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by Jay Rose

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by Jake Commander

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EDUCATION
316  Dynamic Item Scheduling
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GAME
292  Space Chase
    Highballing in the void. Charles E. Gillen

GENERAL
*142  Programming Pitch
    Your 80 and stereo can make beautiful music together. Merton L. Davis
164  Fret No More!
    Guitar chords on your 80. Edward Louis
*234  Micro Melodies
    Teach your 80 to sing. Kenneth Lee Gibbs
258  Out of Thin Error
    Not Fair, Odd Disease, Runs Good, et al. Richard S. Adcock
*264  Two Strokes a Side
    Handicapping your golf game. Michael Avery
272  Kryha Cipher Machine
    From Union NJ, with love. C. A. Deavours
280  Model III Biorhythms
    Unto each rhythm there is a sine wave. Linda Anderson
*298  Fore! Scorerkeeper
    An 80 keeps track of your quest for 80. Rodger Wells
318  Computerized Engraving
    With a Model III-panograph hookup. Allan S. Joffe
320  Confessions of a Microholic
    Can't get enough of that silicon wine. Mike Keller
324  Damping Cassette Output
    Garbage-in may really be garbage-out. Ian R. Sinclair

GRAPHICS
104  Northern Lights
    How a designer's nightmare became a sculptor's dream. Bert Latamore
*242  A Different Perspective
    The shadow of your CRT. F. Gilbert Nielsen
*282  Super Banner
    Say it in sign language. Ron Balewski

HARDWARE
306  Programmable Baud Rate
    Avoid the homebrewed look. Hugh Cottle

HOME/HOBBY
*238  Home Budgeteer—Reprise
    Play it again, Pablo. Manuel Pablo
*252  Computer Racing Form
    Your 80 as tipster. Ronald H. Bobo

PERSONALITY
176  Divine Dementia
    Some call it fate, others Kitsz-met. Michael Nadeau

REVIEW
140  The Philly Phiasco
    Looking for Arthur. David Gunn
184  C.ltoh 8510
    All the ingenuity under the rising sun. Mike Keller
206  LNW-80
    Build your own. Richard L. Brocaw
208  Telewriter
    Cadillac for the Color Computer. Scott L. Norman
216  Snappware Eases Random Access
    Eliminate LSET, RSET, MKSS and CVI. Rick Lederman
218  ACCEL2 and Microsoft's Basic Compiler
    Parlez-vous machine language? Dennis Wilkins
224  The Memory Box
    Add RAM to your I. Jack Decker

SERIES
228  Technological Destiny—Part II
    Data hierarchy, computer history and misconceptions. Gary Dilillo

TECHNIQUE
302  I Program Therefore ISAM
    The number-name dichotomy conquered. Richard S. Adcock
*322  Gabby the Space Cowbumb
    When the string breaks on your Chatty Cathy... Richard Remella

TUTORIAL
260  Model II Primer
    Read this before you run. Jesse W. Baker

DEPARTMENTS
6  Remarks Wayne Green
10  Proof Notes
12  Input
36  Reviews
62  80 Accountant Michael Tannenbaum
68  Soft Bits Roger Fuller
73  Commander 80 Jake Commander
74  Kitchen Table Software David Busch
191  Letter to Subscribers
336  News
354  Reader Service
358  Reload 80
360  Medical Opinion Philip R. Mills, M.D.
366  Exclusive Oracle Dennis Kitzs
370  Notes from Beneath the Keyboard Paul Wiener
*382  Moneydos J.M. Keynes
388  Education 80 Earl R. Savage
390  Copernica Mathematica Bruce Douglass
400  Calendar
404  New Products
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"We Americans have been fed the pap that right wins out in the long run, despite rather vivid proof that the whole idea is hokum."

Why Big Wins

There seems to be some surprise when a new field starts out with a wide range of small firms and eventually ends up with just a few large companies. Those of you who are up on history and oldies still doddering around will remember hundreds of car makes in the early days of automobiles.

What happened was simple. It turns out when you increase production, mathematical principles inexorably apply. The cost of most items decreases 10 to 20 percent every time production doubles. Thus, the more successful a product turns out to be, the lower its manufacturing cost. This success breeds more as the manufacturer is able to reduce prices, gradually forcing other less successful businesses out. We finally end up with one gigantic firm (like General Motors).

What makes one firm more successful than the others, allowing it to kill off the competition? I wish I could smugly convince you that it is generally the excellence of product design. I’m sure that’s what any red-blooded American wants to believe. Baloney.

Right here in the microcomputer field we have seen a typical beginning of a new huge industry. Survivors are few, and in no case has technical excellence won the day. Get mad if you will, but the technology of the winners has been almost irrelevant. Oh, it’s been good enough, but for every winning computer system the old timers in the field can cite a half dozen better designed products.

Yes, I know that goes against the grain. We Americans have been fed the pap that right wins out in the long run, despite rather vivid proof that the whole idea is hokum. Have you read about the Mafia lately? Just about every member is a millionaire several times over.

In the micro field I’ve watched dozens of firms grow and then topple. The reasons for their failure are abundantly evident, and their technical prowess (or lack of it) has never been a controlling factor. Most people who’ve gotten into the micro hardware manufacturing business are pretty sharp technically; their downfalls are related to their lack of background in business.

An arrogant disdain for software support killed one of the largest firms in the business. Others have gone on to be mere memories on the wings of wasted advertising dollars and ego monuments at computer shows. Would Processor Tech be around today if they avoided exhibiting at NCC and other shows? Cash needed to increase production was blown on monumental show exhibits, peddled with nice chaps who now work for other firms.

The key to business success is knowing what you are doing. The successful entrepreneur knows marketing, advertising, personnel management, salesmanship, financing and business law, and is willing to work 100 hours a week to make it click. It is seldom that such a person ends up anywhere but at the top of the pile.

Big firms are able to bypass the early low cash startup days by spending a lot of money up front to get into massive production, massive advertising, massive marketing. But as the field grows, even large firms can’t afford to butt heads.

While the pioneer firms in a new field can get started for a few thousand dollars (as we saw with microcomputers just about five years ago) today we are witnessing some giants losing $10M on sales of $20M as they misjudge the market. Is it still possible to get in on the ground floor with a few thousand dollars investment? In computers, no. It’s getting difficult to make it even with a few million.

The doors are still open for the small entrepreneur turning out peripheral products. It’s a bit late to make printers, but the field is wide open for other gadgets.

It is difficult for software publishers to get started today. Two years ago one could get started for a few thousand dollars; now we see firms dumping millions, with only red ink to show. Very small software firms still can eke out a living, but the time is about over when we will see small firms emerging as big ones. Some giants can still come with a few million dollars and buy into the field. In another year or two they will need $100M—to buy in. Another year or so after that and not even large firms will think it worthwhile.

Each new system marketed is a gold mine for small firms to support. Even the largest firms are unable to provide even a small percentage of the needed support. Witness the growing market for Radio Shack support products advertised in 80 Micro. Though Radio Shack has tried to keep news of these products from their customers, the word has leaked out and the volume of business seems to be growing for these support firms faster than Radio Shack sales.

The new IBM system is another opportunity for present firms to grow more rapidly and for new firms to get started. Yes, it is still possible to put a few thousand dollars down on the table and walk away with millions.

I recently tried to remember as many names of microcomputer systems as I could. Then I cheated by thumbing through some magazine ads. I had no problem coming up with 76 different firms. If I started counting the individual systems it would go way over 100. Firms are still appearing every month with new computers, but we are seeing as many failures each month as successes.

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As Radio Shack, Apple, and a few other manufacturers sell larger numbers of systems, their manufacturing costs will go down, allowing them to either cut prices or provide better systems for the same price. This will gradually force the other firms out of business and we will end up with two or three giants.

I was recently a consultant for a firm interested in marketing a computer product to sell for about $600 at the start. With the expected growth in sales, the retail price would be reduced to around $150 over a couple of years. Any new firm coming in to compete would have to match the production quantities of this first firm to match costs or take a loss until it could catch up in sales. When sales escalate rapidly, there isn’t much of a chance for a new firm, even a large one, to get started in competition.

Look at the shakeout in the minicomputer field in the few short years it’s been around—and that product isn’t mass-produced on the scale of micros.

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80 REMARKS

Budding Apples

Experts in the field agree that Apple sales have passed Radio Shack by in the last year. I suspect this is due to two main causes: better support from satellite firms and better advertising strategy.

The average Radio Shack customer, unaware of 80 Micro, is also unaware of 99 percent of the support for the TRS-80 systems. All he can see is the few peripherals and programs on display at the local Radio Shack store. This hurts sales. Apple was able to come from about 1/8 of Radio Shack sales to beat them within in little more than 3 years.

If this pattern continues, Apple will be able to undercut Radio Shack on prices, accelerating the disaster. Apple also has an advantage in their overseas sales.

A recent report on microcomputer sales in Italy is unfortunately rather typical. Commodore started out the best-seller there a couple years ago, but by the end of this year Apple is expected to pass them by, with TRS-80 sales projected to be about 16 percent of Apple sales. I’ve seen a similar pattern in many of the countries I’ve visited in the last few years.

Can Tandy turn the tables on this debacle and regain their leadership in the U.S.? Yes, they can, but I’m not convinced they will. Tradition may run too deep for the needed changes.

It’s too soon to see how Apple will respond to IBM’s invasion of the micro field. Will IBM be as hospitable to supporting firms as Apple or as hostile as Radio Shack? I suspect Apple’s real strength is in the combined push of the parent firm and all the small firms making Apple products. This has defeated Tandy in sales.

Remember, when entrepreneurs start new firms, or when medium-sized firms cook up new products, they understand that a larger customer base means an easier sale. Thus the emergence of Apple in front will reinforce its strength by encouraging development and production of even more supporting products. Freelance programmers write programs for the largest selling system; they make more money that way. This, too, will work against Tandy.

One other factor: The difficulty of reaching the Radio Shack customer to sell supporting products is made agonizing by Radio Shack’s desire to be the only supplier for their customers. 80 Micro is a good means of selling to this market, but it probably reaches only half of the Radio Shack customers. It is far easier to reach the Apple customer with advertising.

Radio Shack products have to be sold through largely hostile computer stores or else by mail order. Apple equipment and programs can be sold through extremely friendly Apple dealers.

We know IBM is going to be around. Their entry has been successful just on the power of their reputation. Their system is well designed and their marketing is fine. If IBM continues to do things right, it could come out on top.

Apple, despite the Apple III debacle last year, is a strong company. Their marketing program is hard to beat, and their ads are eye-catching and visible.

With the largest customer base in this country, Radio Shack is by no means out of the picture. They must do some serious customer research and improve their image. Why not come to grips with the TRS-80 support industry and encourage it instead of fighting it?

If we could get 80 Micro into the company-owned stores (which is most of them) it would enhance equipment sales. We are selling through a growing number of independent Radio Shack stores and the owners are most enthusiastic about the results. The factory-owned stores need a few hundred more programs, something Radio Shack has so far not been able to provide. I don’t think even a 100,000 square foot plant filled with programmers can do the job of 10,000 freelancers.

Coco

That’s what a lot of the readers called the Color Computer in their letters of anguish over my editorial on the lack of support for this system.

A letter from Jon Shirley assures us that Coco will continue to be produced for the next year at least. That’s most reassuring, for I did not invent the rumors of it being dropped. Radio Shack’s lack of candor discourages the press from even asking them about plans. They are often secretive to the point of emulating the CIA on matters of new products or dropping old ones, so only by bringing rumors into the open can answers be gotten.

On the bright side, many readers agree with the staff here at 80 Micro that Coco is a vastly underrated system. Indeed, it appears even the folk at Tandy are not really aware of the power of the system. Many readers have promised articles and others have already started sending in programs. Perhaps I primed the pump. I assure you that any lack of support for Coco reflects the lack of input, not our lack of enthusiasm.
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Proof Notes
the editors look at the issues

Although some may be hesitant to accept the computer’s contribution to the hallowed and sometimes dusty halls of art history, these electronic gadgets are making a contribution. It should come as no surprise, as there has always been a faction in the artistic community who have been anxious to utilize the latest technological advancement, and the computer has become the latest toy.

This issue reflects the applications and attitudes of various members of the artistic community towards computers. Sculptor Rob Fisher is an example of one artist who prefers chrome and computer-aided design (CAD/CAM) to clay and a palette knife, while commercial producer Jay Rose highlights how microcomputers, including the Model I, have freed him from much time-consuming drudgery leaving more time to be more creative. Film-makers are using micros to synchronize complicated special effects and to be taught by a Model II?

Computers are affecting the arts indirectly as well. Many non-profit organizations now rely on computerized fund development and management systems, greatly increasing their funding. And many writers now use word processors.

Our conception of art will always mean different things in different times and places. Like the times, it is always changing, as are the media and tools which are used to create it. In the hands of an artist the microcomputer simply becomes such a tool. This machine, which ordinarily is used to process little bits and bytes of information in the most efficient manner, is now being used to create spectacular graphics or music. Jake Commander has a few words to say about this:

"But is it really art? Oh please, can I be the last person to ask that hackneyed question?"

"Does storywriting lose any of its artistic value because it was written using a word processor?"

keep track of a film’s almost unmanageable budget. And our own Jake Commander has, with the Color Computer, created some truly beautiful and unexpected graphics reminiscent of stained glass windows and oriental rugs.

Musical applications of the TRS-80 are featured, including a hardware tutorial which tells you, for $150 in parts, how you can create your own synthesizer. You can even teach yourself to play the guitar with the Model I, an interesting twist of a computer application. (Will our next Bob Dylan

"Of course it’s art. At least if you want it to be. Art is created from the minds of artists and becomes real when tools are used to produce an aesthetically interesting end result. Notice I say the word interesting as opposed to pleasing. Beauty, as it is often said, is in the eye of the beholder. However, just because you don’t like it doesn’t stop it from being art.

"Notice also that the tools used vary according to the art form and the individual

Dennis Kitsz has had a second attack of California sun blindness. He left for the west leaving us with only the tail-end of his “Applications” column. We considered publishing it as is, but decided not to let him off the hook that easily. Send your complaints to Dennis in Roxbury, VT. If Dennis survives CA without joining some sunny, trendy cult, he will be back with “Applications” and some far-fetched tale next month.

The left bracket, [], replaces the up arrow used by RadioShack to indicate exponentiation on our printouts. When entering programs published in 80 Microcomputing, you should make this change. 80 formats its program listings to run 84 characters wide, the way they look on your video screen. This accounts for the occasional wrap-around you will notice in our program listings. Don’t let it throw you, particularly when entering assembly listings.

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Off Track on Pirates

In the old days sailing ships had problems with pirates. Two great nations used opposite solutions to reduce the piracy. Spain increased the cannon and armor on its ships. This increased the weight, cost and slowed down the vessels making them less desirable as a shipping vehicle. England did the opposite. It lightly armed its small, inexpensive ships, making them faster. They were better at their intended purpose—to trade and deliver cargo quickly. History has shown us that England won, not because they avoided pirates better than Spain, but because they did not let pirates get in the way of good business. This bit of historical fact has great import in the software piracy problem today. Many companies are spending too much time and money worrying about pirates. They reduce, if not ruin their products' usability with locked disks, unlistable programs, secret source code, hidden locks, codes in ROM chips, full page ads devoted to pirates (e.g. Atari), and so on. These devices have made many programs inefficient, costly to produce and support. The buyer is taxed greatly for he cannot make modifications or backup copies. Often he is inconvenienced by added expenses for backups or future modifications. This hurts sales and angers good customers.

There is a better way as exemplified by our company, Andent Inc. We produce Apple II software for health professionals (medical/dental systems, appointments, hypnosis, and so on). We have been in business since 1978, which makes us one of the oldest software houses for microcomputers. We are making a profit... and always have. We pay our bills and programmers on time. All our software is unlocked and can be copied for back-up purposes. We support all sales offering free replacement of damaged disks. The user can list and modify all our software. There is internal as well as written documentation.

We do business this way because it pays. It pays us, and it pays our customers for buying our software. Because our software is unlocked, there is little to no problem with: backups (our customers make their own); updates (we mail out a letter with changes); phone calls (documentation and listings tell you how to make modifications); changes in operating systems; hard disk compatibility; slot compatibility; printer slot and special character problems; disk recalls; equipment incompatibility; and low cost of programming and debugging.

The business community, our customers, like this. They are buying a program, not a software lease. They have immediate support since changes and problems can be made over the phone or by letter. They can backup immediately and for as many times as needed. They like our low prices. Unlocked software is good for business, our business, your business and the customer's business.

But what about pirates? Large scale pirates, those enterprising souls who copy our programs and sell them world-wide, are discovered and given an option to become our dealers and pay us a royalty on distributed software (or meet us in court). As in the old sailing days, reformed pirates (privateers) make the best dealers and we do not mind sharing the wealth. For those who do not want to cooperate, we go back in history for the remedy. The English and Spanish both learned that a few executions were good for the morale of the troops. Small time pirates (give it to your friends) can be controlled by low program cost, registration, continuing updates and documentation. It just does not pay to get our programs second hand.

Andent Inc., believes a sale of software is just that—the sale of programs, listings, source code, backup capability... a complete sale. Our customers do not buy a disguised lease—they buy and own our products. We do this because locking programs is very expensive, time-consuming and hurts sales.

It is time the industry realizes our prime business is producing and distributing a product, not fighting pirates.

E. J. Nellburger, President
Andent Inc.
Waukegan, IL

"Reformed pirates (privateers) make the best dealers."

Is the TRS-80 the only choice?

Earl Savage's Education 80 column (80 Microcomputing, January 1982) raised my temper enough to cause me to sit at my keyboard and pound out a reply. Microsystems indeed have a major role in education and that role will unquestionably grow in the next few years. But so has the minicomputer. The real strength lies in the combination of both systems. A school that bases its teaching on micros alone will soon have some real problems. Any meaningful education application requires mass storage for programs and data files. The total micro shop will have an impossible job in cataloging, copying and other file maintenance chores to say nothing of the costs of buying media for every system. What about the maintenance of all those tape recorders or disks? How can you ensure students will work on the right lesson and get their results recorded on the right file?

A minicomputer acting as a file server for a network of microcomputer terminals offers the best of both worlds. The student has a micro for simple programs, and he can use the host for more advanced work. Software development is much easier on a mini with sophisticated editors, file systems, and author languages.

In the January column, Mr. Savage reviews the options to prove the TRS-80 is the only acceptable choice but he makes an interesting contradiction. He dismisses the Model I, II, and III's lack of color by noting "...color circuitry which produces a pretty display but adds absolutely nothing of value to 99 percent of
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its educational and business uses." Then, with the emphasis of a boxed headline notes "the real world is full of sounds so why should programs be silent?" Well, the real world is also full of color so why should programs be monochrome? When was the last time you saw a textbook, particularly one for elementary grades, without color? Color can add significantly to educational programs by providing more attractive displays and highlighting certain statements or portions of graphics.

Ron Ginger
Framingham, MA

Finances Rule

Mr. Ginger raises several interesting points. In some respects, education does (or should) operate like a business but in many ways it is completely different. Public educational agencies operate (if one may use that word loosely) like a business that is perpetually on the verge of bankruptcy. Educators cannot raise the margin of profit slightly to bring in a few more dollars and they cannot purchase raw materials more cheaply. They continually fight for operational necessities. If you doubt this, ask any teacher, administrator, board member or even custodian.

In education, you develop a means to get the most for every dollar spent—not just in fairness to the taxpayer but because the ratio of dollars to needs is so low. After a few years, you forget that the whole world does not operate the same way. Therefore, I beg to be forgiven for not stating that which is obvious to those of us in the field.

Mr. Ginger may be surprised to learn that I would like nothing better than a network consisting of a minicomputer and two or three (or more) dozen microcomputers. That kind of setup simply is not in the cards for 99.9 percent of the public schools in this country. Choices must be made.

My choice, and the choice of the great majority of educators with whom I have communicated, would be to have eight or ten micros and dozens of programs rather than one micro, one mini and perhaps one program for the mini. (The use of "would be" is deliberate because most of us are struggling to get a half-dozen micros.) My computer prices may be somewhat off—I stopped pricing them a few years ago when the capacity of the micros became great enough to do the job—but you get the idea. (Have you priced a mini program lately? How many teachers or students do you suppose are able to program a mini?)

I believe Mr. Ginger underestimates the power of a micro in the hands of a competent programmer. Is he aware that programs may be merged? That variables may be passed from program to program? That programs can be chained? These and other techniques can be used, if necessary, to overcome the shortcomings he sees in the micro. Why, one little Model III disk can hold enough programs and data to keep him busy for months!

Just a couple of key punches and my Model III has a very sophisticated editor; the file system will do far more than I have had need for in educational or business programming to date; authoring programs

choices...but didn't I hear that the citizens of Massachusetts recently decided to do just the opposite?

Earl R. Savage
Colonial Beach, VA

Video Screen Dump

I noticed in the February 1982 Input/Output column that R.S. from Madison, WI was interested in printing his chess board to send through the mail. I do not play chess so subsequently I know nothing of the software program he is using. However, I have developed a small program (see Program Listing 1) that may solve his problem if the chess game software is in Basic. The code prints an exact duplicate of the video screen when called as a subroutine from the Basic program. It prints all alphanumericics and graphics.

If you want to place a left margin indentation, add a line between 10000 and 10010 to LPRINT STRINGS(SP%, 32). SP% determines the indentation and can be changed by the operator.

I have used this little subroutine many times and have had no problem with it. R.S.'s only problem will be to find the location in the chess software to call the subroutine.

Gerald E. Ives
East Syracuse, NY

Burn the Brat

I would like to take my TRS-80 down to the middle of Portland and burn it, but I don't have the money to replace it.

I did not purchase my Model III from Radio Shack, and it has TEAC drives instead of the Radio Shack standard. Also, it is hooked up to a reconditioned IBM Selectric typewriter. All of this was fine with me, until my troubles began.

First was the autocratic printer control. I could not get the brat to follow the Script-sit format commands. For four months I went around in circles between the dealer, the man who adapted the Selectric, and
Radio Shack. No one knew anything. Finally, one of the Radio Shack people carelessly dropped a remark about forms, and that slim clue led me to the DOSPLUS Forms command, and now I can print. The TRS-DO$ FORMS command is insufficient to do the job.

The modem I purchased works fine, but after I bought it, I discovered that I could not use it without a program. Then I discovered I could not talk to the brat in its own language without an editor/assembly, and only Radio Shack knows whatall. I was beginning to feel that I had bought a car that would steer only to the right.

And that blessed Scripsit. It works well, as far as it goes. But, it will not cooperate with either of two Dvorak keyboard programs. The end-of-file marker is not the same as that used by the operating system programs, so I have been unable to use its editing facilities on other programs, such as Fortran, or Basic. And the silly Scrimp rebootes every time I need to read the directory, which means resetting the forms each time.

Dorothy R. Mooney
Tigard, OR

Radio Shack Replies

Thinking I could improve things, I foolishly went and bought the Model III update for Scripsit and I can’t use the thing at all. New programs will run for me, if I first convert them— that is, copy them onto my command disk. Scripsit is protected so well that I cannot access it. I cannot run the disk in drive 0; cannot back it up, and can use it at all, only in drive 1. I’m not a juggler. Then, improving on its previous efforts, the Scrimp even saved a Basic program on top of a Fortran program.

The problems in themselves I can tolerate. The information curtain I cannot. And Radio Shack’s attitude I will not.

Since solving the printing problem, I have discovered (Thank you, 80 Microcomputing) that it is well known. I feel that both the man who adapted the Selectric and Radio Shack should have been able and willing to give me the answer right away. Since Radio Shack sells its products to beginners, the need for special programs should be made clear before purchase. Most importantly, and the point of this diatribe, Radio Shack should improve its manners. My last visit to Radio Shack, an attempt to get the Scrimp onto a DOSPLUS disk, met not only with refusal, but with demands of “Where did you get this?” “Do you have your receipt?” with remarks about my DOSPLUS disk and attempts to uncover other nefarious schemes by peeling off my label to see what was under it; by checking the Scrimp disk to see if I was lying and had backed it up. The final affront was to suggest that I bring in my brat and have its drives operated on.

Well, Radio Shack, you don’t need to worry about my TEAC drives any more. Not only will the brat never come within scalp distance, but neither will 1, for any reason. For information I will go to the magazines and the users groups, and those who pry into inner workings and put nasty little patches on things; for repairs, to a member of the users group; and for wares of whatever kind, to anywhere but Radio Shack.

Radio Shack Replies

Wayne Green actively pushes sales of various non-Radio Shack items. Fine, but the customer must know what he or she is doing and be prepared accordingly. The term is caveat emptor.

Let’s look at what Ms. Mooney has and what her problems are (as best that I can sort out from her letter).

She has a TRS-80 Model III, purchased from a non-Radio Shack source; non-Radio Shack disk drives; IBM Selectric typewriter for a printer; non-TRSGO$ operating system; and a modem (model unspecified and unimportant).

She has experienced the following problems: Format commands from Scripsit are not handled properly; utilization of a modem requires some software; programming in machine language requires an editor/assembly; Scripsit will not work with either of two Dvorak keyboard programs she has; and Scripsit will not run in drive 0, cannot be backed up or accessed in any way and will only run in drive 1. I suspect the need for machine language programming stemmed from the inability of Scripsit to send proper commands to the IBM Selectric. There have been a number of articles in several magazines about Selectrics and that could be considered “general knowledge” but we do not have the capability to test every possible device that will connect to one of our computers. We have said it over
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- Compatible with GRAFTARX-80

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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 17
"We do not support any non-TRSDOS operating system."

and over again—if a product is sold to work with a TRS-80 by someone other than Radio Shack and it does not work, you are going to have to go to that company to ask for help. That does not just apply to hardware either, but also to the operating system (DOS) and other computer programs that will run on TRS-80 computers.

I am sorry that Ms. Mooney did not realize that she would need a communications program to utilize a modem. All she had to do was ask one of our representatives what was needed to make it work and if they did not know, they would have found out for her. Also, as a regular reader of your magazine, all she had to do was take a look at Frank Derfler’s excellent article “Datacom Decisions” (August 1981) as well as numerous other articles describing computer communications.

There isn’t much that can be said about Scripset not functioning with a Dvorak keyboard. Scripset has its own keyboard driver and it was not designed to be used with a Dvorak style keyboard.

The problem with Scripset not working in Drive 0, well, I can only guess. That guess is she booted up under some operating system other than TRSDOS which is furnished on the Scripset disk. When she removed her system disk and substituted the Scripset disk, the required functions of her operating system were removed and it therefore failed to function. We know and state clearly that a “System disk must be in drive 0 at all times.” Our instructions for Scripset are for the user to place the Scripset disk in drive 0 and boot-up from it, then enter Scripset. After Scripset has loaded and is running, remove the Scripset disk and insert a System disk that you want your documents stored on. We advise that they never write to their Scripset program disk.

Our people are familiar with, or at least can call Fort Worth to get help with, our products. We do not support nor are we familiar with any non-TRSDOS operating system and consequently, we cannot be of any help with questions regarding them. I apologize if Ms. Mooney was treated rudely in one of our stores. There is no excuse for that sort of behavior.

Not mentioned by Ms. Mooney, but worth commenting on is her use of TEAC drives. As far as we know, TEAC disk drives use cam-type mechanisms which are not able to run as fast as the required band type drives used in a Model III. If these type drives are used with TRSDOS (which expects to see a faster drive) then multiple problems will result.

Bottom line?? We service and support what we sell. Yes, if you “bargain hunt” you can possibly find it cheaper but, if it is a TRS-80 that contains non-Radio Shack components—well, caveat emptor.

Bill Walters
Consumer Information Manager
Tandy/Radio Shack
Fort Worth, TX

Ribbon Fix

For Okidata Microline 80 printer owners whose printers occasionally eat ribbons, here is a quick solution to the problem. Take off the gray and clear plastic cover over the print head. If the shafts on which the ribbons spin are a lot taller than the spools, you have a modified machine and the ribbon should work properly. If it does not work properly or if you have the short shafts, you may watch your ribbon get eaten by the gears winding the spools.

When the spool gets to the end, the rivet is supposed to slide the reverse bar across and start the spools winding in the opposite direction. The pin in the large gear which turns the spool from underneath is too small. When pulled hard the spool sometimes jumps off the pin and lets out about five inches of ribbon to dangle down into the hungry gears. The solution to the problem is to anchor the spools down to the gears so that no matter how hard the ribbon pulls on the spool, the spool will not jump off the pin turning it.

If you have the tall shafts, the fix is easy. Find two fahnestock clips and drill them out to a size slightly smaller than the spool shafts. After the ribbon spools are in place, slide the clips down the shafts until each rests tight against the spool. When you change ribbons (which people do not do nearly often enough) remove the clips with a pair of pliers.

If you have short shafts, you cannot just replace them. They are hot-pressed in place and come as part of an expensive complete drive unit available only from Japan. Instead, remove the spools of ribbon. Remove the clip holding the washer on. Remove the washer and drill a hole in the washer directly opposite the offset hole (see Fig. 1). Make your hole the same size and the same distance from the center as the offset hole. Reinstall the washers and clips. Place the spools back tightly on the shafts. Using the bolt cutters on your wire cutters, cut two #10 machine screws to 11/16”. Drill through the spool hole, through the hole in the washer and into the nylon gear the spool sits on. Thread the screw down through the spool until the head is snug against the spool (see Fig. 2). Now when the rivet pulls on the switching mechanism, the spool cannot pop off the shaft.

C. Howard Johnson, Director
Maine Computer Network
Mount Desert, ME

Legalized Rip-off?

Does your GM dealer refuse to work on your GM vehicle until he replaces the Sears tires you put on it?

I recently purchased a Radio Shack TRS-80 Model III computer with 16K of memory and planned to add 32K of memory and two disk drives. A few months after purchase (more than 90 days) the system would not start up properly so I took the machine to Radio Shack for repair. It came back from the “experts” with exactly the same problem. They took it back to the shop again and fixed it by replacing the 16K of memory and left out the center screw in the back which holds the chassis to the housing. I paid for the labor and the new parts ($68.34) and asked for the original memory chips which they removed. Radio Shack’s answer was they were “not available.”
Does removal and replacement of customer-owned property without customer consent constitute theft or just a legalized rip-off?

Is there any evidence in the industry that Radio Shack's memory chips (Motorola in my case) are as good or better than semiconductor industry standards?

"Are Radio Shack's memory chips as good as or better than semiconductor industry standards?"

Radio Shack Replies

Richard L. Bates' letter voices two basic complaints:

We did not return to him the chips which were replaced in his TRS-80. Based on the price he paid, and labor, we probably replaced only two or three chips, not the whole set. We will always return parts, if requested ahead of time. He probably did not ask until the chips had been thrown away, and truly were "not available."

Our repair center was wrong to indicate that they could not install Radio Shack disk drives in a Model III because it contained another vendor's memory chips. Our policy on non-Radio Shack RAMs is that we will:

- Replace defective chips as required

when we service a computer. Defectives are returned if requested when the computer is brought in for service.

- If requested, we will call the customer with an estimate before doing the work. If he chooses to do it himself, we will stop, return the computer, and charge him a checkout fee.

Any repair service, for any product, can be expected to remove and replace defective parts. It is part of the repair process and hardly a rip-off. As to our chips, we test and screen them quite thoroughly, regardless of vendor, and we believe them to be of top quality. But any chips, theirs or ours, can go out.

If Mr. Bates has trouble with a Radio Shack Repair Center, and will furnish me with all the details, I will be happy to do all I can to ensure his satisfaction.

Ed Juge, Director
Computer Merchandising
Tandy/Radio Shack
Fort Worth, TX

Dissatisfied Customer

I am an enthusiastic owner of a TRS-80 computer. As such I am always on the look-out for new programs and products. Recently I ordered three programs and a joystick from Big Five Software, a company which advertises in 80 Microcomputing. Two weeks after I sent the order, I received a form letter stating that two of the programs were no longer available. Continued on page 24
WHY
THE LATEST BLAST FROM BIG FIVE...
NEW! DEFENSE COMMAND

SCARFMAN
BEST SELLER

SUPER NOVA
Asteroids float ominously around the screen. You must destroy the asteroids before they destroy you! (Big asteroids break into little ones.) Your ship will respond to thrust, rotate, hyperspace and fire. Watch out for that saucer with the laser! As reviewed in May 1981 Byte Magazine.

LUNAR LANDER
As a vast panorama moonscape scrolls by, select one of many landing sites. The more points scored — if you can land safely. You control L.E.M. main engines and side thrusters. Absolutely the best use of TRS-80 graphics we have ever seen! From Adventure International. With sound.

ATTACK FORCE
As your ship appears on the bottom of the maze, eight alien ships appear on the top, all traveling directly at you! You move toward them and fire missiles. But the more aliens you destroy, the faster the remaining ones become. If you get too good you must endure the "Flagship"! With sound effects!

COSMIC FIGHTER
Your ship comes out of hyperspace under a convoy of aliens. You destroy every one. But another set appears. These seem more intelligent. You eliminate them, too. Your fuel supply is diminishing. You must destroy two more sets before you can dock. The space station is now on your scanner... With sound!

METEOR MISSION II
As you look down on your view, astronauts cry out for rescue. You must maneuver through the asteroids & meteors. (Can you get back to the space station?) Fire lasers to destroy the asteroids, but watch out, there could be an alien FLAGSHIP lurking. Includes sound effects!

DEFENSE COMMAND
Big Five has done it again! Now the most popular arcade game of all time has a fascinating new twist. The invaders are back! You are alone, valiantly defending the all important nuclear fuel cannister stockpile from a convoy of thieving aliens who repeatedly break off and attack in precision formations. An alien passes your guard, swiftly snatching up a cannister and flying straight off. Quick! You have one last chance to blast him out of the sky. Great action and sound!

SCARFMAN
THE LATEST ARCADE CRAZE now runs on your TRS-80. It's eat or be eaten. You control Scarfman around the maze, gobbling up everything in your path. You attempt to eat it all before the monsters devour you. Difficulty increases as game progresses. Excellent high speed machine language action game. From The Cornsoft Group. With sound.

CAUTION: Played with the Alpha Joystick, Scarfman may become addictive.

TALKING ROBOT ATTACK
INCREDIBLE! This amazing game actually TALKS without a speech synthesizer through the cassette AUX plug.

You are armed with just a hand held laser. In a remote section of the space station you encounter armed robots; some march towards you, some wait around corners. Watch out, the walls are electrified. Zap as many robots as you dare before escaping into a new section where more robots await you. The struggle continues. With Joystick action and VOICE OUTPUT, this game will amaze you.

GAME PRICES
16K Level 2, Mod 1 + Mod 3 Cassette: $15.95
32K Level 2, Mod 1 + Mod 3 Diskette: $19.95
All games on this page are "Alpha Joystick Compatible." They may be played with or without joystick (using arrow keys).

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ADD $2.00 PER ORDER FOR SHIPPING AND HANDLING. WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTERCARD, CHECKS, M.O. C.O.D. ADD $3.00 EXTRA. NY RESIDENTS ADD SALES TAX. OVERSEAS, FPO, APO: ADD 10%. DEALER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE.

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and games together,
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$39.95

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THE ALPHA JOYSTICK

The Alpha Joystick gives you real arcade action. Game producers know that it makes great games better. That's why each month more games from more producers are "Alpha Joystick Compatible."

There has never been a better time to get your Alpha Joystick. With so many excellent action games to choose from it's time to step up to joystick power.

You will find the Alpha Joystick simple to use. Just plug it in. No modification, wiring or batteries are required, and it's fully compatible with any other TRS-80 accessories. The instructions are clear and complete, we even show you how easy it is to experiment in BASIC (A = INP(0) reads stick) and to convert BASIC programs for joystick control.

MODEL I - Plugs into any Level II keyboard (40 pin card edge in the back) or expansion interface (left side, next to printer port). Our latest design has a "mode" switch for compatibility with the many different producers of joystick compatible games.

MODEL III - Works with any Model III BASIC system. It plugs into the 50 pin I/O bus (largest edge connector underneat, centered toward the rear). It will work with "Joystick Compatible" Model III games from any producer.

"If you purchase Alpha's Joystick you get the exquisite pleasure of enjoying (action games) at the limit of arcade-style realism."

– 80 Microcomputing
80 Reviews, Jan '82

14 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE: If you are not delighted, return it within 14 days for a prompt and courteous refund.

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OVERSEAS, FPO, APO: ADD 10%.
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ALPHA Products
79-04 Jamaica Ave., Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421 (212) 296-5916
Shading Patterns

We have a Model II and a Radio Shack Plotter/Printer which we use to plot maps digitized from a Summagraphics “Bit Pad One.” When making certain kinds of maps, such as choroplethics, we would like to be able to fill in the polygons with various shading patterns. The programing for this is beyond our level of experience. Are there any readers with any programming capability to help us with this problem? We would also like to hear from other Plotter/Printer users to exchange ideas and experiences in general in this relatively undeveloped area.

Steve Maynard
Geography Extension Program
#8 Stewart Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211

Line-feed for VisiCalc

I have a Model I and VisiCalc, which does not have all the plusses that the Model II and III versions have. It is a fantastic program, but I would like to be able to create a program line-feed, without having to wait for the printhead to travel across a blank line. Has anyone accomplished this?

Paul E. Shafer
Ahsahka, ID 83520

Move those feet!

I read with interest Bettye Hollins’ article “Two Transfers Please” (80 Microcomputing, February 1982). I also have Micromus, but I use it infrequently due to inability to successfully load it to disk as well as the limited tape I/O for music text. I am writing to see if any of your readers have similar success with two other products: Raaka-Tu and Dancin Demon. Although I have NEWDOS 2.1, I have not been able to create a copy of Raaka-Tu on disk that will run—the transfer works but the output is useless.

I would like to modify Dancin Demon to support disk I/O of music and routines and I would like to add editor enhancements to allow insertion or deletion of characters in the middle of the music or dance routine. If any of your readers have developed or know of such enhancements I would be interested in hearing from them.

Robert Alston
2305 Placid Way
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Digital Group Printer Interface

I am a beginning programmer. I have been trying unsuccessfully to interface a Digital Group printer, model DMTP-6, to my TRS-80 Model I Level II.

I have 48K, one disk drive and use TRSDOS 2.3 and TRSDOS 2.3B operating systems. I need to know the wiring connections from printer to TRS-80. Will this printer work without additional software?

Jim McLeod
10371 Ainsworth Crescent
Richmond, British Columbia
Canada V7A 3V5

Printer Patch

I have a TRS-80 Model I with one disk drive and 32K, modified by Radio Shack for lowercase use. I have been using a Selectric typewriter modified by Computer Devices of California. This system works well as a word processor using the Electric Pencil with the Pennod patch.

I have tried to use the Radio Shack Scriptex, but am unable to get a proper typewriter carriage return. Does anyone know of a patch that would enable me to use my setup with Scriptex?

Milton Tuerk, M.D.
250 Hospital Road
Patchogue, L.I., NY 11772

Type Font Wanted

We need a daisy-wheel printer print wheel with an Orator type font. A Bulletin type font would be an acceptable substitute.

We put the roster of our conference attendees on the TRS-80 Model II and needed some way to print the badges in a large size type that is readable. Any suggestions on where we might purchase this would be appreciated.

Harriett Heimeman
Retail Advertising Conference
67 East Oak St.
Chicago, IL 60611

G or S?

While my Epson MX-70 is an excellent printer on the whole, the lowercase g looks almost identical to the lowercase s, and my clients (I am a translator) are highly dissatisfied.

Does anyone have any ideas for upgrading this printer (possibly by switching to a different ROM and a new printing head) that will either give me descendents or else a small g that is the same shape as the capital one, but simply smaller?

Dr. S. Himmelstein
Maalot Dafna 45/5
Jerusalem
Israel

Super Model I

I own a TRS-80 Model I. I would like to use several of the Model III’s features on my Model I. How do I program repeating keys, screen print, and shift-lock (for output to my line printer)? How can I CLOAD from cassette 2? How can I patch Debug so it will work with the Expansion Interface?

Al Kiss
29 Hawkedon Circle
Rexdale, Ontario
Canada
NOW MODEL III AND MODEL III!

Now Model III users can take advantage of the ALPHA I/O system too. Our new MOD III/I BUS CONVERTER allows most port based Model I accessories (such as our ANALOG-80, INTERFACTOR 2 and INTERFACTOR-80) to connect to the Model III bus. MOD III/I BUS CONVERTER, complete with all connectors, only $39.95.

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Custom cable configurations are also available. Call us.

YOU ASKED FOR IT—EXPANDARIS! X1, X2, X3 AND X4. CONNECT ALL YOUR TRS-80 DEVICES SIMULTANEOUSLY on the 40 pin TRS-80 bus. Any device that plugs into the keyboard edge connector will also plug into the EXPANDARIS—The only cable shown with protective covers (included). The TRS-80 keyboard contains the bus drivers. (TAUSUB) for up to 10 devices, more than you will ever need. Using the E/I, it plugs either between KB and E/I or in the Screen Printer port. Professionally quality, gold plated contacts. Priced to sell, only $39.95 (20 ft.), $79.95 (100 ft.)

GREEN SCREEN WARNING

IBM and all the "biggies" are using green screen monitors. Its advantages are now widely advertised. We feel that every TRS-80 user should enjoy the same capabilities. BUT NOW—ALPHA Green Screens are not created equal. Here is what we found:

- Some are just a flat piece of standard colored Lucite. The green tint was not made for this purpose and is purged by many to be too dark. Increasing the brightness control will result in a fuzzy display.

- Some are simply a piece of thin plastic film taped onto a cardboard frame. The color is satisfactory but the waxy film gives a poor appearance.

- Some "optical filters" are in tact plastic acrylic sheeting

...All with a "red" piece of red plastic "red dot" in fact there is no red and shiny surfaces (both film and Lucite type) add their reflections to the screen.

- New backlights: one all claims to "reduce screen contrast". Sorry gentleman but it is just the opposite. One of the Green Screen's major benefits is to contrast the text and the background.

- Drawbacks: Most are using adhesive strips to fasten their screen to the monitor. This method makes it almost too easy to remove for necessary periodical cleaning. All except ours are flat. Light pens will not work reliably because of the big gap between the screen and the tube.

Many companies have been manufacturing video filters for years. We are not the first (some think they are). We have done our homework and we think we manufacture the best Green Screen. Here is why:

- Its right into the picture tube like a skin because it is the only CURVED screen MOLED closely exactly to the picture tube contour. It is Cut precisely to cover the exposed area of the picture tube. The fit is such that the static electricity is sufficient to keep it in place. We also include some invisible reusable tape for a more secure fastening.

- The filter material that we use is just right, not too dark nor too light. The result is a really eye pleasing display. We are so sure that you will never take your Green Screen off that we offer "an unconditional money-back guarantee" Try out Green Screen for 14 days. If for any reason you are not delighted with it, return it for a prompt refund.

- A last word. We think that companies, like ours, who are selling many by mail should avoid their street addresses, have a phone number for questions and orders. We accept COIs, not every one likes to send checks to a PO box. We think the convenience of avoiding their purchase to major credit cards. How come we are the only green screen people doing it?

Order your ALPHA Green Screen today! $12.50

ADD 5% FOR ORDERING SHIPMENT AND HANDLING ALL ORDERS SHIPPED FIRST CLASS MAIL WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTER CHARGE CHECKS, M.O. COD AND 3% FDW EXTRA QUANTITY DISCOUNT AVAILABLE 85-71 79 ST. WOODHAVEN N.Y. 11421 Info and orders: (212) 296-5916

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INTERFACTOR-80: the most powerful Sense/Control module.

- 8 industrial grade relays, simple pole double throw isolated contacts, 15 amp., 115 volts, AC, latched outputs are also accessible to drive external solid state relays.
- 6 convenient LEDs constantly display the relay states.
- Simple "Q" commands on basic processor interface.
- 4 optically-isolated inputs for easy direct interfacing to external switches, photoelectric, relays, etc. Simple "INP" commands read the status of the 4 inputs.
- Complete port address. Clean, compact internally designed, assembled, tested. 90 days warranty. Price includes power supply, cable, connector, super user manual... $159

SPECIAL THIS MONTH! $8.95

POWER RELAYS UNDER YOUR CONTROL!
because of agreements Big Five Software has with Atari. They credited my account for the full amount of my check. They cashed my check, but they did not send that part of the order that they were able to fill, namely, the third program and the joystick.

Robert Bauman
Laurel Springs, NJ

Big Five Software Replies

Atari has been cracking down on companies with games that play like some of their games (see “Atari targets software pirates,” 80 News, March 1982). Atari threatened us with lawsuits for our “Galaxy Invasion” and “Robot Attack.” While our attorneys are deciding who is right, we have stopped producing and selling those two games to comply with Atari’s demands.

We offer a quantity discount for multiple items ordered. Mr. Bauman ordered four items (two were Robot and Galaxy), which entitled him to a 15 percent discount. Since we could only sell him two items (which would reduce his quantity discount), we gave him the choice to accept only two items at a lower discount, or cancel his order completely. Mr. Bauman completely misunderstood, saying he “didn’t bother” to send the other two items.

Bill Hogue, President
Big Five Software
Van Nusy, CA

Cutting Room Goblins

There is a gremlin in the 80 Micro paste-up room. Several paragraphs of my article “In Praise of Outlines” were turned around. On page 205, the paragraph following the bolded heading Define the Task should appear just before the bold heading Outline the Procedure on page 206. The paragraph that should have appeared on page 205 reads as follows:

“This program will count to 10 by fives, giving the square roots of the numbers as we go along.” There, we have defined the task. We know exactly what we are going to do. On this small sample you might think that you do not have to define this simple task. But what about longer programs such as a mailing list? What things do you want your mailing list to do? Do you want to be able to add or delete names? Do you want to be able to make changes or sort alphabetically by names or towns or by zip codes? In this example the need for definition is obvious.

I have also made some changes to the program since it was published. On line 40 and 5000 the for...next loops should read FOR A = 1 TO F + 3 STEP 4. Alter the following lines as shown in Program Listing 2. With these changes you should be able to learn in 15 minutes what it took me 2½ years to figure out.

The program I presented was not intended as an applications program, but as a sample of programming method. The full-fledged mail list program is available through Futureview Software, PO Box 1295, Joplin, MO 64802.

Dennis Drew
Joplin, MO

Newsscript Update

The March 1982 issue of 80 Microcomputing carried a review of our Newsscript word processor. That review contained several statements that were flat-out false, misleading to your readers, and potentially very damaging to our sales. I appreciate your willingness to allow me this opportunity to respond to those errors, as follows:

● “There is no way to look up what you want to do.” This is stated in a paragraph that insinuates our manual is like the Robot Shack Level Manual. Index, our manual has a table of contents, an index, a section called “How To...”, two chapters of commands in alphabetical sequence, and hundreds of cross-references throughout the text. If that isn’t sufficient to let someone look up what he wants to do, what is? All other reviewers have raved about our documentation and said it is the best ever written for a microcomputer. Actually, even this 80 review said that “Newsscript has a fantastic documentation... with a table of contents and index.” Then it goes right on to say there’s no way to look up what you want to do. Though obviously contradictory, many of your readers will remember only that derogatory statement.

● “The greatest page number is 999...” The upper limit is 32767 (although I admit I never tried a number above 9999), and even while 999 is more than most people

Program Listing 2

ARKANSAS
MICROCOMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. Hot Springs AR (501) 621-5299
SIMUTER
Tactus Systems (402) 323-3091
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ALPHABYTE STORES
Berkeley (415) 442-1122
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Oakland (415) 981-3454
DELAWARE ELECTRONICS
Salem (302) 596-2902
HOBBIWORLD
Northfield (312) 586-5290
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE PROGRAM STORE
Washington DC (202) 357-3649
FLORIDA
FN TRON, INC
Miami (305) 991-0100
MICROSYS SOFTWARE, INC
Hollywood (305) 991-3390
GEORGIA
COMMERCIAL DATA PRODUCTS
Atlanta (404) 325-7800
HAWAII
COMPUTER CENTER
Honolulu (808) 548-2471
IDAHO
OFFICE MAGIC COMPUTERS
Boise (208) 376-4613
INDIANA
MICROCOMPUTER
South Bend (219) 337-8690
ILLINOIS
GARCIA & ASSOCIATES
Chicago (312) 725-9750
KANSAS
BESCO ELECTRONICS
KANSAS CITY (816) 938-2863
KANSAS CITY, INC
Kansas City (816) 866-9722
DATA SERVICES, INC
Wichita (316) 838-9002
KENTUCKY
COMPUTER MAGIC
Louisville (502) 892-9342
MASSACHUSETTS
OMINER
Brockton (617) 751-3498
MARYLAND
DAMASCUS C.B.
Darnestown (301) 253-2101
MICHIGAN
ALTERNATE SOURCE
Livonia (313) 729-3336
MINNESOTA
THE CODE ROOM
Eden Prairie (612) 934-1826
MISSOURI
LIMBURGER CO
St. Louis (314) 422-3553
NEBRASKA
COLUMBUS IV
Columbus (402) 564-2501
CURLINICS
Omaha (402) 423-7771
NEW JERSEY
CHANNEL 3 RADIO JAM
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DA&D SALES
(201) 251-4444
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Selden (516) 698-6265
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Carson City (702) 274-6346
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MPS
Wadsworth (216) 336-2771
PENNSYLVANIA
COMPUTER ANALYSIS
Crawley (412) 346-9021
SUNRISE COMPUTER
Chambersburg (717) 279-5814
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COMPUTER WORLD, INC
Nashville (615) 454-6004
TEXAS
PERCOM COMPUTER CENTER
Richardson (214) 690-6070
COMPUTER TO GO
Austin (512) 472-8920
IRFEE QN, INC.
Dallas (214) 543-2798
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2830 BS:**INPUTNAME: ; JAS
2850 BS =**INPUTADD: ; JAS
2870 BS =**INPUTCITY: JAS
2890 BS =**INPUTSTATE: JAS
2110 BS =**INPUTZIP: JAS
Program Listing 2

Continued from page 19
Percom's DOUBLER II tolerates wide variations in media, drives

GARLAND, TEXAS — May 22, 1981 — Harold Mauch, president of Percom Data Company, announced here today that an improved version of the Company's innovative DOUBLER adapter, a double-density plug-in module for TRS-80 Model I computers, is now available.

Reflecting design refinements based on both theoretical analyses and field testing, the DOUBLER II*, so named, permits even greater tolerance in variations among media and drives than the previous design.

Like the original DOUBLER, the DOUBLER II plugs into the drive controller IC socket of a TRS-80 Model I Expansion Interface and permits a user to run either single- or double-density diskettes on a Model I.

With a DOUBLER II installed, over four times more formatted data — as much as 364 Kbytes — can be stored on one side of a five-inch diskette than can be stored using a standard Tandy Model I drive system.

Moreover, a DOUBLER II equips a Model I with the hardware required to run Model III diskettes.

(Ed. Note: See "OS-80®, Bridging the TRS-80® software compatibility gap" elsewhere on this page.)

The critical clock-data separation circuitry of the DOUBLER II is a proprietary design called a ROM-programmed digital phase-lock loop data separator.

According to Mauch, this design is more tolerant of differences from diskette to diskette and drive to drive, and also provides immunity to performance degradation caused by circuit component aging.

Circuit misapplication causes diskette read, format problems.

High resolution key to reliable data separation

GARLAND, TEXAS — The Percom SEPARATOR* does very well for the Radio Shack TRS-80® Model I computer what the Tandy disk controller does poorly at best: reliably separates clock and data signals during disk-read operations.

Unreliable clock-data separation causes format verification failures and repeated read retries.

CRCERROR — TRACK LOCKED OUT

The problem is most severe on high-number (high-density) inner file tracks. As reported earlier, the clock-data separation problem was traced by Percom to misapplication of the internal separator of the 1771 drive controller IC used in the Model I.

The Percom Separator substitutes a high-resolution digital data separator circuit, one which operates at 16 megahertz, for the low-resolution one-megahertz circuit of the Tandy design.

Separator circuits that operate at lower frequencies — for example, two- or four-megahertz — were found by Percom to provide only marginally improved performance over the original Tandy circuit.

The Percom solution is a simple adapter that plugs into the drive controller of the Expansion Interface (EI).

No a kit — some vendors supply an untested separator kit of resistors, IC's and other paraphernalia that may be installed by modifying the computer. The Percom SEPARATOR is a fully assembled, fully tested plug-in module.

Installation involves merely plugging the SEPARATOR into the Model I EI disk controller chip socket, and plugging the controller chip into a socket on the SEPARATOR.

The SEPARATOR, which sells for only $29.95, may be purchased from authorized Percom retailers or ordered directly from the factory. The factory toll-free order number is 1-800-527-1222.

Ed. note: Opening the TRS-80 Expansion Interface may void the Tandy limited 90-day warranty.

The Percom DOUBLER II is available from authorized Percom retailers, or may be ordered direct from the factory. The factory toll-free order number is 1-800-527-1222.

Ed. note: Opening the TRS-80 Expansion Interface may void the Tandy limited 90-day warranty.

All that glitters is not gold

OS-80® Bridging the TRS-80® software compatibility gap

Compatibility between TRS-80® Model I diskettes and the new Model III is about as genuine as a gold-plated adapter jack.

True, Model I TRSDOS® diskettes can be read on a Model III. But first they must be converted and re-recorded for Model III operation.

And you cannot write to a Model I TRSDOS® diskette. Not with a Model III. You cannot add a file. Delete a file. Or in any way modify a Model I TRSDOS diskette with a Model III computer.

Furthemore, your converted TRSDOS diskettes cannot be converted back for Model I operation.

TRSOS is a one-way street. And there's no re-reading. A point to consider before switching the company's payroll from Model I to Model III.

Real software compatibility should allow the direct, immediate interchangeability of Model I and Model III diskettes. No read-only limitations, no conversion recording steps and no chance to be left high and dry with Model III diskettes that can't be run on a Model I.

What's the answer? The answer is Percom's OS-80® family of TRS-80 disk operating systems.

OS-80 programs allow direct, immediate interchangeability of Model I and Model III diskettes.

You can run Model I single-density diskettes on a Model III, install Percom's plug-in Doubler adapter in your Model I, and you can run double-density Model III diskettes on a Model I.

There's no conversion, no re-recording. Slip an OS-80 diskette out of your Model I and insert it directly in a Model III.

And vice-versa.

Just have the correct OS-80 disk operating system — OS-80, OS-80D or OS-80S/II — in each computer.

Moreover, with OS-80 systems, you can add, delete, and update files. You can read and write diskettes regardless of the system of origin.

OS-80 is the original Percom TRS-80 DOS for BASIC programmers.

Even OS-80 utilities are written in BASIC.

OS-80 is the Percom system about which a user wrote, in Creative Computing magazine, "...the best $30.00 you will ever spend." 2

requiring only seven Kbytes of memory, OS-80 disk operating systems reside completely in RAM. There's no need to dedicate a drive exclusively for a system diskette.

And, unlike TRSDOS, you can work at the track sector level, defining and controlling data formats — in BASIC — to create simple or complex data structures that you may never use with TRSDOS files.

The Percom OS-80 DOS supports single-density operation of the Model I computer — price is $29.95; the OS-80D supports double-density operation of Model I computers equipped with a DOUBLE-ER or DOUBLER II, and, OS-80S/II for the Model III of course — supports both single- and double-density operation. OS-80D and OS-80S/II each sell for $49.95.

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Trademark of Percom Data Company, Inc. *TRS-80 and TRSDOS are trademarks of Tandy Corporation which has no relationship to Percom Data Company. 1Creative Computing Magazine, June, 1980, page 26. 2See List of Advertisers on page 354

80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 25
Day of the Week Bugs

Since my article "If this is Tuesday, it must be..." appeared in the January 1982 issue of 80 Microcomputing, I have received many requests for clarification of the Program Listing. Two lines are printed incorrectly in the listing on page 308. Line 130 should read: 130 H = INT (5*Y/4) and line 170 should read 170 W = W - INT(W/7). Walter J. Atkins, Jr., Ph.D.

USAF Academy, CO 80840

How Many Colonies?

While playing "Space Empires" (80 Microcomputing, August 1981) my six-year-old son decided that since he did not have the required 90 megacredits to build a colony he would build only 0.1. The program responded with "Number of Colonies Built: 1."

In examining the program I found that line 940 accepts your input of the number of colonies to build as B. Line 945 compares B with 0 and goes to line 1060 if they are equal. Line 964 compares B with 1 to see if there is a colony to be built.

Line 950 generates B1 and line 960 determines if you have enough credits. The problem arises because there is no comparison to check if you have paid the full 90 megacredits per colony. You can correct this by either checking the number of colonies (B) being requested or the amount of credits used. Add line 942 B = INT(B), this checks the number of colonies and also ensures the entire 90 megacredits are used instead of only a fraction.

Lawrence A. Crumb
3003 Marathon Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

Array I/O Bugs

The program listings accompanying my article "Array I/O" (80 Microcomputing, January 1982) contain several errors. Line 460 of Program Listing 1 should read

460 CALL01F8H : CASSette OFF

Line 860 should read

860 EXIT CALL01F9H : CASSette OFF

Delete lines 470 and 870.

Norman Neff
Trenton State College
Hillwood Lakes
P.O. Box 940
Trenton, NJ 08625

Lost in Limbo

I assembled Mark Paxton’s first utility, ("Lost in Basic"), from the January 1982 issue of 80 Microcomputing. It executed in Level II, and in Disk Basic if I entered the subject program from the keyboard or from cassette. When I ran the utility against a program loaded from disk, Find went off into limbo. The following patch corrects this problem, allowing the utility to function correctly regardless of the program source. Change line 1140 to read 1140 CONT2
DEC HL. Add line 1145 PUSH HL.

80 INPUT

80 DEBUG

Program Listing 2 was missing from Richard W. Castor’s article “The Philatelist’s Friend” in the December 1981 issue. Here it is:

90 CLEAR 2500:DEFSTR$Y,D:DEFINTQ,R,C,P,F,L,E
95 DIMS(128,13),L(20),P(20)
100 CLS:PRINT TAB(37)****** PHILATELIC INVENTORY ****** PRINT TAB (24) EDITOR ******
101 GOTO12120
102 'CS="UNITED STATES":Q=1:Y1=1888$:Y2=1940$:Y3=1978$:S1=58
8$:S2=900$:R=3:T=336:D="700":S1(1,13)="14"
103 'S1(1,8)="550":FOR N=1 TO 4:LET S1(1,N)+RIGHTS$(S1(N,1):NE
XT N
104 'S1(2,8)="758":FORN=1TO9:LET S1(2,N)+RIGHTS$(S1(N,1):NEXTN:
105 CLS:PRINT TAB(25)****** MENU ****** PRINT
110 PRINT "(1) TO SEE AN EXISTING LISTING"
115 PRINT TAB(5)"(2) TO CORRECT/UPDATE EXISTING LISTING"
120 PRINT TAB(5)"(3) TO ADD TO INVENTORY"
125 PRINT TAB(5)"(4) FOR ANNUAL VALUE UPDATING"
130 PRINT TAB(5)"(5) TO SAVE UPDATED FILE"
135 PRINT TAB(5)"(6) TO END PROGRAM"
140 INPUT B;IP$=GOTO15SEL$GOTO15GOTO28$GOTO15GOTO28$1800,426,698,1128,1285
150 CLS:PRINT"SCOTT CATALOG NUMBER DESIRED";TAB(32);"INPUT BS";
205 FOR R=1 TO B
210 IPSI(R,8)-BS THEN 220
215 NEXT R:PRINT"SCOTT CATALOG NUMBER-":B$;"-NOT IN FILE":GOTO
265
220 PRINT"USED SINGLES";TAB(25)SI(R,1);TAB(32)"CATALOG VALUE":T
225 AB$(SI(R,1),2)
225 PRINT"MINT SINGLES";TAB(25)SI(R,3);TAB(32)"CATALOG VALUE":T
225 AB$(SI(R,1),4)
230 IF VAL$(B$)=VAL(D) GOTO 255
235 PRINT"MINT PLATE BLOCKS";TAB(25)SI(R,5);TAB(32)"CATALOG VAL
240 UE";TAB(58)SI(R,6)
245 PRINT"MINT SHEETS";TAB(25)SI(R,7);TAB(32)"CATALOG VALUE":TA
B(58)SI(R,8)
245 PRINT"FIRST DAY COVERS";TAB(25)SI(R,9);TAB(32)"CATALOG VALU
E";TAB(58)SI(R,10)

Program continues
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Expansion Interface OK</td>
<td>Lynx Direct Connect</td>
<td>R.S. Model III</td>
<td>Newdos 80</td>
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<td>MI/III</td>
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Continued from page 24

ever end, the comment leaves a negative impression with the reader.

"There are several programs, most of them are written in Basic...", and later, to drive the stake home, "Though the program is in Basic..." Now, that's really great! There are over 4,000 Z80 machine language instructions in Newscript, and about 800 lines of Basic code in the two main programs that do disk I/O and setup of tables for the 20 distinctly different printers we fully support. To me, that sounds like a sophisticated machine language program with some Basic programs acting as front-ends. The reviewer marvels that we never lose keystrokes even though we are in Basic, but doesn't seem to realize that nothing written in Basic could be one tenth as fast as Newscript. Unfortunately, readers have long since been warned that nothing in Basic is worth buying, so combined with a manual that doesn't let them look anything up, they are by now convinced that Newscript is not for them. This is untrue, of course. We use Basic to make it easy to add tables for new printers, and to avoid the incompatibilities among the operating systems. The single version of Newscript a customer buys will run on all the operating systems and can even be moved between Model I and III! That's a big reason for retaining some Basic. But none of that is explained in this review.

"The program...does not provide any means of hyphenating." At the time the review was written, that was true, but the current release of Newscript supports both hard hyphens and ghost hyphens. The error here is one of obsolescence and lack of communication, and could have been avoided by reading the letter of response I sent the author last November. Unfortunately, that letter seems to have been ignored, and since the reviewer has an unlisted phone number, it was impossible for me to set the record straight.

In fairness to the author of the review, he also made many favorable comments and on balance seemed to like Newscript very much. Based on correspondence with him (prior to his writing this article), I believe he is well satisfied with Newscript and with the support he has received from Prosoft. Feedback and suggestions from our customers and reviewers have been heeded, and Newscript 7.0 contains a number of performance, functional and ease-of-use enhancements that were inspired by such people and offered to existing customers for very modest fees. I'll be glad to make a copy of 7.0 available to one of your reviewers so that a timely and
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“See Review 80 Microcomputing, April 1982, page 370”

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accurate description of our product can be presented to your readers in the near future.

Chuck Tesler
Prosoft
North Hollywood, CA

Yes, we have erred. The Newscript review we ran in March was on an older version. We, too, believe the reviewer liked the program, but misstated some facts. We offer our sincere apologies to Prosoft. A review of Newscript 6.2 will appear in the May issue of our sister publication, Microcomputing. The reviewer, Bruce Powel Douglass, has long been a critic of poor documentation. Yet he claims the Newscript documentation is the best he has seen and recommends that other companies use it as a model. He also points out that there is little, if any, loss of execution speed due to the portions of Basic code in Newscript, and this is hardly a point of concern. Douglass and our reviewer in March recommend the program.—Eds.

Mod II Compiler Basic
Revisited

I wish to comment on Larry Clark's article on Model II Compiler Basic (80 Microcomputing, February 1982). The review is unnecessarily harsh. Unlike Mr. Clark, I use Compiler Basic extensively, and I believe Compiler Basic is preferable to Microsoft Basic for the development of large programs for the Model II. Mr. Clark makes several memory limitations of Compiler Basic. The limitations apply only when the development system is used in its quasi-interpreter mode. In this mode, source code, object code and RBasic are all in memory, together with TRSDOS. Therefore, you cannot develop large programs with the quasi-interpreter command Run.

You can develop large programs using the Compile command, however. Approximately 15K of source code can be held in memory at the same time as RBasic. This is the limitation for using the automatic Renumber command for all of any one source file. However, source files can be divided in convenient pieces and independently renumbered in RBasic, and then later joined back together in one very large source file using BEdit. The overall limitation on object program size that can reside in memory at run time is
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Written by Larry Ashmun
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I market Estate Planning Model, an estate tax planning decision support system. This program has 51,982 bytes of source code, divided into three modules which chain back and forth. I originally wrote this program in Microsoft Basic, but I later converted it to Compiler Basic. I use both languages extensively and prefer RBASIC for the development of large programs.

RBASIC offers the following advantages:
- Much better security of source code.
- True subroutines. All subroutines must be complied with the main program at the same time, but I do not find that onerous.
- The ability to read the screen directly. Somehow this function was omitted from Model II Microsoft Basic, but it is included in RBASIC and greatly simplifies using formatted I/O screens.
- Program chaining.
- Source program lines can be copied from one portion of a source file to another portion of a source file, with automatic renumbering.

Ralph A. Beard
Canfield, OH

Mod II Scrispret Inferior

The review of Model II Scrispret (80 Microcomputing, February 1982) was informative and accurate, but it failed to adequately contrast that word processing system with systems available for Models I and III. In my job I use Model II Scrispret and at home I use Model I Scrispret (usually enhanced by either SuperScript or Querty). Model II Scrispret is generally much inferior in speed and ease of use.

Model II Scrispret has almost none of the features of Model I Scrispret and it is much less "user friendly." The only feature of Model II Scrispret that represents an advance over Model I Scrispret is the "User Defined Keys" feature.

The Model II has been touted as a professional level computer. Anyone who uses word processing on a professional level will find that the Model II is less professional than the Model I. Readers who want to get into word processing should visit a Radio Shack computer center and take along a stop watch. They should type a 600 word document with both a Model II and a Model III computer, using the respective Scrispret programs, and time the operation. Then they should make some major changes—such as switching paragraphs around—and time them. When they have a satisfactory final version, they should make a backup copy on another disk and time that operation. I predict that they will find the Model II Scrispret to be less than half as fast as the Model III Scrispret and much clumsier to use. Surely any review of a word processing program ought to take such matters into account.

Philip F. Jackisch
Royal Oak, MI

NEWDOS80 Corrections

We at Apparat wish to thank Paul Prescott and 80 Microcomputing for an excellent article on our NEWDOS80 Version 2.0 released in August 1981. We offer the following corrections: The NEWDOS80 Version 2.0 for the Model I is sold separate from that for the Model III and vice versa; MINI-DOS does not support chaining; regular DOS and DOS-CALL do; CBF is format six of Copy and was available in a more limited extent in Version 1.0; Basic has only four new overlays, not eight; and the full-disk-copy-to-apply-zaps service is $10.

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A Bibliography of Computer Music
A Reference for Composers
Sandra J. Tjepkema
University of Iowa Press
Iowa City, IA 52242
Hardcover, 294 pp.
$17.50

by Dennis Bathory Kitsz

Computer music experienced a dramatic resurgence and remarkable changes at the outset of the 1980s. Those changes make A Bibliography of Computer Music, by Sandra J. Tjepkema—with only a few entries past 1978—more a historical document than an active reference. But more importantly, this bibliography includes only what might be thought of as the academic approach to computer music, with emphasis on Computer Music Journal and the publications of universities and such centers as IRCAM (Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique) in Paris.

Although much research is being carried out at the university level, a nevertheless significant proportion of computer musical activity is also occurring less formally, as the creative process so often does. By limiting her listings for the most part to official computer, computer music, and professional music publications, Tjepkema has missed a wealth of important work being done in the computer music field. The inclusion of just one year of the West Coast Computer Faire Proceedings (1977) is a curious demonstration of that limitation.

These drawbacks, though important to working composers—to whom Tjepkema directs the work—do not diminish the heart of the collection itself. The bibliography consists of about 1,000 entries and cross-references covering all phases of computer (as distinguished from analog synthesized) music, including interviews with composers, technical reports, and even user manuals for electronic music studios. Analog synthesis is specifically not covered by this work.

The volume includes over 20 years of writing (1956–1979, most from 1961–1978), with heaviest concentrations during the late 60s (when the avant-gardists and engineers first teamed up) and the second half of the 70s (when microcomputers began to bring digital power to an economically feasible status). Only about 100 entries date before 1965, and these are mainly of historical and artistic interest. Annotations are clear and concise, though the inclusion of many foreign language entries with no annotations at all is disconcerting. The book is cross-indexed by person (both author and subject), but includes a very weak subject index that greatly limits its usefulness. The glossary of acronyms is minimal, no reference by year is provided, and the manufacturer listing is inevitably dated.

Tjepkema’s competence to address the task of such a bibliography is clear, as is her enthusiasm. Compilation of a bibliography is an arduous undertaking, requiring contacts with libraries, authors and publishers across the world. But perhaps it is her enthusiasm that brought about the premature publication of the work, its coverage ending just as a remarkable increase in computer music work was beginning. In any case, a second volume covering work through the mid 80s—even in periodical form—would be very welcome.

To return to the topic of the book’s flaws in coverage, major sources of computer music information have not been included, among them the alternative music press (especially from New York City and southern California), composer notes from record jackets, and reprints from seminars and gallery performances in such places as New York’s Soho and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. In fact, local (non-academic) work from across the world is missing.

The underrepresentation of the writings of major composers is also unfortunate. Pulitzer Prize winners Morton Subotnik and Charles Wuorinen are not found at all, nor is John Cage, whose collaborations with Lejaren Hiller (amply represented) broke new ground in the field. Charles Dodge and David Behrman, composers of very accessible digitally generated music, are limited to two entries each. The lack of transcripts of public radio programs, record jacket notes, and other so-called ephemera give these leading writers short shrift. On the other hand, long-time academics such as Herbert Brun are ac-
Rosenfelder points out many of the errors programmers make. Then he shows you how, based on his own experience, to beat the problems and to actually write better Basic. He explains what trade-offs to make when they are appropriate.

I wish I could reproduce the table of contents for you in this article. It is so extensive it looks like the index to most other books. Rosenfelder covers every trick of the trade in detail and supplies an invaluable library of subroutines that you can use over and over to reduce memory usage, speed execution and make a program user oriented. If you don’t like typing a library of subroutines and demos to keep for future use, you can buy two disks with the routines already on them and ready to merge into your programs ($19.95 each).

Manipulation of strings, arrays, I/O routines, video displays, keyboard input, utilities and much more are the stock and trade of the programmer. Although Basic programming is the book’s main concern, Rosenfelder supplies some machine language. Don’t be alarmed, you don’t have to understand it to use it. He supplies machine language for proven routines that increase speed in sorting and other processing tasks and are complete with explanations on how to implement them into your programs.

Although any Basic programmer can gain valuable information from this book it is mainly geared to disk users, though there is plenty of worthwhile information for the non-disk programmer as well.

The book assumes that everyone has a NEWDOS or NEWDOS80 operating system. There may be some incompatibilities with operating systems other than Apparat systems such as in the I/O routines. If you are in doubt, call or write IJG, and ask them about possible problems with your operating system.

**Conclusion**

The book is worth the money no matter what level of programming ability you possess. If you are one of those who was disappointed in past Basic Faster and Other Mysteries books, give them one more try with this one. Go to your local computer store and sit down with a copy. Read the beginning and take a brief look through the book. It is an honest and successful effort to aid the Basic programmer. Basic Faster and Better is the best IJG publication so far.

---

**Graphic Software for Microcomputers**

B. J. Korites, Ph.D.
Kern Publications
190 Duck Hill Road
P.O. Box 1029
Duxbury, MA 02332
$19.95

by Terry Kepner

At first glance Graphic Software for Microcomputers reminded me of the TRS-80 Level I manual in color and shape, except that it was much thicker. Since I had recently purchased a Radio Shack Color Computer, I was interested in learning more about graphics techniques (the TRS-80 manual was more interested in telling me about the commands than teaching me the tricks needed for good graphics programming). A quick perusal of the book, and its relatively low cost, decided the matter; I bought it.

This book is a good buy. It not only discusses the theory of operation of the simple points (drawing a line, circle, density filling, and so on), but also covers complicated graphic maneuvers (scaling, rotating, motion translating and the like). The book even provides Basic programs that do each of these activities.

The book was originally written for the Apple computer, but is very easy to use with the TRS-80 Color Computer. All you have to do is to change all the references to HPLOT to PSET or LINE, and HCOLOR to COLOR.
Dr. Korites knows how to teach students and how to prepare a reference manual. Each concept is given its own page, which is split vertically between the explanation and the Basic program. You should know simple math and have at least a nodding familiarity with the concept of X-Y Cartesian coordinate systems. Dr. Korites assumes you have no knowledge of the next level of math required which includes vector mathematics and matrix manipulation, subjects familiar to few members of the microcomputer public. He includes sufficient instructions in the text to enable you to understand these ideas well enough to use the graphics techniques that he explains in the book.

The book begins at the most basic level possible—how to put a dot on the high resolution screen. By the end of the book you should be able to translate, rotate and stretch a box in three dimensions simultaneously.

The book has no absolute page numbering system. Each chapter is numbered using Roman numerals, and the first page of each chapter is labeled page 1. Only one side of each page is actually printed; the reverse is purposely left blank for notes. This book not only provides the same theory and practice problems as most graphics books, but also gives usable programs that demonstrate each technique as it is introduced. It starts out at a level perfect for the beginning graphics programmer, but is sectionalized so that the accomplished programmer can easily go to the area that interests him or her and get the needed information. Dr. Korites is to be commended for the thought and effort he has put into making this book as understandable and readable as it is.

I strongly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning how to do shape manipulations on a microcomputer, whether they are simple or complex.

Computer Major League: The Game of Professional Baseball
Avalon Hill Microcomputer Games
4517 Hartford Road
Baltimore, MD 21214
Model I, 32K
$20 cassette
$30 disk

by John P. Mello Jr.

Walk into any place where aficionados of the Grand Game congregate and ask what's the best major league simulation game on the market. You will get a chorus of replies, but if you are looking for harmony, you will find more of it on a street corner in Philly.

There are the venerable institutions of baseball gaming—APBA and Strat-O-Matic—and at least a dozen newcomers, including Time Travel Baseball, which allows you to move players from one era to another including the future.

Now into the fray enters the prestigious game house, Avalon Hill, with not only a board version of baseball, but one for the microcomputer.

