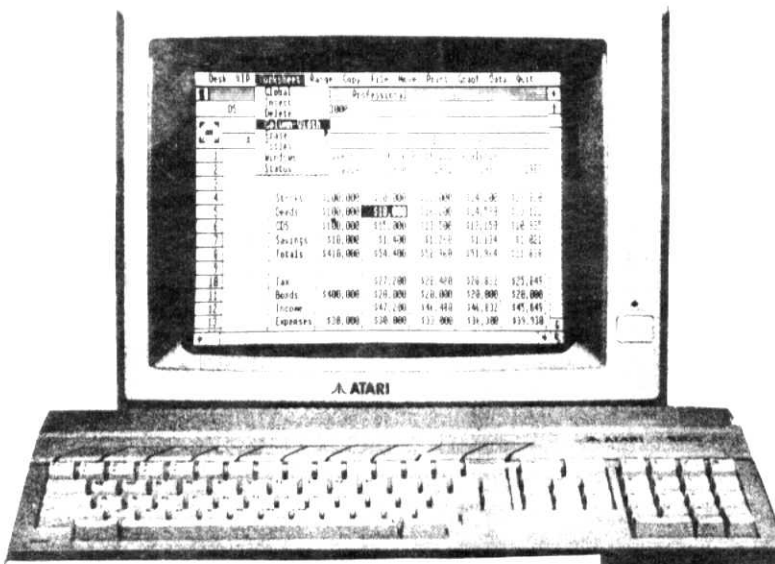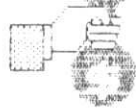# CompuClub
Where Atari owners belong.

EXCERPTS from reviews of the ATARI 520ST Creative Computing (October)

"Without question the most advanced, most powerful microcomputer your money can buy..." "Fairly positioned to blow the Commodore Amiga right out of the water..." "the Atari ST delivers 75% of the splendor of the desktop interface at 25% of the price of a 512k Macintosh"

Phil Lemmons, editor Byte mag. following a visit to Atari in late Aug.

"I visited Atari yesterday afternoon and got my first really good look at an ST520. I'm extremely impress. Graphics are fast and first-rate. The most important thing is that all the i/o happens so fast. It's hard to believe that this is a low-end machine. I saw a terminal emulator and a rudimentary word processor; when there's a spreadsheet (and I saw two in development) I'll be able to do 90% of my work on an ST. Also saw a fine 'paint' program in development.'got a pretty good tour thorugh the development labs, and can trying to deliver on its promise of "POWER WITHOUT THE PRICE" and I think they're going to pull it off. there was no doom and gloom to be seen; indeed; considerable joy was evident about already having shipped 50,000 machines... the ST520 is going to invigorate the drowsy marketplace."These are a few of the comments that have appeared in the popular press in the last few months. The only negative comments we have seen have been along the lines of "great machine .... but, lacking software. Well, of course. the machine has been on the market for less than 2 1/2 months (as of this writing). As most of you know the software houses are reluctant to bring a title to market until there are enough computers sold to form a good base of potential customers for their software. I am sure by now most of you have read about some of the titles under development for the ST. If even half of them come to market before Christmas this will prove to be the best buy in computers today. there are products announced for all are MacIntosh at the same point (2 1/2 months) after its introduction this has to look like one of the most successful introductions ever.Right now the titles are being shipped at the rate of about 2 new titles a week with a much higher rate due as we get closer to Christmas. The real question is not if you will get an ST but, when.

ST FINANCING

If you are one of the many thinking about an ST present for the holidays then we have good news for you. We have arranged two financing plans for the purchase of STs' from CompuClub

The first is for business . Your company can now acquire an ST on a Lease/Purchase plan. Under this plan you will make monthly payments which you can write off as a business expense. At the end of the lease term you can buy the ST (and the software on the lease) for a small lump payment. As many of you know with leasing you have the opportunity to get the equipment you need without affecting your credit lines at your local bank.

For individual users we are also offering a credit plan for the personal purchase of an ST system. The system must be the 520 ST with RGB and includes $100.00 worth of software. If you are interested in either of these two plans just give us a call and ask for Thom.

Atari 520ST

H. Bojarsky

Let me start off by saying that this is a good machine. With 512 K built in, a mouse and 3 1/2 inch disk drive included in the price, and a choice of either monochrome or color monitor, with proper marketing and software support this machine should definately shake up the 68000 market. It can be viewed as taking a Macintosh, chopping a bit more than 1/2 off of the price, and adding color to what is really a graphics machine. (Fairness forces me to note that the Mac is portable, which this is not. The Mac also does have a large software base, which the ST does not yet have.)

In the basic package, you recieve the hardware mentioned above, a Systems disk which contains GEM (Graphics Environment Manager), and a language disk (curently LOGO, soon to also include Basic).

GEM is wonderful. Fashioned after the MACs file handler, it shows everything as an icon, and allows you to navigate DOS by using a pointing device called a mouse. No matter what this sounds like, it really is the most natural way that I have come across to work with a computer. The more that I work with it, the more convinced I am that this is probably the best way to allow a novice to feel comfortable with computers. (Atari 8 bit users can compare this to using EAs Pinball Construction Set).

To return to the hardware, the keyboard is a joy. Key repeat and key click are both controlled through GEM, and the keyboard has a nice, but slightly soft touch to it. The typists who have tried it out have had no complaints aout the keyboard feel. In addition to the standard typewriter keys portion, the machine also boasts 10 function keys, a numeric keypad and a seperate group of directional arrows. It is an attractive unit.

