode is expressed as a value 9–11, then the value POKEd should equal 64*(Mode 8). The program in Listing 1 expresses the mode as a value 1–3 internally, and converts it for printout by adding 8.

Line 90–120 are the actual demo program. The program draws random rectangles in one of the GTIA modes, then prints out the current mode and a count of rectangles in the text window. The [OPTION] button advances the GTIA mode, [SELECT] clears the screen without changing the mode, and [START] freezes or restarts the rectangle-drawing process.

As you begin to use this program, be aware that some of the following will happen. Whenever you access the disk, the printer or the cassette, display-list interrupts are disabled. This will cause garbage to appear where the text window is normally shown. Don't panic — the text window is okay. All that's happening is that it's now also being shown using a GTIA mode. You must re-enable the interrupt yourself. POKE 192 into location 54286 to do this. Alternately, set up a normal graphics mode before doing your input/output, then execute the following to restore your special GTIA mode.

GR.8:POKE PEEK(560) + 265*PEEK(561) + 166,143 POKE 54286,192:POKE 623,64*(mode-8)

Note: mode = 9-11.

Also, re-POKE your color register values.

PRINT#6;CHR\$(125) will clear your GTIA display window, as you would expect. It will also blank out your text window. The position of the text window cursor will be left unchanged by this operation.

This program requires a bit of work but I think that you will find the window to be worth the extra trouble.

- 110 A=INT(144*RND(0))+8:B=INT(144*RND (0))+8
- 120 PLOT I, A+1: DRAWTO J, A+1:
 - DRAWTO J,B+1:DRAWTO I,B+1
- 130 PLOT J,B:DRAWTO I,B: DRAWTO I,A:DRAWTO J,A
- 140 C=C+1:POKE 752,1:PRINT " MODE="; M+8;" #"; C
- 150 A=PEEK(53279): IF A=7 THEN 90
- 160 POKE 77,0:IF A<4 THEN GOSUB 210:M= M+1-3*(M=3):GOTO 80
- 170 IF A<6 THEN GOSUB 210:C=0:GOTO 90
- 180 PRINT " **** FREEZE ****": FOR I=1 TO 200:NEXT I
- 190 IF PEEK (53279) <> 6 THEN 190
- 200 POKE 77,0:FOR I=1 TO 50: NEXT I:GOTO 90
- 210 PRINT #6; CHR\$(125): FOR I=1 TO 200: NEXT I: RETURN
- 220 DATA 72, 141, 15, 212, 141, 10, 212
- 230 DATA 173, 192, 2, 69, 79, 37, 78, 141, 26, 208
- 240 DATA 169,0,141,27,208,104,64

ATARIADIR

he ability to redefine ATARI's character set provides many exciting possibilities. Redefined characters can be used to create special symbols such as those used in mathematical calculations or chemical formulas. This same principle can be applied to create anything from a map to a monster. For example, character graphics are used to create the monsters in ATARI's Space Invaders, to create the terrain in APX's Eastern Front, and to create the puzzle parts in ARTWORX's Nominoes Jigsaw.

In standard printing practices, character sets are available on a *font*, which contains a complete assortment of any one size and style of type. For microcomputers there are various utility software products available that make character creation relatively easy. What is not so easy is to remember how each character has been redefined. ATARI Printfont can help you find these different characters in your font files.

Let's assume you've just created a font file where various characters will be combined to create four different space vehicles. You have redefined many of the lowercase letters and standard graphics characters. Now you want to define strings of the characters that form each ship. The problem is that you don't remember which characters create which ship.

The following program can provide a printed listing for quick and easy reference. The font file reads from Disk Drive One to list all 128 characters. You must have 24K RAM, a disk drive and an 80-column printer.

The program listing is well-documented with REM statements. It is written in ATARI BASIC with one

assembler subroutine. Stored in the string FL\$, the assembler routine is used to transfer the disk font file into RAM. This could have been done with a FOR/NEXT loop and the GET command, but it would take at least ten seconds. The assembler routine works in less than two seconds.

ince this program listing will appear in a magazine, a routine was added to read the DATA from lines 500 and 510 to create the FL\$ string. Once this has been done, you can eliminate this routine and permanently store the routine as a string in the program. To do this, add a STOP com-

10 GOSUB 390: REM PRINTFNT 102082 (c) 1982 by Jerry White 20 REM READ MACHINE LANGUAGE FONT LOADER INTO FL\$ 30 DIM FL\$(32):FOR ME=1 TO 32: READ IT: FL\$ (ME, ME) = CHR\$ (IT): NEXT ME:? :? " R E A D I N G "; FONT\$ 40 ME=USR(ADR(FL\$)):CLOSE #3:POKE 710,0:POKE 756,48 50 REM DISPLAY FONT NAME & LOCATE SCREEN MEMORY 60 ? CHR\$(125): POSITION 19-LEN (FONT\$)/2,2:? FONT\$:SM=PEEK (88) +256*PEEK (89):SCREEN=SM+160 70 REM POKE CHARACTER SET ONTO THE SCREEN 80 FOR ME=0 TO 255: POKE SCREEN+ME*2, ME: NEXT ME 90 POSITION 8, 19:? "PRINTING CHARACTER S E T ":FONT=12288:CNUM=0:OFFSET=FONT+512:GOSUB 160 100 REM FONT BEGINS ON PAGE 48 $(48 \times 256 = 12288)$ 110 REM PRINT ON FOUR PAGES WITH 32 CHARACTERS ON 120 OFFSET=FONT:GOSUB 160:OFFSET=FONT+256: GOSUB 160:OFFSET=FONT+768:GOSUB 160 130 REM ALL DONE SO TELL HUMAN WHO HAS CONTROL 140 POKE 82,2:CLOSE #2:GRAPHICS 0:? :? "BASIC": ? "IS";:POKE 752,0:END 150 REM PRINT HEADING & ONE 8 BY 4 PAGE OF THE CHARACTER SET 160 ? #2; DISK\$:? #2 170 REM PRINT ASCII CHARACTER NUMBERS

180 FOR ME=1 TO 4:? #2:? #2:FOR AC=0 TO 7:? #2;"ASC ";

CNUM+AC,:NEXT AC:CNUM=CNUM+8:? #2:? #2

by JERRY WHITE

228,96

mand as line 35. When you RUN the program and it stops at line 35, type PRINT FL\$ [RETURN]. Move the cursor over the first character of the string which should be a small letter "h". While pressing [CTRL], press [INSERT] eight times. In the space we just created in front of the string, type "35 FL\$ = " then press [RETURN].

Don't worry about the end quotes for the string because BASIC will do that for you. Now delete the FOR/NEXT loop from line 30, leaving only the DIM and PRINT statements. You may also delete lines 500 and 510 since you won't be needing the DATA anymore, and don't forget to resave the program.

This assembler routine is set up to put the character set on Page 48 in memory, or beginning at RAM location 12288. If you'd like to use this routine to store a character set someplace else in another program, just change the fifteenth byte in the string as needed. You may find it worthwhile to keep the DATA statements, and change the last number in line 500 (48), to the desired page number in memory.

The rest of the program and its operation are relatively straightforward. Just remember that when you enter your font filename, you will be using Disk Drive One.

TYPO TABLE

Variable	e checksun	n = 3408	67
		Code	Length
	m range		
10	- 90	CZ	567
100	-180	VN	538
190	-290	XW	521
300	-410	ON	569
420	-500	HO	501
510	-510	OF	57

```
190 REM PUT 80 BLANKS IN CA
200 FOR J1=1 TO 8:CAR$='
   CAR$(80)=" ":
   CAR$(2)=CAR$
210 REM PEEK AT CHARACTER
220 FOR J2=1 TO 80 STEP 10:IT=PEEK(OFFSET)
230 REM I F B I T T H E N
   REPRESENT AS
240 IF IT>127 THEN CAR$(J2,J2) ="*":IT=IT-128
250 IF IT>63 THEN CAR$(J2+1,J2+1) =" *":IT=IT-64
260 IF IT>31 THEN CAR$(J2+2,J2+2) = "*":IT=IT-32
270 IF IT>15 THEN CAR$(J2+3,J2+3) = "*":IT=IT-16
280 IF IT>7 THEN CAR$(J2+4, J2+4)="*":IT=IT-8
290 IF IT>3 THEN CAR$(J2+5,J2+5) ="*":IT=IT-4
300 IF IT>1 THEN CAR$(J2+6,J2+6) = "*":IT=IT-2
310 IF IT=1 THEN CAR(J2+7,J2+7)="*"
320 OFFSET=OFFSET+8:NEXT J2
330 REM ONE LINE OF
   PRINT NOW READY
340 OFFSET=OFFSET-63:? #2;CAR$:NEXT J1
350 OFFSET=OFFSET+56:? #2:NEXT ME
                TONEXT
360 REM S P A C E
370 FOR ME=1 TO 12:? #2:NEXT ME:RETURN
380 REM SETUP STRINGS AND SCRE
390 DIM FONT$ (12), DISK$ (14), CAR$ (80): GRAPHICS
   0:POKE 710, 162:POKE 82,5:POKE 83,38
400 REM PROGRAM ASSUMES ITS
   INPUT WILL BE ON DRIVE 1
410 ? :? :? "DISK FONT TO PRINTER UTILITY":
   ? :? "ENTER FONT NAME";:INPUT FONT$:
   DISK$="D:":DISK$(3)=FONT$
420 REM OPE'N DEVICE
   2 AS THE PRINTER AND SET
   TRAP FOR NOT READY
430 POKE 201, 10:TRAP 460:CLOSE #2:OPEN #2,8,0,"P:"
440 REM OPEN DEVICE 3
   AS DISKINPUT AND SET A
   FOR FILE NOT FOUND
450 TRAP 410:CLOSE #3:OPEN #3,4,0,DISK$:POKE 752,
   1:? :? "SETTING UP FONTLOADER IN FL$": RETURN
460 ? : ? "MAKE PRINTER READY":?
   "THEN PRESS S T A R T
470 IF PEEK (53279) <> 6 THEN 470
480 GOTO 430
490 REM DATA MACHINE
   LANGUAGE ROUTINE FL$
500 DATA 104, 162, 48, 169, 7, 157, 66, 3, 169, 0, 157, 68, 3, 169, 48
510 DATA 157,69,3,169,0,157,72,3,169,4,157,73,3,32,86,
```



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Select file sub-menu

Set automatic function lower limit (OS) Modify Sector Map New destination sector

Toggle originate drive
Print screen to printer
Query (search for hex key, drive OD, sector OS to DS) Q

Read new OS, set DS to match Search for ASCII key, drive OD, sector OS to DS

Tape to disk

Tape to disk
Upper case conversion of printer lower case
Toggle write verify
Write memory buffer to sector DS, drive DD
Select EOR Sector Map screen print mask
Zero memory buffer

Read upward, next sector on disk

Head upward, next sector on disk
Read downward
Directory information
Select directory sub-menu
Byte compare, D1 to D2, whole disk
Copy D1 to D2, whole disk
Decimal to hex, ASCII conversion

Erase disk (without new format)
Modify sector forward sector chain reference
Hex to decimal, ASCII conversion

Locate bad sector on drive OD Modify sector file number reference Select one-drive functions sub-program

Print current Disk Map

RPM test drive OD Special file copy, no directory reference from

cV VTOC update and repair, drive OD

Toggle Sure Response prompt enable File binary load address headers to printer

cY FA FD FF Delete file

Select filename for all file functions

Show memory address load position in file

Relative Query Rename file Relative Search

FOR THE ATARI

White

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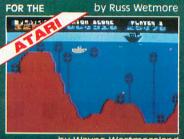
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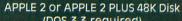
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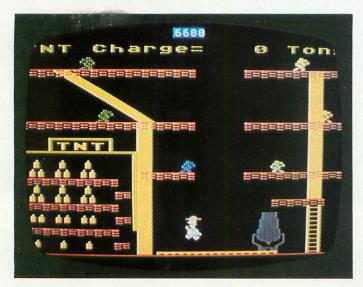
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ANTIC PIXTEN

by DEBORAH BURNS

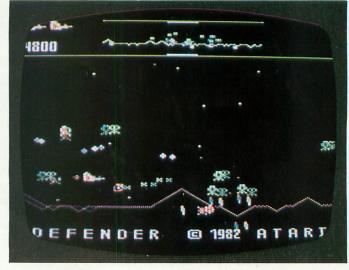
Over the past year, ANTIC has seen or heard about nearly all the game software commercially available for the ATARI computers. Some games have been reviewed by our writers and others have been mentioned in our New Products department — but we haven't covered them all by any means. We aim to give more attention to games in upcoming issues — particularly the way they look and play.

Color pictures of the playfields will frequently accompany our reviews. As a start, we have conducted an informal survey of our dealers, distributors and friends to come up with this list of ANTIC PIX. We have chosen ten games that we found to be among the most popular, interesting and valuable programs yet written for your amusement.



MINER 2049er, Big Five Software. "Bounty Bob", a typical gold-rush prospector, climbs the treacherous mine shaft in pursuit of precious treasures, but also finds obstacles from the 21st century. These futuristic difficulties include deadly mutant organisms and radioactive waste. Ten different zones appear in which the challenges of the mine shaft increase. In each zone you must avoid contact with the roaming mutants unless you neutralize them first. As you climb and jump to the next zone, you score points by gathering tools and zapping mutants while dodging laser beams and the pulverizers. This cartridge-based game has several speed levels which require strategy changes as well as quick reflexes.

DEFENDER, Atari, Inc. In this home-computer version of the coin-operated arcade game, the airship must defend the humanoids from dreaded mutants. Your object is to land and retrieve the humanoids and transport them to safe ground. You will be harrassed by the Landers, Baiters, Swarmers, Bombers and the Pods. The Landers kidnap your humanoids and change them into mutants who join the forces against you from all sides. The other enemies lay mines to trap you, surround you and fire at you at every turn. Your players has three lives to save by dropping Smart Bombs and firing laser shots, but it takes a quick wrist to master this game. The game provides a radar map that monitors your position and helps you plan your best strategy.



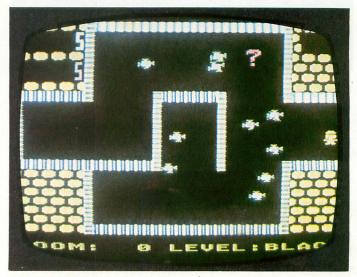


GORF, Rocklan Corporation. The object in this game is to repel the evil Gorfian robot invasion and launch a counterattack. You may use the protective forcefield arc and the quark-laser weapon to aid your defense. In the various scenarios you must avoid fire from two antiparticle laser beams and the kamikaze Gorfian ships that attack you while emerging from a space vortex. If the Gorfian flagship is destroyed, you get a new ship and the game returns to the first scenario, except that it's moving at a faster pace. This is a translation of a popular arcade game, and is similar to Galaxian and Space Invaders.

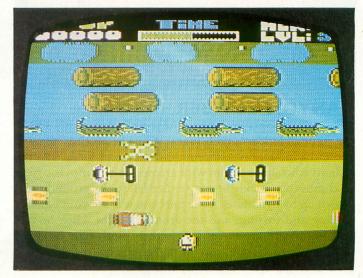


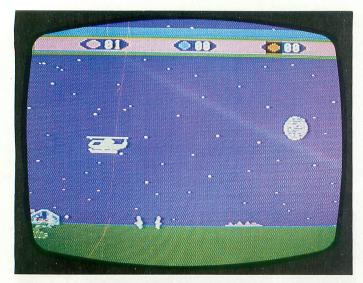
EASTERN FRONT, Atari Program Exchange. This classic war game is played out on a scrolling map of Europe during World War II. As the player, you control the German forces pitted against the Russians. Play is turn-sequenced, meaning you have plenty of time to consider your move, but you'll need it — because the Russians are played by the computer — and in real life the Germans lost. As the game progresses time passes. Rain falls and mires your tanks. Snow falls to freeze your troops. Supplies run low and morale cracks. The realism of this campaign has never been matched (to hear war-gamers tell it) and you will certainly earn your stars if you can win this one.

SHAMUS, Synapse Software. This game is a meld of action and adventure. Shamus, the player-detective, must fight his way through four levels of labyrinth where various baddies block his path. Enroute he gathers the keys to secret rooms and passages on different-colored levels. Things are easy on the first level, where slow-moving drones fire at Shamus, but you dare not dawdle. You must make a map (mentally at least) to quickly find the keyholes for the corresponding keys Shamus collects. If he loses all his lives, he loses his keys and you'll never solve the case. The Shadow, his arch-enemy, passes through walls and will try to stop him at every turn.

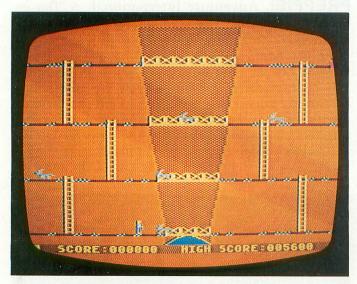


PREPPIE!, Adventure International. A "Day on the Nasty Nine with Wadsworth Overcash" is the setting for this game where Ivy Leaguers pursue their sport. Most of the time, however, the player is chasing golf balls that are knocked into the wilds by the malicious Groundskeeper. You must maneuver Preppie through the ever-shifting hazards to retrieve these balls. Contact with many other objects such as lawnmowers, bulldozers, golf carts, alligators, canoes, and a giant frog also prove fatal to the unfortunate caddie. Preppie! is a lot like Frogger (Sierra-Venture) which is currently at the top of the software charts.



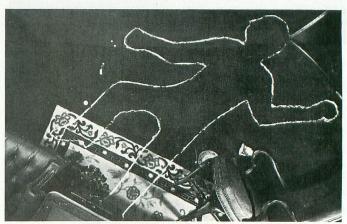


CHOPLIFTER!, Broderbund Software. This fast-action game realistically simulates a night rescue mission by helicopter, perhaps during recent history. The setting is an American prison camp in a Middle Eastern desert where the aircraft arrives to save the hostages. Your joystick controls the movement of the chopper and you must be careful not to crush the prisoners. Watch out for the enemy tank that approaches as the hostages board the "choplifter". When you've finally taken off and begun to feel safe, fighter jets are likely to attack. You may shoot bullets (not missiles) in defense, but score points by succeeding with your rescue attempt.

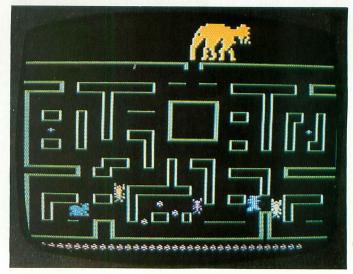


CANYON CLIMBER, DataSoft. The "Canyon Climber" attempts to climb to the top of a constantly scrolling scene of ladders and bridges. While he ascends he must avoid the mountain goats running back and forth, and the Indians who shoot at him with arrows. If he jumps too high or climbs too quickly he may either fall to the ground or be blown up by dynamite. As he falls you will see your climber kicking and fussing, and the ground shakes when he hits bottom. There are three main screens with four levels of difficulty in each zone, and the higher you go, the tougher it gets. Young players will enjoy this game.

DEADLINE, Infocom. As the only text adventure in our group, Deadline represents many computer games, some among the earliest, and some surely among the most popular of all computer games. For example, the Scott Adams series (Adventure International), the ZORK series (Infocom), and Empire of the Overmind (Avalon Hill) deserve mention. Deadline takes this genre further, presenting the player with a murder, and a packet of clues including a photo of the scene of the crime. The challenge is to use the clues to identify the murderer, who is among the cast of characters you may question with the computer. Text games can be real mind benders, and probably presage an era of computer interaction where the user really plays a role.



K-RAZY ANTIKS, CBS Software. How could we not like a game called ANTIKS? In this cartridge-based maze game, your object is to keep the white ants safe from hostile enemy ants and the dreaded Anteater. The enemy ants attempt to invade the Anthill, and when you least expect it the Anteater pokes his muzzle into your abode and sucks you up. The best way to ensure your survival is to deposit white eggs within the maze's passages and lure enemy Ants into the path of the Anteater. You may also save the Anthill by allowing the deadly flood of waters to flush the enemy out. The maze changes size and shape with each succeeding level and the action becomes faster and more complicated.



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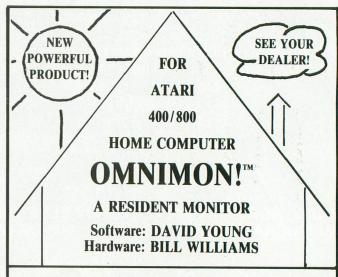
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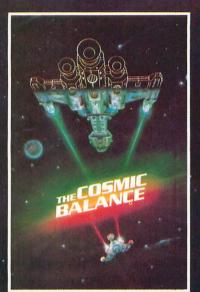
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AUTO PILOT

by KEN HARMS

In our grand tradition, we again present you avid Pilots with something from the wide blue yonder — a previously unreported program to make your flights of fancy easier. Our Auto Pilot is a self-loading menu program that you can put on every Pilot disk. It is so easy to use, even young children can do it — in fact, that's why I designed it and they like the animated face that tells them what to do. Nevertheless, the menu is sophisticated and makes use of previously unpublished aspects of Pilot that allow it to call other programs from itself.