Let there be no misunderstanding. Avalon Hill’s computer game is not for the arcade set. It is a text game founded on the baseball fan’s unflagging fascination with statistics. To those unschooled in the intricacies of the national pastime, the game may already sound too predictable. But it is no more predictable than the board games and given the vagaries of the Model I, probably less so.

When you load Major League, it takes a few seconds to initialize. This can cause some anxiety about whether the game is loading properly. Palpitations could have been averted with an initializing prompt. After loading, the game’s main menu appears. It summarizes the commands at your disposal in the play mode. You can exit to the menu any time without disturbing a game in progress.

You enter the home and visiting teams and you are ready to set up your lineup. All 26 major league teams and their 25-man rosters from 1980 are included in the game. (Avalon Hill said it intends to market a method to update the game to conform with 1981 performances by the players.) However, repeated attempts to load the Phillies—world champions in 1980—yielded the message “team not found.” A look at the disk directory, though, revealed your TRS-80 will find the team from the City of Brotherly Love if you punch in “Phillies.”

By keying in V or H you can call up the roster of the visiting or home team. By each fielder is his number, positions he plays, batting average, slugging percentage, and overall running speed. At this point, it would be helpful to know a player’s ability to sacrifice and hit and run, but these ratings (along with home run, walk, on-base running, and strikeout ratings) can’t be accessed until the game is under way.

Although the documentation notes the game incorporates a player’s fielding ability into the fabric of play, you do not have access to that information—definitely a drawback in the late innings when you are hanging on to a one-run lead and want your best defensive players in the field.

This is also bothersome when your team is batting. If you have a runner on base, you want to know how good a catcher’s arm is. In this game, you don’t find out until you steal. Then, sometimes, it is too late. Here, though, the offensive player gets an idea about an outfielder’s arm. If you have the option of taking an extra base, the chances of your runner making it are displayed as a percentage on the screen.

For anyone that’s ever fumbled with a scorecard, Major League is a dream. To set your lineup from the roster mode, you enter three numbers: a player’s position in the batting order, number and position (1 for pitcher, 2 for catcher...). The numbers appear in three columns to the right of your roster. When you exit to the play mode, the names and stats of the players in the home and visiting lineups are displayed in a column on the left of your CRT.

The game keeps a running scorecard you can access anytime to see what a player or pitcher has done to that point in the contest. Pinch hitter? The computer keeps track of him. New pitcher? Ditto. No more squeezing names at the bottom of your
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scorecard and going batty trying to interpret your hen scratchings. And behold! Major League also contains a print routine so you can print a box score of the game.

Information, however, clutters the play-mode screen. In the upper left, you have the lineups; on the right, the player batting and three rows of information on his hitting and running skills; below that, a baseball diamond; across the bottom, innings, outs, line score and a two-by-two matrix. After several games, we deduced the matrix represented the pitchers' ability rating and fatigue factor. A little labeling here would have been helpful even if it does add to the screen clutter.

Three numbers at the top right of the screen do not seem very useful. The first is a number from 1-12 determining who controls a situation—the batter or pitcher. Which end of the range favors whom, though, isn't explained. The second number is a random number from 1-64 determining the outcome of a play. The higher numbers are usually outs, but there's no hint whether this number will affect the next play or determined the outcome of the previous one. Third is a number from 1-80 determining if an error's been made. Since a message appears when an error is made, this number seems superfluous.

When your first hitter enters the batter's box, you can make him swing away by hitting the space bar or bust for a hit by pressing B. When a runner gets on base, his name and on-base running rating is displayed by the sack. With ducks on the pond, the batter has the additional options of hit and run, sacrifice, and suicide squeeze with a runner on third base.

Defensively, your options are limited to moving the infield in or out and pulling pitchers. As batters get hits or bases on balls and runs are scored, a pitcher's stamina is reduced. When it reaches zero, hitters will have a field day.

During a game, the screen may clear and the messages clutch hitting, clutch defense or unusual play will appear. The clutch messages appeared several times in games played by 80 Micro staff, but only once did anything clutch happen. Most of the time the batter just had to hit again. According to the game's documentation, unusual plays include an injury to a player, ejection of a player and a rain out. We would add another oddity—one board players don't worry about—Model I glitch.

Despite its drawbacks, computer Major League takes the drudgery out of baseball simulation. Some fans may find it exciting to roll n-sided dice and pore through cards and charts, but as for us, we would rather have a micro do it. After all, the cerebral part of the game is making decisions and reacting to field situations—not acquiring eye strain reading charts.

As for realism, what could be more realistic than the Brewers at Red Sox game we played? Boston struggled through eight innings barely able to scratch out two runs while Milwaukee threatened in almost every inning. Then the patented Fenway fireworks came in the last frame and the final:5-4 for the home team.
Asylum
Med Systems Software
P.O. Box 2674-T
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Models I & III
$19.95 cassette
$22.95 disk

by Debra Marshall
80 Micro staff

Another triumphant teaser from Med Systems Software, Asylum is all any Deathmaze or Labyrinth fan could ask for and more. Asylum is similar to earlier games, and yet unique; the game board is a maze of halls and doors, but doesn’t seem to double onto itself as did Labyrinth. While the halls are more straightforward, the situations you find yourself in are not.

Asylum is a huge building full of locked rooms with keys just out of reach, grenades that don’t explode — if you handle them right — nearly bare rooms, crazed inmates, equally crazed guards, and doctors you shouldn’t trust. It is a maze of riddles and mysteries. It could drive you insane.

The graphics in Asylum differ from those in the two earlier games. In Deathmaze and Labyrinth it was expected that you would wander halls for hours, days or even months without encountering more than a closed box, an occasional door or keyhole, or a message on a wall. Asylum provides a visual relief, with graphic depictions of beds, chairs, desks, doors with bars, inmates, guards, and so on.

The Med Systems people were kind enough to provide me with a graphics sampler disk as well as the game disk to review; I guess they know me well enough to realize that I would be totally intrigued by their game and equally incapable of finding my way around their maze.

As a matter of fact, I couldn’t even get out of the first room without help. Either the Med Systems people are finding more obscure commands to use in their games or I’m slipping. Asylum came with a list of commands, which early Deathmaze fans never had the advantage of, but I still could not figure out what word would unhook that darn grenade without getting myself blown up. Oh well, half the fun is in the frustration.

Asylum commands are more sophisticated than the earlier games; the number of commands isn’t as limited. The kinds of things it is possible to do has expanded greatly, and while you are not directly interacting with the characters you meet in the maze, they do affect your situation directly. The guards will haul you back to a room and lock you in, but that isn’t necessarily a bad situation.

Any game player who likes thinking games and is not totally hooked on the graphicless adventures should like Asylum. Even staunch defenders of adventures will like Asylum; it is an adventure with a twist. Deathmaze and Labyrinth players should find Asylum a challenge. But be sure to bring along a sharp imagination and a steady patience.
Space Waste Race
Storybooks of the Future
527 41st Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94121
Models I & III
$19.95 16K cassette
$24.95 32K disk

by Mary Gasiorowski

Space Waste Race is an interactive computerized storybook. Based upon the idea of sending our excess garbage into space to be rid of it, the program is very interactive, and a novel idea. Each nine lines of the story is accompanied by a screen of graphics.

It also allows for a lot of manipulation. The complete story can be viewed without interruption, or individual pages can be repeated as many times as you like. You can practice moving the moons; by pressing the arrows or bracket keys, the face of the man in the moon appears to shake, nod, or look around.

The program has good and bad points. The graphics capability of the TRS-80 is limited to drawing graphics with blocks rather than the dots of the Apple or Color Computer. This means that a diagonal line on the Model I or III looks like a staircase, and moons are not nearly round.

The instructions suggest the program is designed for non-readers, but the nine-line story includes such vocabulary as "collecting," "jealous" and "imagine." In addition, the on-screen instructions are beyond the young reader. Perhaps the author intended an adult to read through the story with the child.

After a cute title page with graphics and a musical theme, the program goes to the menu: Storybook; Look, Nod & Shake; Funtime; End. Storybook and Funtime proceed to other menus. Storybook allows you to run through the story—the whole thing, individual pages, just the text, or just the title page. Look, Nod & Shake lets you play with the moons, making them look in various directions.

The games in Funtime are: Moon Drops, a counting game; Fall Out, a number and letter identification game; Moon Pass, a game for developing the spatial concepts of over and under; Hole in the Moon, a game teaching numerical and alphabetical order; and Moon Looks, a game for concepts of direction. (The last three are only on the 32K version and feature automatic scoring.)

The games are interesting but trivial; they could be developed more. For example, in Moon Pass if you miss seeing the moon pass on the screen and do not respond to the question in a reasonable amount of time, the program should loop back and show you the problem again. Also, Hole in the Moon takes three numbers or letters in sequence, shows two of them and asks for the missing one. If a mistake is made the program should make you type in the correct answer for positive reinforcement.

In addition, all the games reward equally for correct and incorrect responses: the moon nods for correct answers, and shakes its head from side to side for incorrect ones. If there was more action for a correct answer the child might be more inclined to find the right response.

Space Waste Race could be improved in many ways—the games could be more developed and better designed, a more age-appropriate story could be chosen, and the program could be friendlier by asking for your name when you start. However, the idea is an interesting one. Space Waste Race may be the storybook of the future; but Space Waste Race will not replace parents reading to their children.

Ann Rose—Our Accounts-Receiveable Clerk
Sturdivant & Dunn Inc.
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by Frederic S. Goldstein

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This is a balance-forward system. It is unique in that it offers the option of saving and printing 17 transactions along with the balance due.

If you do not save the details, transaction capacity should never be a problem since only the net is carried forward. If you save the transactions, when you enter the seventeenth item for an account the system stops what it is doing and prints a detailed report for the account. The program then purges the 17 details and resumes posting.

In reality Ann Rose is a 17-line computerized ledger card. Unfortunately, since the system cannot key payments against specific charges, problems could develop if you had to reconcile a high volume account. Because the program prints only 17 transactions and the net balance due, the amount paid could be for details previously purged.

The monthly report of customer balances requires some explanation since at first glance it looks to be out of balance. The detail columns provided—service charge, 30-60 days, and over 60 days—do not necessarily total the balance-due column. The difference is the current amount due, which you find on the posting-to-receivables-report. Since the system is set up to print at 9 pitch by 11-inch paper, space is at a premium and some information was omitted. Mr. Dunn should have included the total balance due as a single number or used a short name for the customer so that the report would crossfoot.

The program provides an accounts-receivable list with the account number, code, name, phone number and blank spaces in the columns labeled charge and payment. At first, it appears that it should contain a recap of the financial figures, but it is intended as a worksheet for the bookkeeper.

The system calculates interest at the rate of 1½ percent per month on balances over 30 days late.

The system’s major weakness is its documentation. The manual starts out by providing a step-by-step list of instructions for formatting new disk and backing up and copying the program from the non-system disk provided. The documentation explicitly reminds the user to make adequate back-up copies every time he runs the system. (After terminating processing, the system even displays a parting message of “MAKE BACKUPS.”)

Unfortunately, there is very little follow-up documentation on how to run the system. Essentially, the manual says “experiment!” This is an excellent way to learn about the system, but reading about it first would have been better. A new and expanded version of the documentation should be available soon.

In addition to the incomplete documentation, the system has other deficiencies. For example, bills are printed without account numbers and there is no provision for sales analyses or commission analyses.

Although Ann Rose is not as widely distributed as the Radio Shack Receivable system, the program developer and several of his clients, including a garbage company with 2,000 accounts and a utility company with about 1,000 accounts, are using it successfully. The developer is still modifying the system and improvements will evolve such as order entry processing and some form of inventory control. This will make the package less industry specific.

Would I recommend this system to a client? Yes, but only under special circumstances. At present Ann Rose could be ideal for a small business with repetitive standard billings. However, the lack of comprehensive documentation limits its usefulness to someone already familiar with data processing and the industries for which the package was designed. In that instance you should find it easy to install and use.

The Voyage of the Valkyrie
Leo Christopherson
Advanced Operating Systems
450 St. John Rd.
Michigan City, IN 46360
Models I & II, sound
$34.95 16K cassette
$39.95 16K disk

by Michael E. Nadeau
80 Micro staff

Graphics and sound can make or break a computer game; both are done very well in The Voyage of the Valkyrie.

The game itself is no innovation. You are the pilot of the ship Valkyrie; your mission is to capture the island of Fugloy. The island has 10 castles, each guarded by a different number and type of bird. Your first task is to map the island. Roughly two hours of trial and error gives you the map, but be prepared to die a few times in the process.

You must shoot the birds to capture castles. The elite Fugloy Airforce can appear anywhere on the island. These birds shoot back; some are more powerful and quicker than others. Each shot consumes valuable energy points. You must also keep your ship on the shield level. To shoot the birds you must aim crosshairs that appear on the screen when you put on your shields. How well you aim these crosshairs bears directly on your success at the game.

There are 10 levels of play, with each successive level putting more birds into the fight. Once you have mastered the art of shooting birds, however, the game only becomes longer with each increase in difficulty level.

The graphics are undoubtedly the best feature of Valkyrie. The birds move unpredictably (at first) with their wings flapping and shots flashing. The castles are all different and equally impressive. Few games can boast TRS-80 graphics as good as these.

When you first play Valkyrie, it is very difficult to shoot the birds. Eventually patterns emerge and the game becomes much easier to play. I am most dissatisfied with this fact. Once you map the game and develop your shooting technique the game ceases to be a challenge.

Yet the game remains entertaining because of the graphics and an unusual use of sound (selections from Richard Wagner’s operas). The game begins with the March from “Tannhauser”; “The Ride of the Valkyrie” (my favorite) plays each time you capture a castle. The Prelude from Act III of “Lohengrin” signals that you have conquered the island. There are the usual blips and blaps as well, but they are uninspiring.

I like this game, but I cannot recommend it to anyone who wants a challenge every time it is played. The game is quickly mastered and can become tedious. The graphics and sound redeem what would otherwise be a mediocre game.
Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the keyboard...

...the adventure continues. The graphics wizardry of Frank Corr and the deadly imagination of William Denman have once again joined forces to produce a world of evil genius. Hordes of maddened army ants will pick your bones. Killer clowns will send you screaming. Clever guards will tax your ingenuity. And a hundred other confrontations with a nightmare world may leave you a babbling idiot.

Graphics are instantaneous and three-dimensional. The building has over 1500 locations. Full English sentences may be entered, with comprehension surpassing the legendary Asylum I.

You need not have seen Asylum I in order to master Asylum II. You will need cunning and stealth to survive this newest world of insanity.

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80 REVIEWS
Life List
Manhattan Software
P.O. Box 1063
Woodland Hills, CA 91365
Models I & II
$24.95
by Eric Maloney
Kilobaud Microcomputing staff

My Life List program tells me I saw a Double-Breasted Tuna Grinner in Antrim, NH, last weekend. The weekend before, I ran across a Black-Billed Boot Stomper behind Dr. Fred's Auto Clinic. According to my notes, I blew the dirty little thing away with my grenade launcher.

How I managed before Manhattan Software came up with this bird list program I will never know. My closets were full of shoeboxes stuffed with matchbook covers, napkins, bank deposit slips, grocery store receipts—anything to scrawl a note on when I unexpectedly spilled a Double-Shagged Throw Rug or Red-Eyed Fly Hog.

Naturally, my notes got confused. Was it a Clip-Winged Tarsucker that I flattened with my moped? Did I really see the rare Tie-Dyed Burger Bun while floating in my sensory deprivation tank? And where is that recipe for White-Crowned Sparrow fritters?

Life List takes care of all my problems. It lets me record the names of some 450 birds, along with the date and place sighted and any extra notes. I can sort the list alphabetically and get a complete printout with the touch of a button. I can perform a special search for any bird, using only part of its name.

Of course, the people who might possibly be interested in this program would probably fit into a phone booth, with room left over for an hors d'oeuvres table. But Charles Leedham of Manhattan Software says this is the sort of specialized offbeat program that microcomputers were made for.

After transferring my notes to disk, I was faced with another dilemma—what to do with all of those shoeboxes. It finally dawned on me, they would be perfect for storing field specimens. At last my roommate has stopped complaining about those stuffed birds under the kitchen sink.zell
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Grammatik is receiving rave reviews from both critics and users. Bob Louden in InfoWorld (12/7/81): "If you use a word processor and a spelling checker, then you should investigate the unique capabilities of this program. Grammatik is a surprisingly fast and easy tool for analyzing writing style and punctuation.” Eric Balkin in The Computer Consultant: "I’m impressed with the imagination that went into this product.” Many users call or write to tell us how much they like Grammatik. Some typical remarks: "Great!”, "Thanks for making my life easier.”, "I’m not just happy, I’m ecstatic!”. Grammatik has also been selected as an officially approved Osborne Computer software package and will soon be appearing at Osborne dealers. Only Proofreader and Grammatik can provide you with complete document proofreading, and together cost less than some spelling checkers alone. Proofreader and Grammatik have been designed to work with almost any CP/M, TRS-80, or 8086/8088 based word processor. While they have been designed to work together, they are available separately.

Aspen Software also has its own full featured word processor called Writer’s Companion for all these systems. One of the best implementations of Raftror (Rational Fortran) is available, too, along with an automatic Raftror pretty printer. Please call or write for more details about these products.

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P.O. Box 339-M Tijeras, NM 87059 (505) 281-1634
ZBasic is back and is vastly improved. In a previous review I said it had some major problems, including integer math only, non-relocatable object programs, and it did not support all variable names. These and other flaws have been corrected.

I received ZBasic 2.0 on disk with a boot loader. It has several files for various memory sizes and a program from Misosys called CMDFILE, which saves compiled programs as tape System files. The program runs on Models I and III, enabling you to write software for the Model III on your Model I.

ZBasic is easier to use than ever. When calling ZBasic from disk (or load from tape), it interfaces with the keyboard device control block. To execute the compiler from Basic, press the comma, period and slash keys simultaneously. The compilation speed is slightly slower than the old version, but it is still incredibly fast. Compiled program speed is fast, too. Basic took over 50 seconds to white out the screen using a tight SET loop; ZBasic whites it out in under one second.

ZBasic still lets you jump back and forth between your Basic and compiled programs, making it the only interactive compiler available for any machine, to the best of my knowledge. ZBasic also allows the use of TRON/TROFF to trace the execution of compiled programs.

The Options

After loading the compiler, ZBasic asks if you wish to change any parameters. If you do not, the compiler loads normally; if you do, you may choose a variety of options including: maximum string array size, maximum regular string length, top of available RAM, and base address of the object program.

The last two options let you choose where the variables and the program are to be stored in memory. This corrects a major fault in ZBasic 1.0; now you can relocate your object programs. Two significant results are: You can use your 48K or 32K machine to write software for 16K machines; and you may relocate your program where Basic resides normally if it is very large with large variable-space memory requirements. The latter enables you to write much larger programs than possible before.

The Manual

The manual is also much improved. Simutek has added an index (although some page numbers are wrong) and a command description section. It is easier to read and contains more useful information, such as the command syntax, differences between the Basic and ZBasic versions of the commands, and examples of the commands.

ZBasic 2.0 supports high-precision mathematics. It can carry about 62 significant digits through the use of binary coded decimal math routines. (You may define this to be less during configure time.) None of the transcendental math functions are supported, but the manual supplies routines to generate them as needed.

The high-precision math is computed in an interesting manner. To add two high-precision numbers, rather than write A = A + C, write @ AS = AS + CS; the @ tells the computer that the string operations are actually high-precision math. It is different, but with a little practice it is no problem. In fact, by using the appropriate Taylor series and other approximate algorithms, accuracy improves for a variety of mathematical functions over mere double precision in Basic. ZBasic can now be used for some types of scientific numerical processing, particularly those sensitive to roundoff error such as Gaussian-Jordan elimination for unstable systems and polynomial synthetic division.

The compiler is available with and without the high-precision math routines. The routines use about 700 bytes of memory; if you need this space you can simply use the version without them.

ZBasic 2.0 has several improvements over Basic:

- Block move of memory (10,000 bytes per second)
- Compare (i.e., find byte sequence in memory)
- Invert memory (great for graphics)
- Tone generator (for external speaker)
- High-speed multiply and divide
- Cassette input/output (I/O)
- Single-byte disk I/O (good for saving graphics screens to disk)
- Enable/disable interrupts
- Read stack pointer
- 16-bit PEEK
- Improved user-defined machine-language routine calling commands (pass four or six registers)

These commands are called using the unused Basic tokens. For example, block moves are done using SIN or COS commands, and the compare functions use the CINT and CDBL commands. The special USR calls use the TAN and MKS, MKS$ and MKD$ functions. These commands are easy to use and well explained.

The tone generator is a nice feature. To use it, choose the frequency (pitch), duration and a constant to generate tones requiring an external amplifier. My only reservation is the tone duration is not a time duration, but a cycle duration. For high-frequency tones, the cycles are shorter and you must do some extra programming to keep the length of the tones consistent in terms of real time. If this had been fixed in the compiler it would be more useful. You may use these tones as a high-accuracy, time-delay loop as well.

ZBasic is an interactive compiler, meaning your source, object (compiled) and compiler programs are all coresident in memory simultaneously. When you activate the compiler, ZBasic compiles your programs and gives you the options of returning to Basic, running the compiled program, or saving the program to disk or tape. If you set the configuration to relocate your object program elsewhere, you cannot execute it, but you can save it to disk or tape. This means you can run the program in your programming environment, and compile it to run in the object environment. If you have dreams of writing 16K machine games on your 48K computer, ZBasic may prove invaluable.

Error Detection

When the compiler detects an error, it returns an error message, error line number, and returns control to Basic. This makes it relatively easy to remove errors.
INSIDE LEVEL II

The Programmers Guide to the TRS-80 ROMS
INSIDE LEVEL II is a comprehensive reference guide to the Model I and Model III ROMs which allows the machine language or Basic programmer to easily utilize the sophisticated features of BASIC. It concisely explains set-ups, calling sequences, and variable passage for number conversion, arithmetic operations, and mathematical functions, as well as keyboard, tape, and video routines. Part II presents an entirely new composite program structure which lives under the SYSTEM command and executes in both Basic and machine code with the speed and efficiency of a compiler. In addition, the 18 chapters contain a large body of other information useful to the programmer including tape formats, RAM usage, relocation of Basic programs, USF call expansion, creating SYSTEM tapes of your own programs, interfacing of Basic variables directly with machine code, and special precautions for disk systems. INSIDE LEVEL II is a clearly referenced manual. 80 Micromonitor calls is a "volume of valuable information... immensely thoughtful, literate, and cleanly designed." Byte Magazine says: "I recommend this book to serious machine language programmers." Includes updates for Model III. INSIDE LEVEL II... $15.95

SINGLE STEP THROUGH RAM OR ROM
STEP80 is designed to run any Basic or machine language program one line at a time, and see the address, hexadecimal value, ZIF memory, register contents, and step count for each instruction. The top 14 lines of the video screen are left unaltered. The STEP80 program is interactive, and performs its display functions underdressed. STEP80 will follow program flow into the ROMs, and is invaluable in learning how the ROM routines function. Commands include stop, disassemble, run in step mode, variable step size, display, alter memory or CPU, jump to memory location, execute a CALL, set breakpoints in RAM or ROM, write SYSTEM tapes, and relocate to any page in RAM. The display may also be routed to your line printer through the device control block so custom print drivers are automatically supplied.

Specify Model I or Model III. STEP80...$16.95

SMART TERMINAL PROGRAM
This machine language program may be used as a small terminal with time share systems or for high speed file transfers between two microcomputers on a local area network or direct wire. It is intended to be a simple and simple to use. Functions include real-time terminal mode, save RAM buffer on disk, transmit disk file, receive binary files, examine and modify UART parameters, program custom log-on messages, automatic 10-bit checking of incoming data, automatic transmission and reception, and many more user conveniences. Supports line printers and teletype characters. With this program you will never need to convert machine language programs to ASCII for transmission, and you will know immediately if the transmission was accurate. This program comes on a formatted disk.

Specify Model I or Model III. TELCOM...$39.95

PROGRAM INDEX VERSION 2.0
Assemble an alphabetized index of your entire program library from disk directories. Program names and file names are read automatically (newly and or deleted) and may be alphabetized by disk or program. The list may also be searched for any disk, program, or extension; disks or programs added or deleted; and the whole list or any part sent to the printer. Search output may be requested in ASCII or BASIC formats including labels. The list itself may also be stored on disk for future access and update. It also includes a PURGE mode for quickly killing unwanted files. Directory reads and alphabetizing is done in machine code for speed. 1,000 programs may be stored in less than 10 seconds. 80 Micromonitor called it "The best thing since sliced bread." It works with TRSDOS, OS-80, NEWDOS, and NEWDOS/90 single or double density. One drive and 32K required.

Specify Model I or Model III. INDEX...$24.95

4 SPEED OPTIONS FOR YOUR TRS-80
The SK-2 clock modification allows CPU speeds to be switched between normal, an increase of 50% or a 50% reduction; selectable at any time without interrupting execution or crashing the program. Instructions are also given for a 100% increase to 54 MHz. The SK-2 may be configured by the user to change speed with a toggle switch or on software command. It will automatically return to normal speed any time a disk is active, requires no change to the operating system, and has provisions for adding an LED to indicate when the computer is not at normal speed. It mounts inside the keyboard unit with only 4 necessary connections for the switch option (switch not included), and is easily removed if the computer ever needs service. The SK-2 comes fully assembled with socketed ICs and illustrated instructions.

Model I only. SK-2...$24.95

INSTANT ASSEMBLER NOW ON DISK!
The INSTANT ASSEMBLER is a powerful disk or tape-based assembler and debugger for the TRS-80. Now you can assemble directly or memory and immediately debug your program with the built in single stepping debugger. Quickly switch from assembler to debugger and back again without losing the source code. This feature makes INSTANT ASSEMBLER an excellent learning tool for assembly language programming. INSTANT ASSEMBLER is absolutely unique among tape based assemblers in that it produces relocatable code modules that can be linked with the separate LINKING LOADER, which is supplied in two versions for loading programs into either high or low RAM. This lets you build long programs with small modules. INSTANT ASSEMBLER also features immediate detection of errors as the source code is entered, a compactly coded source format that uses 1/3 as much memory as standard source, and many operational features including single stroke entry of DEFB and DEFP, prompt control of listings, alphabetic listing of symbolic table, separate commands for listing error lines or the symbol table, block move function, and verification of source tapes.

INSTANT ASSEMBLERS debugger provides single stepping with full register displays, decimal or hex entry of addresses, forward or backward memory displays, disassembly of object code in memory, memory display in ASCII format, and hex-to-decimal or decimal-to-hex conversion. The debugger will step one instruction at a time or a fast rate to any fixed address.

Specify Model I or Model III. TAPE INTASM...$29.95
Specify Model I or Model III. DISK INTASM...$39.95

RESTORE DAMAGED TAPES WITH RESQ2
Cassette recordings are subject to several types of damage. Thin spots in the cide, dirt, voltage fluctuations while recording, or stray magnetic fields can all contribute to lost or added bits. RESQ2 was written to provide a method of restoring tapes that can no longer be fixed for any of these reasons. It can read BASIC, SYS files, ASSEMBLER, and DATA files. RESQ2 compares two copies of the damaged tape to attempt a restoration, though restoration can often be accomplished with only one copy. After the damaged data is detected in memory, the recovery program which does not contain the errors. The success rate of RESQ2 will depend on the severity and quantity of errors. RESQ2 comes with a comprehensive user manual and examples of two types of crashed programs to practice on.

Specify Model I or Model III. RESQ2...$19.95

RAM SPOOLER AND PRINT FORMATTER
This program is a full feature print formatting package featuring user definable line and page length (with line feeds inserted between words or after punctuation), screen dump, printer control, and baud rate setting. In addition, printing is done from a 4K exposable buffer area so that the LPRTN or LUST command returns control to the user while printing is being done. Works with cassette or disk systems. Ideal for Selectric or dot matrix printers. Allows data input and processing to be directed to either the parallel port, serial port, or the video screen. 80 Micromonitor said: "I can only give my highest recommendation to Spooler and Mumford Micro Systems."

Specify Model I or Model III. SPOOLER...$16.95

DUPLICATE SYSTEM TAPES WITH CLONE
Duplicate multiple copies of almost any tape including Basic, SYSTEM, data lists, assembler source, or 'custom loaders'. The file name, load address, entry point, and every byte (in ASCII format) are displayed on the video screen. Model III version allows changing tape speed so you can load in a tape at 500 baud and write it out at 1500.

Specify Model I or Model III. CLONE...$16.95

MACHINE CODE FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM
Written by Dr. A.H. Gray, Jr., co-author (with J.D. Markel) of the classic text Linear Prediction of Speech, this complete package includes 3 versions of the machine language FFTASM routine assembly (or 16, 32, and 48K micros), a short sample Basic program to access them, a 10K Basic program which includes sophisticated interactive graphing and data manipulation, and a manual of instructions and examples. The machine language subroutines is a set of machine code routines defined by a supporting Basic program to make data entry and retrieval automatic, without PEKS and POKES. They perform 30 to 40 times faster than their Basic equivalent (256 points in 12.5 seconds), and handle up to a 32K point complex FFT. The FFT is useful in analyzing stock market and commodity trends as well as for signal analysis.

Specify Model I or Model III. FFTASM...$49.95
Specify Model I on disk and with source code...$69.95

ORDERING: Complete satisfaction is guaranteed or a full refund will be made. All programs except TELCOM and DISK INTASM are shipped on cassette unless $5 is included for a formatted (no system) disk. Include $1.50 for postage and handling. California residents add 6% sales tax. Visa, Mastercharge and COD orders accepted. Specify Model I or Model III. Dealer inquiries invited.

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MUMFORD MICRO SYSTEMS

80 Micromcomputing, May 1982 • 49

See List of Advertisers on page 354
quickly, and it minimizes the pain of correcting syntax differences.

Missing in the manual is a subroutine map of the run-time system. If you are familiar with Assembly-language programming, you can write a program using all the available ZBasic commands (in simple form) with a minimum of control-passing through GOTOs and GOSUBs, and use a disassembling monitor (such as TASMON) to look at the calls the compiled program makes to the run-time system. Since you already know the order of the statements in your program, you can determine which routines perform which functions. You may then use these subroutines in your machine-language programs by placing the appropriate values in the appropriate registers and simply calling that routine.

Simutek also thoughtfully included a Misosys program called CMDFILE, a utility with some nice capabilities such as:

- appending two or more CMD files or System tapes into one file; offsetting a tape or disk file so it loads into an area other than where it was meant to execute; appending machine-language programs with “patched” code without reassembling the program; single-drive copy of CMD files; and creating System tapes from non-contiguous blocks of memory.

This utility is a useful addition to the ZBasic package. You may optionally keep a loading log sent to the printer for a permanent copy. The main uses in this environment include: downloading a compiled program from disk to tape; and creating merged ZBasic/machine-language programs.

The latter option is especially useful. I created a logo and stored the 1,024-byte screen to disk. Since I wanted to use this screen in my ZBasic program, I needed to load it into memory with the program, although they may not load into contiguous blocks of RAM. This utility enabled me to easily merge the programs together into a unified whole.

ZBasic 2.0 is a powerful, interactive compiler possessing capabilities beyond those offered by any other compiler on the market. Although it generally requires rewriting of source programs to compile with ZBasic, the compiler works incredibly quickly, as do the object programs.

High-precision math, disk and tape sequential files, a built-in tone generator, special USR machine-language routines to pass four or six registers, and other useful functions are now available. The manual is much improved and includes many examples of source programs and routines.

Best of all, no royalties need be paid for selling compiled programs. ZBasic 2.0 has my highest recommendation.

---

**Gold Plug 80**

E.A.P. Company
P.O. Box 14
Keller, TX 76248
$54.95

by Robert Jacobs

Ahh, instant relief! At last there is a permanent cure for contact oxidation on Model Ledge connectors. Many TRS-80 users are familiar with the symptoms: untimely resets, spontaneous reboots, or the inability to get the computer started at all without a frustrating session with a pink eraser.

The Gold Plug 80 is a well made device consisting of an edge-card plug with gold plated contacts, available with either 34 or 40 contacts. The rear of the plug has terminal tabs which fit exactly over the existing foil fingers on the TRS-80's connectors. After installation, the original plugs have been extended about a half inch, meaning that the plastic door covers no longer fit. This did not trouble me, but you should take it into consideration. E.A.P.'s advertising leaflet, by the way, cautions you about the doors, which is refreshing. They also have the excellent policy of permitting you to return any plugs ordered for a refund if after seeing them you are unwilling to undertake the installation.

An excellent set of instructions accompany the plugs, and they are shipped promptly. I ordered mine by mail on a Monday and received my set of plugs by first class mail on Tuesday of the next week.

**Installation**

Installation requires a soldering iron (I use a 40-watt Weller), Rosin-core solder, a Phillips screwdriver, and your last Pink Pearl. The keyboard and Expansion Interface have to be disassembled to get at the connectors, which are then cleaned—the eraser's last fling. The Gold Plug 80 is fitted over the existing plug with the contacts centered, and then soldered to the board. I have some soldering experience, but it proved to be an easy, safe job. The contact is heated, a very small amount of solder applied, and then you go on to the next contact. It took about an hour to do all six plugs.

If you are a little nervous about this kind of work, note that all the contacts on the underside of the RS-232 output connector are grounded—that is, they are all connected. Start there; you can do no harm and the practice will be helpful.

The Gold Plug 80 set I bought included all six plugs. The plugs are available individually for $9.95, or you can get a pair for the keyboard to Expansion Interface cable for $18.95.

As I said earlier, I did resolder every connector on the machine, and I haven't had a single unwanted reset since.
Our Users asked for it, and we made the best TRS-80 disk assembler even better! Now M-ZAL has:

- Recursive MACROS with full symbolic parameter substitution
- Conditional assembly with unlimited nesting
- Text Editor warm-start/recovery option
- Support for all popular source file formats
- Load Module inspect/superzap using LINER

and the features that made it famous:

- True multi-pass assembly
- Full Screen Option Menus
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- Built-in symbol table cross-reference
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M-ZAL provides a modular, structured development environment that makes programming your TRS-80 a truly enjoyable experience. Order yours today. (Requires 32k, 2 disk system)

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Full Screen Text Editor for BASIC: we were the first to give the TRS-80 this indispensable ability! A must for every BASIC programmer:

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T-ZAL: custom designed for the Model 3, this tape based assembler has many of M-ZAL’s most desired features.

| #1250-20 Mod 3 only | $49.95 |

XBUG: for machine language analysis and debugging—this tiny (2.5k) but powerful program lets you do it all!

| #1020-10 Mod 1 | $19.95 |
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FILEXFER: transfer any disk file between two TRS-80s. Use direct cable link or RS modems. Mod 1 and Mod 3 can be mixed. RS-232 and disk read.

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“We’ve been using M-ZAL heavily for over two months now, and it’s been worth its weight in gold.”
—Chuck Tesler
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—Bruce Douglass
80 Microcomputing
BASIC Editor Review

“During the first 3 days of use, M-ZAL saved more money in programmers time than we had paid for the product.”
—William Denman
Author of Asylum
MED SYSTEMS

“The editor has at least doubled my productive capacity...Having spent a good deal of money on so called ‘utilities’ that don’t work, it’s a delight to find one that not only lives up to its claims but surpasses the advertising.”
—BASIC Editor user

Our choice for the best TRS-80 DOS:

| DOSPLUS 3.4 Mod 1 | $149.00 |
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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 51
New! Baja

Take your dune buggy and enter it in the famous Baja Desert race. The race has straight-aways, curves, S's, and obstacles. We feel that this is the best car race game made for the TRS-80.

The game has 10 different action packed skill levels. The program is all machine language for fast graphics and excellent sound. 1 to 6 players.

TRS-80 Model I or III
16K Tape........ $15.95  Disk........ $18.95

Dungeon Escape

All fast! An adventure which takes quick thinking and strategy! Different from faced ad puzzles.
- Super graphics
- Interactive Sound
- Uses latest programming techniques
- Fast paced

The creator's ghost has sent an intrepid, and he is determined to hunt you down. His intelligence is backed up by you. This feature makes this simulation unlike others for you're always 'on the go.'

Written by an experienced gamer in fantasy role-playing, based on the game Dungeons & Dragons.

Objective: Your character begins on the first of three level dungeons searching for magical stones which permit you to descend to the next lower level.

The Adventure: There are numerous traps, and over a dozen hostile monsters that can come in various sizes, shapes and degrees of nastiness. It has various treasure and magic items (swords, daggers, scrolls, etc.) you can become a fighter, a thief or a magic-user. Each time you play you get a totally different and exciting game.

This short description only begins to tell you of the many adventures and some of the features of this exciting game. This will be your favorite adventure game.

Complete documentation included
You must specify Model I or Model III. Available on Tape, 16K........ $19.95 Diskette, 32K ........ $19.95

WARZONE

A new game that pits you against the computer. Trying to isolate the computer before he stops your conquest. Exciting sound routines and great graphics. This is a fast paced game that is excellent for young and old. It has three skill levels.

Tape ........ $14.95 Disk ........ $18.95

Modem Games

Play CHESS, CHECKERS, and OTHELLO over your modem with your friends! Each game features full graphics, sound, and a chat mode permitting you to send messages and sounds. Games are for two players and can be played on one computer or over the modem on two computers. All three games are on each program, comes with 2 disks or 2 tapes. You must each have a Modem Game program to play over the modem. Share the cost with a friend. The same version of Modem Games will work on both the Model I or the Model III disk or tape. Modem games will work on only the Lynx modem or modems using a 232 board.

2 Tapes or 2 Disks ........ $29.95

MINE FIELD

This game is played with a friend over the telephone, and features full graphics as well as a terminal mode for chatting before the game. In Mine Field you and your friend setup a maze of mines that you will try and get through. But if you hit a mine then it's your friend's turn to try. At the end of the game the maze you set up will be sent to your friend and he is to solve it how you may view where you went right or wrong. To run this game you need at least 32K memory and at least 2 floppy disks.

You get two programs and two sets of instructions (for you and 1 friend or your share the cost) 2 Cassettes $35.00 or diskettes $43.00 for two diskettes.

New! Greymoon

Greymoon is the medieval land in which this simulation of conquest and economic development takes place. As creator of Greymoon, you can buy, sell, plant, feed, hire, build, raid, invade, and consult various advisors. Objectives? Gain land become wealthy, develop your initial small village into a city state and increase your rank from master to King. Obstacles! Every year brings one of over a dozen random events, which, until the end of year, are unknown to you except through hints by your advisors. Can you compete with the many neighboring nations of Greymoon?

Even has sound routines. It will keep you interested for hours on end. Each game is different. The game is very fast but you can play at your own speed. All ages will like it and it takes no special skills but a sharp mind. This is better than an adventure game in the fact that each game is different and is more realistic.

TRS-80 Model I or III
16K Tape ....... $11.95  Disk ........ $18.95

TOP TEN GAMES

1. ALIEN DEFENSE (Boost Marketing) ....... 15.95/19.95
2. SCANHUN (Comsoft) .................... 14.95/18.95
3. COSMIC COMMAND (Big Five) ......... 15.95/18.95
4. DUNGEON ESCAPE (Computer Shack) .... 19.95/19.95
5. GALAXY INVASION (Big Five) .......... 14.95/19.95
6. DEFENSE COMMAND (Big Five) ........ 14.95/19.95
7. ROBOT ATTACK (Big Five) .............. 14.95/19.95
8. LASER DEFENSE (Med Systems) ....... 14.95/19.95
9. ELIMINATOR (Adventure Inter) ......... 14.95/19.95
10. GREYMOON (Computer Shack) ......... 14.95/19.95

We have a panel of expert game players who will give a monthly rating of the best games on the market. It will change monthly, so keep looking each month. Games with a price after them are carried by us and can be ordered. Games without prices are not stocked by Computer Shack.

Other games that we carry that are not in the top ten.

SPACE CASTLE (Comsoft) ............. 15.95/19.95
SUPER BADERS (Soft Sector) ......... 15.95/19.95
FORTRESS (Soft Sector) .............. 15.95/19.95
FORT/GOVERNMENT (Fort Stanley) .... 30.00 disk
VOLAGE OF VALTURK .............. 34.95/39.95
SPACE RAIDERS ............ 24.95 tape only

Programmers Wanted

We are looking for some exciting new programs to aggressively market. At Computer Shack we work with our programmers. We can tell you what to write, guide you and help you. We make sure you are paid for your efforts.

Have you ever sent in a program and had it accepted by a company and received your first check 6 months to a year later. We pay a deposit to you on acceptance of your program. We will even buy, your program, outright giving you a large check at once. If you would rather have this then a royalty check every month.

80 REVIEWS

by Paul Grupp

The fact that you own Tandy's most expensive business machine doesn't mean you shouldn't be able to play computer games every now and then. Many a Model II owner has turned green with envy watching a lowly Model III hacker zapping Klingons and docking at the star base. Let's face it—Model II owners are people too, and there is nothing like a good computer game to reestablish friendship with a dull business machine.

Small Business Systems Group has had an excellent package of Model II games available for some time now. Their plan was to make some of the more popular types of games available to the Model II user, rather than produce super games taking advantage of the Model II's unique speed and memory capabilities. If you bear this in mind, you'll find the package very satisfying. Written by Lance Micklus, it includes Star Trek, Checkers, Concentration, Treasure Hunt, Banko and Dog Star Adventure. The Star Trek game is a superior example of the genre, demanding both strategic planning and tactical know-how. It is complicated enough to be absorbing, but not so demanding that it is boring. I started playing it at seven o'clock one evening, and when I came back to earth, it was five in the morning.

Dog Star Adventure also rates as a top game. Even a jaded computer adventurer will find those dastardly twists and shocking surprises entertaining. Banko is essentially a Black Jack game, with the computer as a dealer playing to win.

The remaining games on the disk I can live without. The programs are written well, but I can't get excited about Checkers and Concentration under any circumstance. Others may enjoy them immensely. All the programs were well documented, and contained no bugs or glitches.

The package is reasonably priced for the number of games included, and is well worth buying to have around the office for those moments when business is slow. Many who have spent hours grinding out accounts receivable and statistical analyses may never have had the experience of playing a good computer game. To them this Lance Micklus package can be a real eye-opener!
MULTI DOS
We sell them all — We recommend and use MULTI DOS — Don’t let low price fool you. If it does everything the others will and quite a few things they can’t.
MULTIDOS has the BEST BASIC — it is the EASIEST to use and write the FASTEST system around. For more details see COS Electronics full page ad in this magazine. Why play twice as much for an operating system that’s complicated and hard to use?

SPECIALS
MULTI DOS with Aerocomp Doubler — $209.00
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DOS PLUS 3.4 — $129.00
LDOS — $119.00
AEROCOMP DOUBLER
The operating systems that are given out free with the doublers for $1.49 and $1.59 dollars are not comparable with all of the features of Multi DOS.

Look what you get with Multi DOS’s Basic!
A file handling utility sold separately for $19.00
A graphics program sold separately for $19.00
A Global editor sold separately for $19.00
Boss debugger single stepper sold separately for $19.00
you get all this plus the best basic for only $19.00

At Computer Shack, we have been asked if Multi DOS is as good as the other DOS’s selling for $19.00 and up. We can honestly say that for 90% of the people using TRS-80’s Multi DOS is the best DOS you can buy at any price. If you are a professional programmer you would probably like LDOS and/or NewDOS 8.0. These operating systems can do some things in machine language programs that Multi DOS cannot do, but they do this at the sacrifice of simplicity. Both of these systems are written by professional programmers for professional programmers. They are both very complex systems, and they are very difficult for most people to use. Multi DOS is basic is by far the best on the market.

We could make twice as much money selling you a copy of DOS Plus 3.4 at $149.00 but why should you spend that much for a system that won’t do as much as Multi DOS for $79.00.

We recently asked some of our programmers what they thought of Multi DOS. Bill Dunley, author of Dunley’s Escape and Greyjacket said “I am a programmer who values my time greatly. When I set down to program, I wish to program, not dig through manuals or have unexpected things happen. MULTI DOS is an operating system which provides maximum results with minimal effort. Having a global editor, a graphics mode, and various other advantages at the touch of one or two keys, it is extraordinarily helpful in program production, debugging, and efficiency. I will never give up the versatility offered by MULTI DOS.”

Gordon Monnier owner of two small business’s and the author of Small Business Checking and Billing programs said “I own New DOS and Multi DOS Plus 3.4 along with Multi DOS. I use Multi DOS exclusively on both the Model I and Model III. I have found Multidos to be more dependable, faster, and easier to use than the other two systems. Multi DOS is oriented to the average user. The biggest thing is, that I can use it without constantly referring to manuals and every program I have written will run on Multi DOS without any alteration. Multi DOS is the ideal DOS for a Business Man who wants an easy to use yet high-powered operating system. Multi DOS is much more user friendly (easier to use) than any other DOS on the market. It also has more features for the basic programmer then any other DOS on the market.

Mark Feldman, author of Super DIRECTORY A Machine Language directory program “I used Multi DOS Plus until I received my copy of Multi DOS Now! I use Multi DOS all the time. Multi DOS has an idle DOS button, an IDI button, and a feature called ‘ Magical Change’ which gives me the power to change any feature of the program. I don’t have to re-type the commands, I can just type in a new command and the program will change it for me.”

Hayes Smart Modem
We at Computer Shack think this is the best modem on the market. We include a file transfer and communications program at no charge with each purchase of the Smart Modem.
Programs and modem only — $259.00

Super Spooler
An intelligent printer interface releases your computer from the mundane task of printing. With up to 62% of internal memory, an internal microprocessor, and many intelligent features, the Super Spooler is the ideal addition to any computer system that lies up the CPU for printing.
With Super Spooler installed, only seconds are required to send even a lengthy text file to your printer. Super Spooler accepts the data at up to 3000 characters per second and stores it in it’s own memory bank. You can go on using your computer for more profitable activities while Spooser Spooler continues to feed data on your printer.
For example with a 802ppb printer it takes 21 min. of CPU time to print a 20 page report. With Super Spooler it takes only 1 sec. of CPU time.

The New Super Spooler — $329.00

SUPERMETERO
The biggest problem in loading tapes has been the volume control. Pre-recorded tapes are produced at differing volume levels. Now finally, a device to let you set the correct volume levels for loading any tape. You will now load any tape the FIRST time. SUPERMETERO plugs in (no cutting or soldering between your tape recorder and the computer and lets you set the volume to the level that your computer wants.

SUPERMETERO — $29.00

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DISK ONLY — $24.95

EP-SET-80
If you have an EPSON Printer you need EP-Set. A series of programs that help you use all the features of the Epson printer.

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS:
MC and VISA OK please add $2.00 for Shipping in U.S.A. Also to help us send you the best possible version include the type of computer you have, operating system if disk and if you have a doubler in the model I.

DEALERS ... Write for our catalog and price list.
by Bruce Powel Douglass

I t occurred to me, if I can output tones as a square wave, why not voices? I have already written sound and music routines. Once I figure out how to code the tones, the rest is the same—output through the cassette to the ubiquitous amplifier.

I made a number of false starts and gradually the project made its way to a back burner. An ad for a program called Cheaptalk revived my interest in the project.

Cheaptalk comes with three programs. The first is a machine-language routine to output the sounds through the cassette port. The second program is a Basic driver routine to read bytes in memory and display them (while pronouncing the hex names). The verbal output is limited to the numbers and letters in the hex number system. The letters are output as phonetics for clarity. The third program allows you to encode speech using hardware that Saville explains how to make. The routine is easy to write, essentially doing what ROM normally does when it ready tapes, except here you shorten the timing loops.

The voice is extremely raspy, but usually intelligible. The words zero, one and six are easy to understand. Several words just do not make it, however. These include Charley (for C), three, eight, and fox (for F). I worked two years as a dispatcher and I had to understand raspy, hard-to-understand voices. Cheaptalk is difficult for me to understand.

Creating your own words requires a hardware modification—nothing much, just a simple A/D converter. Saville provides instructions for two methods. Saville uses a direct A/D conversion, a method I abandoned as requiring too much memory. One requires you modify the keyboard itself. For the other you build an external device to connect to the expansion interface port or to the keyboard expansion port. Instructions also show how to modify the tape recorder for use as a microphone for inputting speech.

Although the package is not expensive, I cannot recommend it. The quality of tone is too low and the A/D encoding takes up too much memory, using 512 bytes per second of speech. A 10-word vocabulary would take full 5K of storage! Cheaptalk is a good idea, but needs to have a better encoding technique to allow for better resolution of voice tones and take less memory.

by Howard L. Walker

The Video I reverse video modification kit is a reasonable monitor enhancement for the price. The kit includes two preassembled PC boards, two resistors, one zener diode, a double-sided adhesive pad, hook-up wire and solder. One PC board mounts inside the keyboard housing and the other inside the video monitor.

Assembly

After laying the keyboard face down, I removed the six screws in the rear cover. I turned the keyboard over and removed the cover. I set aside the white spacers between the keyboard and the CPU, and placed both boards carefully on the work mat.

I cut, stripped, tinned and soldered eight wires, varying in length from five to seven inches, to the indicated pads in the kit PC board. I had to cut one PC trace on the CPU.

I placed the CPU in the lower case housing, installed spacers, and attached the small PC board to the CPU with a piece of double-sided foam tape. I soldered the eight wires coming from the kit PC board to the CPU. After setting the keyboard in place, I replaced the cover.

Next came the video monitor. I put it face down and removed the bottom and rear covers. I extracted the video interface card and examined two resistors already in the card. Since they were the correct value for the modification, I did not use the two resistors in the kit. However, I replaced one resistor with the zener diode from the kit. I reinserted the interface card and turned my attention to the remaining PC board in the kit. I cut, stripped, tinned and soldered four five-inch wires to the kit PC board. I laid the monitor on its side and removed one resistor from the main board. I attached the four wires, and fastened the circuit board to the underside of the monitor board with a piece of adhesive pad. I finally reassembled the monitor.

After hooking up the interconnecting cables, I crossed my fingers and turned on the computer. The video display came up normally, white on grey. I typed X = INP (2) and pressed Enter. The screen background lightened and the print became black. I then typed X = INP (1) and pressed Enter—the display returned to normal. I ran the test listing in the instructions to check for display linearity and found no distortion. In case of distortion (or "tearing" of the edge of the display), the instructions suggest decreasing a resistor on the video interface card.

The instructions state, "X = INP (2) will reverse video and X = INP (1) will display normal video." However, other input values cause a similar change.

The address decoder scheme is non-absolute: address bits A7 and A5—A2 are not used in the decoding scheme. Any eight-bit address with bit 7 (A6) low and bit 2 (A1) high causes a reverse video condition. Whenever bit 7 (A6) goes high, the decoder circuit logic remains unchanged. A high on bit 1 (A0) and a low on bit 7 (A6) will decode and switch to normal video.

In the reverse video mode, dot data from C30 in the video mixing circuit is fed into the reverse video board, inverted, and fed into Z41. Z41 then inverts the dot data (it goes high). This results in a light background and black character dots.

One Little Problem

The kit was easy to assemble and install. The only problem I found was in the operation section of the instructions. Pressing keys 7, 8 and 1 simultaneously is supposed to produce normal video, while keys 7, 8 and 2 should give reverse video. This function does not operate on my unit. I suspect it works in the Level I unit—the instructions show a keyboard without the satellite ROM board, the obvious modification in Level II.
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TYPICAL USER AND REVIEWER COMMENTS:

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"It definitely rates the first '10' given to any documentation reviewed in this column." (A.A. Wicks. COMPUTRONICS. October, 1981)

the software: "An excellent Word Processor" (D.H.): "Absolutely fantastic" (S.E.S.): "You have features that I cannot duplicate on my $14.000 system" (J.B.)

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The Okidata Microline 82A is a fantastic little printer which I believe is superior to anything in and around its price range, realizing that each one of us have different criteria for evaluating the value of a printer.

Cost
I bought mine for $499 plus postage. I have seen the list price as high as $879, so it pays to shop around. Interfacing the printer can be done in either serial or parallel. I chose to invest in a 32K Expansion Interface and use a 36-pin cable rather than just a printer expansion cable. The place where I bought the printer extracted several pins to make it compatible with the TRS-80. This can be easily done yourself since the manual informs you how the pins are arranged for both serial and parallel interfaces.

One thing that is often forgotten is the cost of maintaining the printer—here is where the Microline 82A shines. First, its print head is rated at 200 million characters. Replacement costs about $143 (which compares well with Epson's disposable print heads costing $30-$40, and rated only at 50 million). Second, the printer uses a $36.40-per-dozen ribbon on a spool rather than the often messy $14.95 mobius ribbon. Though the mobius ribbon is rated at three million characters and the Okidata ribbon is only rated at 1.5-2 million characters, there is still an impressive savings with the Microline 82A (see cost chart). Having experienced no difficulty with the printer, I do not have any information regarding various service charges.

Features
The printer measures 14.2 inches wide by 12.9 inches deep by 5.2 inches high. It weighs 19.9 pounds and the case is made of aluminum. Its nine-pin print head prints at an impressive 120 characters per second. To increase its speed, the printer is both bidirectional and short-line seeking.

Pinfeed and frictionfeed are standard but a tractorfeed option is available for $50 (a roll-paper stand is also available). The paper (8.5 inches wide, single sheet or roll, or 9.5-inch wide sprocket) may be fed from the rear. If you use sprocket paper you can feed the paper in from the bottom. There is a knob to advance the paper manually, a tear bar, and a wire guard to separate the paper entering the printer from the paper leaving the printer.

The controls on the front panel allow you to select form length (also software controllable), set the top of form, select/deselect (on-line with computer or under local control), form feed, and line feed. There are three lights which indicate select/deselect, out-of-paper, and power on. If you keep the line feed switch depressed while turning on the power and then release the line feed, the printer generates a self-test.

An access cover allows you to align the paper, change the ribbon, or adjust the distance between the print head and the paper (handy when using four sheets instead of just one). If you remove the entire case (which is not very difficult) you can access eight dip switches on the front
### Comparing 82A and MX-80FT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>82A Price</th>
<th>MX-80FT Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tractor</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable (59 w/o El)</td>
<td>$29</td>
<td>$29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 new print head</td>
<td>$143</td>
<td>$29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(installed &amp; postage)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204 Ribbon Spool @ $38.40/oz</td>
<td>$653</td>
<td>$1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1374</td>
<td>$2324</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fig. 1. Cost Chart*

These switches can select either parallel or serial interface, one of 10 character sets, an optional character set, and other printer control codes. In addition to the dip switches there are the short plugs, a fuse, and a circuit breaker.

The nine-pin header generates a very good correspondence print and can be software controlled to print at 16.5, 10, 8.3 or 5 characters per inch. Line spacing is under software control and can be set at six or eight lines per inch. (Lowercase descenders are lost at eight lines per inch.) As mentioned before, it is possible to select by the dip switches any one of 10 different character sets (ASCII, TRS-80 and various European sets).

### TRS-80 graphic blocks are supported, dot-graphics are not. It is not possible to overwrite or proportionally print each character to fill in the dot matrix. Another characteristic of this printer is that you can use 10 and 5 cpi or 16.5 and 8.3 cpi on the same line. You cannot, however, use any other combinations on the same line. See the print sample of the various cpi and lpi Microline 82A generates (Fig. 2).

### The Manual

The manual is not a self-study guide, but rather a bare bones approach to the basics. The pictures are helpful but there is a great lack of examples which illustrate how to utilize the printer's many features. The troubleshooting section is a nice thought, but is rather brief and often a statement of the obvious.

### Regrets

The dip switches could have been more accessible for easier and quicker changing among the various character sets. I have also found that the j is not printed as indicated in the test pattern included in the manual—I would have preferred to see the j dotted. The ability to use more combinations of the various print modes on any given line would also have been nice.

A more serious problem is the manual knob for advancing the paper. I have been using only single sheets and have found that the knob tends to pull the paper unevenly. One last comment is that I would like to see Okidata come out with a self-study guide (I believe Epson has done this for their MX-80). Such a guide would be very helpful for novices like myself who would like to use all the features of their printer.

I am delighted with my Microline 82A. It is fast, loaded with features and economical.

---

### Novell Image 800 Printer

**Novell Data Systems**

1170 North Industrial Park Drive

Orem, UT 84057

$1,395

by Ronald Beauchemin

---

**Locating the most cost-effective and reliable printer in the 150 cps range for your TRS-80 can be an arduous task for the professional and novice alike.**

The printer I selected was the Novell Image 800 Dot-Matrix Printer. The manufacturer and the printer itself are probably unknown to most microcomputer users because the printer has been marketed primarily to the Fortune 1,000 corporations and other medium to large-scale data processing installations. I became aware of the printer through literature I received as a computer systems analyst for a multi-national corporation. I requested further information about the printer from Novell.

After analyzing the specifications of this printer and others, I decided on the basis of cost and specifications that the Novell 800 was my best choice for my TRS-80.

The first step in my evaluation was determining if the printer could be properly interfaced to the TRS-80. I felt the printer should be plug compatible with the TRS-80 since it was available with a Centronics parallel interface.

The printer was delivered from a previous evaluation in which it was attached to an RS-232 device. I had the opportunity to use it in both the serial and parallel modes as I had a parallel to serial conversion device which operated at 300 baud. It worked well in the serial mode although this was not the configuration in which I had intended to operate the printer.

Installation of the parallel interface...
board required no electronics ability at all. Everyone with common sense and the ability to handle a screwdriver could easily complete the installation in less than 20 minutes. (If a printer is ordered with the parallel interface this procedure is not necessary as the board is already installed.)

My first step was determining the proper cable to connect to the printer. The standard Radio Shack printer cables were 100 percent compatible. The Model I with the Expansion Interface and the Model III use cable number 6-1401. The Model I without the Expansion Interface uses cable number 26-1411 while the Model II uses cable number 26-4401.

With the proper cable installed, I had to make the following choices:

- The Standard Radio Shack printer cables were found to be 100 percent compatible.
- 80 or 136-column format
- Standard or optional character set
- 11 or 12-inch form length
- Six or eight lines per vertical inch
- Insertion of line feed after carriage return
- Serial or parallel interface installed
- Accept carriage return for further processing
- 10 cpi standard density
- 13.6 cpi standard density
- 10 cpi double density
- 16.5 cpi standard density

For my particular application, I chose:
- 136-column format (15 inch wide paper)
- Standard character set
- 11-inch page length
- Eight lines per inch
- Insert line feed after carriage return
- Parallel interface
- Accept carriage return for further processing
- No automatic advance at end of page
- 10 cpi standard density

Once the configuration (dip switch selectable) was completed I began the actual printing test. The print quality produced by the 9 by 9 dot matrix was excellent on forms ranging from stock, one-part, continuous-form, to thick continuous-form mailing labels.

The print quality is maintained by an adjustable print head allowing reliable print feature are 10 cpi, 13 cpi and 16.5 cpi in both single and double width. In addition, there is the availability of double-density printing at 10 cpi. This option reduces print speed by half since each character is over-printed once. The print quality obtained from this mode is as good as the print from a line printer using a print train.

Equally as important as the ease of programming is the ease of operation. The step button allows for easy alignment of forms by advancing the paper vertically in 1/48-inch increments. In addition to the step button, the form-feed button allows the operator to advance the paper a page at a time.

Once the forms are aligned and the printing begins the operator needs only to check on the printer periodically. For this reason it was imperative the printer have paper-out detection and off-line capability.

The paper-out detector prevents the printer from printing once it runs out of paper. It also sends a printer-busy signal to the CPU so data is not lost.

The off-line capability is also important as it allows the operator to halt printing to check the alignment or progress without losing any data. A printer-busy signal is sent back to the CPU in this instance also.

The ability to expand the buffer to 3,300 characters works in conjunction with the off-line indicator to some degree. The off-line indicator and the buffer are related since a printer-busy signal is not sent to the CPU in the off-line mode until the buffer is full.

The standard buffer for the Novell 800 is 300 characters. I requested the six IC sockets for the additional buffer memory to be installed at no extra cost allowing me to expand the buffer on my own without voiding the manufacturer's warranty.

By installing my own buffer memory I saved in excess of $250 on the price of the printer. The buffer memory consists of two 2114 static RAM chips for each 1K buffer increment to be installed. Novell charges $100 per 1K of buffer memory. The two chips may be purchased at Radio Shack (part # 276-2504) for $7.98 each.

Once you have purchased the chips the installation is easy. Only three rules must be followed:

- The chips must be installed in pairs.
- Pin 1 orientation must be observed (match the indentation in the IC to the cutout in the socket).
- The pairs should be installed as follows:
  - First Pair—socket U25 & U30
  - Second Pair—socket U26 & U29
  - Third Pair—socket U27 & U28

This additional buffer memory is helpful since the printer sends a printer-busy signal to the CPU only after the buffer is full. Extra memory allows the operator to stop the printer momentarily to check alignment and start the printer without significantly delaying the CPU.

My final consideration in my decision to purchase the printer concerned the technical and repair service.

Repair service may be obtained in two forms: purchasing a service contract or paying for each repair as needed on an hourly basis.

The service contract is best suited to a business desiring to have on-site service. Since my installation is small I chose to pay for repairs as they became necessary instead of incurring the overhead of a service contract (approximately $25/month). In my case this option was more viable since the service branch is only 35 miles away.

Although I have not made use of the repair service, I have made use of their technical staff. The consultation was made via their toll-free number. The technical staff answered my questions in a prompt and professional manner.

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During the past month, I have received several calls from would-be computer owners. Each caller wanted to install an integrated, computerized accounting system and requested guidance on a minimum equipment configuration. Most were surprised when I advocated purchase of a computer with a hard disk storage unit.

While it is feasible to install a fully integrated accounting system (Accounts Receivable, Payable, General Ledger and Payroll) on a Model I or similar personal computer, the accounting system is often difficult to use. The large number of files is usually restricted and requires disk swapping to accommodate editing and data transfer requirements.

Until recently the Model II with its eight-inch disks was the best equipment choice if an integrated system is desired. However, even with the storage available for this computer, complex software such as the three-disk Tandy accounting system still requires disk swapping. Because floppy disks are fragile, disk swapping is not a desirable alternative when implementing an accounting system.

Hard Disk Systems

The new hard disk systems offer a storage alternative to the computer owner seeking to install an integrated accounting system. Unfortunately, hard disks are still quite expensive, typically costing more than the central processing unit itself. Most units offered are of the sealed Winchester type with either a 5- or 10-megabyte capacity. Compare this to floppies, which can contain only a fraction of a megabyte on each disk.

The increased storage capacity of the Winchester disk is made possible by carefully controlling the disk environment and rotating the platter at an extremely high speed. The high speed of the disk forms an air cushion between the read/write head and the disk surface. Since the head never contacts the disk during data storage and retrieval its surface should last for an extremely long time. When you turn a Winchester disk off, the read/write head is moved to a safe landing area where it can contact the disk surface without endangering data. The disk suffers a head crash when the hard contacts the disk surface in a data storage area. Head crashes usually cause loss of all data stored on the disk.

In properly installed floppy disk systems, the prime provision for dealing with disk failure is to back up programs and data files at regular intervals. Then when the sad event occurs, the only work most recently performed is lost.

"Head crashes usually cause loss of all data stored on the disk."

In hard disk systems, similar back-up techniques are much more difficult to accomplish. Some hard disk systems contain removable disk cartridge element. Unfortunately, cartridges are quite expensive and somewhat fragile. Another method is to use a special removable data tape cartridge similar to a cassette. When you desire a back-up, you dump data onto the tape cartridge. Although tape cartridges are much cheaper than disk cartridges, they are considerably slower and therefore require more time when backing up data.

Tandy has not elected to provide any mechanical method of backing up hard disk data. The hard disk version of TRS-80 provides two new commands, Save and Restore, for file back-up purposes. These commands save selected files on the Model II's floppy disk when you have completed processing and restore them to the hard disk in case of need. When saving data, you can specify files either with a unique file name or with a wildcard identification. Wild card specifications allow you to select a broad range of files with a single command. For example, the specification "SAVE 4 to 0 ("/DAT) dumps all files with a /DAT extension on drive 0.

You need not format a data disk to save and restore files. TRS-80 automatically formats and numbers floppy disks used in this process. If the files to be saved span more than one disk, another disk is called for and labeled (internally). If you use these disks for file restoration purposes TRS-80 checks the internal labels.

While a total back-up is not possible, the Save and Restore feature should be workable in practice. One method to protect essential data might be to include Save and Restore commands in software developed to work in the hard disk environment. At the end of processing, control would be transferred to a file which would direct saving essential files. Then, if a problem occurred, the data would be available for restoration. The commands necessary for this purpose would also be provided and activated when the problem was detected.

Unfortunately, software specifically designed for the Tandy hard disk has not yet been made available. You can adapt floppy disk systems for use on the hard disk but there are problems in implementation in addition to the lack of back-up procedures. Some problems, such as specific designations of disk drives, can be overcome by TRS-80 with the Floppy Off command; however, others are more troublesome. I found several examples of these problems when I was evaluating the Tandy three-disk Accounts Payable System #26-4605.

The Accounts Payable System

The three-disk Accounts Payable system is part of the Cobol integrated accounting system. Other elements include the General Ledger #26-4601 (evaluated in October 1981), Accounts Receivable #26-4604 (evaluated in July 1981) and Order Entry-Sales Analysis #26-4607 and #26-4608 (evaluated last month). In combination these three systems provide almost complete accounting automation for a trading-type enterprise.

Conversion of these systems from their floppy disk form to the hard disk is not difficult, and the resulting data processing package is enormous. There are more than 220 programs and 48 data files.

All sub-systems use a common company file. This file contains constant data such as the company name and address.
DUNZHIN

by Randall Don Masteller

Dunzhin is Med Systems' first adventure/role playing game. Written by Randall Masteller, author of several non-computer D&D-type games, it is the first adventure/role playing game to combine fast, "from above" graphics, FAST response time, and COMPLETE computer implementation. There are no "rule books" to consult, and no waiting for the computer to "think".

Dunzhin places you in a huge dungeon of many levels. There are many treasures, but only one, deep in a hidden chamber, will win the game for you. Every game is different, but you can save a game in progress. You can also save the character you become as you gain experience in battling the goblins and demons waiting around every corner.

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used to head reports, invoices and statements. Each sub-system also uses a common account file to specify accounts acceptable for data entry when processing. Unfortunately, the account file used for the general ledger is different from the account file used for receivables and payables. As a result you can create an account in a sub-system that is not a general ledger account. The system will detect this discrepancy when you update the general ledger, but in a system as sophisticated as this one, this type of problem should not occur.

If this system had been packaged for the hard disk unit, an account assignment problem would have never occurred. The account file used for all applications would have been the general ledger file and no mismatches would have been possible. Because the system was packaged for a floppy environment, it was probably impossible to have the general ledger account file resident while receivable and payable processing was in process. A special account file to verify account assignment was an accommodation to the limited storage available.

The use of an account file is not a problem for implementing accounts receivable and order processing. Even with a relatively large number of products the number of accounts affected by the receivable application is small. Accounts payable is another story. This application is the front end of the general ledger. You must place any account that could be affected by a cash payment in the valid account file. You may have to enter the majority of general ledger accounts in this file. With a complicated chart of accounts, this will be a time-consuming and potentially error-prone procedure. I am sure this task will be eliminated on the first true hard disk version of the Cobol accounting system.

If this system is implemented before the hard disk version is available, it is desirable to create the valid account file from a printout of the general ledger chart of accounts. As you might expect, correction of a mismatch detected during the general ledger update process is inconvenient and time consuming. You cannot correct the improperly coded transaction until you add an account with that coding to the chart of accounts. If posting then continues and the new account causes report preparation problems, the offending transaction will cause further inconvenience. You must then make an adjusting journal entry to transfer the amount to the proper account and delete the temporary account.

In last month's discussion of the order entry system, I covered the use of an on-hand inventory in some detail. You had to enter inventory purchases into the order entry system with a file maintenance program. In a fully integrated accounting system, the accounts payable sub-system should supply inventory purchase data. This element of integration is unavailable in the Cobol system as currently supplied. In the future, or in a custom program, this level of integration could be added. Such a module would be called a "purchase order management system" and would use as input purchase advice data generated by the order entry system and receipts generated by the accounts payable system.

The Accounts Payable system uses installation procedures similar to the other sub-systems previously evaluated. As was the case in receivables, an alphanumeric vendor code is allowed. The balance of the data to be entered is not complicated. There is a provision for up to three address lines, type code, normal vendor terms, last purchase date and a purchase history. The operator can specify with a status code if the discount is always to be taken regardless of invoice dates or if the system is to hold all payments. If you select the option to hold payments, no checks payable to that vendor will be allowed. You will have to make payments manually. With an additional code, you could use the system to accumulate non-purchase data. While the purpose of this option is not explained, it appears you could use it for statistical purposes.

The system maintains purchase statistics on a comparative basis. This data could be very useful in defining vendor relationships. At the end of the year, a closeout procedure clears out the current year's data and transfers the totals accumulated to the prior year. Since both purchases and discounts taken are maintained, reports of these totals should be very valuable.

In operation, you enter data into this system by use of vouchers. The system allows entry of four types of vouchers: regular vouchers, cancellation vouchers, non-A/P check vouchers and adjustments to previously recorded distribution vouchers. When you select the add voucher option, a screen which allows entry of part of the voucher detail is displayed. This data corresponds to the upper portion of a handwritten voucher and indicates the system-assigned voucher number, transaction type (detailed above) vendor code and name, distribution date, purchase order number and vendor's invoice totals. Once this information is recorded, distribution of the invoice amount is required. There appears to be no limit to the number of distributions available; however, only the last two (the current entry and a running total of the balance yet undistributed) are displayed.

In some organizations complex invoice distributions are required. Retailers, for example, may make bulk purchases of supplies and ship the material to many stores. It is not unusual in such a firm to require 20, 30 or more distributions of an invoice amount. This payable system would be useful in such an environment; if the system capacity (1500 vendors, 800 open items, and 5000 general ledger distributions) is adequate, it should be considered suitable for installation.

You enter vouchers into a buffer. There you can alter them with comparative ease. However, once they are posted to the Accounts Payable file, editing becomes more complicated. Since an error such as an improper account coding could be difficult to correct after posting, the system provides a method of adjusting the distribution of posted vouchers. This is typical of the options available for transaction handling and help to make this system quite user-friendly.

After you enter transactions, edit reports are available. They are similar to the other systems in content and format. A description of any codes which you might use in the detail line of the report are clearly spelled out in the body of the report. This is a thoughtful touch which casual users of the system's reports will appreciate. If you make an incorrect or unacceptable response to a prompt, the system prints a short banner message indicating options available and their meaning. If you attempt to leave a screen without completing some essential piece of information, the system inhibits exit until you enter the missing data. Once you have mastered all the system conventions, it is quite easy to use.

One of the main reasons for installing an automated accounts payable system is to take advantage of vendor credit. With the high interest rates, this form of credit may be the best way for a firm to grow. This system contains reports which allow optimum use of this means of financing. You can generate cash requirements and lost discount reports which would be quite difficult to prepare with a manual system. Proper use of these reports could generate enough income to pay for the complete computer system over and over again.

Most firms, however, automate accounts payable because check preparation has become burdensome. Check preparation is rarely spread equally over a month. Preparation of checks is usually jammed into just a few days. This makes the task tedious and noticeable in most
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artist. A musician can write music using anything from a pen, to a tape recorder, to a computer. And there's the rub; as soon as you mention a computer, people get fidgety and start wondering how much the computer had to do with it. Does storywriting lose any of its artistic value because it was written using a word processor? Does a delicate pattern lose any of its visual appeal because it was created on a video screen?

"I think most people would agree that the answer to both these questions is no. But how about when a whole story is apparently written by a computer? Well of course it wasn't written by a computer: It was written by a program which ran on a computer. The author took one extra step and created a program as an invisible part of the creative writing process. The more work that is put into the program, the less work that may be needed. This is where computers bring a whole new dimension to the artistic world and in my opinion may change the fabric of many art forms.

"The computer-generated novel is in reality written using certain aesthetic parameters that were placed in the program (whether consciously or not) by the human author. That author still has to decide whether or not the end result has anything approaching quality. All he has done is left the process of composition until after the composition was performed."

"Another exciting thing that computers do is allow much faster experimentation with a central idea. This idea has already been used in the field of computer music. Imagine the effort involved in taking a Beatles song and rewriting it in a baroque style, or calypso, or jazz. With each effort the composer (or recomposer) may be risking hours of work possibly to be rewarded with disappointment.

"A computer can easily manipulate the data (in this case the musical score) and allow many separate attempts at recreation. Using systems like the New England Digital musical synthesis system (the Synclavier), it becomes possible to change the instruments while a piece is actually being played. With this system, instead of the interface to the computer being through a typewriter-style keyboard, the input is mostly through a piano-style keyboard. This has the psychological effect of removing the computer from the creativity loop, placing into the background the uncertainty of "who's doing what—human or computer?".

"This versatility is not without its price. The possibilities opened up by having a computer handle the donkey work can be almost endless. Unfortunately, many artistic people have a difficult enough time knowing when to stop without having thrust upon them the temptation of improving the result by yet another try.

"Another useful function that can be performed by a computer is in providing random elements to the creative thought processes of the artist. Many times artists fall victim to their own previous output and fail to come up with new ideas simply because they are in a rut. Computers are great at doing things in too literal a manner, thereby producing results totally unpredicted by the artist-programmer. This phenomenon can be exploited in all sorts of ways to initiate a synthetic brainstorming session between human and computer.

"So now we finish up almost on speaking terms with the computer. Nothing to be afraid of was there? The computer plays its part in the creative process but takes no more from the artist than the artist puts in, exactly the same as with our numerical artist friends—the mathematicians; where would they be without the computer? Few people think of mathematicians as artists, so nobody ever questions the role of the computer and whether or not it compromises the aesthetic qualities of the mathematical concepts or results that have evolved in the last 20 years. The mathematical art is probably more refined as a result of computers than it ever was.

"As micros become more of a way of life for everyone, I feel we are about to embark on an exciting new creative period. No doubt there will be a vogue for a while of art for computing's sake, but when that passes we will have a generation of artists that can place the computer in the creative process to any extreme they desire and produce "art." That period can be now if you want it.