In my only compalint about the unit, we have what might be viewed as a tribute to the old Atari. Each component has a large, seperate power supply. This enables the ST to take up a lot of desk space, and also to become a wire jungle without too much trouble. This is a shame when you see how sleek the system appears.

A final concern, and very legitimate at pesent is Will this machine survive? The answer to that is still to be determined. I think that it will, but the one thing missing is software. Serious software. Business software. VIP Professional should help, as will the myriad of word processing and drawing packages which have been announced. Support from a major house, such as Ashton-Tate, is rumered, and could guarantee this machine. If software of professional quality is released, this machine should make a splash in both the home market (due to its reasonable price) and in the business market (due to its power).

If you're looking for a powerful machine, and don't feel locked into the IBM compatability syndrome, consider this machine. It both deserves to be, and could very well be a winner.

ST BASIC

LIST PRICE: $ N/C
CLUB PRICE:$ N/C

Basic should be on the way to most of you by the time you read this. For those of you who haven't reveiwed yours yet a little preview might be in order. The ST Basic is very close to GW Basic as offered in the IBM PC Clones. Those of you who have a PC or a PC clone in your offices can begin to learn some of the features of the new ST Basic by taking a look at the manual that came with your 'old office machine'. You will find that many of the basic commands in ST Basic are the same. Of course, ST Basic takes full advantage of the features of GEM in fact except for entering the lines of code you can perform almost all of the functions of st basic using the mouse and pull down windows. For those of you who have wished for an Atari basic that supported records/files and arrays your wish has been granted. The Basic on the 520 supports arrays (even string arrays) just like Microsoft and GWBasic, random access files (wit al GEM functions (like windows and menus) in your programs through the use of peeks and pokes. Most important to many this can be a very fast basic.
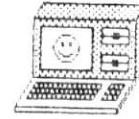
FOR THE ST

From MichTron
Softspool
While printing files (from word proccessors, TOS, etc.), your computer is just dead weight; waiting for the printer to finish. With SoftSpool the wait is over! Now your computer can think and print at the same time! This software spooler sends printed data to the printer between tasks, freeing the computer for more important jobs, an saving you hours of computer time!
Calander
This program helps keep you up to date! Record and store any notes or appointment from the year 1980 to 2099: any day, any time. You can access calendar anywhere in GEM as a desktop accessory. Events like weekly meetings can be recorded easily, and without repetition. You can even set special "allarms" to inform you anytime in GEM, of noted events as they occur!
Mi-Term
this smart-terminal modem program lets you use ASCII, DFT and X-Modem protocols to send and receive data. With MI-Term you can set communications options to work with almost any computer. There's a big world out there. Greet it with open arms; greet it with Mi-term

Planning to use your ST and a copy of PROFESSIONAL to load up those spreadsheets you created at the office with LOTUS 123?
Then you better know about the new Cables we are offering for the ST. These cables allow you to hook up a standard 5 1/2 inch double sided double density drive to the ST as drive #2. The drives you might already have for your 8bit system will not work however since they already have a controller card in them which tells them how to be drives for an ATARI 800 or 800XL. The drive you will need is an IBM compatible drive. The controller card in the ST already knows how to run this drive and can read and write files to it as though it were another 3 1/2" ST drive. Of course, this must be your second drive since you will need to boot up GEM from the first drive and that is only avaliable on a 3 1/2" disk.
What you can do however, is use this second drive to put your saved Lotus 123 SPREADSHEETS in. You can load them form there into the about to be released PROFESSIONAL from VIP TECH. You will now be able to work at home and at the office! Ain't technology grand! Now that MARK OF THE UNICORN has released its office word processor FINALWORD you will also be able to load up those text files you have been creating on the office word processor too. If you feel like building your own, the plans are on our BBS and on CompuServe. You should be a fairly experenced person with a soldering gun and the inside of a disk drive before you try.
For those of you who want to use equipment not build it we have a package ready to go. Our ST5 disk drive consist of a drive, wrapper, power pack, and cables to hook everything up. The drive and case are both UL and FCC approved and come with a one year warranty.
The Club Price is $199.95

LOGO

Glentop an English publishing house has just released a book for the complete beginner that explores LOGO in its exciting new version for the ST. It starts with a full explanation of loading and running the language, along with a complete explanation of bith keyboard and mouse control. The use of windows for both language and display is fully covered. Being project based, this book explores the language step by step while developing projects that are entertaining and illustrative of the major features of ST LOGO.

THE FINAL WORD

LIST PRICE: $145.00
CLUB PRICE: $109.00

AT LAST!
A SERIOUS WORD PROCESSOR FOR THE ST!

I have been using the FinalWord for all of a day now and I think I'm in love. this is the most powerful word processor I have ever used. The list of features is almost endless. This package will not be learned by most people in a few minutues since it offers over 100 formating commands and options to let you specify exactly how you want you manuscript to look. Thankfully all the commands use something quite unusual for the work processor, English. I think I can best explain the FinalWord to you by example. If I am typing a paper for school or work and want to insert footnotes its as simple and logical as it should be. When I come to the point in the text when where I realize I will want a footnote I just type "@" [tell the program a command follows] foot [the command] and (the text of the footnote). FinalWord will worry about keeping the footnotes on the right page and numbering them. I have enough to worry about with writing. Most of the other commands of FinalWord work in the same way, simply type in the command you need and the program will worry about the details. Other formatting commands are things like TEXT, CHAPTER, ADDRESS. And its editing commands are simply letters of the alphabet.