With Auto Pilot on your disk, powering up the ATARI automatically loads a short program which draws a face and animates its mouth to form the words "Please wait half a minute." That program loads another program which displays the menu (the first 20 files on the disk, each with a "program number") and animates the mouth to ask "Please type number for the program you wish to run." When the number, followed by a [RETURN], is entered, the chosen program is automatically loaded and run. When the operator wishes to change programs, [SYSTEM RESET] restarts the menu programs.

The system requires no changes to your existing Pilot programs. If the three files we will create are on the disk, they will run any Pilot programs automatically. After you've built the three files, using this article, a process which should take only an hour or two, you merely copy them using DOS option O to any disks you wish, which takes only a few minutes.

Every Pilot Your Atari tries to present a tutorial in the form of useful programs. This article demonstrates the Pilot variable table and the use of one program to LOAD and RUN another. Tape users could find these concepts useful but won't be able to use the system. (Although it isn't possible to make an efficient tape-based menu system, the *Pilot Primer* presents one which you may try.)

Start with an empty, formatted disk. The first program is PUTTER. Power up under BASIC and enter PUTTER. SAVE the program under the name PUTTER and RUN it to produce an AUTORUN.SYS file on the new disk. If the number check doesn't check, examine your typing and redo. Finally, test the AUTORUN.SYS program by powering off and on. You should hear DOS booting and then see

several valid Pilot commands displayed with error messages. That's okay since you have the BASIC cartridge loaded and it won't recognize Pilot commands.

So far, we've typed in a program called PUTTER which runs under BASIC to produce a "binary file" under the name AUTORUN.SYS. A binary file is a string of numbers which the ATARI will read as an Assembly Language program. Since the program is in the name AUTORUN.SYS, it will be read and executed each time the computer is powered up (see DOS manual for more information). Part of this Assembly Language program fools the ATARI into accepting data from the disk as if they came from the keyboard, and attempting to execute them under direction from the cartridge. This program includes five Pilot commands. You saw them when you tested it under BASIC. First, a one is C:omputed into position 580. That tells the ATARI to reboot DOS whenever the RESET button is pushed. Next, the screen colors are changed to turn the borders red and the letters to blue so that the "Ready" prompt won't display while the menu programs are being loaded. Last, two instructions load a program called MENU.SYS and run it.

The AUTORUN.SYS program will load any Pilot program which has been saved in a file called MENU.SYS. You can SAVE your favorite program under that name and it will load and execute whenever the ATARI is booted or RESET is pushed. Be sure to add a GR:QUIT or other GR:aphic call to the front of your program to reset the screen colors.

On to the next task. Pull out the BASIC cartridge and insert PILOT. When you turn power back on you'll get an error 170 since the computer was looking for a file called MENU.SYS and, naturally, didn't find it. Type in the MENU.SYS program. When you get to the *FACE and later modules, you'll see some T:ype lines with graphics characters exactly as they appear in the listing, so that the face will appear on the screen as it will appear when the program runs. Now SAVE the program in a file called MENU.SYS. RUN the program to see if it draws a face and moves the mouth. If everything works right it'll fail with an error 170 since it looks for a file called DIRECT.SYS which

continued on page 65



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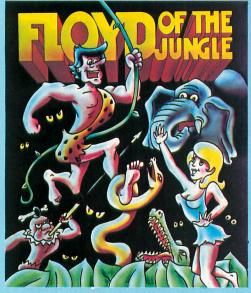
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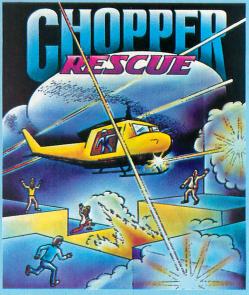
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AUTO PILOT continued from page 62

you haven't typed yet.

MENU.SYS includes some interesting commands. Lines 60 and 70 are "C:ompute at byte" instructions. The number following the "B" is an "address" of a character (or "byte") of memory. The ATARI uses values in certain addresses to control features of the system. The address 752 turns the cursor off (1) or on (0). Location 709 controls the color of text characters. These commands are used later (see lines 2120 & 2130) to control the cursor position.

The next interesting command is the LOAD D:DIRECT. SYS at line 200. When you give a LOAD command from the keyboard, it loads the new program over the old. You then have to type RUN. When a program issues a LOAD command, however, Pilot first NEWs memory, then LOADs the program and proceeds to RUN it. Neat! (At this time, there appears to be no way to overlay programs — aarrgh!)

'Nuff said about MENU.SYS. Except that you should also issue a SAVE D:FACE,1480,2210 command to save the routines which you'd have to type later when you enter DIRECT.SYS.

Onward! We're ready to enter DIRECT.SYS. Type it in (remembering to enter the control characters in line 280) up to line 1480. LOAD the FACE file to get lines 1480 through 2210 into DIRECT.SYS. Last, type lines 2220 through 2410 (remember control characters in line 2360). SAVE everything in a file called DIRECT.SYS. You can RUN this program to test it and see an animated mouth without a face (the face will be drawn by MENU.SYS). You should see a directory list down the right side of the screen.

Before we get into the details of DIRECT.SYS, let me explain a few design considerations. The whole system is designed to fit the non-typing, limited-reading user. Accordingly, I chose to turn on the red borders to keep interest up. The face is drawn in one program and the list in a second so that the first program will be very short and will load quickly. (If you want a single program, LOAD MENU.SYS then DIRECT.SYS. I numbered the two so that DIRECT.SYS will overlay and erase the unneeded commands in MENU.SYS. Although this will save a few seconds as you transfer files to a new disk, you'll wait a looong time before you see the list.) The list will include the first 20 files which don't end in the letters "SYS_". I skip those files since one almost never RUNs them. This keeps unneeded information off the screen.

I chose to present the 20 files and a face rather than more files to make things easy and friendly. The face is a warm welcome to our friends who may still be a little intimidated by the computer. And if you try, you can almost always get the really important files into the first 20. Yes, one could scroll the screen to see more. It's a feature which would be nice for more experienced users but which may not be so easy for the new guys. If you add one, let me know. Last, the dot between a file name and its extender is omitted so

that you can use all 11 letters to make more useful program titles.

Frankly, friends, Pilot is not a good language for menu systems. There is no way to directly manipulate individual characters in a string without adding unwanted spaces, spaces which cannot be included in file names. The 65 lines of code starting at line 800 can be done in about 10 lines in BASIC. (After saying this, some 10-year-old whiz will find a 3-line method next week!)

DIRECT.SYS starts off in *INITIALIZATION by specifying that the variable \$FILENAME is filled with 15 characters. This variable must be defined before all others so that it is the first variable in the list of variables kept by Pilot. In essence, Pilot stores all variables in special memory locations beginning at an address which is stored in the "word" located at 178. To Pilot, a word is two adjacent memory cells. It interprets these by multiplying the second value by 256 and then adding the first number. This allows the ATARI to talk to up to 64,000 memory locations. Line 2270 sets the variable #P (pointer) equal to the start of string space.

Each string is stored in the following format:

First 2 bytes	Length of the variable
Next 1 byte	Length of the variable name
Next x bytes	The variable name itself
Next 1 byte	Length of the data
Next y bytes	The data itself

After C:omputing \$FILENAME in line 2240, we should find that the address pointed to by word 178 has a value of 27 (the length of the entire item) made up as follows:

ADDR	ESS ABOVE 178	VALUE
0 -	Length of item	27
1 -	Length of item	00
2 -	Length of name	08
2-10	Name	FILENAME
11-	Length of data	15
12-27	Data	DUMMYSPACESTO15

We're going to manipulate the value of the "length of data" byte to fool Pilot into believing that there are only 13 spaces in the variable. This will cut off the "sectors used" data for each file so that the list is a bit neater. Line 2280, then, adds nine to #P to move that value to the length of data pointer. (I know that the table above says to move 11 bytes to #P. The nine works — perhaps the first variable in the table is pointed to somewhat differently?) Its work done, *INITIALIZATION returns to the main program.

Line 270 sets Auxiliary 1 byte to the value of two meaning "open the disk to read the file directory" (Auxiliary 1 is the equivalent to "aexp1" in the OPEN command described in the DOS Reference Manual). We then begin reading file names. The READ command will send a formatted file name with eight characters (or blanks), three characters (or blanks) for the extender, and three numbers for the number of sectors, into the variable \$FILENAME. By A:ccepting

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\$FILENAME, we can search for "FREE SECTORS", always the last entry in the directory, and for "SYS_" (lines 360 & 380). We J:ump to *FINI or to the loop, as appropriate, to skip the "SYS" items. This means that you can't end a file name in "SYS" (such as MYSYS.ONE) and still get it to show on the menu.

After we've found a good filename, line 420 does the magic. By C:omputing the data length byte to equal 13, we cut off the number-of-sectors data in positions 14, 15 and 16 and leave a formatted variable ready for T:yping in line 430 or 440. The extra blank between "#F" and "=" in line 430 compensates for the extra digit in file numbers greater than nine. Be sure to enter the control V before the #F and the control B after \$FILENAME; they'll make a nice box around your list.

After getting your file number, DIRECT.SYS proceeds to read all the files again, skipping SYS files, to count to the number you requested. And the fun begins in *RUNNER at line 920. Basically, our problem is to insert a dot (period) between the file name and its extender, add the "D:" drive designation and then remove all blanks. This is a bear! First, we C:ompute the ASCII values for "D:" into the first two memory locations for the filename (see the BASIC Reference Manual, Appendix C).

Next, we make a space for the dot by moving the last character in the extender (position 13) to position 14, then position 12 to 13, and 11 to 12 (see *EXPANDLOOP). A simple C:ompute at position 11 (line 1170) inserts the dot.

The Atari Operating System requires that a valid file name contain no embedded blanks. Unless a file name is eight characters long, the file name read from disk will contain blanks. Your job, *DELETELOOP, should you care to accept it, is to locate the first blank space in the filename. Starting at line 1240, we inspect the values contained in the memory locations for the file name to see if any contain a blank (ASCII 32). If none do, the program J:umps to *LOADER. If a blank is found, the position is remembered and we move to the *MOVELEFTLOOP. This routine moves the value in position 11 (the dot from line 1170) into the blank space. It then moves the first extender value down, and loops until the entire extender is moved.

After all the moving is done, the program goes to *RUNNER which does only two things. The GR:aphic QUIT clears the screen and restores the borders to their usual color. LOAD loads the program you chose and runs it. Thereafter, any press of RESET will reload the menu programs and let you choose a new program by typing a simple number.

Looking through the string variable table can be a powerful (if complex) tool. One final point: strings are stored in ascending order by occurrence in the program. This means that the first string will have the lowest memory locations and will be pushed downward by later strings.

I hope you'll find the AUTO PILOT helpful and fun. My four-year-old calls the face "Bugs" — she likes her.

listing on page 118



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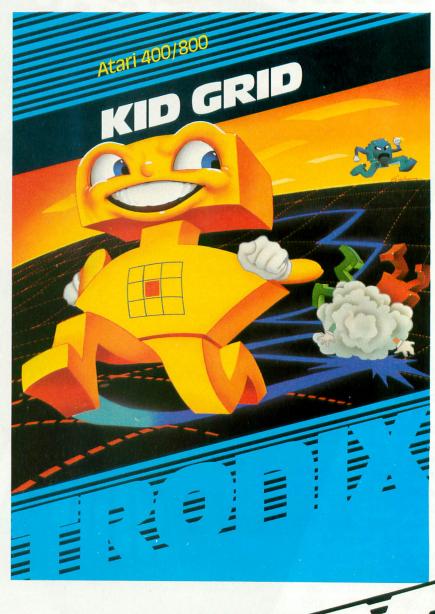
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by DAVID BOHLKE

This game will place you in a gigantic random maze from which there is only one route of escape. In this three-dimensional simulation you'll only be able to see the high walls and the corridors fading in the distance. You must try to escape from the maze in the shortest possible time.

At the start of each game, you'll be asked to push the [SELECT] key to adjust the size of the maze. This level of difficulty can vary from a fairly simple 11 by 11 grid maze to an almost impossible 35 by 35 maze. When you press the START key, your random maze will be constructed on the screen; and you will then be placed inside of it.

To move through the maze, you will need to have a joystick plugged into Slot #1. Push the stick left / right to make a 90 degree turn left / right. Pushing the stick forward (up) will cause your man to move one intersection in the direction you are facing. After you move several steps, turn around 180 degrees and you'll see little 'tracks' in the intersection you just passed. These little markers will let you know where you have been.

The timer counting on the lower left of the screen will let you know how long you have been in the maze. The timer also increases by five each time you take a step. If you feel completely lost, you can press the fire button to see a top-down map of the maze. This will include a red path to signify where you have been; and a flashing marker to show your current location. Seeing this map does carry a penalty, though, as the timer will run about ten times its normal speed. Press the fire button a second time to return to the maze.

Several players can compete in turn as individuals or as teams to see who can escape from the maze in the shortest time.

RAM REQUIREMENTS

```
3-D MAZE 16K
```

10 REM 3-D MAZE ESCAPE (rev 12,22,82)

50 GRAPHICS 18:SETCOLOR

4,0,8:SETCOLOR 2,7,10

51 SETCOLOR 4,0,8:SETCOLOR 2,7,10

52 POSITION 1, 10: PRINT #6; "by

DAVEBOHLKE

:MD=11

55 POSITION 3, 1: PRINT #6;

"3-d maze escape"

60 POSITION 1,3:PRINT #6;

SELECT MAZE WIDTH,"

65 POSITION 1,5:PRINT #6;

"THEN PRESS S T A R T 70 IF PEEK (53279) = 6 THEN 100

75 IF PEEK (53279) = 5 THEN

MD=MD+4:IF MD>35 THEN MD=11

85 POSITION 10,8:PRINT #6;

width "; MD

90 FOR I=1 TO 30:SOUND

0, RND(0) * 100,

10,2:NEXT I:GOTO 70

100 GRAPHICS 5: POKE 752, 1

102 SETCOLOR 2, 13, 4: SETCOLOR 4, 13, 4

110 XM = INT((38 - MD)/2) + 2:YM = INT

((38-MD)/2)

120 COLOR 2: PLOT XM, YM: DRAWTO

XM+MD-1, YM:DRAWTO XM+MD-1,

YM+MD-1:DRAWTO XM,YM+MD-1:

DRAWTO XM, YM

150 PRINT

160 PRINT : PRINT

"Intersection"," Reset"

200 DIM M(200), N(200)

210 K=0:M=INT(RND(0)*MD/3)*2+XM+2

215 N=INT(RND(0)*MD/3)*2+YM+2

220 PLOT M, N

240 LOCATE M+2, N, X: IF X=0 THEN 250

242 LOCATE M-2, N, X: IF X=0 THEN 250

244 LOCATE M, N+2, X: IF X=0 THEN 250

246 LOCATE M, N-2, X: IF X=0 THEN 250

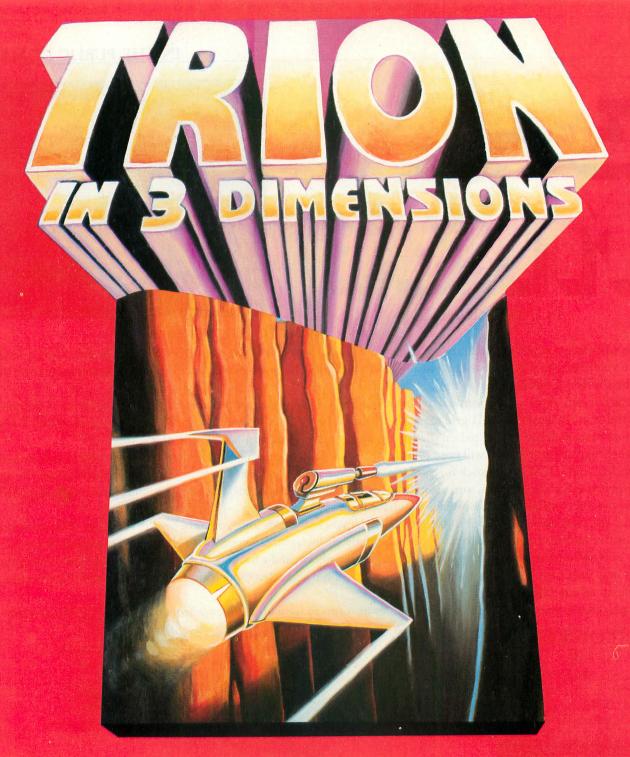
248 GOTO 370

250 D=INT(RND(0)*4)+251:GOTO D

251 M1=-1:N1=0:GOTO 300

252 M1=0:N1=1:GOTO 300

continued on page 71



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*COMPUTER DEALER MAGAZINE, January, 1983 *Atāri 400/800 and IBM are registered trademarks of Atari Inc. and IBM c 1983 by London Software 3-D MAZE continued from page 69 253 M1=1:N1=0:GOTO 300 254 M1=0:N1=-1 300 LOCATE M+M1*2, N+N1*2, X: IF X>0 THEN 250 310 PLOT M+M1, N+N1:PLOT M+M1*2, N+N1*2 320 SOUND 0, M+N, 10,4 330 M=M+M1*2:N=N+N1*2:K = K + 1 : M(K) = M: N(K) = N: POKE 656, 2: POKE 657, 16: PRINT K; " ";:GOTO 240 370 M = M(K): N = N(K):K=K-1:POKE 656,2: POKE 657,35: PRINT K;" "; 380 IF K=0 THEN 400 390 GOTO 240 400 COLOR 3:PLOT XM+1, YM+1: DRAWTO XM+MD-2, YM+1: DRAWTO XM +MD-2,YM+MD-2402 COLOR 3:PLOT XM+1,YM+1: DRAWTO XM+MD-2, YM+1: DRAWTO XM +MD-2,YM+MD-2403 DRAWTO XM+1, YM+MD-2: DRAWTO XM +1,YM+1405 POKE 656,3:POKE 657,10:PRINT "Filling Array . . . "; 410 POKE 96, MD: POKE 97, XM: POKE 98, YM 412 CLR :DIM A\$(1600):A\$=" " 413 DIM N\$(1),F\$(1),W\$(1),E\$ (1),L\$(1),R\$(1),U(8),D(8),R(8),L(8),P\$(5)414 N\$=CHR\$(0):F\$=CHR\$(1):W\$=CHR\$(2): E\$=CHR\$(3) 415 SOUND 0,0,0,0:GOSUB 2000 420 MD=PEEK(96):XM=PEEK(97):YM= PEEK (98) 430 FOR X=XM-1 TO XM+MD:FOR Y= YM-1 TO YM+MD 432 LOCATE X,Y,C:A(Y*40+X,Y*40+X) =CHR\$(C):COLOR C+6:PLOT X+40,Y 434 NEXT Y:SOUND 0, X*5, 10, 2: NEXT X 446 PT=PT+50 460 X = INT(RND(0) * (MD-7)) + XM+3462 Y = INT(RND(0) * (MD-7)) + YM + 3464 IF A\$(Y*40+X,Y*40+X)=W\$ THEN 460 470 D=-40:R=1:L=-1:GOSUB 800 480 A = Y * 40 + X : A\$ (A, A) = F\$490 PT=0:POKE 752,1:POKE 77,0 500 S=STICK(0) 504 IF S=11 THEN GOSUB 950:GOTO 515 506 IF S=7 THEN GOSUB 970:GOTO 515 510 IF S=14 THEN 530 512 GOTO 517 515 GOSUB 800:PT=PT+1 517 SOUND 0, RND(0) *200, 10, 2: POKE 77, 0 518 PT = PT + 0.1520 IF STRIG(\emptyset) = 1 THEN 550 522 GOSUB 700:GOSUB 800:GOTO 500

```
530 A=Y*40+X:A=A+D:IF A$(A,A)=W$
   THEN 500
535 IF A$(A,A) = E$ THEN GOTO 650
540 Y=INT(A/40):X=A-40*Y:GOSUB 800
545 A=Y*40+X:A$(A,A)=F$
546 PT=PT+5
550 GOSUB 20000
590 GOTO 500
650 POKE 656,0:POKE 657,1:PRINT "
    You have ESCAPED !!! "
651 POKE 656,2:POKE 657,22:
   PRINT "Press FIRE";
652 POKE 656,3:POKE 657,25:
   PRINT "to continue ?";
653 IF STRIG(\emptyset) = 1 THEN SOUND \emptyset, RND(\emptyset)
    *200,10,2:GOTO 653
654 RUN
700 GRAPHICS 5:SETCOLOR 4,0,8:POKE 752,
   1:PT=INT(PT)
702 SETCOLOR 2,0,8:POKE 752,1
705 PT = PT + 10 * MD
720 COLOR 1: PLOT X, Y
730 FOR M=XM+1 TO XM+MD-2:FOR N=
   YM+1 TO YM+MD-2
732 C = ASC(A\$(M+N*40,M+N*40))
734 COLOR C:PLOT M,N
736 NEXT N:SOUND 0, M*5, 10, 2:NEXT M
780 PRINT : PRINT
" Press FIRE to return . . . ";
782 PT=PT+1: POKE 656,0: POKE 657,23:
   PRINT " SCORE "; PT;
784 SOUND 0, RND(0) *200, 10, 2
786 IF STRIG(0)=0 THEN RETURN
790 IF PT/10<>INT(PT/10) THEN 782
792 IF C=1 THEN C=2:GOTO 795
794 C = 1
795 COLOR C:PLOT X,Y
796 GOTO 782
800 GRAPHICS 7: POKE 752, 1
801 SETCOLOR 2,13,4:SETCOLOR 4,13,4
802 SETCOLOR 1,5,10:SETCOLOR 0,13,12
805 A = Y * 40 + X
810 S=1:GOSUB 910
820 S=S+1:IF S=9 THEN RETURN
822 SOUND 0, S*20, 4, 2
825 COLOR 2: PLOT L(S), U(S):
   DRAWTO L(S), D(S)
826 PLOT R(S), U(S): DRAWTO R(S), D(S)
828 IF A$(A+D,A+D) = F$ THEN GOSUB 900
830 IF A$(A+L,A+L) = W$ THEN 840
834 COLOR 1: PLOT L(S), U(S):
   DRAWTO L(S-1)+1,U(S)
835 PLOT L(S), D(S)
    :DRAWTO L(S-1)+1, D
   (S):GOTO 850
840 COLOR 2: PLOT L(S), U(S):
   DRAWTO L(S-1), U(S-1)
842 PLOT L(S), D(S): DRAWTO L(S-1),
   D(S-1)
850 IF A$(A+R,A+R)=W$ THEN 860
```