"There will always be those who prefer the classics to the avant-garde. After all, how can a Botticelli be compared with a screenprinted painting by Andy Warhol? And yet they are both immensely popular. Although you may not prefer computer-composed art, it is still necessary to acknowledge it. If only for the reason that it exists. It is a creative endeavor between man and machine that is certain to evolve in the future."

Janet Fiderio
Feature Editor

any size firm. Check preparation with this system is relatively easy. You can select vouchers to be paid by several criteria. Once you have determined the criteria, the system will go through the files and select those vouchers which meet your requirements. You can review the vouchers selected and make decisions to pay on a voucher by voucher basis. The system allows partial payment of a voucher.

After the selection process has been completed, you can prepare a pre-check writing report. If this report indicates that all is well, you can write checks. The system uses preprinted check forms described in the documentation. You can obtain a vendor recommended by Tandy or the form's normal forms supplier. If you select Tandy's vendor, you provide either a one part or three part form. Since the system does not retain any historical data, you should keep a printout of the actual check and remittance advice. Then should research into a vendor's payment history be required, data will be available. For this reason, I suggest use of the multi-part form.

The remittance advice portion of the check form has room for up to 16 vouchers. If this number is exceeded, the system voids the check portion of the form and continues printing the voucher detail on the next form. Only one check is allowed for each vendor. If the amount selected for payment, net of credits is negative, a check will not be printed. The system allows printing zero balance checks. This allows the user to send advice to the vendor detailing how credits were applied to open invoices.

Because printers could fail or in some way destroy the checks printed, an option is available to restart the printing process. If you must void all the checks as a result of printer failure, you can accomplish this with a single command. After a successful batch of checks has been prepared, the system creates a check register.

The Accounts Payable system, like the other systems evaluated, is a good system. It contains those procedures and reports that should be in a computerized accounting system. While successful in a floppy disk environment, it will operate very slowly. If speed is not important and the client has a well organized and patient computer operator, you need not hesitate to install it. Unfortunately, these conditions rarely apply in practice. As a result I do not believe that the floppy system will be the future of small business computing. With the hard disk, the combination of the Model II (or 16) and the Cobol accounting system could very well be the accounting machine replacement system of the future.
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Challenge to Basic

Draw a bar graph on a cleared screen with up to 13 vertical bars 5 pixels wide (separated by 5 pixels) using heights given by keyboard input.

Using APL:

```
V BARCHART:1 IN
[1] 'ENTER UP TO 13 HEIGHTS FROM 0 TO 48 EACH:*
[2] I+0064D Q O IICF (INPUT, CLEAR, PLOT, LOOP:
[3] LF((1ML))+(ISPOT((10-3-I)+15) +(I-9)*8))-LP
```

This APL program with this numeric input:

```
5 6 4 1 2 5 4 8 2 1 9 0 4 8 4 5 12 9
```

draws the entire graph in under five seconds. How fast does your BASIC program draw the graph, and how complicated is the program?

A detailed explanation of this APL solution and a comparable BASIC solution are included in the information package.

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I began my first column (December 1981) with the sentence "This column is dedicated to those who have read the books and still cannot write assembly or machine code programs." I repeat it here because some readers may have drawn a false conclusion. I am not trying to teach Assembly or machine language in lieu of those books but in addition to them.

Lance Micklus has suggested using the concept of parallel reading when you want to learn something new. I choose topics which I feel are not well represented in the writings available on Assembly and machine coding. Therefore I will not waste valuable space on the usual discussion of op-codes.

How should you study Assembly and machine language programming? Lance's suggestion of reading more than one source is excellent. Since we each have our own peculiar ways of learning, one author's treatment of a topic may be just right where another's may leave you even more confused.

A good study is a close study. You cannot expect to learn as quickly as you read words. When I was young I became interested in electronics. To learn about it I checked out all the books on the subject the small town library had. After reading them once, I reread them word by word, sentence by sentence, and diagram by diagram until I felt I understood what was written.

To learn Assembly language that way, simply take your resource library and use it to decipher the sample programs in 80 Micro. This slow process pays off in a thorough understanding. The example programs I have given all work in or with Basic. This allows you to use, modify and play with the code. Modifying code is the next step toward writing your own programs.

Old Business

Because I write this column in Texas and send it to New Hampshire, sometimes things get lost. My first column was missing a two-line Basic program that loads the code for the keyboard filter into an unused spot in memory. This short piece of Basic code makes using the filter program easy (see the Program Listing). In January's column there was a mistake in Fig. 2. The arrow was pointing the wrong way and the caption for the arrow had the DE and HL registers reversed.

"I am not trying to teach Assembly or machine language in lieu of these books but in addition to them."

February's column was missing an explanation of that month's program. This program will not require you to set memory size if you do not list Basic lines longer than 150 characters (about 2½ video lines). This is because the machine code is placed in the input buffer. You can relocate the code by changing the POKE statement in line 65528. It will work on Models I and III with or without an operating system.

This program patches the Input statement so that it will not allow input past 150 characters and will 'lock-out' the clear and down arrow keys to preserve your screen format. Many INKEYS input routines are available but all suffer from excessive string space use and slow response time. To use it, simply execute once; subsequent uses of the input statement will be patched. You can add more code to check for numeric input, display an underline for the input length, strip leading or trailing spaces, or whatever.

I would like to congratulate Robert Kirk of Kansas for being first to spot the erroneous LDDE,H instruction in Fig. 1 in the February column. My explanation in the paragraph above that figure made it clear that such an instruction cannot be true. Robert has given me some constructive criticisms on my column. Please send your comments or suggestions to me, Roger Fuller, 630 E. Springfield, Grand Prairie, TX 75051.

New Business

This month I would like to discuss good old Basic. Remember that Basic is a Z80 program. I emphasize the importance of thinking in terms of memory when you are programming. The following discussion of some of Basic's quirks should re-establish it in the ranks of Assembly language programs.

Try typing this line into the computer.

```
0 PRINT "80" ; GOTO
```

It runs! But why? Basic evaluates the line number directly after the GOTO. The evaluation ends at the first character that is not a space, a numerical digit, or a line feed. Because there is no line number (or a line number of zero), the loop executes.

Now type the following program and run it.

```
0 PRINT 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
1 PRINT
1 2
3
4
5
6
2 PRINT 1234567
3 PRINT 12345678
```

Lines 1 and 2 return the number 123456. The Basic code which scans the program text is RST 10H. Since it evaluates a numeric expression, it ignores spaces and line feeds. The number 1234567 in line 2 was evaluated as a single precision number, but in single precision only six digits can be printed; hence, the conversion to exponential notation. The number in line 3 exceeds single precision, so it was converted to be evaluated as double precision.

Spaces are critical in converting Basic reserved words to tokens for either storage or execution. TAB(10) is an array variable while TAB(10) is a Tab statement. But try to type the reserved word GOTO with spaces between the letters. Do the spaces stay there if the word is stored in a program line? Try typing and entering three spaces and an apostrophe in the command mode.

The input statement is interesting to
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study. Try these lines.

0: INPUT
1: INPUT
2: INPUT LS
3: PRINT LS

Now run it. Press Enter for the first statement and enter a zero for the second. You have always been told that you cannot enter a quotation mark except as a delimiter during an Input statement. On the third statement enter a letter followed by a quotation mark or marks. Basic allows the quotation mark because it determines if the first character is a quote. If it is not, Basic accepts all characters until it finds a delimiter. This delimiter must be a comma, a colon, or end-of-line marker.

MEM and FRE are very close cousins. (MEM is free memory, and FRE is unused string space.) Try the following code:

```
00 IF MEM = MEM PRINT "TRUE"
   1 PRINT MEM
   2 PRINT FRE(192)
   3 PRINT FRE(""
```

Line 0 falls through because stack space holds the value of the first MEM. Lines 1 and 2 produce the same result because Basic uses FRE(0) to produce the result of MEM. Finally, line 3 has a quote as an argument; this makes Basic compute string space instead of memory only.

Radio Shack has warned about using the VAL function on negative numbers. Let me point out some other danger areas.

```
0 PRINT VAL("10")
1 PRINT VAL("10 E 38 ST.")
2 INPUT N
3 PRINT N
```

Note the errors caused by the percent sign and by special notation. E indicates exponentiation in single precision; D indicates it in double precision. Enter either E or D for line 2. They are considered as numbers, not strings!

The next program is a favorite of mine.

```
0 GOSUB 3 TEXAS OR BUST
1 GOSUB 3 REM EMBER THE ALAMO
2 GOSUB 3 REM : BUSTED
3 RETURN
```

Strangely, Basic accepts line 0 but produces a syntax error on line 2.

A few more:

```
0 PRINT = 0: PRINT PRINT = -1
1 FOR M = 1 TO 10: NEXT
2 FOR X/Y = 1 TO 10: NEXT
3 IF "A"/"A": PRINT = "TRUE": ELSE PRINT = "FALSE"
```

The first line is an assignment statement followed by a printing of the value (-1 if true or 0 if false) of an expression. The next two lines are not allowed in Basic, since only integer and single precision simple variables are allowed in a For...Next loop. The last line will work right if the first Print statement is not immediately after the inequality.

Normally only 240 characters including the line number can be entered for a line of Basic code. This increases to 255, not counting the line number, when you edit the line. The shortest line allowed by Basic contains only an end-of-line marker, the zero byte. The longest line is limited only by your memory. I have occasionally for security reasons used lines longer than can be listed. This keeps sensitive code out of the hands of ordinary people.

---

"this keeps sensitive code out of the hands of ordinary people."

The largest line number you can enter by normal means is 65529. It is possible to have a line number 65530 and still be able to list it. Type and run the following one-line:

```
250 POKE PEEK(15548)+PEEK(16549)+256+3,255
```

Now try to edit the line. Basic cannot convert the line number 65530 since it is above the 65529 limit. You can edit the line by listing it and then using the edit period ability of Basic. You might try increasing the line number size from 250 to 251, then 252, and so on until you construct a 65535 line number. Even stranger things happen there!

---

```
65528 FOR M = 1 TO 32+4 STEP 4 : POKE 16477 + M/4, VAL(MIDS("0420", M/4, 1))
   22 084 237 075 109 064 237 067 822 064 034 189 064 281 285 106 064 254 032 208 254 013 200 254 008 200 254 001 200 175 201,M,4)
   1 : NEXT

65529 IF PEEK(16396) = 195 THEN DEF USR = &H405D dane USR1 = USR1(0) : RETURN ELSE POKE 16526,93 : POKE 16527,64 : M = USR1(0) : RETURN
```

---

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COMMANDER 80
by Jake Commander

"I'd like to start by saying goodbye!"

This is the first of a series of columns I'll be doing every month for 80 Microcomputing, covering topics ranging all the way from software and hardware to my general opinions on whatever takes my fancy. This is an opportunity I've waited for—to be able to sound off and air some of my views.

I may take the opportunity to look at pieces of TRS-80 hardware or software, and pass along any tips I pick up as I go. As a technical consultant to Wayne Green Inc., I'm in a fairly unique position to acquire TRS-80 inside knowledge, so now I can share some of my acquisitions. I'll also bring behind-the-scenes magazine people and information into focus (although I may be strapped for words to describe scenes such as the spectacle of a whirling dervish named Dennis Kitz as he whizzes through the office causing pieces of hardware to cower in corners).

In short, this column will be a regular pot-pourri of TRS-80 facts, ideas and opinions. If anyone has any helpful pieces of information, I'll be glad to pass them on as space permits. If I see any new pieces of software that impress me, I'll pass along those impressions too, but I intend to keep the whole column on a much less formal basis than our review section.

Hello and Goodbye

I'd like to start by saying goodbye: Goodbye. I'm saying it not to you, but to Debbie Marshall, our Managing Editor for nearly a year now. She started as a sweet, demure copy editor who wouldn't say boo to a goose. After just twelve months on the job she had forged her way to the top, leaving the maie chauvinist-dominated staff scratching their heads in astonishment. She'd said boo to all of us and subsequently demonstrated she had more than her fair share of ability in taking the helm of 80 Micro. She's done a professional job and we're all going to miss her.

I'm beginning to feel like the old man of the mountains. That's three managing editors I've had the privilege of working with. Originally it was Jim Perry who helped found the magazine, developing it from its conceptual stage, then Mike Commendul who took the magazine to a staggering 300-plus pages, followed by Debbie Marshall who has guided us to our current level of success. Now for my fourth managing editor. Soon a new era will begin under the aegis of Eric Maloney, who comes to us from Microcomputing magazine. Eric is an experienced journalist and an old hand as far as microcomputers go, so we're in good hands. Best of luck, Eric, old chap.

While you're doing this, you'd better be watching for those enemy tanks. They shoot with deadly accuracy and many a time I've been caught on the hop as a missile comes flying towards me with a screen-shattering crunch. Pointers on the screen help by hinting at the turn you should make to find the nearest baddie. As often as not, though, the ratfinks shoot before you can see them and all you have to show for your effort is a smashed screen and one less tank.

As if that weren't enough, sometimes the cowards go full peit and slink behind houses that are dotted all across the terrain. It's then up to you to maneuver behind the obstacle and blast the enemy with your high energy plasma missile before he gets you. Great fun.

The other game is good fun too, but it's not my favorite because I have a penchant for point-of-view type games where you sit in a simulated hot seat.

Eliminator gives you a split-screen side view of a scene containing gantries supporting energizers. These energizers must be worth having, because marauding alien hordes want them. The dastardly aliens actually help themselves, too, and lift off your valuable energizers without paying a bean. It's one of the worst forms of galactic felony I know, so naturally enough the job of their protection falls to the poor sucker at the keyboard.

As soon as you kick your ship into action you regret it; the world goes screaming by, full of space-meanies out to get the better of you. You can dodge, fire missiles and change speed all in an attempt to save your energizers. I want to know where they take them to; presumably there's a black market for these things and right now there must be a glut. I've lost so many of the darned things that they just can't be fetching much.

Both games are written in machine code and include sound. This is state-of-the-art stuff and they have taken their place in my game library. What a difference I see in the sophistication of games in my library since a mere two years ago! I can't wait to see what develops in the next two years.
I mistook the disarray of loose parts inside my latest shipment from Kitchen Table Inc. to be the work of the delivery service until I read the packing slip. I was the lucky recipient of the first TLS-8E Home Assembly Construction Kit (HACKIT).

Kitchen Table had selected me to field test the new kit, no doubt due to my glowing reviews of their fictitious computer hardware, software, firmware and limeware.

What's unusual about HACKIT is even the novice kit-builder can construct a working TLS-8E Model I or, as the disclaimer on the box notes, one that works as well as any other TLS-8E Model I.

Kitchen Table is familiar with my hardware qualifications. It reasoned if I could build the kit, it could be safely marketed to the public and to children in grades K through six as a science fair project.

A summary of my electronics expertise: I once wired a receptacle that, every time a three-pronged plug was inserted, turned on all the lights in my home. Until recently, I thought a thermostat was something you keep cigars in.

The KTI kit can be built with ordinary household tools—screwdrivers, 25-watt soldering iron (or propane torch), 30 MHz dual trace oscilloscope. Other useful gadgets to have on hand during assembly include a signal tracer, audio oscillator, digital multimeter, 30 MHz frequency counter, RF oscillator with 320 KHz to 220 MHz range, graphic equalizer and SWR meter. I don't have any of these, but KTI provides instructions for rewiring your home tv, electric can opener or stereo set to provide many of the same functions.

Many of the more exotic devices can be ordered from KTI completely assembled or in their own HACKITs. I decided to ignore the tests and calibrations I couldn't perform with the equipment I had at hand. After all, how much could a microfarad here or there matter in a sophisticated computer system?

The assembly manual provided by KTI is a well-written, 137-page volume with illustrations and step-by-step instructions. Accompanying the manual was 130 pages of errata covering virtually the entire manual. Give KTI an A-plus for thoroughness.

The first step in assembly is to find a clean or dry place. Some of the kit's complementary metal oxide semiconductor integrated circuits are very touchy. Kitchen Table recommends wearing copper bracelets on your wrists, ankles and waist. The bracelets should have a one megohm resistor wired to them and cables of no. 8 wire extending to the nearest drainpipe. A two-inch thick rubber mat is provided to place under your chair.

Carpeting is forbidden near the construction site. All long-haired cats, silk handkerchiefs, glass rods and rubber balls should be cleared from the area. To avoid static build-up from clothing, you should do as much work as possible in the nude, but be very careful while soldering.

An alternative to all this would be to use normal precautions with the exception of lowering the room lights. As you pick up the integrated circuits, notice if a tiny blue spark flies from your hand to the part. If so, and you hear a crackling sound and smell ozone afterward, expect trouble during the testing stage.

Kitchen Table is to be commended for its innovative approach to kit-building. There are almost no printed circuit boards in this kit. Instead, much assembly is done on perfboard with clips fitting snugly in the holes. A tube of Superglue is supplied to ensure tight, permanent connections.

A spool of no. 10 wire is also provided. I'm told this extra-thick wire makes it easier for the electricity to flow from one portion of the circuit to the other, and eliminates many hardware errors. Less advanced computer designers, such as those building the CRAY-1, have resorted to clumsy methods such as supercooling components to improve conductivity. These klugy methods pale in comparison to KTI's elegant "thick wire" solution. Bravo, KTI!

Assembly of the computer is divided into 123 major components, 1024 sub-components and 32,767 steps. Heat-sealed plastic bags contain the components needed for each step. Thirty-two thousand seven hundred sixty-seven bags are a lot. Fortunately, they're all numbered. Unfortunately, in Sri Lankan.

To protect their patent (pending) on the TLS-8E Model I, it was necessary to disguise components. All ICs, resistors, capacitors and diodes had their identifying numbers scratched off. And because of the bagging scheme, there were no colored bands on the parts. This made it difficult to determine which way to insert the resistors into the boards. Does anyone know an easy way to determine the polarity of a resistor?

Without identifiers, it is also difficult to replace parts affected with infant mortality. This condition arises when parts are released from the factory in a premature condition. They may look healthy, but once powered up, they fail to take that all-important first breath and expire in a puff of smoke.

I had to phone KTI for replacement of three dead ICs. Two were typical infant mortality cases; the third was swatted by my wife, who thought it was a bionic spider.

Delivery of the components took nearly three weeks, despite the fact I live only 13 miles from KTI headquarters. Better quality control and more careful assembly are needed here, although three imperfect components out of 65,535 is commendable.

Assembly of the kit took 23 weekends, most of my vacation and the better part of my accumulated sick leave. Some delays
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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 75
were caused by my errors. While there are only two printed circuit boards in the kit, I soldered most of the components on the wrong side on my first attempt. That "flash" I trimmed off the IC sockets turned out to be contacts. I brought a few other minor problems under control with a fire extinguisher.

Major components in the kit include a power supply, video driver board, 7-9A based terminal logic board, 7-9A CPU board, cassette tape interface board, floppy disk controller, RF modulator circuit, printer interface and automatic garager door opener.

This last feature is a standard enhancement. Apparently KTI got a good deal on some electronic equipment it's trying to get rid of.

The construction manual explains what all those components are used for. I strongly recommend you read it. I skipped over that part because it contained boring discussions of memory mapping, direct memory access and a lot of other stuff I don't understand too well.

I built the power supply first because the manual said I had to. It was simple enough. It involved some filter capacitors, diodes, power transistors and an eight-pound heat sink. The power supply is rated at 1250 watts—large enough to heat an average-sized room in winter. I put it together in eight hours, which includes two hours waiting for the soldering iron to heat up. I had forgotten to plug it in.

The video driver board came next. Assembly was much quicker, mostly because I stopped being fussy about placement of the parts. Attention! The "theory" part of the instructions contains a lot of complicated terminology about horizontal deflection and vertical sync. Pay attention. You may be able to apply this knowledge to fixing your color TV some day.

The terminal logic board is a snap. It comes prewired from the factory. Kitchen Table got some Heath Z-80 boards on closeout, discarded the primitive Z-80 chip and substituted the 7-9A in its place.

The CPU logic board was another matter. Next to the automatic garage door opener, it was the most difficult component in the HACKIT to assemble. I built the 32K and had 16 memory chips to install. It took me nearly three weeks to decide which chips to insert in which memory sockets.

Oddly enough, when I finished assembling the kit and plugged it in, it gave off a loud crackling sound and refused to work at all. Fortunately, KTI offered a repair option for $1450 (and 90% less than the current price of a TLS-8E Model IV), the company will fix any botched assembly jobs. A bargain, if you ask me. ■
Since introducing QWERTY 3.0 in September, people have been calling to ask if we were making ludicrous claims. The answer is NO! QWERTY 3.0 does all we claim it does and more! No other software of this type can match QWERTY 3.0.

\[ t_i = \frac{n}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\alpha_i \theta_i + \beta_i^2 \gamma_i^2 - \lambda_i \psi_i - \phi^2 \theta^2}}}. \]

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(Actual QWERTY text above)

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A
Making sights and sounds to thrill and please.

Computer Creationists

I received a call at my recording studio last December from a customer requesting a special sound effect:

"Jay, we need the sound of a soda machine."

"No problem."

"Since we'll never see the machine, the sound has to be immediately recognizable."

"I am sure we've got something."

"It is the kind that squirts the soda into a little cup, not the kind with the cans."

"We can make that work."

"Oh yeah... the machine is out of cups."

This vending machine sound effect was used in an elaborate training tape for a multinational corporation to help sell word processors. The effect was created from recordings of a pay telephone, a can opener, a washing machine, a fire hose, and a studio synthesizer. And we probably could not have produced it at all without our TRS-80.

There are about a hundred sound and video studios in this country specializing in special effects. A lot of these effects are used in films (not just the "Star Wars" kind; almost every Hollywood film uses sound effects and camera tricks to make actions seem more real).

Most of this manipulation, however, is for broadcast use. Radio, TV and cable need more material than Hollywood could ever turn out alone. The fact is, more people will probably see a particular commercial than will see most entertainment films in a theater or on TV. Production budgets—dollars per minute—a-are usually bigger in commercials than in films. Millions of dollars of a product's sales can be involved.

You have seen commercials with people walking through data networks, blue jeans flying across a city, or pictures of a bicycle coming to life. I've been involved with a number of them, and they do help sell products.

The Art of Commercials

Dealing with dreams—creativity—becomes a very competitive, high-pressure business. Yesterday's bold new technique is today's obvious trend, and tomorrow's obsolete solution. Most creative production companies stay relatively small—like most microcomputer companies—and to keep ahead, they invest heavily in the latest digital equipment: image squeezers, pitch shifters, microprocessor-controlled cameras, and tape recorders. Many are also using microcomputers, specifically the TRS-80 and the Apple.

Micros are popular for two reasons: They are affordable and they are flexible. Companies in this volatile field do not have to commit more than a few thousand dollars to determine a computer's worth. Basic is such an easy language that production executives can design programs for specific applications quickly.

Creativity is what a production company sells. The soda machine sound effect required an unusual solution to a problem that may never come up again; what real-life effects suggest the sound of "running out of cups?" We have thousands of effects in our library. Without our computer, finding the ones we needed ("Do I look under washing machine or water spraying?") would have taken far too long. There would be too many blind alleys and the creative process would have been slowed considerably.

People Are Multi-Processors

Psychologists have discovered most people do their creative and logical thinking differently: The brain acts like two separate computers. The left side of your brain specializes in logical functions, numerical crunching and string manipulation, if you want to think of it that way, while the right side works more like a random generator, constantly coming up with new solutions and seeing how well they match the real world.

Psychologists have also discovered that it is almost impossible to use one half of your brain to its fullest capacity while also trying to use the other half. You cannot write a good short story while trying to debug a program. And despite what the IRS says, it is very difficult to invent a deduction while you are adding up columns on your 1040.

Computers, in a business like mine, free people from worrying about filing systems, production budgets, or script typing. I am selling creativity, and computers let me have more to sell.

Computers in the Studio

Oddly enough, business applications are usually the last ones to go on line in a production company. Very few studios use canned ledger or billing programs since their business needs are usually so simple. (Besides, clients don't like to think of creativity as being computerized.) The pro-
"I believe Super Utility or Super Utility Plus should be present at every serious TRS-80 disk installation."

(We didn’t say this; Paul Wiener did in 80 Microcomputing, Jan. ’81. . . .but we sure agree with him!)

Get Yourself a "Super" Utility from the most powerful software vendor.

NOW AT SPECIAL PRICES:

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- 24K machine language
- Zap
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- Format without erase
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- MORE

$29.95
(‘Reduced from $49.95’)

*While they last!

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See List of Advertisers on page 354

80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 81

Shipping is included in sales to Canada & U.S.
Foreign Orders Add $10
“...play an audio type... twice as fast and not affect the frequency range of the voice or the musical key.”

Production companies that are using computer systems for this frequently use a service bureau, with or without an onsite terminal. On the other hand, if some enterprising software house wanted to sell me a TRS-80 studio business or talent payment program, I would probably buy it.

Dedicated computers are used in many studios for specialized applications, particularly signal processing. While general purpose micros like the TRS-80 may be too slow for this purpose, microcomputer chips, including the TRS-80's Z80, are frequently built into equipment.

Time Control

Perhaps the most important new use for this kind of computing lies in the area of time manipulation. Timing is critical in a commercial: A 30-second television spot can't be as much as a tenth of a second over its allotted time. Playing the film or video faster to save time causes synchronization problems, and makes the actions look like an old-time movie. Playing the sound track faster makes everyone sound like Mickey Mouse.

A dedicated computer called a time compressor has become popular in the last few years. It allows you to play an audio tape up to twice as fast as it was recorded, and at the same time not affect the frequency range of the voice or the musical key. These devices sample the signal between thirty and forty thousand times a second and write the digitized value into RAM. At the same time they read out of RAM at a faster rate. Complicated algorithms steer the read and write pointers around so they never run out of memory.

Speeding up a videotape deck to make a tape play faster causes interference to the picture because the television set no longer scans in synchronization with the input signal. This isn't acceptable in a commercial, and a different method is sometimes employed to save time: computer-assisted editing.

Television broadcasts 30 complete pictures a second. Your eye blends these frames together into smooth motion. A few years ago The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers proposed a standard method to number each of these frames with a distinct code. The method, called "SMPTe code," is similar to the audio code a TRS-80 uses to record programs or data on a cassette recorder. Virtually every television station, major video house, and a number of audio production companies use SMPTe code to keep track of where they are on a reel of tape.

Dedicated micros generate the code, read the code, and act on a tape editor's instructions to go from one scene to another. The programs for these computers are usually carried in PROMs, and the computers themselves can be very elaborate.

The SMPTE computer in my studio uses four 6809 CPU chips talking to each other. Its programming is so sophisticated it doesn't even read code to find out what frame it's on. It guesses, based on how much tape is on the reel, and then reads the code to see how much to adjust its next guess. This allows me to instruct the computer to go from one end of a reel of tape to the other, find a specific sound effect, transfer it to a master tape in precise synchronization with a television screen, and then wind back to where it started... all while I take a sip of coffee.

Videotape is edited by transferring scenes from one reel of tape to another, rather than by being cut and spliced together the way film is. This process lends itself beautifully to computerization. Using SMPTE-based computers, a television producer can trim the length of each scene, a thirtieth of a second at a time, until a commercial or program is the right length and the action flows smoothly. Almost every serious videotape production is now assembled under computerized control.

Getting Away from the Real World

Much of the animation, type and special effects you see on television is created by computer. Freeze-frames, animated graphics, and other effects all take place by moving tiny elements of the scene around in an enormously large memory, frequently using the specialized applications of a stock mini-computer.

Character generators, similar to the TRS-80 but with finer resolution, are also used in commercial production. You have probably seen computer-generated type on news or sports programs. These same devices can now animate type, move slogans around the screen, and even generate custom logotypes. One production company uses an unmodified Model I to type information about their commercials directly onto the videotape.

Digital computers synthesize music much better than conventional analog ones. A Vermont firm, New England Digital, manufactures a very fast minicomputer connected to a piano-like keyboard. The Synclavier can make the sound of virtually any orchestral instrument (or the entire orchestra at once) by digitally analyzing an input signal, storing the information on a five-inch floppy disk, and then rebuilding the audio waveform while the musician controls pitch and dynamics from the keyboard. Sounds can also be defined or modified from the control panel to generate...
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waveforms that don’t exist in any orchestra.

The Synclavier is a little bit like the music synthesizer programs available for the TRS-80, only much faster and more precise. Many commercials and made-for-tv movies are not using live musicians at all; it is cheaper and faster for the composer to play all the instruments on the computer. There are also creative advantages for the composer to be able to write a line and immediately hear it played on the different instruments of the Synclavier's optional printer can even analyze what the composer is playing and write it out in standard musical notation. (The Wall Street Journal reports that the musician’s union is still pondering the situation.)

One of the nicest features of the Synclavier, and one which microcomputer people could learn from, is that it is almost totally user-transparent. It looks and feels like a musical instrument, rather than a computer. Data entry is made by an analog-style pot, rather than through a keyboard. Instead of confronting the musician with an overwhelming array of controls, legends light up to indicate the function of a single large knob.

In all, it is one of the truly powerful digital devices (other than bank automatic teller machines) that doesn’t scare off computer-phobic users.

**Doing It with an '80**

Microcomputers like the TRS-80 are not fast enough to generate high-quality sound or video, but a lot of real-time studio applications use micros with hardware add-ons for additional functions.

Spectrum analysis is a helpful technique in audio recording. It is a measure of the acoustic energy existing in each frequency range: the volume for the low notes versus the middle or high ones. Engineers use spectrum analyzers to verify their recorders' accuracy. Producers use it to tailor sound to an environment (a good mix for a discotheque is not going to be very good on a car radio). Until recently, spectrum analyzers were hard-wired LED displays that either cost a lot of money or did not provide subtle enough readings.

Eventide Clockworks, a New York manufacturer of a popular time-compressor and other studio equipment, has also come out with a TRS-80-based solution to spectrum analysis. Their relatively inexpensive hardware plugs into a 16K Level II machine, and cassette software turns it into a fast and accurate real-time analyzer. The overall system is a lot bigger and harder to work with than dedicated analyzers, but if you already own the computer it can save a lot of money. (The system is also available for the Pet.)

Eventide’s Richard Factor is behind a slow but growing flood to get micros into the studio. Many of his products have a port for digital control, and he has written technical articles on studio/computer bus structures. While some equipment (including Eventide's) uses the IEE-488 bus, which is also used by Hewlett-Packard and Pet, others (SMPE controllers among them) have the same RS-232 as the TRS-80 and most minicomputers. Eventually a standard will have to be adopted.

**Information Processing Applications**

Most audio and video studios using the TRS-80, batch-process data using software written in Basic and a number of disk drives. Frequently, this software is written by the owner or manager of the company; someone technical enough to write complex programs, but who knows the needs of their specific productions. Almost all of the applications are in the areas of data base manipulation, scheduling, and bidding.

**A Television Production Company**

Viz-Wiz has a reputation for highly creative commercial production in the Boston area. They operate a television studio and computerized control rooms; their production clients include Digital Equipment Corporation, McDonald’s and Honeywell.

The kind of people who manage a company frequently determine how a computer will be used. Viz-Wiz is owned by Peter Faschiano (a producer/editor), and Tom Sprague (a video engineer). Since both are technically oriented (rather than financial or sales), Viz-Wiz was able to start using computers and custom software long before other companies of their size.

Faschiano put it this way: "We got into computers when the Level I, 4K machine first came out. My partner and I figured it was time to become computer literate. So we plunked down some money for a one-size-fits-all, disposable computer, the TRS-80. After two months we decided to upgrade and write our own programs. We are still using the same machine, but now it has three disk drives, 48K RAM, and every hardware modification we could find."

The computer at Viz-Wiz is on all day, running a massive production management program that took two and a half years to write. Normally when an advertising agency wants a commercial, they have production
companies analyze a storyboard (a "comic-book" version of the commercial), ask questions, and prepare bids on a standardized 250-line form that includes estimates for everything from talent and make-up to lunch for the crew. If the client likes the bid, the commercial is usually produced. Since the bidding is competitive, however, most of the bids become merely an exercise for the production company.

Fasciano used to spend most of his time preparing bids: making creative judgments on what was needed to achieve a particular effect, how much it would cost, and how much should be set aside for contingencies. It is a painstaking job; if you estimate too high, you can lose the job—too low, you lose your shirt.

Viz-Wiz's TRS-80 now lets the advertising agency describe the commercial over the phone, asks a few specific questions, and then prepares the complete 250-line bid. The program carries data on freelance crew members and their rates, it includes people and equipment, and even includes a constantly-updated data base of which agencies are easier to work with so it can make adjustments to the bid.

The program also prepares videotape labels, production logs, an invoice, and a complete date file for an A/R program. According to Fasciano, it is "designed to let a secretary sit down and play executive producer." It also gives the real producer more time to be creative.

Even though their TRS-80 is "...spookily reliable. We have had only two disk I/O failures in a year," Fasciano reports that he is finally outgrowing his Model I and will probably buy a Model II soon to run his entire business operation.

There are other computers at Viz-Wiz, but they are specialized signal-handling devices. One of them, a Quantel Digital Effects Generator, is made up mostly of DEC LSI-11 equipment. It includes five separate CPUs in the main rack and a four-bit micro in the control box. Their editing controller is based around an MC-6800 chip with 16 separate PROMs of instructions. Putting it in perspective, Fasciano told me, "It is nice having all this powerful hardware, but I probably would have had a harder time affording it without my plastic-boxed 'toy.'

An Audio Production Company

Sound production is less complicated than video. Even though my studio is one of the busiest commercial houses in New England and our client list includes K-Mart, Exxon, and MGM, we don't need a very sophisticated business or bidding system.

Jay Rose / Sound operates two multi-track recording studios, a separate editing room, and a high-speed, high-quality duplicating system. We also maintain a library of more than 16,000 music and sound effects, and have to keep track of thousands of commercial masters and release copies.

Unlike most music studios, who sell studio time to groups and base their competitiveness on musical taste and sound, we sell our ability to produce finished tapes. Efficiency and creativity are more important to our clients than gold records. There is more data organization involved, and a lot more time spent keeping track of small pieces of tape.

The management of Jay Rose / Sound is similar to that of Viz-Wiz: It consists of my wife (a writer/producer) and myself (an engineer/editor). Our goals are production oriented, rather than business. Once we acquired a disk drive for my Model I, it seemed natural to use the computer for production data.

The system usually lives in my house where I can batch-process material at night. Since programming in Basic is so easily self-taught, I have been able to write almost all of our software in a menu-driven format that other studio employees can operate. This way, I can bring the computer to work when there are large data-entry or interactive filing jobs.

Most of our programs are straightforward: processing text for labels, keeping track of client commercial numbers, or computing union-mandated talent payments. Two of our programs represent more interesting programming concepts, and.

If you estimate too high you can lose the job; too low, you lose your shirt.

If you have anything to do with the TRS-80® System you should be reading the

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Don't miss a single issue of the new Eighty System Newsletter... published weekly and mailed every Friday by First Class Mail. This is the only publication designed for personnel in the TRS-80® industry, including manufacturers, distributors, dealers and computer users. The Eighty System Newsletter is compiled and edited by Ken Gordon, producer of the National TRS-80® Show, the Eighty/Apple Show, the NJ Microcomputer Show, and publisher of the Amateur Radio Equipment Directory. Here is valuable information in professionally prepared format about TRS-80® hardware, software, peripherals, trends in the industry, and latest news. In addition, each weekly issue contains brief digests of articles related to the TRS-80® system appearing in over 100 computer related and general interest publications. This bibliography will save you both time and money in keeping up with articles in print on the TRS-80® computer system. The Eighty System Newsletter is a must for all active TRS-80® users, plus anyone involved in any way with the manufacturing, distributing or retailing of TRS-80® products.

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Some of the available cross-references in the sound effects sorting program.

See List of Advertisers on page 354
“...watch the console controls moving up and down without human intervention while a piece of music ‘mixes’ itself.”

may provide some hints for other users who write their own software.

Our mailing list doesn’t work on most mail-list programs. While we might have no more than a few hundred separate company names and addresses, each company might have as many as ten different employees we need to communicate with. We devised a double-list mailing system. One list keeps company information (including client details and tax status) in a random-access file. Company account numbers are replaced by a three-letter mnemonic (Needham, Harper & Steers becomes NHS, Ingalls Associates is ING) chosen by the operator. The first few sectors of the file carry the mnemonics and direct the computer to the right logical record for that client. The other list is made up of individual names, job function codes, and their company mnemonics. Ten people in a company still require only one entry of the company name; yet a company with only one or two names doesn’t waste disk space. If a person changes employers, it just requires editing the three-letter code.

Our other unusual program sorts across indexes sound effects. The way sounds are interpreted changes with the context. A recording of a sail flapping, with creaking wood and seagulls, is a boat. But the same recording, with other backgrounds, can be a flag flying or someone making a bed. Filling a sound by its title and nothing else closes off a lot of creative possibilities.

Our sound effects program files sound effects by title, publisher, tape number and selection, and length. It also adds three additional codes for cross-references, in any of 200 categories. The entire data base is alphabetized four ways and printed into a 60-page book, which we can update any time we want to. Since the data is only entered once and then stored in compressed form, the program is very efficient. It also checks each entry for reasonableness and queries the operator for out-of-range conditions.

We also use Lazy Writer with a number of Basic utilities for automatic line numbering, alphabetization of files, and two-column printing. Of course, we also have SMPTE and time-compression equipment.

Other Studio Applications

There are dedicated computer uses that do not apply to my operation. Console automation, for example, becomes almost a necessity when 46 tracks of rock music are being mixed. Nobody can control a few hundred faders, equalizers, mutes and other functions and still remember a producer’s creative instructions. Perhaps the most interesting automation system is NECAM, made by the Neve Corporation. NECAM uses the same SMPTE code as audio and video productions, but each time a control on the console is moved it writes the time and nature of the move to disk. During playback, servomotors duplicate the engineer’s hand motions. Producers can sit and watch the console controls moving up and down without human intervention, while a piece of music “mixes” itself.

One prototype computer system for the recording studio doesn’t use tape recorders at all. Telefunken is introducing high-quality digital recording entirely on hard disk, with editing and mixing instructions carried in RAM. The recording is not subject to any of the usual distortions of an analog tape system, so the sound quality is excellent. Unlike conventional digital recorders, the entire piece of music is available to the computer at once. It becomes very easy to combine a few bars of the drum track from the front of a song under the vocalist from the end, or keep on repeating a bass figure while all the other instruments go on with their original recording.

What’s in Store

An important thing to remember with any of these dedicated minicomputer applications, from video manipulation to music synthesis, is how quickly computers have grown more powerful. Many of the things minicomputers are now doing could not have been done on the largest mainframes ten years ago. It is entirely reasonable to expect them to be done on general-purpose microcomputers within the decade.

The back pages of this magazine already feature sophisticated data acquisition modules for the TRS-80, and recent articles have covered speech synthesis and other real-time applications.

There are physical limits to how much high-quality sound or video can be manipulated in a given memory. Audio requires a sampling frequency on the order of 40,000 times a second and video is many times higher, at those rates you could just about store the words “TRS-80” in your machine. But memory is getting smaller and cheaper while CPU chips are getting bigger and faster.

In a few years you may be able to synthesize your cosmic vision of the world, in sound and color and full resolution, on your home television...using your pocket computer.
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- Fits LNW expansion interfaces
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  - 322,560 bytes — 35-track DS/DD
  - 184,320 bytes — 40-track SS/DD
  - 368,640 bytes — 40-track DS/DD
  - 368,640 bytes — 80-track SS/DD
  - 737,280 bytes — 80-track DS/DD
- 8 inch disk storage increased to:
  - 591,360 bytes — 77-track SS/DD
  - 1,182,720 bytes — 77-track DS/DD
- SS: single-sided  DS: double-sided
- SD: single-density  DD: double-density

COMPLETE — The LNDoubler 5/8, switches your Model I or LNW-80 into the most versatile computer you can own. The LNDoubler's switch allows you to boot from 5- or 8-inch system disks, and it's accessible from outside the interface. The LNDoubler 5/8 comes with a double-density disk operating system (DOS+ 3.3.9), complete with BASIC and utility programs... ready to run your software NOW!

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Hop on board the spirograph special with Commander at the throttle.

Spiromania

by Jake Commander
80 Microcomputing staff

What do you get when you cross a constantly changing angle with a constantly changing radius? Don't all shout at once. What you get is a spirograph, and you already knew that, right? If so, go to the top of the class and the end of the article. If you didn't know that and you share my fascination for those immortal coils, read on.

Early Art

As soon as I ever saw a table-top spirograph set, I just had to have one. Those plastic cogs, colored pens and amazing patterns intrigued me. I even went to the extra effort of buying one of those multi-colored ballpoint pens with about 20 different color inserts, ranging from a kind of puerile pink to pulmonary purple—perfect for spirographs! I specialized in creations using different shades of the same color and never ceased to be amazed at the possible variations. The way the patterns interacted, causing moiré effects to elicit shapes within shapes, was and still is just about my favorite spirographic effect.

On a video screen, the interplay between pixels can be even more stunning than ink on ink. It seems only natural, after getting my Color Computer, that I was drawn into creating computerized psychedelia.

In the March 1982 issue ("The Editor's Choice," page 78), 80 Micro published one of my programs for creating some spirographic effects, but the program was written in Basic and suffered from the usual drawback of Basic programs—lack of speed. The version in this article is a much more streamlined version and allows many more options. To use the program described here, you need Extended Color Basic with a minimum of 16K RAM. The machine code can be entered using one of the many monitors available for the Color Computer or it can be assembled using a 6809 assembler. My version of the assembly source code was created using the software development system SDS-80C from
Stellar Escort

Now Available: the Futuristic

TRISSTICK

Model 1 AND Model 3 owners may now purchase the new, exciting, and versatile "TRISSTICK". The TRISSTICK is compatible with all of our games and comes packaged with complete instructions for use with your own programs. It features the famous Atari joystick with a molded plastic interface module that simply "plugs in" to your computer: no modification or wiring is required.
“By slightly altering the way in which each spirograph is drawn at every pass through a program loop, artwork can be created that is amazing in its creation and execution.”

the Micro Works—an excellent ROM-based package for machine code programmers of the 6809 persuasion and worthy of special mention.

Present Genius

This program allows you to fabricate patterns by drawing multiple spirographs one on top of the other. By slightly altering the way each spirograph is drawn at every pass through a program loop, artwork can be created that is amazing in its creation and execution. The interplay between one layer and another can cause unpredicted new designs to evolve. Some aesthetic judgement is required; it’s all too easy to go over the top and create a graceless hideosity resembling an undercooked pizza.

As the photographs show, with a little experimentation it’s possible to create anything from ornate arabesques to stained-glass replicas. The results can be truly dazzling; so much so that when I was working on this project I endured what might be termed sensory overload. The vast richness of color and shape would periodically dull my senses to the point that I couldn’t differentiate between pretty nice and pretty ugly. Enough proselytizing; the results, dear readers, I place at your feet.

Uh-Oh Math

To attain quality truly deserving of space in an art gallery, we should have some understanding of what we’re doing. I can almost hear you murmuring, “Here we go again. Here comes the nitty-gritty—more math. Bye-bye article.” Well, hold on, I’ll make it as understandable as possible. A small amount of trigonometry is all we need, and you may know it already. I make no apology for any oversimplifications; math buffs go to the back of the class and chew on some glue for a while.

The main thing we need to understand is the sine function. We also need the cosine function, but it’s so closely related to the sine that if you understand one, you understand both.

A diagram of the sine function is shown in Fig. 1. You’ve possibly seen graphs like this before and avoided them like the plague: all will now be revealed. Take a look at Fig. 2; it is the cosine function.

Second Things First

Notice how similar Fig. 2 is to the sine graph. I’ve purposely shown it for 90 degrees before the zero point to emphasize its similarity. If it looks like you like the sine shape pushed sideways 90 degrees, then you have it. That’s exactly what it is: The cosine of an angle is the sine of the same angle if 90 degrees were added to it. So if you want the cosine of a particular angle, add 90 degrees and take the sine—that gives the cosine of that angle.

That’s dealt cosines a blow; now you can see how you understand one if you understand the other. But we haven’t looked at sines yet, so stick with it.

In the present context, when we talk about sines we’re talking about circles or circular motion. Since circles are all around us, from the coins in our pockets to the motion of our planet around the sun or the rotary motion of machinery, it’s no wonder the sine function crops up so often. In our case, we need it to tell us where to plot dots (or pixels) on the video screen in order to produce motifs and designs based on the humble circle.

Let’s pick a circular object, like a clock, to help us analyze what the sine function can tell us. To simplify matters, this clock has only a minute hand. To reinforce the mental
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Oh, one little thing. Before he died, the king placed a small dragon to watch over his treasure. That was 500 years ago. Now there is a large dragon.

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“Let’s pick a circular object, like a clock, to help us analyze what the sine function can tell us.”

Imagine you’re standing at the 12 o’clock position looking across the face of the clock. That’s important—we’re not looking straight at the face, as if we wanted to read the time, we’re peering along its surface. In the case of the first clock we’re staring straight down the minute hand. Now, how much of the length of the minute hand do you see from that 12 o’clock position? The answer from sheer intuition is zero. If we’re staring straight at the hand pointing at us, all we see is its width; we see none of its length. That’s the first feel we get for the sine function; the hand has an angle relative to our position of zero degrees and we see the sine of its length which for zero degrees is zero.

Now, wait 15 minutes or if you’re less patient, rotate the hand to the three o’clock position. How much of its length do we see now? Once again, intuitively we realize that it’s an angle of 90 degrees to our position, we’ll see its whole length. Another way of saying this is that at 90 degrees we see its length times one, which correlates nicely with the sine of 90 degrees, which is one.

OK, move the hand to the six o’clock position; this time it’s pointed away from us at 180 degrees, so we see none of its length. As you’ve probably guessed, the sine of 180 degrees is zero—the same as the sine of zero degrees, except now you see why. The next step is to the nine o’clock position, at which point you may think you observe the whole length again, but what you’re really seeing is the negative value of its length. Remember, we saw the length times one at the three o’clock position; at the nine o’clock or 270 degrees position it’s reversed, again correlating with the sine of that angle, which is minus one.

Finally, the hand returns to the top of the clock, at 360 degrees, which is the same as zero degrees and we’ve literally come full circle and start over. This clock imagery creates a feeling for the sine values at the four 90-degree points of a circle. Try to imagine the hand of the clock turning slowly from twelve to three; the observed length will at first rapidly increase from zero and then slow down until it reaches its full length at the 90 degree position, after which it shortens again. The rate of increase can be seen in the sine wave graph in Fig. 1. The curve starts off steeply then flattens out at 90 degrees.

Figure 4 shows this more graphically from the point of view of a sine and cosine. Notice that the sine curve repeats in a mirror-image fashion from 90 to 180 degrees, and then we get the negative mirror-image. In fact, just by using the curve from zero to 90 degrees we have enough information to plot the whole sine curve to 360 degrees. That’s the approach I use in the machine code, which I’ll describe later on.

Sine of the Times

What use is this to us spirographers? Lots of use: If we take any center point in the video display we can now plot a circle using the techniques we’ve learned. All we have to do is decide on the radius of the circle and use it as if it were the tip of the minute hand.

Remember that we’ll be plotting points at the tip of that imaginary hand—not along the whole hand. The best way to grasp this is with another example: let’s choose a radius of 10 pixels and plot a circle by setting dots from zero to 360 degrees. It doesn’t matter how many dots we use, but if they’re spaced close enough together it will appear as if they’re one continuous line.

Start at zero degrees. The sine of zero degrees is zero, so we multiply the length of 10 pixels by zero. The result, zero, simply means that on the left-to-right (or X) axis of the screen, the dot is offset by zero dots from the center. The real center of the screen in Basic’s PMODE 4 is the 128th dot, giving us the X coordinate. To get the Y coordinate, take the cosine of zero degrees,
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An EPYX game from Automated Simulations
"To appreciate the final technicality of the genus spirographica, imagine what would happen if the radius were changed as the circle was drawn."

![Figure 4](image)

which is one. Multiplying the radius of 10 pixels by one gives us an offset of 10 dots from the center of the top-to-bottom (or Y) axis of the screen. The center position in PMODE is 96, so this would give us a Y coordinate of 106.

This immediately presents a problem; if we plot this 12 o'clock position at 128 dots across and 106 down, we'll be at the 6 o'clock position relative to the center. This is because the Y axis on the Color Computer (and most other graphic computers) is upside-down; increasing values on the Y axis bring the plotted points downward instead of up, as in the case of a normal graph. To overcome this minor annoyance, we merely have to negate our cosine results to make the circle come out top side up. So, in our example, instead of adding, we subtract 10 from the center point of 96 which gives us a Y coordinate of 86. At last, we set a pixel at an X,Y coordinate pair of 128,86 and have ourselves a dot at the 12 o'clock position.

Next, we'll step the angle by a chosen, small amount and repeat the procedure, multiplying the 10 pixel radius by the sine and negative cosine values of the new angle, then adding 128 and 96 respectively. This gives us a new dot to the right and slightly below the first dot; we're slowly but surely on our way to drawing a circle. By the time the angle has been stepped to 360 degrees, there will be a circle on the screen with a radius of 10 dots. Notice that if you add different values than 128 and 96, you simply change the center of the final circle.

Now, wasn't that simplicity itself?

**Genus Spyrographica**

To appreciate the final technicality of the genus spirographica, imagine what would happen if the radius were changed as the circle was drawn. All sorts of shapes would present themselves, ranging from spirals to oval shapes to stars to our final goal—the spirograph.

In a real spirograph an inner wheel rotates inside a bigger one. This makes the radius of our circle describe a circular motion of its own within the larger circle. We can approximate this on a computer by multiplying the radius at each plotted angle by the sine of that angle, imparting a simulated circular motion to the radius. Notice that I say simulated; by applying the sine function to the radius, it will take on negative values—something that's well and good for creating effects, but not what normally happens in real life. In a real spirograph, the inner wheel causes its own radius to gyrate backwards and forwards sine-fashion from a point inside the circumference of the outside wheel rather than the center.

Why bother to write all this complicated stuff in machine code, anyway? It would be easy enough to apply these sine/cosine rules to a changing radius and angle in the good old ligua franca—Basic. The answer is not exactly surprising: speed.

If you tried my program from the March issue, you'll have noticed how slowly the patterns were drawn. Remember, you're plotting a single pixel at a time and for each pixel you need two sines and a cosine. Then, assuming the highest resolution, the coordinates have to be scaled to fit into a 256 by 192 frame on the screen. The Basic interpreter is painfully slow at computing sine functions. That's because these functions work in floating point math which requires many machine code instructions to produce a result which is far too accurate for our needs. Also, the method used to evaluate a sine requires a number of iterations of the Taylor series which converges to approximate the function to an accuracy of five decimal places. It's slow and complicated.

For our needs, a number of zero to 255 is sufficient for the X axis, and zero to 191 for the Y axis. I arrive at these values directly by referring to a table in memory similar to the trigonometry tables you may have used in school. The machine code routine extracts the correct value from the table according to the given angle. In place of the normal trigonometric values from minus one through zero to plus one, I arrive at the numbers from zero through 127 to 255.

To shorten the sine table in memory, I on-

<table>
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<th>design #</th>
<th>Lobes</th>
<th>DL</th>
<th>X Step</th>
<th>Y Step</th>
<th>Ang Offset</th>
<th>Scale Offset</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
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<td>86</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Pause on 2nd loop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pause 29th loop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18 loops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>To completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 loops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(UR = 4:OC = 87)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2 loops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(UR = 5:OC = 61)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Design Parameters
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"Remember that to arrive at the cosine of an angle you simply add 90 degrees to the given angle and take the sine."

It is possible to read sine values for the angles zero to 90 degrees directly from the display. The sines returned for these angles are generated as the byte values 128 to 255 which allow their direct use as X-axis coordinates. For use on the Y-axis, the value is divided by 3/4 to give the values 96 to 191 as per the screen dimensions. By using the previously mentioned mirror-image property of the sine function, all angles from 90 degrees upwards can be derived from this table to fill in the missing values from zero to 127 (or 95 in the case of the Y axis). Remember that to arrive at the cosine of an angle you simply add 90 degrees to the given angle and take the sine.

By way of a compliment to the writers of the Circle command in Extended Color Basic, I was horrified to find that their routine drew a circle faster than mine. I was stunned. Where had I gone wrong? In fact, I hadn't gone wrong at all. They cheat by using 64 lines to draw their circle whereas I plot mine at 720 half-degree increments. Their method is ingenious and very slightly faster, but my circle is rounder—now we're talking artistic perfection! ■

Ed's note: This is the first part of a two-part series, which will conclude in next month's issue. Look at the pretty pictures, study the explanation of sines and cosines, and next month you'll be all set to create great art with Jake's program!
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Will micros change the way we look at film?

Celluloid CPUs

by Michael E. Nadeau
80 Microcomputing staff

The work of large computers in producing special effects for movies such as Star Wars and Close Encounters is well known. But few know of the mark micros are making for themselves in Tinseltown.

"There really is a lot happening (in the movie business) with microcomputers," said Richard Shaw, an expert on computer applications for the film industry. There are two main areas where micros are involved in the actual producing of a movie: graphics generation and motion control. (Motion control is the way perspective is kept between camera movement and the action being filmed; i.e., a camera may pan an action shot at a different speed than that action—computers help coordinate this.) The types of computers used in graphics and motion control are usually dedicated, eight-bit, 64K S-100-based machines, he said.

Shaw sees television benefitting most from the use of computers in film production. "Television allows for excellent control by computers... because of their high-resolution screens," he said. Hollywood, however, is using micros more as their advantages become apparent.

The China Syndrome

One movie that pioneered the use of micro was The China Syndrome. Since the movie simulated an accident at a nuclear power plant an exact reproduction of a reactor control room was built. The crew now needed a way to make all the control boards, lights and gauges behave as they would in an actual emergency.

One person who had a hand in creating the system that ran the movie's control room was Michael Fink, an electronics consultant for the film. Hardware or large computers were too expensive for the control devices; they decided to use a micro. China Syndrome was filmed in 1978, just when the micro industry was beginning. At this time it was very difficult to get a micro in the time the movie company needed it. One company, Compal, was not only able to supply a micro within six weeks, but arrangements were made for the movie company to use it for one year.

The Compal 80 was an 8080A-chip-based machine of 64K. With this computer, "We had to simulate a nuclear reactor going nuts," Fink said. Essentially what they did was hook up the Compal 80 to the control panels via the S-100 bus and use software to control virtually all the action. The author of that software was Richard Hollander. Stuart Ziff, now working on the Star Wars sequel, Revenge of the Jedi, was responsible for all hardware interfacing. Fink's responsibility was making sure that the system got built.

This team accomplished what Fink considers a first in the movie industry: the use of a microcomputer in live action. The system was set up so at certain cues, an actor could run specific software from the control panel to simulate the proper action for that sequence. For example, Jack Lemmon would say a line—his cue to press a certain button. This button would start the
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“This team accomplished what Fink considers a first in the movie industry: the use of a microcomputer in live action.”

software, which flashed lights and made dials “go crazy.”

Fink said the great advantage to this system was that it gave the actors the chance to play with the set, and the set gave the actors cues. The system was flexible enough that if someone wanted to change it, it could be done in a matter of seconds, “saving days in re-shooting,” he said. The set itself took only six weeks to build.

The system had 144 output ports, representing the 144 items the Complai 80 had to control. Variable voltage analog signals were sent to make the gauges go awry, and relay boxes were placed behind each light. Eight miles of cable were used on the set.

A cassette system stored each sequence. “We didn’t need speed,” Fink said. They would load the tape in the morning, then write what they did to the computer at lunchtime and again in the evening. When they later were doing inserts (as the term implies, the inserting of sequences into parts of the film), they could pull cassette number 233 and use that sequence where they needed it.

Fink said the same system could not have been built as cheaply nor as quickly had they used manual switches and other hardware controls. Software control for the types of special effects used in The China Syndrome was new ground in the film industry at the time. Fink said today one could just buy a 64K TRS-80 Model II and “literally buy the software off the shelf.”

Blade Runner

Another movie, yet to be released at this writing, used a micro with one of its props during production. Blade Runner is a science fiction film based on the book, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, by Philip K. Dick. The plot, set in the future, is about a bounty hunter who hunts down a band of renegade androids. The film was produced by Filmways Pictures and had a $15 million budget.

Again, Fink was involved in the work done with micros in this film. He and a partner, Linda Fleischer, were in charge of the “hi-tech action props.” In the film, there is a vehicle called a Spinner. Based on a conventional car chassis, the Spinner featured a complex control panel. The original plan was to use a Horizon North Star computer to control the dials, digital readouts, and gauges—much the same way the Compal 80 was used in The China Syndrome.

Four Spinners were built: two driving versions, one light-weight flying version, and a process car controlled by the microprocessor system. Fink and Fleischer had to build an interactive system that would simulate the proper instrument behavior in two circumstances: flight and driving pursuit. The instruments included thirteen alphanumeric displays, seven analog displays, and displays in both English and Japanese characters.

“There were tremendous amounts of things in one small vehicle,” Fink said. “Almost none of the system was used... most of it was run by switches (in the actual filming).” Fink said. Apparently in this application there was a little technological overskill. But, Fink said, “You give them more than they ask for.”

Movies, Money, and Micros

The reason micros are seeing more use in movie making is simple: They save time and money. And micros are not used only in the production of movies. Many directors have discovered that by using a micro or time-sharing on a mainframe they can keep track of their costs as they occur—a very important consideration in Hollywood these days.

“Up until recently it was nearly impossible to tell where the money was going until after the fact,” Shaw said. A director or producer cannot apply cost controls until he knows where they are needed. A computer is very handy in this situation.

Other facets of the movie industry use micros as well. Several talent agencies use micros to keep track of clients. A growing number of screenwriters, Shaw included, use micros as word processors.

Shaw sees little resistance in the industry to microcomputers. “People are smart enough to see what is going on,” he said. “Those unfamiliar with computing were a little afraid..(but) there is a tremendous turnaround of talent..(and) the new people know more about computers.”

He said a lot of the people in movie production using computers often had an interest in physics or electronics, so computers came easily to them. Also, film makers tend to be “a little worried about expenses,” Shaw said.

“You don’t have to know about computers to use them,” Shaw said. “Movies are the first love (of screenwriters, directors, producers, and so on). Computers should free you to apply your creativity. They just get rid of the tedium.”

---

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I want to make things that cannot be designed without a computer. I am making an effort to understand what the computer is uniquely capable of doing.” Sculptor Rob Fisher did not always profess such a unique approach to his sculpting. The sheer magnitude of some recent projects, however, persuaded him to research the advantages of computer graphics; more specifically he harnessed CAD/CAM (Computer-Aided Design/Computer-Aided Manufacturing) and advanced vector graphics techniques creating a form of sculpture so new it hasn't been named.

When commissioned to create a five-story hanging construction for Playboy's Atlantic City Casino, Fisher set out two years ago to capture the ethereal grace of the Aurora Borealis. With 5,000 pieces ranging in size from four inches to forty feet working together in complex and constantly shifting ways, Northern Lights was a designer's Chinese puzzle nightmare. It was designed to be viewed from ground level and the four upper stories of the casino. The engineering problems alone were immense, and the creative questions were staggering.

To design it, Fisher needed to make a special model, one which would accurately show the flexing of the various members and locate the center of gravity of the piece. It had to allow easy judgement of single components and whole sections and in-

Photo 1. Perspective of sculpture in space

Photo 2. Plan view schematic with axial indicators
stantly show the effects of each change on the entire work. It also needed to represent the relationship between the sculpture and the then unbuilt building it would go into. “As I started to contemplate constructing the model it became unmanageable,” he commented.

No scale model would accurately duplicate the final piece; the only way to design it seemed to be to build a full size model at enormous cost and effort, hang it somewhere and keep a crew of workmen busy for a year or more making alterations.

“At the same time I was contemplating this problem, I met an architectural student who was taking a computer graphics course,” he commented. The student, from nearby Penn State University, introduced Fisher to a research laboratory director who referred him to Frederick R. Stocker, a computer graphics analyst with more than 10 years experience in CAD/CAM research, including design work on the simulation used by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Skylab project.

Mutually Delighted

Stocker, who has interests in both science and art, and Fisher, who holds an MIT engineering degree, were mutually delighted. Stocker was pleased to have a project as creative as Northern Lights, and Fisher was surprised at what Stocker’s customized Adage Model 30 minicomputer could do.

“I knew we were going to see different views of the sculpture,” Fisher explained. This is important because “sculpture is a three-dimensional event; you want to preview it from as many different angles as possible.”

The computer, in fact, allowed him to see it from the top, side and a simulated view from any of the halls that open onto it. In spite of Fisher’s initial fears, the computer proved as interactive as a good word processor.

“It was the terrific ability to make an engineering decision and immediately see its visual effect which so astonished me,” Fisher revealed.

They started with a conceptual model and developed specifications on each component using a combination of computer research and physical testing. As they fed it new data, the computer constantly updated the model, automatically monitoring engineering concerns.

When they finished the initial design, the Adage indicated it weighed 1,500 pounds and placed its center of gravity a foot to one side of the central column. They spent several months refining the design, trimming its weight to 600 pounds and moving the center of gravity into the central column to avoid putting torque into the roof beam it would hang from.

Computer Tricks

At the same time, Fisher redesigned the veils, meticulously polishing his work. And the Adage, which Stocker described as an older minicomputer with capabilities not too different from those of many of today’s micros, showed some of its tricks.

“The computer looks at data in a very cold, objective way,” Fisher explained. “It asked questions I would never have thought of like ‘What if you flatten out the data and present it in a graph?’”

The graph was invaluable in locating spots where the sculpture’s curves were not correct and needed reworking.

Working With Reality

One of Stocker’s main concerns was ensuring they were working with reality. “It’s tricky because you can show things that are impossible to build,” Stocker said. CAD/CAM techniques are being used successfully in bridge, automobile and aircraft design, however, so it is possible for experienced operators to control their computers.

“Ultimately,” Stocker commented, “manufacturing engineers will do their design on the screen and push a button to have it made.”

Although Northern Lights was not built quite that easily, the computer did make all the measurements and print complete construction instructions automatically.

The project proved to be the ultimate test of Stocker’s experimental CAD/CAM programs. When he compared the finished work to his computer model he found it accurate to within two inches.

A Profound Effect

The experience had a profound effect on the sculptor. In fact, Fisher, whose work includes fountains, bank facades, mobiles and a 35-foot tall hanging sculpture, started studying Fortran and bought an NRS graphics package driven by a DEC mainframe.

Fisher looked at several microcomputers but found they only offered raster graphics. He felt they could be used for rough initial designs, but compared to the mainframe’s vector system they were unsuitable for detailed design work of such complexity.

The New Work

Fisher’s new work will be even more ambitious than the first. Like Northern Lights, it will consist of a large number of columns hanging in space. The shape will resemble a prism standing on end, giving it the cross-section of a triangle with the corners cut off. It will be eight stories high.

Fisher plans to model a spiral galaxy directly from astronomical photographs on his computer screen superimposed over the prism of columns. He will put a six-inch-long polished brass fitting at each place where a column intersects the design of the galaxy. He expects to use about 1,000 of them. This, he admitted, simplifies the galaxy by a proportion of 200 million to one, but it brings it into human view.

One of a Kind

Fisher believes he is the only sculptor designing large-scale pieces on a computer, although he knows of one artist who uses a machine to check his calculations on large standing metal constructions he designs with traditional methods.

The computer has changed Fisher’s art, and he does not expect he will ever be the same. “It was an entirely new approach for me,” he said. “It has changed my way of thinking.”

Photo 3. Perspective of sculpture from casino floors

"...sculpture is a three-dimensional event; you want to preview it from as many... angles as possible."
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Programmable Sound Generator

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A computer-controlled synthesizer capable of nine simultaneous voices can be yours for about $125 in parts—providing you already have a disk-equipped TRS-80 Model I. You can build a stereo PSG (Programmable Sound Generator) music board with some astounding software-controlled features, not to mention automatic "player-piano" capabilities, wherein the music is synthesized anew whenever the computer plays the digitally encoded score.

General Instrument designed some complex LSI music chips that were aimed at the arcade/games market, but are easy to interface to any microcomputer bus. At $11-12 apiece, the AT-3-8910/8912 PSG chips can each produce three simultaneous voices with an eight-octave range, governed by one of several envelopes or 16 levels of volume. Variable noise output is also provided.

The PSG chips suffer some limitations: they are slightly off frequency, especially in high octaves; their digital-to-analog converters produce slight clicks during extended envelope decay; only square wave output is available. These PSG chips are precursors of more accurate synthesizer chips to come. Even today, each of the above limitations can be solved in hardware; for example, a square-to-sine wave converter is easy to build.

The limitations of PSGs are overshadowed by the astonishing flexibility afforded by microprocessor control. Let us look at some examples:

- Sound effects generation for computer games. The PSG music board provides stereo outputs for realistic sound effects.
- Music synthesizer: You can encode and play repeatedly a multi-part score. Limited percussion effects are possible.
- You can play random notes after some software "filtering"—elimination of very high notes, for example—to give pleasing cacophonies of ever-changing sounds.
- You can generate semi-random notes or chords. Software can impose musical scales, keys and chord progressions to...
give “random symphonies” that are of some musical value.

- The computer can compose music—but only after a major programming and analytical effort.
- You can refine envelope control by storing envelopes in computer RAM. Envelopes, or attack-decay volume variations, allow the ear to differentiate between various classes of instruments. Envelopes occur on a relatively slow time scale, so the microprocessor can service several envelopes and perform other tasks at the same time.
- You can easily accomplish glissando and “note bending.” Around middle C, for example, the PSGs divide frequencies to produce 14 intervals for a semitone.
- Polyrhythms are programmable, with easy switching between time signatures. You can approximate triplet time. The noise sources on the PSGs limit percussive effects, but the computer-generated signals could trigger external percussion devices.

The list becomes longer if we consider what some simple hardware additions would give:

- Metronome with programmable pulse would give the music board the capability of “bending” time under software control.
- A triplet metronome running in parallel with the straight-time metronome would give true triplets.
- You could obtain true echo effects by employing multiple PSGs, each of which would duplicate the sounds of the primary PSG after some delay. The delays would be software-programmable.
- You could implement an intelligent synthesizer with as little as one microphone and an analog-to-digital converter. Software would analyze the loudness of a musical performance and trigger the PSGs to produce preset effects. A PSG music board could thus accompany, in real time, a musical performance. The next step in adding intelligence might involve counting beats, bars and phrases by software. The PSGs could trigger special effects at the end of a chorus, for example. If you input key changes into the computer, the computer could generate and play proper chords at preset or semi-random spots.

I will describe the construction of a nine-voice PSG music board that is expandable to 15 voices and in/out port mapped. The music board incorporates a metronome that can resolve note durations from a whole note to 1/128th note. The music board

“Next step in adding intelligence might involve counting beats, bars and phrases by software.”

Photo 1. Prototype nine-voice PSG music board, wire-wrapped on a Vector board. The dot next to the header indicates pin 1 of the connector—equivalent to pin 2 of the TRS-80 Model I bus.

Program Listing 1 Continued

```
760 DATA 135,8,221,34,1,8,24,6,221,117
770 DATA 8,221,119,1,19,19,41,254,223,41
780 DATA 175,237,81,194,74,226,283,42,51,227
790 DATA 1,15,41,124,21,172,258,44,27,47
800 DATA 16,246,134,51,127,124,280,8,8,0
820 ' 430 ' You may build a three-dimensional array in here.
830 ' but you must specify the number of notes in A[4,4,4].
850 GOTO 978 :REM Or let REMM build an array of 200 notes
860 REM FAST PLAYBACK IN MACHINE LANGUAGE
870 IF F$="0" THEN 008 ELSE F$="0" :REM F$=0 for first time through
880 POKE -819,9,F$ :REM Flag transmitted to machine-language pgm.
890 DEPUSHB=-8192
900 PRINT "PRINT" :" PLAYBACK **
910 K=VARPTR(AK(8,8,8))
920 IF K<0 THEN K=65536 ELSE K=K
930 PRINT"Array begins at",K,PRINT K,PRINT K
940 M=INT(K/256):K=K-M*256
950 POKE -828,1,M:POKE -828,1
960 UB-USB(A,8)
970 PRINT "PRINT" :" * RANDOM ARRAY GENERATION **
980 REM Number of notes generated will equal the array dimension.
990 DEPUSHB=-7680
1000 IF F$="0" THEN POKE -8199,0 ELSE GOTO 1000 :REM Flag = 0 serves to add
1010 P:REM initialization specs first time around
1020 RESTORE
1030 FOR M=1 TO NR :READ A[NEXT M] :REM Dummy READs
1040 NEXT M
1050 FOR M=1 TO NR :READ A[NEXT M] :REM Initial values for array—presets
1060 NEXT M
1070 FOR M=1 TO 2
1080 READ AK(N,J)
1090 NEXT J,N
1100 X=VARPTR(AK(0,0,0))
1110 IF K<0 THEN K=65536 ELSE K=K
1120 PRINT "Array starts at",K,PRINT K,PRINT K
1130 M=INT(K/256):K=K-M*256
1140 POKE -828,1,M:POKE -828,1
1150 UB-USB(A)
1160 GOTO 978 :REM Loop back to PLAYBK driver.
1170 REM INITIAL SETTINGS OF PSGs:
1180 DATA 240,7,56 :REM Enable tones on all PSGs
1190 DATA 240,13,13 :REM Envelope shape/cycle = single pulse for Center PSG
1200 DATA 240,13,80 :REM Envelope Coarse = 80, about 0.4 Hz
1210 DATA 240,13,16 :REM Center Channel A volume is controlled on all PSGs
1220 DATA 240,9,8 :REM Channel B is at half-volume
1230 DATA 240,10,4 :REM Channel C is at one-quarter volume
1240 END
```
I stood at the bottom of a deep chasm. Cool air sliding down the sides of the crevasses hit waves of heat rising from a stream of bubbling lava and formed a mist over the sluggish flow. Through the swirling clouds I caught glimpses of two ledges high above me: one was bricked, the other appeared to lead to the throne room I had been seeking.

A blast of fresh air cleared the mist near my feet and like a single gravestone a broken sign appeared momentarily. A dull gleam of gold showed at the base of the sign before being swallowed up by the fog again. From the distance came the angry buzz of the killer bees. Could I avoid their lethal stings as I had managed to escape the wrath of the dragon? Reading the sign might give me a clue to the dangers of this pit.

I approached the sign slowly.

And so it goes, hour after hour, as you guide your microcomputer through the Adventures of Scott Adams in an effort to amass treasures within the worlds of his imagination.

By definition, an adventure is a dangerous or risky undertaking, a novel, exciting, or otherwise remarkable event or experience. On your personal computer, Adventure is that and more.

For the user, playing Adventure is a dangerous or risky undertaking in that you better be prepared to spend many addictive hours at the keyboard. If you like challenges, surprises, humor and being transported to other worlds, these are the games for you. If you dislike being forced to use your common sense and imagination, or you frustrate easily, try them anyway.

In beginning any Adventure, you will find yourself in a specific location: a forest, on board a small spaceship, outside a fun house, in the briefing room of a nuclear plant, in a desert, etc.

By using two-word commands you move from location to location, manipulate objects that you find in the different places, and perform actions as if you were really there. The object of a game is to amass treasure for points or accomplish some other goal. Successfully completing a game, however, is far easier to state than to achieve. In many cases you will find a treasure but be unable to take it until you are carrying the right combination of objects you find in the various locations.

How do you know which objects you need? Trial and error, logic and imagination. Each time you try some action, you learn a little more about the game. Which brings us to the term "game" again. While called games, Adventures are actually puzzles because you have to discover which way the pieces (actions, manipulations, use of magic words, etc.) fit together in order to gather your treasures or accomplish the mission. Like a puzzle, there are a number of ways to fit the pieces together; players who have found and stored the treasures (there are 13) of Adventure #1 may have done so in different ways.

In finding how the pieces fit, you will be forced to deal with unexpected events, apparent dead ends and Scott's humor, which is one of the best parts of the puzzles.

If you run into a barrier like not being able to discover more rooms, don't give up. Play the game with some friends; sometimes they'll think of things you haven't tried.

While I pondered how to reach the throne room— which I was sure contained the treasures of Crousess — the fog grew thicker and the hours passed. I realized I would not be able to outwit Adams today...but maybe tomorrow. I marked my present location on my tattered map and began the long trip to the surface. As I dragged myself off to bed, I thought about other possible Adventures.

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“A manual trimpot for adjusting metronome beats is connected to Z13.”

like a triplet metronome, for example. The least significant three bits, D0–D2, are a code for the note duration requested from the metronome, as listed in Fig. 3.

IN 0 is the status of the hardware metronome. It can have one of two values that must be continually tested in a wait loop by the software while the previous note is played. The computer spends most of its time in the wait loop. If the value at the input port is no longer equal to 255, then the previous note has ended and PSG registers can be updated to begin the next note. The first entry in updating is the control word via the OUT 0 command, which resets the metronome status to 255.

The OUT 1 command is the address latch for selected PSGs. It is equivalent to bus control 1 (BC1), described in the PSG Data Manual. As implemented in the music board, the microprocessor can address PSG registers 0–13. OUT 2 next latches actual data into the selected register. Whenever an OUT 1 or OUT 2 signal is received, the music board sends the required bus direction (DIR) signal to the PSGs, as described in the manual. This assures that the data on the microprocessor bus gets latched by the bidirectional buffers of Fig. 1. Finally, OUT 4 is a RESET signal that sets

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"A special feature of the music board is its unique hardware metronome."

![Diagram](image)

**Fig. 1. Internal registers of PSGs. All register numbers in decimal.**
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"Before any sounds can be produced you must enter certain presets."

all values of data in the PSG to zero. The actual value output by the computer via OUT 4 does not matter.

A special feature of the music board is its unique hardware metronome. Inclusion of a hardware metronome simplifies the software necessary for encoding music. The metronome has an adjustable tripot for manually presetting the metronome rate. A flashing LED gives a visual indication of quarter notes, or metronome beats. Actual note duration is software selected and encoded in the least significant bits of the control word, as Fig. 3 shows. For entering a musical score, you can use the metronome in several ways:

- To count time in the shortest units needed for a particular musical selection, for example 64th notes, with the software keeping a tally of notes.
- With certain limitations, the metronome can count all the note durations, and you need encode only simultaneous notes in terms of the smallest note durations.