There is even a comprehensive "Help" command you can use any time. It explains the purpose of certain keys, or defines commands to help you get the most from FinalWord in the shortest possiable time.

Some of the other features any serious writer will be greatful for are:

Multiple Files
Since serious writers are usually working on a number of documents at any given time, The FinalWord is structured to let you display and edit several files at once. You can move information from one document to another, and make as many changes as you want.

Table of Contents
Using the Chapter, Section, or Sub-section commands, FinalWord automatically creates formated and numbered titles, and a table of contents page. All heading are renumbered and reformated automatically as you insert and delete them.

Index Entries
"Tag" a word or phrase with the Index command and the FinalWord automatically creates an alphabetized index page listing all indexed words or phrases and their page numbers.

Virtual Memory System
Enables you to edit several files at once, each one larger than your computers main memory, with no performace penalty.

Keyboard Customization
Any FinalWord command may be tied to any key on your keyboard including function keys. You can rearrange the commands to suit your style of working.

This is not all the FinalWord can do (by a long margin), but I think it's enough of a discription to give you the idea that this a truly professional word processing package. MARK OF THE UNICORN has now released three products for the ST HEX, PC INTERCOM, and FinalWord and each has be very well done and more important very well supported by people who really care about the products they sell and what people think of them and their company.

ST-TALK

QMI SOFTWARE
LIST PRICE: $ 17.95
CLUB PRICE:$ 13.45

One of the nicest suprises of the ST market has been the sharing of info and programs between the Software houses and the first owners of ST. Thats right I did say sharing of programs! One of the best examples of this is QMI.

The author of ST-Talk offered a fully useable version of ST-Talk on CompuServe for anyone who wanted it to download! This modem package had almost every feature of the finished package except a phone directory and one or two other "finishing touches" however it worked fine and was a boon the the first owners of ST since it enabled them to begin to exchange files and begin to build up the base of Public Domain software for this super new machine.

The finished version of ST-Talk is now on the market and is a friendly easy to use product that is a super value for the money!

This modem packge offers everything that most modem users would ever need and offers it at a price that will make the 800 owners green with envy.

ST-Talk allows the use to call in and emulate either a VT-52 terminal or the Atari 800XL/130XE. If your calling a board that requires you to call in ATASCII (and some Atari BBS's still do) then you can simply switch modes and you will not only look like an 800XL to the BBS but you will be able to display all the ATASCIII graphics symbols on your screen as well!

Of course the package offers full upload and download with XMODEM as well as ASCII capture and dump. In short this is a solid modem package at a good price from people who are truly supporting the ST and the Atari community in general and I urge you to consider it carefully when you are ready to buy a modem progam.

Introducing PC/Inter–Comm

MARK OF THE UNICORN
LIST PRICE: $ 129.95
CLUB PRICE:$ 90.00

When faced with the decision of what communications package to buy, it is sometimes hard to find one that does all of the things that you want it to. However the telecommunications program PC/InterComm by Mark of the Unicorn for the ST has made the choice much easier for us. This program has the look and the easy to use features that make it one of the best communications programs that have as yet hit the market for any computer system. Just some of the features include, a history feature that records all of the data between your computer, the host computer you are connected to, and allows you to review large amounts of information or other data at a later date using a massive buffer of 68,000 characters. You can use 20 function keys to quickly send commonly used text, you can also program the function keys to wait for certain answers from the host computer before continuing on, which means you can have you computer preform batch funtions without having to press more than one function key.

PC/InterComm supports XModem and kermit transfer protocols. You can also exchange ASCII text with any other computer using the same communications package. The only thing that bothers me about this program is its inability to do a disk directory from the program, which would be more convienient than having to exit the program, but I think its positive aspects far outwieght this one flaw. The best feature of this program is the fact you can choose any option you want from a simple menu selection process. These menus offer the features I have mentioned and many others I have not discussed.

This program has the power to be used by the experienced telecommunicator, or for the person just starting out. The instruction manual is well done and easy to use, and has in my experience not left anything out. You may pay more for this ST communications program, but I think you will also find you get your moneys worth.

HIPPO ALMANAC

HIPPOPOTAMUS SOFTWARE INC.
LIST PRICE: $34.95
CLUB PRICE: $26.20

This is a program that gives us a problem. The problem is how to classify it.

It's as much fun as a game, sometimes. It's as useful as a dictionary or encyclopedia, sometimes. It has even helped get some of our neighborhood children interested in going to a library to look up more information. So, what do we say about it? Is it a game or a learning program?

What I can say about it is that for $26.20 it's a good deal of fun and a good deal to boot.

The Hippo Computer Almanac contains the equivalent of more than 500 pages of information, highly compressed on disk. There's even room for you to add personal information. IT'S SMART. Hippo uses an A.I. language parser and contextual processing to understand questions in plain english. IT'S QUICK. This unprecedented refrence tool, game, or whatever it is, performs calculations and answers questions faster than you could look the answers up.

Perhaps a few examples of the type of questions we asked that the almanac had answers for will give you an idea what this product is all about:

Q: Who won the World Series in 1923?

A: The New York Yankees (American League), won against the New York Giants (national league), 4 games to 2, in the 1923 World Series.

Q: What is the area code of Denver?

Q: What is 20km/liter in miles per gallon?