continued on next page

```
854 COLOR 1: PLOT R(S), U(S):
   DRAWTO R(S-1)-1,U(S)
855 PLOT R(S), D(S):
   DRAWTO R(S-1)-1,D
   (S):GOTO 870
860 COLOR 2: PLOT R(S), U(S):
   DRAWTO R(S-1).
   U(S-1)
862 PLOT R(S), D
   (S): DRAWTO R(S-1),
   D(S-1)
870 IF A$(A+D,A+D)=W$ THEN 873
872 A=A+D:GOTO 820
873 COLOR 2: PLOT L(S), U(S):
   DRAWTO R(S), U(S)
874 PLOT L(S), D(S): DRAWTO R(S), D(S)
899 RETURN
900 I = ABS(R(S) - L(S))/2
905 COLOR 1: PLOT L(S)+I,D(S): RETURN
910 COLOR 2:J=69:I=RND(0)*90+35
912 PLOT I, J:DRAWTO I, J+5:DRAWTO
   I - 2 J + 7
914 PLOT I-1, J+1: PLOT I+
   1, J+1: PLOT I+1, J+
   6:PLOT I+2,J+7
916 PLOT I-3, J+3: DRAWTO I-
   2,J+4:DRAWTO I+2,J+4:
   DRAWTO I+3,J+5:RETURN
```