You can bypass the metronome altogether if the software never tests the value of IN0, or temporarily if software decodes 000 not as 128th notes but as Static or no advance of the metronome—governed by last note duration. This gives simultaneous notes or chords, wherein only the first of several simultaneous notes is encoded with the (shortest necessary) note duration, and the remaining notes have a 000 code. Bypassing the metronome is also useful for inputting initial PSG specs—presetting the PSGs—at the beginning of a musical selection.

If you use the metronome to keep track of all notes, a slight complication occurs whenever different PSGs are selected for the two or more simultaneous notes. Software must keep track of the current note duration for the first note and re-output the control word for subsequent Static notes, using saved current note duration (but different PSG select) instead of the 000 code. In other words, the 000 code is never output to the metronome; software always appends the current note duration code to all simultaneous notes.

Circuit Description

Figure 4 shows the schematic of the music board. The clock circuitry is from the PSG Data Manual. It contains a popular color or burst crystal in a standard tank circuit. The crystal’s fundamental frequency is divided by two by ZZA, a 74LS74 flip-flop. The resultant frequency of 1.7897725 MHz is supplied to each PSG, where it is divided down to produce tones and noise, and to

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Program Listing 2 Continued

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Program Listing 2 Continues

OUT 0 Control Word. L R X C note duration.
A 1 selects, a 0 deselects a left, right or center PSG.
X = does not matter (reserved for left-center and right-center PSG).

IN 0 Status of Hardware Metronome
Previous note still active: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Previous note ended: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

OUT 1 Address Latch for selected PSGs. PSG register 0: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 through register 13: 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1

OUT 2 Data Latch for PSGs. Data range: 0-255, as required.

OUT 4 Reset all PSGs. Sets all values of data to zero. The actual value output via OUT 4 does not matter.

Fig. 2. Input/output port assignment
```

---

114 • 80 Microcomputing, May 1982
advance envelopes.
Z6, Z7 and Z8 decode the address bus for port mapping. Z3 and Z4 gate the micro-
processor IN and OUT signals to give the port assignment listed in Fig. 2. The micro-
processor data bus is connected to each PSG as well as to Z9, a 74LS374 Latch. Z9
stores the control word that enables PSGs and latches a request onto the metronome.

The hardware metronome relies on Z13, a 555 timer, to provide the clock. A manual
trimpot for adjusting metronome beats is
connected to Z13. Timer output goes to two
cascaded binary counters, Z11 and Z12. The
eight binary outputs are applied to Z10, a
74LS151 One-of-eight Data Selector. A three
code word latched to the address inputs of
Z10 will select one of the eight counter
clocks. The selected line will appear at pin 6
of Z10, for analysis by edge detector cir-
cuity utilizing a CMOS 4070 Exclusive-Or
gate, Z5.

A change of state, that is either a positive
or negative transition, indicates the end of
a particular note. The edge detector converts
this transition to a short positive-going
pulse which is applied to Z2b, a 74LS74 flip-
flip that is armed by an OUT 0 command.
Once armed, additional OUT 0 signals have
no effect, and the flip-flop output stays
positive until it receives the edge detector
pulse. Whereupon the output goes low, per-
mitting gate Z4 to output a high level signal
to transistor Q1 if an IN 0 signal is received,
as shown in the software wait loop. The
2N3904 npn transistor Q1 is wired in an
open-collector configuration; a high level
applied to its base will give a true low at
microprocessor data bit D0, whereas a low
level on its base will give a high-impedance
output that does not affect the data bus. In
response to an IN 0 command, the data will
yield 254 if D0 is at logic level low, and 255 if
D0 is at high impedance.

The LED is connected to the counter line
for eighth notes. This gives a short flash
every quarter note.

The nine-voice PSG music board draws
about 250 mA at 5 VDC. This can be con-
veniently obtained from an AC Adaptor
such as the Radio Shack Cat. No. 270-1551,
300 mA at 9 VDC, plugged into the voltage
regulating circuit shown on the schematic
of Fig. 4. If you expand the music board to
15 voices, or five PSGs, the power supply
will have to be larger because each PSG
chip draws 45-75 mA. Expanding the music
board to 15 voices is straightforward; it in-
volve connecting the unused outputs of Z9
to A8 of each PSG: D4 for right-center and
d5 for left-center PSG, and employing a five
to two stereo mixer such as that shown in
Fig. 5. Encoding of 15 voices will require
more RAM. A 48K TRS-80 will accommodate
a 5-10 minute multi-part musical score,
played at average tempo.

The parts list is given in Fig. 6. The fin-
ished nine-voice PSG music board is shown
in Photo 1, wire wrapped on a Vector board.

Metronome Limitations

If you use the metronome to count only the
shortest time intervals necessary for a
particular selection, say 64th notes, the
considerations below do not apply. However,
if you use the metronome to count all the notes of a selection, some
limitations apply: you must break certain
sequences of notes down into proper ele-
ments to assure correct counting.

Fig. 7 is a partial timing diagram showing
how the different note-duration outputs are
available from the metronome simultane-
ously. The diagram applies to the 74LS93
binary counters used in the metronome's
construction. The metronome always
counts between transitions, either positive
or negative. For example, if you start on the
plateau of a quarter note followed by an
eight note, time proceeds along the
quarter note plateau until the first transition
is encountered; then the metronome jumps
to the output labeled eighth note and pro-
cedes along this plateau until the next transi-
ション. For any transition, the IN 0 value will
not be equal to 255, so that software can
load the next series of specifications.

Certain note sequences must be pro-
grammed in time units that the metronome
can handle without error. Fig. 8 shows two
examples. In general, if a short, syncopated
note precedes a longer note, you must
break up the longer note into shorter tied
notes. In actual programming this rarely oc-
curs; moreover, the reverse—longer note
followed by much shorter notes—gives no
problem.

You should synchronize the metronome
with the longest note possible, by output-
ing a whole note rest before the musical
selection begins. This will assure that all
note outputs are initially at a low logic level,
and that the metronome will begin counting
on the downbeat.

Testing and Programming

After performing continuity tests and in-
serting the ICs, you can obtain some
sounds from the music board. The easiest
approach is to enter from the keyboard a
series of OUT 0, OUT 1 and OUT 2 state-
ments for the control word, PSG register ad-
dress and PSG data respectively, as shown
in the example of Fig. 9. Before any sounds
      can be produced, you must enter certain
presets, such as those in lines 1-3. After a
note is specified, as in lines 4 and 5, the
envelope must be triggered by addressing
PSG register 13, envelope shape/cycle.

Since line 3 selected envelope control, a
note will not be struck unless PSG register

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"These specifications are sufficient to encode a multi-part score..."

13 is addressed. In line 13, three simultaneous notes can be triggered this way.
The simple example above makes no use of the metronome, since no software was
employed to analyze the metronome code or to sample IN 0, the metronome status port. Shortly, I will discuss a PLAYBK driver which will accept a three-dimensional array similar to the one shown on Fig. 9, but with several simplifications. The following points summarize the requirements for a three-dimensional integer array $A(X,Y,Z)$:
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“Only the shortest time intervals are encoded explicitly...”

- The three dimensions are assigned as follows: \( A%\{0\} = \) control word; \( A%\{1\} = \) PSG register address; and \( A%\{2\} = \) PSG data.
- \( A%\{0\} \) contains the number of notes to be played. \( A%\{1\} \) and \( A%\{2\} \) are unnecessary although they may be used for identification.
- The PLAYBK driver automatically performs double loads to the tone-generating PSG registers. Only the MSB registers 1, 3 or 5 need to be addressed via \( A%\{1\} \); the corresponding \( A%\{2\} \) should contain the entire code for the desired note frequency.
- The driver automatically triggers PSG register 13, envelope shape/cycle, whenever a note is to be output (registers 1, 3 or 5) or whenever PSG register 6, noise period, is loaded.

The driver does not execute any data sent to PSG register 13, envelope shape/cycle, but stores them in a lookup table. The most current values in the table trigger notes and noise automatically.
- You enter the score from left to right, in a “parallel” fashion, similar to the way a keyboardist would play a score.
- The first of simultaneous notes requires a metronome code that reflects the shortest of the simultaneous notes. The other notes, including the shortest ones, use 000 for the code. Thus only the shortest time intervals are encoded explicitly; the longer notes will sustain automatically until reloaded.
- You can obtain tied notes by temporarily outputting an appropriately different envelope period, and reloading the usual envelope period afterwards.
- You can obtain rests by turning off a particular channel: temporarily load its amplitude register with 0000, and then reload it with the usual value afterwards.

These specifications are sufficient to encode a complicated multi-part score, but it is a time consuming task for anything but short selections.

**Software**

Program Listing 1 shows a short Basic calling program and two machine-language drivers, PLAYBK and RNDM, encoded in Data statements. The Basic program transmits two variables to the USR subroutines: a flag to prevent reinitializing certain values, and VARPTR of \( A%\{0\} \), the first member of the three-dimensional integer array containing the notes. The PLAYBK driver also needs the value of \( A%\{0\} \), the actual number of notes, so it is defined in line 840 of Listing 1. Initializing certain variables in line 70 prevents the array from being dynamically relocated by the Basic interpreter after the first loop through the program, and may be omitted.

Program Listing 2 is an EDTASM source file for the PLAYBK driver. It accepts the three-dimensional array from Basic and sends the proper sequence of PSG addresses and data to the output ports, as well as reads the metronome status via an input port, as specified in Fig. 2.

At top of PLAYBK is a data table with 12 entries. Five of these are envelope shape/cycle specifications for PSG register 13. These are output automatically after notes or noise, because they trigger the envelopes. Data table entries K2, K4 and Notes are calculated array parameters. Program lines 350–510 perform these calculations.
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The wait loop prevents the output until the metronome status indicates that previous note has ended.
"The random number generator may crash if too many values are rejected in a repeating loop."

Current control word is stored under CWORD. The program uses it to enable the proper PSGs, after current note duration (CND), also stored in the table, is appended to the control word. The CND is the three bit metronome code, as listed in Fig. 3, that is automatically appended for any simultaneous notes that have been encoded using

16th NOTE

EIGHTH NOTE

QUARTER NOTE

HALF NOTE

Fig. 7. Timing diagram for metronome based on 74LS93 binary counters. Only four of the eight available outputs are shown.

 WILL BE DECODED AS:    USE:  

 WILL BE DECODED AS:    USE:

Fig. 8. Examples of note sequences that must be encoded in smaller time units

---

** Program Listing 3 **

```
00300 \ $\$ \ $$ ** DEMO **
00310 \ \ ROUTINE TO GENERATE RANDOM SOUNDS WITH DIGITAL MASKING.
00320 \ \ (MARK RODINO, 6/16/81)
00330 E280 \ \ \ ORG #2000H; 157565 OR -7688
D2FF \ \ \ D2FF D2FEH; CONTROL WORD STORAGE
D2FF \ \ \ D2FF D2FEH; ADDRESS OF A(0,0)
D2FF \ \ \ D2FF D2FEH; ADDRESS OF A(0,1)
D2FF \ \ \ D2FF D2FEH; ADDRESS OF A(0,2)
D2FE \ \ \ D2FE D2FFH; MAXIMUM NUMBER OF NOTES
00360 E280 \ \ \ OUT (4),A; 1RESET DISK
E280 \ \ \ 3A9F9F; TEST FLAG = 8
E280 \ \ \ 0220; IF FIRST TIME THROUGH
D280 \ \ \ D28 FH\ FORM R0 REFRESH REGISTER
E280 \ \ \ 23F; LS\ ENTER INITIAL SEED FOR RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR
E280 \ \ \ 0200; LD \ [IF],A; TO R0 SEED
E280 \ \ \ 7700; LD \ [IF],A; SBR
E280 \ \ \ 0290; LD \ A,R; ANOTHER NUMBER
E280 \ \ \ 0280; LD \ (IY)+1,A; MSB
E280 \ \ \ 0210; CALL CALCLULATE PARAMETERS FOR TABLE
E280 \ \ \ 0320; LD \ IX,(KLSH); ADDRESS OF A(0,0)
E280 \ \ \ 0330; LD \ L,(IX-2); GET DEPTH OF 1ST DIMENSION
E280 \ \ \ 0340; LD \ H,(IX-1); FROM E-2 OF VARPTR
E280 \ \ \ 0350; LD \ IX,HL; ADDRESS OF A(0,1)
E280 \ \ \ 0360; LD \ IX,HL; ADDRESS OF A(0,2)
E280 \ \ \ 0370; DEC BC; ADDRESS OF A(IX-1,0)
E280 \ \ \ 0380; CALL CALCULATE NO. OF NOTES
E280 \ \ \ 0390; DEC\ CALCULATE NO. OF NOTES
E280 \ \ \ 03A0; DEC\ OF FIRST DIMENSION
E280 \ \ \ 03B0; CALL SAVE IN DATA TABLE
E280 \ \ \ 03C0; CALL LOAD A(0,0) WITH MAX. NOTES
E280 \ \ \ 03D0; CALL PLAIN ROUTINE
E280 \ \ \ 03E0; CALL K2
E280 \ \ \ 03F0; CALL K2
E280 \ \ \ 0400; CALL K2
E280 \ \ \ 0410; CALL K2
E280 \ \ \ 0420; CALL K2
E280 \ \ \ 0430; CALL K2
E280 \ \ \ 0440; CALL K2
E280 \ \ \ 0450; CALL K2
E280 \ \ \ 0460; CALL K2
E280 \ \ \ 0470; CALL K2
```

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000. Program lines 580–600 test for the presence of the 000 metronome code. If found, lines 690–700 append the CND to the control word and output it in line 710. Thus, the metronome is repeatedly loaded with the note duration given for the first of several simultaneous notes, even though different PSGs receive the simultaneous notes.

If the next note duration is not Static, code 000, the wait loop in lines 640–660 prevents the output until the metronome status indicates that previous note has ended. Once the control word with proper CND is output, the enabled PSGs are ready to receive the next two specifications: PSG address and PSG data, encoded in array members A(%N,1) and A(%N,2) respectively.

Lines 790–840 test for addresses to PSG registers 1, 3, or 5. These registers contain the most significant four bits of tone period, but the corresponding array member for PSG data will contain the entire 12-bit value that has to be separated into LSB-MSB and output to the double PSG tone period registers. A branch to Double accomplishes the double loads. Subroutine Trigg at line 1540 triggers the tones by looking up the most recent envelopes in the data table and then outputting them to PSG register 13 of the proper PSG.

Line 860 tests for an address to PSG register 13, envelope shape cycle. Any entries to this register are not output immediately but stored in the data table by a branch to ESC; line 1260. Finally, line 890 outputs any remaining PSG addresses, including registers 0, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11. If PSG register 6 was output, as tested in line 930, subroutine Trigg is called, because a proper envelope shape has to be output whenever register 6, noise period, is addressed. Thus, noise period registers are treated like tone period registers. Line 980 outputs the actual PSG data, stored in array A(%N,2), to any selected PSG register except 1, 3, 5, 6 or 13.

Lines 1010–1070 advance array pointers and test whether all notes have been played. If so, line 1080 returns to the Basic calling program.

Program Listing 3 is the random note array generating routine, or RNDM. It creates a three-dimensional integer array. At the top of the listing is a data table that is shared with PLAYBK. First time through, the routine calculates array parameters K2, K4 and Notes. In this case, Notes is the maximum number possible after dimensioning the array in the Basic program. Lines 260–300 enter a seed for the random
number generator RAND by reading the Z80 refresh register R.

After the first time through, the entry point to the RNDM program is at line 550. The Z80 register pair DE serves as an array index times two, since an integer array member occupies two bytes of RAM, and is initialized to a value that accommodates the initial settings entered via Data statements in Basic. Eight such presets were entered into the array in Listing 1, lines 1160–1230. The RNDM routine builds the three-dimensional array starting with the array index N = 9. In line 610 of Listing 3, a call to RAND produces the first random control word that is immediately entered into the array as $A(N,0)$. In line 650, a call is made to RAND to obtain a PSG register address. After rejecting non-applicable registers, the random array member $A(N,1)$ in line 770.

Logically it would follow that a third call to RAND would give the PSG data, array member $A(N,2)$. Unfortunately, such purely random data do not sound pleasant. The rest of the program performs “software filtering” to limit the randomness of some of the entries, and thereby make the output more pleasing acoustically. You can experiment with additional filtering, bearing in mind that the random number generator may crash if too many values are rejected in

Control word  | PSG Address  | PSG Data | Action
--- | --- | --- | ---
1. 11111000 = 248 | 7 | 111000 = 56 | Enable tones on all PSGs.
2. 11111000 = 248 | 12 | 01010000 = 80 | Envelope Coarse = 80, about 0.4 Hz.
3. 11111000 = 248 | 8 | 100000 = 16 | Chan. A volume is envelope-controlled.
4. 10000000 = 128 | 1 | 1 | C4, MSB, from Left PSG.
5. 10000000 = 128 | 0 | 172 (dec) | C4, LSB.
6. 10000000 = 128 | 13 | 0000 | Envelope ShapeCycle: long decay.
7. 01000000 = 64 | 1 | 1 | E4, MSB, from Right PSG.
8. 01000000 = 64 | 0 | 63 (dec) | E4, LSB.
9. 01000000 = 64 | 13 | 0000 | Trigger the envelope.
10. 00000000 = 8 | 1 | 1 | G4, MSB, from Center PSG.
11. 00000000 = 8 | 0 | 29 (dec) | G4, LSB.
12. 00000000 = 8 | 13 | 0000 | Trigger.
13. 11111000 = 248 | 13 | 0000 | Retrigger the three notes.

Fig. 9. Sequence of OUT statements needed to play three notes and a C maj chord

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Program Listing 3 Continued

E108 CDIPE3 01540 OUTPUT CALL RAND ; FOR PSG REG. 11 OR 12  
E109 DD7Q8 01550 OUTI LD (1X),A ; ENTER A[1:2] INTO ARRAY  
E10A DD1E-E340 01560 LD (1X+1),B ; SETTING MSG=8  
E10B 18Q6 01570 JR RETURN  
E10C DD7Q8 01580 OUT12 LD (1X),L  
E10D DD7Q8 01590 LD (1X+1),A ; ENTER TWO BYTES INTO ARRAY  
E10E DD1E-L3 01600 RETURN INC DE ; ADVANCE ARRAY POINTER  
E10F L3 01610 INC DE ; BY TWO  
E110 2A6EF 01620 LD HL,(NOTES)  
E111 29 01630 ADD HL,HL  
E112 A6 01640 XOR A ; CLEAR CARRY  
E113 ED52 01650 SBC HL,DE ; END OF ARRAY?  
E114 C24AE2 01660 JP H,LOOP ; BACK TO BASIC  
E115 C9 01670 RET ; SUBROUTINE TO GENERATE A 16-BIT RANDOM NUMBER  
E116 B690 01680 FTP S ; PREVIOUS SEED  
E117 2A33E3 01780 RAND LD HL,(SEED) ; GETT PREVIOUS SEED  
E118 06F8 01790 LD B,15  
E119 2F 017A0 ADD HL,HL  
E120 2C 017B0 LD A,B  
E121 7C 017C0 LD A,R  
E122 17 017D0 LD R,A  
E123 AC 017E0 XOR 2B  
E124 FA2A33 017F0 JP A,AB  
E125 77 01800 INC L  
E126 186F 01810 LD R,A  
E127 1F 01820 AND N  
E128 2233E3 01830 LD (SEED),HL  
E129 7C 01840 LD A,B  
E130 1810 01850 RET ; FOR CONVENIENCE, PASS  
E131 C9 01860 RET ; ALSO IN A,SEED  
E132 1820 01870 RET ; FOR RANDOM NUMBERS  
E133 9E 01880 TOTAL ERRORS  
E134 1830 01890  

Source code listings 2 and 3 will assemble with two "Field overflow" errors using Radio Shack's Editor/Assembler. This is due to a design flaw in the Editor/Assembler and not in the source code. The object code, however, will be written correctly.

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Of the memorable systems that were built and programmed in the 60s and 70s the three discussed below were somewhat astounding in their design as well as the sounds they produced.

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In the 70s Dr. Harold Alles of Bell Labs designed a fully digital synthesizer based on microprogrammed architecture doing sine-wave additive synthesis. It incorporated an LSI-11 minicomputer and scores of analog input devices, which were processed by the LSI-11.

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ance system with two rank digitally scanned music keyboards, a CRT display, alpha-numeric keyboard, 72 studio quality slide pots, several joysticks, and two eight-inch floppy disks. The synthesizer section contained 32 F.M. sine-wave oscillators with 0.02 Hz. resolution, 32 F.M. oscillators capable of generating harmonics up to the 127th partial, second order (two-pole) digital filters, 32 four quadrant multipliers (digital), two seconds of digital reverb, four channels of 16-bit D/A converter output, two 14-bit A/D inputs, and 255 timers with 16 of their own filos for holding and shuffling timing events.

The sample rate of the system is 30 kHz. The system creates music by specifying various aspects of the piece from input controller data as well as from files of algorithmically generated music. The device is capable of real-time performance, but with a slight degradation in throughput, as opposed to preparing performance control information in advance, which resulted in a substantial savings in throughput power.

The Fairlight CMI

The latest comer to the computer music world, and probably the first practical digital synthesizer, the CMI took a totally new approach for control than had any other machine before it. Designed and built by a couple of Australians named Peter Vogel and Kim Ryroy and costing a mere $35,000, this musical instrument won the favor of many rock stars. I had the great fortune of harboring one for about 18 months or so in exchange for some technical support and paper presentations at various conferences.

The Fairlight produced sounds in two distinctive ways; reverse FFT, and the sampling of real sounds for playback and manipulation.

There were also many ways in which to input control information into the instrument including: a light pen for drawing arbitrary waves or splicing/editing waveforms, pots or footpads, music keyboards (up to eight in all), and an ASCII keyboard for algorithmic control from a composition language.

The most characteristic sound possible and which eventually became the trademark was the sampled sound called “LO-STRING.” This was taken from a tape recording of the London Philharmonic Orchestra string section all playing the same note simultaneously! The effect was astounding. By playing one note on the keyboard you could sound like the entire orchestra string section all by yourself. (This presented some interesting legal questions.)

As far as additive synthesis is concerned, one could create individual harmonic envelopes for each of 32 harmonics out of a palette of 128, with scaling and temporal adjustment. The effect was usually unpredictable since there was not enough fine control to recreate all the spontaneous harmonic envelopes involved in the very important attack portion of the wave. Also, it is quite difficult to specify this information from just a list of line segment or Fourier spectrum analysis datum. Nevertheless, I enjoyed the CMI and learned a great deal from it. It had two eight-inch floppy disks and was a general purpose multi-tasking computer as well.

The sequencer and composer language together provided a very flexible environment to create musical scores and just plain jam. I could write for...Next loops, play the notes into the composer and the program would score on the screen as I played. The composer did not retain the timing information, but that could be hand typed on the ASCII keyboard later on. By playing in the general pitch and then making loops and dynamic constructs, one could create almost impossible sequences that would play tirelessly and perform nested permutations while you just sat back and listened in awe!

One more thing about the composer and sequencer: You could convert composer files into sequencer files so they could be used as bass lines or drum kits or repeating chorus backgrounds for live, fully expressed and recorded sequences. The backgrounds could be overdubbed or merged with the new tracks as in a multi-track tape recorder.

Another neat feature is the ability to draw arbitrary waveforms into a graphic “page” using the light-pen for different manipulations. You can merge, mix, rotate and redraw waveforms and display them in two-dimensional or pseudo-three-dimensional form on the CRT. We also merged human voice samples with real musical instruments forming totally new synthetic sounds.

The Fairlight CMI made use of very good ergodynamics (human engineering) to interface the user with this vastly complex device. It has inspired many new instruments.

Fundamentals of Digital Synthesis

All digital synthesis involves sampling. If sound is to be output from a computer, it must first be converted from numbers to analog voltages. An analog waveform may be broken up into many discrete levels and then stored as a long string of numbers. The waveform may be created entirely from a mathematical function or be digitized from a real sound in the outside world. However it is created, it must eventually be converted by a digital to analog converter. In most cases, a D/A converter is essentially a resistor ladder fed by a current source with each leg of the ladder having one of the “N” bits tied to its input. When a number is fed to the inputs of the resistor network, the current is summed according to the binary weighting of the individual resistors, usually the reciprocal of powers of two. D/A converters are very important in digital synthesis and are always a prime consideration in determining the quality of a digital synthesizer.

Look for the following qualities in D/A converters: the number of bits (determines the dynamic range = N bits x 6 dB), speed or settling time (governs the highest frequency that can be sampled), and linearity (contributes to the accuracy of the reproduced waveform).

Synthesis is accomplished when waveform samples are output to the D/A converter at twice the highest synthesis frequency. The sample rate must be at least two times the highest frequency in order to avoid alias or foldover frequencies. This foldover is called the Nyquist frequency.

Examples of the Nyquist theorem can be found in western movies. When a western wagon rolls across the screen, the wheels seem to be revolving backward. This is due to the rotation frequency of the wheels being faster than the frequency of the camera shutter sample rate. The movie film (sample converter) is not receiving enough samples per second to accurately reproduce the rapidly moving (repeating wave) wheel. The result is an image whose camera frequency is a sub-multiple of the original wagon wheel. The formula for predicting foldover is:

\[ f_s = \frac{S_A - A_f}{A_f} \]

Where:
- \( f_s \) = sample rate
- \( S_A \) = alias frequency
- \( A_f \) = frequency to sample

Generally, sound is synthesized by computing waveform tables with several different waveforms in their own memory areas. The main program starts outputting samples to the D/A converter at a rate conforming to the above rules. In most cases, however, the converter is limited by the cycle-
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time of the microprocessor software. The resulting output is deglitched by a sample and hold circuit and then low-pass filtered to prevent some of the higher alias frequencies from being heard.

If you want to change voices or possibly mix a few on their way out, simply pick samples from the different wavetables and "accumulate" or sum them up just before they are output to the D/A converter. This is limited by the sample-rate as usual. The number of simultaneous voices possible is usually proportional to the sample rate.

To make real music, form a ‘playlist’ (a la computer graphics ‘displaylist’) consisting of pitch and duration specifications for the various voices. Frequency is changed by taking the pitch or note number and using it as an increment into the continuous waveform table. The table, which is thought of as being circular, causes it to produce a lesser or greater cycle time.

A more scientific way to visualize this process is plotting the entire waveform on graph paper. Using one square as the unit of one half the sampling rate, you can hop through the table picking out every sample ending with the lowest frequency of that waveform on our new plot. If you take every other sample (two squares at a time) and replot them on a different sheet, you will see a waveform twice the frequency of the first, and so on. The larger the increment, the higher the frequency. In essence, you are going from one end of the table to the other in fewer samples, resulting in a waveform whose phase crosses zero more frequently (assuming that the sample rate is fixed). Try it on paper, or on your computer screen.

Waveforms have to come from somewhere. In the above example they usually come from a method known as Fourier Analysis. Named after the French mathematician, this technique is widely used in analysis of periodic phenomena of all types — from visual spectral, to vibration, to chromatography, to audio analysis. The latter is responsible for much of the work done in digital synthesis.

Simply, the FFT (Fast Fourier Transform) breaks a complex wave consisting of many harmonics or partials into its component parts. This process is accomplished by higher mathematics and the analog to digital conversion of the source signal in question. The computer uses an analog to digital converter to fill up a table in memory consisting of the sound waveform, say a clarinet net for instance (Computer Music Journal Vol. 1, #1, James A. Moore). A certain number of samples are taken as some multiple of the sample rate divided by the amount and bit size of the memory buffer available. The algorithm extracts periodic wave patterns representing the individual harmonics and builds a table of harmonic strengths for as many harmonics as the algorithm is designed for. This resulting information, sometimes called "Power Spectrum," is used to reconstruct the original source waveform, usually with less harmonic content than is found in the original waveform. This time-consuming process is not done in real time.

The results of the FFT are valuable in providing compressed forms of real waveforms and also resynthesizing or creating new instruments using the process in reverse. Harmonics can be resummed and the complex wave may be resynthesized by specifying the harmonic number and its power (usually some kind of amplitude envelope for the harmonic).

A great deal of data is required for synthesis. To derive the important and useful coefficients to drive a Fourier synthesizer to create a horn-type sound, a data base must be built describing the horn within the limitations of the synthesis hardware and performance control. If you attempt to manipulate the dynamics of the synthesis process, you must create waveforms which sound sensible when manipulated.

**Analog Synthesis Under Computer Control**

The concept of controlling an analog synthesizer originated at Bell Labs in the 1960s. Dr. Max Matthews was responsible for developing some of the early software and hardware.

In principle, a voltage-controlled device such as an oscillator or filter would have one or more of its parameters swept by a varying voltage, whose function would be
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F10-55............... $1750

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It is the stated goal of CLEVELAND ELECTRONICS to sell TRS-80 computers and peripherals at the lowest prices in the WORLD. We ask that you call other dealers, check your local Radio Shack store and mail order houses and then call us LAST (Toll Free, of course). We think that you will be pleasantly surprised.

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TRS-80 MODEL III IN STOCK

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WORD PROCESSING
THE SUPER "COLOR" WRITER II
The Word Processor that re-wrote the book on Word Processing

The Super "Color" Writer is a FAST, machine code, fully featured, character (screen) oriented word processing system for the TRS-80(TM) Color Computer and ANY printer. The video display is styled after a professional phosphor (green characters on black background) display for hours of use without eye fatigue (optional orange on black). The unique print WINDOW tree you from 32, 51 or 64 character lines FOREVER! This window can be moved anywhere in the text file, up, down, left or right to display the text as it is being written. You can create or edit Super "Color" Terminal files, ASCII files, BASIC programs or Editor/Assembler source listings. It's simple enough for beginners with 4K and... for the professional writer with a 32K disk system and a lot to say, there's plenty of room to say it!

Comparision Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System Size</th>
<th>Super Color Writer</th>
<th>The Competition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tape: Text space</td>
<td>4K 16K 32K</td>
<td>4K 16K 32K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disk: Text space</td>
<td>25K 15K 32K</td>
<td>25K 15K 32K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right Justify</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Window</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edit any ASCII file</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figures speak for themselves, and with professional features like PROGRAMMABLE text editing commands to perform up to 25 commands automatically, PROGRAMMABLE text file chaining, PROGRAMMABLE column insert & delete, and right hand JUSTIFICATION with punctuation precedence, the choice is clear but there's still more!

The Super "Color" Writer takes full advantage of the new breed of "smart printers" with Control codes I-31, 20 Programmable control codes 0-255 for special needs and included in Epson MX-80, Centronics 737, 739 and R.S. Line Printer IV, VII, VIII drivers.

CHECK THESE FEATURES!

High Speed & normal operations • 32K/64K Color • Window • Key beep • HELP table • 128 character ASCII & graphics • Memory lock • Lower case • Full cursor control • Quick paging • Scroll • Word wrap around • Tabs • Repeat all functions • Repeat last command • Insert character & line • Delete character, delete to end of line, line to cursor, line & block • Block move, copy & delete • Global search & replace • Merge or Append files • Imbed Control Codes in text • Underline • Subscripts • Headers, Footers & 2 Auxiliary footnotes on odd, even or all pages definable position • Flush right • Non-breakable space • 4 centering modes: 5, 8.3, 10 & 16.7 (CPI) • Full page & full formatting in text • Single sheet page • Set Page length • Line length, Line spacing, Margins, page numbers • Title pages • Printer baud: 110, 300, 600, 1200, 2400 • Linefeeds after CR • Soft & hard formfeed • Works with 8 bit printer fix & more!

SUPER "COLOR" WRITER DISK

The Disk version of the Super "Color" Writer works with the TRS-80 Color Disk System and has all the features listed above plus more! Use it with up to four Disk Drives. Includes an extended HELP table you can access at any time. Call a directory, any file, or any directory from the screen. Also includes Save and Load text files you've created all from the Super "Color" Writer. Print, merge or append any "Super "Color" Terminal" file, ASCII file, BASIC program or Editor/Assembler source listing stored on the Disk of tape. The Super "Color" Writer Disk version has additional formatting and print features for more control over your printer and PROGRAMMABLE chaining of disk files for "hands off" operation. Print an entire BOOK without ever touching a thing!

Includes comprehensive operators manual.

TAPE $49.95
ROM PAK $74.95
DISK $99.95

Manual only. $7.00 Refundable with purchase.

Allow 2 extra weeks for personal checks. O.D. orders add $2.00. When ordering specify computer type and add $2.00 for S.H. Min. residents add 5% sales tax. VISA/MasterCard.

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TRS-80 is a registered trademark of the Tandy Corp.

COMMUNICATIONS
THE SUPER "COLOR" TERMINAL

Time Share, Smart Terminal, High-speed Data Xfer & Videotex

The Super "Color" Terminal turns the Color Computer into a Super-smart terminal with all the features of VIDEOTEX(TM) plus much more. COMMUNICATE with Dow Jones & Compuserve and with computers like the TRS-80(TM) MODEL I, II, III, APPLE etc., via modem or RS-323 direct! Save the data to tape or print it! Reduces ON—LINE cost to a minimum!

Features

10 buffer sizes settings from 2-32K • Buffer full indicator • Lprint buffer contents • Full 128 ASCII keyboard • Colorful interface • Programmable in BASIC • Upload & download files • Program Language and Basic programs • Set RS-232 parameters • Duplex: Half.Full • Baud Rate: 110, 300, 600, 1200, 2400, 4800 • Word Lengths 5, 6, 7, 8 • Parity: Odd, Even or None • Stop Bits: 1-9 • Local line feeds to screen • Tape save & load for ASCII files, Machine code & Basic programs • Unique clone feature for copying any tape.

Super "Color" Terminal Disk

The Disk version offers all the features listed above plus Host ability in full duplex • Lower case masking • 10 Keystroke Multiple (MACRO) buffers on disk to perform repetitive log-on tasks and send short messages (up to 255 bytes) • Programmable prompts for send next line • Selectable character trapping • Select printer line length • Punctuation & Linefeed with Ctrl option • Printer Baud: 110, 300, 600, 1200 & 2400 • Documentation.

TAPE $39.95
ROM PAK $49.95
DISK $69.95

Documentation only. $4.00 Refundable with purchase.

16K RAM KIT $15.99
PREMIUM 16K 200 Ns Ram for TRS-80 Color Computer. Includes ram test instructions and a ONE YEAR GUARANTEE. 32K upgrade instructions FREE! (32K requires soldering)

ROMPAK KITS

Put your programs in a ROMPAK or execute tape based programs in a RAMPAK at $COOO. Kit includes 1 socketted P.C. board that holds up to 4, 2716 EPROMS or 4, 2K Static Ram Chips for a total of 8K and a plastic housing to fit the rom port. $24.95

2716 2K 5V EPROM $5.95 ea.
2K Static RAM $19.95 ea.

COLOR GAMES!!

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Includes 16K Extended Basic. TAPE $24.95
This TRILOGY OF 3-D FANTASY GAMES takes you to the WORLD UNDER THE CIMEEOON MOON. Engage in ritual combat with Toaomao and the Nartohk Monster and skilled warriors. Advance in rank with play experience. Then adventure through DAZMAR'S UNDERWORLD OF DOOM to the forbidden ruins of Castle Argaan. Search for the Eye of Dazmar while avoiding the sorcerer's intricate traps. Survivors must then negotiate the perilous peaks of the Ugrek Mountains to the FORSAKEN GULCH where the wicked idol awaits restoration.

EGGAS 5-PACK
Includes 16K Extended Basic. TAPE $19.95
The THRILLS OF A VEGAS CASINO at home. Five action packed VEGAS games for up to four players: CASINO CRAPS, SLOTS, KENO, BANK (any number of players' winnings from the previous game games: cards • regulation • tiles • boards • authentic sound • lively graphics • official rules in each game.

COMBAT 3-PACK
Includes 16K Extended Basic. TAPE $24.95
Three action packed two player games featuring life-like graphics and sound of LASER FIRE. CANNONS and PHOTON TORPEDOS.

1-2-1 TANK COMBAT
Three terrains • The experienced arcade player can design combat scenarios. STELLAR BATTLE pilot a Flex-Wing Fighter at incredible speeds in enemy space taking out Dorian Tye Fighters defending the Imperial Star Fortress. GALACTIC BLOCKADE maneuver your craft in a course that boxes your opponent but avoid cosmic debris and hostile space probes!

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Nelson Software Systems

128
controlled by the computer (usually through the use of a D/A converter). By connecting
conventional control devices (keyboards, pots, joysticks and so on) and using an A/D
converter to sample the input devices, a real-time performance can be achieved.

Today most of the circuitry for implement-
ing these voltage-controlled modules
can be found on monolithic integrated cir-
cuits for a fraction of their original module
cost. A few manufacturers make microcom-
puter-oriented subsystems using this tech-
nique. One makes a complete system with
one generation, filtering and performance
system.

Some of the possibilities with analog con-
trol are:
- Algorithmic generation of musical
  scores
- Computed timbre control
- Complex sequence generation and
  storage
- Algorithmic processing of human con-
trol input

This is all possible due to the fact that an-
alog sound generation does not require pro-
cessor time to create the basic sound. A
short Basic or assembler program may be
executed within the time that a Vco/D/A
must be updated. The necessary D/A con-
verter is usually not of the high-speed type
but should be at least 12 bits wide to allow
small increments in frequency. The Vco
usually has a very wide range of voltage to
frequency control. The same is true of VCFs
and VCA s as well.

Sound Generators

Although sound generators are listed in
the resource table, they are not considered
seriously for music synthesis purposes.
They range from such things as the General
Instruments YS-8910 to Texas Instruments
hybrid chips.

The basic principle of the 8910 is the use
of frequency and amplitude control regis-
ters which are written into and whose val-
ues are continually used to produce sound
without further processor intervention. The
amplitude values are used as crude scaling
(15 different levels) for square waves which
are not musically precise throughout their
entire range (Uneven Temperament). There
is also a set of noise generators on chip.
The chip is fun, but it usually finds its way
into pinball machines and arcade video
games.
The hybrid type TI-76477 and family con-
tains voltage-controlled oscillators on chip
with limited wave-shape output. There are a
few bits of digital input control, but only for
selected different modes and patches. For
example, you can route the oscillator to a
VCA, mix noise with oscillators, and so on
—not very flexible for creating music, just
noise or sound effects for games.

With significant advances in hardware
for digital synthesis abounding, we are left
the job of creating software.

Since the techniques above require a lot
of time to execute as well as a lot of mem-
ory and good converters, we haven't seen
practical instruments based on these
methods. Some of the products available,
however, come pretty close for the money.
I am surprised at the level of software so-
phistication that is reached by the personal
computer music industry. I am also im-
pressed by the untapped capabilities of
these systems.

One should not judge small-computer
music systems by their stand-alone merit
as a performing do-everything musical in-
strument. There should definitely be more
accent on the experimenter system and the
small researcher (this could be you or me) in
his or her attic or basement. We are the
ones that work out most of the problems
and do most of the experimentation. We will

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BYTE, Dec. 1981, pg. 304

"After trying out...(the competition) I found myself using PASCAL 80 ex-
clusively." Creative Computing, Nov. 1981, pg. 96

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Monitor, editor, and com-
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same time, avoiding time
consuming and annoying
disk access and disk
switching. Yet, it uses
standard PASCAL syn-
tax and leaves 23K of
work space in 48K
(32K at run time).

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curacy and requires a 48K
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drive. It comes in a binder
with easy and complete
user instructions for $99.
Add $2 shipping and
handling per order and
specify Model I or
Model III.

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Denville, NJ 07834

(PASCAL 80 does not implement variant records, pointer and window variables,
or functions and procedures used as parameters.)

See List of Advertisers on page 354

90 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 135

—255—
"There is great amount of research being funded by the Department of Defense, . . . a heavy user of powerful signal-processing integrated circuits."

be the ones to write about it, or feed it back to the manufacturers.

Computers in the Arts

There are presently two festivals that I know of to date that deal directly with computer music and related technology. The Symposium on Small Computers in the Arts (Box 1954, Philadelphia, PA 19105) is sponsored by the Philadelphia Area Computer Society and the Philadelphia Chapter of the IEEE Computer Society. This festival combines computer graphics and computer music tutorials as well as demonstrations of equipment, sale of books, periodicals and hardware for both areas.

The International Computer Music Conference is held at a different world-wide site each year. This is the academic community’s gathering of minds. The conference has a patron publication, the Computer Music Journal (28 Carlton St., Cambridge, MA 02142), which is highly esteemed in the field and published by the MIT press. In addition, there are always the personal computer fairs such as the Trenton Computer Festival and the West Coast Computer Fair.

The Future of Computer Music

The computer music industry can only grow as fast as the demand for these virtually limitless instruments. There is a great amount of research being funded by the Department of Defense, a heavy user of powerful signal-processing integrated circuits. The U.S. Navy has been funding research to IBM and others for the development of VHSIC (very high-speed integrated circuits). There is a good chance that a general purpose Fourier transformer capable of audio bandwidth generation of dozens of simultaneous complex waveforms on a single VLSI (very large-scale integration) CMOS chip will be available in the next five years. It will be only a small example of the types of pioneer technology that will find its way into alternative uses.

As for the near future, there is still software to be written for the devices currently available. The possibilities are becoming more and more interesting.

For a list of currently available micro and minicomputer music products compiled by Steve Levine, send an SASE to Janet Fiederio, 80 Microcomputing, 73 Pine St., Peterborough NH 03458.

Steve Levine is a computer systems engineer whose experience ranges from micro and minicomputer design and programming to digital synthesis research and development. Steve has also been co-chairman of the IEEE Symposium on small computers in the arts for the past four years (formerly the Personal Computer Arts Festival).

---

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Gobble up the dots before a ghost gobbles you. Eat a power pill and it is your turn to chase the ghosts.

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Fight off an attack from the savage centipede but keep an eye out for the giant spider, it can appear anytime.

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Get your frog across the busy highway without being flattened. Then cross the river by means of jumping on logs and diving turtles.

ALL GAMES $16.95 each.

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Now my accounting systems run on CP/M as well as TRSDOS.
So they'll work with your micro, no matter which it uses.

I'm Irwin Taranto, and I originally designed my Model II systems to work with TRSDOS, the operating software Radio Shack supplies with the TRS-80.

I designed them extremely carefully, with features other microcomputer accounting systems don't have. Mine all integrate with the general ledger, and, where it helps, they integrate with each other.

My general ledger system gives year-to-year comparisons, in dollars and percentages. It figures budgets and it even has a report generator.

My accounts receivable systems can do sales analysis by product code and figure in salesmen's commissions. They generate mailing lists by customer code or zip code for up to 2000 customers. You can choose either an open item system or a balance forward system which works on a cash or an accrual basis.

My payroll system can handle up to 600 employees in multiple departments, with any state tax routine (we provide them all). It can make any miscellaneous deductions you ask it to — it even does tips and meals.

My inventory control system stores up to 5000 items. It can report by vendor, tell you when you're out of stock or when you need to reorder. It can update price or cost automatically, and integrates fully with my invoicing system.

There's a lot more, too. Over the years, I've had thousands of phone conversations with my customers, working out the bugs and kinks and adding desirable features. Everybody talks about "user-oriented" systems, but because of all these phone calls, it really means something when I say it. These may well be the most thoroughly researched small business accounting programs in the world.

They're also the best supported, at least as far as microcomputer systems go. If you have a problem, just call. If your problem is tough enough, I'll get on the phone myself. There's no charge for phone assistance, ever.

All these calls keep me upgrading my systems constantly. If you own one, you're eligible for a standing offer I've made all along: send me your diskette, and I'll send you the latest upgrade for only $25.

Now I've taken another step. More and more owners are switching over to CP/M software these days. It seems to be where the whole microcomputer industry is heading.

That's fine with me, because I've just converted all these accounting systems, and can sell them for the prices I've listed:

- General Ledger/Cash Journal $299
- Accounts Payable/Purchase Order 349
- Open Items Accounts Receivable/Invoicing 349
- Balance Forward Accounts Receivable 399
- Payroll 299
- with Job Costing Option 399
- Inventory Control 399

For mail-order programs, these prices may seem high. But for serious accounting programs, nothing can touch them.

Michael Tannenbaum, the "80 Accountant" in 80 Microcomputing, just called them "a very impressive product at a very reasonable price."

Our TRS-80 Model I and Model III systems aren't quite as sophisticated. But they're tremendous buys at $99 each ($149 for general ledger).

So call me and take your choice — CP/M or TRSDOS. Same price, same support. My systems are ready and waiting.

Taranto & ASSOCIATES, INC.

121 Paul Drive, San Rafael CA 94903
Outside California, toll free (800) 227-2868. In California, (415) 472-2670.

See List of Advertisers on page 354
A whole new generation of Epson MX printers has just arrived. And while they share the family traits that made Epson famous — like unequalled reliability and ultra-fine printing — they’ve got a lot more of what it takes to be a legend.

For instance, they’ve got a few extra type styles. Sixty-six, to be exact, including italics, a handy subscript and superscript for scientific notation, and enough international symbols to print most Western languages.

What’s more, on the new-generation MX-80, MX-80 F/T and MX-100, you get GRAFTRAX-Plus dot addressable graphics. Standard. So now you can have precision to rival plotters in a reli-able Epson printer. Not to mention true back-space, software printer reset, and programmable form length, horizontal tab and right margin.

All in all, they’ve got the features that make them destined for stardom. But the best part is that beneath this software bonanza beats the
heart of an Epson. So you still get a bidirectional, logical seeking, disposable print head, crisp, clean, correspondence quality printing, and the kind of reliability that has made Epson the best-selling printers in the world.

All of which should come as no surprise, especially when you look at the family tree. After all, Epson invented digital printers almost seventeen years ago for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. We were the first to make printers as reliable as the family stereo. And we introduced the computer world to correspondence quality printing and disposable print heads. And now we’ve given birth to the finest printers for small computers on the market.

What’s next? Wait and see. We’re already expecting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>ORIGINAL MX-80</th>
<th>GRAFTRAX-80*</th>
<th>ORIGINAL MX-100</th>
<th>MX-80</th>
<th>MX-80 FT with GRAFTRAX-Plus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bidirectional printing</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logical seeking function</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disposable print head</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed: 80 CPS</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matrix: 9 x 9</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selectable paper feed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| PAPER HANDLING FUNCTIONS              |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Line spacing to n/216                 |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Programmable form length             | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |
| Programmable horizontal tabs         | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |
| Skip over perforation                |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |

| PRINT MODES AND CHARACTER FONTS      |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| 96 ASCII characters                  | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |
| Italic character font                |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Special international symbols        |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Normal, Emphasized, Double-Strike    | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |
| and Double/Emphasized print modes    |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Subscript/Superscript print mode      |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Underline mode                       |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| 10 CPI                               | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |
| 5 CPI                                | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |
| 17.16 CPI                            | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |
| 8.58 CPI                             | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |

| DOT GRAPHICS MODE                    |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Line drawing graphics                |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Bit image 60 D.P.I.                  | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |
| Bit image 120 D.P.I.                 | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |

| CONTROL FUNCTIONS                    |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Software printer reset               |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Adjustable right margin              |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| True back space                      |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |

| INTERFACES                           |                |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Standard — Centronics-style 8-bit parallel |          |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| Optional — RS-232C current loop w/2K buffer |        |              | X               | X      | X                           |
| RS-232C x-on/x-off w/2K buffer        | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |
| IEEE-488                             | X              | X            | X               | X      | X                           |

* Tandy TRS-80 block graphics only available with GRAFTRAX-80.
Small Computers in the Arts symposium a disappointment.

The Philly Phiasco

by David Gunn
106 Midway
Riverton, NJ

This review is a composer’s comments on the state of the art in computer synthesized music and graphics as presented at the Philadelphia Computer in the Arts Symposium held in November. David Gunn is an accomplished musician and writer whose compositions have been performed across the country.

The IEEE’s Symposium of Small Computers in the Arts in Philadelphia, left me with a feeling of discombobulation. You see, the goal of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) was “to increase the participant’s awareness of the uses of small computers in the arts and to provide a forum for information exchange.” The key word here is “arts.” Apparently, no one connected with the Symposium had a very clear idea of what the word meant in this day and age, so they did what any logical non-artist would do—they checked the dictionary . . . and found “Art: a shortened form of Arthur.”

But their reasoning persisted, Arthur Who? There are several choices:

- Arthur, some legendary British king who yanked a sword out of a rock. (But you don’t need a computer for this kind of work; you need a pair of vise grips!)
- Arthur Murray, a famous dancing fellow. (While this might not seem significant at first, consider: renowned Bell Computer Labs is located in Murray Hill, New Jersey. Coincidence? You be the judge.)
- Chester Arthur, last of the “so what?” U.S. presidents. (Alas, no computer connection here, either.)

This lack of information on the arts must have left them feeling a bit ill at ease . . . but hope springs eternal from the human who’s at home in the computer world. So, on with the show.

First, there was the little matter of my getting in without springing for the $75 entrance fee. With a little creative effort, I had an official-looking press pass.

Inside, things were in a minor state of disarray as last minute logistical considerations switched around available space. Chris Morgan (Editor in Chief of Byte) officially opened the festivities with a keynote address, the theme of which was “never trust a computer you cannot lift.”

The seminars were equally divided between musical applications and graphic applications—or, stuff to hear and stuff to watch. The best of the watching stuff was high-tech computer art from big machines.
...after I had savored 90 minutes of predictable software transcriptions of Bach, Bacharach and the Beatles, the rest of the symposium began to take on a definite charm.

...at a time when I finally threw in the towel and left.

Some weeks later, I had a chance to talk with the folks from New England Digital (designers of the Synclavier II) and asked them why they had not attended the Symposium. They admitted they had been to one a couple of years ago, and found it lacking in direction and substance, and decided it wouldn't be particularly worthwhile attending another one.

If you're interested in the cutting edge of computer applications in the arts, I agree. But hey, if shoes and boats are your bag, then next year's show is for you!
And other factors relating to music generation.

Programming Pitch

Merton L. Davis
3A Palmetto Arms
Camden, SC 29020

Have you ever wished you could hear how a piece of sheet music sounds but lacked skill on a musical instrument? Or even possessing such a skill, have you wished to practice a duet with an exacting partner at the tempo of your choice? With these three requirements: a Model I, Level II 16K computer; a stereo with an auxiliary input; and the ability to read music and type, you can now do so.

This Basic program allows the user to play the entire range of 88 keys on the piano at a chosen tempo. Data statements in Program Listing 1, lines 1–107, load the machine language program that must accompany the Basic driver. The music generator accepts a note read by the Basic driver; interprets it in terms of a vibration period and sends a vibration at that frequency to your stereo speaker.

Basic Program Description

The Basic program reads each note (or rest) and the value of the note (from 1/64th to whole) and the tempo you wish to play it. The data is supplied to the machine language program for tone generation and returned to Basic for the next note. Since a working knowledge of the Basic program is essential, flowcharts are provided in Figs. 2a, 2b, and 2c.

Lines 5–107 contain the data to POKE the machine language into memory. Line 110 saves the memory and does the POKEing. If the checksum is correct in line 115, the program goes to line 340 where you are assured that the machine language is properly entered. Lines 1–15 are then deleted, and the ready signal is given.

Lines 120 and 340 constitute the general Basic driver. All lines beyond line 340 are special for the piece of music you wish to play. I like to save the program through line 340 on tape and then merge from my musical data file the music of my choice.

Line 130 zeroes two flags, G and H, and asks for a tempo AP at which you wish to play the number. The G flag allows reading either the note paired with its value in line 140 or the single note alone. The H flag allows one repeat to the beginning of the piece. When H equals one the program knows it is in a repeat cycle.

The tempo AP is set to a single precision number AT at 1/60th the value of AP. The range of AP values of 1–20 from fastest to slowest is suggested. Any decimal value up to 20 is permissible; subject only to the confines of the value of a 2-byte integer as explained below.

Line 140 reads the music data starting at line 1000. Depending on G, it reads either the note string NT$ paired with B (the note value) or NT$ alone. G is set in the program for passages in which the note value (or B-value) is unchanging. A table of B-values is in Fig. 3. NT$ is a three-character string that identifies one of 88 notes on the piano keyboard. The first character (A–G) defines the note; the second (N, S, or F) indicates a natural, sharp or flat; the third (from zero to seven) tells the octave. The program plays all notes from ANO to CN7.

Line 150 sets RK, an integer product of B and AT. RK is used only to compute the duration of the rests. This computation is detailed when we come to lines 220–240.

Line 155 prevents a string equal to or greater than three from reaching the machine language program. Line 155 is one of three lines that should be deleted after your music data is debugged. Deleting this line results in a good legato effect and the best note versus rest timing relationship. Lines 185 and 235, the other two lines to delete, protect against entering a note in the upper register for too long a duration and against excessively long rest durations.

Line 160 directs the program to line 210 where all cases of NT$ not being a note but an integer from zero to nine are treated. Line 170 finds C, the VARPTR location of NT$, and passes it to the USR location for determining P. P is the vibration period for the particular note.

Line 180 calculates a single precision A that defines the playing duration of the note. A is directly proportional to B and AT and indirectly to the period P. The proportionality constant 1950 assures that even at the lowest period on the keyboard, the first term in the expression to evaluate A will be one. 1.1 is added to assure an A-value of no lower than two. If you ask for a long duration note in the high upper register of the piano keyboard, the A could become greater than 85535 and line 185 stops the program.

Line 190 determines the D-value, the integer passed on to the machine language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Numbers</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–115</td>
<td>Saves memory and loads machine language program. Lines are automatically deleted after first RUN entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120–130</td>
<td>Reads music data and directs to effects other than notes. Sets period P and duration D to play the note. Determines L-value that directs to non-note-playing features and to special effects. Sets rest parameters. Directs program to special effects or to end music. Plays the note or rest. Special effects for “Carmen March”. This part is changed for each particular piece. The music data. Change for each piece.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000–1220</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 1 Basic Program Summary

The Key Box
Basic Level II
Model I
16K RAM

142 • 80 Microcomputing, May 1982
Ever wanted to do things to your TRS-80 that Radio Shack said couldn't be done?
How about upper/lower case, reverse video, high-resolution graphics, a high-speed clock, audible keystrokes, an extra keyboard, and a real-time clock?

Still not enough?
How about using an 8-track as a mass storage device, making music, controlling a synthesizer, monitoring your data bus, and individual reverse characters? All these hardware modifications, plus lots more, are in The Custom TRS-80 and Other Mysteries by Dennis Bathory Kitz - the latest book from JCG Computer Services.

If the thought of using a screwdriver gives you the shivers then you can turn to the software section. In this you learn how to make BASIC programs auto-execute, reset the memory size, patch into the interpreter, test memory with machine-language, pack program lines with machine code, and generate sound effects.

The Custom TRS-80 and Other Mysteries is more than 300 pages of practical information, and tested software, for $29.95. Order your copy now, and start turning your TRS-80 into a five-hundred-dollar supercomputer! Pick one up at your local JCG dealer and B. Dalton bookstores.

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TRS-80 is a Trade Mark of the Tandy Corporation
"It may be deleted but the timing constants suggested in this program may no longer apply."

The program tells it the duration of the note. The program then goes to line 310 where the second USR entry is set and the note is played (line 320) with the period P passed to the machine language.

Line 200 prints out the note and the note value on the video monitor just before it is played. This is especially useful during debugging. It may be deleted but the timing constants suggested in this program may no longer apply. Unlike lines 155, 185, and 235, the rest timing constants were computed with line 200 present.

Line 210 directs the program to line 250 if the value of the one-character note string is other than zero. If it is zero, then a rest is recognized and treated in lines 220–240.

Line 220 sets D equals one which the machine language program recognizes as a rest. Three constants (CK, DK, and EK) are then set for the quadratic equation that computes AD, the rest duration in line 230. It was found that a B-value expressing the duration of a quarter note (for example) is not precise in time for a quarter rest unless AD is determined as a power function of RK (the product of B and AT). Furthermore, be

---

**Fig. 2a**
### TELEWRITER

**the Color Computer Word Processor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51 column x 24 line screen display</td>
<td>Sophisticated full-screen editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real lower case characters</td>
<td>Powerful text formatter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works with any printer</td>
<td>Special MX-80 driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runs in 16K or 32K</td>
<td>Disk &amp; cassette I/O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>requires absolutely no hardware modifications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TELEWRITER**

Telewriter is the powerful word processor designed specifically for the Color Computer. It can handle almost any serious writing job and it is extremely easy to use. It has all the advanced features you need to create, edit, store, format and print any kind of text. With Telewriter you can quickly produce perfect, finished copy for letters, reports, term papers, articles, technical documentation, stories, novels, screenplays, newsletters. It is also a flexible and efficient way to take notes or organize ideas and plans.

#### 51 x 24 DISPLAY

The Color Computer is an incredibly powerful and versatile computer, but for text editing it has some major drawbacks. The small 32 character by 16 line screen format shows you too little of the text and, combined with its lack of lower case letters, bears little resemblance to the way text really looks on the page. Reverse video in place of lower case just adds confusion.

Telewriter eliminates these shortcomings with **no hardware modifications required**. By using software alone, Telewriter creates a new character set that has **real lower case letters**, and puts 24 lines of 51 characters on the screen. That's more on-screen characters than Apple II, Atari or TRS-80 Model III. That's more than double the Color Computer's standard display.

#### FULL SCREEN EDITOR

The Telewriter editor is designed for maximum ease of use. The commands are single key (or single key plus control key), fast, and easy to remember. There is no need to switch between insert modes and delete modes and cursor movement modes. You simply type. What you type is inserted into the text as the cursor, on the screen. What you see on the screen is always the current state of your text. You can move quickly through the text with one key cursor movement in all 4 directions, or press the shift key simultaneously for fast, auto-repeat. You can jump to the top or bottom of the text, the beginning or end of a line, move forward or backward a page at a time, or scroll quickly up or down. When you type past the end of the line, the wordwrap feature moves you cleanly to the next.

... one of the best programs for the Color Computer I have seen...
— Color Computer News, Jan. 1982

You can copy, move or delete any size block of text, search repeatedly for any pattern of characters, then instantly delete it or replace it with another. Telewriter gives you a tab key, tells you how much space you have left in memory, and warns you when the buffer is full.

#### FORMAT FEATURES

When it comes time to print out the finished manuscript, Telewriter lets you specify: left, right, top, and bottom margins; line spacing and lines per page. These parameters can be set before printing or they can be dynamically modified during printing with simple format codes in the text.

... truly a state of the art word processor...
— The RAINBOW, Jan. 1982

Telewriter will automatically number pages (if you want) and automatically center lines. It can chain print any number of text files from cassette or disk without user intervention. You can tell it to start a new page anywhere in the text, pause at the bottom of the page, and set the Baud rate to any value (so you can run your printer at top speed).

You can print all or any part of the text buffer, abort the printing at any point, and there is a "Typewriter" feature which allows you to type straight to your printer. Because Telewriter lets you output numeric control codes directly (either from the menu or during printing), it works with any printer. There's even a special driver for the Epson MX-80 that lets you simply select any of its 12 fonts and do underlining with a single underline character.

#### CASSETTE AND DISK I/O

Because Telewriter makes using cassette almost painless, you can still have a powerful word processor without the major additional cost of a disk. The advanced cassette handler will search in the forward direction till it finds the first valid file, so there's no need to keep retyping a load command when you are lost in your tape. The Verify command checks your cassette saves to make sure they're good. You can save all or any part of the text buffer to disk or cassette and you can append pre-existing files from either medium to what you have in the buffer already.

#### AVAILABLE NOW

Telewriter turns your Color Computer into the lowest cost hi-power word processor in the world today. It runs in 16K or 32K (32K recommended) and is so simple you can be writing with it almost immediately. It comes with 63 pages of documentation and is fully supported by Cognitec. Telewriter costs $49.95 including shipping (California residents add 6% tax). To order, specify disk or cassette and send check or money order to: Cognitec 704 Nob Ave. Del Mar, Ca. 92014 Or call (714) 755-1258 weekdays 7 AM-4PM PST. We will gladly answer your questions.
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"...it was found best to bypass the overhead and return directly to line 140 for the next note."

cause of the sheer overhead of treating rests in the program, two sets of constants had to be determined—one for the cases where RK is greater than or equal to eight (where the overhead is small relative to the AD value) and the second case where the overhead is more (the region of RK values between 4 and 8). When RK values are less than four (a sixteen rest played at an AP tempo of five) it was found best to bypass the overhead and return directly to line 140 for the next note.

The two sets of constants in line 220 were determined experimentally by taping notes having RK values varying from 2-64. By playing back through one side of the stereo and simultaneously playing a note half-value (1-32) plus a rest half value, an AD value could be determined for each RK. The constants of line 220 were then calculated by linear regression. If you wish to make significant changes in the portion of the program that treats rests, or that which treats notes, you may have to redetermine the CK, DK, and EK constants.

Line 230 determines the AD value. Integer arithmetic is used to conserve time as much as possible. The AD value could exceed the value of a 2-byte integer in which case the program is stopped in line 235. If this hap-

---

**Program Listing 1**

1 'MUSIC--A PROGRAM FOR A 16K MODEL I LEVEL II TRS-80
2 'BY M. L. DAVIS
3 '3A PALMETTO ARMS
4 'CAMDEN, S. C. 29020
5 DATA 285,127, 10, 35, 94, 35, 86,235,221, 33
6 DATA 138,124, 1, 40, 8, 17,128, 8,126,254
7 DATA 65,202, 59,124,221, 25,254, 66,202, 59
8 DATA 124,221, 25,254, 67,282, 59,124,221, 25
9 DATA 254, 68,202, 59,124,221, 25,254, 69,202
10 DATA 59,124,221, 25,254, 78,202, 59,124,221
11 DATA 25, 35,126,254, 78,202, 75,124,221, 9
12 DATA 254, 63,202, 75,124,221, 9, 1, 5, 0
13 DATA 35,126,254, 40,282,129,124,221, 9,254
14 DATA 49,202,129,124,221, 9,254, 50,202,129
15 DATA 124,221, 9,254, 51,202,129,124,221, 9
16 DATA 254, 52,282,129,124,221, 9,254, 52,282
17 DATA 129,124,221, 9,254, 54,202,129,124,221
18 DATA 9,221,110, 9,221,110, 3,195,154, 10
19 DATA 65, 78, 48,146, 7, 65, 78, 49,201, 3
20 DATA 65, 78, 50,128, 7, 65, 78, 51,242, 0
21 DATA 65, 78, 52,128, 7, 65, 78, 53, 58, 0
22 DATA 65, 78, 54, 53, 0, 65, 78, 55, 15, 0
23 DATA 65, 83, 48, 37, 7, 65, 83, 49,146, 3
24 DATA 65, 83, 50,201, 7, 65, 83, 51,283, 0
25 DATA 65, 83, 52,114, 7, 65, 83, 53, 57, 0
26 DATA 65, 83, 54, 28, 7, 65, 83, 55, 14, 0
27 DATA 65, 78, 48,147, 7, 65, 78, 49, 29, 0
28 DATA 65, 78, 50,128, 7, 65, 78, 51, 64, 0
29 DATA 65, 78, 52,128, 7, 65, 78, 53, 64, 0
30 DATA 65, 78, 54, 32, 7, 65, 78, 55, 16, 0
31 DATA 65, 78, 48,146, 7, 66, 78, 49, 95, 3
32 DATA 65, 78, 50,127, 7, 66, 78, 51,125, 0
33 DATA 65, 78, 52,127, 7, 66, 78, 53, 53, 0
34 DATA 65, 78, 54, 26, 7, 66, 78, 55, 13, 0
35 DATA 65, 83, 48, 94, 7, 66, 83, 49, 47, 3
36 DATA 65, 83, 50,151, 7, 66, 83, 51,203, 0
37 DATA 65, 83, 52,101, 7, 66, 83, 53, 50, 0
38 DATA 65, 83, 54, 25, 7, 66, 83, 55, 12, 0
39 DATA 65, 78, 48, 37, 7, 67, 78, 49,146, 3
40 DATA 65, 78, 50,128, 7, 67, 78, 51,228, 0
41 DATA 65, 78, 52,114, 7, 67, 78, 53, 57, 0
42 DATA 65, 78, 54, 28, 7, 67, 78, 55, 14, 0
43 DATA 65, 78, 48, 94, 7, 67, 78, 49, 47, 3
44 DATA 65, 78, 50,151, 7, 67, 78, 51,203, 0
45 DATA 65, 78, 52,101, 7, 67, 78, 53, 50, 0
46 DATA 65, 78, 54, 25, 7, 67, 78, 55, 12, 0
47 DATA 65, 83, 48, 2, 7, 67, 83, 49, 1, 3
48 DATA 65, 83, 50,128, 7, 67, 83, 51,203, 0
49 DATA 65, 83, 52, 96, 7, 67, 83, 53, 48, 0

**Program Listing 1 Continues**
"Line 230 determines the AD value. Integer arithmetic conserves time as much as possible."

Program Listing 1 Continues

50 DATA 67, 83, 54, 24, 0, 67, 83, 55, 30, 0
51 DATA 67, 87, 48, 191, 0, 67, 83, 49, 95, 3
52 DATA 67, 87, 50, 175, 1, 67, 87, 51, 215, 0
53 DATA 67, 87, 52, 187, 0, 67, 87, 53, 30, 0
54 DATA 67, 87, 54, 26, 0, 67, 87, 55, 13, 0
55 DATA 67, 87, 10, 172, 5, 67, 87, 49, 214, 2
56 DATA 67, 87, 50, 187, 1, 67, 87, 51, 181, 0
57 DATA 67, 87, 52, 90, 0, 67, 87, 53, 45, 0
58 DATA 67, 87, 54, 22, 0, 67, 87, 55, 30, 0
59 DATA 67, 87, 48, 90, 5, 67, 87, 49, 173, 2
60 DATA 67, 87, 50, 86, 1, 67, 87, 51, 171, 0
61 DATA 67, 87, 52, 85, 0, 67, 87, 53, 42, 0
62 DATA 67, 87, 54, 21, 0, 67, 87, 55, 30, 0
63 DATA 67, 87, 48, 2, 0, 67, 87, 49, 1, 3
64 DATA 67, 87, 50, 76, 1, 67, 87, 51, 205, 0
65 DATA 67, 87, 52, 96, 0, 67, 87, 53, 48, 0
66 DATA 67, 87, 54, 24, 0, 67, 87, 55, 30, 0
67 DATA 67, 87, 48, 13, 5, 67, 87, 49, 134, 2
68 DATA 67, 87, 50, 57, 1, 67, 87, 51, 192, 0
69 DATA 67, 87, 52, 80, 0, 67, 87, 53, 40, 0
70 DATA 67, 87, 54, 20, 0, 67, 87, 55, 30, 0
71 DATA 67, 87, 48, 197, 4, 67, 87, 49, 92, 2
72 DATA 67, 87, 50, 49, 1, 67, 87, 51, 152, 0
73 DATA 67, 87, 52, 76, 0, 67, 87, 53, 38, 0
74 DATA 67, 87, 54, 19, 0, 67, 87, 55, 30, 0
75 DATA 67, 87, 48, 90, 5, 67, 87, 49, 173, 2
76 DATA 67, 87, 50, 86, 1, 67, 87, 51, 171, 0
77 DATA 67, 87, 52, 85, 0, 67, 87, 53, 42, 0
78 DATA 67, 87, 54, 21, 0, 67, 87, 55, 30, 0
79 DATA 67, 87, 48, 197, 4, 67, 87, 49, 92, 2
80 DATA 67, 87, 50, 49, 1, 67, 87, 51, 152, 0
81 DATA 67, 87, 52, 76, 0, 67, 87, 53, 38, 0
82 DATA 67, 87, 54, 19, 0, 67, 87, 55, 30, 0
83 DATA 67, 87, 48, 128, 5, 67, 87, 49, 64, 2
84 DATA 67, 87, 50, 32, 1, 67, 87, 51, 144, 0
85 DATA 67, 87, 52, 72, 0, 67, 87, 53, 36, 0
86 DATA 67, 87, 54, 18, 0, 67, 87, 55, 30, 0
87 DATA 67, 87, 48, 13, 5, 67, 87, 49, 134, 2
88 DATA 67, 87, 50, 67, 1, 67, 87, 51, 161, 0
89 DATA 67, 87, 52, 80, 0, 67, 87, 53, 40, 0
90 DATA 67, 87, 54, 20, 0, 67, 87, 55, 30, 0
91 DATA 67, 87, 48, 64, 4, 67, 87, 49, 32, 2
92 DATA 71, 71, 50, 16, 1, 71, 71, 51, 136, 0
93 DATA 71, 71, 52, 68, 0, 71, 71, 53, 24, 0
94 DATA 71, 71, 54, 17, 0, 71, 71, 55, 30, 0
95 DATA 71, 71, 48, 2, 4, 71, 71, 49, 32, 2
96 DATA 71, 71, 50, 0, 0, 71, 71, 51, 128, 0
97 DATA 71, 71, 52, 64, 0, 71, 71, 53, 32, 0
98 DATA 71, 71, 54, 16, 0, 71, 71, 55, 30, 0
99 DATA 71, 71, 40, 120, 4, 71, 71, 49, 64, 2
100 DATA 71, 71, 50, 32, 1, 71, 71, 51, 144, 0
101 DATA 71, 71, 52, 72, 0, 71, 71, 53, 36, 0
102 DATA 71, 71, 54, 18, 0, 71, 71, 55, 30, 0
103 DATA 285,127,10,229,0,33,254,127,285,13,38
104 DATA 235,94,39,86,225,14,1,27,122,179
105 DATA 19,40,6,62,3,169,79,211,255,229
106 DATA 43,124,181,32,251,225,27,122,179
107 DATA 238,195,154,38,68,0
110 POKE16562,1233POKE16561,253CLEAR10FORZ=31742 TO 32767READEXS=0XPOKEZ1NEXT
115 IF S=69640 THEN 340 ELSE PRINT"BAD CHECKSUM IN DATA";STOP
120 DEFINE=Z
130 CLS:G=0H=0:INPUT"TEMP 1 TO 20 (1 IS FASTEST)";AP=AT=.2*A
P;RESTORE
140 IF G=0 READ NTS,B ELSE READ NTS
150 RR=RR
155 IF LEN(NTS)=2 OR LEN(NTS)>3 THEN PRINT NTS;" BAD";STOP
160 IF LEN(NTS)=1 THEN 210
170 C=VARPTR(NTS)=POKE16527,123=POKE16526,254=POKE254=USR(C)
180 A=19558*BAT=1,1
185 IF A=65535 THEN CLS=PRINT"B*AT PRODUCT";BAT="IS TOO LARGE
;STOP"

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  TA800B Flippy. $359

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"...use two quarter rests or four eighths... A whole rest will probably never make it."

pens, use two quarter rests or four eighth rests for a half rest. A whole rest will probably never make it. Line 235 is among the three lines to be deleted after the music data are debugged.

Line 240 converts the AD value to the P integer that the machine language interprets as a period for playing rests.

Lines 250-300 treat all cases where L (the integer value of NT$) is not zero. In line 250 an L of one ends the piece, provided it is accompanied by a negative B-value. If B is any number greater than zero, the program returns to line 140 with that fixed B-value and G is set to read only NT$.

Lines 270 and 280 treat cases of L equals two. If B is positive and is read with NT$ then the program is directed to line 350 for special effects of the piece with the B-value used for further direction at line 350. If B equals zero then a repeat functions at line

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"More than one repeat could be programmed but complexities interrupt music continuity."

Program Listing 2 Continued

280 by setting the H flag and restoring the data to the beginning of the piece. More than one repeat could be programmed but the complexities make it impossible to avoid a long interruption in music continuity. If you wish additional repeats, you must retype the data into the program.

Line 290 deals with L-values from 3-9. They are used only when G equals one and no B-values are being read. L-values from 3-5 shortens B from 2x to 8x. L-values from 7-9 correspondingly lengthens B from 1.25x to 6x. Pair L-values of five with seven, of four with eight, and of three with nine to return to the original B. Use these three L's for time shadings when G equals one. If you wish to return to paired readings with B accompanying the note and are reading only the note, put L equals six in the data to set G to zero.

If you wish time shadings when G equals zero such as for ritard and accelerando, B-values can be varied by fractional amounts. Increase B to slow the music and decrease B to speed it up. Time shadings that alter the tempo AT are more difficult as they require small program changes. You may insert, for example, after the G equals 1 in line 250 an "AT = 1.25AP" before going to note reading with a fixed B. But be sure to insert an "AT = 2.0AP" following the G = 0 in line 290 if you wish to return to the original tempo with note paired with B readings.

The "Carmen March"

Lines 350 through 1220 are special for the "Carmen March" by George Bizet. This number illustrates many of the program's capabilities. Line 350 is reached by an NST equals two and B equals one reading of data from line 270. A B-value of one directs the program to line 400 for a special effect of trilling. Other special effects might be added in lines 500-999 for glissando, shakes, or the like by B-values of two or above in line 350. Only trills are used in the "Carmen March" and therefore only lines 400-460 are used.

Line 400 sets N to define the length of the trill as a function of the tempo at which you wish to play the piece. D is then set at 16. The machine language must have a D to function and I found 16 to be acceptable for trills. A DR-value is then set for the very short interval of silence between notes of the trill. If you wish to vary the duration of the trill you may change the DR-value from the value of 15 or change the constant in the equation N = INT(2^AP). Finally, the periods of three notes (P1, P2, and P3) that perform
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"For normal staccato give $\frac{1}{2}$ the B value... the other half with a rest of equal B value."

the trill are read. The periods are read directly rather than going to the machine language so not to require POKEing the location of the USR into memory. The values to use for P1, P2, and P3 are listed in the Assembly code of Program Listing 2 under the Table of Notes. This table is structured such that three bytes for the note string are followed by two bytes for the note period. Every note and corresponding period from AN0 to CN7 is listed.

After P1 through P3 are read, lines 410 through 440 plays the main section of the trill. The finishing grace is accomplished in lines 450 through 470. Finally, the program returns to line 140 for the next note to play.

The data for the music starts in line 1010. I use 10 line numbers of data for each line of music. In this way, line 1210 tells me that there are 21 lines of music in the "Carmen March." If this information is used in conjunction with the printing in line 200, debugging the data should be eased.

The music data starts in line 1010 with an eighth note played at AN5 as shown by the AN5,8 combination. Next comes a series of sixteen notes played staccato. For normal staccato give the note $\frac{1}{2}$ the regular B-value (a 32nd note value in this case) and take up the other half with a rest of equal B-value. The ratio may be varied from 1/4 to 3/4 or 3/4 to 1/4 depending on the sharpness of the staccato desired. A full B-value plays the note a good legato. Later in line 1010, AN5,4,0,4 shows an eighth note played staccato.

Line 1010 also has an example of data producing a trill. The sequence at the end of the line ("2,1,53,48,57") sends the program to line 400 where a trill is played with three notes having periods of 53, 48, and 57.

Line 1040 contains an example of a repeat. The 2,0 combination after the eighth rest at the end of line 1040 starts the music from the beginning. When the music again reaches the 2,0, it continues on with data from line 1050.
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"The arpeggio notes of a chord may be given any B value from .06 to two..."

Line 1120 illustrates the handling of the chords. Because one note is played at a time, chords are entered as arpeggio as when playing a harp. The DN4,1,EN4,1,GS4,1,BN5,13 combination following the sixteenth note at CS5 in line 1120 plays an arpeggio chord with the melody note at B natural of the 5th octave. The sum of the B-values of all notes of a chord must total 16 because it is composed of quarter notes. Therefore, the three notes preceding the melody note BN5 are valued at one each and BN5 is given the remainder, 13, to bring out the melody note clearly. The arpeggio notes of a chord may be given any B-value from .6 to two depending on your taste, but be sure the melody note takes the balance of the total for the chord as a unit note.

The data in line 1180 illustrates two effects. Divisions in timing are handled in CS4,2,67,EN4,2,67,CS4,2,67. The "Carmen March" is written in 1/4 time, meaning two quarter notes per measure or a total of 2 x 16 = 32 beats (B-values) per measure. For precise timing, each measure must total 32 in B-value, unless there are ritards or accelerandos. When the music calls for three notes to be played in the same time as one eighth note, as in the above instance, then divide eight (the B-value for an eighth note) by three to get 2.67 as your entry for B after each note.

The second effect in line 1180 comes immediately after BN5,16, the quarter note at BN5. The 1,2 pair tells the program to read only the note NTS in line 140 and that the B-value will be constant at two in the succeeding. The 1,2 is followed by AN5,0,0, AN5,0 which tells the program to play one sixteenth note staccato at AN5 and follow by a sixteenth (or 2 32nd) rest and then another staccato AN5 sixteenth note. The passage of reading of NTS alone ends with the AN3 note at the end of line 1210. The 6 at the start of line 1215 commences reading NTS paired with its B-value again. At the very end of the piece (end of line 1215) there is another arpeggio chord of four A Natural notes covering a three octave span. Because the music calls for a pause at this point, the sum of the B-values for the four notes total 48 rather than the 32 required for normal timing.

The piece ends with the 1, 1 pair in line 1220. If you wish to end while reading only NTS and not the B-value, be sure to end the data with a "6,1, - 1" combination.

Special Effects

Several special effects are not illustrated
"...play a turn when a ♯ follows a note."

in the "Carmen March." Two quite common ones are grace notes and turns. All grace notes should be given a B-value less than one but greater than .5. The timing should be deducted from the note preceding the grace rather than from the note in front. Thus, if two grace notes of 6 timing each follow a quarter note, then this quarter note should be given a B-value of 14.8 rather than 16.

A turn is required when a ♯ sign follows a note in music. Give the note to be turned half its value (an eight for a quarter note for example) and then divide the remaining half evenly among the four notes of the turn. Any other special effect may be accomplished with this program and some ingenuity.

Machine Language Program

The documentation in Program Listing 2 is sufficiently detailed for comprehension of the machine language program. There are two USR entries—one at 7BF8 (31742 decimal) to find the note period and the second at 7FD2 (32722 decimal) to generate the tone. The functions of lines 170–770 are to point HL to the first character of the note string in memory and point IX to the start of the note table at 7C8A. IX is incremented until the first three bytes after every fifth from the table start matches the three bytes to which HL points. When the complete match is found, the last two bytes of the five hold the period for the note and this value is transmitted to Basic.

The note table begins with line 810 and ends with line 4170. All the A notes of the entire keyboard are given 120 bytes at the start of the table. This is followed by B notes and so on to G, each given 120 bytes. The naturals, the sharps, and flats succeed each other by occupying 40 bytes of the 120. Octaves zero through seven are covered in the 40 bytes. The program and this table are structured so that any 3-byte string finding its way into the program plays as expected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note Value</th>
<th>B-Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half dot</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter dot</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth dot</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixteenth dot</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixteenth</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thirty second</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixty fourth</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 3. B-value to Use in Basic

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“...The naturals, sharps and flats succeed each other in 40 of the next 120...”
"... you begin to hear washed out bass..."

some note. The default if the first character is not A to G plays a G. If the second character is bad, the flat note is played. Finally, if the third character is not G–7 it plays the seventh octave by default if a note exists there. If not (notes above CN7) it plays a note of period equal to 30.

The note period, or a calculated rest period, is entered into HL in line 4200. This is temporarily saved while HL goes about the business of getting the Basic D-value into DE in lines 4220–4270. After checking to see if the value in DE indicates a rest (lines 4300–4340) the note is played (lines 4350–4360) by toggling A from two to one and sending the vibration out port FFH. A delay to define the period of vibration is implemented in lines 4400–4430 and continued until HL is decremented to zero. Lines 4440–4480 restore the period to HL and continue the tone until the D-value in DE zeroes. In the rest case, the tone generation lines (4350–4360) are bypassed and no loop back occurs in line 4480 because the D-value of a rest is one. After DE zeroes, the program returns to Basic.

Calculating Periods

The periods in the two bytes following each note in the table of Program Listing 2 are calculated from the vibration frequency of 264 per second for middle C (CN3). Multiply 264 by 1.05946 to obtain the frequency for each half step up from middle C and divide by the same factor for each half step down. This factor doubles the frequency for each full octave step upscale.

The period is calculated from the frequency by the formula \( P = 53800 / F \). The factor 53800 gives each of the 88 notes a distinct integer for \( P \), all properly related to each other. If you are unsatisfied with the tuning of your computer instrument, modify the periods listed in the table but modify all 88 to preserve the proper relationship. Decrease the factor 53800 for a higher pitch or increase for a lower pitch. If the factor is decreased too much you begin to lose distinction in the 7th octave or perhaps even the 6th. If the factor is increased you begin to hear washed out bass notes in the 6th octave. Remember some periods are listed more than once—GS3, for example, has the same period as AF4.

Using the Music Program

Type in the Basic program through line 340 and Run. Wait for the machine language program to be loaded and for the Ready signal. Next either type in lines

Snappware’s EXTENDED BUILT IN FUNCTIONS is a collection of much needed additions to the TRSDOS* BASIC interpreter which greatly extends its convenience and utility. The following features become part of your BASIC language and provide the enhancements without requiring any additional memory. The most important component of EXTENDED BUILT IN FUNCTIONS is an in-memory sort routine, guaranteed to be the fastest general purpose in-memory sort on the market. Along with this you also receive other EXTENDED BUILT IN FUNCTIONS. Here is a sampling:

SRT—Sorts one or more arrays into a specified sequence.

FMT—Arranges data into a string variable as with PRINT USING.

PDAT/UDAT$—Permits user to do arithmetic on dates.

PK$/UPK$—Compresses strings to save disk space.

ETIMS—Shows the difference between two times.

CLEAR—Specifies the number of file blocks to be allocated when you specify high memory and string space.

DELETE—Allows you to dynamically remove portions of a BASIC program.

In addition to these, there are functions unique to Model II and to Model III. The exclusives to Model II are long error messages and PEEK/POKE. The exclusives to Model III are:

SWAP—Supports exchange of variables with a single statement.

HEXS—Converts numbers to hexadecimal strings.

RESTORE—Allows you to set READ pointer to location of choice.

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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 159
...modify the periods listed but modify all 88 to preserve relationship.

Program Listing 2 Continued