Q: What is the mohthly payment on a $7000.00 14% annual, 4 year loan

Q: How many calories are in 3 cups of wheat flour?

Q: What is the time now in Tokyo?

Q: How do you say Hello in Japanese?

Q: What do you call a program that can answer all of these questions and thousands more???????

TIMELINK

LIST PRICE: $109.95
CLUB PRICE: $85.00

Looking for a good time? TimeLink is an innovative new product for the 520ST which allows you to do almost anything with information and data relating to time.

Much more than an electronic desk diary (although it can be that if you wish- and a darn good one too). TimeLink allows you to handle almost any time-related information in an incredibly flexible manner.

HIPPOPOTAMUS PRESENTS

7 NEW TITLES FOR THE ATARI 520ST
HIPPOBACKGAMMON AND HIPPOART I AVAILABLE SOON

We've reveived five new packages from Hippopotamus for the ST. thats the good news the bad news is we received them just a one day before the newsletter went to press so we haven³t had a chance to review them.

What follows is the manufactures discriptions of their products and the club prices for them.

HIPPO JOKES & QUOTES
Contains oover 2,500 popular jokes and over 1,500 quotes on disk. Access by subject, author, or keyword. Selected combinations of PG,R,X SEXIST, OR RACIAL JOKES.
Club price 26.20

HIPPO EPROM BURNER
Includes hardware and software which allows user to read, verify and burn most popular types of EPROMS including 27256 and 27512. Connects to the printer port.
Club Price $115.00

HIPPO ST RAMDISK
Speeds up programs many times by allowing user to partition a portion of RAM to be use as a ramdisk. Compatible with all models of the 520ST. No more waiting for a floppy.
Club Price $26.20

HIPPOSIMPLE
Easy to use powerful home data base. No tricky commands or predefined data fields. Allows user to enter and edit all information easily. Sort and merge lists. Prints reports or mailing labels. Programmable print formatting.
Club Price $37.45

It's a way for for busy professionals to keep keep track of appointments, stay in control of rental equipment, schedule appointments, track investments, log time time-sensitive experimental data and lots more!

TimeLink is a whole new way to organise your time. You can see a day-at-a-glance, week-at-a-glance, month-at-a-glance, and year-at-a-glance. Or all four on the screen at one time. You can select just one 'key' and see the entire development of a project mapped out before you, or the entire diary of one businessman. You can even analyse how you used your time.

This is a such a great program that you might want to buy two - one for yourself and a second one for holiday gift-giving to any frazzled super yuppies in your life!

HIPPOSPELL
Finds misspelled words in text documents. Contains a dictionary of over 30,000 words including common prefixes and suffixes.. Compatible with Express and Atari word processors. Great for everyone who needs help owth their spelling.
Club Price $29.95

HIPPO ST DISK UTILITIES
A "must" collection of powerful disk utilities. Allows user to recover lost or deleted files. Includes a track and sector editor, memory editor, file archive, string search, and a host of other useful utilities and features.
Club Price $37.45

DUE OUT WITHING 2 WEEKS

HIPPOART I
A collection of over 30 full color "click" pictures whiich user can edit and combine to create their own masterpieces. Includes famous people, cars, flowers, business graphics, etc... Uses standard paint document format.
Club price $29.95

HIPPOBACKGAMMON
Tournament Backgammon! Uses sophisticated two ply look ahead algorithm to play challenging game. Set computer playing level (beginning to expert). Full color animated graphics. Keeps track of wins/losses on disk.
Club Price $29.95

RHYTHM

CLUB NUMBER ST002
LIST PRICE: $ 59.95
CLUB PRICE:$ 44.95

Rhythm is part spreadsheet and part powerful calculator- all available at the click of your mouse as a desk accessory!

Rhythm is like having several 'pocket computers' at your disposal, working in tandem. Each of them can be given a label just as in the best of the new generation of spreadsheets. Call the first one "Cost" and enter into it a complexd equation for the cost of your new product; call the second one "Sales" and enter in your equation for net sales; call another one "Profit" and equate it to "(sales-cost)". With this unique combination of calculator and spreadsheet functions and facilities you can do what-if analysis (particularly useful when you haven't got large amounts of data to analyze), or simply use its powerful number-crunching ability without booting up that other much more complex program or resorting to your trusty office calculator.

HEX
MARK OF THE UNICORN
LIST PRICE: $39.95
CLUB PRICE: $29.95

HEX is a graphic strategy game that can best be described as a cross between three other games you know well: chess, Q*bert, and archon! The game is played on a playing field that resembles the old Q*bert game hexagons instead of squares. Characters are animated in sixteen colors making exceptional use of the 520ST color monitor. Its hard to overstate the quality of the characters. They are really well drawn! This is a game that really shows what the ST can do with graphics! In fact I lost a few games just watching what was happening on the screen instead of playing the game. The game offers three levels of play so there is room for adults as well a children to play and enjoy the game.

BUT you keep asking, how do you play the game?? Its not that simple really. It starts as a relly well done version of Q*bert, then it adds spells and opponents (computer players that play against you, its a one player game), after that the rules start to change and the game bacomes quite complex. Add a couple more levels of difficulty and you've got it. Its simply an addictive game that requires you to think logicaly. This is one that you will keep playing for a long time.

SOLUTIONS:

BUSINESS LETTERS/WILLS
LIST PRICE: $ 49.95 EA
CLUB PRICE:$ 37.45 EA

The Solutions series from HABA consists of a four small low cost packages offering solutions to common business and personal problems. The first two packages LETTERS and WILLS are now avaliable for your ST.