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```
950 IF D=-40 THEN D=-1:R=-40:
    L=40: RETURN
 952 IF D=-1 THEN D=40:R=-1:L=1:RETURN
 954 IF D=40 THEN D=1:R=40:L=-40:RETURN
 956 IF D=1 THEN D=-40:R=1:L=-1:RETURN
 958 PRINT :PRINT "ERROR ":END
 970 IF D=-40 THEN D=40:GOTO 954
 972 IF D=1 THEN D=-1:GOTO 952
 974 IF D=40 THEN D=-40:GOTO 950
 976 IF D=-1 THEN D=1:GOTO 956
 978 GOTO 958
2000 U(0) = -6:
    FOR I=1 TO 8:U(I)
    =U(I-1)+10-I:NEXT I
2010 D(0) = 84:
    FOR I=1 TO 8:D(I)=D
    (I-1)-(10-I):NEXT I
2020 L(0) = -12:
    FOR I=1 TO 8:L(I)=L
    (I-1)+(10-I)*2-1:NEXT I
2030 R(0) = 151:
    FOR I=1 TO 8:R(I)=
    R(I-1)-(9-I)*2-1:NEXT I
2035 FOR I=1 TO 8:L(I)
    =L(I)+14:R(I)
    =R(I)+14:NEXTI
2040 RETURN
20000 P$=STR$(INT(PT))
20040 FOR I = 1 TO LEN(P$)
20050 POKE 656, 1: POKE 657, I*3
20060 GOSUB VAL(P$(I,I)) +20400
20070 NEXT I:RETURN
;:RETURN
20401 ?
        ■ UDDO | UDDO ■ ";:RETURN
20403 ? " PRICE PRICE "
                            : RETURN
20404 ? " ■
          :: RETURN
:: RETURN
    20406
                            :: RETURN
    ? "
                        ■";:RETURN
                 20407
```

TYPO TABLE

20408 ? "PORTECTE DO TO TO THE STATE OF THE

Variable chec	ksum =	437610	
Line num r	ange	Code	Length
10 —	85	BQ	511
90 —	220	ZA	505
240 -	310	PF	440
320 —	405	AO	556
410 —	434	RJ	507
446 —	512	XJ	401
515 —	590	MH	364
65 0 —	732	DM	510
734 —	800	WC	391
801 —	835	YO	449
840 —	899	FX	441
900 —	954	SZ	512
956 —	2030	XK	593
2035 - 2	20404	VD	327
20405 - 2	20409	UH	145

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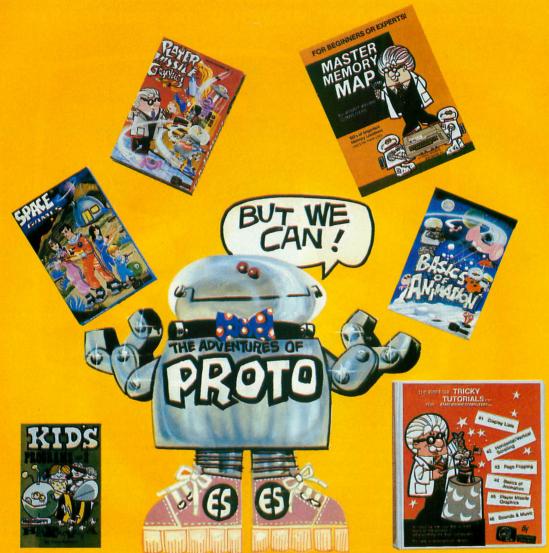
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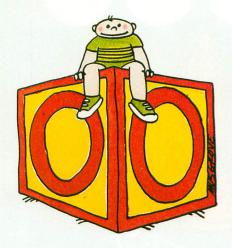
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ALPHA BLOX

by LINDA SCHREIBER

Alpha Blox will appeal to adults as well as children. It is a double purpose program. First, it reinforces the alphabet sequence for youngsters. The "game" is to locate all the letters of the alphabet in the correct order, beginning with 'A' and ending with 'Z'.

It is also a "concentration"-type game. The letters are placed randomly behind the different blocks. None of the blocks are marked. By pressing the arrow keys, you can move the crosshairs over a different block. To see the letter under the block, press the space bar. Do *not* use the shift or control keys for the arrow keys. The program is designed for small children who might become confused by the need to combine keys to make the cross-hairs

The game is designed for one or two players. When the game begins, the first player 'looks' for the 'A' by placing the cross-hairs over a block and pressing the space bar. When the 'A' is found, two points are added to the score. In a two-player game, after a successful move the player can look for the next letter. Each time the correct next letter is found, points are added to that player's score. Points are increased by two after every correct letter, so if you found A, B, and C without a miss, you would accumulate ten points. If you miss a letter, the point value returns to two for the next player. No points are subtracted from a player's score for a wrong letter.

When a letter is found, the block becomes 'empty' and the letter will

move to the bottom left of the screen. Only the score of the person that is playing will be displayed.

When all the letters have been found, the player with the most points wins. In the single player version, that player's score is shown on the screen.



Educationally, Alpha Blox has several advantages. It rewards letter recognition and exercises spatial and sequential memory, at which many children are quite as capable as adults. In a competition between parent and child, the parent needn't always cheat to lose. Also, the scoring makes it possible for many points to be scored late in the game to make up for failure to score early. As a result, Alpha Blox should be truly fun for small children to play with grown-ups or older children.

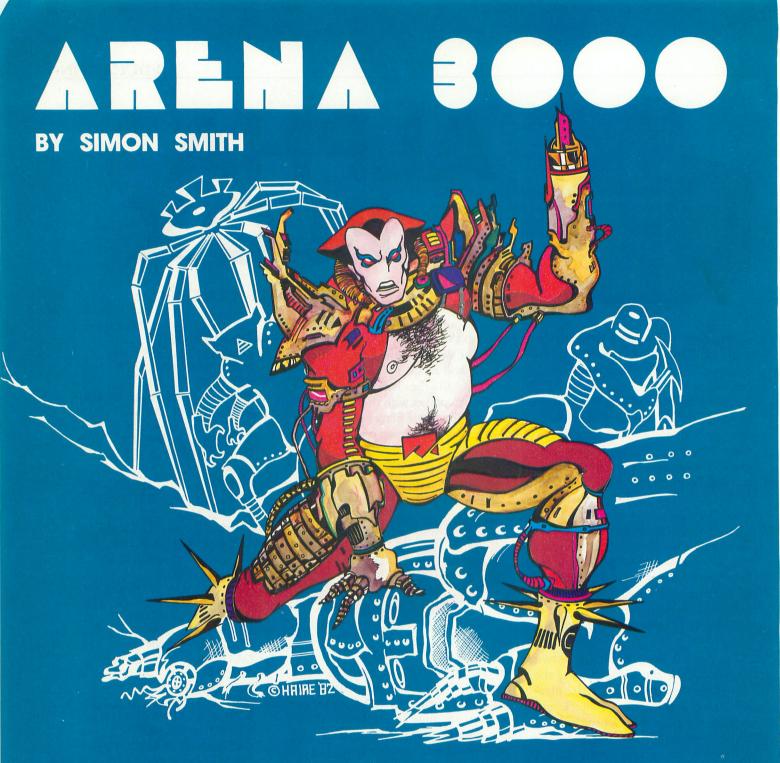
RAM REQUIREMENTS ALPHA BLOX 8K

- 10 REM ALPHA-BLOX FOR ANTIC MARCH 1983
- 20 REM BY L.M.SCHREIBER FOR TAB BOOKS

- 30 DIM UP\$(13), DOWN\$(13),P1\$ (20),NAM\$(20),AL\$ (27),SCORE(2)
- 40 CBAS=PEEK(106)-8:POKE 204,CBAS:POKE 206,224: PMBASE=CBAS*256:REM SET UP THE MEMORY FOR CHARACTERS & P/M GRAPHICS
- 50 FOR X=1 TO 13:READ B: UP\$(X,X)=CHR\$(B):NEXT X:REM MACHINE LANGUAGE SUBROUTINE TO MOVE UP
- 60 DATA 104,160,0,200,177, 205,136,145,205,200, 208,247,96
- 70 FOR X=1 TO 13:READ B: DOWN\$(X,X)=CHR\$(B): NEXT X:REM MACHINE LANGUAGE SUBROUTINE TO MOVE DOWN
- 80 DATA 104, 160, 255, 136, 177, 205, 200, 145, 205, 136, 208, 247, 96
- 90 FOR X=1 TO 20:READ B: P1\$(X,X)=CHR\$(B):NEXT X:REM MACHINE LANGUAGE SUBROUTINE TO MOVE CHARACTER SET



continued on page 77



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ALPHA BLOX continued from page 75

- 100 DATA 104,162,4,160,0, 177,205,145,203,200,208, 249,230,206,230,204, 202,208,242,96
- 110 Q=USR(ADR(P1\$)):REM MOVE THE CHARACTERS
- 120 FOR X=24 TO 95:READ B: POKE PMBASE+X,B: NEXT X:REM REDEFINE SOME CHARACTERS
- 130 DATA 255,255,255,255, 255,255,255,255
- 140 DATA 255,255,192,192, 192,192,192,192
- 150 DATA 192,192,192,192, 192,192,192,192
- 160 DATA 192,192,192,192, 192,192,255,255
- 170 DATA 255,255,3,3, 3,3,3,3
- 180 DATA 3,3,3,3,3,3,3,3
- 190 DATA 3,3,3,3,3,3, 255,255
- 200 DATA 255,255,0, 0,0,0,0,0
- 210 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0, 255,255
- 220 FOR X=PMBASE+512 TO PMBASE+768:POKE X,0:NEXT X:REM CLEAR MEMORY FOR PM GRAPHICS
- 230 REM USE SUBROUTINE TO PLACE CROSS-HAIR IN PM MEMORY
- 240 BC=528:GOSUB 2000
- 250 TRAP 250:? "
 ":?:?:?:?
 "HOW MANY PLAYERS
 (1 OR 2)";:INPUT
 P:REM CLEAR SCREEN LOWER THREE LINES
- 260 IF P<1 OR P>2 THEN 260
- 269 REM CLEAR NAM\$ 20 SPACES
- 270 NAM\$=
- 280 INPUT P1\$:IF P1\$=""
 THEN 280
- 290 IF LEN(P1\$)>10 THEN
 P1\$=P1\$(1,10):REM
 LIMIT THE NAME TO
 10 CHARACTERS
- 300 NAM\$(X*10-9,X*10) = P1\$:NEXT X:REM PLACE BOTH NAMES IN THE SAME STRING

- 310 GRAPHICS 17:POKE 756,CBAS: REM USE NEW CHARACTER SET
- 320 POKE 704,10:POKE 559, 46:POKE 53277,3: POKE 54279,CBAS:REM ENABLE PM GRAPHICS
- 330 VER=1:HOR=1:HORZ=56: PLHOR=53248:REM POSITION OF CROSS -HAIRS AND REGISTER TO POKE
- 340 FOR B=0 TO 19 STEP 4: FOR X=0 TO 16 STEP 4: REM POSITIONS FOR THE BLOCKS
- 350 POSITION X,B:? #6;
 "###":POSITION
 X,B+1:? #6;
 "###":POSITION
 X,B+2:? #6;
 "###":NEXT X:
 NEXT B:REM PRINT
 THE BLOCKS
- 360 POSITION 8, 20:? #6;"###": POSITION 8,21:? #6;"###": POSITION 8,22:? #6;"###";: REM 26th BLOCK
- 370 AL\$=

"abcdefghijklmn opqrstu vwxyz":

- REM *** IMPORTANT!!

 *** TYPE ALPHABET
 IN LOWER CASE
 INVERSE VIDEO
- 380 FOR B=1 TO 3:FOR X=1 TO 26:Q=INT(RND(1) *(26-X+1))+1: REM GET A LETTER
- 390 AL\$(27,27) =
 AL\$(Q,Q):AL\$
 (Q,Q) = AL\$
 (26-X+1,26-X+1):
 AL\$(26-X+1,26-X+1)
 = AL\$(27,27):
 REM MIX UP THE LETTERS
- 400 NEXT X:NEXT B
- 410 SCORE(1)=0: SCORE(2)=0: COUNT=2:PL=1: POKE 206,INT (PMBASE+512)/256: POKE 205,0:CHAR=65: REM SET THE VARIABLES
- 420 POKE PLHOR, HORZ:
 POSITION 12, 20:?
 #6; NAM\$(PL*109, PL*10-4);:
 POSITION 14, 22:?
 #6;""

- 430 POSITION 14,22:? #6;SCORE(PL):OPEN #2.4.0."K:"
- #2,4,0,"K:"

 440 POKE 764,255:GET #2,
 B:CLOSE #2:IF B>127
 THEN B=B-128:POKE
 694,0:REM RESET
 INVERSE FLAG
- 450 IF B=32 THEN POKE PLHOR,0:GOTO 620
- 460 IF B=42 THEN 520: REM GO RIGHT
- 470 IF B=43 THEN 540: REM GO LEFT
- 480 IF B=45 THEN 590: REM GO UP
- 490 IF B=61 THEN 560: REM GO DOWN
- 500 GOTO 430: REM NOT A GOOD KEY
- 510 REM IF A SPACE, OPEN THE BLOCK, OTHERWISE JUST MOVE THE CROSS-HAIR
- 520 HOR=HOR+1:HORZ= HORZ+32:IF HORZ>185 THEN HORZ=56:HOR=1
- 530 POKE PLHOR, HORZ: GOTO 430
- 540 HOR=HOR-1:HORZ= HORZ-32:IF HORZ<56 THEN HORZ=184:HOR=5
- 550 GOTO 530
- 560 VER=VER+1:IF VER=6 AND HOR<>3 THEN BC=528:LS=592: GOSUB 1090: VER=1:GOTO 430
- 570 IF VER=7 AND HOR=3 THEN BC=528:LS=608: GOSUB 1090:VER=1: GOTO 430
- 580 FOR X=1 TO 16:Q=USR (ADR(DOWN\$)): NEXT X:GOTO 430
- 590 VER=VER-1:IF VER=0 AND HOR=3 THEN BC=608:LS=528: GOSUB 1090: VER=6:GOTO 430
- 600 IF VER=0 AND HOR<>3 THEN BC=592:LS=528: GOSUB 1090:VER=5: GOTO 430
- 610 FOR X=1 TO 16:Q=USR (ADR(UP\$)):NEXT X: GOTO 430
- 620 X=(HOR-1)*4: B=(VER-1)*4: LOCATE X+1,B+1,Q: IF Q=32 THEN 420
- 630 POSITION X,B:?
 #6;"\$*":
 POSIION X,B+1:? #6;
 "% (":POSITION X,
 B+2:? #6;"&+)"

continued on next page

640 POSITION X+1,B+1:
 IF HOR=3 AND VER=6
 THEN ? #6;
 AL\$(26,26):
 AS=ASC(AL\$(26,
 26)):GOTO 660

650 AS=ASC(AL\$((VER-1) *5+HOR,(VER-1)*5+ HOR)):? #6;CHR\$(AS)

660 FOR Q=1 TO 200: NEXT Q:IF AS-160<> CHAR THEN 1050

670 IF AS-160
=CHAR THEN SOUND
0,25,10,10:POSITION
X+1,B+1:? #6;
" ":B=20:
X=CHAR-64:IF X>6
THEN X=X-6:B=B+1

680 IF X>6 THEN X=X-6: B=B+1

690 IF X>6 THEN X=X-6: B=B+1

700 POSITION X,B:?
#6;CHR\$(CHAR+32):
CHAR=CHAR+1:SCORE
(PL)=SCORE(PL)+
COUNT:COUNT=COUNT+2

710 FOR Q=1 TO 100: NEXT Q:SOUND 0,0,0,0: IF CHAR<>91 THEN 420
720 POSITION 0,0:? #6;
"\star*\":POSITION 2,8:
FOR X=1 TO P:? #6;
NAM\$(X*10-9,
X*10);" = ";SCORE(X)

730 POSITION 2,10:NEXT X 740 POSITION 2,12:?

#6;"TO PLAY AGAIN

AGAIN PRESS P"
750 POSITION 2,15:? #6;
"TO QUIT

PRESS Q"

760 OPEN #2,4,0,"K:" 770 GET #2,B:CLOSE #2: IF B>127 THEN B=B-128: POKE 694,0

780 B=B-80: IF NOT B THEN GOTO 250

790 IF B THEN END 800 GOTO 760

1050 SOUND 0,100, 10,10:FOR Q=1 TO 100:NEXT Q:POSITION X,B:? #6;"###": POSITION X,B+1:? #6; "###"

1060 POSITION X,B+2:?
#6;"###":SOUND
0,0,0,
0:IF P=2 THEN PL=3-PL

1070 COUNT=2:GOTO 420 1090 FOR X=LS TO LS+10 :POKE PMBASE+X,0

:POKE PMBASE+X,0 :NEXT X:REM ERASE LAST CROSS HAIR

2000 RESTORE 2020 :FOR X=BC TO BC+10 :READ B:POKE PMBASE+ X,B:NEXT X: REM PLACE CROSS-HAIR IN PM GRAPHICS

2010 RETURN

2020 DATA 24,24,24,24,0,231, 0,24,24,24,24

TYPO TABLE

Variable o	heck	sum =	575132	
Line no	um ra	ange	Code	Length
10	-	80	IC	548
90	_	200	JB	524
210	-	290	EI	530
300	_	350	XA	519
360	-	410	LA	647
420	_	510	AP	559
520	-	600	TF	567
610	_	670	GY	621
680	-	750	LH	518
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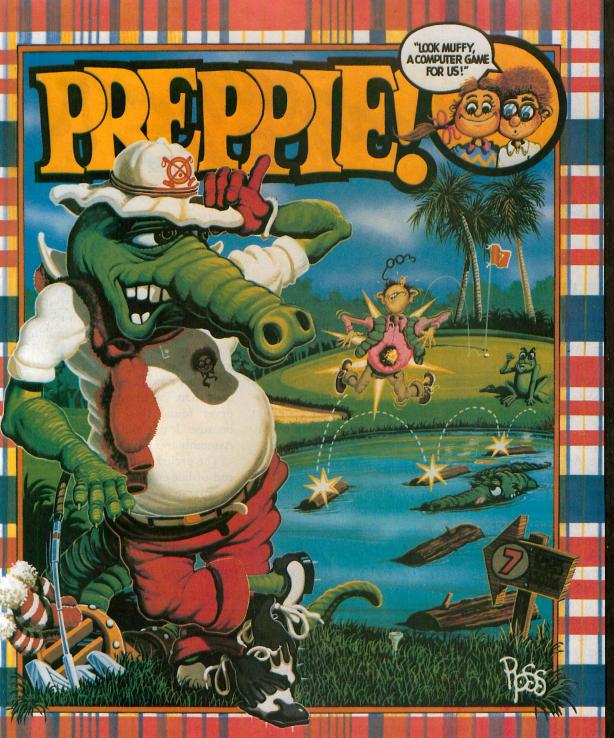
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"My Atari never did things like this before!" -Holister Townsend Wolfe

"I had so much fun I almost blew my doughnuts."

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"I haven't had this much fun since Buffy and I went to Princeton for the weekend.'

-Martha Vineyard

Superchary 8450 Superchary 8450 by BOB STEWART

You probably noticed that BASIC is sometimes a little bit slow. The Assembler Editor cartridge can help speed up your programs, but programming completely in Assembly Language is a real drag. This article shows you how to write most of your program in good-old BASIC, and only the parts that really need it in Assembly Language.

The Assembler Editor cartridge is a fine tool for adding Assembly Language to your BASIC programs. If you haven't read Appendix 9 of the Manual for a while, give it another look. It contains some necessary information that I won't repeat here. What I'm going to do is pass along a program called Charger, a couple of Assembly Language subroutines, and some techniques, all of which I use in my own ATARI programming work. I assume you already have the Assembler Editor (or equivalent), some knowledge of Assembly Language, and a fair knowledge of BASIC.

The Charger program is written in BASIC. It reads an object file, as output by the Assembler, and converts it to lines you can include in your BASIC program.

The subroutines provided are the two that I use most often. One is a byte mover, good for things like copying a character set from ROM to RAM, or

Bob Stewart is propietor of The Logic Smiths, Groton, Mass., a software development company specializing in Atari products. The main product so far is The Next Step, offered by On-Line Systems (see ANTIC, #5, p. 42). Bob has been programming and designing software for 13 years.

placing a Player / Missile. The other is a byte sprayer, good for changing a chunk of memory.

Additionally, I'll describe three techniques I use for installing Assembly Language routines in my BASIC programs. The first conserves the most space by putting the code in a constant. The second keeps the code in a string. The third uses Page Six RAM.

The Problems

The first problem is how to get the Assembly Language into the BASIC

verts it to lines of BASIC code on your screen. You can then load your program and edit the lines into the form necessary for the storage technique you want to use. Obviously, this means that Charger won't work for Assembly modules that result in more code than will fit on the screen. I have never found this to be a problem because I use only relatively small Assembly modules with BASIC.

The program handles the quote and end-of-line characters by tucking them in separately after it sets up the rest of the string. This special treatment costs

The first problem is how to get the Assembly Language into the BASIC program. The second is where to put the code when you get it there.

program. The second is where to put the code when you get it there.

The technique most magazine articles use to put Assembly code in BASIC is to use lots of numbers in DATA statements with READs and POKEs in a FOR-NEXT loop. This is bulky (two to four bytes of DATA per byte of assembly code) and not very fast. I prefer the ATARI's ability to treat almost every binary byte from 0 to 255 as a typeable, displayable character. So, I put my Assembly code into an ordinary BASIC string. There is just one little difficulty with this. There are two values, the quotation mark (ATASCII value 34) and the endof-line (ATASCII 155), that cannot be put between the quotes that delimit a string. This matter is also resolved.

The Charger program reads an Assembler object output file and con-

some space and inconvenience, but I've found that these two characters rarely occur. When they have appeared, a minor code or data change usually made them go away. But, if you're stuck with them, Charger still works fine. The program also works with object output that skips forward because you used the * = directive more than once. The only restriction is that the code segments must be in ascending order.

The Program

Now we'll look at Charger. First, a few notes on programming style. Since this program has no memory problems, and since I intended it to be readable, I kept most statements on separate lines. I did something that's *not* a good idea if you ever plan to shrink a program by continued on page 83

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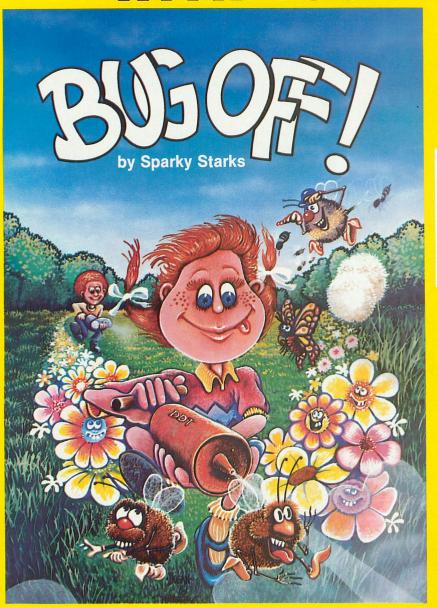






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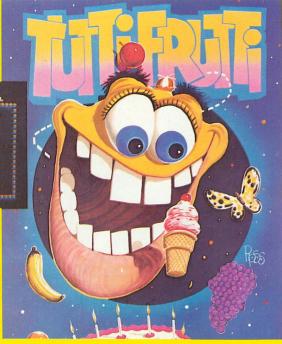


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SUPERCHARGING BASIC

continued from page 80

removing the REMarks. In several places I did GOTO a REMark. The best technique in the program is breaking code into logical sections with the line numbering. This makes BASIC programs easier to write and modify.

Lines 1000–1040 are initialization. FILE\$ and TEMP\$ are for the file name input code. BLOCK\$ is for keeping track of undisplayable characters. Q\$ is simply a quote character to make the PRINTing of code lines look cleaner. BEGIN is to become the beginning code address for a later error-check, here I initialize it to a recognizably invalid value.

Lines 1100–1160 get a file name. If the input is empty, I default the name to one I often use.

Lines 1200–1260 add the disk-file device name if you don't furnish one.

Lines 1300–1340 add the "official" object-file extension if you don't feel like typing it.

Lines 1400–1450 attempt to OPEN the file. If the OPEN fails, these display a simple error message and let you try again.

Lines 1500–1540 insist that the first two bytes of the file are the values that the Assembler always uses to start an object output. If so, they clear the screen and enable the display of control characters. The curved arrow symbol in line 1530 stands for the "clear screen" character. To get the

bunch of characters ("lots of funny stuff"). Lines 1740 and 1750 limit the displayed lines of code to 80 string characters. The WEIRD flag is used to mark a "quote" or "end-of-line" value. The loop from 1770 to 1860 reads the bytes and displays them. If it finds a weird one, it puts a "period" on the screen and remembers the value and position in BLOCK\$. Line 1870 finishes the string. Lines 1880 through 1930 check for and handle the weird characters by displaying lines to insert them in the string as CHR\$ values.

Lines 2000–2050 do normal end processing. Line 2010 saves the current cursor position. Lines 2020 and 2030 put a DIMension statement for our string at the top of the screen.

Lines 2100–2210 print error messages. We get to them from TRAPs or GOTOs back in the main code.

Lines 2300 through 2330 change control-character display back to normal and clean up. Line 2330 clears the program out of memory.

The Subroutines

I've included two Assembly Language subroutines, MOVE and SPRAY. MOVE puts Assembly code where you want it. SPRAY is great for zeroing your Player/Missile memory before you use it.

The Techniques

There are three Assembly code storage

MOVE puts Assembly code where you want it. SPRAY is great for zeroing your Player/Missile memory before you use it.

correct character into your program, type ESCape and CTRL-CLEAR.

Lines 1600–1680 begin the main file-reading loop. At this point the first two bytes are the low- and high-order bytes of the starting memory address (FIRST) of the code segment. The next two are the ending address (LAST). Line 1660 computes the number of bytes in the code segment (COUNT).

Lines 1700–1960 print the code lines. Line 1710 computes the proper index into our output string. That string will contain all the byte values and will display as a strange-looking

techniques that I use. Each has its advantages. For the explanations, assume that the Charger program left the following lines on your screen:

9999 DIM CODE\$(62) 9999 CODE\$(1) = "lots of funny stuff"

To add the Assembly code to your BASIC program, you can either LOAD it and then edit the lines, or you can edit them, LIST them to a file, and ENTER them into your program. I'll just explain how you would edit the lines for whichever storage technique you want.

The first technique saves the most memory. It results in only one copy of the Assembly code in your BASIC space. The code must not have any absolute address references within itself. You can't use a JMP or LDA instruction with an absolute address within your Assembly Language module. Set a variable equal to the address of a string constant containing your code. You would not need the DIM line at all. You would edit the other to look like:

9010 SPRAY = ADR
("lots of funny stuff")

You have named your module SPRAY. SPRAY is the address you would use in, for example, a USR function as the address of the code to run. A slight variation is to use ADR on the string constant right in the USR function.

Be careful BASIC doesn't move things around and invalidate your address. I've never had a problem with that, but I always do all my DIMensions and initialize such addresses at the beginning of execution.

The first technique has no clean way to handle the unprintable characters. The second technique can, but results in a wasted copy of your Assembly code. In the second technique, you put the code into a string variable and execute it from there. This requires the same restriction on absolute addresses, but it lets you tuck the weird characters in where they belong. You would edit the lines something like this:

1010 DIM SPRAY\$(62) 1015 SPRAY\$(1) = "lots of funny stuff"

You might also add a line to set SPRAY to the ADR of SPRAY\$, or simply use ADR(SPRAY\$) as the address when you need it. My example didn't need this technique; it had no weird characters. If it did there would have been a line like CODE\$(5,5) = CHR\$(155).