```
152 DATA 154, 10
153 POK1:16562, 122; POK1:16561, 103; CLEAR:0; POR:31363; TO32767: READ
155 S:5; X:POKE; X: NEXT
156 TP:952; P: DELETE ELSE PRINT "BAD CHECKSUM IN DATA"; STOP
160 DEFINT 7: POK1:16562, 122; POK1:16562, 184; K:2500; PC:0; D:1; AB: 1.4
162 9; DK: 1230; EK: 8383
170 CLS: G:0; INPUT; TEMPO 1 TO 20 (1 IS FASTEST); AP; AT: .479; AP: RE
175 STORE
180 IF G = 0 THEN NTS; B ELSE READNTS
185 IF LEN(NTS) = 2 THEN ORLEN(NTS) THEN PRINT NTS; BAD: STOP; DELE
190 TE THIS LINE After DEBUGGING
195 IF LEN(NTS) = 1 THENTEMP
200 BC = AB
202 P = USR(VARPTR(NTS)); A = K; BC*AT/PC
205 IF A > 65535 THEN CLS: PRINT "BC*AT PRODUCT"; BC*AT; "TOO LARGE"; S
210 TOP: DELETE THIS LINE AFTER DEBUGGING
210 IF 32767: THENB = 1; ALESD = A - 65536
215 PRINTNTS; B; DELETE THIS LINE AFTER DEBUGGING DATA
220 P = USR(P); GOTO188
225 L = VAL(NTS); IFL: = PTHENTEMP
230 IF B < AT/PC: IFK < BTHENFOR: 1 TO INT(S5) * AP; NEXT: GOTO188
235 AD = DK*EXT; D = 0
240 IF AD = 32767 THEN PRINT "CK VALUE"; RK; IS TOO LARGE"; STOP; DELE
245 TE THIS LINE AFTER DEBUGGING
250 IF AD = 32767 THEN PRINT "CK VALUE"; RK; IS TOO LARGE"; STOP; DELE
255 Te THIS LINE AFTER DEBUGGING
260 IF P = 32767 THEN AD: = USR(P); D: = 1; GOTO188 ELSE AD = 65536: FUSR
265 (P): = D: = 1; GOTO188
270 IF A = L & B = 1; GOTO1; ELSEIF: = 1; THENTEMP
280 IFL: = 32765
285 IF A = L & B = 1; GOTO1; ELSEIF: = 1; THENTEMP
290 IF A = L & B = 1; GOTO1; ELSEIF: = 1; THENTEMP
295 IF A = L & B = 1; GOTO1; ELSEIF: = 1; THENTEMP
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600 IF A = L & B = 1; GOTO1; ELSEIF: = 1; THENTEMP
605 IF A = L & B = 1; GOTO1; ELSEIF: = 1; THENTEMP
610 IF A = L & B = 1; GOTO1; ELSEIF: = 1; THENTEMP
```

Program Listing 2 Continues
"If you hear a sour note press Break..."

350-1220 or merge from your file of music programs. For purposes of merging you might use one of the Merge programs published by Bill Dalesandry or by Dale Rupert in the November 1981 issue of 80 Microcomputing to good advantage. Keep either one resident in memory where it will not interfere with the resident music generator. Now you can play one piece following another by deleting and merging a new set of music data.

If you type in the "Carmen March," and your typing skill is as aggravating as mine, you will likely have to debug the data of errors. To do this, plug the gray auxiliary lead to your cassette into an auxiliary input of your stereo through an available adapter (from Radio Shack). Switch on your stereo and you are ready to go.

Enter Run and respond to the tempo query with a slow tempo such as 10 and then Enter. If the music plays to the end without a sour note and the tempo query again appears, you have done a perfect job of entering the data. Next, press the Break key and delete lines 155, 185, and 235. Run the program once again but this time at a tempo of 5 which I found best for this piece. After you are satisfied that all is correct, and you wish to save the March in your music files, delete lines 1 through 340 and CSAVE the rest.

If by chance you hear a sour note the first time through, press the Break key as soon as you hear it. The video screen will display the sour note as you entered it along with its B-value. If the note was entered incorrectly edit the correct note in the proper place.

Defects and Changes

The program provides many hours of entertainment, but those purists who insist on flawless musical fare may frown upon some imperfections. Perhaps the most glaring of these is the timing in playing of notes (not rests) of widely differing note value. For example, playing 32 1/32nd notes takes perceptively longer than one whole note simply because the 32 1/32nd notes must traverse the Basic overhead 32 times versus once for the whole note. A power equation in line 180 relating P to the duration of the tone, similar to that in line 180 for rests, will not suffice because the calculation adds to the interval of silence between notes. The best solution is to shorten the Basic program as much as possible.

Shortening the silent interval by reading successive note periods directly from the Basic data and, therefore, eliminating the

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When working with direct files or creating a formatted screen, Autofile and Automap are indispensable aids.

Autofile is designed to automate for the BASIC programmer the task of moving data elements to and from a direct file. Previously, this was a time consuming chore because the FILEd variables may not be directly referenced by user logic. The FILE statement was eliminated, thereby relieving you of the guessing game as to where the FILEd variable is.

In addition, the LSET and the CVx functions are performed automatically. The software, when installed, becomes part of your BASIC interpreter providing the enhancements without additional memory.

Automap is designed to automate for the BASIC programmer the task of presenting information on the video display and accepting information from the keyboard operator. The software consists of two main components: the OFF-LINE COMPONENT used to describe to the system the screen formats and the ON-LINE COMPONENT from within your BASIC program to initialize a screen, send data to the video display and receive data from the keyboard operator. This facility when installed, becomes part of your BASIC interpreter.

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"... The program provides hours of entertainment, but those purists..."
need of the period finding portion of the machine language, results in a barely perceptible improvement in melodic quality. After the program to read periods directly only if you need the 960 bytes of machine code for extra long music in your Basic program. The rewards in improved sound reaching the ear are not worth the pain of having to look up the period for each note as it is typed into the data.

If you have a 32K or 48K system, you will want to locate the Piano Keyboard and Music Generator in uppermost memory to allow space not only for the "Carmen March" but perhaps for the whole opera. If you do this, be sure to respond to the memory size query, on power up, to the start of the new location minus one. Also POKE the new USR entry for period finding (line 170) at the new starting location of Piano Keyboard, and the new USR entry for the Tone Generator (line 310) at 980 memory locations beyond.

One other shortcoming that the musical purist may find objectionable is lack of shading in loud and soft passages. Although the tone frequency is adjustable, I found no way to vary the amplitude in the software. One way that produced a reasonably good crescendo or diminuendo is to use your tape deck if you have one attached to your stereo. Follow the music while recording from the computer and manually adjust the recording level for loudness and softness. After two or three attempts, you could find something that sounds pretty fair on playback.

If you do have an operational cassette tape deck on your stereo, you may also enjoy the opportunity to play more than one voice with music generated by the computer. You can, for example, record the bass of your music and then play back through one side of your stereo. Simultaneously play through the second input of the stereo your computer-generated treble. You will find the note value and rest relationship timing about perfect for synchronizing the two voices in most cases. A problem may occur if one voice contains many more notes per measure than the other because of the defect in timing cited above. If you take the time to experiment with the treble by changing the timing constant (0.2 in line 130 of the Basic program) you will be rewarded with good synchronization and hours of musical enjoyment.

Scott Adams, Pres. of Adventure Int'l.

The Snappware College Educated Garbage Collector (SNAPP-VI) is an intelligent processing function which greatly improves performance of typical BASIC applications. And here's why. MS-DOS uses a 'variable length string' in the BASIC interpreter. Each time the string is assigned a new value, it is relocated in a string pool. Periodically the string pool must be reorganized and condensed into a single contiguous area. Performing this string space reclamation is time consuming and inefficient because this approach evaluates and collects each string individually. The time required is roughly proportional to the square of the number of active strings in the resident program. During reclamation the system seems to 'lock-up' and does not respond to the operator until the process is completed.

This time consuming approach requires a better solution. Snappware has developed a solution which takes advantage of the auxiliary memory available. SNAPP-VI requires only four bytes per active string as a work area. When free storage space is available, our system temporarily borrows, uses and returns the space to the free storage pool when completed. If storage is not available, our system will temporarily transfer out to disk enough of the BASIC program to make room for our work area and return the 'paged out' information to its correct location when completed. Benchmarked times show, in some situations, SNAPP-VI performs one hundred times as fast as the MS-DOS approach.

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Merton Davis, a retired E.I. DuPont chemist, enjoys piano, chess, golf, and computing.
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Have you always wanted to play the guitar like Roy Clark or Chet Atkins, but never had time to really get at it? Or have you spent countless hours practicing, but find yourself bogged down once you get past the C, F and G chords in the "open" position?

For twenty years I tried to play that instrument, but with limited success. I never liked tediously deciphering and memorizing one chord at a time. I was even more frustrated when I witnessed professional performers effortlessly moving their fingers to produce the most beautiful music.

After becoming fairly proficient with my TRS-80, I decided there must be a way to take some of the tedium out of learning to play the guitar. The program I will describe is the result of over a year of continuous refinement on my initial effort.

Because of the program, learning a new song is now a matter of one session rather than weeks of practice. Although not my original intent, I have found the use of this program as an educational tool even more effective than its application as a chord finder.

Face the Music

There are many chord forms. This multiplicity helps explain why it is not easy to learn to play the guitar.

There are some compensating factors when comparing the guitar to other instruments. The guitar is one of the few instruments that allows you to play in any key signature by merely moving your hand up or down a few frets, providing the original chord did not contain any "open" notes (notes which required no fret fingered on a string).

(This is analogous to a machine language program that is completely relocatable, providing all jumps are relative and do not exceed the top memory address.)

I implemented these factors as a set of routines which convert conventional chord name and melody note inputs to finger positions on a schematic representation of the guitar keyboard.

The program has the following capabilities: You can enter up to 40 chords in any sequence.

Entry is in the standard format found on most published sheet music. A null input (entry without first entering an alphanumeric) is used for any element you need not specify. For example, you would enter a B-flat minor seventh (B bm 7) chord as follows:

```
B <Enter>
B <Enter>
M <Enter>
7 <Enter>
```

You would enter a C chord as:

```
C <Enter>
<Enter>
<Enter>
<Enter>
```

There will always be four <Enters> per chord, but as few as one or as many as four specifiers.

You enter the melody notes as shown in this example. You would enter A-sharp (A#) as:

```
A <Enter>
A <Enter>
# <Enter>
```

You would enter G as:

```
G <Enter>
<Enter>
<Enter>
```

Thus there are always two <Enters> for each melody note but as few as one specifier. Program prompts should make this clear. When 40 chords have been processed or when you enter x, the program reverts to the menu.

After you have entered one or more
Snappware knows your programming time is valuable. That’s why we are offering a trial package that will cut your programming time up to 75%!

This unprecedented offer allows you to judge for yourself the value of our software using your hardware at your convenience. Our five best selling products: EXTENDED BASIC, EXTENDED BUILT IN FUNCTIONS, COLLEGE EDUCATED GARBAGE COLLECTOR, AUTOMAP and AUTOFILE, are all available to you on a trial basis for only $50.00 for the Model II and $35.00 for the Model III. We’re convinced that after you see how well our software helps you perform programming tasks, you will purchase them like thousands of others have.

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chords, there are a number of program options. You can display the chords on the screen with a variable time delay between chords. You can produce a printout of any chord if you press H while it is displayed.

You can repeat the chord display sequence by entering a new time delay number followed by ,1.

The display sequence will end if after a sequence is completed you enter any number followed by ,0.

You can store a sequence of chords and its associated song name on cassette. (You can substitute disk storage as a sequential file, but you must change program constants for the machine language portion to make room for your DOS Basic.)

To use the program, save memory at 29778. CLOAD the program. Use menu item one to create as many chords and associated melody notes as you desire (up to 40 chords).

Menu item one will ask you for a key and a song name. Answer the key question with C if you do not want to transpose (even if the song you are entering is in some other key). Input the other key names (C# to B) to offset your chord entries by an appropriate amount. For example, if you enter a song written in C with a key of F, the chords will show up on the fret matrix display as if the song were in F. If you enter a song written in Eb with a key of F, the fret matrix will display the song in Ab. This may sound complex if you know little music theory. You can always use C as a key name and not worry about it, but if you like automatic transposition, the feature is helpful.

When you have entered one or more chords and melody notes, you may go back to the menu by entering x instead of a chord name. At this point you may display or save your chord sequence. If you choose to display, please pay attention to the prompts. It takes a little time to POKE the chord elements into memory.

When the fret matrix appears, be sure to enter only those numbers asked for. If you enter strings or commands at this time, the fret matrix will be broken up and you will have to go back to the menu.

The first time the fret matrix appears, enter a number from 1-256 (not zero unless you want a very long delay). This is a time value (an entry of 10 equals about three seconds). This is the length of time each chord is displayed.

As soon as you have done this, the chords will appear one by one on the fret matrix background, until all have been displayed. At that time you may enter another number (again for display length) followed by ,1. If you enter ,0 the program will return to the menu.

During each chord display, you can get a printout of that particular chord by pressing H. You must have a printer ready and, if you have a serial RS-232 interface, its driver must be in place.

A typical display appears in Fig. 1. The asterisks across the top of the diagram represent the six strings and those down the sides represent the frets with numbering on every other fret to avoid clutter. In this diagram, one F tells you to hold down
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CopyArt makes word processing more flexible than ever before. It supports the full graphics character sets of Epson and Okidata printers as well as the proportionally spaced justification superscripting, and subscripting capabilities of Centronics' 737 and 739 printer and Radio Shack's Line Printer IV. On non-graphic printers (C-17, Diablo, Radio Shack Daisy Wheel, and others with the ability to turn off linefeeds) CopyArt creates pseudographics by overstriking standard characters. On every printer, especially dot matrix printers, the double printing feature produces unbelievably crisp copies.

(Headline and illustrations produced on CopyArt)


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"The guitar is one of the few instruments that allows you to play in any key signature by moving your hand up or down a few frets."

the first string at the third fret.

Just place your fingers on one of each of the different alphas in a given cluster, and the proper chord will result. On each display there will be two or three clusters with a melody note (signified by #). You can play the chord and melody note in more than one position on the guitar; choose the most convenient and best sounding.

For those of you with some musical background, the alphanumerics indicate these parts of the chord:

- # = melody note
- T = root
- M = third
- F = fifth
- S = seventh or ninth

This information is not necessary to use the program. If this display confuses you, you can change the program at lines 2820-3050 (see Program Listing 1) so all POKE alphas are the decimal equivalent of whatever you desire. For example, if you want all x's, replace the various ASCII decimals with 88.

At the bottom of each chord display, fret eleven, is the chord number in the sequence and the name of the chord.

I suggest that you get started you use a two or three chord sequence until you become familiar with the system. For example, a common sequence used in Latin songs consists of C, F and G7 repeated over and over. Enter these just one followed by an X. Use melody notes E, F and D respectively. The results should be as shown in Figs. 1-3.

Program Description

Lines 20-230 POKE the machine language portion (thanks to Ron Cain in the May 1981 issue of 80 Microcomputing for making this an easy task with his Encoder program). The menu resides in lines 570-640. Look at the ON GOTO statements, and you will see that each segment is in the lines as shown:

Create line 950
Cassette Save line 3470
Display line 5070
Instructions line 650
Cassette load line 3890

Create (line 950) is a conversion routine which changes the chord name input to array elements representing each chord and melody note. These arrays are saved to or loaded from the cassette (or disk if you make that conversion). These arrays are also a basis for the display.

Program Listing 1 continued

```
388 DATA 9,2,7,12,4,9
396 DATA 18,3,6,15,18
405 DATA 11,4,9,2,6,11
414 DATA 12,5,18,3,7,12
423 DATA 1,6,13,4,8,1
432 DATA 2,7,12,5,9,2
441 DATA 3,8,3,6,18,3
450 DATA 4,9,2,7,11,4
459 DATA 5,10,3,8,12,5
468 FOR X=1 TO 12
477 READ KEY(X)
486 NEXT X
495 FOR Q=1 TO 12
504 READ NES(Q)
513 NEXT Q
522 FOR R=1 TO 13
531 FORC=1 TO 13
540 READ CT(C,R)
559 NEXT C,R
568 NEXT R
577 PHN: = # 510:"BY EDWARD LOUIS"FOR B=1 TO 1000:NEXT B
586 CLS:PRINT # 74,"***MENU***";PRINT:PRINT
595 CLS:PRINT "TO ENTER NEW SONG TYPE 1"
604 PRINT "TO SAVE SONG ON CASSETTE TYPE 2"
613 PRINT "TO DISPLAY SONG TYPE 3"
622 PRINT "TO LOAD SONG FROM CASSETTE TYPE 5"
631 PRINT "TO DISPLAY INSTRUCTIONS TYPE 4"
640 INPUT Q:ON Q GOTO 958,3478,3070,658,3398
657 CLS:PRINT "THIS PROGRAM ALLOWS THE STORAGE, DISPLAY,"
666 PRINT "AND/OR HAND COPY OF GUITAR CHORDS PLUS AN ASSO-
675 PRINT "CIATED MELODY NOTE FOR UP TO 48 CHORDS IN A SEQU-
684 PHN:="ENC. THE DISPLAY AND HARD COPY PROVIDE UP TO"
693 PRINT "THESE SETS OF FINGERING FOR EACH CHORD AND MELODY"
702 PRINT"NOTE. THIS PROVIDES FLEXIBILITY AND AN EASY LEARNING/
711 PRINT"TECHNIQUE THAT EVENTUALLY LEADS TO"
720 PRINT"A GOOD FAMILIARITY WITH THE GUITAR KEYBOARD"
739 PRINT"CHORDS ARE ENTERED WITH STANDARD NOTATION"
748 PRINT "AS SEEN ON MOST SHEET MUSIC. THE CHORD SHOULD BE"
757 PRINT"ENTERED FOLLOWED BY AN ASSOCIATED MELODY NOTE."
766 PRINT"THIS SEQUENCE IS REPEATED FOR EACH COMBINATION"
775 PRINT"OF CHORD AND MELODY NOTE. IF DESIRED, A NULL INPUT"
784 PRINT"WILL BE ALLOWED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL CHORD OR MELODY NOTE."
793 PRINT:INPUT "***TO SEE MORE INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS <ENTER>***";X
802 CLS:PRINT "AN EXAMPLE OF CHORD NOTATION IS 'C7' WHICH *"
811 PRINT"IS READ AS C MINOR SEVENTH. THIS EXAMPLE WOULD BE"
820 PRINT"ENTERED AS C,NULL,7.1. IF A SEQUENCE OF LESS"
830 PRINT"THAN 48 CHORDS IS DESIRED, AN <X> WILL END THE"
840 PRINT"SEQUENCE."
850 PRINT "CHORDS WILL BE DISPLAYED SEQUENTIALLY AT"
860 PRINT"THE RATE SELECTED AND WILL REPEAT AS A COMPLETE"
870 PRINT"SEQUENCE ON REQUEST. RAM CONTENTS ARE DESTROYED ON"
880 PRINT "RESTARTING THE PROGRAM SEQUENCE BUT IF THE SONG IS"
890 PRINT"SAVED ON DISK OR CASSETTE IT CAN BE RELOADED ."
900 PRINT "HARD COPY CAN BE OBTAINED FOR EACH CHORD"
910 PRINT "BY PRESSING <O> DURING THE TIME DELAY AFTER EACH"
920 PRINT "DISPLAYED ."
930 PHN:="RETURN TO MENU"
949 INPUT"END OF INSTRUCTIONS,***TO RETURN TO MENU PRESS <ENTER>***"; X
958 GOTO 500
967 CLS:PRINT "LOADING CHORD DATA"
976 INPUT "KEY:"
985 INPUT "NAME OF SONG"
994 POKE 16526,4:POKE 16527,117
999 X:USR(X)
1000 US:="IN1="
1009 N=2640
1018 INR:"1ST ELEMENT OF CHORD 'EXAMPLE B,A,D,G'/";N$1
1027 IF N="" THEN1840 ELSE 1850
1036 N=NC:GOTO500
1045 GOSUB 3270
1054 N$:="IN2="
1063 N=2640
1072 CLS:INPUT"END ELEMENT OF CHORD,'# FOR SHARP,B FOR FLAT,NULL FOR NATURA"
1081 N$:="IN2="
1090 IF N$="" THEN 1110
1099 IF N$="" THEN 1120
1100 GOTO1130
1109 N:=1:GOTO 1140
1118 N:=1:GOTO 1140
1127 N:=1:GOTO 1140
1136 N:=1:GOTO 1140
1145 N:=1:GOTO 1140
1154 N:=1:GOTO 1140
1163 N:=1:GOTO 1140
1172 N:=1:GOTO 1140
```

Program Listing 1 continues
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3. No direct commands like AUTO, EDIT, LIST, LISTF ETC, although these commands may be used when writing programs.
4. Others NOT supported: DEBF, CALL, RUS, DEFINE, FIX, FREE.
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6. SOME BASIC COMMANDS MAY DIFFER IN ZBASIC. For instance, END jumps to DOS READY, STOP jumps to BASIC READY etc.
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To help give you an idea how fast compiled programs are, we have included this demo program:

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Time to compile and run complete program: 0 MIN. 2 SEC.
BASIC Execution speed MOD I, LEVEL II: 7 MIN. 34 SEC.
ZBASIC Execution speed MOD I, LEVEL II: 0 MIN. 18 SEC.
BASIC Program size (WITHOUT VARIABLES): 889 BYTES
ZBASIC Program size (WITHOUT VARIABLES): 2733 BYTES
(Notice that the ZBASIC program includes an 1879 byte subroutine package.) Program shown exactly as compiled and run in BASIC and ZBASIC.

89 * ============== ZBASIC 2.2 EXEMPLE PROGRAM AND TIME TEST ===============
90 010 CLS
91 100 DEF P=1
92 105 DEF STR=1
93 200 DEF S=1
94 300 DEF A=1
95 400 DEF B=1
96 500 DEF C=1
97 600 DEF D=1
98 700 DEF E=1
99 800 DEF F=1
100 900 DEF G=1
101 1000 DEF H=1
102 1100 DEF J=1
1300 END

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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 171
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"The asterisks across the top of the diagram represent the six strings and those down the sides represent frets."

Program Listing 2 continued