Letters consists of 50 professionally written, pre-defined letter and memo formats.
They feature:
-letters that can be customized to meet individual needs
-files that includes page set-up, letter content, and common rules for letter writing
-sample letters:Employee, Stockholders, Customers, Vendors, Finiancial, Public Realations, and Personal.

My basic feeling after looking at the latter is ARE YOU KIDDING! If you are writing a personal letter to me I would hope that it's not a form letter!
That aside, this program can be useful, but no more so than a $3.95 paperback that offers the same 50 letters and 10 pages of advice on how to write a good letter. This product is worth more than $3.95 but at $37.45 I wouldn't buy it.

BBS NOTES
1-617-788-0024

The CompuClub BBS is undergoing a major overhaul this month. First and most important we are adding a 10meg hard disk! The unit is a tandon drive with an MPP hard disk interface (Club price on the interface $249.95). With all the extra disk space we now have we will be adding about 1meg of PD titles from the 8 bit world and we should be up to about 1meg of ST public domain files withing the next few weeks!

In addition to addition of the hard disk we will also be squeezing our ST files. For those of you not familiar with the squeezed format or the STSQU.PRG let's take a second to explain. If you download two programs from our BBS, CompuServe, or Analog called STSQU.PRG and STUSQ.PRG, you will have the ability to compact and uncompact files; that is compress them down ot something between 40 and 70 per cent of their original size. This, of course, makes them faster to upload and download.

A program that has been squeezed will not run in its squeezed form.. You must unsqueeze it to run it. The actual process is as follows:

1. To squeeze a program:
Install the Squeeze program (STSQU.PRG) as a 'TOS TAKES PARAMETERS³ program.
Load the STSQU.PRG. When GEM prompts you to type in the parameters, you simply type in the name of the file you wish to squeeze. STSQU.PRG will squeeze it and write it as a file called [program name.OUT].
This is the completely squeezed file ready to be sent.

2. To unsqueeze a program:
Install the Unsqueeze program (STUSQ.PRG) as a 'TOS TAKES PARAMETERS³ program.
Load STUSQ.PRG. When GEM prompts you to type in the parameters, you simply type the name of the program to unsqueeze.
You now have a runnable program.

I admit there is a little work involved but this effort will reduce your phone bill for uploads and downloads by an average of 45% and is well worth the effort.

A quick note to those of you who haven't yet used the BBS. When you log for the first time you should request a password from us. The procedure is quite simple. When you logoff from your first visit answer [Y]es when the BBS asks you if you have any comments. In these logoff comments give us your name and the word you would like us to assign you as a password.

By the way we want to give a pat on the back to Paul Swanson, the author of the Nitelite software we use on our BBS (Club price $70.00). Nitelite was selected by Atari Corp. as the software they are useing for the official Atari BBS, Atari Base.

ST520 SERVICE POLICY

Atari's policy of giving retailers a discount in lue of warranty service on the ST has raised some questions in the minds of some customers.

Since Atari only intends to sell the ST through authorized dealers (and authorized dealers are required to provide service) there should be no problem. However, as is always the case, some companies are selling the product who are not dealers. How these companies plan to service the unit if there is a problem should be your first question.

In the case of CompuClub the answer is quite simple. We are a dealer and have already set up full service arrangements on the ST. We will repair or replace any ST, WE SELL, within 48 hrs. of the time we receive your return shipment.

As always do not return any product to us without calling and getting an RA (return authorization number) from us.

TYPSETTER
X-LENT SOFTWARE
LIST PRICE: $29.95
CLUB PRICE: $23.45

Getting started with typesetter is easy and fast. The instructions are well written and before you know it you're italicizing and customizing large display type with ease. You begin to slow down a bit as you attempt to use the program to produce a practical result (newsletters, forms etc.). This is NOT a word processing package and you cannot breeze through text to alter later. A mistake or change can mean starting all over again. If you're careful and plan ahead, TYPESETTER can be a very useful and creative tool. The 130XE version displays the top half of a page. A simple toggle (control-t) allows you to switch to the bottom half. This is where you will discover if you have planned ahead properly!!.

There are several type styles to choose from and several options to alter the size, shpae and direction of your copy. Also included in typesetter is SKETCH PAD. SKETCH PAD is a separate area from the main screen a that lets you draw or load uncompressed graphic files. These files can then be put in with your copy.

The advantage of the 130XE version is not only the convenience of half screen viewing, but the fact it will let you print Koalapad or Touch Tablet pic files. Another important difference is the higher resolution (768x672) as compared to the XL version (both are on the same disk).

TYPESETTER is an enjoyable creative tool for anyone with a printer. I'm sure that many User Group Newsletters will be appearing soon using this excellent software package.

CHAMPIONSHIP LODE RUNNER

LIST PRICE: $39.95
CLUB PRICE: $29.95

Championship Lode Runner is for those few of you who have completed all 150 screens of Lode Runner. This game is by no means easy, in fact it will take a veteran Lode Runner player a few lives just to finish the first screen.

In Championship, the object (as in the original) is to collect all the gold treasure chests the Bungeling Empire has stolen from the people by means of excessive fast food taxes. Easier read than done. The 50 levels in this game were designed by Champion Lode Runner Players, so you know they are tough.