The third technique handles weird characters okay. It wastes a copy of the code, but has the advantage of allowing absolute addresses if you put the code into a fixed place, like Page Six. You use the MOVE routine for this one.

Continued on next page

0400 COUNT=208 Byte count 0130; a value across any You can use a combination of the number of bytes. first two techniques to accomplish the 0410 ; 0140; 0420; Get arguments third. MOVE the code to where you 0150; By Bob Stewart, of 0430 want it. MOVE can be in a constant or 0440 MOVE PLA Ignore The Logic Smiths a variable. It might look like this: argument count 0160; For ANTIC Magazine PLA Input address hi 0170; 0450 9010 MOVE = ADRSTA INADD+1 0180; Calling sequence: 0460 ("MOVE's funny stuff") 0190 ; 0470 PLA Input address lo 9020 DIM CODE\$(62) 0200; XX=USR(SPRAY, 0480 STA INADD 9022 CODE(1) =0490 PLA Output address hi VALUE, OUTADD, COUNT) "lots of funny stuff" 0500 STA OUTADD+1 0210; 9024 TEMP = USR(MOVE, ADR)PLA Output address lo 0220 ; XX - Any 0510 (CODE\$),1536,LEN STA OUTADD useless variable 0520 0230; (CODE\$)) 0530 PLA Count hi SPRAY Address STA COUNT+1 of SPRAY code 0540 In this case, the code will go to Page 0240; VALUE - Value to 0550 PLA Count lo Six (1536 decimal destination 0560 STA COUNT spray . PAGE 0250; OUTADD - Output 0570 address). TEMP is any unneeded 0580; address variable, since MOVE returns no COUNT - Number 0260; 0590 ; Move 256 byte chunks value. 0600; of bytes to spray .TITLE "MOVE for 0100 LDX COUNT+1 Get 0270 0610 BASIC - 21 May 1982" 0280 count hi ; Notes: 0110; BEQ HIDONE If 0, 0290 0120; BASIC callable 0300; Uses page 0 for hi done subroutine to move 0630 LDY #0 Set to move 256 temporary 0130; any number of bytes. 0310; 0640 MORE LDA (INADD), Y storage at 204-208. 0140; 0320; Get byte 0150; By Bob Stewart, of STA (OUTADD), Y *=\$600 Actually relocatable 0330 The Logic Smiths 0340; And store it 0160; For ANTIC Magazine 0660 DEY Decrement count 0350; Page 0 Temporary Storage 0170 ; 0670 BNE MORE If not 0, 0360 ; 0180; Calling sequence: 0370 VALUE=204 Input address more 0190; 0680 INC INADD+1 Next 0380 OUTADD=205 Output 0200; XX=USR(MOVE, input chunk address INADD, OUTADD, COUNT) 0690 INC OUTADD+1 Next 0390 COUNT=207 Byte count 0210 ; 0400; output chunk 0220; XX - Any 0700 DEX Decrement count hi 0410; Get arguments useless variable 0710 BNE MORE If not 0, more 0420 ; 0230; MOVE Address 0720 0430 SPRAY PLA Ignore of MOVE code 0730 ; Move remainder argument count 0240; INADD - Input PLA Ignore value hi 0740 0440 address 0750 HIDONE LDY COUNT PLA Value lo 0450 OUTADD -0250; 0460 STA VALUE Count remainder Output address 0470 PLA Output address hi 0760 CHKLO DEY Decrement COUNT - Number STA OUTADD+1 count 0480 of bytes to move 0770 CPY #255 Check 0490 PLA Output address lo 0270; STA OUTADD against end 0500 0280 ; Notes: PLA Count hi 0780 BEQ LODONE If equal, 0510 0290; STA COUNT+1 done 0520 0300; Input area should not 0790 LDA (INADD), Y Get byte 0530 PLA Count lo 0310; overlap output area. 0800 STA (OUTADD),Y STA COUNT 0540 0320 ; Uses page 0 for Put byte 0550 . PAGE 0330; temporary storage at 0810 CLC Do a relative... 0560; 204-209. 0820 BCC CHKLO JMP 0570; Move 256 byte chunks 0340 *=\$600 Actually 0830 LODONE RTS Fini, return 0580

0840

0100

0110;

. END

0120; BASIC callable

.TITLE 'SPRAY for

subroutine to spray

BASIC - 21 May 1982'

done

LDA VALUE Get value to

LDX COUNT+1 Get

BEQ HIDONE If 0, hi

0590

0600

0610

spray

count hi

0350;

0370 ;

relocatable

Storage

address

0360; Page 0 Temporary

0390 OUTADD=206 Output

0380 INADD=204 Input address

continued on page 86

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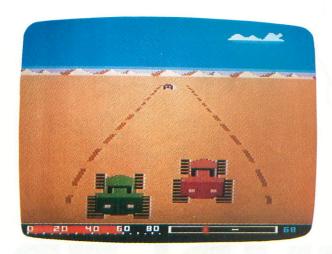
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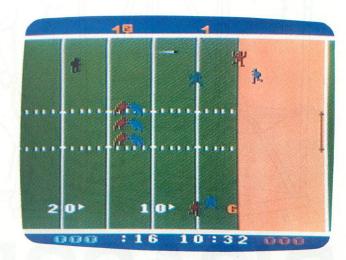
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SUPERCHARGING BASIC continued from	m page 84 1200 RFM *	1740 MAX=1+COUNT-LINE
5000 1 DV 110 0 1 to server 056	1200 REM *	1750 IF MAX>80 THEN MAX=80
0620 LDY #0 Set to spray 256	1201 REM * Add D: if needed	1760 WEIRD=0
0630 MORE STA (OUTADD),Y	1202 REM *	1770 FOR I=1 TO MAX
Store value	1210 FOR I=1 TO LEN(FILE\$)	1780 GET #1,LO
0640 DEY Decrement count		1790 IF LO=34 OR LO=155
0650 BNE MORE If not 0,	1220 IF FILE\$	THEN 1830
more	(I,I)=":" THEN	1800 PRINT CHR\$(LO);
the first control of the control of	POP :GOTO 1300	1810 BLOCK\$(I,I)="""
	1230 NEXT I	1820 GOTO 1860
output chunk	1240 TEMP\$=FILE\$	1830 PRINT ".";
0670 DEX Decrement count hi	1250 FILE\$="D:" 1260 FILE\$(3)=TEMP\$	1840 BLOCK\$(I, Í) = CHR\$(LO)
$\emptyset68\emptyset$ BNE MORE If not \emptyset ,	1260 FILE\$ (3) = TEMP\$	1850 WEIRD=WEIRD+1
more	1200 FILL (0) FEMT (4	1860 NEXT I
0690;	1000 LICINI	1870 PRINT Q\$
0700; Move remainder	1301 REM * Add .OBJ if needed	1880 IF WEIRD=0 THEN 1940
	1302 REM *	1890 FOR I=1 TO MAX
0710 ;	1310 FOR $I=1$ TO LEN(FILE\$)	1900 IF BLOCK\$(I,I)=" "
0720 HIDONE LDY COUNT	1320 IF FILE\$	THEN 1930
Count remainder	(I,I)="	1910 TEMP=INDEX+I-1
0730 CHKLO DEY Decrement	THEN POP : GOTO 1400	1020 DDINT "0000 CODE\$("
count	1330 NEXT I	1920 PRINT "9999 CODE\$("; TEMP;",";TEMP;")=
0740 CPY #255 Check against	1040 EILEG (LEN (EILEG) + 1 / - "	CHOCKE
end	1340 FILE\$(LEN(FILE\$)+1)=". OBJ"	CHR\$("; ASC(BLOCK\$
0750 BEQ LODONE If equal,	OBJ	([,[));")"
	1400 REM *	1930 NEXT I
done	1401 REM * Open file	1940 INDEX=INDEX+MAX
0760 STA (OUTADD), Y Put	1402 REM *	1950 NEXT LINE
byte	1410 TRAP 1440	1960 GOTO 1600
0770 BNE CHKLO Always	1420 OPEN #1 4 0 FILES	2000 REM *
branches!	1410 TRAP 1440 1420 OPEN #1,4,0,FILE\$ 1430 GOTO 1500	2001 REM * Normal end
0780 LODONE RTS Fini, return		processing
0790 .END	1440 PRINT "File open error #"; PEEK(195)	2002 REM *
0130 :EI4B		2010 X=PEEK(85):Y=PEEK(84)
100 DEM	1450 GOTO 1100	2020 POSITION PEEK(82),0
100 REM *	1500 REM *	2030 PRINT "9999 DIM CODE\$
101 REM * Program to translate	1501 REM * Check file header	(";INDEX-1;")"
102 REM * ATARI	1502 REM * and initialize screen	2040 POSITION X,Y
Assembler Editor	1503 REM *	2050 GOTO 2300
Assembler Editor	1503 REM *	
Assembler Editor 103 REM * object file into	1503 REM * 1510 TRAP 2100:GET #1,LO:	2050 GOTO 2300
Assembler Editor 103 REM * object file into strings	1503 REM * 1510 TRAP 2100:GET #1,LO: GET #1.HI	2050 GOTO 2300 2100 REM * 2101 REM * Short file
Assembler Editor 103 REM * object file into strings 104 REM * for use in BASIC.	1503 REM * 1510 TRAP 2100:GET #1,LO: GET #1,HI 1520 IF LO<>255 OR HI<>	2050 GOTO 2300 2100 REM * 2101 REM * Short file end processing
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Assembler Editor 103 REM * object file into strings 104 REM * for use in BASIC. 105 REM * 106 REM * 21 May 1982 107 REM * 108 REM * by Bob Stewart 109 REM * of The Logic Smiths 110 REM * for ANTIC Magazine 111 REM * 1000 REM * 1001 REM * Initialize 1002 REM * 1010 DIM FILE\$(15), TEMP\$ (15), BLOCK\$(80) 1020 DIM Q\$(1):Q\$=CHR\$(34) 1030 BEGIN=-1 1040 GRAPHICS 0 1100 REM * 1101 REM * Get file name 1102 REM * 1110 CLOSE #1 1120 PRINT "Object file"; 1130 INPUT FILE\$ 1140 IF LEN(FILE\$) <>0	1503 REM * 1510 TRAP 2100:GET #1,LO: GET #1,HI 1520 IF LO<>255 OR HI<> 255 THEN PRINT "Not an object file": GOTO 1100 1530 PRINT "■" 1540 POKE 766,1 1600 REM * 1601 REM * Figure length of segment 1602 REM * 1610 TRAP 2000:GET #1,LO 1620 TRAP 2100:GET #1,HI 1630 FIRST=LO+256*HI 1640 GET #1,LO:GET #1,HI 1650 LAST=LO+256*HI 1660 COUNT=1+LAST-FIRST 1670 IF BEGIN<0 THEN BEGIN=FIRST 1680 IF FIRST 1680 IF F	2050 GOTO 2300 2100 REM * 2101 REM * Short file end processing 2102 REM * 2110 PRINT "File short" 2200 REM * 2201 REM * Any bad file end processing 2202 REM * 2210 PRINT "Not a valid object file" 2300 REM * 2301 REM * All cases end processing 2302 REM * 2301 REM * All cases end processing 2302 REM * 2310 POKE 766,0 2320 CLOSE #1 2330 NEW TYPO TABLE Variable checksum = 489711 Line num range Code Length 100 — 111 HN 250 1000 — 1120 XJ 199 1130 — 1250 KL 178 1260 — 1410 MV 186 1420 — 1540 YJ 290 1600 — 1700 IR 261 1701 — 1800 NH 242
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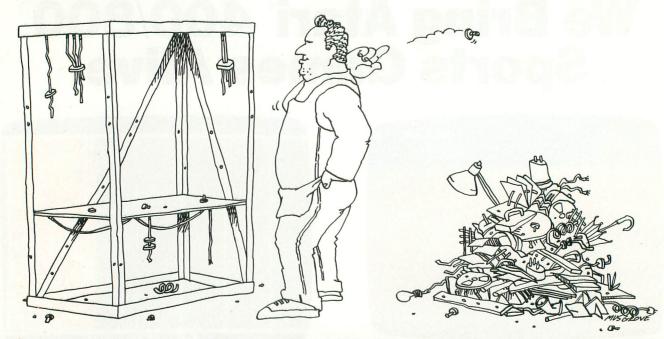
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DISASSEMBLER

by SHEILA NEECE SPENCER

This program was designed for you to learn more about Assembly Language programming without investing in an assembler editor. It is used to display the contents of memory in disassembled form, with opcodes and their mnemonics, just as an assembler editor displays it. You enter the address to be examined in decimal code, and the address will be displayed in hexadecimal code. For example, memory location 1536 (decimal) will be displayed as memory location 600 (hex).

After the screen fills with code, the display will stop. Press "S" to clear the screen and display the next full screen of data or "J" to request a new address or "P" to dump the contents of the

screen to a printer. Any other key will display only the next line and the rest of the display will scroll upward.

You might find it interesting to load up a machine language program from disk or tape with the BASIC cartridge installed, then run the disassembler and examine various memory locations. (CAUTION: Many machine language programs won't load with the BASIC cartridge installed.)

If you have a disk, check the following locations:

3033-3119 (BD9-C2F hex) 3122-3193 (C32-C79 hex) 3196-3255 (C7C-C67 hex) 3352-3498 (D18-DAA hex) 3501-3741 (DAD-E9D hex) 4618-4762 (120A-129A hex)

- 5 DIM A\$(9),B\$(9),C\$(9), OP\$(5),OPH\$(9),D\$(4), E\$(3):HEX=40:PR1=25: PR2=30:PR3=35: OPEN #2,4,0,"K:"
- 10 DIM PS\$(39):OPEN #3, 4,0,"S:":PS\$=

These are the RENAME, DELETE, LOCK & UNLOCK, FORMAT DISK, DISK DIRECTORY, and WRITE DOS functions, respectively.

There are several programs which poke Assembly Language subroutines into the memory from BASIC. (See ANTIC #4, p. 44 or #5, p. 57.) After running such a program, run this disassembler to see exactly what the Assembly Language routine looks like.

NOTE: This program takes advantage of ATARI BASIC's unique ability to GOTO an arithmetic expression — see lines 71 and 1010. Without this powerful feature, each opcode would have to be an IF statement, costing both memory and execution time. In line #10, the string variable PS\$ should contain 39 spaces.

0 REM ATARI (6502) DISASSEMBLER

1 REM Written by

2 REM Sheila Neece Spencer

3 REM 4225 Beulah Cove

4 REM Claremore, OK 74017 - 9/11/82 POKE 752,1

15 INDX=100:ZP2=200:IMM= 300:REL=400:INDY=500:ZPX= 600:LET ABS=700:ABSY= 800:ABSX=900:START=1000

continued on page 91

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ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE

DISASSEMBLER continued from page 88

20 GOTO 950 25 ? OPH\$, OP\$: ML=ML +1: RETURN 30 ? OPH\$; B\$, OP\$; D\$; B\$; E\$: RETURN 35 ? OPH\$; B\$; C\$, OP\$; D\$; C\$;B\$;E\$:RETURN 40 IF A<=15 THEN GOSUB 70: RETURN 41 I=9 42 TEMP=A:A=INT(A/16): TEMP=TEMP-A*16:IF TEMP<10 THEN A\$(I,I) =STR\$(TEMP):GOTO 46 44 A\$(I,I)=CHR\$(TEMP-10 +ASC("A")) 46 IF A<>0 THEN I=I-1:GOTO 42 48 A\$=A\$(I,9):RETURN 50 FOR Y=0 TO 23:POSITION 1, Y: FOR X=1 TO 39: GET #3, PS 52 FOR Y=0 TO 23:POSITION

#3,PS 54 PS\$(X,X) =CHR\$(PS) 56 NEXT X:LPRINT PS\$:NEXT Y: RETURN 70 IF A=0 THEN A\$="00":

1, Y:FOR X=1 TO

39: GET

- RETURN 71 GOTO A+80 80 IF A=0 THEN A\$="00": RETURN
- 81 A\$="01":RETURN 82 A\$="02":RETURN
- 83 A\$="03":RETURN
- 84 A\$="04":RETURN 85 A\$="05":RETURN
- 86 A\$="06":RETURN
- 87 A\$="07":RETURN
- 88 A\$="08":RETURN
- 89 A\$="09":RETURN 90 A\$="0A":RETURN 91 A\$="0B":RETURN
- 92 A\$="0C":RETURN
- 93 A\$="0D":RETURN
- 94 A\$="0E":RETURN 95 A\$="0F":RETURN
- 100 A=PEEK(ML+1):GOSUB HEX:B\$=A\$:D\$=" (\$00": E\$=",X)":ML=ML+2:

GOSUB PR2: RETURN

- 200 A=PEEK(ML+1):GOSUB HEX:B\$= A\$:D\$="\$00":E\$="":
- ML=ML+2:GOSUB PR2: RETURN 300 A=PEEK(ML+1):GOSUB
- HEX:B\$=A\$:D\$="#\$": E\$="":ML=ML+2: GOSUB PR2: RETURN
- 400 A=PEEK(ML+1):GOSUB HEX:B\$=A\$:D\$="#\$": E\$="":ML=ML+2:GOSUB PR2: RETURN
- 500 A=PEEK(ML+1):GOSUB HEX:B\$=

RAM REQUIREMENTS DISASSEMBLER 8K

A\$:D\$="(\$00":E\$="),Y": ML=ML+2:GOSUB PR2: RETURN

- 600 A=PEEK(ML+1):GOSUB HEX:B\$= A\$:D\$="\$00":E\$=",X": ML=ML+2:GOSUB PR2: RETURN
- 700 A = PEEK(ML+1): GOSUB HEX:B\$=A\$:A=PEEK(ML+2): GOSUB HEX:C\$= A\$:D\$="\$":E\$="": ML = ML + 3:GOSUBPR3: RETURN
- 800 A=PEEK(ML+1):GOSUB HEX:B\$=A\$:A=PEEK(ML +2):GOSUB HEX:C\$= A\$:D\$="\$":E\$=" Y'':ML=ML+3:GOSUB
- 900 A = PEEK(ML+1):GOSUBHEX:B\$=A\$:A=PEEK(ML +2):GOSUB HEX:C\$= A\$:D\$="\$":E\$=" X'':ML=ML+3:GOSUBPR3: RETURN

PR3: RETURN

- 950 ? " SENTER STARTING ADDRESS" ;:
- INPUT ML 999 REM "J" FOR NEW STARTING ADDRESS. FOR NEXT SCREEN FULL, "L" FOR NEXT LINE ONLY, "P" TO DUMP TO
- PRINTER 1000 A=ML:IF PEEK(84) >=23 THEN GET #2,R:IF
- R=74 THEN 950 1001 IF R=76 THEN 1005 1002 IF R=83 THEN ? """:
- R=0:GOTO 1005 1003 IF R=80 THEN GOSUB 50:R=0:GOTO START
- 1005 GOSUB 40:? A\$, 1010 OP=PEEK(ML):A=OP: GOSUB HEX: OPH\$=A\$: TRAP 1400: GOTO OP+1100 1100 OP\$="BRK":GOSUB PR1:
- GOTO START 1101 OP\$="ORA":GOSUB INDX:
- GOTO START

 1105 OP\$="ORA":GOSUB
 ZP2:GOTO START

 1106 OP\$="ASL":GOSUB ZP2:
- GOTO START 1108 OP\$="PHP":GOSUB PR1:
- GOTO START
 1109 OP\$="ORA":GOSUB IMM: GOTO START
 1110 OP\$="ASL A":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START
 1113 OP\$="ORA ":GOSUB
- ABS: GOTO START continued on next page

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ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE

- 1114 OP\$="ASL":GOSUB ABS: GOTO START
- 1116 OP\$="BPL":GOSUB REL: GOTO START
- 1117 OP\$="ORA":GOSUB
- INDY:GOTO START
 1121 OP\$="ORA":GOSUB ZPX:GOTO START
- 1122 OP\$="ASL":GOSUB
- ZPX:GOTO START 1124 OP\$="CLC":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START 1125 OP\$="ORA":GOSUB
- ABSY:GOTO START
 1129 OP\$="ORA ":GOSUB
- ABSX:GOTO START
 1130 OP\$="ASL ":GOSUB
- ABSX:GOTO START
 1132 OP\$="JSR":GOSUB
- ABS:GOTO START
 1133 OP\$="AND":GOSUB
- INDX:GOTO START
 1136 OP\$="BIT":GOSUB
- ZP2:GOTO START
 1137 OP\$="AND ":GOSUB
- ZP2:GOTO START 1138 OP\$="ROL":GOSUB
- ZP2:GOTO START 1140 OP\$="PLP":GOSUB
- PR1: GOTO START 1141 OP\$="AND":GOSUB
- IMM:GOTO START 1142 OP\$="ROL A":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START 1144 OP\$="BIT":GOSUB
- ABS:GOTO START
 1145 OP\$="AND ":GOSUB
- ABS:GOTO START
 OP\$="ROL ":GOSUB 1146 OP\$="ROL
- ABS:GOTO START
 1148 OP\$="BMI ":GOSUB REL: GOTO START
- 1149 OP\$="AND":GOSUB
- INDY:GOTO START
 1153 OP\$="AND ":GOSUB ZPX:GOTO START
- 1154 OP\$="ROL":GOSUB ZPX:GOTO START 1156 OP\$="SEC":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START
 1157 OP\$="AND ":GOSUB
- ABSY:GOTO START
 1161 OP\$="AND ":GOSUB
- ABSX:GOTO START
 1162 OP\$="ROL":GOSUB ABSX:GOTO START 1164 OP\$="RTI":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START
- 1165 OP\$="EOR":GOSUB INDX:GOTO START
 1169 OP\$="EOR":GOSUB
- ZP2:GOTO START
- ":GOSUB 1170 OP\$="LSR ZP2:GOTO START 1172 OP\$="PHA":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START
 1173 OP\$="EOR":GOSUB
- IMM:GOTO START 1174 OP\$="LSR A":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START
 1176 OP\$="JMP":GOSUB
- ABS: GOTO START
- 1177 OP\$="EOR":GOSUB ABS: GOTO START

- 1178 OP\$="LSR":GOSUB
- ABS:GOTO START
 1180 OP\$="BVC":GOSUB
- REL:GOTO START 1181 OP\$="EOR":GOSUB
- INDY:GOTO START 1185 OP\$="EOR":GOSUB
- ZPX:GOTO START
 OP\$="LSR":GOSUB 1186 ZPX: GOTO START
- 1188 OP\$="CLI":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START
 1189 OP\$="EOR":GOSUB
- ABSY:GOTO START
 1193 OP\$="EOR":GOSUB
- ABSX:GOTO START
 1194 OP\$="LSR":GOSUB ABSX:GOTO START
 1196 OP\$="RTS":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START
 1197 OP\$="ADC":GOSUB
- INDX:GOTO START
 1201 OP\$="ADC":GOSUB ZP2:GOTO START
- 1202 OP\$="ROR":GOSUB
- ZP2:GOTO START 1204 OP\$="PLA":GOSUB PR1:GOTO START
 1205 OP\$="ADC ":GOSUB
- IMM:GOTO START 1206 OP\$="ROR A":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START
 1208 OP\$="JMP":GOSUB
- ABS:GOTO START 1209 OP\$="ADC":GOSUB
- ABS:GOTO START
 1210 OP\$="ROR ":GOSUB
- ABS:GOTO START
 1212 OP\$="BVS":GOSUB
- REL: GOTO START ":GOSUB 1213 OP\$="ADC
- INDY:GOTO START 1217 OP\$="ADC":GOSUB
- ZPX:GOTO START
 1218 OP\$="ROR ":GOSUB
- ZPX:GOTO START
 1220 OP\$="SEI":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START
 1221 OP\$="ADC ":GOSUB
- ABSY:GOTO START
 1225 OP\$="ADC":GOSUB
- ABSX:GOTO START
 1226 OP\$="ROR":GOSUB
- ABSX:GOTO START
 1229 OP\$="STA":GOSUB
- INDX:GOTO START
 1232 OP\$="STY":GOSUB
- ZP2:GOTO START 1233 OP\$="STA":GOSUB
- ZP2:GOTO START
 1234 OP\$="STX":GOSUB
- ZP2:GOTO START
 1236 OP\$="DEY":GOSUB
- PR1: GOTO START 1238 OP\$="TXA":GOSUB
- PR1:GOTO START 1240 OP\$="STY":GOSUB
- ABS:GOTO START
 1241 OP\$="STA":GOSUB
- ABS:GOTO START
 1242 OP\$="STX":GOSUB
- ABS:GOTO START
 1244 OP\$="BCC ":GOSUB **REL: GOTO START**

1245	OP\$="STA":GOSUBINDY:GOTO START
1248	OP\$="STY":GOSUB
1249	
1250	
1252	
1253	- +
1254	
1257	PR1:GOTO START OP\$="STA":GOSUB
1260	
1261	IMM:GOTO START OP\$="LDA ":GOSUB
1262	
1264	IMM:GOTO START OP\$="LDY ":GOSUB
1265	ZP2:GOTO START OP\$="LDA":GOSUB
1266	ZP2:GOTO START OP\$="LDX":GOSUB
1268	ZP2:GOTO START OP\$="TAY":GOSUB
1269	PR1:GOTO START OP\$="LDA":GOSUB
1270	IMM:GOTO START OP\$="TAX":GOSUB
1272	PR1:GOTO START OP\$="LDY":GOSUB
1273	ABS:GOTO START OP\$="LDA":GOSUB
1274	ABS:GOTO START OP\$="LDX":GOSUB
1276	ABS:GOTO START OP\$="BCS":GOSUB
1277	REL:GOTO START OP\$="LDA":GOSUB
	INDY: GOTO START

1280	OP\$="LDY":GOSUB	
1281	ZPX:GOTO START OP\$="LDA":GOSUB ZPX:GOTO START	
1282		
1284		
1285	OP\$="LDA":GOSUB ABSY:GOTO START	
1286	OP\$="TSX":GOSUB PR1:GOTO START	
1288	OP\$="LDY ":GOSUB ABSX:GOTO START	
1289	OP\$="LDA":GOSUB ABSX:GOTO START	
1290	OP\$="LDX":GOSUB ABSY:GOTO START	
1292	OP\$="CPY":GOSUBIMM:GOTO START	
1293		
1296	OP\$="CPY":GOSUB ZP2:GOTO START	
1297	OP\$="CMP":GOSUB ZP2:GOTO START	
1298	OP\$="DEC ":GOSUB ZP2:GOTO START	
1300		
1301	OP\$="CMP":GOSUB IMM:GOTO START	
1302	OP\$="DEX":GOSUB PR1:GOTO START	
1304	OP\$="CPY":GOSUB ABS:GOTO START	
1305	OP\$="CMP":GOSUB ABS:GOTO START	
1306	OP\$="DEC ":GOSUB ABS:GOTO START	
1308	OP\$="BNE ":GOSUB REL:GOTO START	
1309		

1313	OP\$="CMP":GOSUB
1314	ZPX:GOTO START OP\$="DEC ":GOSUB ZPX:GOTO START
1316	OP\$="CLD":GOSUB
1317	
1321	
1322	ABSX:GOTO START OP\$="DEC ":GOSUB ABSX:GOTO START
1324	
1325	
1328	OP\$="CPX":GOSUB
1329	
1330	
1332	ZP2:GOTO START OP\$="INX":GOSUB
1333	PR1:GOTO START OP\$="SBC":GOSUB
1334	IMM:GOTO START OP\$="NOP":GOSUB
1336	PR1:GOTO START OP\$="CPX":GOSUB
1337	
1338	ABS:GOTO START OP\$="INC ":GOSUB
1340	ABS:GOTO START OP\$="BEQ":GOSUB
1341	REL:GOTO START OP\$="SBC":GOSUB
1345	INDY:GOTO START OP\$="SBC":GOSUB
1346	ZPX:GOTO START OP\$="INC ":GOSUB
1348	ZPX:GOTO START OP\$="SED":GOSUB
	PR1:GOTO START

1349	OP\$="SBC":GOSUB
	ABSY: GOTO START
1353	OP\$="SBC":GOSUB
	ABSX: GOTO START
1354	OP\$="INC ":GOSUB
	ABSX: GOTO START
1400	? "INVALID OPCODE":
	TRAP 40000:ML=ML+1:
	GOTO START
1600	? "CHECK PRINTER":
	POP : GOTO START

	TYPO	TABL	E
Variab	le checksu	m = 7664	129
	ım range	Code	Length
1	- 20	IC	511
25	- 54	AL	438
56	- 88	VV	207
89	- 500	NF	451
600	-1000	UV	560
1001	- 1110	AP	328
1113	-1133	UV	263
1136	-1153	FB	264
1154	-1174	OT	262
1176	-1196	ZZ	262
1197	-1217	GP	264
1218	-1240	SP	261
1241	-1260	FW	262
1261	-1276	HJ	262
1277	-1293	ND	262
1296	-1313	JQ	262
1314	-1333	RY	262
1334	-1354	BR	262
1400	- 1600	LD	78
			A



WORDS

by JOHN PETERS

The following Forth words were compiled by John Peters, an active Forth user in San Francisco. When screen 50 is loaded, a 25th line will appear at the top of your television screen showing the stack contents. As with all Forth words, they can be adapted, enhanced, or altered in any way suitable to end-users. If these words suggest other ideas, let us know. We encourage the entire Forth community to share their discoveries and ideas in Forth Factory.