```
3110  GOSUB 280
3120  NEXT YL
3130  FOR B = 1 TO 30: NEXT B: GOTO 0280
3140  IF T = 0 THEN 3160
3150  T = T + 1
3160  NEXT M:N=K+1
3170  IF F = 0 THEN 3200
3180  GOTO 400
3200  IF S = 0 THEN 3220
3210  S = S + 1
3220  IF T = 12 THEN T = T - 12
3230  IF M = 12 THEN M = M - 12
3240  IF F = 12 THEN F = F - 12
3250  IF S = 12 THEN S = S - 12
3260  GOTO 01760
3270  FOR OT = 0 TO 6
3280  FOR UM# TO 1
3290  IF UmW = WNS(OT, UM) THEN 3310
3300  NEXT UM, OT
3310  N1 = VAL(WNS(OT, UM + 1)); RETURN
3320  FOR OT = 0 TO 6
3330  FOR UM# TO 1
3340  IF UmW = WNS(OT, UM) THEN 3360
3350  NEXT UM, OT
3360  N6 = VAL(WNS(OT, UM + 1)); RETURN
3370  GOTO 030
3380  NEXT OT
3390  INPU: "CASSETTE LOAD, READY CASSETTE"; X
3400  FOR K = 16526, 4: POKE 16526, 117
3410  X = USR(N)
3420  INPU1 = 1, YY, NL
3430  FOR YL = 1 TO NL
3440  INPU1 = 1, YL, YL, S(YL), N1(S(YL)), N2(S(YL)), N4(S(YL)), N5(S(YL)), N(YL), T(YL)
3450  NEXT YL
3460  GOTO 0580
3470  NEXT YL
3480  PRINT 4, 1, YY
3490  FOR YL = 1 TO NL
3500  PRINT 4, 1, YL, YL, S(YL), N1(S(YL)), N2(S(YL)), N4(S(YL)), N5(S(YL)), N(YL), T(YL)
3510  NEXT YL
3520  GOTO 0580
```

This portion of the program uses a mapping technique to translate chord names to notes and notes to the matrix of locations representing the guitar fret keyboard. Key is a weighting function that moves the entire chord structure up or down the fret matrix.

The Display portion (line 3070) uses the array elements of each chord to generate a set of addresses to POKE. This creates a screen block of memory for each chord and melody note along with its name and number. Later, the machine language portion calls each screen and superimposes its information on the fret matrix for the time specified.

You may repeat a display sequence or return to the menu. The arrays are still intact for saving on cassette or re-displaying unless you select menu item one (Create).

The machine language portion (see Program Listing 2) has three major functions:
- Whenever you select Create, the erase portion of this program clears 40 screen spaces in memory.
- During the Display program, when you have entered a time constant, the program selects screens one at a time and transfers them to video memory. When the timer runs out, that screen is erased and the next one is transferred until all have been displayed.
- During the time delay of each screen, the keyboard is monitored for an H input. If this occurs, a modified screen print occurs, sending the required part of the display to the printer (thanks to Louise Frankenberg in the May 1980 80 Microcomputing article "Screenprint").

This program barely fits into a 16K tape system. (Disk users need 32K—read on.) If you modify the program, keep this in mind: Very little room is left between the machine language program and storage space for 40 screens (which starts at the top of available memory) and the Basic program plus variables.

Modifying the Program for Disk

First, use standard sequential file storage techniques for the chord arrays. Second, move the entire machine language portion to the top of 32K memory (look out for TRSODOS "TOP MEM"). Third, change to DEFSVR statements and reference the proper addresses. Fourth, let the Basic portion load where it will. There should be no conflicts if you take care of the first three steps.

Edward Louis is employed as a Business Manager by General Electric. He enjoys playing music and painting.
The wonderful, weird world of Dennis Kitsz.

Divine Dementia

by Michael Nadeau
80 Microcomputing staff

If it wasn't for a broken synthesizer and a copying machine, 80 Micro readers might never have heard of Dennis Kitsz, our “80 Applications” author and general technical wiz.

You see, Dennis never intended to get into computers; he considers himself a musician first and foremost. But it was music that introduced him to computers. Music led Dennis to take a job as a typist because he would have unlimited use of a copying machine to reproduce his compositions. The copier brought him to 80 Micro.

Dennis Bathory Kitsz graduated with a BA in music with a French minor from Rutgers University in 1970. A year earlier he wrote his first electronic musical composition—a 17-part piece which he had no way to produce. Dennis decided then that he needed a synthesizer, but, he said, “I was so desperately poor in those days that $1,500 to $2,000 was out of the question.”

He was finally able to buy a synthesizer in 1973, and within two months the power supply blew. The $100 repair bill prompted Dennis to vow never to send out any electronic equipment to be fixed again.

“I read every electronics book I could get,” he said. Though he had a basic understanding of electronics, a subscription to Popular Electronics proved to him he had missed out on the digital electronics revolution. “I had no idea what those little black boxes were,” he said. By stubbornly reading the technical literature and fixing other things that blew up, Dennis learned what he needed to know about his synthesizer.

But the little black boxes were still a mystery. When an order for a sequencer for his synthesizer was stopped due to the bankruptcy of the manufacturer, Dennis decided to build one. He knew he had to learn digital electronics to do so, and reacted by subscribing to Byte. “I understood none of it, but I decided to keep going and the light would dawn,” Dennis said. That persistence eventually paid off.

This new-found knowledge and his nagging poverty were the reasons Dennis found himself working at the local Radio Shack store doing repairs on a variety of electronic gadgetry. He worked on commission plus the minimum wage (about $2.25 per hour in 1975), but this experience resulted in Dennis buying one of the first TRS-80 Model Is.

The Original Warranty Voider

When the Radio Shack store where he was working received the preliminary product information for the Model I (so sketchy he described it as “comical”), Dennis decided to risk putting the required $100 deposit down on one even though he “didn’t know what to do with it.”

To the amazement of the other store clerks, Dennis immediately opened the computer up when it arrived after unpacking it at the store. This action may have made him the original Radio Shack warranty voider, a title that somehow seems appropriate.

Dennis’ history after his stay at the Radio Shack store is a mixed bag. He drove a truck for a while, worked in a chamber of commerce, and edited an underground newspaper. In 1976 he was “the youngest and poorest” trustee of the New Jersey State Museum.

In 1978 he moved to Roxbury, VT, his current home, leaving a “lucrative” job as a graphics designer. In Vermont, Dennis

Pinned by his dog, Fritz.

Claire takes aim at Dennis and his computers.
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Shannon Magnetics' soft-sector 5¼" double density, single-sided, mini disks in shrink wrapped boxes of ten with jackets, labels and tabs. Fully guaranteed for one year against defects.

Headcleaner Kit
$24.95
Verifin kit contains two cleaning disks with instructions to assure proper operation of all types of 5¼" disk drives. Removes dirt and debris which can cause read/write errors and lost data without harsh chemicals.

Diskette/Headcleaner Combo
$42.90
Combo special includes box of 10 diskettes and Verifin headcleaner kit as described above.

Dysan diskettes
Single density $36.95  Double density $39.95
Dysan 40 track 5¼" soft sectored diskettes packaged 10 to a box.

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White or Green Bar
3300 sheets of 9½ X 11" tractor feed $29.95
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Shipped by truck, freight charges collect.

Diskette File Box
$19.95
Flipsort diskette file box with capacity for fifty 5¼" diskettes.

Diskette/File Box Combo
$109.95
Fifty Shannon Magnetic 5¼" diskettes as described above packaged in Flipsort diskette file box.

Tandon Disk Drives for TRS-80 Model I or Model III
Single drive with cabinet and power supply $289.00
Two drives in horizontal cabinet and power supply $489.00
Two drive cabinet only $75.00
Two drive cabinets are designed to fit under Epson or Okidata printer or under the monitor and above the expansion interface with provision for easy access to drive edge card connections. No drive extender cables needed. Call for complete pricing and compatibility information.

Ribbon Cables
Model I or III printer $18.95
2-drive disk cable $19.95
4-drive disk cable $29.95

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Checks & Money Orders also accepted
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Colorado residents add 6½% sales tax
Attractive discounts to dealers
“(Dennis) was the 'youngest and poorest' trustee of the New Jersey State Museum.”

found the time to work with his Model I. He had learned Basic in one night soon after he bought the computer, but did not think Assembly language was necessary—until he started playing with model trains.

Dennis and his friend, David Gunn, designed an elaborate set-up for a model train track in Dennis' living room. Dennis wrote a Basic program to control the track switching and other railroad paraphernalia. When they started the train running, it was immediately obvious that the program was too slow for the train.

Dennis had plans to eventually produce his musical compositions using a computer. His experience with the train set proved to him that Basic would be too slow for music as well—he had to learn Assembly language.

Assembly language did not come quite as easily as Basic; it took Dennis six months of deciphering the Zilog manuals before he wrote a program that worked. The second Assembly language program he wrote appeared in the June 1980 issue of 80 Micro, entitled “Playing God with Life.” “I learned fast,” he said.

Dennis credits his friend, the late Dr. Phil Hooper, with the breakthrough that made the Assembly light dawn. Dr. Hooper brought an early micro (a KIM-1 by Mass Technology) to Dennis to have the monitor repaired. The KIM-1 had a hexadecimal digit keyboard; by using that machine and with instruction from Dr. Hooper, Dennis became a machine-language programmer.

Fame and Fortune with 80 Micro

Up to this point Dennis’ expertise had not been exposed to the general computer public. Enter one copying machine.

It was not long before Dennis again found himself in dire financial straits. His main source of income was a hi-fi repair business, but there were not many hi-fi’s that needed fixing in northern Vermont.

Out of desperation he answered an ad seeking a typist. Dennis was not enthusiastic about typing for a living, but he thought if the material he would be typing was interesting, he would take a shot at it.

He called the number in the ad and was told the job was essentially typing proposals for a state agency. He did not consider this to be particularly interesting and was about to hang up when the woman he was speaking to asked how fast he typed.

“Oh, about 110 words per minute,” he answered.

She didn’t believe Dennis could type that fast and convinced him to take a typing test. If for no other reason than to prove he was a 110-word-per-minute typist. He did a little better than 110 wpm on the test and was offered the job, which he was about to turn down when the interviewer told him all employees had access to the copying machine.

Dennis’ thoughts flashed to his piles of musical compositions that he needed copies of, and without hesitation he accepted the job.

He soon thought of another use for the copier: making copies of the programs he had written. At this time (over two years ago) On-Line magazine was providing free classified ads. Dennis placed a two-line ad offering a 1K machine-language monitor program if you sent him a self-addressed stamped envelope.

One of the people who sent for this program was 80 Micro’s then managing editor Jim Perry. Perry called Dennis and said, “This is interesting, got anything else?”

Dennis said he had something he called “Babybeep,” which should be familiar to many long-time 80 Micro readers. But at that moment, a thought crossed Dennis’ mind. “By the way, I’d like to write a column for you,” he told Perry.

To Dennis’ surprise, Perry immediately agreed and asked what he would like to call it. Dennis said the first thing he thought of, “80 Applications.” This presented a problem for Dennis because he had no idea what he was going to write.

But he did manage to come up with something and “80 Applications” is now one of 80 Micro’s most popular columns.

A Multi-Faceted Person

As already mentioned, Dennis’ background is in music. He has written and performed several avant-garde (he hates that term) operas. One, entitled “Plasm Over Ocean” was performed at the New Jersey State Museum in 1977. Not only did Dennis compose the music and played the lead character, he also made every instrument and designed the cast’s wardrobe. The instruments were not readily recognizable as standard musical instruments (except the gong, which took the longest time to make and was used only once). One, a glass cello, looks like something out of a Hieronymous Bosch painting.

The production was performed by the Laszlo Toth School of Music, named after the man who attacked the Pieta with a hammer in the Vatican.
TR/80 Models I or III
Lists or quantity ONE prices are:

- DATA ACE User Guide $30.00
- MMSFORTH $125.00
- DATA ACE/DBM - database accesses, data definition language, editor and catalog and User Guide - $150.00
- Query language - $100.00

(MMSFORTH is a prerequisite for DATA ACE, DATA ACE/DBM is a prerequisite for DATA ACE Query language.)

Existing MMSFORTH users may obtain the complete DATA ACE package for $250. Those using MMSFORTH for the first time will be investing $375.00.

(MMSFORTH is a TRADE MARK OF MILLER COMPUTER SERVICES.)

TRS/80 Model II
For $75 you get a User Guide and a demonstration disk. Once you know what you want, you may choose the exact package for your needs. DATA ACE is also available for hard disk and with application start up kits.

For dealers, quantity discounts are available, substantially reducing the above prices.

DATA ACE is a smart and completely integrated system - operating system, relational data base manager, query language, structured programming language, full screen editor, catalog, application packages and commitment to future development.

BUILD YOUR SYSTEMS IN LESS TIME, AT LESS COST, TO RUN FASTER.

Build your files faster

Data should be separate from the programs - why?

First of all, you can change your programs without affecting stored data. Secondly, you can set up your data files in their most natural form and when needed, change them without changing your programs. Finally, the process of setting up files can be reduced to a simple keyboard request "ADD RELATION".

GET IT UP QUICKER

ONCE YOUR FILES ARE DEFINED, START RECORDING DATA IMMEDIATELY

DATA ACE enables you to maintain these files without writing a single program!

You may add a record with a simple keyboard command "ADD", CHANGE, DELETE or LIST a record in the same way. A complete keyboard language has been developed which can, for example, find all customers in a given area, with open orders that are back-logged . . . without writing a program! This is done using logical and relational operators almost as many of these as you want.

FOR REAL COMPLEXITY, GO AHEAD AND WRITE A PROGRAM, BECAUSE . . .

DATA ACE makes it really easy: Full screen editor with a wide range of word processing commands.

Catalog complex commands or text for later use simply by name. Self documenting with HELP text for each field, contextual HELP in the QUERY language, or you may write your own HELP TEXT for your systems and change it without going to the programs. Structured design with a clear set of guide lines.

AND WATCH HOW FAST WE GO

Competitive analysis shows DATA ACE to outperform every other DBM on 8 or 16 bit computers, yet DATA ACE includes much much more. Benchmarks have shown DATA ACE to run approximately TEN times faster than BASIC.

YES– show me more / send me

- the DATA ACE Model II User Guide and demonstration disk $75.
- a copy of MMSFORTH $125.
- a copy of DATA ACE DBM $150.
- a copy of DATA ACE Query Language $100.

Enclosed is my check/credit card details. (We accept Visa or M/C)

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1911 WRIGHT CIRCLE, ANAHEIM, CA 92806
714/634 9012
“(Dennis’) house... looks like a cross between a frat house after a scavenger hunt and an overstocked electronics workshop.”

Another of Dennis’ productions, “Stone World Grey,” so shocked the audience that a number left for fear of losing their lunches. In one scene, a female figure walks toward the stage from in back of the audience to a slow drumbeat. When she reaches the stage, the other characters appear to worship her... and then they eat her fingers.

Actually, they ate two very realistically made cake hands. A flesh-colored frosting covered a blood-red cake. A cloak covered her arms, so it appeared she was stretching out her own hands.

Dennis also fancies himself a photographer. He won an award for a photo that he claims was an accident. The photo focuses on a doll hung upside-down with darts sticking in it. A friend stands in the background with a mysterious expression on her face. Dennis was just photographing the doll, which at the time seemed funny, but he accidentally captured his friend in an interesting juxtaposition to the doll.

One of Dennis’ long-term goals is to build and market a digital synthesizer for under $2,500. Such a synthesizer runs in the $15,000 range today, but Dennis is convinced he can produce one much cheaper.

The Character

Dennis is a frugal individual. He still drives the car he bought new in 1964, a Plymouth Valiant. The car had over 220,000 miles at last count, and it looks like it earned every mile. Twit, as its license plate reads, is also an unwelcome sight at the local Midas dealer. Dennis had one of their mufflers installed some years ago; he has been back about seven times for replacements.

The house he and his wife, Claire, share with two cats and a dog looks like a cross between a frat house after a scavenger hunt and an overstocked electronics workshop. Shelves sag with containers of screws, diodes and other assorted electronic doo-dads. One is struck by the fact that few of his gadgets have covers on them. Dennis probably became tired of taking them off and putting them back on long ago.

The non-electronic flora and fauna all look equally out of place. He still has his Christmas tree from several years ago, though it has no branches. (“You’re supposed to trim the tree, aren’t you?” he claims.) Nestled amongst the instruments he made for “Plasma Over Ocean” are two stuffed ducks, a Jerry Lewis Telethon display, and a bowl of ceramic fruit. One comes to expect the unexpected after a short while in the Kitzs home.

The End?

Dennis has been talking of “retiring” from work with microcomputers, but as of this writing the decision is still uncertain. He has received a great deal of feedback from readers of “80 Applications” to continue writing about the Color Computer, and he seems inclined to continue writing Color Computer articles on a restricted schedule. 80 Micro just wouldn’t be the same without Dennis Kitzs.

The cast of “Stone World Grey”: Richard Fredette, Pamela Ritterbusch, David Gunn, and Dennis.
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Model: M3DC1-18 Computex Drive Controller PCB With Winchester Option. PCB solder-masked and silk-screened • gold-plated edge card connectors • Built-in digital write precomp/data separation • step-by-step detailed assembly/ installation manual written for the beginner in kit building. Includes complete parts list. If you choose to buy your own components, detailed best/trouble-shooting instructions.......................................................... $49.95

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NOTE: A complete floppy drive system requires: 1) an assembled disk controller board (M3DC1-1B, M3DC1-1K, or M3DC1-1KA); 2) a M3DC1-AK accessories kit; and, 3) your choice of Tandon TM100 series floppy disk drives. (The accessories kit is not required if you plan to go directly to a Winchester drive.)

SAVE UP TO $100.00. With your purchase of a Computex drive controller (assembled or in kit form). We will give you a certificate for a 10% discount on any two Tandon TM100 series bare disk drives.

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You can add up to 40 Megabytes of Winchester storage via the Computex disk controller board. You will need a Winchester Host Adaptor Kit, an accessories kit, and a western digital WD1000 Winchester Drive Controller (available from Computex), and a Winchester Drive Disk to make the system operational.

Model: M3WHA-1 Winchester Host Adaptor Kit. Includes DOS 4, 40 Winchester Operating System • Winchester Host Adaptor for M3DC1 • All required data cables • Installation, theory and assembly manual.......................................................... $499.95

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There seems to be no limit to Japanese ingenuity. This time they have created the ProWriter, a 9 by n dot-matrix printer with high-quality print for the serious user and a full repertoire of tricks for the hobbyist. It is made by TEC and marketed in this country by C. Itoh, a firm known for its daisy-wheel printers.

This printer is also being marketed as the ADS 8001 and, with a slightly different body style, as the NEC 8023A.

The magazine ads for the ProWriter looked awfully good. I called Antex Data Systems—a California dealer who handles the ProWriter. They patiently answered my questions and sent print samples. I also called the head office of C. Itoh for additional technical information.

A day after the print samples arrived, I received, from the head office, a pleasant surprise—a 56-page preliminary operation manual for the ProWriter at no charge. The manual confirmed all the advertised features—and then some. Satisfied, I placed an order and had the printer 13 days later.

Main Features

It accepts single sheets, roll paper, or fanfold, and can produce up to three carbons. Printing speed is 100 characters per second (unidirectional or bi-directional with logic seeking). A quick-cancel feature moves the print head faster when it is repositioned for the next line. Paper feeding can be forward or reverse. Line-feed spacing is variable from 1/144 to 99/144 inch, making superscript and subscript easy.

It has a dot-addressable graphics mode for designing your own characters or making fancy drawings. The dots can be printed with a resolution of up to 160 dots per inch horizontally and 144 vertically. As an urban cowboy friend of mine says, "You can't hardly git more denser than that."

16 DIP switches allow you to set up a variety of default conditions, such as printing slashed or unslashed zeroes. Other standard goodies include: a typewriter-like proportional character set; a self-test function; and a 1,500-character buffer that allows the ProWriter to accept data while printing—not a bad grocery list for an inexpensive printer.

Physical Appearance

It is a good looking printer, with clean lines and an uncluttered appearance. The adjustable tractor sprockets are located behind the friction-feed platen and are completely hidden from view during normal operation. The platen and print mechanism are protected by a hinged transparent cover with a serrated tear bar for clean separation of roll paper and fanfold sheets. The tear bar eliminates diagonal rips in the paper.

Standard pushbuttons for line feed, form feed and select/deselect are located in a recessed portion of the front panel, as are three LED lights to indicate power-on, select and paper-empty conditions. The angle of this recess makes the controls easy to see from just about any position, without leaving them exposed to possible damage.

Construction and Economics

At nearly 18 pounds, the ProWriter is hefty compared to some other small printers. There is a lot of steel in the machine that accounts for the weight. It also gives a feeling of confidence in the durability of the machine. Most of the plastic is on the outside. Its internal parts are held together by screws, not glue. Although I am not a repair expert, it looks as though the 8510 should be easy to work on when repair is needed. The electronics are all on a single board. The DIP switches are fairly easy to access even with paper threaded in the printer.

The print head is attached with two screws and can easily be replaced. An upcoming version of the 8510 will have a snap-in print head. The estimated life of the head is rated at 100 million characters. A replacement costs about $75.

The ProWriter uses a cartridge-type ribbon which simply snaps in place and does not require any threading. A new cartridge sells for about $12 and should be good for three million characters.

The parallel interface version of the printer lists for $825, but discounted prices of less than $600 can be found. This substantial savings, for me, justified the mail-order purchase of a printer without a large network of maintenance facilities. Considering its stout construction a breakdown should be rare. C. Itoh extends a 90-day warranty to its dealers, but prospective buyers should check with their dealer about specific warranty terms.

8510 and the TRS-80

The printer can be ordered with Centronics parallel, RS-232-C serial or Apple computer interfacing. A TRS-80 connecting cable is not included, but the 8510 with parallel interface works fine on my Model I using a standard Radio Shack printer cable, catalogue No. 26-1401. Curiously, when I first turned on the computer with the printer turned off, the DOS would not work. My TRS-80's Expansion Interface is one of the earlier versions and for some reason the printer must be turned on before booting the rest of the system. Connecting the ProWriter to a friend's TRS-80 (with the later version Expansion Interface) showed no such peculiarity. Now I simply turn the printer on first and everything hums along normally.

The ProWriter's graphic characters are not the same as the block graphics generated on the TRS-80 screen. Those characters can, however, be built using the printer's
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Published by 80 Microcomputing, May 1982
This is the PROPORTIONAL Character Set:

This is the STANDARD Character Set:

This is an example of **super** and *subscript* printing with the Pro/Writer.

---

Math and other special symbols are included in the character sets:

![Math symbols table](image)

---

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"My first week with the Pro/Writer was rough."

Fig. 2. Sample Screen Printer with Constructed TRS-80 Graphics.

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Fig. 3. High-Resolution Graphics.

dot-addressable graphics. I wrote a machine-language routine to reproduce the TRS-80's screen contents, including its graphics, on the 8510. Fig. 2 shows the resulting screen dump made during a backgammon game. The screen-print program draws a thin border around the printed image to represent the edges of the screen. I included this to provide a subtle visual reference present on the monitor but missing from most screen-prints.

Fig. 3 is an example of what happens when you mix Bob Boothe's programming genius (80 Microcomputing, April 1981) with a TRS-80 and the dot graphics capability of the Pro/Writer.

Using the 8510

My first week with the Pro/Writer was rough. This was due to erroneous or missing decimal values in the operator's manual for some of the ASCII control codes. Other than this and some phases poorly translated from Japanese, the documentation is pretty good. After figuring out the right values, I had no trouble using all the printer's functions, but that first week would have gone more smoothly if an errata sheet had been included in the manual.

Most of the control codes are straightforward, although some require a numeric value to be sent in its ASCII form. For example, to set the left margin to 5, you send the control code ESC "L" (ESC is decimal 27) followed by three ASCII characters 0, 0, and 5, rather than a decimal value of 5. This can be done from Basic with LPRINT CHR$(27); "L05". It was a little strange at first, but now that I am used to it, I like it.

At times, I need to watch the printing process as it takes place. This is easy on the Pro/Writer because the print line is less than one inch below the paper cutoff. I do not have to stand over the machine and peer inside to see what is going on.

Fanfold and roll paper are threaded into the rear of the printer and exit through the top. A separator is not needed. I have not had a case of incoming paper fouling with outgoing paper, even though I sometimes use the back side of discarded fanfold. Single sheets are fed through a separate opening in the top of the printer.
Winter/Spring 1982

Dear 80 Microcomputing Subscriber:

We are making a cover date change on 80 Microcomputing. What would have been your June 1982 issue will be the June/July 1982 issue. We are not combining an issue—simply changing the month listed on the cover. You will still get 12 issues of 80 Microcomputing in 1982 and 12 issues in 1983, and so on; and we will change your expiration date by adding a month (more on that later) so you don't end up short-changed.

The reason for the cover date change? There has been an increasing demand for 80 Microcomputing to be sold on major newsstands. Because 80 Microcomputing is the last publication to be produced each month by the Wayne Green group it has not been getting to the newsstands on time. A complicated production change could have been made, but a simple cover date change will produce the same results—a full month's sale on the newsstand. Thus, the cover date change.

The change has other benefits...you, the subscriber, will be getting your magazines well before the local computer stores and newsstands. I've been hearing complaints that they get it first; after the June/July issue they won't (although they will still receive it in the month prior to cover date). Also, advertisers' ads will be assured of the full month on the newsstands, in computer stores and in your hands.

As I have said, you will still get 12 issues this year. 80 Microcomputing will be in your mailbox every month, but the one you receive in June will say June/July, the one you receive in July will say August, and so on. We will, however, have to change your expiration dates to make up for the missing "cover month" and our computer will do that all at once. Note the upper right hand corner of your address label now and then note it after the date change and you will see a month's difference in the date listed there. If such a change does not occur please write to me at 80 Pine Street, Peterborough, NH 03458, and I will personally see that it is changed.

Thank you for your support of 80 Microcomputing. I hope you continue to enjoy your subscription.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Boudrieau
Director of Marketing
One problem normally encountered in single-sheet printing is the printer may think it is out of paper when there are still five or six unprinted lines at the bottom of a page. The Pro/Writer allows the operator to override this false paper-empty signal by repeatedly pressing the select switch. This makes it possible to print to the bottom of a single sheet—a nice touch.

Sophisticated forms control is possible on this printer. You can define page length, top and bottom margins, left margin and up to 16 horizontal tabs. The 8510 can also be programmed to remember five separate page formats, each page with its own vertical tab settings. For example, page three might be assigned tabs at the sixth and twenty-third lines, while page five has tabs set at lines 10, 20 and 30. This is a nice feature for cranking out data on pre-printed forms, though it does require planning and skill in converting binary numbers to decimal.

During printing, the 8510 is relatively quiet for an impact printer. It is a little quieter than a standard (tractor feed) MX-80, and is considerably more quiet than my Radio Shack line printer. Stepper motors are used for platen and carriage movement, so the printer is completely silent when idle.

Character Possibilities
The 8510 has essentially two styles of print: standard and proportional. Both styles contain the full ASCII set with the lowercase and descenders, as well as an assortment of graphics, Greek letters, and some useful symbols. A set of Japanese characters is also included.

Standard (uniformly spaced) letters can be printed in six sizes ranging from 40 to 136 characters per line, and proportional letters (actually a separate set of very nicely shaped characters) can be printed in two sizes. Both print styles can be enhanced with bold printing and automatic underlining. The underlining is solid, rather than a series of broken lines, and does not require any backspacing or special housekeeping, since the underline is printed along with the character. Considering all the possible style, size, and enhancement combinations, there are 32 different ways to represent a given character (see Fig. 1). You can change from one combination to another in the middle of a line. This printer does not arbitrarily cancel a selected mode at the end of the line.

A Few Complaints
No one printer can be everything to everyone. The 8510 has some weaknesses in my particular application. I find the VFU cumbersome to program and usually do not even bother with it, except for channel 1 now and then. If you run programs that need fancy vertical forms control, you will no doubt find the VFU a blessing, but given my druthers I would prefer a less sophisticated, easier method of setting vertical tabs.

I have both hot and cold feelings about the 1.5K buffer. At times, it is great to have control returned to my computer almost immediately after executing a long LPRINT list, instead of having to sit and wait for the printer to finish. It can be a curse, though, since there is no way of purging the buffer if you change your mind after the printing is underway, except by turning the printer off and back on again. It would be nice to have a button to clear the buffer without canceling other activated functions.

Another thing I wish for is easier threading of single sheets. For some reason, we dot-matrix printer users still have to move several machine parts out of the way merely to insert one sheet of paper. After some practice, you become adept at it, but this is something the user should not have to learn.

And finally (my sincere apologies to the Japanese), I keep thinking about all that precious character-generator ROM being used up by a set of figures I will probably never print. Perhaps someone will come up with a modified ROM for machines sold in America.

To bring these gripes into perspective, they are small when viewed in the light of this printer's overall performance. Objections notwithstanding, I would not trade my Pro/Writer for any of the other printers on the market within several hundred dollars of its price.

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8 DEPRXY | Sum of the digits depreciation
9 DEPRDIV | Declining balance depreciation
10 DEPRDDL | Double declining depreciation
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16 SALVAGE | Determines salvage value of an investment
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18 RCRENT | Rate of return on investment with constant inflows
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30 DELETP | Deletion analysis
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34 BONDVAL2 | Value of a bond
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39 RTVAL | Value of a right
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46 TRANSPORT | Transportation method for linear programming
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64 NV | Net present value of project
65 PRNDSL | Paasche price index
66 PRNPD | Laspeyres price index
67 SEASON | Seasonal quantity indices for companies
68 TIMETR | Time series analysis linear trend
69 TIMEMOV | Time series analysis moving average trend
70 PURRFY | Future price estimation with infatuation
71 MAILPAC | Mailing list system
72 LETWRT | Letter writing system links with MAILPAC
73 SORT3 | Sorts list of names
74 LABEL1 | Shipping label maker
75 LABEL2 | Name label maker
76 BUSBUD | DOME business bookkeeping system
77 TIMECLK | Computes weekly total hours from time clock info
78 ACCEPT | In memory accounts payable system storage permitted
79 INVOICE | Generate invoice on screen and print on printer
80 INVENT2 | In memory inventory control system
81 TELDIR | Computed telephone directory
82 TIMUSAN | Time use analysis
83 ASSIGN | Use of assignment algorithm for optimal job assign
84 ACCTREC | In memory accounts receivable system storage ok
85 TERMSPAY | Compares 3 methods of repayment of loans
86 PAYNET | Computes gross pay required for given net
87 SELLER | Computes selling price for given after tax amount
88 ARBCOMP | Arbitrage computations
89 DEPRIS | Sinking fund depreciation
90 UPSZONE | Finds UPS zones from zip code
91 ENVELOPE | Types envelope including return address
92 AUTOEXP | Automobile expense analysis
93 INSURANCE | Insurance policy file
94 PAYROLL | In memory payroll system
95 DIANAL | Dilution analysis
96 LOANAFD | Loan amount a borrower can afford
97 RENTRCH | Purchase price for rental property
98 SALELEAS | Sale-leaseback analysis
99 RCONVBD | Investor's rate of return on convertible bond
100 PORTVAL | Stock market portfolio storage valuation program
Tired Of Your
GENERAL LEDGER?

VERSALEDGER

* THE ULTIMATE PERSONAL CHECK REGISTER
* A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM
* A PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGER
* A SMALL BUSINESS ACCOUNTING SYSTEM
* A COMPLETE GENERAL LEDGER

FOR YOUR TRS-80 MODEL I, II, III OR COLOR COMPUTER • APPLE II • I.B.M. • XEROX • ATARI
ALL MICROSOFT BASIC COMPUTERS

HOW IT WORKS . . . .

VERSALEDGER is a complete accounting system that grows as you or your business grows. To start, your VERSALEDGER acts as a simple method of keeping track of your checkbook. Just enter your check number, date and to whom the check is made out to. As you or your business grows, you may add more details to your transactions . . . . account number, detailed account explanations, etc.

- VERSALEDGER can give you an instant cash balance at anytime. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSALEDGER can be used as a small personal checkbook register. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSALEDGER can be used to run your million dollar corporation. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSALEDGER prints checks. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSALEDGER stores all check information forever. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSALEDGER can handle more than one checkbook. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSALEDGER can be used to replace a general ledger. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSALEDGER HAS AN ALMOST UNLIMITED CAPACITY . . . .
  (300 checks per month on single density 5½" disk drives such as the TRS-80 Model-I)
  (500 checks per month on the Apple II)
  (2400 checks per month on the TRS-80 Model III)
  (6000 checks per month on the TRS-80 Model II)
  (3000 checks per month on single density 8" CP/M)
- VERSALEDGER will soon have an add-on payroll package. (IF YOU NEED IT)

— CAN BE USED WITH 1 OR MORE DISK DRIVES —

VERSALEDGER HAS BEEN CREATED
WITH THE FIRST TIME COMPUTER USER IN MIND

INTRODUCTORY PRICE
$99.95

VERSALEDGER

50 N. PASCAK ROAD
SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK 10977
* ADD $3.00 FOR SHIPPING IN UPS AREAS
* ADD $4.00 FOR C.O.D. OR NON-UPS AREAS
* ADD $5.00 TO CANADA AND MEXICO
* ADD PROPER POSTAGE OUTSIDE U.S., CANADA & MEXICO

24 HOUR ORDER LINE
(914) 425-1535

NEW TOLL-FREE ORDER LINE
(OUTSIDE OF N.Y. STATE)
(800) 431-2818

*** ALL PRICES & SPECIFICATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE ***
PAYROLL SIMPLIFIED

VERSAPAYROLL

★ THE ULTIMATE PROFESSIONAL PAYROLL SYSTEM
★ HANDLES ALL PAYROLL FUNCTIONS AND REPORTS
★ QUICK QUARTERLY AND END OF YEAR SUMMARIES
★ PERFECT FOR A SMALL BUSINESS
★ EXPANDS TO HANDLE LARGE CORPORATE PAYROLLS

FOR YOUR TRS-80® MODEL I, II, III, 10 • APPLE® • I.B.M.® • XEROX® • ATARI®
ALL MICROSOFT BASIC COMPUTERS

* TRS-80 is a trademark of Tandy Corp. • APPLE is a trademark of Apple Corp. • I.B.M. is a trademark of I.B.M. Corp. • XEROX is a trademark of Xerox Corp. • ATARI is a trademark of Atari Inc.

HOW IT WORKS ....

VERSAPAYROLL is a complete menu driven payroll system that grows as you or your business grows. Your VERSAPAYROLL acts as a simple payroll system keeping track of all government required payroll information. Just enter the employees, VERSAPAYROLL will perform all the necessary payroll calculations automatically and display to totals on your screen. The user has complete control to accept the totals, to print or not print out a check and to post or not post the total to our VERSALEDGER system.

• VERSAPAYROLL automatically prints out your PAYROLL checks. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL allows you to override any payroll deduction. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL automatically posts all checks written to our VERSALEDGER system. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL allows the user to print out PAYROLL checks one at a time. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL allows the user to print out all your PAYROLL checks at the same time. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL gives you a summary of any employee's year to date payroll totals or all employee totals at any time. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL will allow you to correct any error made at any time and automatically refigure all totals. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL works in every state. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL automatically calculates all federal and states taxes. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL allows for all of the standard deductions plus state, city and three miscellaneous deductions. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL prints all government required reports. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL permanently stores all PAYROLL transactions. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYROLL HAS AN ALMOST UNLIMITED CAPACITY . . .

Can handle up to 50 employees on a TRS-80 MODEL I, 600 employees on a TRS-80 MODEL III, 1200 employees on a TRS-80 MODEL II, 500 employees on an APPLE II, 600 employees on any single density 8" CP/M computer and almost unlimited capacity on hard disk systems.

VERSAPAYROLL HAS BEEN CREATED WITH THE FIRST TIME COMPUTER USER IN MIND

INTRODUCTORY PRICE
$99.95

VERSAPAYROLL

50 N. PASCACK ROAD
SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK 10977

ADD $3.00 FOR SHIPPING IN UPS AREAS
ADD $4.00 FOR C.O.D. OR NON-UPS AREAS
ADD $5.00 TO CANADA AND MEXICO
ADD PROPER POSTAGE OUTSIDE OF U.S., CANADA AND MEXICO

NEW TOLL-FREE ORDER LINE
(OUTSIDE OF N.Y. STATE)
(800) 431-2818

24 HOUR ORDER LINE
(914) 425-1535

*** ALL PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE***
VERSARECEIVABLES is a complete menu driven accounts receivable system. It keeps track of all information related to who owes you or your company money. It prints all necessary statements, invoices and all summary reports to keep you in touch with the flow of money owed to your company. In short, VERSARECEIVABLES is a complete invoicing and monthly statement generating system which keeps track of current and past due receivables.

- VERSARECEIVABLES invoices your customers. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSARECEIVABLES prints customer mailing labels. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSARECEIVABLES generates monthly (or periodic) statements at any time. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSARECEIVABLES uses commonly available preprinted statements and invoices. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSARECEIVABLES allows partial payments on open invoices. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSARECEIVABLES prints out all commonly used ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE reports to give you a total picture of money owed to your company. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSARECEIVABLES keeps a history of each account, both current and aged. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSARECEIVABLES is ideal for doctors, lawyers, small and large businesses.

VERSARECEIVABLES HAS AN ALMOST UNLIMITED CAPACITY . . .

400 customers and transactions per month on single density 5½ disk drives such as the TRS-80 Model I
600 per month on the APPLE II
2400 per month on the TRS-80 MODEL III
6000 per month on the TRS-80 MODEL II
3000 per month on single density 8” CP/M
Almost unlimited on hard disk drive systems

Above capacities are estimates and depend on the customer-transaction mix and the amount of disk space available.

VERSARECEIVABLES HAS BEEN CREATED WITH THE FIRST TIME COMPUTER USER IN MIND

NEW TOLL-FREE ORDER LINE
(OUTSIDE OF N.Y. STATE)
(800) 431-2818

VISA

50 N. PASCAK ROAD
SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK 10977
ADD $1.00 FOR SHIPPING IN U.S.A.
ADD $4.00 FOR C.O.D. OR NON-U.P.S. AREAS
ADD $5.00 TO CANADA AND MEXICO
ADD PROPER POSTAGE OUTSIDE OF U.S.
CANADA AND MEXICO

24 HOUR ORDER LINE
(914) 425-1535

*** ALL PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE ***
HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU OWE?

VERSAPAYABLES

★ THE ULTIMATE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE SYSTEM
★ HANDLES ALL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FUNCTIONS
★ QUICK PERIODIC SUMMARIES AND REPORTS
★ PERFECT FOR PERSONAL OR BUSINESS USE
★ EXPANDS TO HANDLE LARGE CORPORATE PAYABLES

FOR YOUR TRS-80® MODEL I, II, III, 16 • APPLE® • IBM® • XEROX® • ATARI®
ALL MICROSOFT BASIC COMPUTERS

VERSAPAYABLES is a complete menu driven accounts payable system. It keeps track of all
information related to how much money you (personally) or your company owes. It prints all
necessary checks and statements on easily obtainable tractor feed forms (or on plain paper).
Prints all summary reports to keep you in touch with the flow of money going out of your hands (or
leaving your company). In short, VERSAPAYABLES is designed to keep track of current and aged
payables. The system maintains a complete record of each vendor, helps determine which trans-
actions to pay by due date within certain cash requirements and prints checks automatically with
a detailed check register.

• VERSAPAYABLES prints out your checks. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYABLES prints out a detailed check register. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYABLES allows for full or partial payments. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYABLES prints out vendor mailing labels. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYABLES prints out all commonly used ACCOUNTS PAYABLE reports to give you a total picture of money you or your company owes.
   (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYABLES integrates with VERSALEDGER. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
• VERSAPAYABLES HAS AN ALMOST UNLIMITED CAPACITY
   400 vendors and transactions per month on single density 5¼" disk drives such as the
   TRS-80 MODEL I
   600 per month on the APPLE II
   2400 per month on the TRS-80 MODEL III
   6000 per month on the TRS-80 MODELL
   3000 per month on single density 8" CP/M
   Almost unlimited capacity on hard disk drive systems

Above capacities are estimates and depend on disk space available and your vendor-transaction mix.

VERSAPAYABLES HAS BEEN CREATED
WITH THE FIRST TIME COMPUTER USER IN MIND

INTRODUCTORY PRICE
$99.95

VERSAPAYABLES

50 N. PASCACK ROAD
SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK 10977

ORDER LINE
(OUTSIDE OF N.Y. STATE)
(800) 431-2818

24 HOUR
ORDER
LINE
(914) 425-1535

VERSAPAYABLES

COMPUTRONICS

**NEW TOLL-FREE**

*** ALL PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE***
HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE LEFT?

VERSAINVENTORY

★ THE ULTIMATE INVENTORY SYSTEM
★ HANDLES ALL INVENTORY FUNCTIONS
★ QUICK PERIODIC SUMMARIES AND REPORTS
★ PERFECT FOR PERSONAL OR BUSINESS USE
★ EXPANDS TO HANDLE LARGE CORPORATE INVENTORIES

FOR YOUR TRS-80® MODEL I, II, III, 16 • APPLE® • I.B.M.® • XEROX® • ATARI®
ALL MICROSOFT BASIC COMPUTERS

TRS-80 is a trademark of Tandy Corp. • APPLE is a trademark of Apple Corp. • I.B.M. is a trademark of I.B.M. Corp. • XEROX is a trademark of Xerox Corp. • ATARI is a trademark of Atari Inc.

HOW IT WORKS . . .

VERSAINVENTORY is a complete menu driven inventory control system. It keeps track of all information related to how many of a particular item you have. It prints all necessary inventory reports and gives you instant access to any inventory item. VERSAINVENTORY allows the user to stay in touch with items that directly affect sales. Update INVENTORY through easy MENU driven processes.

- VERSAINVENTORY allows the user to instantly add to or deduct from INVENTORY. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSAINVENTORY handles reorder point levels. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSAINVENTORY gives period-to-date and year-to-date sales reports. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSAINVENTORY can be linked to VERSARECEIVABLES and VERSALEDGER. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSAINVENTORY gives all standard INVENTORY REPORTS. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSAINVENTORY instantly values your INVENTORY. (IF YOU WANT IT TO)
- VERSAINVENTORY HAS AN ALMOST UNLIMITED CAPACITY . . .

To figure out estimated VERSAINVENTORY limitations, just multiply 8 by the number of kilobytes of disk storage available. For example, the store capacity on a TRS-80 MODEL II disk drive is 500K. That will allow the user to have about 4,000 inventory items on record. This total is an estimate and depends on how you set up your inventory system.

VERSAINVENTORY HAS BEEN CREATED
WITH THE FIRST TIME COMPUTER USER IN MIND

INTRODUCTORY PRICE
$99.95

NEW TOLL-FREE ORDER LINE
(OUTSIDE OF N.Y. STATE)
(800) 431-2818

24 HOUR ORDER LINE
(914) 425-1535

*** ALL PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE ***
MODEL III DOSPLUS READY NOW! That's right! DOSPLUS 3.4 for the MODEL III is available now. We have our MODEL III, and now you can have our DOS. All the great features of our popular MODEL I DOS, plus Single or Double Density Operation. The best gets better! Order now, and soon your MODEL III will be all the computer it can be. Experience excellence. Experience DOSPLUS.

$149.95

DOSPLUS! The flagship of the Micro-Systems line. This is the BEST disk operating system currently available. It offers you all the features you could ever use, speed, reliability, and much more! Full support of variable length records. No more internal errors during file handling due to poorly written operating systems. Allows use of ISAM technique. Supports 35-80 track drives. The two operating systems are basically the same. However, Dosplus 3.4D will operate double density. The double density DOS has some differences peculiar to double density operation. Both systems offer DOS commands from BASIC, BASIC return, and BASIC program compressor. DOS utilities include a sector display/modify program, a utility to purge files, and a utility to restore purged or killed files. Free space map and the most comprehensive directory on the market. Try it and you'll never use anything else. All this and much more for only $149.95 either system.

THE ORIGINAL DOSPLUS CONTAINS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FEATURES . . . . . .

1) Radio Shack compatibility
2) Error free variable length records
3) Full lower case detection at support
4) Repeating keyboard with NO keybounce EVER
5) Shift [0] typewriter keyboard option
6) Execute only protection feature for BASIC programs
7) Automatic track support for 35 through 80 track drives (mixed)
8) Device I/O handling with FORCE command
9) Supports high speed clock modification (up to 4 Omhz)
10) Supports mixed mode (single & double density) automatically
11) Allows disable-enable to break key
12) Allows user to define step rate per drive and re-configure system disk
13) Allows for efficient use of double-height drives
14) Built in screen printer (shift [CLEAR] with [BREAK] key abort
15) Multiple command chaining with 'DO'
16) Built in memory test with CLEAR command
17) New printer driver which allows complete forms control and paging
18) Automatic serial printer driver with optional auto linefeed
19) Execute any DOS command from BASIC and return to BASIC
20) Free space map of diskette with optional output to printer
21) Copy with variable length files
22) Complete RS-232 control from keyboard with status check
23) Create and pre-allocate files from DOS
24) Display current date and time from DOS
25) Move information from Directory with optional printer output
26) Enter DEBUG with [BREAK] to allow use of [BREAK] from BASIC
27) New DISKDUMP/CMD sector display/modify program (works with filespecs)
28) New DISKZAP/CMD single/double density disk editor
29) New BACKUP (more reliable, no more pack ID check)
30) New FORMAT (more reliable, no need to bulk erase disk first)
31) New MAP utility (maps out disk, showing where files are located)

PLUS New DOSPLUS Z80 Extended Disk BASIC

1) Faster loads and saves
2) BASIC Reference utility (lines, variables, keywords, printer option)
3) BASIC Reference utility (renumber section of text, block text move)
4) Shorthand features for almost ANY direct command (LOAD, SAVE, etc.)
5) Shorthand features for editing (listing and editing with single key)
6) CMD "M" instantly displays currently set variables
7) Global search and replace in BASIC text
8) Line printer TAB to 255
9) OPEN "E" to end of sequential file (for output)
10) DI (delete and insert text line)
11) DU (duplicate text line)
12) "R" & "V" options after LOAD and RUN (files open & save variable)
13) OPEN "D" allowed (Model II compatible) equal to OPEN "R"
14) DOS commands from BASIC
15) Automatic, error-free variable length records
16) Single step execution with TRAP 4 (fabulous for debugging)
17) CRUNCH (BASIC program compressor)
18) New TBSIC (tiny BASIC) offers full BASIC commands
19) TBSIC and DOSPLUS together use 8K of RAM (40K left in 48K TRS-80)

DOSPLUS—$149.95
(MODEL I or MODEL III)

50 N. PASCACK ROAD
SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK 10977

** All prices & specifications subject to change **

80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 201
EVERYTHING FOR YOUR TRS-80®
MODEL I, MODEL II & MODEL III

TRS-80® is a trademark of Tandy Corp.

FROM

RACET COMPUTES LTD

*** ESSENTIAL UTILITY PROGRAMS FOR EVERY TRS-80 OWNER ***

Facts About Racet Computes Utility Programs

*** ALL PROGRAMS ARE WRITTEN IN MACHINE LANGUAGE
*** ABSOLUTELY NO KNOWLEDGE OF MACHINE LANGUAGE IS NEEDED TO USE ANY OF THE UTILITY PROGRAMS
*** EACH UTILITY PROGRAM IS CALLED UP FROM BASIC USING THE SIMPLE BASIC COMMANDS PROVIDED
*** EACH UTILITY PROGRAM COMES WITH A RACET COMPUTES INSTRUCTION MANUAL
*** EACH INSTRUCTION MANUAL INCLUDES SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF UTILITY USAGES
*** EACH UTILITY ALLOW THE USER TO PERFORM CERTAIN BASIC OPERATIONS TEN, TWENTY OR MORE TIMES FASTER THAN THE EQUIVALENT BASIC ROUTINE. (FOR EXAMPLE, GSF CAN SORT AN ARRAY OF 1000 RANDOM NAMES INTO ALPHABETICAL ORDER IN UNDER 9 SECONDS!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSF (GENERALIZED SUBROUTINE FACILITY)</th>
<th>KFS-80 (KEYED FILE SYSTEM)</th>
<th>DSM (DISK SORT MERGE)</th>
<th>MAILLIST (A MAILING LIST DATABASE SYSTEM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SORTS 1000 ELEMENT ARRAYS IN 9 SECONDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>CREATE ISAM FILES (INDEX SEQUENTIAL ACCESS METHOD)</strong></td>
<td><strong>SORTS AN 8K DISKETTE IN LESS THAN THREE MINUTES</strong></td>
<td><strong>IDEALLY SUITTED FOR ORGANIZATION MAILING LISTS, PERSONAL ADDRESS BOOK, OR MAILING LISTS BASED ON DATES SUCH AS REMINDERS FOR BIRTHDAYS OR DUES PAYABLE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SORTS UP TO 15 ARRAYS SIMULTANEOUSLY (MIXED STRING, FLOATING POINT AND INTEGER)</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALLOWS INSTANT ACCESS TO ANY RECORD ON YOUR DISKETTE</strong></td>
<td><strong>SORTS LARGE MULTIPLE DISKETTE FILES ON A MINIMUM ONE DRIVE SYSTEM</strong></td>
<td><strong>USED ISAM (INDEX SEQUENTIAL ACCESS METHOD) FOR RAPID ACCESS TIMES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SORTS SINGLE OR MULTIPLE SUBSTRINGS AS ASCENDING OR DESCENDING SORT KEYS</strong></td>
<td><strong>INSTANTLY RETRIEVES RECORDS FROM MAILING LISTS, INVENTORY, ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE OR VIRTUALLY ANY APPLICATION WHERE RAPID ACCESS IS REQUIRED TO NAMED RECORDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>SORTS ON ONE OR MORE FIELDS IN ASCENDING OR DESCENDING ORDER</strong></td>
<td><strong>YOUR MAILLIST CAN ALWAYS BE SORTED AND MAINTAINED BY UP TO FOUR INDEX FILES (FOR EXAMPLE, NAME, ZIP CODE, DATE AND NUMBER)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>READ AND WRITE ARRAYS TO CASSETTE</strong></td>
<td><strong>PROVIDES THE BASIC PROGRAMMER THE ABILITY TO RAPIDLY INSERT OR ACCESS KEYED RECORDS IN ONE OR MORE DATA FILES</strong></td>
<td><strong>SORTS MAY BE STRINGS, INTEGER, BINARY INTEGER OR FLOATING POINT</strong></td>
<td><strong>MAILLIST ALLOWS UP TO 30 ATTRIBUTES TO BE SPECIFIED (TO BE USED IN SELECTION OF SPECIFIED RECORDS WHEN GENERATING REPORTS OR MAILING LABELS)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COMPRESS AND UNCOMPRESS DATA IN MEMORY</strong></td>
<td><strong>RECORDS ARE MAINTAINED IN SORTED ORDER BY A SPECIFIED KEY</strong></td>
<td><strong>THE SORTED OUTPUT FILE MAY OPTIONALLY HAVE FIELDS DELETED, REARRANGED OR PADDED</strong></td>
<td><strong>MAILLIST SUPPORTS BOTH 5 OR 9 DIGIT ZIP CODES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MOVE ARRAYS IN MEMORY</strong></td>
<td><strong>RECORDS MAY BE INSERTED OR RETRIEVED BY SUPPLYING THE KEY</strong></td>
<td><strong>SORT COMMANDS CAN BE SAVED FOR REUSE</strong></td>
<td><strong>PRINTING MAY BE STARTED OR ENDED AT ANY POINT IN THE LIST. THE USER CAN SPECIFY FIELDS OR CODES TO BE PRINTED</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DUPLICATE MEMORY</strong></td>
<td><strong>RECORDS MAY BE RETRIEVED SEQUENTIALLY IN ORDSERED ORDER</strong></td>
<td><strong>SORT MERGE, OR MIXED SORT/ MERGE OPERATIONS MAY BE PERFORMED</strong></td>
<td><strong>CAPACITY IS 8000 NAMES FOR MAILLIST I, 38000 NAMES FOR MAILLIST II, 38000 NAMES FOR MAILLIST III WITH HARD DISK DRIVE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FAST HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL LINES</strong></td>
<td><strong>RAPID ACCESS TO ANY FILE REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF RECORDS</strong></td>
<td><strong>SORTED OUTPUT MAY BE WRITTEN TO A NEW FILE, OR REPLACE THE ORIGINAL INPUT FILE</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000 NAMES FOR MODEL III</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCREEN CONTROLS FOR SCROLLING THE SCREEN UP, DOWN, LEFT, RIGHT AND FOR GENERATING INVERSE GRAPHIC DISPLAYS</strong></td>
<td><strong>MULTIPLE INDEX FILES CAN BE EASILY CREATED WHICH ALLOWS ACCESS OF A SINGLE DATABASE BY MULTIPLE KEYS (FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH NAME AND ZIP CODE)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ADS PEAKS AND POKES (MOD-II VERSION ONLY)</strong></td>
<td><strong>MODEL-I VERSION</strong></td>
<td><strong>MODEL-I VERSION</strong></td>
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COMPROC (COMMAND PROCESSOR)
- AUTO YOUR DISK TO PERFORM ANY SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTIONS THAT YOU NORMALLY GIVE FROM THE KEYBOARD (FOR EXAMPLE, INSERT THE DISKETTE, PRESS THE NCERT-BUTTON, YOUR COMMAND FILE COULD AUTOMATICALLY SHOW YOU THE DIRECTORY, SHOW THE FREE SPACE ON THE DISKETTE, LOAD A MACHINE LANGUAGE SUBROUTINE, LOAD BASIC, LOAD AND RUN A BASIC PROGRAM, AND SELECT A GIVEN ITEM ON YOUR MENU... ALL WITHOUT TOUCHING THE KEYBOARD).

MODEL-I VERSION $20.00
MODEL-III VERSION $30.00
NOT AVAILABLE FOR MODEL-II

DISCAT (DISKETTE CATALOG SYSTEM)
- THIS COMPREHENSIVE DISKETTE CATALOGING INDEXING UTILITY ALLOWS THE USER TO KEEP TRACK OF THOUSANDS OF PROGRAMS IN A CATEGORIZED LIBRARY. FILE INCLUDES PROGRAM NAMES AND EXTENSIONS, PROGRAM LENGTH, DISKETTE NUMBERS, AND FREE SPACE ON EACH DISKETTE. KEEP A COMPLETE CATALOG OF THE DIRECTORIES ON ALL YOUR DISKETTES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (SORTED ON EACH DISKETTE, OR COMPLETE ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PROGRAMS ON ALL YOUR DISKETTES).

MODEL-I VERSION $50.00
MODEL-III VERSION $50.00
MODEL-II VERSION (SEE MODEL-II UTILITY PACKAGE)

BLINK (BASIC LINK FACILITY)
- LINK FROM BASIC PROGRAM TO ANOTHER SAVING ALL VARIABLES
- THE CHAINED PROGRAM MAY EITHER REPLACE THE ORIGINAL PROGRAM OR BE MERGED BY STATEMENT NUMBER

MODEL-I VERSION $25.00
MODEL-III VERSION $50.00
MODEL-II VERSION (SEE MODEL-II UTILITY PACKAGE) $30.00

INFINITE BASIC
- ADDS OVER 80 COMMANDS TO BASIC
- SORTING STRING CENTERING ROTATION TRUNCATION JUSTIFICATION DATA COMPRESSION STRING TRANSLATION COPYING SCREEN DISPLAY SCROLLING MATRIX OPERATIONS SIMULTANEOUS EQUATIONS (THROUGH MATRIX INVERSION) DYNAMIC ARRAY RESHAPING

MODEL-I VERSION $50.00
MODEL-III VERSION $60.00
NOT AVAILABLE ON MODEL-II

INFINITE BUSINESS
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- ADDS PACKED DECIMAL ARITHMETIC WITH 127 DIGIT ACCURACY (+/- .)
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How one man solved his RFI problem.

LNW-80

Richard L. Brocew  
1850 Pearl Loop  
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I purchased my TRS-80 in 1978. Radio Shack’s original design problems were compounded by my rural location. The RFI interference precluded its use in the ham shack.

It seemed obvious I needed a hardware upgrade. The replacement had to be software-compatible with the TRS-80. I shopped around and decided on the LNW. I ordered both circuit boards.

The Processor Board

The circuit boards are silk-screened and solder masked with plated-through holes. The processor board has a gold plated edge connector.

Two views of the interior of the LNW-80 built by the author. The expansion board has been lifted out and laid back to reveal the processor board. The power supply is on the right side, and the fan RFI filter and IC regulators with their heat sinks can be seen. Note the use of heavy wire to connect power to the expansion board. The expansion board shows the two piggyback boards: Percom Doubier and the programmable baud rate generator. The default RS-232 parameters are selected by switches seen at the lower right of the keyboard. The wires running off the picture on the left are remote vertical and horizontal position controls. The wire on the top right of the keyboard goes to the LED power light. The small toroids clustered around the power supply are used in place of jumpers to help reduce noise.

The Z80A processor chip runs at 4MHz. Most of the circuit design is a leap ahead of the TRS-80. The power supply has an onboard large filter capacitor. The design uses several IC regulators with overvoltage crowbars and fuses for protection. This circuitry is clustered in one section of the board to keep heat from sensitive circuits. Heat sinks are mandatory on the regulators.
There are 90 ceramic and 18 tantalum capacitors on the board with only 0.1 volt of noise on the plus five line. The memory design has Schmitt trigger devices on all lines; the address lines have series termination. The result is a quiet memory. 200 nS memories are required with the 4MHz clock.

The character generator ROM can be a custom programmed 2716 or the TRS-80 character generator. The new Radio Shack ROM with lowercase descenders also works.

For the language ROMs the two or three chip Radio Shack set or LNW six chip set will do. For the six chip set the ROMs are 2716s. The configuration is selected by a DIP switch of jumpers.

The processor speed is slowed to 1.77 MHz when the ROMs are accessed by inserting wait states in the 280. When running the Basic interpreter, the speed increase over the TRS-80 is around 40 percent (depending on the application). When running machine language ROM independent software the LNW is more than twice the speed of the TRS-80.

The LNW-80 allows use of a Radio Shack keyboard or the LNW keyboard. There are two connectors on the circuit board. U30 and U34 must be removed to use the Radio Shack keyboard.

Graphics

The foremost feature of the LNW is the on-board inclusion of high density black and white and color graphics consisting of six additional 4116s with support circuitry. It is controlled by an OUT command to port 254.

The graphics pixels use the same address space as the Basic ROMs, activated by an OUT to port 254 with bit 3 set. The command deactivates Basic making a machine language driver necessary for graphics. This is fairly well documented in the manual. High and low resolution graphics and characters can be displayed at the same time.

The screen is divided into an inner and extended region. The inner region is 384 by 192 pixels. The extended region is another 96 pixels horizontally. Addressing for the two regions differs slightly.

For color graphics either a color monitor or a tv with on-board RFI modulator is used. Outputs for an RGB monitor can be wired in. There are two color modes. The first gives you 128 by 192 pixels in eight colors. The high resolution mode gives 384 by 192 pixels. The bandwidth for this mode requires an RGB monitor. The color graphics require a custom programmed 82S23 ROM, available from LNW. The ROM contents are detailed in the manual.

Drawbacks

LNW lists a 24 by 80 character video screen in its advertising. This is a little deceptive. The LNW-80 has the capability of a 24 by 80 screen by utilizing the high density graphics, but to get it you have to write a driver program.

LNW’s six chip ROM set costs $120. Considering that 2716s go for about $6 each, I decided to program my own. But which address blocks go in which ROM socket? I called LNW and was told the information was proprietary! Some schematic study and experimenting revealed the truth as can be seen in Table 1.

The Expansion Board

The expansion board is of the same high quality as the printed circuit board, except the gold plating costs extra. (The plating is worth it.) It has the same good memory design and Schmitt trigger drivers. There are 43 ceramic and 12 tantalum bypassing capacitors.

The board also has a few drawbacks. The printer port works okay if the printer is only a few feet from the port. You never want to hook a long line to the output of a D-type flip-flop. My printer is 20 feet away and 74LS175 will not drive it. I had to add buffering.

They cut corners on the RS-232 port. Wire jumpers select the default RS-232 parameters. Why not use a DIP switch? The baud rate is also a wire jumper, and is not software-selectable. You can change soldered jumpers about three times before the pads fall off or the plating pulls out. LNW should have added the one extra chip to make baud rates selectable. Or they could have laid out the DIP switch on the circuit board.

The RS-232 connector pads are spaced for a printed circuit mount right angle 25-pin connector. Do not solder one on the board. When the board is in place inside the LNW cabinet there is no room to hook up to it with a plug. You also cannot use a straight connector. Besides, the connector pads are 16 inches from the nearest opening in the case. Use 25-wire extension cord.

The system expansion connector for outside devices is at right angles to the back of the case. You have to take the cover off to use it.

The Keyboard

Here is where the good designers at LNW went out to lunch en masse. The manual says the keyboard “is designed specifically for the LNW-80.” The one I got was just a plain unencoded keyboard. A plastic bag with engraved keytops was included with instructions to replace certain keytops with the new ones. One of the new keytops was engraved sideways!

The key switches are the same wire finger switches that gave Radio Shack grief for so long. With this system, if you do not have a keyboard debounce fix, you will get keybounce in spades at 4MHz.

The circuit board is one-sided, with a large number of wire jumpers on top of the board. The keyboard has to sit on them and is difficult to seat for soldering.

Buy your keyboard someplace else. Radio Shack Model I keyboards are cheaper and superior.

The LNW case is an attractive low profile cabinet made of heavy gauge steel with room inside for both circuit boards, keyboard, power transformer, a muffin fan and RFI filter. Unfortunately it is overpriced. Build your own or buy a cabinet from Cramer.

Conclusion

The LNW-80 is, for the most part, a well designed, fast, effective computer. I use my LNW-80 with the Percem Doubler II and LDDS operating system. I have a time-of-day clock, plotter controller, music board and eight-bit general purpose port attached to my expansion bus. I designed and installed a piggyback board for selectable baud rates on the RS-232. All is working well.

Building an LNW-80 is not a project for a beginner. The manual is informative, but this is not a Heathkit.

Mr. Brocaw was born in Oklahoma in 1944. He holds a BSEE from New Mexico State University and is now a senior systems analyst for Public Service Co. of New Mexico.
With Telewriter, Color Computer word processing becomes a big-league affair.

Telewriter

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Telewriter is a machine-language program requiring a minimum of 16K of RAM; 32K are better in terms of text storage capability, since Telewriter itself occupies over 6,400 bytes. A 16K machine can store just over 2,200 characters, or less than two pages of average double-spaced text. With 32K you can store about 18,500 characters. Of course, you can record the contents of the text memory on tape and chain together as many cassette files as you like, so the effectiveness of either hardware configuration is unlimited.

Getting Started

The program is supplied on cassette, recorded once on each side. The labeled side also contains a text file for demonstration purposes. The documentation is quite complete and takes the form of two manuals: a 27-page tutorial, which leads you by the hand through most of the program’s features, and a 33-page reference manual, which treats the various commands in more detail. An additional sheet summarizing the commands is also furnished, and it makes a handy user’s guide once you become familiar with Telewriter’s operation.

There are two menus: main and format. The main menu comes up when you load the program and give the EXEC command, and is used to read or save a cassette file, create or edit text in RAM, and perform a few other chores. The format menu, which you access by entering the F command, controls the printing format and instructs the computer regarding the number of files to be chain printed. You can also embed many of the format menu’s commands in your text in order to change such parameters as line spacings, margins, and printing fonts on the fly. Menus are displayed in standard reverse video, and most commands require only a single-letter response (i.e., you do not have to press Enter). Where additional input such as a numerical value for setting a printing parameter is required, the familiar flashing Basic cursor appears at the appropriate spot on the format menu.

You begin to enter text by giving the main menu’s C (Create) command. The display switches to a white screen with a flashing L for a cursor and a small black rectangle for an end-of-text marker. Anything you enter at this point will be in Telewriter’s software-defined font. The usual shift-0 combination is retained for uppercase lock. You can move the cursor anywhere over the text by means of the Color Computer’s four arrow keys, used by themselves or in combination with either shift or Clear. The shift gives any arrow key a fast auto-repeat, while Clear is a special control key. With it, you can make the cursor skip to the top or bottom of a text file using the up or down arrows, or to the beginning or end of a given screen line with the horizontal arrows.

Clear lets you define other keystrokes as commands, rather than text, in this mode. For example, Clear-P scrolls the display forward by one full screen. This lets you enjoy the flexibility of full-screen editing.

If you place the cursor somewhere in the middle of a block of text and begin to type, the new material is added to the old; you do not type over anything. In the same way, backspacing over text does not erase it. The Break key alone erases the character immediately to the right of the cursor, while the Clear-Break combination erases the character to the cursor’s left. There are also simple methods for erasing complete lines or large blocks of text. To erase an arbitrary chunk of material, position the cursor at the end of the unwanted section and type Clear-E. This generates a heavy right
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"To save you from yourself Telewriter requests confirmation before executing any command."

bracket on the screen. Then move the cursor to the beginning of the section and type Clear-X. Telewriter deletes the material and reformats the display to eliminate gaps.

Telewriter has many other commands for moving and changing text, and most of them use Clear to define a control function in a similar way.

To find a text pattern, move the cursor to the top of the text file and enter Clear-F. The standard Basic text screen returns, and you enter the pattern for which you want to search (lowercase is now in reverse video). Press Enter to return to the Telewriter text screen. The cursor flashes at the first location of your search pattern. You can find the next occurrence, and all subsequent occurrences, by entering Clear-N. Global (selective) search, change or delete are possible with the Clear-G command. You again enter the pattern, but now the Enter key keeps the Basic screen and drops the cursor one line. This time, you enter the pattern which replaces the one sought; it need not change at every occurrence. Pressing Enter a second time returns you to the text file, with the cursor flashing in the find operation.

If you want to change to the new pattern just specified, press Clear-R; if not, press Clear-N to skip to the next occurrence of the target. You can extend this to a selective deletion of text; instead of a replacement pattern, enter a second carriage return.

To copy a block of text, mark the end of the block by pressing Clear-N as for deletion, then mark the beginning by pressing Clear-B, which generates a heavy bracket. Move the cursor to the place where you want the copy to begin, and press Clear-C. Telewriter copies the block and rewrites the screen. The original block is left in place, with the brackets deleted. If you want to move the block instead of copying it, you must delete the original as described above.

Pressing Clear-A fills out broken text lines (necessary if you hit Enter after every sentence). You can preserve paragraph beginnings by idenation or by using an additional Enter.

The Cassette Handler

You access all of the text-manipulation commands discussed so far from the editor portion of the main menu. Another section, called the cassette handler, provides the means for storing and retrieving text. Its commands allow you to read a cassette file into memory, append a text file from tape to the end of any file in RAM, write all or part of a file from RAM to tape, and verify that such writing was successful.

Cassette Handler commands consist of a single letter (or the percent sign, in the case of partial save). Each results in the appearance of the Basic's flashing block cursor next to the selected command as the program awaits a file name. You can skip the file name in all cases, but it is a poor idea to write an unnamed file to tape. The procedure for saving a portion of a file requires you to first go into the editor and mark the end of the desired portion by pressing Clear-E. You then move the cursor to the beginning of the segment as though you were deleting it, return to the main menu with Clear-M, and enter the % command.

The Verify command is extremely useful. Until quite recently I was using a 16K computer, so I had to chain print many files for anything much longer than a letter. Nothing is quite as discouraging as an "I/O ERROR" message in the middle of one of these chaining operations. Verify allows you to check a tape record to make certain that it can be read properly, all without destroying the text file in memory. Should a read error occur, you can rewrite the file to tape. Press Break first to abort the error condition and return to the main menu.

To save you from yourself, Telewriter requests confirmation before executing any command, such as Create or Read In, which can destroy material in memory. The request takes the form of the message "SURE??..." next to the command involved on the menu. The only acceptable answers are an uppercase Y or any word beginning with one.

There is one more especially handy main menu command. Clear-W displays the number of words in the text buffer, along with a count of the number of lines into which the text is formatted at any particular time. It also tells you how many spaces (characters or carriage returns) are still available. The part of the menu that displays this information also gives the name of the last file read or appended from cassette. This helps you keep track of your file names when you are chaining many together for printing.

Formatting and Text Printing

As I noted earlier, the main menu's F command brings up the format menu. This displays the defaults for the basic format parameters: line spacing and length; the left, top, and bottom margins; number of lines per page; and the baud rate (encoded according to a table in the documentation). You can reset any of them, and also specify several others: the starting page number of the file in memory, the number of files to be chain printed, and whether or not the printer is to pause at the bottom of each page. There is a special Font command for MX-80 users as well.

The format parameters only have to be set once if you are chain printing several files. If you desire page numbers, make the appropriate non-zero entry for the starting page of the first file. Telewriter keeps track of the line count and the page number across file boundaries during printing.

Good word-processing programs include embedded commands which you can incorporate in the text in order to change formats. Telewriter's are defined by a special leading character—an upward-pointing caret—which you generate by pressing Clear and then the period. You can use everything mentioned so far, except for the MX-80 font and the number of files in the printing queue, in an embedded command.

The embedded commands have their own syntax rules. They must appear on lines containing only commands—no text. The program recognizes the control caret only if it is indented by at least one space from the left margin. Several embedded commands can appear on one line, in general, provided that they are separated by at least one space. There is no hierarchy or preferred order to the commands.

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MAKES MICROS RUN LIKE MINIS
“One of Telewriter’s very few bugs occurs when you use headers.”

Let’s say you are printing with double spacing, a left margin of 10 spaces, and a line length of 60 characters, and you want to highlight a quotation. You might do so by switching to single spacing and indenting another 10 spaces at both right and left margins. You would embed the following command line: M2 C60 S1. Notice that the margin is set first, then the number of characters in the line, then the line spacing. Finish the command line with a carriage return, and enter the quotation. When you are finished, you can revert to the original format with, say, this command line: S2 C60 M10 where I have changed the order at random. It is easier to keep track of things if you set and reset parameters in the same order, but it is not mandatory.

A few print commands which do not control standard format parameters also use the embedded command syntax. You can center a title by prefixing it with a caret and an asterisk. You can print a header at the top of every page of a file but the first, using the H format code. One of Telewriter’s very few bugs occurs when you use headers.

The Header command is required at the beginning of every file chained in a printout. A caret precedes and follows it. It has the syntax HN... Header where N is the number of blank lines desired between the header and the body of the text, and where the dots represent the blanks needed to properly indent the header itself. The usual margin format does not apply. The Telewriter reference manual recommends that you follow embedded commands with a second carriage return before beginning text entry. This generates a blank line which is not printed but which keeps the Align feature (Clear-A) from combining the text with the command and destroying the format. (The header will not be printed as part of a text line, but its length would be counted in formatting.) Unfortunately, I found that if a header definition is followed by two carriage returns, it fails to print at the top of the second page; it does not begin until the third. This is not an earth-shaking problem, but I found it annoying because much of my writing consists of material for publication, and identifying headers are required.

There are two solutions. You can print the header at the top of the second page if you follow it by only one carriage return, but then you must find another way to keep a subsequent align from combining it with the text. An indentation as well as an extra carriage return signal the start of a paragraph. All you have to do then is standardize on indentation for paragraphs.

Howard Cohen of Cognitect found the second solution, which is to load the first of a series of chained files into memory before defining its header, and start printing from that configuration. On the format menu, set the number of files in the queue to one less than the total number of files.

This bug has now been eliminated, but Telewriter purchasers should check out their own copies of the program. You can also use the embedded command concept to define special control codes. With the Caret-D command you can define up to nine special characters of up to 15 numbers, each number being an ASCII code for either a printing or non-printing character. You use this method to change...

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212 • 80 Microcomputing, May 1982
“I feel that the combination of full screen editing and the very respectable font give the program real advantages.”

fonts for highlighting, for instance. Finally, you can use the control caret to align individual partial lines of text with the left margin by setting up each line as though it were a legitimate embedded command: indent one space, caret, text. Because these lines look like commands with incorrect syntax, Telewriter prints them. But because they are (apparently) commands, Telewriter ignores the leading space and the caret. Although this sounds bizarre, it works well in practice.

How it Works

While Telewriter may lack some of the features of word processors designed to run on larger, business-oriented machines, it gives the Color Computer respectability as a document preparation center for the home or school. I feel that the combination of full-screen editing and the very respectable font give the program real advantages. I have also used C.C. Writer for some time. I found it easy to learn to use, thanks to an excellent manual, but its line orientation and multiple modes for text entry and editing can give the writer a real workout. Telewriter gives me a much better sense of control.

Improvements

Telewriter is not perfect. Several items remain on my wish list though none of these are crippling (or even serious) deficiencies. Telewriter cannot right justify text. Although I use this feature only for correspondence (at least with C.C. Writer, where it is slow), it is still nice to have. Telewriter does not allow me to redefine tab stops. Telewriter has tabs every eight positions; the tab key is the Clear-Enter combination. You cannot reset the tabs, however, and eight spaces is just too far to indent a paragraph. Punching the spacebar five times is primitive compared with everything else in the program.

As far as text manipulation is concerned, I have occasionally wished for a block-move command that would automatically delete the block in its old location, rather than requiring me to go back and delete it after copying.

The Color Computer still lacks a word processor with a file-merging capability. It is not yet possible to write a letter with variable data in the address and salutation fields and merge it with a mailing list, for example. This is completely standard for business systems, and it would be extremely valuable in the home, as well. The applications to organizational correspondence are obvious. Perhaps Howard Cohen at Cognitec, or Bill Dye at Transformation Technologies, or someone at Computerware, Nelson Software, or even Tandy will include this feature in some future disk-oriented program.

None of these missing features keep Telewriter from being a fine program. The manuals cover several tricks that I cannot easily describe in a brief review, but which greatly enhance the power of the package. The program is easy to bring up for simple work the first time, but there is nothing like working with it for a while to bring out its real power. At $49.95 it is the most expensive of the Color Computer word processors; it is worth it.

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**Random File Manipulation**

If you are unfamiliar with the statements used to manipulate random files, here is a short explanation. See Program Listing 1 for line number references. Line 100 opens a disk file named STOREQUI. It creates the file if none existed before. Buffer one passes information to and from the file. Each record is 25 bytes long. Line 110 divides the 25-character buffer into portions that are named by the field statement. Line 130 places record number K% from the disk file into the buffer in memory.

Note that all numeric data in a direct file is stored in a compressed format, so after you retrieve the data from the disk with the Get command you must convert it to the proper type (integer, single or double precision) using the commands CVI, CVS or CVD. Line 140 assigns the integer variable WE% the integer value of ST$ after converting ST$ by the command CVI(ST$).

Now refer to Program Listing 3. When placing data into a direct file, you open and field the file as before. Line 160 converts the integer WE% to a compacted string form with MKIS$ (make integer string) and then places it into buffer 1. The Field statement in line 150 places the converted WE% into the first two bytes of the buffer in memory, names these bytes ST$ and places the bytes into the buffer from left to right (LSET).

Programmers often use random files where they require some sort of disk file system and do not need to read all of the file's information each time they access the file. I use random files to store 60 different aircraft load configurations which consist of a load-weight integer, four integers that represent the load size, shape and aerodynamic drag, plus a 15-character string description of the load. I store this information in records 1-60 and refer to them by their record number. As an example, if the operator needed the load information from record number 10, he need only enter 10 to the request “Enter Load Code.”

The interpreter then immediately accesses the information in record 10 without having to read records 1-9. This saves time and wear on the disk drive.

To do the preceding (Listing 1), first open the file (line 100). Then field its buffer (line 110). Be sure the operator does not exceed the end of file (line 120). Then you must get the proper record and convert all data to the proper type (lines 130-160).

That portion of the software is a little complex, but not as complex as when you have to place information into a random file. To do that, first open and field the file (Listing 3, lines 140-150). Then convert all numeric data types like integer, single and double precision to strings using MKIS$, MKSS and MKDS$. Then LSET or RSET your variables into the variable names you used in the Field statement (lines 160-190). Put the data that is now in the buffer memory, which puts it into the file on your disk.

**The Snapp Way**

Program Listing 2 does the same thing as Listing 1, but uses Snapp V.

Rather than using Basic's conversion statements and Field, you need only give the proper SCMD and your variable names that appear in your program. The variable names may even appear in string form (lines 95 and 120); Extended File Mapping Support takes care of the rest.

Listing 3 puts data into the file named STOREQUI, and uses standard Radio Shack Basic. Lines 150-190 are required to convert the data to strings and then place the data into buffer 1. This wastes time. Woe to the programmer who uses the Field variable names elsewhere in his
program because he may lose his data in a buffer.

Program Listing 4 implements Snapp V to do the same thing as Listing 3. In line 200, all variable names as used in the program are passed to Snapp V through the string following SCMD PUT. I could have used the same technique as I did in Listing 2, lines 95 and 120, but I chose this method to demonstrate Snapp V's versatility and simplicity.

Snapp V gives you a new data type, the one-byte integer which can have the value of 0-255. This one helps you to pack data that will not exceed the value of 255.

All the Snapp Extended programs are aimed to save the programmer time and trouble, and to save the computer memory. Snapp II through V become a part of your Basic interpreter, and does not even take up disk space in your Model II. To install the software on your Model II disk you need only follow the simple installation procedures that come with the disk, and soon your Radio Shack Basic will be up and running with the Snapp enhancements.

90 INPUT "Enter desired record number";K,% 100 OPEN "D";1,"STOREQUI";25 110 FIELD 1$ AS ST$A AS PS$A AS PV$AS AS PE$ 120 IF K>%LOF(1) THEN CLOSE 1;END 130 GET 1,K,% 140 WEIGHT = CV(PS$) 150 DRAG1% = CV(PS$);D2% = CV(PV$) 160 D3% = CV(PS$);D4% = (PS$) 170 NAS$ = GET$;REM NAS$ now equals the load description 180 CLOSE 1 190 END

Program Listing 1

90 INPUT "Enter desired record number";K,% 95 DIS = "WE$%,DR%,D2%,D3%,D4%,(15)NAS$%" 100 OPEN "D";1,"STOREQUI";25 110 IF K>%LOF(1) THEN CLOSE 1;END 120 SCMD GETDIS,1,K,% 130 CLOSE 1 140 END

Program Listing 2

100 INPUT "Enter weight";WE$ 110 INPUT "Enter 4 drag numbers";DR$,D2%,D3%,D4% 120 INPUT "Enter description up to 15 chars";NAS$ 130 INPUT "Enter record to be updated";K,% 140 OPEN "D";1,"STOREQUI";25 150 FIELD 1$ AS ST$A AS PS$A AS PV$AS AS PE$A AS PNS$A AS DE$A 160 LSET ST$ = MK$(WE$); LSET PS$ = MK$(DR$); LSET PV$ = MK$(D2%); LSET PES = MK$(D3%); LSET PNS = MK$(D4%); 170 LSET DES = NAS$ 180 PUT 1,K,% 190 CLOSE 1;END

Program Listing 3

100 INPUT "Enter weight";WE$ 110 INPUT "Enter 4 drag numbers";DR$,D2%,D3%,D4% 120 INPUT "Enter description up to 15 chars";NAS$ 130 INPUT "Enter record to be updated";K,% 140 OPEN "D";1,"STOREQUI";25 150 SCMD PUT"WE$%,DR%,D2%,D3%,D4%,(15)NAS$%,1,K,% 210 CLOSE 1;END

Program Listing 4

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If you have ever wished to speed up your TRS-80 without resorting to hardware modifications, or complete program rewrites in machine code, here are two program packages that can help. The Basic compiler from Microsoft and the ACCEL2 compiler from Southern Software can each compile Basic programs written on a disk-based TRS-80. There are a few restrictions with each program, however, and each has its particular advantages.

Talking to a Computer
First of all, what is a compiler? There are several ways you can define a series of instructions for a computer. At the most basic level you can communicate in machine code—the only language a computer directly understands. A machine-code listing is a boring list of numbers in hexadecimal, or base 16, for the TRS-80. If you are familiar with the instruction set of the Z80 processor, you may be able to create a listing in machine code, but certainly wouldn't do so for any lengthy programming task.

The most common method of communicating with the TRS-80 is through its Basic interpreter. This is an encoding scheme allowing you to write your program in Basic, read your listings in Basic, and during the Run mode, have the Z80 send instructions in machine code by the interpreter, which is itself a program. This method is easy on the programmer, but makes a lot of work for your Z80. It is busy converting the Basic text to machine code, a line at a time, during the program run. Since the processor spends a large portion of its time interpreting instructions, the effective speed of execution is much less than if the same program were coded in machine code.

If you are an advanced programmer, there is always that mystery of life, Assembly language. This is just another way of writing in machine code, except the hex digits are replaced with two and three-letter words, called mnemonics, which are easier to remember than hex digits. The assembler also provides some other features, such as the labeling of subroutines so absolute memory addresses need not be specified. It is still much like writing in machine code.

Using Assembly language also requires an extra step. After writing the source code using an editor program, one must assemble the code into numeric machine code before running it on the computer using an assembler program. The extra effort yields a program which runs many times the speed of a Basic program because the assembler produces machine code. A program written in Assembly language may run up to 100 times faster than the same operations processed by a Basic interpreter.

Another way to communicate instructions to a computer is through the use of a compiler. Many well known languages, such as Fortran, are nearly always implemented as a compiled language. Such a language can be structured for ease of programming, like Basic, yet provide high-speed execution, like Assembly language. The main difference between using a Basic interpreter and a compiled language, like Fortran, is the source code must be processed like Assembly language before it is run. The compiler is a program which converts the source code into machine code, but unlike Assembly language, the machine code is not a one-on-one translation of the original program. In fact, one statement of the compiler language may create dozens of lines of machine code. A library of routines, such as square root, trig functions, comparisons, loop controls, are linked onto the compiled code, so you need only specify a function, such as a square root, and not program every step the computer must follow to calculate square root.

Two Compilers for the TRS-80
There are a number of Basic compilers available for the TRS-80. One sold by Radio Shack requires entirely new code to be written—it is not compatible with Level II or Disk

Dennis Wilkins
4000 Capitol Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80526
Basic. The two systems described here compile already written and debugged programs using the Basic interpreter. The Microsoft compiler is a traditional compiler as described above, whereas the ACCEL2 compiler is something quite unique, a combination of interpreter and compiler.

The compiler from Microsoft appears not to have been written specifically for the TRS-80. It comes with a manual for Basic-80, which is very similar to the TRS-80 implementation of Basic, but with a few enhancements (Swap, While/Wend, and Call, to name three) which can be used in the compiled programs, but cannot be tested in the interpreter mode.

The Microsoft compiler produces a relocatable binary file of machine code which runs from the DOS mode. The version I evaluated came with what appears to be preliminary documentation for the compiler, and the manual on Basic-80. These, hopefully, have been cleaned up since the early version I saw. The arrangement of the compiler manual is a bit complex, but by trying the sample session you can get the hang of using the compiler, the linker and the library.

The procedure for using Microsoft's Basic Compiler is quite involved, not automatic. The operator must swap disks and interact with the computer at certain points during the compile and link operations. And the Basic program to be compiled must first be saved on disk as an ASCII file.

By comparison, ACCEL2 is easy to use. Once loaded, the compiler need only be called by the command "FIX" to automatically carry out the four-pass compile operation. It can be called over and over to compile different Basic programs. ACCEL2 takes about 30 seconds to compile 200 lines of code. The Microsoft system takes several minutes to compile even a short program due to the swapping of disks and loading of library routines.

If you have a version of ACCEL2 purchased before mid-1981, you will find my description differs from what you are used to. There is an updated version, optimized for disk users, available from Allen Gouder Software for $12 plus the return of your original tape.

ACCEL2 does not produce a machine-code module, but operates in the Basic interpreter environment with hooks to machine-code routines. It can selectively compile specific types of statements under program control. It has statements to Save, Load, or Run compiled programs, and even a limited chaining capability which can load and run both compiled and non-compiled programs from a program which is running.

With ACCEL2, non-compiled statements are run-time by the normal interpreter. This does not mean that a program compiled by ACCEL2 necessarily runs slower than the same program compiled by the Microsoft compiler. It depends upon the complexity of the program.

The documentation supplied with ACCEL2 (19 pages of utilitarian, but concisely written text) contains a table specifying the ratio of compiled to interpreted speeds for all statements which are compiled. For ACCEL2 these statements are:

- LET (implied or specific)
- AND, OR, <, >, =, <>
- **; =, /=
- PEEK, POKE, Set, Reset, Point, VARPTR
- For...Next, If...Then. Else, DIM varname (integer)
- GOTO, GOSUB,...Return, ON expr GOTO
- LEN, MID$, LEFT$, RIGHTS$, CHR$, ASC, CV

The speed-up ratio (compiled:interpreted) vary from 2:1 (for most single-precision math operations) to 176:1 (for a GOTO). Double-precision math speed-up ratios vary from only 1.02:1 for division to 2:1 for addition. For...Next loops are quickened by a factor of 11:1 (integer only; single-precision For...Nexts are not compiled, but run in the interpreter mode).

Set, Reset, and Point are increased 7.7:1 (integer), 3.7:1 single precision, and 3:1:1 double precision. If...Then...Else statements improve 17.7:1 for integer arguments, 9.9:1 for strings, 2.7:1 for single precision, and 2.2:1 for double precision.

The most impressive speed increases occur with both compilers when integer arguments are used, since the 280 CPU directly manipulates these. Although specific function speed-ups are not given for the Microsoft compiler, speed increases of 3 to 10 times are claimed. The tests I ran demonstrated speed-up factors from 1.3 to 11, depending upon the type of function.

### Each Compiler's Strengths

If you want to increase the speed of Set, Reset, and Point

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>RATIO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Random Plot - RND, integer arithmetic, set graphics</td>
<td>Interpreter</td>
<td>637 bytes</td>
<td>231 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCEL2</td>
<td>2202 bytes</td>
<td>171 seconds</td>
<td>1.4:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft</td>
<td>11203 bytes</td>
<td>103 seconds</td>
<td>2.2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Numbers to 1000 integer counters, single precision arithmetic</td>
<td>Interpreter</td>
<td>493 bytes</td>
<td>72 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCEL2</td>
<td>1849 bytes</td>
<td>40 seconds</td>
<td>1.8:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft</td>
<td>11120 bytes</td>
<td>20 seconds</td>
<td>3.6:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Simulation single precision and many subroutine calls</td>
<td>Interpreter</td>
<td>5033 bytes</td>
<td>128 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCEL2</td>
<td>8874 bytes</td>
<td>64 seconds</td>
<td>2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft</td>
<td>16216 bytes</td>
<td>27 seconds</td>
<td>4.8:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POKE graphics with integer counters</td>
<td>Interpreter</td>
<td>134 bytes</td>
<td>17.5 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCEL2</td>
<td>1564 bytes</td>
<td>0.5 seconds</td>
<td>35:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft</td>
<td>10551 bytes</td>
<td>0.5 seconds</td>
<td>35:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic game with integer arithmetic and SET/RESET graphics</td>
<td>Interpreter</td>
<td>1736 bytes</td>
<td>27 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCEL2</td>
<td>3634 bytes</td>
<td>3.4 seconds</td>
<td>7.9:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft</td>
<td>12455 bytes</td>
<td>2.4 seconds</td>
<td>11.3:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White out screen with SET and integers</td>
<td>Interpreter</td>
<td>76 bytes</td>
<td>40 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCEL2</td>
<td>1405 bytes</td>
<td>5 seconds</td>
<td>8:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft</td>
<td>3731 bytes</td>
<td>3 seconds</td>
<td>13:1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1
graphics, the Microsoft compiler produces only slightly higher increases than ACCEL2. In my tests I found purely graphic programs increased by as little as 1.5:1, to as much as 13:1 using the Microsoft system. The speed-up factor using ACCEL2 varied from 4.1 to 8.1.

On the other hand, programs with much single-precision number crunching may experience only a 2:1 speed-up using ACCEL2, but can exhibit as much as a 5:1 speed-up if compiled via the Microsoft Basic Compiler.

The Microsoft Basic Compiler produces a stand-alone module as mentioned above. This module is self-contained in that every Basic function to be used in the program is appended to the module during the Link operation. The Microsoft compiler does not use ROM routines. The module, therefore, will be quite large if many functions are needed.

For example, a Star Trek program I have occupied exactly 10,002 bytes in Basic. When compiled by the Microsoft compiler it occupies over 27,000 bytes.

The same program compiled by ACCEL2 occupies 16,997 bytes. ACCEL2 needs 5,632 bytes of RAM at compile time, and can use as little as 1,280 bytes at run-time. The TRS-80 ROM routines are used when possible. The compiled code may be larger than the Basic code it replaces, but not nearly as large as the same program compiled by the Microsoft system. For many short programs, the Microsoft system produces at least 10,000 byte modules, whereas ACCEL2 may need only 2,000 to 3,000, including its run-time component. The results of compiling a half dozen programs with both systems is shown in Table 1. The ACCEL2 memory requirements shown include the necessary run-time software.

Logical Code Required

Both compilers may require that the original Basic program be cleaned up before compilation. To obtain a speed improvement, your code must be logical.

As it turns out, what is perfectly logical for the TRS-80 Basic interpreter may not be logical for a compiler. For example:

\[
\begin{align*}
10 & \text{ FOR } X = 1 \text{ TO } 10 \\
20 & \text{ IF } X < 1 \text{ THEN } X \text{ ELSE GOSUB } 500 \\
30 & \text{ NEXT } X
\end{align*}
\]

This is fine for the interpreter even though there are two Next X statements for one For statement (this is not a legal construct for all Basic interpreters). The interpreter will get to only one of the Next X statements in any loop.

A compiler rejects this arrangement with an error message ("*FN*" in the Microsoft version, "Next Without For in 20" in ACCEL2) during compilation. The Basic code is rejected because the compiled code must have a singular control point (same for GOSUB and Returns), and the compilers view each Next statement as an independent control point.

A logical way to write the code of the above example is:

\[
\begin{align*}
10 & \text{ FOR } X = 1 \text{ TO } 10 \\
20 & \text{ IF } X < 1 \text{ THEN } X \text{ ELSE GOSUB } 500 \\
30 & \text{ NEXT } X
\end{align*}
\]

There are more restrictions on the program source code (the original Basic listing) with either compiler. Arrays may be dimensioned to a constant size integer value only: 10 DIM A(100)—is OK, but

\[
5 \text{ N } = 100 \\
10 \text{ Dim A(N)}
\]

is not allowed with either compiler.

ACCEL2 has a compiler option (called NOARRAY, set at compile time) which prevents compilation of all array variable references and causes all arrays to be processed by the interpreter at run-time. There are no array restrictions if ACCEL2 is used with this option, but as a
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consequence, the program runs slower.

ACCEL2 has another option: EXPR or NOEXPR. These commands control the compilation of Let, For, POKE, Set, Reset and If. EXPR causes compilation, NOEXPR prevents it. These can be used throughout a program to selectively turn compilation on and off. If not compiled these statements are executed by the interpreter at runtime. As always this slows the operation, but if planned properly, the speed loss will be minimal and the space saved significant.

The Microsoft compiler has many compile options (called switches), but none to do the things described for the ACCEL2 compiler. There are about 20 switches in all, some quite useful (or even necessary for error handling) and some almost incomprehensible. If you like lots of possibilities, the Microsoft compiler has them.

There are other restrictions common to both compilers. Look at the statement: 999 GOTO 999.

In Basic this sits in a loop until the Break key is pressed. In compiled Basic it sits in a loop until you press the System Reset button or unplug the power cord—an inconvenient way to stop a program!

And the Winner Is...

As I said in the beginning, each compiler has its strong points and weaknesses. The Microsoft offering is part of a system of advanced programs allowing many combinations of languages and functions to interact. It is not for beginners. It is quite complex and requires a minimum of 48K in a disk-based system. It offers higher speed-up for mathematical operations and more flexibility for the advanced programmer than ACCEL2.

The large memory requirement of the Microsoft compiler system is a major drawback for applications requiring much data storage. Having to use a lot of disk accesses rather than RAM, to manipulate data may lose more speed than was gained by compiling in the first place.

ACCEL2 is easier to use, requires only 16K of memory, and offers excellent speed-up performance for logic and graphics programs. It is a program anyone who has mastered TRSDOS can easily operate. I have operated ACCEL2 in TRSDOS and NEWDOS 2.1 on my Model I with no problems. It operates on Models I and III. There is also a tape version available, called ACCEL, for those of you with a tape-based TRS-80 with 16K of RAM. It costs $49.95.

ACCEL2 has another advantage for those of you who like to sell or trade software you have written: No royalty payment is required if you distribute programs compiled by ACCEL2. ACCEL2 allows you to make either tape or disk copies of compiled software, along with the necessary run-time component. You can sell programs on a Level I 16K, 32K, 48K, or disk based system. Southern Software requests that you put a copyright notice on the tape or diskette label. But, no money is requested.

Microsoft requires nine percent of the end-user price per copy or a flat $195 per year (cheaper if you sell over $2166.67 worth of software a year). Users must have a 48K disk-based system, which limits the market for such compiled programs.

I feel that each compiler offers truly improved capabilities for the TRS-80, ACCEL2 being the lower cost alternative (and best for compiling programs of logic and graphics routines). The Microsoft system is aimed at the more advanced programmer, allows one to interface with other languages, and is best at speeding up number crunching programs.

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The Memory Box

The Memory Box provides 1K of additional RAM in memory locations 3000H–33FFH (12288 decimal–13311 decimal). Normally, this area of memory is unused in the Model I TRS-80. Because the TRS-80 (and most programs) do not expect any memory to be present at these locations, anything stored in this area will not normally be overwritten or changed. Therefore, you can store machine-language utilities (or other programs or data) in this area for recall at any time, regardless of the program or data that you store or use in the regular user memory. The Memory Box retains the contents of its memory even if the power to the TRS-80 keyboard unit is switched off. You can store utilities in the Memory Box and recall them after each power up (provided that there has not been a power interruption in the Memory Box itself).

My TRS-80 has a lowercase modification installed. In order to use it, I formerly had to load a machine-language patch to the keyboard and video drivers each time I turned on the computer. This patch program resided in high memory, and was often in conflict with other machine-language programs or utilities that I wished to use. Now I keep the patch program permanently stored in the Memory Box, and after each power up, I type the following from the Basic Ready prompt:

```
>SYSTEM
"712288"
```

(12288 decimal = 3000 hexadecimal, which is the entry point for my driver patch program. This is much easier than trying to find the cassette tape with the patch program on it, and then waiting for the program to load. Also, because the program resides in the Memory Box, it does not conflict with other machine-language or Basic programs that load into regular user RAM, and it does not reduce the amount of memory available to these programs.

You can also use the Memory Box to store variables for use by more than one Basic program, as in a case where one program chains to another. In such a case, you could place values into or retrieve them from the Memory Box by using Basic POKE and PEEK statements, or possibly by using a machine-language USR function to move the values of certain variables to or from the Memory Box.

I experienced a slight problem when I attempted to connect the Memory Box to my TRS-80 keyboard unit. I normally use a JPC Products TC-8 high-speed cassette unit and a homebrew printer interface, which was already connected to the edge connector on the back of my TRS-80. The cable that connects the TC-8 to the TRS-80 is the same configuration as the one supplied with the Memory Box, except that it is much longer. To solve the problem, I purchased another 40-pin edge plug from Radio Shack (catalog number 276-1558), and using a bench vise I pressed it onto the TC-8 cable about three inches from one end. The result was two plugs near one end of the cable, and one plug at the other end. Now I can plug the end with one plug into the back of the TRS-80 keyboard unit, and the plugs on the opposite end connect to the TC-8 and to the Memory Box (I do not use the cable supplied with the Memory Box). This hookup works well, and I have noticed no adverse reactions from the TRS-80, the Memory Box, or the TC-8 unit/printer interface.

Once connected, the Memory Box has never failed to work reliably, even with a high-speed modification (200 percent of normal speed) in use on the TRS-80. If it can work at high-speed, with the TC-8 and printer interface also hooked up to the bus connector, it must be reliable.

Improvements

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Memory Box, thus destroying any resident programs or data.
For that reason, the Memory Box should have a write-protect switch—flip it on, and the memory inside the Memory Box would suddenly look like ROM (Read Only Memory) to the CPU. Any writes to addresses contained within the Memory Box would be ignored, so that a loss of power would be about the only thing that could destroy the memory contents. With the switch in the opposite position, normal operation (read or write allowed) is restored.

If you have a Memory Box and would like to add such a switch, wire it in such a way that pin 13 of the 74LS00 integrated circuit is either connected to its present place in the circuit (normal operation) or to +5 volts (write protect).

Displayed Video warns against operating the CPU with the power disconnected from the Memory Box, as this causes abnormal bus loading and reduces the reliability of the TRS-80 system. Therefore, disconnect the Memory Box from the computer if you have to pull its plug.

If you do not care to write your own software routines for use in the Memory Box, Displayed Video has several utility routines available (at extra cost). Both will work with either disk or tape systems, and both use the @ key along with another key to access certain features of the programs.

The U3000 utility contains a keyboard debounce routine (you can change the debounce delay by using a POKE command), a cassette level meter program that is designed to aid you in setting the volume control on your cassette recorder to the proper playback volume, a screen printing routine (dumps the contents of the video display to the printer), and a versatile line printer support program. This latter program allows you to format printouts according to various parameters that you can change by using POKE statements. It even prints the page number at the bottom of the page. You can change program parameters such as number of printed lines per page, number of lines from the last printed line on a page to the page number, number of lines from the page number to the first printed line on the next page, minimum line length, maximum number of characters per line, margin width of continuation line, ASCII codes of terminating characters, page number, horizontal print position of page number, and whether or not the computer must supply a line feed after each carriage return (required by some printers).

By pressing two keys on the keyboard, you can do a top-off, or reset the line, character, and page counts (you do this after manually positioning the printer to top-off form). You can also delink the line printer program, and use the printer driver supplied in the ROM. Later on, you can reverse the process and reinitialize the lineprinter program by pressing a couple of keys.

Displayed Video also offers MICMON. MICMON has the screen-printing and keyboard debounce routines of U3000, but in addition has a Micro-Monitor program. With the Micro-Monitor you can dump memory to the video display in either hex or ASCII format, edit memory locations, move blocks of memory from one address to another, load a block of memory locations with one byte, compare the contents of two memory blocks, search memory for a given byte, punch a System tape, or return to DOS or Basic. It is not T-Bug (you cannot set breakpoints or display register contents, for example), but then T-Bug uses more than the 1K of memory available in the Memory Box.

The Memory Box uses the same area of memory as the PROM operating system of the Exatron Stringy-Floppy. Therefore, Stringy-Floppy users would not be able to use the Memory Box while the Stringy-Floppy is connected. I do not know of any other major add-on devices for the TRS-80 that use this area of memory, so unless you own a Stringy-Floppy, you should find the Memory Box a useful addition to your Model 1 TRS-80.
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Foreign air mail, please inquire.
Some computer mysteries explained.

**Technological Destiny**

Gary J. Diilio  
1109 Madison Avenue  
Prospect Park, PA 19076

In Part I of this series we looked at the basic computer, its logical components and forms of input and output. In this part I will explain data hierarchy, computer history and discuss common misconceptions.

**Data Hierarchy**

Computers store, transfer and operate on data. Data is any fact entered into or received from a computer. Information is data that has been collected, evaluated, sorted, organized or processed. Figure 1 shows a collection of seemingly unrelated data elements. By processing those data elements through a program designed to rank (sort) and compare data to an average standing, information whose worth is greater than the individual data elements is obtained (see Fig. 2). The synthesis of the data in Fig. 1 produced the information in Fig. 2.

The smallest piece of data represented in a computer is a binary digit or a *BIT* (Binary digit). A bit is the only form of data a computer can process. All higher forms of data must be broken down to their bit forms before processing. Fortunately, the computer handles this process.

A bit consists of either the presence or absence of data. The presence of a data bit is coded as a "1," and is said to be "on." The absence of a data bit is coded a "0," and is said to be "off." In a light bulb, the absence of electricity to the bulb (0) represents off while the presence of light (1) represents on.

Since only the numbers zero and one can be represented in a computer bit, the only numbering system applicable to bit-processing is the binary number system. Just as the decimal system has decimal places, the binary system has place values. Figure 3 shows decimal and binary place values. The decimal system places are differentiated by multiples of 10 (base 10). The binary system works on multiples of 2 (base 2). In decimal, the number 169 represents 1 hundreds, 6 tens and 19 ones. To represent this number in binary, it is necessary to turn on the bits in binary, representing decimal 169.

In Fig. 4, 128 plus 32 plus 8 plus 1 equals 169. The number 169D is represented by 10101001B.

Most computers use a hexadecimal-binary code to represent numbers and letters.

The next higher data form is the *character*. While the bit is the smallest (and only) unit of data recognized by the computer, the character is the smallest unit of data used by humans. Primarily, characters include letters, numbers and punctuation symbols. Characters are broken down into bits automatically by the computer. A character is usually represented by 8 bits.

A group of one or more characters form the next level of data hierarchy; the *field*. A field is a variable length group of characters which convey a meaning. A field is often referred to as a data element. Fields are the lowest form used to convey separate and autonomous meaning. In Fig. 2, there are three fields: Placement, Name and National Standing.

A group of related fields all referring to the same subject form a *record*. The fields Name, Address, Phone Number and Age for one individual combine to form a record. A group of related records form a *file*, and a group of related files form a *data base*.

The key word in data hierarchy is relationship. A group of unrelated files do not form a data base. The record we have spoken about thus far is a logical record. A logical record is a group of related fields. Since I/O speed, especially in cassette-based systems, is slow, records are often grouped together in blocks. Block sizes are determined by the limitations of the computer.

A logical record with a length of 40 characters is written on tape by opening the tape; allowing the cassette mechanism to stabilize speed; writing a heading; writing a record; writing a trailer; and closing the tape. If five records are written, each encompasses the above steps for a total of 30 actions. If we group the five records into a block of 200 characters by concatenation and then write the concatenated record to tape, we save 24 steps and a great deal of I/O time. This blocked record is sometimes referred to as a *physical record*. A physical record is defined as one or more logical records joined together for the purpose of decreasing the number of I/O's while increasing the speed of I/O transfer.

**Historical Perspective**

Very few industries can claim the quantity, quality, and speed

---

**Fig. 1. Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>National Standing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>+24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>+18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Marks</td>
<td>-36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fig. 2. Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>National Standing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>+24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>+18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Marks</td>
<td>-36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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• print all items sold for month
• alphabetical sort of items sold by month
• this set of programs can be custom modified by you or us
• AND MUCH MORE!!

AGING REPORT FOR LYNN’S A/R SYSTEM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>30-60 Days</th>
<th>60-90 Days</th>
<th>90+ Days</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABC Inc.</td>
<td>$249.00</td>
<td>$65.20</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$314.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Co. Inc.</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>64.40</td>
<td>165.20</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>249.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Co. Inc.</td>
<td>97.75</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>97.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadbeat Inc.</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>345.00</td>
<td>345.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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of progress that the computer industry has achieved in the last quarter century. But, as with most industries, a trail of minor discoveries, dating as far back as 1812, led to today’s computer.

Probably the first invention in the chain was developed in 1812 by Charles Babbage. Babbage developed his “difference machine” to automatically perform simple computations used in logarithmic tables. More importantly, he developed an analytic engine which executed operations similar to a program and was capable of internal storage of data. Machines to aid in physical labor were being developed rather quickly in the early 19th century, but the invention of the analytical engine introduced the idea of mental-assist machines.

The Laws of Thought, published in 1854 by George Boole, described a systematic approach to the analysis of problem solving. It forms the basis of computer logic as we use it today. Herman Hollerith invented the machine-readable punched card code in 1890. Today, over 90 years later, the Hollerith code is still in use.

Modern computers were not invented until the late 1940’s. Although a number of companies and colleges were developing computer-like machines, credit is usually given to Eckert and Mauchly of the University of Pennsylvania for the first electronic computer, called the ENIAC.

ENIAC led to the development of the UNIVAC Corporation. UNIVAC installed their first computer at the US Bureau of Census in 1951. That computer is now displayed at the Smithsonian Institute.

Computer development can be broken down into three distinct generations. The first, beginning with ENIAC and continuing into the late 1950’s, produced a vacuum tube machine, the size of a very large room. The first generation machine required a programmer who understood the machine almost as well as its engineer. The machine was large, slow, difficult to program and had a relatively small memory capacity. These first computers generated a great deal of heat and required large air conditioning systems.

With the development of the transistor by Bell Labs, second generation computer systems (1959–1964) came of age. Transistors replaced the vacuum tube. Computers became smaller, faster, less expensive and used less electricity. These new computers generated less heat and had larger memory units for more effective storage. New languages made writing programs much easier.

Printed circuitry (1964) ushered in the third generation. As computers became smaller and faster, reliability increased. Breakthroughs established communication possibilities and more efficient I/O methods. Memory again increased and the sophistication of software operating systems further simplified programming.

To appreciate the advances in the computer industry within the last 35 years, compare the ballroom-size ENIAC with the

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230 • 80 Microcomputing, May 1982
today's TRS-80. The microcomputer of today can outperform the ENIAC at one thousandth of the cost and three-thousandths of the size. The progress goes on and on. Even so, the computer industry has only just reached the toddler stage of its development.

Although it is too early to accurately gain proper perspective, many data processors believe we are now into the fourth generation. As computer size and price diminish, memory and peripheral inventions continue to alter old computer realities. I do not think the fourth generation will be defined by great discoveries, but by the use and users of the new microcomputers. How many of us believed, only a few years ago, we could own a microcomputer? Small, inexpensive computers of five or ten years ago sold for $30,000. Computer use has expanded to include shopping lists, menu planning and games. Users are no longer exclusively data processors, scientists and businessmen. Microcomputers have introduced housewives, teachers, students, children and other nontechnical personnel to computer use. Software applications have tripled over the past five years and, as the price of microcomputer products diminishes, the market for home computers expands. A year ago, I bought 16K for $55. Today, $60 buys 48K. Each price reduction opens the market to more people who, not long ago, would have laughed at the prospect of owning a computer.

Computer Demystification

As computer use, terminology and understanding become more widespread, the general public's perceptions of computers will change. It has always been popular for shipping and billing clerks to blame the computer when customers complained. The computer has been the scapegoat for so long the consumer believes the machines to be inept. There is a good chance the idiot jokes of the 1950's, the moron jokes of the 1970's and ethnic jokes of the present will evolve to: "How many computers are needed to change a lightbulb?"

Hopefully, the increasing influence of the home computer will alter those perceptions. Computers do not make mistakes. Electricity is either on or off to a bit. Mistakes are made by programmers, analysts, keypunchers and operators. That loan payment, never credited to your account, was not the prank of a vengeful computer, but of a careless clerk. When the general public is aware of this, our industry will be better understood.

Another harmful myth claims increased automation will increase unemployment. The world's most automated country, Japan, suffers an unemployment rate of only two percent. In addition, the Japanese worker expresses a higher satisfaction than his American counterpart. The computer is normally used to free humans from mundane repetitious tasks.

Managers and business executives often express dissatisfaction with their computers and technicians. Usually these disappointments are the result of three misconceptions. Many users have, initially, too great an expectation for their new computerized projects. Often, these expectations are unrealistic, sometimes caused by an over-zealous computer salesman. Some management see computers as a cure-all for their business problems when, in fact, a computer may aggravate some problems it was purchased to solve.

By far, the greatest reason for dissatisfaction with a computer system stems from inadequate system development. The system development process encompasses all the actions necessary to create a computer application from the problem development stage through user acceptance. In Part III we will begin to examine the entire system development process—in theory and in practice.

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NAME THAT SONG is a delightful sound and action game pitting one to four contestants against one another to determine who can identify the most folk songs. It has been one of the most popular games in our household since I completed it.

I modified David G. Morr's machine language routine (80 Microcomputing, May 1980), which was set up to produce random sounds, to make it suitable for producing music.

Teaching the TRS-80 to Sing

You must begin by giving your computer singing lessons. You do this by POKEing a small machine language program into memory via Basic. Lines 40-60 in Program Listing 1 contain all the instructions your 80 needs. The same instructions appear in line 5 of Program Listing 2.

Whenever you use this routine answer the memory size? question with 32737. This protects the last 29 bytes of RAM for the machine language routine and prevents the rest of the program from bumping into that area of memory. With this routine your TRS-80 can make 32768 different noises, ranging from sounds so high and fast that you cannot hear them, to long low rumbles.

There are 256 different tones, each of which can be produced for 128 different durations. These durations range from about seven milliseconds to about 1 3/4 seconds.

Sifting Music from Noises

Which tones and durations should you use to produce music? I will share these secrets with you. Table 1 shows the total range of the musical tones the TRS-80 can sing.

There are lower, higher, and tones in between each of the notes listed. However, these other tones are not within our field of interest because they do not constitute music.

For the most part you will never need most of the notes in the list. Name That Song has parts of 37 songs and I never used a note lower than low A# or one higher than high E.

The numbers in Table 2 represent the various durations of notes and rests used in rather snappy 4/4 time and 3/4 time. You can change these values to suit your own tastes in musical tempos. However, any number you use as a duration should produce an integer when divided by 256, otherwise you will be affecting the pitch as well as the duration.

Table 1 shows the total range of the musical tones the TRS-80 can sing.

Zero is the longest duration and it is twice as long as the next longest which is 32512, creating some problems. Notice that I did not list anything for the duration of a dotted half note in 4/4 time. There is no duration between the half and the whole note when the whole note is duration zero. To get around this problem I changed any dotted half notes into half notes and added a quarter rest. In most songs this is hardly noticed.

When making computer music, always define all variables as integers. This saves bytes, speeds up execution, and also prevents you from sending information to the machine language routine that cannot be used.

The numbers given in Table 2

---

![Image of The Key Box](image)

The Key Box
Basic Level II
Model I
16K RAM
Amplifier required

---

```
10 REM THIS PROGRAM PLAYS A MUSICAL SCALE
20 REM AT VARIOUS SPEEDS: DEMONSTRATION ONLY
30 CLS: DEFINT A-Z: Q = 256: 76
40 POKE 16527, 127: POKE 16526, 226
50 FOR N = 32738 TO 32766: READ X: POKE N,X: NEXT
60 DATA 205, 127, 10, 62, 1, 0, 2, 137, 91, 61, 64, 47, 230, 3, 179, 211, 255, 13, 40, 4, 16, 246, 24, 242, 37, 32, 241, 201
70 FOR T = 1 TO 5
80 Z = USR(145 + Q): Z = USR(129 + Q): Z = USR(115 + Q)
90 Z = USR(108 + Q): Z = USR(97 + Q): Z = USR(86 + Q)
100 Z = USR(77 + Q): Z = USR(67 + Q): Z = USR(57 + Q)
110 Z = USR(56 + Q): Z = USR(47 + Q): Z = USR(36 + Q)
120 Z = USR(15 + Q): Z = USR(139 + Q): Z = USR(145 + Q)
130 Q = Q/2
140 NEXT
150 RUN
```

Program Listing 1

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Pitch Value(P)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low D#</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low D</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low E</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low F</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low G#</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low A#</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low A</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low B</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C#</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D#</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F#</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G#</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Pitch Value(P)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A#</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High C</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High C#</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High D</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High D#</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>High E</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>High F</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>High G#</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High A</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High A#</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High B</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High C</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High C#</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High D</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High D#</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Pitch Values
For rests are also only valid if you define the variable used in the For...Next loop as an integer.

Let’s Make Music
Plug the auxiliary cable into your Archer Mini-Amplifier or Realistic Micro-Sonic and turn it on. To play a note make a USR call to the sound routine using an unused variable. Define it as equaling the USR call. For example, \( Z = USR(0) \) would be a proper method. The number in parentheses is the sum of the pitch value (P) and the duration value (D). I put the pitch value and the duration value in the parentheses along with a plus sign and let the computer do the work of adding them: \( Z = USR(P + D) \).

The statement for playing high D note with a quarter note duration in 3/4 time would read: \( Z = USR(65 + 10752) \).

When the computer encounters this statement it goes to the music routine and executes a high D quarter note. It then returns to the next statement in the list. To insert a musical rest (silence) between notes insert a For...Next timing loop between the USR calls. Refer to Table 2 for the proper length of the loops for the duration of the desired rest.

\[ \text{Table 2. Duration Values} \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note(D)</th>
<th>Rest*</th>
<th>Note(D)</th>
<th>Rest*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole note</td>
<td>1455</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dotted half</td>
<td>32512</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter note</td>
<td>10752</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dotted eighth</td>
<td>182</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixteenth note</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Use the value in the column to create a rest between notes. These values are to be used in integer For...Next loops. Example: To execute a quarter rest in 4/4 time (where X has been defined as an integer), the line would read: FOR X = 1 TO 364 : NEXT

---

80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 235

---See List of Advertisers on page 354
EXCITING NEWS
FOR COLOR COMPUTER USERS

Would you believe that you can run FLEX, OS9 and Radio Shack Disk System on the SAME Color Computer? If you have a 8K Color Computer with the Radio Shack Disk system, you will have to make a trivial modification to the disk drive to access the hidden 32K. As described in the Feb Issue of COLOR COMPUTER WEEK, the April issue of 80 Micro you can get FLEX from us right now. We will be ready for summer. Please note that this will only work with the Radio Shack disk system and 6K4 memory chips that RC 303 or 303 type. Maybe your in for a treat. If you don't have a copy of the article, send a self-sealed SASE def stamp and we'll send it to you.

In case you don't understand how this works, I'll explain it to you. Our version of FLEX was designed so that the disk image in the system could be turned off under software control. In a Digital Color Computer this would only make sense today. Let me explain why I did something I like booting in OS9. When you turn off the rom, you will have just 64K RAM memory with which to run your program (FLEX or OS9). And since the ram is now turned off, it is as if you had removed them from the computer. They are gone! Now, we need the other half of the 64K ram chips to work, and this seems to be the case most of the time when you turn off the ROM, you could probably turn on the other half and not see any problems.

Some new utilities are included:

- MOVEMON moves Basic from ROM to RAM. Because it's moved to RAM you can turn off access to the ROM and change your utilities. You can load Color Computer cassette software and use it in FLEX disk. Simple Drive Copy, Format and Setup commands are also included.

Installing FLEX is simple insert the disk and type:

RUN-FLEX

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An updated version of one of 80 Micro's first.

Home Budgeteer—Reprise

Manuel R. Pablo
8739 Cuttermill Place
Springfield, VA 22153

When I saw David Andrensen's "Household Accountant" program in the February 1980 issue of 80 Microcomputing, I rejoiced! Here was just the program I was looking for!

I already know how to balance my checkbook. I can tell which checks are missing. I know which ones have been returned. I do not need to know how many checks lie in the range between $32.57 and $68.12. What I do need to know is, how much am I spending on the phone bill? Which month was my high electricity month? How high was it? Did I pay my quarterly water bill twice, by mistake?

Andrensen's program made these questions easy to answer.

I did not need to load several different modules in succession. His program was just was I was looking for. Except...

Andrensen wrote his program for a minimal 16K tape-based system. That imposed constraints which I readily accepted until I finally moved up to a disk system. Equipped with added memory and rapid loading, I added some bells and whistles Andrensen had to leave off. But my enhancements soon made the program cumbersome. I did a logical rewrite, incorporating each nicety in an orderly manner. I also made provision for future revisions.

My Additions

The new version is shown in the Program Listing. Relieved of memory restrictions, I incorporated a number of new features. Expense categories are listed in a menu, and are named in the printouts. You do not need to use code numbers or a code card. Previous to this, I had a recurring nightmare. In my dream, I would load ten years of data, then search in vain for my decoder list. All those checks, and I could not remember the secret code! Now, the program includes everything.

You can opt for simultaneous printout along with the video display. The program even checks to see if your printer is on. An all-encompassing total analysis option will print the results for every category automatically. Have a cup of coffee while the printer chugs away. While sipping your coffee, chuckle at how disappointed the IRS agent will be when he sees your detailed records.

Subroutines do all the work. This makes program flow easier to follow. It also means you can add your own customizations with ease—just tack on more subroutines.

The program includes a quick plot subroutine. This autoscaling plot provides a graphic overall look at your data. It automatically selects the maximum cost month and prints the maximum cost month total.

I have added extended error-trapping and more detailed REMarks.

This program should run as

Table 1. Variable List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Amount of check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>Check number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>Check category</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>PRINT USING string variables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Index counter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM</td>
<td>Month with maximum expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>Index counter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Month number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Index counter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>Complete printout query flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>Query flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Query flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>Query flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>Query flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>Monthly total of expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TM</td>
<td>Maximum expense month number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZM</td>
<td>Graphic scaling factor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Models I or III
16K RAM
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easily on a Model III as on my Model I, except for the PECK to see if the printer is on. If you own a Model III you will have to make the change yourself.

Check information is included within the program as Data statements. This means you will have a longer program to save each month. In exchange, you get much simpler editing, and a

Without a DOS, you can still use CLOAD and CSAVE until you graduate to the convenience of disk.

With the check Data statements at the end of the program, simply delete lines 10010-1999 to clear the decks for next year's checks. If you significantly re-arrange the program, you can instead delete the program (lines

10-1000), and save the check data. Then merge your old data to your new program. If you have disk and want an expense program that you can customize with ease, then this program may be just the one for you. How about altering the plot routine to display the y-axis

values? Next you can customize a routine for your particular printer to produce the plot. Tinker a little, and you can make it just the program for you. I did.
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80 Micomputing, May 1982 • 241
Using a shadow to put an object in perspective.

A Different Perspective

Perspective drawings are useful tools whether you are designing a new doghouse, redecorating the living room or even planning your company's new buildings. My company assigned me just such a project so I wrote this program to accomplish it.

Since the TRS-80 has poor graphic capabilities I wanted a program that would output a list of coordinate points that I could plot on diagram paper. Then I would connect the points with straight lines to get the final drawing.

I use the computer's screen in the initial stages to move the object, turn it and change its size in front of an imaginary observer until I find the best point of view. You can do this when you have the object in blueprint or when you have it on the screen in perspective.

The program is uncomplicated and well documented. This made it easy to debug and allows you to tailor it to your own needs.

The program uses simple mathematics to calculate the points for your perspective drawing. When I first tried to write the program, I planned to use the vanishing point concept but each line in the drawing has its own vanishing point and I would have needed an infinite number of these points. Then an idea came to me—a shadow has the characteristics of a perspective.

If you imagine a small lamp fixed to an observer's head, he will be unable to see the shadow of the object before him, because the object covers its shadow exactly, point by point. The observer has to look in the same direction to see a point on the real object and its shadow representation. Thus, to make a perspective drawing you have to calculate the projection of the object from a given point (the observer) onto a plane.

Figure 1 shows an object A placed in an X, Y, Z coordinate system. The observer is standing on the negative part of the Y-axis looking towards the plane defined by the X-axis and the Z-axis. To make the calculations, divide the situation into two projections as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Figure 2 shows the projection of the shadow on the X-axis. Tan \( V \) = \( Xa/(Ya - Yo) \) and Tan \( V \) = \( Xs/Yo \); therefore, \( Xs = Xa \cdot Yo/(Ya - Yo) \). In the same way you can calculate the distance \( SH \) (the distance from the shadow to the horizon) in Fig. 3. Tan \( W \) = \( (Za - Zo)/(Ya - Yo) \) and Tan \( W \) = \( SH/Yo \); therefore, \( SH = (Za - Zo) \cdot Yo/(Ya - Yo) \). The program uses these two equations in lines 1280-1300.

---

The Key Box
Basic Level II
Model I
16K RAM
I felt, however, that projecting on a spherical wall with the center in the observer must be more correct. This is especially true when you are close and perhaps partly over the object (for example, when landing a Starship on M.S. Enterprise). If you have such plans, delete line 1280 and change lines 1290-1300 in the program listing to:

1290 P(N) = 92*3.14 ATN(N) X(N) - 63 Y(N) / / 1300 Q(N) = 92*3.14 ATN(N) Z(N) - 0 Y(N) / / 

For most purposes the first projection on a flat wall is more natural, possibly because that is the one we see in photos.

The Program

I wrote the program on a 16K TRS-80 Model I, Level II. The program explains itself and prompts you for the inputs.

During the blueprint mode the center of the coordinate system is placed in the lower leftmost corner with the X-axis pointing to the right, the Y-axis pointing upwards and the Z-axis pointing towards you. Turns in this mode, as well as turns in perspective mode, are effected around a point in the middle of the screen, marked with an asterisk. The observer is standing on the lower part of the the screen and you must imagine the wall of projection as following the upper edge of the display. (This wall is no limit. You may place your objects in front of it, behind it or crossing it and still get the correct perspective.) You have 126 units (feet, meters, lightyears and so on) across the screen and 92 from bottom to top.

In the perspective mode the center of the coordinate system is a point in the middle of the horizon line. In perspective mode only defined connections are presented on the screen. Single, non-connected points will not appear until you ask for the coordinates as the final step of running the program. The display's low resolution will turn the screen all white if you are trying to enter a complicated drawing. Connect the outlines of your object first, and let less important points (corners of windows, doorknobs and so forth) float around as preliminary hidden values in the computer's memory. This procedure...

---