In Lode Runner, you are trying to collect Bungeling booty from the treasury rooms without being caught or crushed inside a wall. There are of course the obligatory guards inside each room, and you must avoid them while collecting the gold. The rooms themselves are extraordinary! They consist of horizontally suspended ropes, soft and hard brick floors, and a collection of ladders from the hole into the soft brick. You will find these useful as you realize that you must cut through some floors to reach buried gold, or you can cut a hole in front of a guard, who will be temporarily harmless as he tries to

free himself. The holes you cut will fill themselves up again after a short pause, killing either the guard or yourself if they are caught inside. The strategy involves a careful planning ahead to attack the rooms without cornering yourself between guards, or entombing yourself in a wall.

Championship Lode Runner plays the same as the original, but it has removed the option to advance to any screen. Instead, Broderbund offers a personalized Championship Certificate to the people who send in the password found at the end of the 50th level. The best feature over the original is the addition of a save game command something many people wished for on the first version.

Finally, Broderbund has even included info on a hint book which is now available for the game, but be forewarned, help is in the form of vague hints only.

Championship Lode Runner, truly a difficult game intended for Lode Runner fans only. Good Luck to all who try.

Review by
Joe Aiello

KRONIS RIFT

LIST PRICE $39.95
CLUB PRICE $29.95

Lucasfilms' FRACTAL GRAPHICS has got to be the best news for action gamers since, well since computers themselves! In this space age game, you are a professional Techno-Scavenger trying to salvage Hi-Tech weapons from abandoned war machines left from a past civilization known as the 'ANCIENTS'.

As you start the game you find that you have discovered the fabeled planet of Koronis! Immediately you take your land rover down to the surface of the planet before any other scavengers find your treasure chest. It starts easy, you send out your Repo-Tech robot to loot the first hulk you see before you. No sooner than you get any valuables on board a Guardian Saucer attacks. These saucers are the only surviving traces of the Ancients and their only job is to protect the Hulks from 'Hi-Tech Professional Scavenger Thieves!' and they get very excited about their work.

In order to loot a hulk or y comes in when you have to find out what these ancient weapons are good for. Without this knowledge you won't be spending much time on any of the 20 rifts on Koronis. As old as these weapons may be, they are by far the most sophisticated ever known!

Some 'hulk modules' will provide your rover with better laser power, better shield power, better radars, maps, generators, power reserves, or they might be of no use or even make you worse off than before. The weapons and the shields operate on six different color levels, and certain color lasers will cut through some of the colored shields, or do no damage on other colored shields.

If you manage to survive on the surface, the pystek robot on your mother ship will pull you back up and do analysis of the differnt modules that you cary. He (She/It?) will give you reports on the modules' power, efficency, and value. The robot will dismantle the module for you and your score will be increased by the number of kilocredits the module was worth. Or he will s cs in this section of the game are outstanding as well, from the robot moving modules on the conveyor belt to his typing on his computer for the analysis.

Great graphics, playability, and the touch of strategy should make this game a big success for Lucasfilms indeed!

Review by
Joe Aiello

ON TRACK

LIST PRICE: $24.95
CLUB PRICE: $18.75

Gamestar claims that On Track racing will give you the essence of racing like never before! I never knew racing could be so boring.. The game is not all bad, but really the only time it is truly enjoyable is when two people play head to head.

There are a few redeeming features. Your allowed to select which racer, of three, you wish to be. Each racer has his own car which differs from the others in terms of Top Speed, Brakes, Acceleration, and Handling. Other features include 10 different racetracks (as either dirt roads or paved tracks), and choice of Best Time or Most Distance racing.

The practice mode is where everyone should start or else the computer will blow your doors off on any track you choose. In most of tracks the computer always 'seems' to have the best car for it, but I suppose this is to give an experienced player a challenge.

The only other option worth mentioning is whether you want an automatic or a manual transmission. Take the automatic (it's too easy to shift gears while trying to make a simple turn). On the whole I rate this game as just an average racing game, enjoyable when two players slug it out elbow to elbow, nothing special otherwise.

Review by
Joe Aiello

HACHER

ACTIVISION
LIST PRICE: $24.95
CLUB PRICE: $18.75

- LOGON PLEASE:
Hmm... Okay, I'll try...

JUDY

- SYNTAX ERROR Type H for HELP
- LOGON PLEASE:
H
Password has been changed current password is location of the test site.
- LOGON PLEASE:

Help!!!
Look interesting? I thought so. So I started playing, and it drove me crazy for days. It still drives me crazy.
There are absolutely no docs., no hints, no nothing - you are all alone. Therefore, I'm not going to tell you anything more, except that it's a great game!
Are you stuck? Well alright, one itsy bitsy hint - go to Paris first.

reviewed by
Judy

THE EIDOLON
EPYX-LUCASFILM
LIST PRICE: $ 39.95
CLUB PRICE:$ 29.95

The Eidolon is a mysterious 19th century machine powered by the forces of magic! This game/adventure is rated by Epyx as a one level strategy and two level action game, and features the great Fractal Graphics you read so much about.

The manual in this game, (and in so many other games these days) helps to justify the purchase of this program. It is set up in a diary type format with about nine entries from April 21, 1850 through June 13, 1850, and is enjoyable to read.