```
\ 50 25th line a.k.a. DISPLAY STACK
                                           \ 51 25th LINE NORMAL WINDOW COLCRS
                                                                                      \ 52 25th line CLEAR25 DLIST
   DECIMAL
                                           VOCABULARY INFO-LINE IMMEDIATE
                                                                                      INFO-LINE DEFINITIONS HEX
: DO-THRU ( from thru ---)
        compile 1+ compile swap
                                           INFO-LINE
                                                      DEFINITIONS
                                                                                      HERE DUP 3F + FFCO AND SHAP - ALLOT
        compile (do) here 3 ; immediate
                                           VIDEO-BASE CONSTANT NORMAL
                                                                                                    DECIMAL 40 ALLOT
                                                                                      LABEL BUFF25
       ( pre get-screen to buffers )
                                                                                        ( Screen RAM for info line )
: PRE
                                             ( beginning of remen RAM for )
        8 x DUP 9 + SHAP
                                             ( OS graphics mode 0 )
        DO I BLOCK DROP LOOP ;
                                                                                      : CLEAR25
                                                                                        BUFF25 40 ERASE ;
: PRES DO-THRU I PRE LOOP ;
                                           : WINDOW ( addr --- )
   71 75 PRES
                                             ( Makes OS think screen RAM is at )
51 LOAD
                                                                                      LABEL DLIST HEX
                                             (addr.)
52 LOAD
                                             58 !
                                                   0 0 POSITION;
                                                                                        ( Part of a display list which gets )
53 LOAD
                                                                                        ( patched into the OS one to create )
54 LOAD
                                           55 CONSTANT COLCRS
                                                                                        ( the info line. )
55 LOAD
                                             ( OS address of cursor column # )
                                                                                        70 C. 70 C.
                                                                                                         ( some blank lines )
                                                                                        42 C, BUFF25 ,
                                                                                                         ( mode 0 w/LMS
                                           FORTH DEFINITIONS DECIMAL
                                                                                                         ( ANTIC JMP back
: DON
        info-line install:
                                                                                        01 C. 0 .
                                                                                                         ( to the OS
: DOFF info-line remove ;
                                                                                                         ( display list
: 25th LINE / : ( Dictionary marker )
  DON :S
```

FORTH DEFINITIONS DECIMAL

continued on page 98

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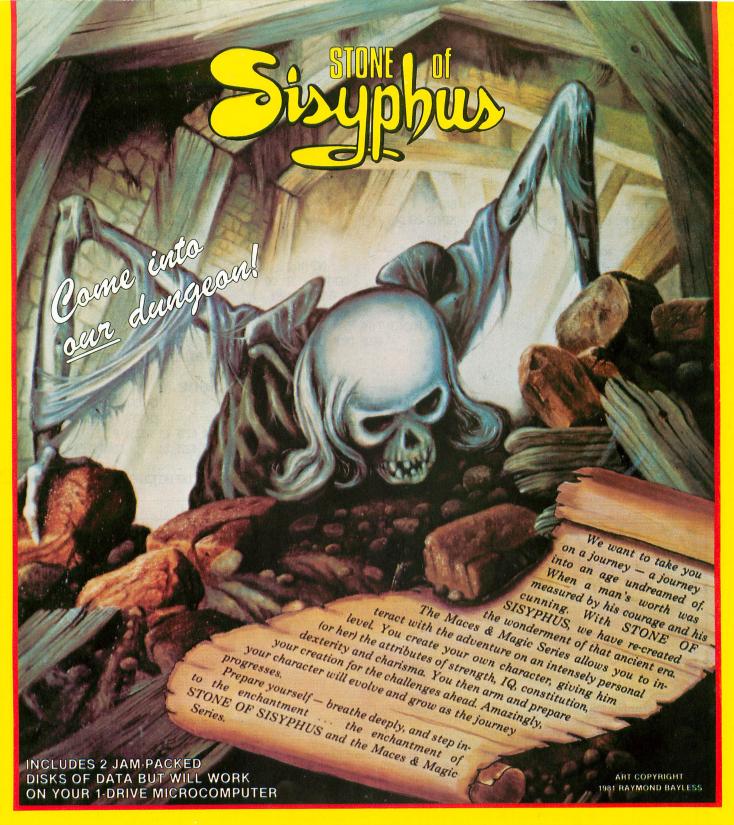
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\ 53 25th DEC# HEX# BIN# U# BASE# C INFO-LINE DEFINITIONS DECIMAL : DEC# (n1 --- addr n) DUP ABS 0 <# #S SIGN #>; : HEX# (u --- addr n) 0 < + + + + + +>; : BIN# (u --- addr n) 0 <# 16 0 DO # LOOP #> : : U# (u --- addr n) 0 (# #5 #): : BASE# (n1 --- addr n) BASE @ CASE 10 OF DEC# ENDOF 16 OF HEX# ENDOF 2 OF BIN# ENDOF >R U# R> ENDCASE ;

>R R BACK R TYPE R> 1+ BACK ELSE

DROP DROP LEAVE THEN

LOOP

THEN :

DISPLAY (---)
LOCATION CURSOR-OFF
CLEAR25 BUFF25 MINDOW
34 0 POSITION ." <-TOS"
33 0 POSITION .STACK
NORMAL MINDOW
POSITION CURSOR-ON;

\ 55 25th Line PATCH- ROUTINE INSTALL E

INFO-LINE DEFINITIONS HEX

: ROUTINE (---)
PATCH- DISPLAY CR ;

INSTALL

' ROUTINE CFA ' ABORT 6 + !

' ROUTINE CFA ' QUIT 0A + !

ECOMPILE FORTH:

* REMOVE

' CR CFA ' ABORT 6 + !

' CR CFA ' QUIT 0A + !

0 022F C! 0230 @ 3 70 FILL
22 022F C! COMPILED FORTH ;

FORTH DEFINITIONS DECIMAL

A

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The ATR8000 is a 4MHz, Z80, 64k RAM processor that includes double density CP/M 2.2. The ATR8000 has five ports: the RS-232 port runs a serial printer or a modem, or it can be used to communicate with another terminal; the FLOPPY

RS-232 DISK PRINTER PER. OUT COMP. IN O POWER RESET

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ATR8000 (BACK VIEW) the ATR8000 to the ATARI ATR8000 will soon interface with the Commodore Vic-20 and the TI 99/4.

Software: Double density CP/M 2.2 is included with the 64k ATR8000. When connected to an ATARI 800/400, the ATR8000 also runs ATARI DOS and OS/A+. Several double density utility programs come with the 64k ATR8000. These include: DDINIT, a double density disk initializing program; DDSYSGEN, a program for reading, writing and customizing double density system tracks; DDCOPY, a backup program; DISKMON, a program that allows primitive disk access; MODEM 7, a program to run the D. C. Hayes Smart Modem from the RS-232 port; and DISKDEF, a program that defines CP/M disk parameters to make nearly all Z80 CP/M disks compatible with the ATR8000. (Several CP/M disk formats are directly compatible. Among these are single density Xerox 820, Bigboard, Osborne and Kaycomp disks, double density Xerox 820-II disks, and Pickles and Trout double density CP/M disks for the TRS80 Model II.) 5¼" and 8" drives in custom enclosures are now available. All enclosures include power supplies and are thoroughly ventilated. 5¼" drives are mounted horizontally in one and two-drive cabinets. The 8" enclosure holds two, vertically mounted, Tandon Thinline drives.

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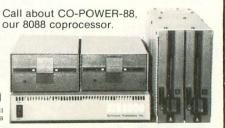
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SCHEMATIC

Tighten the frequency window

by CARL EVANS

We have discussed many aspects of the 410 Program Recorder, travelling a long road from the properties of magnetic tape to the functional block-diagram in the last issue. Now we unveil the long-promised schematic diagram for the digital playback circuit in the 410 Recorder and show you how to upgrade the circuit to obtain more reliable CLOADs. I will also answer a number of reader questions in our new Tangle Angles section.

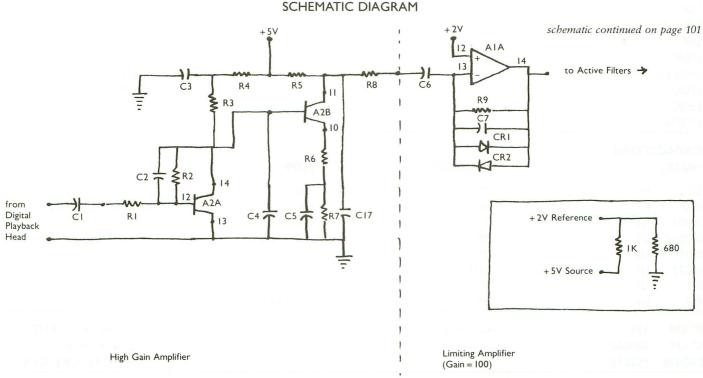
Figure 1 shows the schematic diagram of my 410 Recorder. I strongly suspect that there are many different 'models' of this recorder carrying the 410 trademark. Therefore, I can not guarantee that this schematic will match your particular recorder, but the four units I have been able to examine do match this diagram. The schematic is arranged in the same format that I used for the functional block-diagram in the last issue.

I mentioned a while back that there is a 'reliability fix' that you can make on your 410 Recorder. The 'fix' is really quite simple once you have a schematic to follow. All you have to do is replace a few ten-per-cent resistors with their one-per-cent brothers. You can get the needed resistors at most electronic supply stores. I got mine at Radio Shack.

The resistors to replace are the ones in the feedback loops of the two active

Figure 1

ATARI 410 PROGRAM RECORDER
DIGITAL PLAYBACK CIRCUIT



filters. Specifically, I am referring to the 240K-ohm, ½-watt resistor and the 330K-ohm, ½-watt resistor. Replacing these two resistors will 'tighten' the window of frequencies that will be interpreted as data. In addition, I recommend that you replace the ten-per-cent tolerance 56K, 5.6K, 68K, and 7.5K, ¼ watt resistors which you will also find in that part of the circuit. I must caution you that any tampering of this type will void the

warranty on the recorder, so you should wait until the warranty expires before making these modifications.

Don't worry about replacing the wrong resistors. None of the circuits in the recorder will be degraded by such a mistake. If you are in doubt about which particular 330K-ohm resistor to replace (there are three in the machine), then just replace all of them.

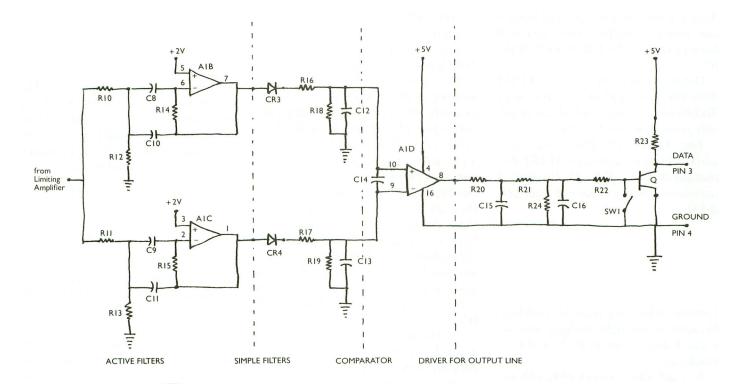
I have not yet seen one of the new ATARI 1010 Program Recorders. I

plan to report later this year on the new recorder. It should be interesting to see if Atari has improved the design any.

The rest of the department this time is devoted to answering some of the letters you have sent in. Keep those letters coming. In the next issue, I will talk about the audio playback circuit and show you the schematic that I came up with for it.

ATARI 410 PROGRAM RECORDER DIGITAL PLAYBACK CIRCUIT ELECTRONIC PARTS LIST

DESC	RIPTION	service and I draw the first solutions	<u>se e hantes de la licural de sinc</u>	LOCATOR
RESIST	ORS (1/4 Watt u	ınless otherwise noted)		
47				R6
470				R4, R7
IK				R1, R5, R8
4.7K				R20, R21, R22
5.6K				R13
7.5K				RI2
IOK				R3, R24
15K				R16, R17
56K				RII
68K				RIO
100K				R23
240K (1/	2 WATT)			R15
270K	,			R18
330K				R2, R14, R19
I MEG				R9
CAPAC	ITORS			
(VALUE)		(VOLTAGE)	(TYPE	
50	PF	50	disc	C2, C7
820	PF	50	poly	C8, C9, C10, C11
0.001	UF	25	axial ceramic	C4, C14
0.0047	UF	50	axial ceramic	C12, C13
0.01	UF	25	axial ceramic	C6, C17
0.033	UF	100	Mylar	C15, C16
0.1	UF	25	axial ceramic	CI
4.7	UF	35	radial electrolytic	C3, C5
IC LM	324	OP AMP		AI AIA, AIB, AIC, AID
IC LM	3086N			A2 A2A, A2B
DIODE	IS2076			CRI, CR2, CR3, CR4



Tangle Angles

This forum for resolution of problems with cassette tapes and the Atari Program Recorder features responses to your letters. Space requires us to edit your letters to the essentials. Some letters duplicate the problems of others, so will not be printed. Therefore, if you have written, watch for your problem to be reflected in the letters and answers we do print. Some of you ask for an individual or prompt answer. If you include a self-addressed stamped envelope I will try to comply. When writing, be as specific as you can, especially if problems persist after you have tried techniques I recommend. If you discover something you think helps, send that too. We're all in -Carl Evans this together.

I have an ATARI 400 and 410 recorder, and can't load programs reliably. Prerecorded tapes work, but my own go sour. I swapped my original recorder for a new one, but it's still not working. I notice a hiss with my tapes that is not there on prerecorded. I think this is due to DC bias used to erase my tapes. Perhaps hiss is being read as FSK and giving bad data. I disconnected my erase head and now bulk erase my tapes. Of course, the real solution is to "narrow the window" on the decoders.

Do you know a way to get a schematic on the 400 computer? I want to add "video out." Also, can you use the 400 with a disk drive?

Gary Pearcy Stone Mountain, CA

Your tape hiss problem is most likely due to a bad diode in the limiting amplifier portion of the playback circuit. Your solution, while effective, is a bit drastic. Check the two diodes in the limiting amplifier and replace the bad one. If the problem comes back, then the gain of the front-end amplifier is probably too high. If that is the case, then you will have to measure the gain and calculate the value of a new gain resistor to lower the gain. A real quick check is to measure the DC voltage between pin 11 and pin 4 (ground) of the I/O cable. With a tape being played, this voltage should be about 3.6 VDC. If the reading is zero, then replace the LM 3086N IC. Any other bad reading means that the limiting diodes (1S2076) are probably bad. continued on next page

Also, if either pin 1 or pin 7 fail to have any non-zero output, then you will have to replace the LM 324 OP AMP IC.

Detailed schematics for the ATARI 400/800 are supplied with the Atari Technical User Notes which are available from Atari for \$29.95.

The ATARI 810 Disk Drive will work quite well with any ATARI 400 that has at least 16K RAM. However, I recommend that you have at least 32K RAM.

I intend to beat my recorder problems because of my tight budget, and be-

cause I don't want to be bested by a

machine.
1. I get lots of errors 138, 140 and 143., These often have line numbers (eg. ERROR 143 at LINE 19275) even when the program has no such line number. With a new tape, my recorder worked all right for the first read of test programs; but after modifying the programs slightly, and copying back on the same tape, I got an ERROR 143 on the first try, and ERROR 138 on the second try.

2. The footcounter slips when rewinding or advancing, so it is of questionable accuracy for finding programs.

3. I'd like to get multiple programs on tape, but don't like to skip ten feet of tape between programs. I'd rather put them close together so the audible end of one program signals the beginning of the next.

4. The Atari Reference Manual doesn't mention what really happens with PRINT and INPUT statements used with tape. Not a word about the need for an End of Line signal between each item. Thanks to Lon Poole for that info.

5. Any chance the Atari Recorder will be able to look for programs on a tape by name?

Dale Myers Worthington, OH 1. Try bulk erasing each tape before you write on it, and clean your play/record heads per instructions in the 410 Operators Manual.

Your problem might be that the limiting amplifier may not be limiting properly. Measure the DC voltage between pin 11 and pin 4 on the I/O cable. The voltage should be about 3.6 VDC when a tape is playing. If it is not, then check the diodes (1S2076) in the feedback loop and replace them if they are bad. A zero voltage under these conditions means that you will have to replace the LM 3086N IC. Also check the voltage between pin 1 and pin 4, and pin 7 and pin 4 while a tape is playing. If either reading is zero, then replace the LM 324 or AMP IC

2. The meter mechanism on the 410 Recorder seldom works very long or very accurately. The belt drive system is very sloppy and is at best unreliable. This is one of the reasons that I recommend putting only one program on each side of a cassette tape.

3. Storing more than one program on each side of a tape is recommended only for archive purposes. The retrieval problem is error-prone and tends to be too time consuming for everyday use. There are two reasons I suggest a 10-foot count on the meter between files. First, it is possible to destroy a good file by over-writing the End-of-File marker if you don't space forward at least a little bit. Second, for archive applications, I fast-forward a tape to about where I think the desired file is (remember, the foot counter doesn't work reliably) and listen for a section of blank tape to help me locate the

4. The need for EOL markers between data blocks is explained in the Technical User's Notes which are available from Atari.

5. Sorry, it is not feasible to make the ATARI 400/800 look for cassette file names.

ANTIC promised to tell ATARI owners how to increase the baud rate on cassette loading from 600 to 2400. Is this possible? Would it be a software-implemented method or would it require hardware modification?

W. D. Creegan, President Prescott Atari Club Prescott, AZ

Yes, it is possible to increase the baud rate of cassette tapes. Theoretically, the upper limit for the ATARI 400/ 800 is about 1400 baud. Practically, however, the upper limit is about 600 baud (the default baud rate used by Atari). The reasons are complicated, but a simplistic explanation is that the FSK data system that Atari uses is naturally sensitive to frequency deviations. At high baud rates these deviations are accentuated. There are two solutions to this problem. The first is to use a tape recorder with a lower WOW and Flutter rating. The second is to use chromium tapes. The first solution is the best, but impractical until someone markets an FSK-to-Digital translator. The second solution means death to your 410 Recorder.

If you have used one of the foregoing solutions, then the way to make your tapes operate at higher baud rates is to write a handler that will intercept the Operating System when it tries to set the baud rate to 600 baud. Such an interception will depend upon whether or not there is a RAM location that the OS goes to during the setting of the baud rate. I haven't had the occasion to make such a search yet, but I will look into it further and let you know what I find out in a future issue.

ATARI* ALERT!!

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PRODUCT REVIEWS

SEA DRAGON

Adventure International P.O. Box 3435 Longwood, FL 32750 (305) 862-6917 \$34.95 16K — Cassette 32K — Diskette

Reviewed by David Plotkin

The newest release from Adventure International for the ATARI is an excellent arcade game called Sea Dragon. The talented author is Russ Wetmore, who wrote Preppie! Once again he has done a good job of mixing action and playability in this underwater version of the arcade classic Scramble.

In Sea Dragon, you are in command of a submarine which must navigate

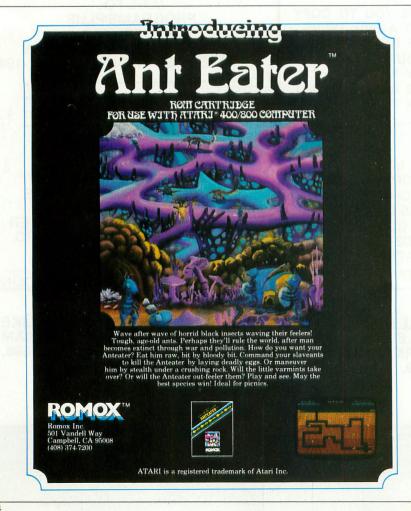
past various obstacles. The submarine is armed with an unlimited supply of torpedoes, but you can only have two torpedoes on the screen at a time. The air supply is limited so you must surface periodically. Since surfacing is not always possible, you must plan ahead to have enough air. The underwater landscape is constantly scrolling from right to left. By pushing your joysticks up and down you change the depth of the craft, and to the right causes the submarine to advance slowly until it reaches mid-screen. Holding the joystick left causes the submarine to move left at exactly the same speed as the landscape is scrolling. It effectively stands still in the water until the submarine hits the left edge of the screen. Then the edge of the screen essentially pushes the craft along. You cannot back up in this game.

Sea Dragon is divided into six distinct sections, each more difficult than the last, and each requiring a different strategy. The first section is a sea bottom dotted with ominous black mines. The next scene is a cavern filled not only with mines but also indestructible gun turrets that fire a stream of bullets. Sections three and four are also seascape and a cave, respectively, but you have destroyers and lasers firing at you. The last two sections are extremely difficult to gain access to and have even more sophisticated weapons and obstacles.

Sea Dragon is quite playable, but not advised for those with a low tolerance for frustration. It is one of the more difficult arcade games I have played. Adventure International told me that they deliberately made it hard to challenge players. The game is tough because the submarine responds a little too slowly and you have no downward firing weapons. Also, you have to go back to the beginning of the current sector each time you lose a sub.

Overall, however, Sea Dragon is a very fine game. The graphics cannot be called stunning, but they are very good. The submarine is a single line resolution player, complete with torpedo tubes which change shape as the torpedo is launched. The seascape itself is a redefined character set, as are the mines. The mines move smoothly with a much finer resolution than normal character position changes. The sound is great. The explosions and echoing sonar are superb, and the lasers are eerie.

Certain strategies are only made possible by Russ Wetmore's fine attention to detail. It is obvious that extensive play testing went into Sea Dragon. It can be played by one or two players and has five skill levels. For those of you who don't mind a challenge, I recommend it. Keep up the good work, AI.