```
10 CLE.
20 CLEAR 200
30 A=100
40 DEFIN M,N,Y
50 DIM X(A),Y(A),Z(A),P(A),Q(A)
60 DIM C1(A),C2(A)
70 N=1
80 PRINT"THE PROGRAM IS FOR DRAWING IN PERSPECTIVE*:PRINT:PRINT"
90 PRINT"AT FIRST YOU MUST ENTER THE X , Y AND Z COORDINATES FOR*"
100 PRINT"EACH POINT:".
120 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:"AGAIN" AND WHEN YOU FINISH"
125 PRINT:PRINT "FIN","."
130 N=N+1
140 IF N=10 THEN END
150 PRINT:PRINT:POINT M*,N*;N W
170 INPUT"T";XX
180 IF XX="AGAIN" THEN 160 ELSE 190
200 FOR N=1 TO 100
210 PRINT:PRINT:POINT M*,N*;Z(N*)
220 NEXT N
230 IF N=5 THEN N=N-6:GOTO 150 ELSE N1=N:GOTO 130
240 IF XX="FIN" THEN 300
250 X(N*)=VAL(XX)
```

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Research</td>
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<td>$459/35</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>BT-80</td>
<td>$179/30</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Sid</td>
<td>$65/15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Z-Sid</td>
<td>$90/15</td>
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<td>$90/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeSpool</td>
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<tr>
<td>MicroSoft</td>
<td>WordStar</td>
<td>$319/60</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Customization Notes</td>
<td>$49/8/Sna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colb-80</td>
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<td>$574/8/Sna</td>
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<tr>
<td>M-Sort</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macro-80</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edit-80</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$187/Sna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Software</td>
<td>Milestone</td>
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<td>Supersoft</td>
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<td>Disk Doctor</td>
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<td>Scripble</td>
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<td>Micro B+</td>
<td>$229/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apple Software</td>
<td>MicroSoft</td>
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<td>(Business)</td>
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<td>SpellStar</td>
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<td>CCA Data Mgr</td>
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<td>Micro Courier</td>
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<td>Super-Text II</td>
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<td>ASCII Express</td>
<td>$99</td>
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**Apple Software (Entertainment)**

- Wizard & Princess: $28
- Flight Simulator: $28
- Space Eggs: $28
- Sargon II: $28
- Midnight Magic: $45
- Wizardry: $45

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- Z-80 Softcard by Microsoft: $299
- Keyboard Enhancer: $99
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- Sup-r Mod: $149
- CPS Multifunction Card: $199
- Videoterm by Vident: $199
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- CCS Parallel Model 7720: $249
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- CCS Centronics Model 7728: $299

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- For TRS-80®: Model I:
  - C-100 5 1/4" 40 Drive: $299
  - Add-ons for Zenith Z-99:
    - CCI-189 5 1/4", 40 Track: $455
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      - $299

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- BASF/Verbatim 5 1/4"
- BASF/Verbatim 8"
- Plastic File Box—Holds 50 5 1/4" dskts.
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- Floppy Saver
- Floppy Saver Rings

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- Atari 400: $359
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  - Zenith 280, 64K: $29
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**Terminals**

- ADDS Viewpoint: $99
- Zenith Z-19: $28
- Motiv 910: $28
- Televideo 920C: $28
- Televideo 950: $28
- S-100 California Computer Systems:
  - Mainframe: $28
  - 280 CPU: $28
  - 64K RAM: $28
  - Floppy Disc Ctrl: $28
  - Integrated Sys. wnt. cables, tstd.: $28
  - 4 Port Serial I/O: $28
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**Casio Calculators**

- Pocket Comp.: $185.00
- Desk Print/Calc.: $175
- Scientific Calc.: $149.50
- Game Watch: $49.95
- Game Watch: $69.95
- Calendar Watch: $59.50

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- NEC Spinwriter:
  - 7710 R.O. Ser. Wtr.: $295
  - 7710 Ser. Wtr.: $295
  - 7720 KSR Wtr.: $295
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**Anadex DP-8000**

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**Anadex DP-9500/01**

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**Okidata Microline B2A**

- $9.5	Fric. pin feed

**Okidata Microline B3A 120 cps**

- $9.5

**Okidata 84 200 cps**

- $9.5

**Centronics 739**

- $739

**Data South 160 cps**

- $Call

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- Leedex 12" B & W: $119
- Leedex 12" Green Screen: $19
- Leedex 13" Color: $329
- Sanyo 9" B/W: $15
- Sanyo 9" Green Screen: $19
- Sanyo 12" Green Screen: $249
- Sanyo 12" B & W: $299
- Zenith 12" Color: $499
- Zenith 12" Green Screen: $129
- Zenith 13" Color: $349

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- $Call

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- Novation Cat: $139
- Novation D Cat: $149
- Novation Auto-Cat: $199
- Novation Apple Cat II: $299
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will help you to choose the best point of view of your object.

Currently, you may define up to 100 points and connections, but you can change this by letting A in line 50 have another value.

Apart from correcting errors, you can use the Return option in blueprint mode when you want to draw many objects of the same form. You enter the first object, move it to another position, choose the Return option and enter the next using the same coordinates and repeat the procedure.

Be sure no point lines up with or behind the observer in perspective mode. If one does, the shadow will be projected to infinity.

An Example

Draw a box 20 feet long, 10 feet wide and 7 feet high in perspective.

Table 1 lists the coordinates of the corners of the box (with one corner in 0, 0, 0).

Next, move the box to the point 40,40,40 by going to the menu, selecting the move option and entering 40,40,40. Next, change the box's size by a factor of 2. Then turn the box around in an angle of 40 degrees and finally move it with -5.0.

Continue in the menu means to prepare for drawing the perspective. The program will ask you: "How tall is your observer?" You may answer any positive or negative number, but if you choose a large one, your object could be drawn outside the screen because the horizon initially is placed in the middle. To move your drawing back to the display choose the menu's horizon-move option.

In this example I chose four (feet) and the drawing satisfied me. At this point you can ask the computer for the coordinates. Table 2 lists the coordinates for this example and Fig. 4 shows the results of plotting those points and connecting them with lines. Figures 5, 6 and 7 show a more complicated drawing.

Future Projects

You can add an option for tilting the object towards you. Since I was dealing with build-
Poor Man's Floppy

Now the widely acclaimed JPC Cassette System is available for your TRS-80\textsuperscript{*} computer. The price is only $90.00.

TC-8 Cassette System
JPC Products
Albuquerque, NM
Kit: $90
Assembled: $120

by Carl A. Kollar

I guess I don't have to tell any TRS-80 owners how frustrating the cassette system that comes with the computer can be. Even with the factory mod that's available, the annoyance of loading and checking programs becomes just barely tolerable.

If you're like me, after you've just plunked down a chunk of money for a Level II 16K machine, "you ain't got nuthin left" for even one disk drive at 500 bucks apiece. So you suffer.

A reasonable alternative is the Exatron Stringy Floppy (ESF). This cost you about 250 bucks and totally eliminates your loading and saving problems, automatically and fast. I had one of these for about six months and love it!

But, if the price is still too steep, have I got a device for you!

The Device

The February 1980 issue of Microcomputing had an ad that intrigued the hell out of me. It was a high-speed cassette system by JPC Products acclaimed as a "poor man's floppy." It made all sorts of seemingly ridiculous claims such as "loads five times faster," "stores 50,000 bytes on a 10-minute cassette," "less than one bad load in a million bytes with the volume control anywhere between one and eight."

All this for a measly [90] bucks! How could this be? A call to Albuquerque answered a few questions: Yes, it had its own power supply, and it stored programs five times faster because it utilized higher density data. The computer outputs the information at a higher rate out of the rear keyboard connector.

The ad had even claimed anyone could build it even if you had never soldered before. JPC would make it work, if you couldn't—for free.

I was sold. I placed my order, and it arrived about two months later (parts shortage).

I work in electronics, so I found the unit exceptionally easy to build. It took about an hour. The manual is superb. (That's better than great.) It was clear, concise and exact with no ambiguities. Important parts placements are stressed (polarity markings on electrolytics, bands on diodes, etc.).

JPC was right! With these instructions, you couldn't go wrong. The board quality is excellent. It is double-sided and parts locations are clearly marked on the component side of the board. There are no jumper wires to install. JPC utilizes PC traces and plated-through holes for connections to traces on the other side of the board.

Also, there are absolutely no adjustments or settings to bother with.

The documentation is a sheaf of 8½ x 11 papers stapled together. It is written in the nicest format I've seen in a while. Each command and/or subject is covered on its own sheet in large type. All explanations are in easy to read English—not computerese.

Commands and Features
SAVE*filename*: Saves your BASIC program on cassette.
LOAD: Reads the next BASIC program from the cassette.
LOAD*filename*: Searches for and loads the specified file from cassette.
LOAD? and LOAD**:filename*: Reads file from cassette, and compares contents to memory.
LOADN: Prints a list of all the programs on a cassette, until interrupted by the "break" key.
FILENAME*: Same as above except the tape will stop at the end of the program named.
KILL: Removes the file manager program from memory so that the extra memory can be used by large programs.
RESET: Allows the operator to rewind and position the tape on tape recorders that have these functions tied to the motor control jack.
RUN*filename*: TC-8 searches for a specified program and runs it immediately.
PUT*filename*: Same as SAVE "filename", except it is for use with system tapes.
GET*filename*: Same as LOAD "filename", except it is for use with system tapes.
GET? and GET**filename*: Same as LOAD? and LOAD"filename", except it is for use with system tapes.
GETN and GETN*filename*: Same as LOADN and LOADN*"filename", except it is for use with system tapes.

OPEN: Required before cassette input or output of a data file can be attempted.
CLOSE: Required to end a cassette data file.
PRINT#: Allows numerical or string data to be output to a cassette file.
INPUT#: Allows numerical or string data to be input from a cassette file.

I haven't counted them, so I don't know about the "one load in a million bytes" claim, but my son, Anthony (age 11), loaded about 30 of his programs from his Radio Shack format tape to a new TC-8 format tape. He's run them all and found no bad loads.

Unlike the standard tape system, you can position your tape anywhere before the program you want and then start loading without getting confused by the portion of the previous program you just fed it.

Try that on your regular cassette system; you'll wear out the reset button.

ORDER NOW

To order your TC-8 kit, send your check or money order for $90.00 plus $3.50 postage and handling to JPC PRODUCTS CO., 12021 Paisano Ct., Albuquerque, NM 87112 (New Mexico residents add 4% sales tax). Credit card orders accepted by phone or mail. Personal checks will delay shipment. We will otherwise immediately ship you the TC-8 kit, the cabinet, the ribbon cable, the power adapter, an instruction manual, and a cassette containing the software.

For Mod I Level II only.

JPC PRODUCTS CO.
Phone (505) 294-4623
12021 Paisano Ct.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87112

*See List of Advertisers on page 354

80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 247
ings this was unimportant so I excluded it.

I would like to mount a movie camera in front of the CRT and take single pictures of each display, changing the position of the objects only little by little. Running the movie would then create illusions like walking around in a small town. An alternative would be to translate parts of the program into machine language.

The current version of the program is the X-ray version where all lines are presented even if, in real life, the foreground would have covered them. For plotting on diagram paper this is a necessary feature, but if you want to depend more on the screen display, find an algorithm that makes foreground figures cover the background.

Another interesting possibility would be to work backwards from the drawing to the blueprint. Imagine entering some key points from an old painting. Going backwards in the program (or going forward many times, until the points fit) you would map the surroundings of the artist. You could even tell how tall he was, at least from his feet to his eyes. You could also transform old paintings into three-dimensional pictures.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
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<th>X</th>
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<th>Z</th>
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Table 2

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Figure 4

Figure 5. Blueprint representation

Fig. 6. Projection on flat wall

Fig. 7. Projection on spheric wall
Give Your TRS-80* a Tremendous Boost with RACET COMPUTES Software

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The Hard/Soft Disk System (HSOS) Software has more than One Year's FIELD Experience. The latest HSOS version adds several enhancements including maintenance of system files on the hard drive, files as large as the disk, the ability to segment the disk as logical drives, delineable directory size, and many utilities including bulk copies between floppy and hard drives, multiple purges, Superrap. and Directory Catalog System. Full program compatibility with TRSDOS 2.0a is maintained. Mixed floppy and hard drive operation is supported.

HSOS is available for the Cameo, Cynthia Bull, Corvus, Data Peripherals, and Santa Clara Systems hard disk systems as well as the ARM Winchester Drive.

ARM 15 Megabyte Drive Subsystem $389 • HSOS Software $400 • Cameo 5/5 Cartridge Drive Subsystem $5995 • Cynthia Bull 10/10 Drive Subsystem $7995

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- Most CPU speed up mods may be used though not specifically supported.
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- Model I 2.3 TRS80 compatible.
- COPY to/from Model I 2.3B and Model III TRS80 diskettes (no other usage allowed).
- Single drive COPY and Copy By File features.
- Depending on installed hardware, the system volume may be single/double density, single/double sided, 5 or 8 inch and up to 7680 sectors.
- RUN-ONLY program mode restricts the operator to program defined input only.
- MINI-DOS allows the executing program to be interrupted by the operator to perform one or more of the 51 DOS commands executable under MINI-DOS, and then continue the interrupted program's execution.
- CHAIN or DO commands activate chaining whereby keyboard input comes from the specified disk file, allowing a pre-determined set of commands and/or parameters to be automatically inputted.
- Dumb display to printer function.
- Enhanced DEBUG facility (14 commands) allows interrupting current program execution, inspecting/altering memory or disk, and resuming execution, continuous or single step, with/without stops.
- DOS vectors defined for Assembly Language programmers.
- DOS-CALL allows user programs to BASIC to execute DOS commands.
- The programmer may create his own resident DOS commands.
- Programs may enable/disable user routines driven off the timer interrupt.
- The programmer may create his/her own resident DOS commands.
- Model I built-in lower case driver, blinking cursor, auto key repeat.
- ROUTEing of keyboard, display, printer and (Model III only) RS232C. May be supported as a user routine in memory, but not to/from disk unless via a user route.
- Except for the spoiler, there are no high memory routines for DOS or BASIC; this includes ROUTE and CHAIN functions.
- Lower case DOS commands honored.
- Full error messages displayed instead of error codes.
- 31 enhanced COPY parameters.
- Copy By File allows 6 criteria for file selection.
- 15 enhanced FORMAT parameters.
- Partial diskette reFORMAT permitted.
- File PURGE by wildcard extents and/or user files.
- DiRectory command allows wildcard extents, user files, short or extended format, dump to printer.
- User may specify diskette's directory location.
- Expanded directory provides for up to 222 file entries.
- Some DOS commands may be aborted without reset.
- R command repeats last performed DOS command.
- CREATE command to pre-allocate a disk file.
- ERROR command displays error message associated with error code.
- HIMEM command sets/displays DOS/BASIC high memory address.
- DATE command sets/displays computer's date.
- TIME command sets/displays computer's time.
- Model III FORMS command for printer control.
- Model III SETCOM command for RS232 control.
- Enhanced LIST/PRINT commands for ASCII files with pause, abort and partial file listing.
- After changing state via the CHNON command or commands within the chain file.
- A program or a chaining sequence may display a message with/without pause.
- CLEAR command to zero memory and to purge routes, user DOS commands and user timer routines.
- Commands to enable/disable BREAK key, blinking cursor, lower case driver.
- PROT command to change diskette NAME/DATE/PASSWORD
- ATTRIB command to change a file's attributes.
- CLS command to clear screen.
- AUTO specifies the command to execute automatically at reset/power-on.
- SYSTEM specifies the default system configuration values (usually enable or disable) which become effective on RESET/POWER UP.

Diskette/file password checking
RUN-ONLY mode
Keyboard debounce (Model I)
Screen dump to printer (JKL)
DEBUG 123 entry
MINI-DOS
Break key as keyboard key
Hardware lower case (Model I)
Assign default drive number for DIR
Assign default drive number for file creation
Memory protect value
Clear key as keyboard key
Disk master password required for full diskette or CBF COPY
Auto Repeat key function
TIME/DATA question on power-up
TIME/DATE question on reset
Display disabled until operator/program reenables
Manual operator chaining pause/abort
Manual operator AUTO command override
R = repeat last DOS command performed
Built-in lower case driver (Model I)
Lower to upper case toggle
Blinking cursor
Number of physical drives on computer
Number of disk I/O retries
Time delay for 1st repeat of auto repeat key
Specify the cursor character
Specify the write of the directory sector's address mark for Model I single density diskette in Model III format for easy Model I, Model III diskette exchangeability

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**DISK BASIC FEATURES**
- **MU** files are used as an option to the older PRINT/INPUT files.
- **FF** files are used as an option to the older RANDOM files.
- Record lengths up to 4096 bytes supported.
- Records may be all of the same length (MF and FF), of varying lengths (MU) or unknown length (MI and FI).
- Sequential files may be accessed randomly.
- Files may be accessed by Relative Byte Address to allow accessing of variable length or unknown length records.
- Existing files may be extended.

**UTILITY PROGRAMS INCLUDED WITH NEWDOS/80**
- **SUPERZAP** is a disk/memory display and modification program, also used as the vehicle for installing patches to NEWDOS/80.
- **DISASSEMBL** is a Z80 load module (CMD) disassembler that builds cross-reference tables for all location references including those by JR instructions, includes in the disassembly printable characters for all hex bytes to help locate character strings and sends the disassembly to the display, printer or a disk file. The disk file can then be edited and/or assembled using EDTASM, if it is not too large.
- **DIRCHECK** is a program that displays directory contents and checks directory integrity (its primary function), displaying specific error codes to assist users in tracking down directory trouble shooting and/or repair. Optionally will zero out unused (dead) file names.
- **EDTASM** is Apparatus' enhancement of Radio Shack's 1978 tape editor/assembly program to operate from disk and with disk files. Requires purchase of that Radio Shack program (not a newer one) as a pre-condition of use of Apparatus' EDTASM.
- **LMOFFSET** allows load module (CMD) transfer between disk and tape. Displays program start, end and entry addresses. Optionally allows load address relocation (not execution relocation) and subsequent execution as from non-disk BASIC via SYSTEM.
- **CHAINBLD** is a mini-text editor for creating/maintaining chaining files.

**NEWDOS/80 manual chapter titles and page counts**
1. Introduction (5)
2. DOS Library Commands (52)
3. DOS Routines (12)
4. DOS Features (14)
5. DOS Modules, Data Structures, and Miscellaneous Information (12)
6. Additional Programs Supplied on NEWDOS/80 Diskette (22)
7. Disk BASIC, non-I/O Enhancements (17)
8. Disk BASIC I/O Enhancements and Differences (21)
9. Error Codes and Messages (2)
10. Glossary (5)
11. Error Reporting, Incompatibility Handling, and Patching (8)
12. Conversion Information and Miscellaneous Comments (9)
13. ZAPs (increasing with time)
14. Appendix A: Marked and Fixed Item File discussion (47)
15. Appendix B: Marked and Fixed Item File examples (18)
16. Index (4)

**NEWDOS/80 Version 2.0 for the model I is a separate and distinct product from the model III. Each is sold separately.**

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The Key Box
Basic Level II
Model I or III

runs on Models I and III TRS-80 but will run on any machine that uses Microsoft Basic with only minor changes. The program can help handicappers recoup the losses incurred annually in the money the track and the state take from betting pools. Handicapping works like this: The three betting pools on each race are win, place and show. Our illustration considers the win pool.
The "Totaliser," a computer connected to the ticket machines in the sellers' windows, keeps track of all wagers. The amount bet on each horse and the total bet are updated and displayed on the Tote Board in the track infield about once a minute.
When the windows close just before the race the Tote makes a final calculation of the total amount bet on the race. The legal rakeoff of 18 to 20 percent is deducted from the total and the remainder is divided among the winners in proportion to how much they wagered on the horse.
The place pool is divided in two to pay those holding tickets on the first or second finisher, while the show pool is divided in three.
The successful handicapper must pick enough winners to stay ahead of the game, and also overcome the percentages. Contrast this with playing blackjack in a casino where the house percentage is much lower.
Winning bets must pay a decent return. You will not break even playing favorites because they win only about one-third of all races. A payoff in the neighborhood of $2.20 for each two dollars bet on an odds-on favorite loses $3.80 out of each $6.00 bet. Any method which picks forty percent winners at a decent return is a moneymaker.

Using the Daily Racing Form
Thoroughbred Handicapping

Program Listing

FACT, 161 PRINT"EVEN WHERE OFF-TRACK SELLING IS LEGAL, WE RECOMMEND"

160 PRINT"THAT ALL WAGERS BE MADE AT THE TRACK IF POSSIBLE."

160 PRINT"THE HORSE THAT LOOKS GOOD IN THE PAGES MAY BE AN"

160 PRINT"OR TIP-RIDER."

160 PRINT"BE ELIMINATED AFTER VISUAL INSPECTION IN THE Paddock"

160 PRINT"OR ON THE RACES FIELD."
for Profit uses information on past performances in the Daily Racing Form. An abbreviated explanation of the past performance charts appear in each issue; the publisher also puts out a guidebook. A current issue of the Form gives details on how to obtain it.

When you have the Form go through the races at the track where you intend to handicap. Read the conditions of each race printed directly following the number of the race. Eliminate any maiden race unless all the starters have at least two races listed in their past performances. A maiden is a horse which has never won a race; the term has nothing to do with whether said horse is male or female. Some handicappers eliminate maiden races altogether, but doing so eliminates some juicy payoffs. Next, eliminate any steeplechase races and all turf races.

Look through the past performances listed in the first race to be handicapped. Find a race run not more than thirty days before your date, in which the horse made a decent effort, preferably at the track where today's race will be run.

A horse making a decent effort either wins or finishes not more than six lengths behind the winner, or shows early speed, running first or within two lengths of the winner during the first part of the race. A horse running fourth and trailing the leader by six lengths at the stretch call makes a decent effort if it finishes fifth at those lengths behind.

Eliminate any horse not showing one good effort within the past thirty days, except a high class horse who has consistently run in races at a class equal to or higher than today's race and who is making a first start after a long layoff. Some higher class animals can be eased into racing form through workouts alone. If such a horse shows two or three good workouts within the last two weeks, include it in your figures. Rate such a horse from the last good race shown in the past performance, regardless of date.

After reading Data statements into two large arrays, the computer asks the number of horses to be rated in the current race. Enter the number of horses not yet eliminated.

Next, enter the name of horse number one. The computer asks whether the race you are using to rate the horse was over a mile. Answer Y or N. When a list of standard race lengths is displayed indicate the distance of the race.

More Calculations

Since all times given in the Racing Form are to the nearest fifth of a second, convert fractional times to decimal form by multiplying the fractional part of the time by two. Enter 23:45:25 as 23.845.

The computer asks by how many lengths the horse was beaten in this race. If he won, or lost by only a head, enter zero (0). If beaten by a neck, enter .25; otherwise, enter the number of lengths shown in the Form.

The final item is the jockey weight scheduled in today's race.

Once you enter this information, the name of each horse is printed out along with both the pace and speed ratings assigned by the computer. This display is brief, since you need not know the ratings on every horse. The four top contenders are printed in order of pace rating. If the two top contenders are tied, the computer suggests betting on the horse with the higher speed rating.

Mark down these names and ratings, and bet accordingly on that race.

The top contender is your choice unless you spot something negative including, but not limited to, kidney sweat, extreme nervousness, and puffiness on the legs accompanied by a limp. If you see any of these signs, bet on the next horse on the list. This program blends the two schools of handicapping thought into one winning method (both speed and animal class figure).

Horses on the pace in a well-run race demonstrate ability repeatable within a reasonable amount of time. Winning form runs in cycles. Horses generally
race into form and gradually improve until ready for winning. After a time the horse begins to stale off. Therefore, the horse's last good effort must be more recent than thirty days ago.

The computer compares the entered time for each call with a reference table and assigns a temporary rating figure. After you enter all the times for the horse the computer assigns a final pace rating.

The speed rating is a combination of the horse's position in the finish and the horse's finish in the rated race, if the horse lost that race, the distance behind the winner is included in the calculations.

Although some handicappers consider carefully the carried weight I do not believe a couple of pounds makes much difference. However, if the top-rated horse carries over 120 pounds, the computer will advise you to pass rather than risk betting.

Good Money Management
A good money management plan should accompany any handicapping method. The following plan is from Les Conklin's book "Payday at the Races."

Conklin advises betting a fifth of your bankroll on each choice. For example, if you start with a hundred dollars, your first bet is twenty to win. If you lose, you have eighty dollars left and the next bet is sixteen. Suppose, that you win at three-to-one on the first bet. You will earn sixty dollars plus the twenty you bet, for a total of one hundred and sixty dollars. Your next bet should be thirty-two dollars.

Mr. Conklin advises betting no more than two hundred dollars per race, because large bets affect the price paid on a winning bet.

The Martingale (doubling) method advises an initial bet of two dollars, doubled every time you lose.

Contrast the two methods, assuming an initial bankroll of one hundred dollars for each. Using the Martingale, you bet two dollars. The first bet loses, but the second doubles to four dollars. The third doubles again to eight dollars. If you lose, you lose eight dollars. The fourth doubles to sixteen dollars and continues doubling until you win. The Martingale system is excellent when winning amounts are large.

The bookmaker's edge is in the in between loss amounts. Some horse races have no winners, but these are infrequent. On average the bookmaker wins.

The point is to make a profit for yourself, not against the bookmaker. The best way to do that is to make more frequent small wins, not a few large losses. The Martingale system has a high risk of large losses.

The second reason to use a money management plan is to limit your total losses in a losing series of bets. A money management system also protects your bankroll from large losses. As with the Martingale system, a constant money management system is a good strategy when winning amounts are large.

The third reason to use a money management system is to make sure your bankroll is large enough to cover your losses. As an example, if you start with a hundred dollars and lose seven dollars on the first bet, your remaining bankroll will be ninety-three dollars. If you divide your budget fairly, you will have a hundred and eighty dollars available for the second bet, but only ninety-three dollars for the third bet. If you divide fairly, your remaining bankroll for the fourth bet will be the same as the second bet. If you bet these amounts fairly, you will have a fair bankroll for the fourth bet. If you start with a hundred dollars and lose seven dollars on the first bet, your remaining bankroll will be ninety-three dollars. If you divide your budget fairly, you will have a hundred and eighty dollars available for the second bet, but only ninety-three dollars for the third bet. If you divide fairly, your remaining bankroll for the fourth bet will be the same as the second bet. If you bet these amounts fairly, you will have a fair bankroll for the fourth bet.

The money management system described is a simple one. It is also one of the most effective money management systems in terms of minimizing losses and maximizing profits. It is also one of the easiest money management systems to implement. The system is based on the idea that you should always bet the same amount of money regardless of your bankroll. This allows you to make your bets on a consistent basis and ensures that you will always have enough money to cover your losses. The system also limits the amount of money you can lose in a single bet. This helps to protect your bankroll and ensures that you will always have enough money to continue betting.

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The books must be a part of your tool kit. The tools give you access to all math operations in your level II ROM. A symbol table of the entire machine notating over 500 addresses is included. Volume II tells you everything you need to know about the level II. I/O—printer, keyboard, video, and cassette routines are fully explained. Each volume has a fully commented listing of all the routines discussed. The books will save you hours of assembling programs. Each volume is priced at $14.95 or buy both for $24.95. Add $1.50 S&H per book.
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The MAS 80 is flexible, easy to set up and use. Call or write for sample reports and full description.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ...... $159.00

Features reduce time for more efficient management, by providing:
- Balance Forward Systems w/true ageing and multi function programs, G/L coordinating for Auto-Posting or Stand Alone.
- Post to an unlimited number of General Ledger Accounts with valid G/L and Vendor Account editing per Invoice.
- Process charge entries with detail break down as you choose. Maintenance before and after posting.
- Detailed, Aged, Manage/Report to analyze Liabilities, volume, of purchases, payment choice and discounting.
- Will handle 700 Vendor and 1600 Unpaid charge entries.
- Check Writing format is standard Moore or Nebs forms.

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Here is a Check Register Program that will operate by itself or linked with MAS 80 Accounts Payable and/or General Ledger. This will compile all checks written, allow choice of 26 expense codes for later look up and listing of different categories for tax time. Record deposits and reconcile your check register with your bank statement.

- Will handle 600 checks per month. Record deposits.
- Record/Print checks from Accounts Payable and hand written checks.
- Print check register, expense codes carries Y-T-D totals.
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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 255
You have made six losing bets. Using the Martingale method the sixth bet wiped you out. Using Conklin’s method, you still have twenty-eight dollars.

Down to $28.00

You bet five dollars, one fifth of twenty-eight and leave twenty-three. Still on a losing streak, your next wager is four dollars, leaving nineteen. You can make nine two dollar bets and, if they all lose, you still have a dollar for carfare. The Martingale method broke you in a string of six losing bets. You stretched your bankroll to cover seventeen bets using Conklin’s method of money management. While you might have a string of six losers, the odds are wildly against losing seventeen in a row if you follow the handicapping principles in this article.

No handicapping method can pick all winners. This method comes close. It makes horse racing profitable and enjoyable because you win a fair share.
Color computer owners,

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The CCI also contains a 2K machine-language monitor, with which you can examine (and change) memory, set break-points, set memory to a constant and block-move memory.

So what about the CCI Disk Card? Well as we said it’s only an extra $99.00, but you’ll probably want Exatron’s CCDOS which is only $29.95 - unless you want to write your own operating system. The CCI Disk Card uses normal TRS-80 Model I type disk drives, and CCDOS will even load Model I TRSDOS disks into your color computer - so you can adapt existing TRS-80 BASIC programs.

As a further plus, with the optional ROM Backup adaptor, you can dump game cartridges to cassette or disk. Once the ROM cartridge is on cassette, or disk, you can reload, examine and modify the software. The ROM Backup adaptor is only $19.95.

For more information, or to place an order, phone Exatron on their Hot Line 800-538 8559 (inside California 408-737 7111), or clip the coupon.

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What those error messages really mean!

Out of Thin Error

Richard S. Adcock
141 NW Loma
Burleson, TX 76028

Establishing a working relationship with my Model I might have been easier had I read the manual. I ran a lot of code through the computer before discovering the error messages flashing at me were predefined. In the meantime, however, I had compiled a list of what I decided the error messages must mean. In comparing my list with the Level II Basic Reference Manual Appendix, I discovered, to my horror, the writers at Radio Shack made some terrible mistakes. To help the TRS-80 programming public, I decided to publish the real meanings of the error codes. I have no doubt the list will make your debugging efforts a good deal easier.

Explanation of Error Messages

NF—Not Fair, flashes anytime you take advantage of the computer's vulnerability to power failure. You will see it flash as you accidentally turn the power off when the computer happens to be winning. It will only stay on the screen until the power supply capacitors lose their charge.

SN—Since Never, flashes when you create an endless loop. Since the loop never ends the computer believes there must be an error.

RG—Runs Good. This message, demonstrating computer clairvoyance, occurs when an exceptionally long program works the first time. Invariably the media on which you save the program will self-destruct, forcing you to retype. Without question, this second typing will save perfectly, but will be as buggy as a South American jungle.

OD—Odd Disease. You have created a bug the likes of which the computer has never before encountered.

FC—First Child. This is not really an error message. It is rather like playing an adventure in which the computer offers to sell a clue for a few points. Here the computer is offering to help you debug an error, but since programming is more serious than winning an adventure game, the computer responds accordingly.

OV—Over Voltage, added to the computer's list shortly after TRSDOS became available for the Model I. The historically versed user will recall that the release of TRSDOS was coincidental with a period of extremely flaky power.

OM—Out of Mind. The reference manual calls this an Out-of-Memory error, actually pretty close. The true meaning of this error is ambiguous; it either
obscure comment. They are fooling themselves. It is a caustic comment about your code.

DD—Double Dead. An error message indicating the computer has just killed both your work disk and your backup. Do not be smug. Even though your backup was not in the computer, it has still bit the dust.

ID—Identification. The computer does not recognize you and demands to know what you have done with its true owner. Often this message occurs shortly after a series of OM messages.

TM—Totally Misplaced. The computer has lost all your variable pointers or all your variables. In either case, the effect is the same.

OS—Out of Sight. If the computer is in a joking mood it will spontaneously print the OS message followed by an OM message. When serious, this message means the light pen is not hooked up.

LS—Last Shot. This biting message is elicited by some odd command you have given. The computer wants you to play Russian Roulette with an automatic pistol.

ST—Start Error. The computer is telling you this was your first mistake. You have two more chances before seeing the FC message.

CN—Care Not. Indicates you pushed the computer past the point where anything matters.

NR—Never Return usually follows a CN error. The computer has wandered off into the ozone. You may have to buy another ozone.

RW—Running Wild. If you can read the book by the same name and are trying to intimidate you. This message indicates the computer is locked into several simultaneous endless loops.

UE—Unprintable Error. This is one instance where the reference manual is correct in name. As to the cause of this error, due to publishing restrictions . . .

MO—The computer is having trouble with its random number generator. During a debug operation, the computer has made it through one, meeny, and miney, and is hanging only on its last choice.

FD—Found Dead usually follows an LS message. The error which precipitates this message occurs with novice programmers prone to taking the computer a bit too seriously.

There you have it. I hope this amended list proves as valuable in your programming efforts as it has in mine.
It has nothing to do with paint.

Model II Primer

Jesse W. Baker
P.O. Box 145
Fort Kent, ME 04743

The Tandy people say they sell a lot of Model IIs, but from where I sit sometimes get the impression that I have the only one they ever sold.

Does everyone who has a Model II run only the business application programs they bought? Am I the only one who likes to experiment with this machine and make it do things other computers do?

I, too, have bought many programs that I use, but I also modify Basic programs, especially Level II material, to run on my computer. I have had some success but I get bored and northern Maine gets lonely at times.

These tips are for the person who has just bought a Model II and is still mystified by some of its commands. The Model II owner’s manual is full of information, but it is useless unless you are a professional programmer, though there are some things that you can use and understand if you try.

Skip the first part of the manual that deals with the operating system except for a few library commands and utility programs. Understand the following: Copy copies a file; Dir lists the disk directory; Error displays error messages; Forms sets the printer settings; Free displays disk use map; Help provides help with TRS-DOS commands; Kill deletes a file; and Lib displays all library commands.

There are more commands, but unless you are a professional programmer, save your energy. They will frustrate and confuse you. As you gain experience, study the rest as you need them.

There are two very important utility programs: Backup duplicates a disk; and Format prepares a disk to receive data. You can study the remaining utilities as the need arises.

The next section of the manual is on Basic. If you have not used Level II computer Basic, then buy several good books on it, study them, and then go to Model II Basic. Level II Basic and Level II Basic are similar and you will find it easy to write programs with your Model II. Dave A. Lien’s book about Basic and the Level II Basic manual will give you a good foundation.

If you compare the list of reserved words from both Basics you will find that the Model II has more of them and has omitted some of the Level II words. Most of the missing words deal with graphics. The Model II is not a very good machine for graphics. You can do graphics with a Model II but it is not easy.

Read the owner’s manual but not all at once. Then go back and read it over again. Again and again.

Make backup copies of all your disks. Hide them if you want to, but make some with all your work on them. I worked for three months on an educational program that I planned to use in one of my courses, and inadvertently placed other material on the same disk. I was in the final stages of debugging it and now I have to recreate the whole program from scratch. I do not even have a printer copy of it.

Be extra careful if you have expansion drives hooked up. Turn the expansion unit on before you load a disk into drive 0. Otherwise you will destroy that disk and never be able to access any information you have on it. Turn it on even if you do not plan to use it during that particular session. You can also unplug the drive cable from the CRT and replace the disk terminator plug. Remember the terminator plug!

"Before you can store this program you must give it a name ..."

The Key Box
Model II
64K RAM
TRSDOS
1 Disk Drive

Next, buy and use a disk drive cleaning disk. The inside of the drives get dirty and this can give you trouble with some of your program disks. Have good dust covers to put over your equipment. They are worth their weight in gold. These are tough machines but they have their limits. Reasonable care will keep them running for a long time.

After you have studied the Basic manuals, or if you want to go cold turkey in the Model II Basic, memorize several Basic commands. The first one is how to call up Basic correctly. By correctly, I mean call it up the way you want to use it. If all you want is to play at writing programs and making things happen on the screen, then you key in only Basic, but if you want to use files, follow this procedure: When you are at the TRSDOS READY mode, type in the word BASIC followed by a space, then a hyphen (-), then the letter F, then a colon (:), and then a
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number ranging from one to 15 (this number is for the amount of files you want to open; you cannot open more than 15).

For example, type BASIC-F:5. This tells the computer that you want to open five files.

The next command to memorize is SAVE. This command takes whatever you have written and stores it on the disk. But you must name the program so you can call it back out again by typing the command LOAD.

Suppose you have created a short program such as the following:

```
10 CLS
20 FOR I = 0 TO 1839
30 PRINT CHR$(143);
40 NEXT I
50 PRINT @995,CHR$(32);CHR$(200);CHR$(32);CHR$(187);CHR$(32);CHR$(200);CHR$(32);CHR$(200);CHR$(32);CHR$(32)
60 END
```

Before you can store this program you must give it a name, which Radio Shack Basic will call the filespec. Let’s call it Lock-up for fun. To store it on disk type: SAVE “Lock-Up”,A.

The computer automatically creates a file named Lock-Up and puts your data there. Do not leave a space between the word save and the filespec; the command tells the computer that this is a name and not a command or something else, and the A tells it to store it in ASCII format. If you leave it out the computer uses a compressed format. I suggest that you save everything in the ASCII format. It will make it easier when you start to make your own file formats.

To call this program back type: LOAD “Lock-Up”. Type in this short program and try to save it. To test your success after you have saved it, type in the command NEW which erases everything in the memory, then load the program, and type LIST which prints the program on the screen. To see what that program does after you load it, just type RUN.

Jesse Baker, self-employed, is working on a graduate degree in educational computer curriculum development.

---

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*1981 Soft Sector Marketing, Inc.
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Zapit is a stand alone machine language program that lets you examine, modify, copy disk sectors and much more. It does not use any of the resident DOS routines so that you are not limited to the restrictions of the particular DOS that you normally use. You do not have to have a system disk in DRIVE 0 once Zapit is running.
Currently there are two versions of Zapit – one to use with TRS-DOS and another with DOSPLUS. They are the same except in the way that they format a disk and the way that they write DATTA ADDRESS MARKS. Because of the differences, they are not interchangeable. Writing to a TRS-DOS diskette with the DOSPLUS version (or vice-versa) could make the diskette unbootable.
For all disk operations you will be asked a series of questions. Each question can be answered by pressing the ENTER key. Every question is accompanied by a specific value. Pressing the ENTER key will cause the DEFAULT value to be used. All default values are indicated on the screen at the time the question is asked.
When entering a specific number of sectors for a sector copy, it is assumed to be DEBUG. Unless and is appended to the number.
When and is appended, the number is assumed to be hexadecimal (base 16).

CAPABILITIES
Display/Modify Disk Sectors/Memory, Print to screen printout to printer. Modify in Hex. Modify in ASCII. CHANGA TRACKS & Sector Listing, Copy any sector read and write Double density read and write 512-80 track, from 0-18 sectors. Single and dual sided drives.
Formata Disk, Standard format, W format without erase if you press ENTER, or 3 will be asked which drive what density. After answering these questions, Zapit will format the disk using the parameters specified. Each track is formatted of all the sectors are checked for readability before the next track is formatted. Any unreadable sectors are reported but the operation will not be aborted.
If the sector is unreadable, Zapit will print a message to the printer. If you want to erase the sector, you will be asked which drive what density to set for the sector. If you want no add sectors reported to the printer before each track is formatted each readable sector on the disk is read into a holding area. Unreadable sectors are formatted and the.full area is erased. After all of the sectors are erased the track is reformatted and the data in the holding area written to the appropriate sectors. Verify a Disk, Verify a disk does just that – it verifies that every sector is readable. Any unreadable sectors are reported.

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80 Microcomputing, May 1982  •  263
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People of all ages and ability levels can enjoy golf. It offers an excellent opportunity to get a moderate amount of exercise and plenty of fresh air. Golf offers a measure of competition not available in most other sports. Although golfers' abilities vary widely, good golfers can compete on an equal basis with golfers of lesser ability by using handicaps.

A handicap is a number reflecting the average score a golfer shoots. When two golfers of unequal handicap wish to compete against each other, the poorer player is awarded a number of strokes equal to the difference in handicaps. This allows the two players to compete on an even basis.

Golf leagues often use handicaps to make weekly matches competitive. To be fair and effective, scores should be updated and handicaps recalculated weekly. The considerable amount of record-keeping and calculation necessary to keep the handicaps current and accurate is usually dumped on the league secretary. I will describe a program that allows the golf league secretary to keep track of the scores of league members and easily update their handicaps.

Handicap Calculation

The number of different ways to calculate handicaps is almost as great as the number of golfers. Some methods are very simple, while others would tax the ability of large business computers. The United States Golf Association (USGA) developed the standard method of computing handicaps. I used the method here in a modified form.

The basis of the USGA method is the golf course rating. This is a numerical rating of the course difficulty. For most cases, this number is very similar to the course par; in this program I used the course par for the rating.

Once you determine the course rating, you compute a number called a differential for the golfer's scores by subtracting the course rating from each raw score. The USGA method uses the golfer's 20 most recent scores.

Next add the 10 smallest differentials to produce a number that reflects the golfer's average score. Then compare this number to a table to determine the handicap. The look-up table includes factors such as the increased difficulty in lowering one's handicap as the handicap approaches 0.

How to Use the Program

I wrote the program for a 16K Level II TRS-80. After loading the program, typing Run clears the screen and produces program information for the user. Pressing Enter produces the two necessary data entries. You must enter the par for the course here.

If the course is only nine holes, enter the same par for front and back nine. The program is set up for one golf course only. If you are using scores from more than one course, you must use the same par. After you enter the course par, enter the league name. The league name is a header for the handicap display, so no harm will come to the program if you do not give a name (hit Enter).

The rest of the program is menu driven (see Fig. 1). You select program options by entering the appropriate number. See Fig. 2 for examples of typical data entry procedures. All data entries are tested for errors. The menu options should provide the user with all needed manipulations.

When you run the program for the first time you will enter the names of all league golfers. Keep the length of each name to 12 characters or less. Once this is done, you can display or modify scores for each golfer.

Figure 2 also shows the format the program uses to display

The Key Box
Basic Level II
Model I or III
16K RAM
Tape or Disk

(1) Cassette Data Input
(2) Cassette Data Output
(3) Add Names
(4) Delete Names
(5) Display One Entry
(6) Update All Scores
(7) Calculate and Display Handicaps
(8) Change Data for One Golfer

Figure 1
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an individual golfer's data. The program saves only 10 scores to minimize memory usage and cassette storage. Each score is prefixed by F for a front nine score or B for a back nine score. If 10 scores are on file and you enter a new score, the oldest score is bumped off the list and lost. The program uses only the most recent scores. This system uses only nine-

---

**Program Listing**

```
10 ** ************
20 **  GOLF LEAGUE HANDICAP**
30 **  BY MIKE AVERY**
40 **  COPYRIGHT 1982**
50 **  PROGRAM LENGTH 5.9K**
60 **  PROGRAM USE INSTRUCTIONS**
70 **  CLS;PRINT GOLF LEAGUE HANDICAP**
80 **  THIS PROGRAM WILL ALLOW THE GOLF LEAGUE SECRETARY TO KE
90 **  TRACK THE SCORES OF UP TO 48 LEAGUE MEMBERS. THE HANDICAPS
100 **  CAN BE CALCULATED FOR THE MEMBER AT ANY TIME.
110 **  PRINT:PRINT:DATA THAT MUST BE ENTERED IS THE PAR FOR THE H
120 **  FRONT NINE AND BACK NINE OF THE LEAGUE NAME. AFTER ENTRY OF
130 **  THE INFORMATION, ALL DATA MANIPULATION IS CONTROLLED USING A
140 **  PROGRAM 'MENU'.
150 **  PRINT:PRINT:FOR CASSETTE STORAGE, A C-60 TAPE WILL STORE 40
160 **  NAMES
170 **  A C-90 TAPE IS NEEDED TO STORE THE SCORES. IF THE LEAGUE HAS
180 **  MORE
190 **  PRINT: PRINT: THAN 48 PEOPLE, SPLIT THE DATA UP INTO GROUPS OF 48,
200 **  AND USE ONE SET OF CASSETTE FOR EACH GROUP.*
210 **  PRINT:PRINT:FOR FRONT, BACK
220 **  CLEAR 1800-DIM TNA(20),NAS(58),O(10),F(10)
230 **  150 I="F";
240 **  CLS;PRINT"555",";INPUT:ENTER PAR FOR THE COURSE (FRONT,BACK"
250 **  ?","99","99"
260 **  CLS;PRINT"555",";INPUT:ENTER LEAGUE NAME:*LNS
270 **  100 ' Menu
280 **  CLS;PRINT"Menu:*",";INPUT:FOR 'Handicap'
290 **  PRINT:PRINT: YOUR OPTIONS ARE:*PRINTSTRINGS(64,","
300 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Cassette Data Input"
310 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Cassette Data Output"
320 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Add Names"
330 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Delete Names"
340 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Display Scores" ENTR Y*
350 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Update All Scores"
360 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Calculate and Display Handicaps"
370 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Change Data for One Golfer"
380 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Print" Strings(48,",
390 **  INPUT:INPUT:ENTER THE NUMBER OF THE DESIRED FUNCTION:
400 **  IF AN: OR AN+1989
410 **  PRINT:PRINT: FUNCTION 'AN' SELECTED, PRESS 'ENTER TO START, N'
420 **  TO ABORT.
430 **  ANN: INKEYS: IF AN="THREE"+ELSIF AN="W"+THEN198
440 **  IF AN="THREEP+1=ELSEPRINTY"+THEN198+2
450 **  CLEAR0669.399.384.1658.1788.1818.656
460 **  GOTO198
470 **  CLS;INPUT:ENTER GOLFER NUMBER:1;"?",F,THREEP"+PRINTS878;PRINT998","+INPUT:INPUT:ENTER TO CONTINUE:
480 **  ANS:RETURN
490 **  CLEAR0669.399.384.1658.1788.1818.656
500 **  GOTO198
510 **  CLS;INPUT:ENTER GOLFER NUMBER:1;"?",F,THREEP"+PRINTS878;PRINT998","+INPUT:INPUT:ENTER TO CONTINUE:
520 **  ANS:RETURN
530 **  CLEAR0669.399.384.1658.1788.1818.656
540 **  GOTO198
550 **  CLEAR0669.399.384.1658.1788.1818.656
560 **  GOTO198
570 **  CLEAR0669.399.384.1658.1788.1818.656
580 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Renew Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
590 **  ENTR Y".
600 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names"
610 **  CLEAR0669.399.384.1658.1788.1818.656
620 **  IF AN="I"+THEN198+1="END"+GOTO558
630 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
640 **  ENTR Y".
650 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
660 **  ENTR Y".
670 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
680 **  ENTR Y".
690 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
700 **  ENTR Y"
710 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
720 **  ENTR Y"
730 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
740 **  ENTR Y"
750 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
760 **  ENTR Y"
770 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
780 **  ENTR Y"
790 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
800 **  ENTR Y"
810 **  PRINT:PRINT: "Printing Names": TAPE, SET UP FOR 'RECORD' AND HIT
820 **  ENTR Y"
```

---

An individual golfer's data. The program saves only 10 scores to minimize memory usage and cassette storage. Each score is prefixed by F for a front nine score or B for a back nine score. If 10 scores are on file and you enter a new score, the oldest score is bumped off the list and lost. The program uses only the most recent scores. This system uses only nine-
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LARGE LIST SUPPORT – The multi-drive operation allows the user to access data files on all configured drives CONCURRENTLY (at the same time) for truly large mailing lists. Files need not be partitioned into smaller, 'byte size' chunks to fit into memory.

HARD DISK SUPPORT – HARD DISK POSTMAN only. The full utilization of the space and speed of the new hard disk drives is possible with POSTMAN. For example, a 7.5 megabyte drive can be configured to hold almost 60,000 names. Multiple hard drives can be accessed CONCURRENTLY allowing 200,000+ entry mailing lists.

FORM LETTER CAPABILITY – With the purchase of the separate POSTWRITE program, the users provided with an easy to use word letter generator which will merge a pre-generated letter produced from a word processing system (like EZ WRITER, etc.). With the name and address information from the POSTMAN MASS MAILER data base, POSTWRITE allows the user to insert any field from a POSTMAN label entry anywhere in the letter.

MENU OPERATION – As you would in a restaurant, choose your dinner from a list (or menu). POSTMAN will allow you to direct its actions by selecting from various menus that it will display. A complete discussion of each menu is presented in the manual.

INSERT – Names can now be quickly added to your list at any time. The new addresses are placed into the list in their proper sorted order eliminating the need for a separate sort operation after passing a stack of new names. POSTMAN will ask the operator to enter a 'batch' of labels without returning to the control menu between each label insertion, thus speeding entry and reducing the aggravation of extra menu control keystrokes.

DELETE – Names can be removed at any time when they are no longer needed.

EDIT – Information in any name entry can be quickly changed at will with 'word processor' ease. A 'transparent' cursor simply moves to the label displayed on the computer screen and corrections are made and inserted into the existing label. If you happen to change a field which is also used as a sort key, POSTMAN will automatically move the changed label to its correct position in the list to maintain the sorted arrangement of the labels.

OVERWRITE – When identical changes are made on many addresses, the OVERWRITE feature can make them with one keystroke. The needed changes which are common to many labels are entered into the 'overwrite mask'. When you wish to apply these common changes to any label, one command will do it.

SORT – Arrange your list in any alphanumeric or numeric order. The ordering may use one or more fields to control the sort. A machine language based sort involves faster execution. The sort need only be performed once, the sorted list will stay sorted through all subsequent insertions, deletions, and changes to existing labels. NO NEED to leave the POSTMAN program to use a separate program to sort your data. Your data is sorted quickly and after sort completion, POSTMAN is ready for your next command.

SPECIAL STREET ADDRESS SORT – For use with many addresses on the same street. POSTMAN will sort your entries by the house NUMBER after grouping those on the same street together. Local city lists can be quickly sorted to aid post office dispatching.

PURGE – Unwanted duplicate addresses can be removed from your list automatically or under operator control.

SEARCH – Any address in your list can be quickly found with fast search and positioning commands. Three different types of searches are provided. A 'fast' search which uses a hashing technique, a 'selective sequential' search for labels with common fields, and 'quick' positioning using the first major sort field to get you into the general 'ball park' of a label or sequence of labels.

LABEL PRINTING – One, a few, or all addresses in your list can be printed on standard or non-standard label stock. Up to 8 labels across can be printed with a format you can easily control. TWO user definable ATTEN. lines are provided for any use. Labels can be printed from many of POSTMAN's menus, search, edit, or during label insertion.

EFFICIENCY – POSTMAN is written in the machine's native language to gain the full advantage of the microcomputer's speed. Extensive use of program segmentation reduces the amount of time needed to load the program, allowing a greater number of labels to be kept in core, resulting in faster operation. Little used routines need only be brought into memory when they are needed and once through with their task, release the space back to POSTMAN.

REPORT PRINTING – A special program to produce columnar listing of address data from your address base is provided. You can easily specify the information to be printed.

DATA DISK MERGING – Labels can be quickly transferred from one disk to another with the PRIMERGE program callable from the main POSTMAN SYSTEM menu. Source and destination drives need not be separate drives; prompts to exchange disks if the same drive is used are provided.

DATA DISK PREPARATION UTILITY – Provided with POSTMAN is the PREPARE program which allows the user to prepare a floppy disk for use with POSTMAN. The easy utility can be used to load any portion of the available space on a disk.

DATA INTEGRITY – All data transfers to the disk files are made using special write commands which instruct the operating system to check the validity of each write to the disk.

DATA SECURITY – A special programming technique only offered by Soft Sector Marketing, inc. It protects your machine assets while writing information to the disk, you only lose the information you were writing. Your files are always protected from the dangers of losing all the work that you have put in that day. NO OTHER PROGRAM ON THE MARKET OFFERS THIS PROTECTION. If you reset with ANYBODY'S MAILING PACKAGE DURING WRITING you would destroy your entire data disk. We can't tap your machine from tasting but we can protect your data.

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hole scores. Although the USGA system requires 18-hole scores, most small leagues play 9-hole matches; handicaps based on 9-hole scores are more useful. In addition, the USGA system does not calculate a handicap until a golfer turns in five or more scores. I have observed that many league members play very little golf, but would still like to have a handicap. My program requires only two 9-hole scores to calculate a handicap. Although not as accurate as the USGA method, I think this is a fair compromise for small leagues. I will discuss methods of estimating handicaps using only one score later.

When you enter players' scores the required format is illustrated in Fig. 2. For any of the entry options, a number is necessary after the comma even if it is meaningless (for example, Exit to menu).

In the usual operating mode the user will sequentially update all players' scores using the \((N,X)\) option to step to the next set of data. You can correct mistakes in the data by selecting menu Option 8. In this mode, the data for one golfer (you must know the player's number) is displayed and you are prompted for the number of the wrong data. You replace the incorrect data by using the data entry procedure described above.

Once you have updated the data for all golfers, menu Option 7 will display the golfer's name and handicap. This option displays 10 entries on the screen at one time. After the user records the data, pressing Enter will display the next 10 entries. If less than two scores are entered for a golfer, that message will appear in place of the.

![Table 1](image)

**Figure 2**

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Hangman 16K NE
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Protect 16K EXT

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Songs 16K EXT
Joy 16K EXT
Mortgage 16K EXT
Checkbook 16K EXT
Draw 1 16K EXT
Moms 16K EXT
Sound 16K EXT

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Trace 16K MA
M-Master 16K MA
Deny 16K NE
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handicap, and you will have to estimate the golfer's handicap. The golfer might estimate his score before the round, subtract par from the estimate and multiply the difference by 8. The result will be a handicap that he can use for that round. After the round, if the actual score was off from the estimate by more than two strokes, recalculate the handicap using the actual score.

When the user finishes with the program, he saves the data on cassettes using Option 1. A normal data cassette is sufficient for the names tape; a minimum of a C-90 is required for the scores. Although the computer memory limitations allow about 100 names and data, the cassette storage for this much data would be excessive. I felt that 40 golfers was a good compromise. If your league has more than 40 members, you can run the program twice.

Final Thoughts

When I designed the program,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70–130</td>
<td>Program instructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190</td>
<td>Program menu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>390</td>
<td>Cassette input/output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>650</td>
<td>Correct data for one golfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>770</td>
<td>Display data for one golfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>840</td>
<td>Add names to NASI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>880</td>
<td>Update data for all golfers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1010</td>
<td>Calculate and display handicaps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1110</td>
<td>Handicap calculation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1610</td>
<td>Calculate differential from raw score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1650</td>
<td>Delete name and data from list</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I made several trade-offs to minimize memory and cassette usage. I used integer variables extensively for this reason. You cannot use different course scores as the data would be single precision in that case, and use more cassette storage.

With disk data storage, you can store scores from many courses. I use a 48K disk system for my own handicap calculations, and store differentials instead of raw scores. With a cassette-based system, however, these limits are necessary.

My experiences with league handicaps led me to choose 10 scores for storage rather than 20 as is used in the USGA system. Many golfers in leagues would not have the necessary five scores under the USGA system until the season was half over. Using this modified program, only two scores are necessary to establish a handicap.

Table 1 lists the variables I used in the program. I set up the program in separate modules. Table 2 lists these modules. Most of the program is straightforward. Course data is stored as (plus/minus) raw score; a minus score indicates a back nine entry. The scores data is stored in a two-dimensional array.

The handicap calculation routine first fills a temporary one-dimensional array with the non-zero entries of the golfer's data minus the course par. The array is then sorted with the smallest entry first. The average of the low half of the non-zero entries is found and multiplied by 10. This value is then compared to a standard list to determine the handicap.

This program will do a credible job for a small golf league. Unfortunately, the shortcomings of the cassette storage system become very visible if you use the program with a large league. In this case, a disk-based system is almost a necessity.

Michael Avery is an Analytical Engineer for the U.S. Department of Energy at Ames Laboratory at Iowa State. He is also a ham radio operator.
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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 271
Cryptology in Tiny Pascal.

Kryha Cipher Machine

C. A. Deavours
Kean College of New Jersey
Union, NJ 07083

I use my TRS-80 for cryptological pursuits so I programmed an emulation of a mechanical cipher machine from the 1920s using tiny Pascal. I chose a device patented by a German engineer, Alexander von Kryha.

The cryptographic principle used by the Kryha machine is simple to employ on a computer. Aside from a natural program structuring, I could use modular arithmetic and recursion (the ability of a function or subroutine to call itself) to exploit some of Pascal's features. The only minor problems were the lack of explicit character handling instructions and storage space.

Cryptographic Principles

Cryptology is the science of secret writing. This includes devising methods of enciphering or encoding and deciphering or decoding messages (cryptography), and methods of cracking coded messages (cryptanalysis). A fundamental form of cryptographic writing is simple or monoalphabetic substitution. Simple substitution is accomplished by replacing every letter of the message (called plaintext) by another letter to produce the coded message (called the ciphertext or cryptogram). For example, consider the plaintext message Attack At Dawn. To encipher this message we might set up two alphabets as shown in Table 1.

To produce the cryptogram, replace each letter of the message as it is found in the top alphabet by the letter below it in the bottom alphabet (see Table 2).

The cryptogram is usually divided into five-letter groups to destroy the word divisions and thus make it harder for an unauthorized person to guess the text. In this case, we transmit the cryptogram ZGZXZ PZGWZ DM.

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Photo 1. Kryha Mechanical Cipher Machine

Photo 2. Outer alphabet ring detached. Note removable letter blank

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The telegraph company will count each five letter group as one word if you send telegrams or mailgrams in cipher.

The message is harder to solve if the two alphabets are mixed instead of being in a standard forward or backward sequence. If the second alphabet is the same as the first one reversed the encipherment is reciprocal; you can encipher and decipher using either alphabet as the plain or cipher alphabet and find the corresponding letter in the other. If, for instance, F has U below it in our example but F in the second alphabet also has U above it. This principle holds even if the two alphabets have mixed letters, as long as the sequence runs in opposite directions.

As the accompanying photos show, Kryha's cipher machine held two alphabets on concentric disks. The letters of both alphabets could be removed and replaced in any mixed order desired. My program, for simplicity, assumes the outer alphabet to be the normal A-Z sequence and the inner one to be the reversed sequence Z-A.

If the two alphabets retain their positions relative to one another, a simple substitution is generated by replacing each plaintext letter of the message on one disk with the adjacent letter in the other disk. The Kryha machine achieves complexity by requiring the user to press the lever after each letter is enciphered. This action rotates the inner ring a certain number of steps with respect to the outer one. For example, if the inner ring rotated three positions counterclockwise a new simple substitution is generated. The previous alignment, with Z below A would be changed to the alignment shown in Table 3.

At the new position the letter A becomes W in the ciphertext. By altering the relative position of the two alphabets with each letter enciphered one can generate up to 26 different simple substitutions (since there are 26 alignments of the two alphabets). Kryha machine attempts to produce these substitutions in an irregular manner.

The movement of the rings is determined by a drive wheel divided into a number of sectors. Each sector possesses a variable number of teeth determined by extending or retracting pins in that sector (see photos). Each time the encipherer pushes the lever (normally, after each letter is enciphered) the drive wheel advances one sector. This in turn drives the inner ring as many places forward as there are teeth in that sector. Suppose a drive wheel has five sectors with teeth 1,3,2,1,0 respectively. Further let the first sector be the current one and the two alphabets fixed so that B lies below A on the alphabet rings. If we encipher the message AAAAA AAAAA AAAAA, the corresponding cipher text generated is BYWVV URPOO NKIHH. How does this come about?

The first ciphertext letter (B) results since the two rings were initially set so that A had B under it. To encipher the next letter A, the drive wheel advances one sector. The next sector with three teeth rotates the inner ring three steps counterclockwise. Now the letter A on the outer ring has Y under it. The next sector has two teeth, placing the letter W under A, and so on.

The stepping sequence 3,2,1,0,3,2,1,0,... keeps repeating, but the alphabetic alignments do not repeat as often. This is because the sum of the pins (1+3+2+1+0) equals 7. After one revolution of the drive wheel (five letters enciphered), the inner ring has

---

**Table 1. Reciprocal Enciphering**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ciphertext alphabet:</td>
<td>Z Y X W V U T R P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Listing

.C
(* KRHYA CIPHER MACHINE EMULATION*)
(C. DEAVORS, MATH. DEPT., KEAN COLLEGE OF N.J., UNION, N.J., 12/20/80*)
CONST START=154891, C=26;
VAR CHAR, LAST, STOP, N, I, SUM, PERIOD, Z; POS, C1, C2, H; SAVE: INTEGER;
TEETH: ARRAY[21] OF INTEGER;
FUNC GCD(A, B);
BEGIN
IF B=0 THEN GCD:=A ELSE GCD:=GCD(B, A MOD B);
END;
PROC LOOP (* DELAY LOOP *);
BEGIN
DO UNTIL (Z=0);
END;
PROC CRYPTO (* ENCRYPT/DECRYPT ROUTINE *);
BEGIN
C1:=DIC[21];
SAVE:=POS1; POS1:=POS-1;
STOP:=START+1;
DO UNTIL POS1=
CHAR:=HEX(CHAR, STOP, C)
IF CHAR=64 AND (CHAR<91) THEN
BEGIN
POS1:=POS1+1;
CHAR:=(CHAR-65+SUM) MOD C; CHAR1:=25-CHAR+65:
POS1:=CHAR1;
BEGIN
IF C1=0 THEN
BEGIN
POS1:=POS1+1;
C1:=POS1*POS1+1
END;
END;
END;
UNTIL POS1=
END;
PROC KEY1 (* ENTER NUMBER OF SECTORS AND TEETH PER SECTOR, CALCULATE PERIOD *);
BEGIN
SUM:=WRITE(28, 3):
WRITE('ENKRHYA CIPHER MACHINE EMULATION', 13, 13);
READ(N); I:=0;
REPEAT
WRITE(13, ' * TEETH IN SECTOR ', I, ' = ', I); READ(Z);
Program continues

turned only seven of its 26 steps. After two drive wheel revolutions, the inner wheel has advanced only 14 steps. In fact, since 26 and 7 have no common divisors, the alphabetic shift sequence does not repeat until 26 times 7, or 182 letters have been enciphered. The length at which the sequence repeats is called the period of the cipher. A longer period means the cryptogram will be more difficult to solve. If we call the first alphabet zero, the next one shifted three steps from it alphabet three, and so on, the entire 182 letter shift period is shown in the array of Fig. 1. Each row represents one revolution of the drive wheel.

If the drive wheel contains N sectors, the longest period which can be obtained is 26 times N letters. This period occurs when the greatest common divisor of the sum of the teeth and the number 26 is one. In general, the period is given by Period = (N*Sum)/GCD(26, N) where Sum is the total number of teeth in all sectors of the drive wheel and GCD is the greatest common
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$TEETH(I) := Z; SUM := SUM + Z; I := I + 1$
UNTIL $N = 0$
WRITE(28, 31, 'NUMBER OF SECTORS = ', 'N', '; 13, 'NUMBER OF TEETH = ', 'SUM', '; 13);$
Z := GCD(SUM, 26); WRITE(’GCD = ’, Z, '; 13); PERIOD := (N*26) DIV Z$
WRITE('PERIOD = ', PERIOD, '; 13, 'PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE'); READ(I$);
END;
PROC INPUT (READ IN PLAIN/CIPHER DATA$);
BEGIN
WRITE(28, 31, 'ENTER TEXT (LAST CHARACTER = 8): ', '13, 13$);
REPEAT
CHAR := INKEY$;
IF (CHAR = 64) AND (CHAR = 91) THEN BEGIN
MEM(LAST) := CHAR $;
MEM(LAST) := LAST + 1$
END;
IF CHAR = 32 THEN BEGIN
MEM(LAST) := CHAR $;
MEM(LAST) := LAST + 1$
END;
IF CHAR = 9 THEN BEGIN
LAST := LAST - 1 $;
MEM(LAST) := 32$
END;
IF CHAR = '9' THEN STOP := 1;
UNTIL STOP := 1
POS$ := (LAST - START) DIV 64 $;
POS := 15$;
END;
PROC KEY2 (ENTER STARTING DISK POSITION AND INITIAL SECTOR$);
BEGIN
WRITE(28, 31, 'ENTER STARTING POSITION OF INNER DISK (A-Z): ', 'READ(Z)$;
SUM := 25 - Z + 65$
WRITE(13, 'ENTER INITIAL SECTOR (1-15): ', 'READ(Z)$);
WRITE(13, 'HARDCOPY OF DATA? (Y OR N): ', 'READ(N)$);
END;
PROC HARDCOPY (PRINTER LISTING OF DATA$);
BEGIN
STOP := 0;
C1 := MEM(16414); C2 := MEM(16415$);
MEM(16414) := MEM(16422); MEM(16415) := MEM(16423);
WRITE(13$);
REPEAT
Z := MEM(SAVE) $;
WRITE(Z) $;
SAVE := SAVE + 1$
UNTIL SAVE = POS$;
WRITE(13$);
MEM(16414) := C1 $;
MEM(16415) := C2$
END$
(XMAIN PROGRAM$);
BEGIN
LAST := 15$;
STOP := 0$;
KEY$;
KEY2$;
INPUT$;
CRYPT$;
IF IM = 'Y' THEN HARDCOPY$;
LOOP$;
END$
1193 CODES. 5354-57FC

 divisor. This formula assumes that the sector wheel itself is not periodic. With eight sectors and teeth settings 1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4 we might as well use a four sector wheel with settings 1,2,3,4.

Program Description

The program listing shows an emulsion of the Kryha machine in Tiny Pascal. The main program calls six procedures:

• Key1: The user enters the number of sectors and teeth per sector. You can use up to 21 sectors, but this is easily changed by altering the dimension of the array Teeth. The program then calculates the period generated by these settings. The recursive function GCD calculates the greatest common divisor of Sum and 26. If GCD equals one, the period is maximal.

• Key2: This procedure requires initialization data. These are a letter indicating the beginning placement of the two alphabets (D means begin with D on the inner ring opposite A on the outer, and so on) and a sector number indicating the current sector at startup. The user also indicates if he desires a printout of the ciphertext.

• Input: The message (plaintext or ciphertext) is entered here. All characters other than A-Z, @, and blank are ignored. The symbol @ is used for backspace. Input must be terminated with a $.

• Crypt: This is the encryption/decryption routine. Because of the reversed alphabetic setup, the same routine performs encryption and decryption.

• Hardcopy: Delivers copy of ciphertext to the printer by substituting the printer driver address for the video driver address.

• Loop: Retains the screen display at the finish of program until you press $.

To use the program for communication both correspondents must know the key data used in Key1 and Key2. The same key data is entered in both cases. Ciphertext is in traditional five letter groups. Starting with the same key settings, typing the ciphertext produces the original plaintext without original word divisions.

No storage space is required for the message: it is read directly off the screen. The ciphertext appears directly below it. This means messages are limited to about five lines (320 characters), adequate for short messages. The program occupies about 2500 bytes of source code. Characters are enciphered, deciphered and printed at approximately 59 per second.

How secure are the ciphers produced? Well, while your friends probably cannot solve them, a knowledgeable cryptanalyst could do so with minimum difficulty. The ciphers are more difficult if you use mixed alphabetic sequences, but statistical procedures give good results if three or more periods of ciphertext are intercepted.

The author is indebted to Louis Kruh, President of the New York Cipher Society for permission to use the photos in this article.

C.A. Deavours is an editor of Cryptologia magazine and an associate professor of mathematics.
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278 • 80 Microcomputing, May 1982
DEATH MAZE 5000

From Med Systems

Venture through a graphically represented 3-D maze, with halls that could lead dead or reede or to infinity. Steep through the doors or drop into the pits. Will you encounter monsters and mayhem, or will you be treated to useful objects and information? Will you ever get out alive?

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MONEY MANAGER

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A management tool for the home budget, it keeps track of your checkbook and provides for easy budget allocation. You can store information on up to 100 checkbook entries per month (56 with 48K), specify automatic withdrawals, keep records of tax deductions, record expenses by category, even break up charge account payments into the proper categories.

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By Phillip Oliver from Adventure Int.

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From Allen Gelder

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A way to get an extra day off.

Model III Biorhythms

Linda Anderson
1188 Olive Branch Lane
San Jose, CA 95120

I figured the DATM subroutine in the TRSDOS Manual would make a good biorhythm program. According to the theory of biorhythms, each person is influenced from the moment of birth by three rhythms: a 23-day physical rhythm, a 28-day emotional rhythm and a 33-day intellectual rhythm. Each cycle can be shown as a sine wave. The positive half of the wave denotes days of greater efficiency and the negative half days of less efficiency. There are critical days—days when the wave crosses the axis. These are days of instability or vulnerability.

Days Between Days

The program creates three sine waves on 23, 28, and 33 day cycles, with each beginning point determined by the number of days since birth. DATM computes the number of days between two dates. On entry, DATM expects:

B = 1  function switch—compute difference in dates
HL points to string MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY with the earlier date coming first
DE points to a 5 byte output field JJJJJ

But when Basic calls a user’s external subroutine, it passes its arguments as:

A = 3  denotes argument is a string
DE points to string descriptor:
(DE) = length of string
(DE + 1,DE + 2) = address of string

To bridge the gap between Basic and DATM, I wrote a machine language relocatable subroutine BIOR/SUB (Program Listing 1). This routine expects the string from Basic to look as follows:

"MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY"

The first 10 bytes contain the earlier date. The next 10 bytes contain a later date. The last five bytes hold the number of days difference in string form.

BIOR/SUB checks for string length of 27; puts the string address in HL; computes DE = HL plus 22, the address of JJJJJ; and sets B equal to one (function switch for DATM). It then calls DATM64 (change this call to 06C80H for DATM32). DATM replaces JJJJJ of the input string with the number of days difference in the two dates in string form, accessed from Basic. On return from DATM, BIOR/SUB restores DE and returns to Basic.

The problem is getting BIOR/SUB on disk, to be accessed by my Basic program. Since I do not have an Assembler in TRSDOS, I used the Debug monitor:

>DEBUG ON
>DEBUG
>DEBUG

?M A = 8100 change memory at 8100H
(F1) cursor to 8100H
Enter code as shown in BIORSUB assembly for A = 8100 – A = 8118 (see Listing 1)
(F2) affects changes
?S return to system

>DEBUG
>BIORSUB START = 8100, END = 8120, RORT = R

I pulled the address of 8100H

The Key Box

Basic Level II
Model II
TRSDOS 1.2
2 Disk Drives
Diablo 1650 printer

280 • 80 Microcomputing, May 1982
out of the air. If you have a 32K RAM, lower the address and change the DATM address as earlier noted. Now we have a machine language subroutine BIOR/SUB, on disk to be read from Basic, to interface Basic to DATM.

The Program

The program to compute bi-rhythms is really very simple. BIOR/PRG computes Biorhythms for a specified month and year, given the month, day, and year of birth. In Program Listing 2 lines 40 and 50 read BIOR/SUB and DATM64 from disk and line 60 defines 8100H as the address of the user subroutine called in line 120. In line 130, XP, XE, XI are the increments in radians for each wave. The beginning arguments for each sine wave, BP, BE, BI, are computed in line 160. Line 200 begins a loop: For each day of the month, the sine for each rhythm is computed and displayed. An option lists the bi-rhythm as shown in Fig. 1. On the CRT, the waves go across the screen, while they go down the page on the List device.

Put all this together and find out when to schedule your raquetball match (on a physical high), when not to make an important decision (on an intellectual critical day), and when not to ask for a raise (on an emotional low). If it all sounds like a lot of phooey, you can still have fun watching all the pretty sine waves go by.

Linda Anderson is a former systems programmer, and is now Director of Computer Operations for her husband's law office.

EC60 = DATM64 EQU OEC60H ;ADDRESS OF DATM SUBROUTINE
8100 ORG 8100H
8100 1A LDAX D ;A=STRING LENGTH
8101 FEIB CPI 27 ;MUST BE =27
8103 CD RNZ ;RETURN IF NOT
8104 D5 PUSH D ;SAVE STRING DESCRIPTOR ADDRESS
8105 13 INX D ;POINT TO STRING ADDRESS
8106 1A LDAX D ;LOWER BYTE OF ADDRESS
8107 6F MOV L,A ;TO L REG
8108 13 INX D
8109 1A LDAX D ;UPPER BYTE OF ADDRESS
810A 67 MOV H,A ;TO H REG
810B E5 PUSH H ;SAVE STRING ADDRESS
810C 11600 LXI D,22 ;COMPUTE ADDRESS OF "JULJUL"
810F 19 DAD D ;(HL)=ADDRESS OF "JULJUL"
8110 ED XORH ;(DE)=ADDRESS OF "JULJUL"
8111 EI CALL DATM64
8114 CD60EC CALL DATM64
8117 D1 POP D ;RESTORE STRING DESCRIPTOR ADDRESS
8118 C9 RET ;RETURN TO BASIC
8119 END

Program Listing 1. Subroutine BIOR/SUB

5 CLS
10 CLEAR 200,33000
20 DEFPINT N,M,D,J,I,K
30 DEFDIBL C,X,B
40 SYSTEM "BIOR/SUB"
50 SYSTEM "DATM64"
60 DEFSRS=468100
65 CLS
70 PRINT$(10,30);"B I O R H Y T H M S S"
80 PRINT$(15,30);"by Linda Anderson"
85 PRINT$(17,20);"" ;INPUT "WHAT IS YOUR NAME?";N$M$
90 PRINT$(19,20);"" ;INPUT "WHAT IS YOUR BIRTHDATE (MM/DD/YYYY)";D$S$
100 PRINT$(21,20);"" ;INPUT "MONTH/YEAR TO BEGIN BIORHITHMS (MM/YYYY)";D$S$
110 PRINT$(23,20);"" ;INPUT "DO YOU WANT A LISTING Y/N";Y$S$
115 PRINT$(1,5),"" ;PRINT$(21,5),"" ;"$
120 IF Y$S="Y" THEN GOSUB 450
125 M$=VAL(LEFT$(D$,2))
130 IF M$=1 THEN D=29 ELSE IF (M$=4 OR M$=6 OR M$=9 OR M$=11) THEN D=30 ELSE D=31
135 FOR K=1 TO D STEP 1
140 JP=11-INT(SIN(BP)*10);BP=BP+XP
142 JP=11-INT(SIN(BE)*10);BE=BE+XE
144 JP=11-INT(SI(BI)*10);BI=BI+XI
150 IF K MOD 5 = 0 THEN PRINT$(22,5),K
155 IF Y$S="Y" THEN LPRINT CHR$(12)
160 PRINT$(11,5),"" ;PRINT$(14,5),"" ;PRINT$(14,5),"" ;PRINT$(11,5),"" ;"$
165 IF K MOD 5 = 0 THEN PRINT$(22,5),K
170 IF K MOD 5 = 0 THEN PRINT$(22,5),K
175 IF Y$S="Y" THEN LPRINT CHR$(12)
180 IF K MOD 5 = 0 THEN PRINT$(22,5),K
185 IF K MOD 5 = 0 THEN PRINT$(22,5),K
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450 IF K MOD 5 = 0 THEN PRINT$(22,5),K
455 IF K MOD 5 = 0 THEN PRINT$(22,5),K
460 IF K MOD 5 = 0 THEN PRINT$(22,5),K
465 IF K MOD 5 = 0 THEN PRINT$(22,5),K
470 IF K MOD 5 = 0 THEN PRINT$(22,5),K

Program Listing 2. BIOR/PRG
Make 'em with a Centronics 737.

Super Banner

Ron Balewski
412 East Ridge Street
Nanticoke, PA 18634

I wrote a Basic banner generating program to break in my new Centronics 737 printer. The biggest problem with this program was coming up with good looking letters. Although I cannot draw free-hand, I was able to come up with an acceptable character set.

I wanted to input the data for the letters as a series of numbers instead of strings of characters (because it is easier to type a few numbers than to type a string of 35 asterisks). I will explain the technique I used so you can customize the program. You may find this technique useful if you should have to randomly access a large group of Data statements in one of your programs.

Trial and Error

How could I get to the set of data I wanted? First, I Restored the data before each block letter printed and then read through the data until I came to the data for the letter I wanted to print. If I wanted to print the nth block letter, I read through all the data for n-1 letters before arriving at useful data.

Although this method worked, it was much too slow. I use a very large data base consisting of the capital and small letters, numerals and punctuation; to print a block letter located near the end of the data required much useless reading. Because my printer is slow enough without adding processing delays, I had to find a faster way.

Next, I used an array for more speed. Arrays can be accessed directly at any point without reading from the beginning. I set up a huge data array to store all the numbers from the Data statements sequentially and another much smaller array to point to the start of each letter. For example, if I wanted to access the data for the fifth block letter, the fifth element of the small index array would tell me where to start reading the data array. I would then access the data array sequentially from that point to the end of the data for the fifth letter.

This method worked and there were absolutely no delays between printing block letters. There was only one slight problem: All the Data statements and the monstrous data array would not fit in memory at the same time. And I have 48K! What could I do? I did not want to cut down the number of banner-size characters I could print.

Program Listing 1. Super Banner

```
1 REM ****** SUPER - BANNER ******
2 REM BY RON BALEWSKI
3 DEFINT A-D, I, M, N, S, X, Y
4 PRINT 
because I did not want to sacrifice this program's flexibility.