It seems you have decided to snoop around the mansion of Dr. Josef Agon, and discovered a secret passage to his laboratory where he studied the powers of the mind. In his laboratory you discover The Eidolon and take it out for a spin! You will move through a mazelike dungeon encountering different 'guardians of the Jewels' such as, Trolls, Biter Birds, Rotoflies, and even some Puffer Birds, or Greps. There are some other creatures in h the caverns collecting different colored jewels or fireballs. The jewels are neccessary in order to open the field behind which the dragon hides. The dragon is the final guard to a level and if you have the proper jewels you will be allowed to attack and hopefully defeat him, thus bringing you to the next level.

The display screen shows your view into the caverns and in the bottom third of the screen is the Eidolons control panel. The panel displays information on how close you are to the dragon, how much energy you have, your jewels possesed, time remaining, and your fireball display. The fireballs are of four different powers and any one may be capable of different results in different circumstances. They will allow you to accomplish anything from freezing time to destroying a creature, transforming a creature or refueling the Eidolon.

The Game is split into seven different levels, each more difficult than the last and the manual even hints toward a many headed dragon guarding the end of the seventh level. This adventure appeals to people who enjoy challenging games.

Review by
Joe Aiello

FAMILY TREE
ANTIC PUBLISHING
LIST PRICE: $ 19.95
CLUB PRICE:$ 14.95

Although Family Tree from Antic is not a new product, (as most of the software we review is) I feel that this program definitely needs reviewing.

Recently my mother and I have been researching our geneology as you can probably imagine, it's a lot of tedious work. Well, it was finally completed after months of research and I thought to my self that it would be nice to find a program that would give it some pizzaz, have it printed and give one to my mother since she did most of the work. I wasn't looking for anything fancy, just something better than a typewriter, with maybe a few graphics and/or nice scrolling.

After seeing the description of Family Tree in Antic Magazine, I thought "this is just what I'm looking for". When the program finally came in, I couldn't wait to open it. I printed out the docs from the backside of the disk, read them briefly, and proceeded to type in the names from my records.

I decided to set up a "tree" for my son Daniel. I found that I could only enter as far back as his great-great grandfather on "pedigree chart". That was okay, though, because you could just begin a new one, so you can go back as far as you like. (24 generations on one disk WOW!!!) As I went further, I suddenly realized that there was no place for siblings, just a straight line going from child to parent, etc. So, I went back and wrote under the "notes" section, brothers and sisters, relationship to Daniel, whatever. What did you expect for $14.95 right?

Finally, it was time to see the finished product. Printing is very easy, you type one of three commands,[CTRL P] for Atari or Centronics propotional type font, [CTRL N], for AT or Centronics 10 cpi type font, or [CTRL E] for epson 10 cpi type font. I typed the proper command for my printer, and it printed right out, just like that.

"What's this?", I said. "No graphics, no pretty scrolling?" NOPE, Nothing It wasn't even in the shape of a "tree". It was just a listing of what I had already typed in, and it didn't include the notes. Boy, what a disappointment. It was a novel idea, but not in any way what I expected. In fact this program does nothing that I couldn't be done as easily on a word processor or a typewriter and a copier for that matter. If that sounds like what you want then I can tell you this package works well. But, if your looking for nifty graphics you will have to wait for something else.

Reviewed by
Judy A Reardon

A major accomplishment in simulations describes this program. You will be amazed at the complexity and concentration required to successfully complete "Kennedy Approach...". The graphics are not the best to be offered, but this game cannot truly be rated on the basis of graphics alone. It is an easy program to learn, yet difficult to master.

The first feature to fill you with awe is the high quality speech synthesis, a voice that sounds like a dispatcher and pilot transmitting. You must safely control the flight paths of many aircraft from small planes to the Concorde. And if this is not enough, You must also deal with weather and inflight emergencies as well. Now you can experience the pressures of the many Air-Traffic Controllers in many of the busiest airports in the world. No one, who may even have the slightest interest in this type of simulation, will be bored at playing this program.

Reviewed by Wally

COMPUTEREYES™
VIDEO ACQUISITION SYSTEM FOR PERSONAL COMPUTERS

LIST PRICE: $ 130.00
CLUB PRICE:$ 109.95

Summary: A dual joystick black box and driver software allows the aquisition of real-world images from any vide source. Has optional B/W camera ($270.00 extra)

I was delighted to find this product worked even better than the advertising said it would. I had no trouble setting up the equipment, and digitizing my own picture within minutes. It took a day or so for me to become completely familiar with all the "right" lighting that each picture should have. I found that what looks correct on the screen prints somewhat dark and you have to adjust the brightness accordingly. The pictures are stored as uncompressed files (62 sectors sd, 31 sectors dd). This was a disadvantage until Antic published a graphic converter last month. Now my pictures can now travel between all my software packages.

If you decide to buy a camera from DIGITAL VISION you will find a choice between two similar models. One has a metal case, the other a plastic case. However the plastic one can focus a few inches closer to the lens. (I have noticed some interference with the plastic model from channel 4. But the strategic use of tin foil cancels that.)

David Pratt of DIGITAL VISION, who was most accommodating to me, has revealed some fascinating future upgrades now in development:

1. A GRAPHICS 9 DIGITIZER
2. AN XL COLOR UPGRADE (software)
3. A FULL 520ST UPGRADE THAT IS HARDWARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE CURRENT COMPUTER EYES!

This product is well worth the investment. It is well written, (user accessible code), and produces some fine results. As a bonus to Epson users we are including a menu-screen-print program I have developed. Enjoy!
     T o m   A r e n a .