PRODUCT REVIEWS

WIZARD OF WOR

Roklan Software 3335 Arlington Heights Road Arlington Heights, IL 60004 (312) 392-2525 \$39.95 32K — Disk

Reviewed by Gordon Miles

My excitement and expectations rise when I see an ad delcaring that a popular arcade game is now available for my machine. When will it be available? How much will it cost? Will it play and look exactly like the original quartereater? All too often the novelty dissolves soon after the cellophane is removed, and I'm disappointed. Fortunately, Roklan lives up to my expectations and has done an excellent rendition of The Wizard of Wor.

Wizard of Wor plays almost exactly like the original arcade version. You and a friend can control up to seven laser-armed worriors. Your mission is to conquer as many of the Wizard's mazes as possible. The Wizard's worling monsters populate these mazes. Worlings are initially blue Burwors, but are transformed into the faster-moving yellow Garwors, and then the super-speedy red Thorwors. Your worriors are killed upon collision with a worling or its laser shot.

The maze area itself is a square with hallways on either side and you may move from left to right within the square. A radar scanner lies beneath the maze display. The scanner is used to track Garwors and Thorwors, which may be invisible, unless they are in your *worrior's* corridor on the main maze display. For each player there is also a small entrance vestibule where all your *worriors* begin.

Each player enters from his own vestibule. If the maze in front of the entrance is not clear of *worlings*, you are given a ten-second count before you are ejected into the maze. From then on both strategy and swift reac-

tions are needed to hunt the *worlings* while they hunt you. Best results are obtained in short corridors where your one-shot-at-a-time laser can regenerate faster. Constant appraisal of the radar scanner as well as judicious use of the connecting hallways are invaluable aids.

After all the *worlings* are destroyed, the Wizard's winged-moster, a *worluk*, appears. Shooting the swift *worluk* before it can leave the maze via the connecting hallways earns bonus points. If the *worluk* is shot, the Wizard himself may appear. He throws laser bolts while teleporting from one random maze location to the next. The next round does not start unless you get him (bonus points) or he kills your *worrior*.

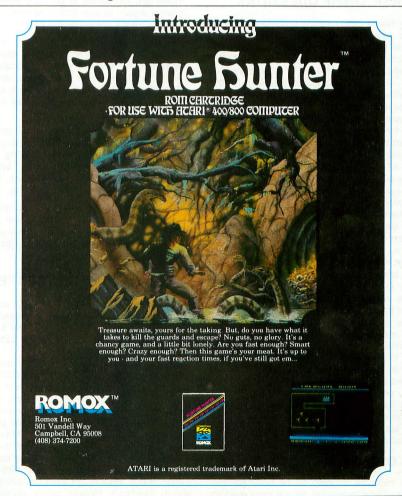
In each succeeding round the

Wizard and his minions move faster, and the maze has fewer walls to provide cover for your worrior. Every fourth round earns a new worrior as well as the Arena maze where half of the maze has no walls. Every twelfth wave earns the Pit maze where there are no walls at all. The Pit, which is quite difficult, is aptly named.

The play of the game is fast-paced as well as strategically demanding. Especially enjoyable is the two-player mode. Although each player could shoot the other for points, cooperation resulted in higher scores. If you saved your fellow *worrior* from a tight spot you were usually returning a favor.

The characters are a tad chunky graphically, but the animation is smooth, colorful, lively, and well

continued on page 107





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ASK THESE QUESTIONS

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Is there something wrong with our software? Well, we don't ask you to enter your name so we can drop it into some later text. We don't ask you to type in your answer and refuse to accept it if it's not spelled just right. And, we don't branch around a lot when you make an error. Our programs simply let you know if you're wrong by proceeding only when you select the right multiple-choice answer.

This proven learning-by-positive-reinforcement method lets you proceed quickly and smoothly through the programs, without a lot of cute tricks. But, if you're a devoted computerist or game freak you may be disappointed at the lack of motion in most of the pictures, or our special visual effects. We have some dandies, like the mushroom cloud that rises over Hiroshima in our History series, but your learning is not distracted by needless special effects.

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Falklands crisis as well as that in the Mideast in 1982. And we're putting this information at your fingertips.

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Remember, these are all for your Atari! Yes, we've done programs for TRS80 Model I, III, Color, for the Apple and T. I. But that's another story.

Would you like to do something more than play games on your Atari? Tired of squeaks and robotics and want to hear a human voice? Do you want to further your education or help your children along in theirs? Now you can. For just \$9.90, we'll send you one cassette with 2 programs from the course of your choice, 100% guaranteed to work in your Atari, and you can try us out. Better yet, get one full course of 16 programs on 8 cassettes for only \$59.90. For full documentation, 32 pre-post tests, fancy binder, 8 cassettes with 16 programs of the course you want, send \$79.00. That's less than books and tuition for most college classes. And we offer a 10 day, 100% exchange allowance. Does your alma mater? Send us your check, or call us at (405) 288-2301 with your Visa/Master Card number. We'll send your educational software pre-paid. Please allow 15 days delivery. Or see your Atari dealer. He may have some of our courses in stock. You've got nothing to lose but your games!



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PRODUCT REVIEWS

done. The sound effects and background mood sounds are also quite effective. Control of the *worriors*, especially when turning corners, required some education. Overall, the

joystick was very responsive.

I recommend Wizard of Wor very highly. It is one of those games in your software library which will retain your attention for some time to come.

FLOYD OF THE JUNGLE

MicroProse Software One Caribou Court Parkton, MD 21120 (301) 357-4739 \$29.95 32K — Cassette & Diskette

Reviewed by Gordon Miles

One enjoyable way to introduce your friends to your ATARI is to share a computer game. Unfortunately, most games are single-player, or two-player at best. Games for four simultaneous players are few, and usually do not show off the hi-res graphics, sound, or music possible with the ATARI. MicroProse's Floyd of the Jungle comes to the rescue by incorporating all these advanced features into a multiplayer, arcade-type game.

After a nicely-animated introduction, each player's name is entered and a point goal selected. The object is to be the first player to reach the point goal. Each player controls a different-colored "Floyd," and starts out at the bottom of the screen. Above the Floyds are seven different tiers. Snakes, elephants, birds, lions, alligators, monkeys, and pygmies prowl each tier. Impassable jungle separates the tiers, and dangling vines are the only means of passage between tiers.

Your Floyd must jump and scamper through the jungle to do the things that are worth points. These include catching birds, punching pygmies, and rescuing Janice, Queen of the Jungle. When a player gets to Janice, the round ends and a different screenful of jungle appears. The game ends when the point goal is reached.

The animation of Floyd and his jungle mates is very good. The snakes rock to and fro. Toothed jaws open and close. Feet shuffle along jungle paths. Floyd himself is especially well done. He literally jumps for vines, rides the animals, and knocks out pygmies. He even appears short of breath! With up to four Floyds scrambling around, it's a zany footrace. The foliage looks real for a change, and the landscape allows actions like jumping for a canoe, leaping off a hill, or defying wild animals.

Timing is very critical. Leap too soon, and Floyd goes into the underbrush, the river, a deadly dart, or possibly some jaws. The penalty is harsh: back to the bottom. This can be extremely frustrating for beginners, but for experienced players, the penalty scheme works well to balance reflex play with the strategic demands of getting points.

The movement in Floyd is very fast. Even with four players, there is no apparent slow down. Although Floyd requires BASIC, MicroProse uses a proprietary language that uses BASIC only in functions such as titles & score displays. All game action is in machine code.

Other niceties include a handicap for more experienced Floyds (one or two sore legs), pause control, and bonus points for quick recovery of Janice. A solo option exists where Floyd plays against the clock.

FINANCIAL WIZARD

Computari 9607 Athlone Dallas, TX 75218 \$59.95 24K — Diskette

Reviewed by Steve Randall

Like most Atarians I am captivated by the graphic, color and sound capabilities of my machine. Nothing discourages me more than to boot up a program only to be presented with standard Graphics 0 white characters on a blue screen. Of course, the usefulness and effectiveness of a program is primary, but enhancing applications programs with some of the ATARI's charms, in my opinion, is a great asset.

Financial Wizard, a personal finance program by Computari's Bill McLachlan, is an excellent example of an applications program that integrates many ATARI features into a well-conceived program. It requires a disk drive and at least 24K of memory. If you wish, a printer is useful (Centronics 739, Prowriter, Epson with Graftrax, or NEC).

The use of color and sound in the data-input prompts and error-checking routines is so well done that it's quite simple to boot up the disk, follow the very clear documentation, and be "up and running" in short order.

Some of Financial Wizard's features include the ability to search checks by a range of check numbers, range of dates or amounts, as well as by payee or category. When entering checks the last check number is displayed along with the current balance. The program comes with budget categories already set up, and most of them are applicable to most people. Still, it is possible to change any or all of them. With the "replicate" feature these categories, along with the budgeted

continued on next page

PRODUCT REVIEWS

amounts, can be carried over from month to month or year to year.

The check-balancer routine is designed to work just like the form included with your bank statement. All of the routines, (check entry, budget entry, tabulation, etc.) allow you to go back and correct any data. I personally feel this is a key feature of Financial Wizard.

One menu selection calculates and tabulates the percentage of outlay each category represents. These figures can be displayed in a very useful bar chart that compares budgeted expenses to actual expenses by category (for a month) or shows one category for each of twelve months. For those interested in complete automation, Financial Wizard will even print your checks. Check writing requires custom checks

available from the source mentioned in the owner's manual.

I give Financial Wizard high marks in ease of use, documentation, and performance. If a disk-based home finance package is in your future, the "wizard" should get serious consideration.

SLIME

Synapse Software 5327 Jacuzzi St. Richmond, CA 94804 (415) 527-7751 \$34.95 24K — Diskette & Cassette

Reviewed by David Duberman

Slime is a fiendishly clever, delightfully disgusting game that's guaranteed to give you green dreams for weeks after

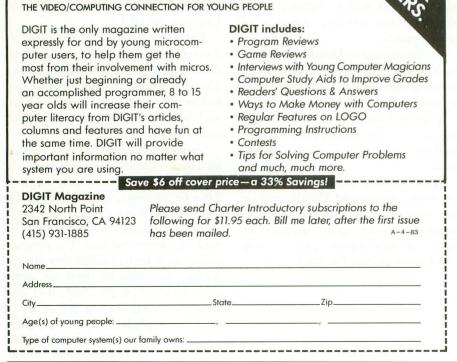
you get it. There are two objects to the game. First, you must protect your warship, which is floating on a sea of green slime at the bottom of the screen. Second, you must channel the slime falling from above into the Gamma-Tube Absorbers located at the sides of the screen.

As the game progresses, the slime that falls into the ocean causes the level of the ocean (and hence your warship) to rise. This renders your warship increasingly liable to damage from lightning that strikes during the slime storms.

Your deflector warship is supplied with a total of twenty wedges which can be placed strategically in various areas on the screen in order to deflect the slime and protect your ship. You can position the wedges one at a time, or you can create diagonal "sluices" or horizontal "shields" by holding down the fire button and moving the joystick in the desired direction.

There is a Trac-Ball option. There are also many other options, including number of players (1 to 4 — one at a time), bonus levels, and starting storm. There are 50 storms through which you must progress to win, thus 50 levels of difficulty. All the options are presented in a clever menu format on pressing Select, and it is here that you may adapt game specs to your heart's content.

Getting back to the action, there are many obstacles to your two objectives, as you may expect. Plexarian saucers are your primary enemy, and their evil intent is manifested in many ways. First, they seed the clouds to create the slime storms. Then, they remove wedges that you've placed so that the falling slime can ooze through. Occasionally, they'll drop a plug into one of the gamma tubes. Soon thereafter, a friendly helicopter will come to remove the plug, but you must protect the chopper so that it can fulfill its mission.



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The instructions say that if you can shoot the saucer, you get 1000 points, but I've been unable to hit it so far. It's very fast. The saucer is also responsible for fireballs which can wreck your wedge formations and sink your ship. The slime will also sink your ship if it falls on it. You start with up to seven ships, and the game is over when the last one is gone, or when the slime level

reaches the top of the screen.

My primary source of frustration in playing this game was the good old Atari joystick. This is one game that could really benefit from a heavy-duty ball-trigger-head stick, and even more from a Trac-Ball. The more advanced levels of the game are winnable, but only with a very high degree of control and concentration, not to mention

great agility, on the part of the player.

I'm glad to see products like Slime come out, because this game really is an improvement over most other video games I've seen, and compares very favorably with the best of the coin-op games. It tells me that Atari's potential as a fantastic game machine is finally being fulfilled.

PERCOM DOUBLE-DENSITY, DUAL-DRIVE SYSTEM

Percom Data Company 11220 Pagemill Road Dallas, Texas 75243 (800) 527-1222

Reviewed by Richard DeVore

ATARI owners who have wished for a disk drive system with larger storage capacity — your waiting is over. Percom has responded with a group of drives that deserves your attention. You can select from 40-track, single-head, single-drive systems to 10-megabyte, hard-disk systems.

RFD40-S2 is a 40-track, first-drive system with two single-head, double-density drives and power supply and controller mounted vertically in a single cabinet.

It is a configuration that will serve those who have no drives as well as you who already own one or more ATARI 810 single density drives. The list price is \$1105, which compares favorably with the cost of two 810 drives. At the same time, it offers twice the storage as well as being completely compatible with any disk product produced for the ATARI.

When you open the box of the RFD40-S2, you will find the drive, a cable with ends configured for connection directly to your system, an instruction book and a copy of the newest version of OS/A+, Version 4

by Optimised Systems Software, Inc. If you already have an 810 drive, the first thing you will notice is the size of your new unit. It takes up less space than the 810 drive due to the vertical mounting of the drives.

The drive has two switches at the back. These consist of an off/on rocker switch and a set of four dip switches at the rear. These dip switches allow some variety in unit configuration. Switch number four sets the controller drive (the one on the right-hand side) to default to either single or double density, depending on the setting of the switch. Switch number three does the same for the left-hand drive. Default means that if you don't tell the drive anything specific via software, these will be their configurations.

I discussed these switches with the technical support people at Percom and they said it was possible that they would be eliminated in later production. This is because the software allowed you to set drive density as desired.

In testing out the functions, the drives were used by themselves, and in conjunction with both one and two ATARI 810 drives. Regardless of the drive number, everything worked properly, allowing access to any drive as desired. At the present they are set up with one 810 drive which lately has not even been uncovered. This is due

to the fact that everything I need to do can be done by the one dual-drive unit. For those with higher storage requirements, there are 40-track, add-on units in single, dual, or triple drive configurations. The prices range from \$399 to \$1195.

While using the drives over the past month, they loaded programs to zero free sectors and read back all of the stored information without error. I was able to copy from single to double-density and back with no problems. Some programs which depend upon 128 byte sectors, which use note and point, or which are copy protected (obviously), would not function in double-density format.

I tried every program that I could get my hands on and all loaded properly. This included many games as well as Microsoft BASIC and VISICALC. With the dual-drive unit connected in conjunction with an 810, I loaded several cassette-based programs and they also worked properly.

The documentation, however, is rather poor and confuses more than communicates. Percom has assured me that a new instruction booklet is planned and will be understood by the average owner.

Overall, the dual-drive, doubledensity system functions perfectly. If you feel that you need two drives, this unit deserves serious consideration.

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PRODUCT REVIEWS

ARENA 3000

Med Systems Software P.O. Box 3558 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (800) 334-5470 \$29.95 16K — diskette or cassette

SURE-SHOT IOYSTICK

Spectravision 39 W. 37th St. New York, NY 10018 (212) 869-7911

Reviewed by David Plotkin

In this review I will discuss two products together. I've found an arcade game with exceptional playability and a new joystick which should enhance the play of most games, particularly the game reviewed here.

ARENA 3000, programmed by Simon Smith, is an original arcade shoot-em-up which keeps the player coming back again and again. The player controls a white robot which is being assaulted from all sides by a wide range of attackers. The robot is armed with a pistol capable of firing multiple shots. Up to four players can be on the screen at one time.

The game is divided into arenas. Clearing the screen of all the attackers allows you to go on to the next screen, or arena. These arenas increase in difficulty in several ways. The attackers move faster, but there's more to it than just an increase in speed. As the levels progress, different kinds of attackers appear, and each attacker moves differently. The number of attackers present at the beginning of each arena also increases, and there can be up to 40 attackers in the arena at one time.

Another way in which the game increases in difficulty is that when you shoot certain types of attackers they mutate into another form. Some of the mutated forms require up to four hits to destroy them. There is a certain fairness here, however, since the attackers requiring more hits to destroy also move slower, and it's easier to run from them.

There are some nice features to this game which increase its enjoyment. When you lose a robot, for example,

you don't have to go back to the beginning. You start again with the number of attackers that were left when you were "killed". Since there are fewer attackers when you restart, they now move faster. This increase in speed does not occur if you go all the way through an arena without losing a robot.