Also available for the Atari 520ST

Deadline   Zork III
Starcross   Suspended
Suspect   Cutthroats
Zork II

from Infocom

Sea Stalker   Enchanter
Infidel   Witness
Sorcerer   Planetfall

```
PRINT MASTER

2 REM VERSION 3.0
3 REM COPYRIGHT 1985 TOM ARENA
5 DIM A$(20),D$(20),DISK$(20),FILE$(20
),LOD$(28),UP$(32),INVT$(40),M$(20)
6 LOD$="h..." 
7 UP$="hhhH..."
8 INVT$="h..."
9 M$="h..."
10 GOSUB 800
11 GOSUB 600
70 TRAP 70:POKE 703,4:? "~WHICH~FILE~"
::INPUT A$:D$=DISK$(1,3):D$(4)=A$
75 TRAP 76:CLOSE #1:OPEN #1,4,0,D$:GOT
O 79
76 ? :? "CANNOT OPEN THAT FILE":? "~~Pres
s~RETURN~TO~CONTINUE...":POKE 703,4
77 IF PEEK(53279)<>6 THEN 77
78 GOTO 11
79 GRAPHICS 8+16:SETCOLOR 2,0,0
80 S=PEEK(88)+256*PEEK(89):TRAP 100
85 IF D$(LEN(D$)-2)="GR9" THEN POKE 87
,9:POKE 623,64
90 Y=USR(ADR(LOD$),5,7680)
100 CLOSE #1:GOSUB 300:GOTO 10
300 REM *** EPSON GRAPHICS DUMP ***
301 POKE 53279,8:IF PEEK(53279)<>6 THE
N 301:IF PEEK(53279)=6 THEN 302
302 X=USR(ADR(INVT$))
304 SETCOLOR 2,0,10:SETCOLOR 1,0,0:CLO
SE #2:POKE 764,255
308 TRAP 316:CLOSE #1:OPEN #1,8,0,"P:"
:? #1;"~A";CHR$(8)
310 FOR I=S TO S+39:? #1;"~L";CHR$(128
);CHR$(1);
312 IF PEEK(764)=28 THEN CLOSE #1:LPRI
NT :LPRINT :RETURN
314 FOR J=I+7640 TO I STEP -40:PUT #1,
PEEK(J):PUT #1,PEEK(J):NEXT J:? #1:NEX
T I:CLOSE #1:LPRINT :LPRINT :LPRINT
316 RETURN
600 GRAPHICS 0:? "~...DISK MENU...":SETCOLOR 2,9,0:POKE
752,2
605 POKE 752,2:? "~":POKE 703,4:POKE 7
64,255
610 ? "Okay,~which~drive:~"::CLOSE #1:
OPEN #1,4,0,"K:"
612 TRAP 612:GET #1,A:A=A-48
614 CLOSE #1:IF A<1 OR A>8 THEN FOR I=
15 TO 0 STEP -1:SOUND 0,240,12,I:NEXT
I:? "~~Oh,~sure...":GOTO 610
620 GRAPHICS 0:SETCOLOR 2,9,2:? "~...
...DISK MENU...":POKE 752,2
622 ? "~...DISK~":CHR$(A
+48+128);"~...":POKE 82,2:?
623 DISK$="D1:*.*":DISK$(2,2)=CHR$(A+4
8)
625 TRAP 626:OPEN #1,6,0,DISK$:GOTO 63
0
626 ? "~~ERROR~":PEEK(195):TRAP 63
5:GOTO 635
630 TRAP 635:INPUT #1,FILE$:? FILE$;"~
";
631 F=ABS(F-1):L=LEN(FILE$)-3:IF F AND
FILE$(L,L)="*" THEN ? "*";
632 GOTO 630
635 CLOSE #1:IF PEEK(195)<>136 THEN 60
0
636 RETURN
800 GRAPHICS 1
802 SETCOLOR 2,9,0:POKE 752,2:? "~*****
*************by~":SETCOLOR 0,8,4
804 ? "***********..."
806 FOR I=1 TO 15:POSITION 4,I:? #6;"P
RINT~MASTER!";POSITION 4,I-1:? #6;"~~~~
~~~~~~~~~~~";NEXT I:SOUND 0,0,0,0
808 FOR V=10 TO 4 STEP -2:X=USR(ADR(M$
),234,160+V,235,160+V):X=USR(ADR(UP$),
1):NEXT V
810 FOR V=6 TO 0 STEP -1:X=USR(ADR(M$)
,234,160+V,235,160+V,234,192+V):X=USR(
ADR(UP$),1):NEXT V
812 FOR I=15 TO 1 STEP -1:POSITION 4,I
:? #6;"~~~~~~~~~~~~~";POSITION 4,I-1:
? #6;"PRINT~MASTER!":NEXT I
814 ? "*****...
~";? :?
816 IF PEEK(53279)<>6 THEN 816
818 RETURN
```

CONTROL CHARACTERS CHART

↑	CURSOR UP
↓	CURSOR DOWN
←	CURSOR LEFT
→	CURSOR RIGHT
⊢	ESCAPE SYMBOL
⌐	CLEAR SCREEN
⎗	BELL (or Buzzer)
▷	TAB SYMBOL
◀	BACK SPACE
⊡	INSERT CHARACTER
⊠	DELETE CHARACTER
⊟	CLEAR TAB
⊞	SET TAB
⊟	DELETE LINE
⊡	INSERT LINE
`	SPACE (BLANK)

PLEASE!
ORDER EARLY
FOR
CHRISTMAS