The graphics and sound of ARENA 3000 are only fair. There are no fancy titles or music, primarily due to memory limitations of 16K. Within the game itself, the attacking shapes are of medium resolution and are not animated. They move rather smoothly without changing shape.

One interesting effect I have not seen before is the explosions that occur when you hit an attacker or they hit you — you blow apart in a very tall, narrow blast which is clearly done by use of a player, somewhat similar to the explosions in the arcade classic "Robotron".

One of the most unique features of ARENA 3000 is the way in which you control the little robot. You have the choice of using one or two joysticks. If you use one joystick, then you fire using the red button in whatever direction the robot is facing. If you use two joysticks, stick 1 controls the direction you move, stick 2 controls the direction you fire in. At advanced levels, the only way to succeed is to get out near the edges of the screen and fire back into the crowd of attackers while running away, so you can forget using just one joystick. A pair of good quality joysticks, with heavy bases (such as WICO or Baylis) will work quite well

PRODUCT REVIEWS

when set on a table. However, even these sticks can shift in the heat of play, ruining your shots. What to do?

A new joystick from Spectravision may be the answer to the needs of ARENA 3000, as well as the other two-joystick games Med Systems has promised. Internally, the Sure-Shot is similar to an Atari joystick, although less pressure is needed to activate the stick. Externally, there are two firing buttons — one in the normal position, one on top of the stick. These buttons work simultaneously. The stick is a molded handgrip which nestles to the hand better than any other joystick I've tried

Lastly, and very uniquely, the Sure-Shot comes with four suction cups which anchor it firmly to formica, glass, or plexiglas table tops. The suction cups (it comes with standard rubber feet as well) keep the joysticks from sliding and two Sure-Shots work very well with ARENA 3000.

LIGHT PEN

Programmer's Institute P.O. Box 3191, Dept. 1–C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 \$19.95

Reviewed by Ike Hudson

I recently received the light pen that I ordered from Programmer's Institute (PI). At the same time I got one of their programs so I could see exactly how the pen works. Most of PI's programs are for children from pre-school through second grade. The software I ordered, called "Shapes," works with both keyboard input and the light pen.

Shapes is a graphics program that displays a particular shape and four choices that match it to create a new form. You make your choice by entering the number of the block from the keyboard or by pointing the light pen at your selection.

The choices were easy for my eightyear-old and me, but as my son pointed out, it would be more challenging to a younger child. In making selections it was necessary to point at the object in the box. Pointing to just anywhere in the box or at the number did not work. In a few selections it seemed to work only if you pointed a couple of pixels to the left of the object.

The program is written in BASIC and can be listed. This is some help to those of us who like to use different programs or use them to learn how some new hardware works. The code for the light pen is relatively simple. It seems that any average hacker (like me) could probably write some fun software for it in BASIC in a relatively short time.

The light pen comes in a rubbery plastic housing and looks like a ballpoint pen with one end cut off and a wire out the other end. It plugs into joystick port number four for use with the PI software, but could be programmed for any port. The housing is relatively simple and not heavy-duty, and may not withstand use by unsupervised juveniles. It should last, however, if used by non-destructive or mature individuals. Although lightweight, it is quite functional and at \$19.95 it compares favorably with the \$125.00 pen available from Atari.

The pen is a very unsophisticated design that works well with multiple-choice drills or similar educational applications. I think it can be a fun toy, as well as an aid in education, especially for users who aren't typists.

Unfortunately, the light pen has no documentation on how to write programs to use with it. PI said they would be producing an inexpensive series of tutorials in the near future.

I have to give this light pen a good rating. It is a great value for the price and brings the light pen within the reach of all home computer owners and schools.



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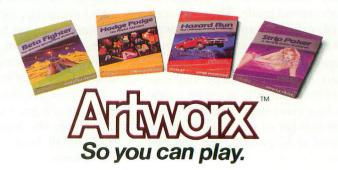
There's no such thing as a quick game of *Strip Poker*. With two captivating female opponents, this fast-paced program features graphics and game play so realistic that players tend to lose track of time. Decorum forbids that we actually show you what happens on the screen. Suffice it to say that our sophisticated software gives you ample incentive to stretch your poker skills to the limit!

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Kid Grid

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(game) Artworx Software 150 North Main St. Fairport, NY 14450 (800) 828-6573 40K — Diskette \$34.95 (master) \$24.95 (data disk)

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64K RAM SELECT

(memory expansion board) Mosaic Electronics, Inc. P.O. Box 708 Oregon City, OR 97045 \$190.00

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XTRAVIDEO I

(video monitor output) HARDSEL P.O. Box 565 Metuchen, NJ 08840 (800) 835-5465 \$39.95

This is a plug-in video monitor output module for the ATARI 400. No soldering is required. It uses a standard RCA phono plug and is compatible with most monitors, including the BMC 12.

RS232 MATRIX

Bit 3 Computer Corp. 8120 Penn Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55431 (612) 881-6955 \$89.00

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(word processor) Broderbund Software 1938 Fourth Street San Rafael, CA 94901 (415) 456-6424 48K — Diskette \$69.96

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TYPO REVISITED

Type your program once

by BILL WILKINSON

TYPO appeared in Volume 1, Number 3 of ANTIC. We reprint it here as a service to our thousands of new readers. Bill Wilkinson, President of Optimized Systems Software, was one of the original designers of ATARI BASIC.

"TYPO" is designed to help you find typing errors made when entering BASIC programs published in ANTIC. When used properly, TYPO will produce a table of values which can be used to pinpoint where an error was made. ANTIC will publish a table with every BASIC listing, and the user may compare the two tables to ensure they are identical. If they are not, then the user presumably made a "typo" which needs to be corrected.

How To Use TYPO

- 1. Enter program listing #1 EXACTLY as shown.
- 2. LIST this program to disk (LIST "D:TYPO.LIS") or cassette (via LIST "C:"). When using a cassette, use an entire blank cassette for just this program.
- 3. Type NEW to clear memory.
- 4. Type in a program from the magazine.
- 5. LIST this program to the disk (LIST "D:NAME") or cassette (LIST "C:"). Type NEW and reenter the program (ENTER "D:NAME" or ENTER "C:").
- 6. Append the TYPO program onto the end of the program from the disk (ENTER "D:TYPO.LIS") or cassette (ENTER "C:").
- 7. Type GOTO 32000 and a checksum table will be printed on your screen. Compare this table with the one published, if they agree you are finished and the program should run.
- 8. Note the value of the "Variable checksum" printed on the screen, and keep it handy.
- 9. If the table does not agree with the published table, examine the lines which have codes and/or lengths which disagree. Correct any errors.
- 10. IF AND ONLY IF the variable checksum you noted agrees with that printed in the magazine, go to step 7 above and try again.
- 11. If the variable checksums do NOT agree, you MUST

go to step 5 above and perform the listing and reentering ritual! You may skip step 6, however, since presumably you have the combined programs now LISTed together.

Follow these instructions exactly!

What TYPO Is Telling You

THIS PROGRAM IS FUSSY! It cares about every little period, comma, and even spaces. It also cares about the order in which you typed in program lines! The order in which the variable names are stored depends upon the order the lines were typed. Should this order be altered the values of the tokens and the subsequent checksums will be altered.

The "Variable checksum" is used to correct for some of this by producing an (almost) unique checksum which depends on the order in which the variables are stored. If your checksum doesn't agree, you have either entered lines in the wrong order or misspelled a variable name. In either case, you MUST correct your error(s) and then go through the LIST/NEW/ENTER sequence to assure that the variables are put back in order.

The length shown is the number of bytes encountered by TYPO within the line number range shown. The two letter code is essentially a checksum of "length" bytes within that same range. If the length is correct and the checksum is off, you have made a spelling or punctuation error. Watch out: since all keywords and operators (including two character operators such as " =") are tokenized as one byte, the length might stay the same even though you type SET-COLOR for CLR. Note!! You MAY use abbrevations for keywords as long as the LISTed result conforms to the magazine listing.

If the length bytes disagree, you have added or deleted characters. If nothing obvious shows, pay special attention to characters in quoted strings and/or REMark statements. It is easy to omit a space or punctuation in a REMark, thinking that "REMarks don't matter"; but to TYPO they do.

This is a small but sophisticated program, use it and typing errors will be reduced.

NOTE: TYPO ask for output file. Respond with S for television or P for printer.

32000 REM Type Your Program Once -- "TYPO"

32100 CLR :DIM Q\$(20):QF=7:CLOSE #QF:?
"File for output ";

32110 INPUT Q\$:OPEN #QF,12,0,Q\$:QREM=0

32130 QCNT=1:FOR QADDR=PEEK(130)+256* PEEK(131) TO PEEK(132)+ 256*PEEK(133)-1

32140 QSUM=QSUM+PEEK(QADDR)

*QCNT:QCNT=QCNT+1:NEXT QADDR

32150 ? #QF;"Variable checksum = "; QSUM:? #QF

32160 QADDR=PEEK(136)+256*PEEK(137):?

#QF;" Line num range Code Length"

32170 QLINE=PEEK(QADDR)+256*PEEK (QADDR+1)

32180 IF QLINE>=32000 THEN END

32190 QLEN=0:QSUM=QLEN:QCNT=QLEN:? #QF;" ";QLINE,"-";

32200 IF NOT (QCNT<12 AND QLEN<500 AND QLINE<32000) THEN 32270

32220 QLEN=QLEN+PEEK(QADDR+2):QCNT=

32230 IF PEEK(QADDR+4)=0 AND QREM THEN QADDR=QADDR+PEEK(QADDR+2): GOTO 32260

32240 FOR QADDR=QADDR TO QADDR+PEEK (QADDR+2)-1

32250 QSUM=QSUM+PEEK(QADDR): NEXT QADDR

32260 Q\$=STR\$(QLINE):QLINE= PEEK(QADDR)+256*PEEK (QADDR+1):GOTO 32200

32270 QSUM=QSUM-676*INT(QSUM/676): QCNT=INT(QSUM/26)

32280 ? #QF;Q\$,CHR\$(65+QCNT); CHR\$(65+QSUM-26*QCNT); ";QLEN

32290 GOTO 32180

TYPO TABLE

Variable checksum = 50796

Line num range Code Length 32000 - 32200 QD 518 32220 - 32290 WQ 310

Result of using TYPO to check itself

(MUST have changed 32000 to 32500 in lines 32180 and 32200 first!)

A

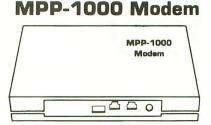
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AUTO PILOT continued from page 66	1870 T: [TYPE 5 SPACES AFTER COLON
10 R: MENU.SYS 20 R:AN AUTOMATED MENU SYSTEM	1880 PA:5 1890 U:*RESETXY
30 R: PART 1 40 R: ANTIC #7 KEN HARMS	1900 E: 1910 *PUCKER
50 R: 60 C:@B752=1 [TURN OFF CURSOR	1920 U:*SETXY 1930 POS:7,11
70 C:@B709=154 [TURNS ON LETTERS	1940 T: - Z = N =
80 U:*FACE 90 T:HI! \	1950 POS:7,12 1960 T:□□□□□
100 U:*OPEN	1970 PA:5 1980 U:*RESETXY
110 T:PLEASE \	1990 E:
120 U:*PUCKER 130 T:WAIT	2000 *HALF 2010 U:*SETXY
140 U:*HALF	2020 POS:7,11
150 T:JUST \ 160 U:*TIGHT	2030 T: 2040 POS: 7, 12
170 T:A MINUTE.	2050 T:\\=\=\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
180 U:*OPEN 190 U:*SMILE	2060 PA:5 2070 U:*RESETXY
200 LOAD D:DIRECT.SYS	2080 E: 2090 R:
1470 R: 1480 *FACE	2100 *SETXY
1490 POS:2,5	2110 R: STORES CURSOR POSITION 2120 C:#X=@B85 [GET X COORDINATE
1500 R: USE CTRL Ps, reverse CTRL	2130 C:#Y=@B84 [GET Y COORDINATE
Ys, and CTRL Ys. CTRL F, G,	2140 E: 2150 R:
& N for mouth.	2160 *RESETXY
1510 T: 호텔 1520 T: 호텔 호텔	2170 R: RESTORES CURSOR POSITION 2180 C:@B85=#X
1530 T: 🖭	2190 C:@B84=#Y 2200 E:
1540 T:	2210 R:
1560 T:	200 R: DIRECT.SYS
1580 T: ■	200 R: DIRECT.SYS 210 R:PART 2 OF PILOT AUTOMATED MENU
1590 T: \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	220 R: ANTIC #7
1610 PA:30	230 R: K.W. HARMS 240 R:
1620 E: 1630 *SMILE	250 U:*INITIALIZATION
1640 U:*SETXY 1650 POS:7,11	260 C:\$DIR=D:*.*[WILDCARDS GET ALL FILES 270 C:@B1373=2 [OPEN DIRECTORY FLAG
1660 T: Name / 1	280 R: CTRL F,17 M's,G
1670 POS:7,12 1680 T: [ERASES MOUTH BOTTOM	290 T: Z===================================
1690 PA:5	310 *DIRECTORYLOOP
1700 U:*RESETXY 1710 E:	320 R:READ 1st 20 GOOD FILES 330 READ:\$DIR \$FILENAME [READ DIRECTOR
1720 *OPEN	340 J(@B228=136):*FINI [END OF FILE
1730 U:*SETXY 1740 POS:7,11	350 A:=\$FILENAME 360 M:FREE SECTORS
1750 T:2888 1760 POS:7,12	370 JY:*FINI [JUMPS ON FREE SECTORS ITEM
1770 T:\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	380 M:SYS _ [MATCHES TO FIND
1780 PA:5 1790 U:*RESETXY	SYS FILES 390 R: THE [MUST BE
1800 E:	AT THE UNDERLINE!
1810 *TIGHT 1820 U:*SETXY	400 JY:*DIRECTORYLOOP 410 C:#F=#F+1 [ADD 1 TO FILE #
1830 POS:7,11 1840 R: CTRL U	420 C:@B#P=13 [CUT OFF AFTER 13 425 R:NEXT 2 LINES CTRL V & B ON
1850 T:	EITHER SIDE
1860 POS:7,12	OF STRING

100 = (
430 T($\#F < 10$): $\square \#F = \$FILENAME \square$	1070 C:#C=0
440 T(#F>9):□#F =\$FILENAME□	1080 *EXPANDLOOP
450 J(#F<20):*DIRECTORYLOOP	1090 C:#C=#C+1
460 J:*FINI	1100 C:#W=#R+1 [WRITE HIGHER THAN READ
470 R:END OF PRINTING FILES	1110 C. #V-@P#P [PEAD VALUE @ #P
	1110 C:#V=@B#R [READ VALUE @ #R
480 R:	1120 C:@B#W=#V [WRITE THAT VALUE
490 *QUESTION	1130 C:#R=#R-1 [MOVE EVERYTHING LEFT
500 R:ASK FOR FILE NUMBER	1140 J(#C<3): *EXPANDLOOP [PERFORM 3 TIMES
510 POS:2,15	1150 R: INSERT A DOT
520 T: [ERASE LINE	1160 C:#W=#P+11 [THE EMPTY SPACE
530 T: [ERASE LINE	1170 C:@B#W=46 [ASCII VALUE FOR PERIOD
540 POS:2,15	1180 R:
550 U:*TIGHT	1190 R: DELETE BLANKS IN 1ST 8 LETTERS
560 T:TYPE \	1200 C:#R=#P+2 [SET READ TO 2ND LETTER
	1210 C:#C=0
570 U:*HALF	
580 T:NUMBER \	1220 *DELETELOOP
590 U:*OPEN	1230 C:#C=#C+1
600 T:FOR	1240 C:#V=@B#R [READ VALUE
610 U:*PUCKER	1250 C(#V=32):
620 T:THE PROGRAM \	#W=#R [A 32 IS A BLANK,
630 U:*HALF	SET
640 T:YOU	WRITE ADDRESS TO
650 U:*TIGHT	READ ADDRESS
660 T:WISH \	IF BLANK
670 U:*PUCKER	1260 J(#V=32): *MOVELEFT
	1270 C:#R=#R+1 [IF NOT BLANK,
680 T:TO \	
690 U:*HALF	GET READY TO
700 T:RUN.	READ NEXT LETTER
710 U:*SMILE	1280 J(#C<7):*DELETELOOP [DO 7 TIMES
720 *ENTRYLOOP	1290 J: *LOADER [NO BLANK FOUND, LOAD
730 R:GET AN ANSWER & CHECK IT	1300 R:
740 C:@B752=0 [TURN ON CURSOR	1310 *MOVELEFT
750 POS:8,19	1320 R: MOVES DOT AND EXTENSION DOWN
760 A:#A	TO ELIMINATE
770 $T(\#A<1)+(\#A>\#F)$:SORRY, TRY AGAIN.	BLANKS
780 J(#A<1)+(#A>#F):*ENTRYLOOP	1330 C:#R=#P+11[SET READ ON DOT
790 R:	1340 C:#C=0
800 R: THE READ FILE AND COUNT LOOP	1350 *MOVELEFTLOOP
810 C:@B1373=2	1360 C:#C=#C+1
820 C:#F=0	1370 C:#V=@B#R [READ VALUE
830 *READLOOP	1380 C:@B#W=#V [WRITE PER #W IN
840 READ: \$DIR \$FILENAME	DELETE LOOP
850 A:=\$FILENAME	1390 C:#R=#R+1 [NEXT LETTER
	1400 C:#W=#W+1 [NEXT LETTER
860 M:SYS_	1410 U. #W = #W I [NEXT LETTEN
870 JY: *READLOOP [SKIP SYS FILES	1410 J(#C<4): *MOVELEFTLOOP [DO 4 TIMES
880 C:#F=#F+1	1420 R:
890 J(#F=#A):*RUNNER [FOUND FILE, JUMP	1430 *LOADER
900 J:*READLOOP [FILE NOT FOUND	1440 GR: QUIT [RESETS SCREEN
910 R:	1450 LOAD \$FILENAME
920 *RUNNER	1460 R:END OF MAIN PROGRAM
	1470 R:
930 R: INSERTS D: AT FRONT OF FILENAME	
940 R: #P = POINTER TO DATA LENGTH	1480 *FACE
950 R: #R = BYTE ADDRESS TO READ	1490 POS:2,5
960 R: #W = BYTE ADDRESS TO WRITE	1500 R: USE CTRL Ps,
970 R: #V = VALUE TO READWRITE	reverse CTRL Ys, and
980 R: #C = COUNTER	CTRL Ys.
990 C:@B#P=14 [CUTS TO 2 SPACES PLUS	CTRL F, G,
A LENGTH	& N for mouth.
OF 11 PLUS 1 FOR DOT	1510 T: 222
1000 C:#W=#P+1 [FIRST CHARACTER	1520 T: 🚉 🚉
1010 C:@B#W=68 [ASCII VALUE FOR D	1530 T: № .
1020 C:#W=#P+2 [SECOND CHARACTER	1540 T: ■ ■ ■
1030 C:@B#W=58 [ASCII VALUE FOR:	1550 T: I
1040 R:	1560 T: I
1050 R: EXPAND FILENAME AFTER D:+8	
LETTERS	1580 T: •
1060 C:#R=#P+13 [SET READ ON LAST CHAR.	1590 T: continued on next page
	commed on next page

PILOT YOUR ATARI

1600 T:	IN THE VARIABLE TABLE
1610 PA:30	2270 C:#P=@178[START OF STRING SPACE
1620 E:	2280 C:#P=#P+8+1
1630 *SMILE	2290 R:ADDS TO SKIP
1640 U:*SETXY	BYTES NAME LENGTH & NAME
1650 POS:7,11	ITSELF, LEAVES
1660 T: \\\	#P ON DATA LENGTH
1670 POS:7,12	2300 C:@B82=20 [MOVE MARGIN
1680 T: [ERASES MOUTH BOTTOM	2310 POS:20,1 [GETS TO NEW MARGIN
1690 PA:5	2320 E:
1700 U:*RESETXY	2330 R:
1710 E:	2340 *FINI
1720 *OPEN	2350 R:CTRL G, 17 N's, F
1730 U:*SETXY	2360 T: \
1740 POS:7,11	2370 CLOSE: \$DIR
1750 T: Z===	2380 C:@B82=2
1760 POS:7,12	2390 R:POS:0,2
1770 T: \(\text{\$\}\$}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}}	2400 J:*QUESTION
1780 PA:5	2410 R:END OF PROGRAM
1790 U:*RESETXY	
1800 E:	
1810 *TIGHT	10 REM GENERATES AN AUTORUN.SYS FILE
1820 U:*SETXY	20 REM TO READ A PILOT PROGRAM NAMED
1830 POS:7,11	25 REM MENU.SYS. THIS PROGRAM RUNS
1840 R: CTRL U	30 REM UNDER THE BASIC CARTRIDGE
1850 T:	40 REM ANTIC #7
1860 POS:7,12	
1870 T: [50 REM KEN HARMS
1880 PA:5	60 OPEN #2,4,0,"E:"
1890 U:*RESETXY	70 ? "INSERT DESTINATION DISK, PRESS
1900 E:	RETURN": GET #2,Q
1910 *PUCKER	80 OPEN #1,8,0,"D:AUTORUN.SYS"
1920 U:*SETXY	90 FOR X=1 TO 500
1930 POS:7,11	100 READ Y:IF Y=-1 THEN 140
1940 T: - Z = D -	110 LET NUM=NUM+Y
1950 POS:7,12	
1960 T: =\= Z=	120 PUT #1, Y
1970 PA:5	130 NEXT X
1980 U:*RESETXY	140 CLOSE #1
1990 E:	150 ? "NUMBER CHECK = "; NUM
2000 *HALF	160 ? "CORRECT NUMBER IS 11665"
2010 U:*SETXY	170 ? "END OF JOB"
2020 POS:7,11	180 DATA 255,255,0,6,112,6,173,31,208,41,
2030 T:	4,240,10,169,18,141,33,3,169,6,141,34,
2040 POS:7,12	3,96,251,243,51,246,33,6
2050 T: \\	190 DATA 163,246,51,246,60,246,76,228,
2060 PA:5	
2070 U:*RESETXY	243,0,238,33,6,172,33,6,192,53,208,10,
2080 E:	169,0,141,33,3,169,228,141,34,3
2090 R:	200 DATA 185,59,6,160,1,96,67,58,64,66,55,
2100 *SETXY	49,50,61,55,48,155,67,58,64,66,55,
2110 R: STORES CURSOR POSITION	48,57,61,49,52,56,155,67
2120 C:#X=@B85 [GET X COORDINATE	210 DATA 58,64,66,53,56,48,61,49,155,76,
2130 C:#Y=@B84 [GET Y COORDINATE	79,65,68,32,68,58,77,69,78,85,46,
2140 E:	83,89,83,155,82,85,78,155,226
2150 R:	220 DATA 2,227,2,0,6,224,2,225,2,17,6,-1
2160 *RESETXY	220 DATA 2,221,2,0,0,224,2,220,2,17,0,
2170 R: RESTORES CURSOR POSITION	
2180 C:@B85=#X	TYPO TABLE
2190 C:@B84=#Y	
2200 E:	Variable checksum = 73747
2210 R:	Line num range Code Length
2220 R:	0 — 100 DG 366
2230 *INITIALIZATION	110 - 210 RP 522
2240 C:\$FILENAME=DUMMYSPACESTO15	220 - 220 WY 37
2250 R:THIS STRING MUST BE FIRST	000
2260 R: VARIABLE USED. IT RESERVES SPACE	A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR

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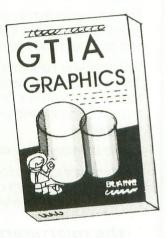
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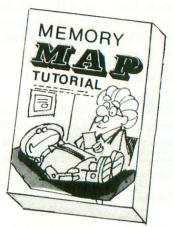
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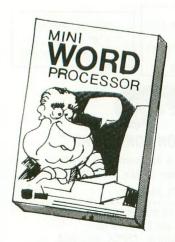
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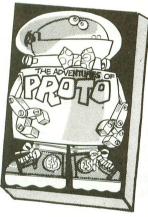




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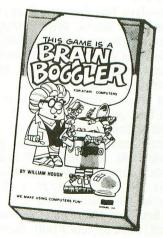


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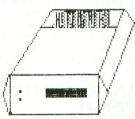
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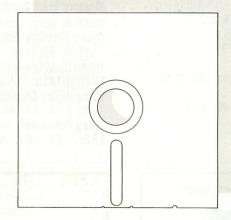
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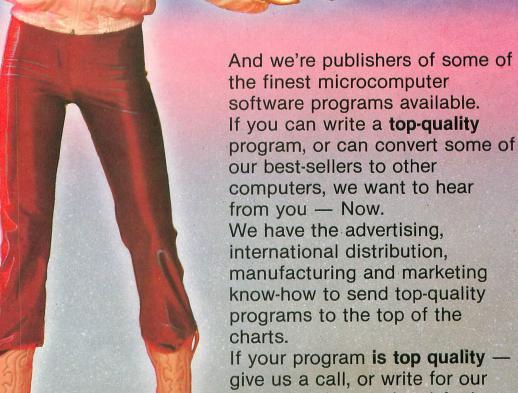
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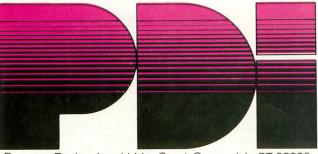
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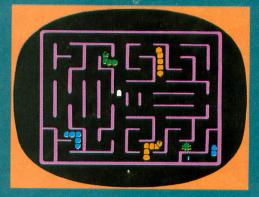


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