If I could throw away the data array but still read data starting at some random point, I would have plenty of room in memory for all the Data statements and have the speed of direct access to any letter.

I could not do this conventionally; it required some TRS-80 trickery. I vaguely remembered reading something about a pointer in reserved RAM that points to the next byte of data to be read. I decided to save these values for the start of each block letter and store them in an index table like I used to store the starting locations for the letters in the data array earlier, and then POKE them back into the pointer as needed. Now the program fits in 32K of memory easily with no processing delays. You can even make it fit in 16K by getting rid of some of the less important symbols.

**How It Works**

I dimensioned PS(100,2) as the index table. The dimension 100 gives me room to store up to 100 entry points. The second dimension of 2 is there because the data pointer takes up two bytes (16639 and 16640) and this was the easiest way of storing them. To fill the PS index table, I PEEK at the two data pointers and store them in the next available locations of the index array. After that, I read data until I find a number 1000, indicating the end of a letter. I then go back to the point where I store the data pointers. I continue searching for endpoints and storing the data pointer until the entire data set is indexed. Lines 15 and 17 of Program Listing 1 do this.

In lines 19-25, I input the banner messages to be printed. Enter up to ten at once; you can do something else while the printer chugs away.

To print the banner letter by letter, the program peels off the next letter from the input message and matches it with a letter in the string LS$. The letters in LS$ and the Data statements are in the same order. Therefore, if a letter matches the nth letter in LS$, the program must read the nth set of data. Lines 27-35...
POKE PS(n,1) and PS(n,2) into the data pointer.

After that, the program reads the data and uses it to control printing until it reaches a 1000 (end of letter indicator). Then it cycles back and repeats the entire process with the next letter.

How To Use It

After you load and run the program, it will pause for several minutes while the computer reads through the data and sets up its index table. Eventually the computer will ask you to input a message. Remember to shift for small letters. A cent sign is available by typing a shift @. After you enter the message, the computer will ask you for a print character. The computer will print the entire banner using this character unless you specify Corresponding (by pressing Enter). Corresponding means that each character in that banner will be made up of its corresponding printed character. For example, the A will be made up of As, the 4 printed in 4s, and so on. The computer will then ask you for the next message. If you want no more banners, type END as the next message.

After you input all the messages, the computer will print the banners. It also constantly displays exactly what it is doing on the video screen so you can keep track of how much remains to be printed without digging through the printout.

This version of the Super Banner program will run on any ten characters-per-inch, six lines-per-inch printer because I am not using any of the fancy control features in my 737. The program is designed for 9 1/2 inch printers and will not center banners on a tractor printer with which you use 14 7/8 inch paper.

The Alternate Version

Program Listing 2 shows an alternative version of this program, Super Banner II. Only the program listing is shown because the data it uses (and its principle of operation) are identical to the Super Banner program's. This program uses some of the Centronics 737's special functions to produce smaller, denser block letters about half
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the size of those produced by the standard version. In line 19, I change to the 132-character-per-line mode. In line 43, I simulate printing at 12 lines per inch by printing a carriage return and line feed and then a half line feed reverse. If you have a 12 lines-per-inch mode or a method of doing half line feeds on your printer you should be able to run this version.

Customizing the Character Set

You can easily change letters or even replace a few characters with pictures just by changing or replacing the Data statements for that character. The number system I use works as follows: positive numbers print that many characters, and negative numbers print the absolute value number of spaces. For example, –10 prints ten spaces. Zero is the end of line indicator. It prints a carriage return and line feed. 2000 indicates a start at the left margin instead of indenting five spaces. Unless preceded by a 2000, all lines have five blank spaces in front of them. The 2000 code provides descenders on letters such as p and g. 1000 is the end of letter data indicator. The program will begin the next letter of the input string when it reaches a 1000.

For example, the string 10 – 10,5,0,1000 prints ten characters, ten spaces, and five more characters all on the same line. The 1000 indicates the end of the data.

If you decide to type in the program listing, be sure the Data statements are exact, or you may end up with some rather odd-looking letters. Type in the Remark statements between letters as you go just in case you make a mistake or want to change something. The time you may save is well worth the time spent in typing them. Also, the very last letter before the double quote in line 10 is supposed to be a shift @, but it appears as a grave accent.

Ron Bialewski has a degree in computer science from Penn State University. His hobbies include home computers, community theatre, amateur radio, and model railroading.
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---Program Listing 2. Super Banner II---
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Tests were conducted on AEROCOMP'S "DDC", Percom's "Doubling II", a Radio Shack TRS80 Model I, Level 2, 48 K with TTI Diskette (Siemens Model 682). Diskette was Memorex 3401, Time mine performance under adverse conditions. The expansion interface was used. The test consisted of formatting 40 tracks on the tape. The pattern was chosen because it is recommended as the best. The test attempt was then made to read each sector on the disk. The test was run ten times with Double Zap, Version 2.0. Unreadable sectors were noted for each double density controller and the data averaged. Test results:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MFR &amp; PRODUCT</th>
<th>SECTORS LOCKED OUT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERCOM &quot;DOUBLER II&quot;</td>
<td>18 WITHOUT &quot;DD&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERCOM &quot;DOUBLER A&quot;</td>
<td>250 WITHOUT &quot;DD&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNW &quot;LNDOUBLER&quot;</td>
<td>202 WITHOUT &quot;DD&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Same test procedures as "DDC".

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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 291
Become an interstellar truck driver.

Space Chase

Charles E. Gillen
American Embassy, Seoul
APO San Francisco 96501

Here's a 16K Level II game, for the fumble-fingered, that places few demands on the intellect. As you guide a robot cargo ship through the hazards of space, no less than 26 subroutines are invoked to tickle your ears and eyes. The game has no instructions or complicated strategies to master, and is suitable for all ages.

Get Ready for Fun!

Start by connecting your keyboard to an amplifier, using the plug that normally goes to the cassette Aux jack. If you do not have an amplifier, put a small radio nearby and you will still hear many of the program’s sound effects.

Your goal is to guide three robot-piloted freighters to Terra while dodging the hazards of space: pirates called “spacejackers,” encounters with greedy aliens, friendly space tankers, exploding engines, space vortices, robot problems, loose plasma-bombs, space holes, asteroid showers, signals from humans in distress, drifting space derelicts and UFOs.

The job is not difficult; your screen relays the freighter’s visual sensors, and you have a short list of commands to control the flight. These commands allow you to go at impulse or warp speed, or risk a hyperspace jump. You occasionally must recharge the ship’s crystal power (XTAL) banks and plug a fresh battery (BATT) into the robot-pilot so he can continue accepting your orders.

The ship’s computers will tell you when to issue a particular order. If you fail to pay attention, you must suffer the consequences. You can summon the on-board computer for a status readout, and also fire missiles at your pursuers. If things get too tough, press the Quit key to abort and start over.

Shortly after launch, you must race the spacejackers to the safety of Terra. Your screen will constantly tell you the number of parsecs (DX) left to go, as well as warning messages. Reports from the robot-pilot and messages from your employer, Cargo Command, are also visible.

Do not worry if you lose a few ships—the robots are expendable and your shift will end if you can land three successfully. Then you can spend all your money. The bonus earned on each successful flight is put in your bank account, though you cannot bank bonus money earned during a flight ending in space disaster.

Many things can happen in space, but the game is biased toward non-violent and humanitarian action. Failure to respond to an S.O.S. call may entail sad consequences, and trying to fight off aliens is rarely successful. Your missiles are sometimes effective against the spacejackers, but wasting them will reduce your bonus.

Most of the game’s action involves various random elements chained together in either a random or cause/effect relationship. Certain strategies may facilitate success. You can key in your name as the game starts, or hit Enter and let Cadet Fred Fumble represent you. Each good landing earns you a promotion.

The two tables of variables (Tables 1 and 2) explain the mechanics of the program so you can modify it. The listing is long, but leaves enough room in a 16K system for the TC-8 high-speed tape software, or some other utility. All the subroutines are in the final block of lines beginning at 2000, and you can delete all REMs without crashing the program.

Many features and interrelations may not be apparent in your first try, so spend a few sessions with the game before you tinker with it. You might add a game-end situation based on bonus money earned, rather than the number of successful landings. If your version is better than this Space Chase, I would like to hear about it.

This program POKEs the machine language sound generator into the free reserved RAM space; it does not use the VARPTR method of keeping the routine in a string. See my Missiles from Mars game (80 Microcomputing, January 1982) for guidance on moving the sound routine to the top of 16K memory.

Charles E. Gillen is 48 years old and has spent most of the last 20 years in Asia. He does all his programming on a simple 16K Model I.

The Key Box

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During a medium-sized golf tournament, much frustration and confusion surrounds the scorekeeper... especially during the last few hours of the game! Many tournament scores are computed using the popular "Callaway Handicap" system. This system, while perhaps giving every player a fair chance to compete, gets very confusing.

The Callaway System computes your net score by deducting from your gross score the scores of some certain number of holes. The number of holes to subtract is based on your total (gross) score. If you are a "scratch" golfer, you get no handicap, but should you shoot 130, for example, you can subtract the highest six holes. In addition, after you subtract the appropriate number of holes, another adjustment ranging from -2 to +2 applies to your handicap. Generally you determine the number of holes to subtract and the adjustment by referring to a table.

However, a few subtle rules complicate the matter further. No more than twice the par score for any hole may be deducted. Since the par score for a hole frequently differs for men and women you must consider the player's sex. Finally, the system specifies that you cannot deduct the scores of either of the last two holes played. (A player can take advantage of the handicap system by shooting a certain score on his last holes.) In a tournament golfers often start on both the "front" (hole 1) and the "back" (hole 10) courses, therefore you must consider which holes he played last.

Using Callaway manually is complex. The announcements of the winners are frequently delayed several hours after the last foursome has come in off the course. Tracking possible winners throughout the game is virtually impossible to handle manually.

To solve such a problem (and to create a conversation piece at the nineteenth hole) you can pack your TRS-80 out to the course to keep score. With a 16K machine and the Program Listing you can calculate the net scores for up to 200 golfers and keep track of the current standings.

To initiate the program you must first load the par scores that apply to the course. The program then asks whether guests are eligible to compete for prizes in your game. (If you are having a club or company game, this is often not permitted.) The program then asks you the number and the names of the units in competition. This could be departments, lodges, teams, committees, and so on that the players represent.

After this initial loading, you are ready to input the individual player's scores. First, the program asks you how many players are in the group. This is usually four. Frequently, however, a group will lose a player they had planned on. If there are not four in the group, the scores will not be counted in the foursomes competition.

Next, you must enter a number to identify the group. I use the original tee-off time, for example, 0902 for 9:02 AM. If there are two groups, I use 0902.1 and 0902.2 for front and back course respectively. You must then specify whether the group started on the front (hole 1) or the back (hole 10) course.

Now you must enter individual data for the players. First, input the name for player one. The program will truncate the name to the first ten characters input to conserve space. Now specify which unit (department, and so on) this person represents. Next, input the player's sex by answering M or F.

Then enter the individual hole scores for holes 1-9. You always enter these scores first regardless of which holes were played first. Enter all nine scores on one line separated by commas. When you press Enter, the computer will display the gross score for the front nine. Check this with the scorecard. You must resolve any differences as either a keyboard error or a golfer error. Follow this with the scores for the back nine, and the program will ask you whether to continue or to reenter the scores.

When you continue, the program will calculate the player's net score and he will know immediately if he is in the running for any prizes. Anytime the "NAME?" prompt is on the screen, you can get a status of the low gross winners, low net winners, low foursomes, hole averages and more... to keep the conversation lively in the clubhouse during the long afternoon!

You can attach an optional line printer to give each golfer a "receipt" of his calculations. The first few lines of the program make up a machine language routine that will allow you to print the screen to a line printer by pressing the space bar and the shift key together. If you want to use this feature, answer Y to the question regarding the printer.

---

**Program Listing**

```
18 DATA 33,175,127,102,24,64,291,0,0
19 DATA 50,120,6,225,1,198,227,1,198,64,56,254,128,194,227,3,245,157,231,22
9,35,6,68,22,16,0,64,76,126,254,32,32,28,137,239,195,215,127,128,256,31,32,2
9
30 DATA 35,16,246,241,193,195,234,137,225,193,285,141,5,35,16,224,14,32,6,2
```

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I Program Therefore ISAM

Richard S. Adecock
141 NW Lorna
Burleson, TX 76028

You have just purchased a book on exotic programming techniques. You open it to the table of contents. There you find one entry, "Exotic Programming Techniques," which begins on page one. You proceed to the back of the book; as you feared, there is no index. What do you do?

You have two choices. You can start at the beginning of the book and read from front to back, or you can haphazardly open the book to a page and see what's there. In computer jargon, you will either read the text sequentially or randomly. Either way, you will probably be able to get from cover to cover.

The catch comes sometime later when you have a problem and want to check your new book for a solution. Without an index you either have to start at the beginning of the book turning a page at a time or randomly access each page, hoping to find your answer. You would find either approach frustrating and time-consuming.

Now, consider this situation. You are writing a mail list program. Are you going to set up sequential or random data files? How are you going to recover records from your data files? Are you going to start at the beginning and thumb through until you find the end or will you just randomly sample the data files until you find the one you are looking for? Maybe you should index those files.

This is what happens in an Indexed Sequential Access Method File, ISAM for short. You create a data file, as well as an index for it. If you need Jane Doe's address, you ask the computer to check the index for Jane Doe, get the associated record number and then the record.

This is similar to the technique used to access a random file. Rather than use a hit and miss search, you give the computer a number which is either the record number for Jane Doe's file or a number somehow related to the record number. But people use computers so they will not have to keep track of numbers. It is easy to remember someone's name, but difficult to recall a number associated with it. You can look up the number on a printout, but if you do that, you might as well check a complete printout.

Commercial ISAM's

You can add ISAM to your programs in several ways. You can utilize someone else's ISAM routines. Johnson Associates and Racet Computers, for instance, offer a complete set of routines which you call up when you want to perform any file manipulation such as add records, delete records or search the file. Also, ISAM routines are built into Radio Shack's Compiler Basic and Cobol. These approaches have their advantages, but they have their disadvantages as well. You have to pay for them. Then, if you sell a program which uses these routines, you must pay a user's fee.

The second problem, which is more severe for Compiler Basic

```
1 'ISAMMENU
10 CLS
20 PRINT"PRINT * <1 ADD RECORDS"
30 PRINT"<2 GET A RECORD"
40 PRINT"<3 DELETE A RECORD"
50 PRINT"<4 CREATE A FILE"
60 PRINT"<7 NOT A GOOD CHOICE:"GOTO 30"
70 IF M<1 OR M>4 THEN GOTO 30"
80 GOTO 40
90 GOTO 40"
```

Program Listing 1. ISAM menu

```
1 'RECOVER ISAM RECORD
10 CLEAR 1000; I=0
20 DIM N2S(58), N2K(58)
30 OPEN "I",1,"INDEX"
40 IF N1S="" THEN 200
50 INPUT "WORD (UP TO 10 LETTERS)"; N1S
60 IF N1S="" THEN 200
70 INPUT "DEFINITION (UP TO 245 CHARACTERS)";DIS
80 LEET DS=DIS
90 LEET NS=N1S
100 PUT 1.X
110 N2S(K)=NIS; N2K(X)=K
120 GOTO 130
130 LEET DS=DIS
140 LEET NS=N1S
150 CLOSE
160 OPEN "O",1,"INDEX"
170 FOR I=1 TO K
180 PRINT1, N2S(I); ;N2K(I)
190 NEXT I
200 PRINT1,"EOF"; ;"9999"
210 CLOSE
220 RUN "ISAM"
```

Program Listing 2

```
1 'ADD ISAM RECORDS
10 CLS
20 DIM N2S(58), N2K(58)
30 OPEN "I",1, "INDEX"
40 I=0
50 INPUT1, N2S(1), N2K(1)
60 IF N1S="" THEN 200
70 PRINT1, N2S(1); ;N2K(1)
80 NEXT I
90 CLOSE
```

Program Listing 3

302 • 80 Microcomputing, May 1982
and Cobol than with the Johnson or Racet routines, is that you have to learn how to use them. If you use a set of routines you do not understand, then you increase your chances of getting into a you-can't-get-there-from-here situation. This is especially true if you use a DOS other than the one Taody supplies. For instance, try running Radio Shack Cobol under DOS 3.3 from MSS. It hasn't worked for me, which is frustrating because I would like to run 80-track double-sided disks with Cobol.

Build Your Own

The following programs will give you a foundation upon which to build your own ISAM routines. In my example, I use the routines to set up a dictionary. You can easily modify them to function as a mailing list program or as a simple inventory, and with some thought they will work for more complex, multi-key applications.

The only time you need to handle an ISAM file differently from a random file is when you add records, call up individual records or delete records. Before you can do any of these things, you must have a data file and in our case, an index file. Since my routines use a sequential file for index, you must first set it up. The following routine does the job.

```
10 OPEN "O", "INDEX"
20 CLOSE
```

After you enter this and type Run an index with zero entries will be created on drive 0. This is as it should be, since your data file is currently empty.

Once you have created the index file, you are ready for Program Listing 2, the Add Entries routine. Lines 30-90 read the index into the computer. When you run it the first time, nothing is in the computer. However, on any subsequent program runs, the index will contain data.

Lines 100-210 are the data entry and write data to disk routines. Line 200 updates the index array consisting of N2(1) as the name (the key) and N2(1) as the associated record number. Variable K is set to the value of the last record in the index plus one. This assures that you will not overwrite any existing records.

Lines 220-270 write the index to disk. By using a sequential file for storage, you can store the index in a minimum of disk space. Since, in this application, we must read the entire index sequentially, there is no advantage to using a random access file.

When you run this program, you will be prompted to enter a word and a definition. To exit the routine, type an @.

Program Listing 3, which is even shorter than Listing 2, accesses the ISAM file. Lines 10-110 are identical in form and function to lines 10-110 in Listing 1. At line 120, the computer prompts you to enter the word in question. It then compares your word against the index. When the computer finds your word (line 150), it uses the associated record number stored at N2(1) to call up the word's definition. If

---

```
1 'DELETE ISAM RECORD
10 CLEAR 1080: I=1
20 DIX N2(S): N2(1)
30 OPEN "$", "$INDEX"
40 I=1
50 INPUT #1, N2(1), N2(1)
60 PRINT N2(1), N2(1)
70 N2(1)="SOFT" THEN 99
80 GOTO 49
90 CLOSE
100 OPEN "$", "$TEST"
110 FIELD 1, 10 AS NS, 245 AS DS
120 INPUT "WHAT WORD DO YOU WANT TO DELETE?", NS
130 IF NS="" THEN 188
140 FOR J=1 TO 1
150 IF N2(J)=NS THEN K=N2(J): N2(J)=**:LSET N2=************;
160 LSET DS**=PUT 1, J, K; GOTO 128
170 NEXT J
180 PRINT "SORRY, THAT WORD'S NOT ON FILE": GOTO 128
190 CLOSE: OPEN "$", "$INDEX"
200 FOR J=1 TO 1
210 PRINT #1, N2(J), "$", N2(1)
220 NEXT J
230 CLOSE: RUN "ISAMCP"
```

---

Program Listing 4

---

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the word is not in the file, the
counter tells you this (line
170), then returns to line 120 to
let you input another word. To
exit the program enter @.
You can add a routine to print
each file you look up. Since the
file on the disk is random, print-
ing the whole file is simply a
matter of getting each record
successively and printing it.
You could use a similar tech-
nique to delete records from an
ISAM file as you would use with
a random file. To fully use your
disk space, you should remove
the holes left by deleted records.
The ability to do this is a major
advantage of ISAM.
Consider this situation. In a
random file, if the first of 10
records goes into record num-
ber 3000, the computer will re-
respond with a disk full error. The
computer thinks if you have a
record number 3000, you must
have 2999 other records it must
store. If each record fills 255
bytes, the file would require
roughly 765,000 bytes.
ISAM eliminates this problem
by backing up records onto the
end of the existing file. This add-
to-the-end feature also makes it
difficult to find an empty slot.
Rather than look for empty
slots, run Program Listings 4
and 5. Listing 4 deletes a record
by marking it. The program
marks the record by replacing
the word in the data file with
asterisks and the word in the index
with a single asterisk (this saves
space). Now if you delete the
record, the slot will still be filled
with asterisks. When you run
Listing 5, you create a new index
by reading the data file sequen-
tially. In the process you also
eliminate all the marked records
or the records which contain on-
ly blanks.
Listing 5 first reads a record.
If it is a good record (that is, it
does not contain asterisks,
spaces or zeros), the program
takes the word (key) and the
next available record number and
puts this information into
the index array. Then, using this
newly stored record number, it
writes the record back to disk.
If it finds an empty record, it
does not increment the index
counter; instead, it gets the next record.
If the next record is good, the
program writes it over the last
empty record and transfers the
word and its updated record
number to the index. This pro-
cedure continues until the entire
data file has been processed
and removes all the holes in the
ISAM file. This routine also lets
you reconstruct a bad index if
such an event occurs.

These programs are suitable
for a file structure which uses
only one key. You can improve
the programs by adding more
keys. Simply increase the num-
er of columns in the index
array.
You can also speed up the
programs. For instance, even
though this routine can find any
one of 1000 entries in no more
than seven seconds, you can in-
crease its speed by sorting the
data, and then using a bisection
table lookup search technique.
It is like using a phone book. You
open the book to the middle. Is
the name before or after? You
throw the invalid half out, then
split the remaining half in half.
Repeat this until you find the
name you are looking for. Using
this split-in-the-middle tech-
nique you can sift through a
10,000 item list in only fourteen
comparisons. You will hardly
notice the delay.
You can also use a split index.
This is useful if your index ex-
cedes available RAM. In my dic-
tionary routine I could put half
my files on drive 1 and the other
half on drive 2. When I want to
look up a word, the computer
can tell by the word’s first letter
if it needs to load the index for
words before M or the one for
after. This slows the search
process, but it allows you to index
a large amount of information.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part No.</th>
<th>10 or More</th>
<th>50 or More</th>
<th>100 or More</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3401 SOLD OUT</td>
<td>$2.09</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
<td>$1.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3431 with Hubring</td>
<td>$2.35</td>
<td>$2.25</td>
<td>$2.15</td>
</tr>
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A simple mod for the LNW interface.

Programmable Baud Rate

Hugh Cottle
P.O. Box 89
Concord, MA 01742

The LNW expansion interface is a good choice for many Model I owners who want to add memory and peripheral controllers at moderate cost. The printed circuit board is well made and the instructions are clear. The RS-232 interface works well but the UART parameters and the baud rate are selected by means of jumpers wired on the board. This is acceptable if you are going to dedicate the serial port to one device permanently, but unmanageable if you intend to use a variety of devices with different requirements.

You could use switches in place of the jumpers but your control panels will have a homemade look that detracts from the appearance of your computer. Why add switch panels for a task the existing computer keyboard together with a little software can do just as well?

The jumpers that select the UART parameters do not directly control the UART; the program reads the parameters from the jumpers and then loads them to the UART. If software loads the parameters it need not read them from jumpers first; it can interrogate the user via the screen or load a set of preassigned values which you have stored in the program. With a small wiring change on the LNW board you can use the signals at socket U28 (normally used to read the jumpers) to drive a baud rate control circuit.

Making the Modification

The change deletes the signal IN E9H at socket U28 and replaces it with the signal OUT E9H, a spare output pulse available at IC U16. If you are making the change before you have wired the LNW board, remove pin 6 of the socket you install at location U16. Then add a short wire from pin 10 of U16 to the PC trace that would normally connect to pin 6 of U16. That is all there is to this step. If you have already wired your LNW board, then either bend or cut off pin 6 of the IC you put in location U16. In either case also add a jumper on the board between E5 and K to provide a logic high signal for the

---

The Key Box

Basic Level II
Model I or III
16K RAM
LNW interface for Model I
RS-232 option for Model III

Fig. 1. Baud Rate Modification Logic Diagram
control circuit. This change makes available at socket U28 data bits 3–7 and an output pulse you will use to strobe them to a baud rate control circuit. (You will also obtain +5 volts and ground from this socket to drive the control circuit.)

The remaining logic required for the baud rate selection consists of a flip-flop register to store the selection value and an eight-input multiplexer to steer the selected rate to the UART. I used an experimenter’s PC board to hold the circuit. Four sockets soldered to the board provide for the two ICs needed and for connecting to socket U28 on the LNW and for connecting to the baud rate locations on the LNW. Figure 1 shows the connections I made. Any other wiring scheme that connects the same points will do as well.

The 74LS151 IC is an eight-input multiplexer that passes one of the eight inputs through to the output. The signals applied to the selection inputs determine the input: when all three selection inputs are low (logic zero) input zero is passed through to the output; when all selection inputs are high (logic one) input seven is passed through to the output; and, for other values of selection inputs other inputs are passed through to the output.

The 74LS175 IC is a four-bit register that stores the value of data bits 5–7 whenever signal OUT E9H occurs. The stored values of these bits connect to the selection inputs of the multiplexer and thus the state of data bits 5–7 at the time of the OUT E9H signal control which input of the multiplexer is passed through to the output. This selection remains in effect until the next occurrence of OUT E9H.

### The Modification

With the circuit wired as shown in Fig. 1 and installed in the LNW you can select the baud rate by outputting a byte to I/O port E9H according to Table 1. In Z80 language use OUT (OE9H),X where X is the desired rate from the table. In Basic use OUT 234,Y where Y is the desired rate from the table.

You can select the UART parameters by outputting a byte to I/O port EAH according to Table 2. First reset the UART by outputting anything to I/O port 008H. Then output bit two plus the value from Table 2 to I/O port OEAH. (Bit two enables output from the serial interface) In Z80 language use OUT (OEAH),Z where Z is the desired value from the table. In Basic use OUT 234,W where W is the desired value from the table. Pick one of the three choices for parity, one of the four choices for number of bits, one of the two choices for number of stop bits and add the three Z or W values from the table to get the final value of Z or W for use in the output instruction. For example: even parity 8 bits/1 stop bit Z = 80H + 60H + 0H + 4H = E4H (W = 128 + 96 + 0 + 4 = 228).

The above instructions are all you need to use the programmable baud rate modification. However, you can add a little class to your terminal program.
by using an RS-232 initialization program such as the one described below.

Initialization Subroutine

The initialization program in Program Listing 1 is written as a subroutine you can call from the beginning of your terminal program. When called it clears the screen and displays the information shown in Fig. 2.

**Program Listing 1**

| **#L18** |
| **#19** |
| **#1A** |
| **#1B** |
| **#1C** |
| **#1D** |
| **#1E** |
| **#1F** |
| **#20** |
| **#21** |
| **#22** |
| **#23** |
| **#24** |
| **#25** |
| **#26** |
| **#27** |
| **#28** |
| **#29** |
| **#2A** |
| **#2B** |
| **#2C** |
| **#2D** |
| **#2E** |
| **#2F** |
| **#30** |
| **#31** |
| **#32** |
| **#33** |
| **#34** |
| **#35** |
| **#36** |
| **#37** |
| **#38** |
| **#39** |
| **#3A** |
| **#3B** |
| **#3C** |
| **#3D** |
| **#3E** |
| **#3F** |

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**Baud = 300 # Bits = 8 # Stop = 1 Parity None**

**Figure 2**

**BAUD = 300 # Bits = 8 # Stop = 1 Parity None**

by using an RS-232 initialization program such as the one described below.

Initialization Subroutine

The initialization program in Program Listing 1 is written as a subroutine you can call from the beginning of your terminal program. When called it clears the screen and displays the information shown in Fig. 2.
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RC73 F8H 02368 CF #
RC74 B9H 02378 JR B, IJLPFS
RC77 11668H 02368 LD DB, 5
RC7A 19 02509 ADD HL,DE
RC78 11665H 02428 JR IJLPFS
RC7D 11668H 02428 IJLPFS LD DB, 5
RC81 19 02509 ADD HL,DE
RC89 D3HA 02490 OUT (POUT), A
RC8C 99 02490 RET
RC97 11668H 02490 SUBROUTINE
```

Pressing the right-arrow key deletes the bar under baud and displays a similar bar under # bits. Pressing the key again shifts the bar to the right again and after four presses the bar will be back to baud. Thus the right-arrow key selects one of the four parameters you can set for the RS-232 channel. Similarly, pressing the down-arrow key displays successive values of the selected parameter. With the bar at Baud, one press of the down-arrow key replaces the 300 by the next consecutive value, 600. Continued presses of the key will cycle through all of the allowed values for baud and begin over again. If you move the bar to one of the other parameters by pressing the right-arrow key, then the down-arrow key will cycle through the allowed values of this parameter. When you have selected all of the desired values using the right and downarrow keys press Enter to initialize the RS-232 channel to these values and exit the subroutine. If you want to use the initial values displayed simply press Enter to initialize and exit the subroutine.

The default values of the parameters in the subroutine are 300 baud, eight bits, one stop bit, and no parity. To change these values to the ones you normally use, change the tables in the program. Each entry in the parameter tables consists of six bytes: the first byte is a flag indicating if this value has been
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selected or not. The next four bytes are ASCII for the "name" of this value, and the last byte is the binary value. A flag byte of one indicates a selected value and a flag byte of zero indicates an unselected value. An OFFH value indicates the end of the table.

As an example, let's say you normally use a baud of 9600. When you assemble the program, set the flag byte for 300 baud to zero (line 680). Then set the flag byte for 9600 baud to one (line 830). Now when you call the program it will display 9600 instead of 300 for baud and when you press Enter this value will be set for the RS-232 channel. The other tables in the program are arranged similarly and you can change their default values according to your normal operation also.

**Subroutine Description**

The subroutine starts (line 1290) by displaying the titles and the default values and then goes into a keyboard input loop looking for right-arrow, down-arrow, or Enter characters. Any other input character is ignored. Input of a right-arrow character shifts the underline bar to the next parameter and stores the new parameter selected as a value between zero and three in the variable PARPTR. Control then returns to the keyboard input loop.

Input of a down-arrow character changes the flag byte of the currently selected parameter from one to zero and changes the flag byte of the next successive value from zero to one. Also, the new "name" of the value is displayed on the screen in place of the old "name." Control then returns to the keyboard input loop.

Input of an Enter character transmits the current values of all parameters to the RS-232 channel. Program lines 1970-2450 accomplish this and line 2460 exits the subroutine. Lines 2470-3130 are subroutines used by the program.

**Model III Version**

Model III owners can have a similar subroutine for initializing the built-in RS-232 channel. In the Model III some ROM routines are available to help. The program given in Program Listing 2 provides the same operator interface and uses the Model III ROM routines when applicable.

---

**Hugh Cottle designs computer hardware and software for military applications.**

---

### Program Listing 2

```
0190 00 SUBROUTINE TO SET RS232 PARAMETERS
0330 : MODEL (121)
0440 00 : WRITTEN BY HUGH COTTLE OCTOBER 1981
0550 **********
0660 WHEN CALLED THE CURRENT VALUES OF THE PARAMETERS
0770 & SUB-DISPLAYED. THE RIGHT ARROW TO SELECT NEXT VALUE; PRESS
0880 : PARAMETER; D0N'T ARROW TO SELECT NEXT VALUE; PRESS
0990 : ENTER TO EXIT THE PROGRAM LINES 1970-2450
1000 : RS-232 CHANNEL AND EXIT THIS SUBROUTINE.
1110 ** END OF SUBROUTINE **
1220 C3948B
1330 GETBLT JD START
1440 0200 00 **CONSTANTS**
1550 0660 **END OF SUBROUTINE**
1660 0770 : ROM ENTRY POINTS
1770 0880 **
1880 0990 : 
1990 : 
2000 : 
2110 : 
2220 : 
2330 : 
2440 : 
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9990 : 
0000 : 
```

**Program continues**
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Program continued

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BANC 4855 085540 HI1TDE DEFP 'HI1TDE+
BANC 4860 085558 SPI1TDE DEFP 'SPI1TDE+
BANC 4865 085560 PAR0T DEFP 'PAR0T+
BANC 7180 085570 TAPE B adventurers
BANC 7185 085570 B DEFP 'B
BANC 7190 085570 C DEFP 'C
BANC 7195 085570 D DEFP 'D
BANC 7200 085570 E DEFP 'E
BANC 7205 085570 F DEFP 'F
BANC 7210 085570 G DEFP 'G
BANC 7215 085570 H DEFP 'H
BANC 7220 085570 I DEFP 'I
BANC 7225 085570 J DEFP 'J
BANC 7230 085570 K DEFP 'K
BANC 7235 085570 L DEFP 'L
BANC 7240 085570 M DEFP 'M
BANC 7245 085570 N DEFP 'N
BANC 7250 085570 O DEFP 'O
BANC 7255 085570 P DEFP 'P
BANC 7260 085570 Q DEFP 'Q
BANC 7265 085570 R DEFP 'R
BANC 7270 085570 S DEFP 'S
BANC 7275 085570 T DEFP 'T
BANC 7280 085570 U DEFP 'U
BANC 7285 085570 V DEFP 'V
BANC 7290 085570 W DEFP 'W
BANC 7295 085570 X DEFP 'X
BANC 7300 085570 Y DEFP 'Y
BANC 7305 085570 Z DEFP 'Z
BANC 7310 085570 BLANK DEFP '
BANC 7315 085570 space DEFP 'space
BANC 7320 085570 RETURN DEFP 'return
BANC 7325 085570 CCR DEFP 'CCR
BANC 7330 085570 CR CR DEFP 'CR
BANC 7335 085570 ESC ESC DEFP 'ESC
BANC 7340 085570 " DEFP '"
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POCKET COMPUTER NEWSLETTER
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Dynamic Item Scheduling

When you are told the correct spelling of a word there is an ideal moment when you should be asked to repeat it. If I ask you again immediately you are justifiably insulted. If I wait too long you have lost it and you are embarrassed. If I come through at exactly the right moment, you are not quite sure but you give the answer and it turns out you are right.

When the laws of teaching are written, one of them will be that guessing right is one of the most significant events in learning. It also feels good. Guessing wrong is not damaging as long as it is interspersed with enough guessing right. Early theories of teaching machines held that you should try for zero mistakes. This approach resulted in painfully boring programs which drove people away.

This spelling program presents the student with words, one after another. He must decide if each word is spelled correctly. If not, he gives his idea of the correct spelling. If his response is wrong, the computer gives the correct spelling immediately. This item is scheduled for repetition according to an index of mastery which reflects previous right and wrong responses to that item.

At this point some teachers may be gasping that you must never intentionally expose a student to a misspelled word. However, I believe that students can surmount this hazard and come out with a well-established knowledge of correct spelling. This program's concept does not hinge on this issue. I would use verbal presentation but the resources are not readily available for most readers. This hazard would not come up at all in a task like learning the abbreviations for states.

I derived the computation of the index of mastery through experimentation attempting to hit that ideal moment for repetition. The index is a number controlling the number of words the program will present before repeating this one. On the first error for a particular word, the index is set at 2. It is multiplied by 3 on each correct response and divided by 4 on each incorrect response. The index is not allowed to go below one (it would make little sense), and whenever it gets above 50 the word disap-
pears from the schedule.

Let us consider the initial arrangement of the sequence for the lesson. I considered arranging the words from easy to difficult, but this would have relatively little impact within a lesson. I also expect students to run through this lesson several times, and it is important that sequence should not become a secondary (false) clue to the spelling. For this reason all words in the lesson are arranged in a freshly-scrambled sequence each time the program is run.

How the Program Works

The key to this program lies in the management of sequences in the initial shuffling of the deck, and in the dynamic item scheduling during the session. An array of pointers forming a chain controls sequencing. Each item has a pointer which specifies the location of the item scheduled to follow. Each item carries its own future. To modify the sequence it is only necessary to reset the values of the pointers; the contents of the items need not be moved. This is a well established technique for managing sequences in data base management systems. During initialization the pointers create a logical circle reaching all of the items stored.

The concept is equivalent to a circle of dancers in a folk dance holding hands. Each new item (dancer) joining the circle walks forward from the latest preceding newcomer a random number of positions. Let us say that he arrives at a dancer named Mimi. To break into the chain, the dancer who had been Mimi’s “future,” now becomes the newcomer’s future, and the new comer becomes Mimi’s future. A complete circle is always maintained regardless of the number of items. The random walk may go all the way around the circle, possibly more than once. Cursi- cally, the circle starts out with a single dancer holding her own hand.

The data which the program reads during this process consists of pairs of entries in Data statements. The first member of each pair is the correct spelling and the second is the incorrect spelling of a word. These two elements are placed in the next available position of the arrays R$(n)$ and W$(n)$. A future-pointer F$(n)$ is established by the procedure described above, and an initial mastery level M$(n)$ is set to 99. After loading is complete, the exercise starts with the item identified as the future of item 1. (Item 1 is a dummy item which marks the beginning and end of the chain.)

Each trial is selected randomly to be a “positive trial” or a “negative trial” (whether the correct or incorrect spelling will be presented). Negative trials are used three out of four times. If the spelling is correct the student may simply press Enter; otherwise, he must give the correct spelling. Some Basic Interpreters do not allow blank lines as input, in which case you should change the program to accept a plus (++) sign instead.

For either type of trial, positive or negative, the student’s response may be right or wrong. If the mastery level is under 50 or if the response is wrong, an adjustment is made in the mastery level (as discussed earlier) the program inserts the item into the chain up ahead. This insertion is similar to the original loading except that it is not necessary to maintain the complete circle in the chain. If an item has never been missed and the response is correct, the mastery level is automatically high enough and the item is simply not inserted up ahead. Once an item is missed, the mastery level for dropping it must be earned with right (or wrong) responses. The lesson is complete when you go full circle and come back to the item whose future is item 1.

Final Points

I wrote the program on a TRS-80 Color Computer with 16K. The Basic should cause no difficulty on other Basic systems. The only instructions that might call for modification on other machines are those using the word Sound. These control beeps are incidental to the program’s operation and can be omitted. The lines starting with an apostrophe are remarks which you may omit or change to REM statements.

When the program is running you may enter a asterisk at any point instead of a word and get a listing of the current state of the items, the pointers and the mastery level for each. This will explain more completely how chaining works. The student would not ordinarily use this.

You can change or add to the Data statements which contain the words to be learned. Make several copies using different sets of words to provide a more complete course. Be sure to make your entries in pairs, with the correct spelling first in each pair. The program is indifferent to the number of pairs you use as long as you stay within the 100 cells specified in the Dimension statements. New Data statements should precede the end marker Data ZZZ ZZZ ZZZ.

Mr. Wyckoff is employed by the state of Georgia Department of Offender Rehabilitation as Director of Research and Evaluation. His hobbies are music and writing fiction.

---

**Program Listing**

80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 317
Computerized Engraving

Remember the pantograph? It is a simple device consisting of four linked arms carrying a tracing point and pencil. By carefully tracing a drawing with the tracing point, the pencil end makes an enlarged or reduced copy of the original drawing.

The pantograph concept is also used in the engraving industry. For engraving, the pencil is replaced by a power driven routing or engraving point. The device works well but has needed both human guidance and a template master.

The advent of the microcomputer eliminated the need to create a physical template master. The computer can create an electrical image of a template and control the engraving process.

I was in a Radio Shack store when a Dahlgren representative, Bob Laird, placed an order for a TRS-80 Model III with 48K memory. I asked to see their operation.

Photo 1 shows the power driven engraving pantograph. The large box in the middle (see close-up Photo 2) houses power supplies reminiscent of the early Altair computers.
The program is in two parts: A machine language program is loaded first, followed by a long Basic program. The storage medium is cassette, as a DOS system would use too much memory. The loading procedure takes about nine minutes and must be done on each power up.

The computer program accepts the copy to be engraved and allows the selection of type size, letter spacing, number of lines, line font and italics. The computer then sends this information to the auxiliary controls in the middle box. This controls the stepping motors that provide X and Y axis information to the motion of the engraving bit. The system is electrically operated with the single exception of the raising and lowering of the engraving bit. This is done with compressed air under the direction of the program.

The engraving machine can be set to engrave multiple badges or signs on a large work piece (Photo 3). It can also generate scoring lines for easy separation when the engraving is done. The machine can be programmed to do precision hole cutting or boring.

The only human/machine interface, once the engraving process has started, is removing the finished work and inserting the new blank onto the platen. The system can be used on one piece of work at a time or on numerous pieces in a row.

The machine also handles graphics. I was shown brass engravings with delicate swirls and patterns using custom programs produced by Dahlgren.

The computer has made reproducibility easier using a system to do quality work without a skilled artisan as the operator.

There is another big plus to having a computer behind the engraving set-up. When not in use for engraving, it can process accounts receivable, control inventory, do billing or any other office chores. It will even play a good game of Star Trek.

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INFORMATION PROCESSING

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Michael Shayer Software

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Confessions of a Microholic

Mike Keller
13423 Desert Hills NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111

I used to be a normal person. I slept at night, I ate regularly, and I even watched a little tv. Throughout most of the day I was alert enough to handle tough questions: I knew the day of the week and the President’s name. Not any more, though. Not since the microcomputer came into my life.

From the Beginning

When everybody was raving about those wonderful new pocket calculators, I was using a pocket-sized circular slide rule (mostly for price comparisons at the supermarket), and was sure the electronic gadgets would only be a fad—something like the Hula Hoop. After all, my slide rule was smaller, cost only a fraction as much, and had no batteries to run down. Who but an engineer cares if the answer to a problem is 4.55398732/4 anyway?

So I held out. The pressure was intense: jeers from my associates, stifled laughter from high-schoolers who thought I was living in the Dark Ages, and quizzical looks from others who did not appreciate the simple elegance of an analog calculator. Button pushing, however, was fast becoming a national pastime. Digital watches with LED displays were popping up on wrists everywhere. Never mind that these people had to go into a dark closet to read the time, the microelectronic age was upon us. It was only a matter of time before I too would succumb.

I remember the day it happened, as one might remember being struck by lightning. It was a rainy evening late in the year and we decided to window-shop at one of the discount department stores. I was casually looking over the assortment of cameras and pocket calculators when a word on one of the display cards caught my eye—programmable. Then I spotted another word on one of the keys—LRN: Could it be, I wondered, that you can actually teach one of these things to do something? If so, my slide rule was about to take a long vacation.

I had to find out. The clerk handed me the calculator and its instruction booklet, and for the next hour and a half the building could have fallen down around me and I would not have noticed. I remember thinking a little later, “Boy, some holdout. Two hours ago you would not be caught dead with an electronic calculator, and here you are walking out of a store with one—programmable, no less!” If I was going to be a convert I might as well do it in style. I still could not believe it: in the palm of my hand was a machine capable of learning.

I didn’t know it then, but I was about to fall victim to “the fever.” That night was a long one, the first of many, but it seemed short. At some time I looked at the clock and it was 2 am. Two o’clock in the morning, and I was just getting started. Little did I realize that this was only the prelude, an appetizer for the frenzy that lay ahead.

After a few weeks with my new electronic companion, I began to realize that it had limitations. I needed more memory registers and the ability to store more keystrokes. The fine distinction between need and want was slowly dissolving.

The Next Step

Then I noticed that the same department store carried the Texas Instruments TI-59, a much more capable machine. One look at the instruction manual convinced me that it would be a long time before I could exhaust its features. It had 60 memory registers, and could remember a sequence of several hundred keystrokes! In addition, I could feed small magnetic cards through it for permanent storage of programs or data. I did not really know what data was, and the keypad contained functions I had never even heard of, but it is hard to be cold and objective when your mouth is watering.

I still had some contact with reality: A $230 purchase price was a bit more serious than $30. Such a decision required more detailed study of the manual (about 2½ hours), and after long minutes glancing back and forth between the calculator and my checkbook, I made what was probably the inevitable choice.

The TI-59 was a good teacher. I began to see mathematics in a whole new light. It was all around me, in the symmetry of a flower, or the harmonics of a guitar string. Shadows cast by a building on a late afternoon became functions of the building’s height and the tangent of the sun’s angle. Math was an exciting new language to be learned, a unique language not of words, but of symbols and formulas. How could I have missed such a fundamental point in all my years of formal education? What other language could possibly describe the exact path of a basketball on its way to the
Bigger and Better

A few months later, Radio Shack began advertising a personal computer with a built-in language called Level I Basic. It had 4K of memory—whatever that meant—and represented a price breakthrough at $599. This was only twice the cost of the TI-99, but was the computer any good? I had shopped at Radio Shack before, but I had some reservations about buying an expensive item there. Confering with a few friends disclosed that I had an outdated image of Radio Shack. Yes, they did carry some low-grade items, but more and more high-class stock was showing up in their catalogues all the time. Maybe this machine was more than just a toy.

Although naive about computers, I knew they must be complex devices. A poorly designed micro would surely be a poor investment. Other manufacturers were selling microcomputers; I would have to be cautious in determining which computer to buy. Which computer? That’s right, the question was not whether to buy one, but which make and model. I was hooked, and now I knew it.

At the time, personal computers were new on the market. No one really knew how to sell them. Representatives of competing models made me feel stupid. They sprinkled terms like PROM, Eeprom, and DMA liberally through their sales pitches. The Radio Shack salesmen, on the other hand, spoke plain English. However, they were unable to give anything but vague answers to my specific questions about the machine. I would have to choose a computer without all the information I wanted.

I made my selection as scientifically as possible, based upon product support, availability of maintenance, and pretty pictures in the brochures. Since most manufacturers did not even have a brochure, I ended up the proud, if somewhat apprehensive, owner of a brand new TRS-80 microcomputer.

When I got the box home the experience of opening it was almost religious. Somehow I sensed this was a red-letter day. In an age when everyone was blaming the computer for billing errors and lost shipments and practically everything else, I was about to get some first-hand experience with one. When I plugged in and saw the screen come to life, I thought of it as the dawn of a new era. Right there on my kitchen counter was an honest-to-gosh computer, up and running!

Using Basic for the first time was a pure joy. I had already read the instruction manual from cover to cover (by now a well-established ritual) and could practically recite the sample programs by heart. My first hands-on experience was marvelous! Basic did practically all the housekeeping for me. No longer did I have to convert each alphabetic character into a number or keep track of the particular memory register where my program had stored a value. I was a kid in a candy store and could not learn this remarkable new machine fast enough.

A Love Affair

In the following months I spent many long hours with the TRS-80 and trust gradually developed. It gave wrong answers because I asked the wrong question, or the right question in the wrong way. The computer was absolutely obedient except when I asked it to do something it could not; even then it was infinitely patient. My little Model I, which had now grown to 16K of memory and spoked Level II Basic, was becoming an extension of me. The video screen was a palata for my thoughts, a place where my problem-solving processes could be shown in black and white. My programs were beginning to show my signature and this fascinating new activity completely captivated me.

As my skills improved I wrote longer and more complicated programs. As the programs became more complex, my trances became deeper and my lapses of attention to other things (such as putting my left shoe on my left foot) became more frequent. Soon, the obsession began to interfere with everyday events. Why, right in the middle of a sales conference, I might jump up and exclaim, "Of course! It's so simple! I just have to put a GOSUB in line 340!"

I was a man possessed. When working on a program, normal activities like eating dinner or drinking becoming time-devouring annoyances. The ash tray seemed to fill up in seconds, and I lost all sense of time. What could be driving me? How long can a grown man sit in front of a machine whose vocabulary consists of "Ready" or an occasional "syntax error"? Even at the point of physical and mental exhaustion, I was kept helplessly riveted to that keyboard by some invisible force.

Since then it has all been a dizzying downhill ride. I have been the whole ugly route: Disk Basic, file handling, word processing, you name it. Lately, I have even sunk to new depths. I have been hitting the hard stuff—embedded machine code. I can't get enough of it. My friends shake their heads in dismay. The other day I was almost run down by a mopel while concentrating on a troublesome For.Next loop. Sure, it is painful when I hear murmurings behind my back, phrases like "computer junkie," and "they oughta keep people like that off the streets." But I can't help myself; it has gone too far for me to turn back now.

Well, that's my story. One day I am just like anyone else, and the next thing I know some new technology changes my whole outlook. It is hard to remember what my life was like before the microcomputer. There is not much hope I will ever be normal again; they say my affliction is incurable. I have one question, though: If being a microholic is so terrible, why am I having so much fun?"
What's a coot like him doing in a program like this?

Gabby the Space Cowbum

All B westerns had a white-hatted hero and his side-kick, the old coot. This character muttered under his breath when told to stay at the ranch, and steered the hero clear of marriage-minded schoolmarm. At saloon brawls he stood away in a corner and swung his fists wildly at the air while yelling, "Git 'em, Roy!"

I thought the old coot disappeared forever when the sun set over the cinema desert for the last time and my boyhood Bijou was transmogrified into a western wear emporium.

But no—Gabby Coot Lives. I found him the other night tucked away in my TRS-80.

Apparently, when the cheapie westerns died, he somehow blasted off into deep space. He claims he was sidekick to Flash and Buck and tells stories about Scorpions and Trills. He seems to talk about a past yet in my future.

Gabby goes on without stop. It is nearly impossible to shut him up. Even though he invites questions from time to time, don't expect any straight answers.

Talking With Gabby

Gabby is a simple example of generating artificial speech. The program has data lines of seven sentences each with six grammatical elements. These elements are more or less modular. Any of the seven subjects can be appended to any of the seven verbs, or the clauses containing them, and make some degree of sense.

Gabby is capable of spouting more than 5000 sentences. He is evasive and guilty of second degree yarn spinning and flannel-mouthing.

Gabby can be used as an interesting exercise in creating random "intelligent" patter from alphanumeric data. You can change the data lines to create different characters: a windbag politician promising the moon, a baseball manager explaining his team's cellar status, or humorous nonsense geared to a child's reading level. Remember to use seven sentences of six grammatical elements each. Do not try to compile them on the computer. Do it on paper.

Each of my sentences has an introductory clause, subject, verb, exclamation or similar nonsense and two short clauses with objects.

The Program

Lines 30–340 set and read the alphanumeric data. Line 350 causes a jump ahead if the introductory rigamarole has already been covered in lines 360–430, which respond fairly logically to nearly any answer.

Line 460 determines how many sentences Gabby will spew before a pause. Lines 470–530 select a random element from one of the seven sentences to form a fairly intelligible sentence. Line 540 groups the elements into a string represented by the single symbol G$. Line 550 initiates a loop equal to the number of characters in G$. Line 560 establishes a one-letter string (H$) equal to successive characters in G$. Line 570 prints each character in turn.

It may seem puzzling for the program to slice apart sentences and reassemble them. The reasoning is twofold. The move accounts for the fluid appearance of Gabby's words. But, more importantly, it forms the basis for a handy programming trick.

Back up to line 440. In this case the value of O, set initially at zero, will be equal to the progress of the number of characters in a single line appearing on the screen.

Lines 580–590 explain why. Line 580 increments O's value by one each time the loop runs. Line 590 sets two conditions. If the number of characters in a line is more than 55 and the character encountered is a space (" "), the program executes a Print and Gabby continues ruminating on the next line without any broken words at the ends of lines. I find this a useful method for programs whose runs produce lines of unpredictable length.

I have a Radio Shack Line Printer III on which I use 8½
inch wide paper. This printer is quite willing to print past the end of my paper. These few lines put a governor on that impulse. Lines 650–740 are no more than a gambit to continue the endless story. Gabby invites a question, responds "How's that?" and restates a portion of the question asked. It is a conversational trick used by people who are not really responding to their listeners. If you modify Gabby to become a politician, using this gambit should make him seem more realistic.

Richard Ramella is a hospital staff writer and has been programming for three years.
CLOAD problems may be CSAVE problems.

Damping Cassette Output

Ian R. Sinclair
89 Alexandra Road
Sible Hedingham
Halstead, Essex CO9 3NP

When I bought my TRS-80, I did so in light of warnings about its CLOAD problems. Though the TRS-80 was at that time almost unknown in Europe, magazines like Kilobaud had enlightened me. I knew what I had to do about the problem (which was the only flaw in a computer otherwise perfect for me).

My new TRS-80 was of dubious ancestry—its Level II 4K keyboard was imported, upgraded to 16K locally, had a 240V power supply attached and some internal modifications made. No CTR-41 or CTR-80 was available, and no monitor. It was the only 16K unit within my price range, around $900. (The 16K PET cost about $1800 over here.) Since that day, one phrase in the description has haunted me: The cassette output signal was reduced to avoid CLOAD problems. I did not question the remark at the time.

The keyboard unit suited me fine, because I had a good quality cassette recorder. A modulator supplied with the keyboard enabled me to use a tv receiver in place of a monitor.

Once I found (by trial and error) the correct volume control setting for the cassette replay, I experienced no CLOAD problems. To this day, I use this unit with its cassettes as a reliable backup system for programs and data, though for everyday storage I use the Exatron Stringy-Floppy.

I did not think seriously about CLOAD and CSAVE again until I interfaced a printer to the system (see my “Hard and Soft Printware” article, 80 Microcomputing, October 1981). I wanted to use the cassette port to drive the interface, but was puzzled to find that the signal was too feeble to operate the interface. Other TRS-80s had no such problems. Measuring the signal voltage at the cassette port confirmed that the strength was much lower than the figure quoted in Radio Shack’s hardware manual. I was able to get around the problem with a software fix, as the article describes. At the time I felt this preferable to hardware changes on a system working well for its primary function of CLOAD and CSAVE. With this solved, I once again forgot about the cassette signal.

I had to rethink the problem when I used my TRS-80 for Electric Pencil text work. (I modified my copy of Pencil so that it gave the stronger cassette port signal that I needed.) After producing a lot of text and recording it on cassette, I went through the slow back-up process by putting in another cassette and recording again. I decided that using two cassette recorders at once would save time. I started some tests to see if I could do this. Parallelizing the microphone inputs to two recorders proved to be no problem, and the signal on recorder 1 was unaffected by adding recorder 2. As I expected, there was no simple way of ensuring that I had motor control over recorder 2; I had to operate the key manually. Connecting the motor control cables together does terrible things to the circuits, since separate supplies power each motor.

Problems

The cassette recorded by recorder 2 would not CLOAD when I replayed it on recorder 1. My first guess was that the head azimuth angle of recorder 2 was not the same as that of recorder 1. I set recorder 2 to Replay, removed the earphone plug so that I could listen through the loudspeaker, and then played a cassette recorded on recorder 1. With a small screwdriver inserted through the hole above the recording head, I adjusted the screw controlling the head angle until the note I heard was sharp and clear, with maximum treble. Recorder 2 needed a very small adjustment, indicating that the head angle had been about right. The adjustment made no difference to the problem—the tapes from machine 2 simply would not CLOAD on machine 1!

The recording volume control setting is automatic with modern cassette recorders—the signal is converted into dc and the dc regulates amplification. The signal sent to the tape head is never large enough to cause a distorted recording. Like all automatic circuits, however, this type has a limited range, different for each different make of recorder. If a signal input is too large for the automatic recording circuits, distortion results. Did the signal from my TRS-80 overload the automatic recording circuits of the second cassette recorder?

I constructed a miniature volume control between a socket and a jack plug so that I could plug the output from the computer into the volume control, and the output from the volume control into the recorder. I set the volume control halfway, and saved a short program on recorder 2. This one CLOADed on recorder 1, but only when the
replay volume was set lower than normal. I adjusted the volume control on the CSAVE circuit to a lower setting and was able to CSAVE tapes which would CLOAD on recorder 1 at the same settings used for tapes which I had recorded on recorder 1.

I made the change permanent, and have used the system ever since—I backed up the text of two books this way, and I can take text from either cassette with no adjustments.

CLOAD or CSAVE?

How many CLOAD problems are really CSAVE problems, caused by overloading the recording circuits? I would expect that the TRS-80's normal signal would not overload the recording circuits of the CTR-80, but you might try reducing the recording volume if you ever have CLOAD problems. (The signal from the TRS-80 is large enough to overload the automatic volume control circuits of most recorders I have tried.)

Dealing with the problem this way means that you do not have to alter the TRS-80, since you can wire the additional volume control outside the case. You can also incorporate the new volume control inside the TRS-80 case, or even inside the recorder's case. If you use a second recorder for quick backups you will need the volume control unless the second recorder is another CTR-80.

My TRS-80 was already modified to produce a smaller cassette output signal. What would my experiences be if it had not been altered?

Ian Robertson Sinclair was born in 1932 in Tayport, Scotland, and educated at Madras College, St. Andrews. He started writing articles for magazines in 1964 and began teaching college in 1966. Writes Sinclair, "I bought a TRS-80 whenever a keyboard became available here (to English TV standards) and have eaten, drunk and slept TRS-80 computing ever since."
Financial Wizard

Charles R. Perelman
9777 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 700
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

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at the end of 10.0 years.

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Example 1

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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>$147,409.37</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Example 2
Add-on Interest

Can you afford to buy that new printer or disk drive? By changing the terms, down payment or payment period, you can determine how to bring the payments within your budget. This routine computes annual percentage rate to compare with other means of financing.

Interest on Reducing Balance

You will get a schedule of payments with interest computed on the remaining balance of principal. Substituting different terms reveals the effect upon monthly payments.

Amortization Tables

With these flexible routines, you can choose any number of payments a year and determine the periodic payment required or print out the complete amortization table. You can find the balance at any point in the life of the loan. For example, if you buy property with a note requiring periodic payments for a number of years and then a balloon, you can compute the balance when the balloon is due and figure the payments on a new loan assumed to be needed to refinance the balloon payment. As an alternative, you can choose a payment other than that required for equal amortization and obtain a schedule of payments or balance determination. This would show you the effect of making additional principal payments each period. You can vary payments, interest rates and terms to structure a deal to make economic sense.

Yield Computations

Dealing in trust deed notes has been popular in California and elsewhere for some time. One yield routine enables you to determine the amount to pay for an existing note to obtain the interest yield you require when payments include principal amortization. Another routine enables you to determine the price to pay if you purchase a bond or interest-only note. You can also calculate yield to maturity for a note or bond offered at a specific market price.

Examples 1–7 illustrate some of the practical uses for the program.

---

### Example 3

A loan of $147,409.37 with payments two times a year at interest of 12.00% each payment $12,000.00 requires payments for 11.5 years last payment will be $111,116.96

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<td>2,910.09</td>
<td>53,173.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Last payment is required payoff at end of loan.

---

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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 327
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LWN Research Computers
Totally TRS-80 compatible, high speed processor, 8" or 5 1/4" drives, double or single density, dealer pricing available.

Now Available.
125k CP/M - Team computer, compatible with TRS-80 Model I and CP/M

CABLES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Unit Price Quantity 10 Quantity 100</th>
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<td>8&quot; Extender (disc drive)</td>
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<td>6 ft. printer cable</td>
<td>$15.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 ft. printer cable</td>
<td>$17.79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Custom cables available
Minimum order 10 — Call for prices

DISC DRIVE CABINETS

| 1 drive cabinet | $51.20 | $444.00 |
| w/power supply | $57.82 | $500.00 |

- IBM type Horizontal Design
- Does not require extender cable

TANDON 40 TRACK DOUBLE DENSITY BARE DRIVE $195.00
Minimum Quantity 10

U.P.S. Shipping $5.00 per order shipping and handling wholesale orders only, minimum 10 pieces.

is figured by approximating and interpolating the difference between approximations.

In CBasic, the backslash (\) is a line continuation character. CONCHAR% functions similar to INKEYS in Radio Shack Basic, returning the ASCII decimal representation of a keyboard entry. The subroutine at line 2200 causes all PRINT commands to go to the line printer rather than the screen.

With this powerful series of programs, you will have the answers at your fingertips for many of the commonly needed calculations for sound financial planning. You will save time and effort and give your clients faster and more efficient service. Planning ahead with these tools will help you and your clients to have a happy, healthy and successful financial future.

Charles R. Perelman is an attorney-CPA specializing in tax, estate planning and corporate law in Beverly Hills, CA.

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601 Lipan Street
Denver, Colorado 80204
(303) 892-6986

Manufacturers and Wholesale Distributors of Quality Computer Products.
When you purchase an apartment house, there is a second trust deed note for $100,000 with monthly payments based on a 30 year schedule. How much will the monthly payments be? (Loan amortization menu option 3)

A loan of $100,000.00 with payments of 12 times a year at an interest of 13.00% for 30 years requires payments of $1,106.20 at an end of 36 payments, balance is $68,999.76

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Example 5

You can buy a trust deed note due in five years which had an original face amount of $60,000, equal monthly payments over 10 years, and interest rate of 12 percent. How much should you pay for the note to earn 15 percent per year? (Yield menu option 1)

Purchase of note with $60,000.00 face compounded 12 times a year at interest of 12.00% maturing in five years with original term 10 years. A yield of 15.00% must be purchased at a price of $38,164.46 periodic payment will be $890.63 remaining balance should be $51,649.54

Example 6

If you pay 84 for a $100 bond paying 11.5 percent semi-annually, maturing in 12 years, what will be your annual rate of return (yield to maturity)? (Yield menu option 4)

Purchase of note with $1,000.00 face compounded two times a year at interest of 11.50% maturing in 12 years for a price of $840.00 will produce a yield of approximately 14.32%
for the TRS-80 from Micro-Mega

The Original GREEN-SCREEN

The eye-pleasing Video Screen fits over the front of your TRS-80 Video Display and gives you improved contrast with reduced glare. You get bright luminous green characters and graphics like those featured by more expensive CRT units.

Don't confuse the Original Green-Screen with a piece of thin film stuck to the face of your video tube, such as that advertised by others. The Original Green-Screen is mounted in a full frame perfectly matched to the color and texture of the TRS-80 Video Display. It is an accessory, with adhesive strips which do not mar your unit in any way.

The full-frame design of the Original Green-Screen "squares off" the face of your video display and greatly improves the overall appearance of your system.

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Add $1.50 for postage and handling.

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A REFWARE THESAROUS disk into your disk drive. Then type your sentences or paragraphs. The computer will quickly offer a variety of alternatives, retyping your sentences or paragraphs with substitute possibilities chosen from its multi-thousand word vocabulary. It displays the revised sentences on your monitor and types them on your printer as you choose, so that you can edit them over and choose the one that most accurately expresses what you REALLY mean to say.

In addition to the specific programs capable of substituting suggested alternate words for nouns and adjectives, REFWARE THESAROUS Builder enables engineers, physicians, lawyers, educators, businessmen, authors, and other professionals and specialists to develop their own individually tailored vocabularies of hard-to-remember technical words.

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MINIMUM System Required: TRS-80 Mod II or Mod III 48K with two disk drives.

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Credit cards orders phone (914) 238-8896
Dealer inquiries invited

REFWARE Reference software division David C. Whitney Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 451, Chappaqua, N.Y. 10514

* A trademark of David C. Whitney Associates, Inc.

Specify Mod II (or Mod III )

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See List of Advertisers on page 354
Make multiple choice, true-false, short answer or completion tests for your students.

Time to Make 'em Sweat

Robert L. Hawkes
Berwick Academy
South Berwick, ME 03908

Richard Eckert's article "Quizmaster" (80 Microcomputing, June 1980) prompted me to write a program I needed to file storage for multiple choice questions for a course I was teaching. I expanded the idea of random access disk files to other types of test item storage, various print formats and item editing. The program stores multiple choice (MC), completion (COM), true-false (TF) and short answer (SA) questions.

**File Names**

The file names have a standard format and an extension holds the key to the test format. The last letter of the extension keys this. The MC extension gives one test format while the SA, TF, and COM extensions use another format. An example of a file name would be PSYCH16/MC.

**Three Program Options**

The write option stores test items on the file in two available formats. The first, for multiple choice items, stores the text of the question, the letter of the correct answer and an appropriate chapter number. The text may be 253 characters. Although Basic accepts only up to 240 characters you may edit in additional characters later. An example of a multiple choice item is:

```
ITEM #3
TEXT? JAMES B. WATSON IS OFTEN CALLED THE FATHER OF ****
A) PSYCHOLOGY
B) BEHAVIORISM
C) HUMANISM
D) GESTALT PSYCHOLOGY

LETTER OF CORRECT ANSWER? B
CHAPTER NUMBER? 1
```

**The Key Box**

Basic Level II  
Model I  
32K RAM  
TRSDOS  
Line Printer I

```
ITEM #30
TEXT? JAMES B. WATSON IS OFTEN CALLED THE FATHER OF ****
CORRECT ANSWER? BEHAVIORISM
```

**Fig. 1. Multiple choice example**

```
ITEM #16
TEXT? THE AREA OF A CIRCLE WITH A RADIUS OF 8 IS ****
CORRECT ANSWER? 64 PI
```

**Fig. 2. Completion example**

```
ITEM #9
TEXT? THE SIDE OF A RIGHT TRIANGLE WHICH IS OPPOSITE THE RIGHT ANGLE IS CALLED THE HYPOTHESIS.
CORRECT ANSWER? FALSE
```

**Fig. 3. Short answer example**

```
ITEM #30
TEXT? JAMES B. WATSON IS OFTEN CALLED THE FATHER OF ****
```

**Fig. 4. True/False example**
question is in Fig. 1. Remember to use the down arrow to go from one line to the next. Use the Enter key only when you have completed the text.

The other format stores 200 text characters and a 20 character correct answer. Figures 2, 3 and 4 show these item types.

Three read options print the test items.

- Dump prints test items including answers on the video screen in blocks of two multiple choice items or five general items.
- LDUMP prints test items including answers on the line printer at a rate of seven items per page for multiple choice and 25 items per page for other item types.
- LPRINT prints test items without answers on the line printer in an appropriate testing format. Printings are available with an answer blank for each item or with instructions to use a separate answer sheet. All read options delay printing each item. The program reads each item into a buffer before printing it. This supplies the printer with the needed characters and no string of blanks for unused fielded characters. Use the Read option to change individual test items. After the selected item has been displayed you may choose to fix or replace part or all of the item.

The following Edit functions are available when you select the fix option: The space bar moves to the next character; C changes the next character; D deletes the next character; I allows an insert of one or more characters. To escape the insert, press the @ key. Pressing @ proceeds to the end of the item and restores it to the file with no further corrections. X extends the item.

When you select the replace option, the program discards the old item and requests an entirely new item to replace it. These Edit functions are like those in Level II Basic but not as comprehensive.

Robert Hawkes, previously an instructor in math and psychology, currently teaches computer programming.

Program Listing

100 REM TEST ITEM FILE PROGRAM
110 REM R. HAWKES
120 REM BERWICK ACADEMY, SO. BERWICK, MAINE
130 REM 1981
140 CLEAR 1000:DIM A(100):CLS
150 INPUT "NAME OF FILE"; FS
160 TF$=RIGHTS(FS,1)
170 INPUT "DO YOU WISH TO (READ) OR (WRITE) OR (EDIT)"; ZZ$ 180 IF ZZ$="EDIT" THEN 1720
190 IF ZZ$="READ" THEN 560
200 IF ZZ$="WRITE" THEN 220
210 PRINT "REDO";GOTO 170
220 GOSUB 1540:IN=LOF(1);CLOSE
230 PRINT "LAST RECORD NUMBER IS"; N
240 GOSUB 1570
250 N=N+1
260 CLS:PRINT "ITEM #: "; N
270 IF TF$="C" THEN 340
280 IF TF$="M" THEN 460
290 IF TF$="A" THEN 460
300 IF TF$="P" THEN 460
310 PRINT:PRINT "ANOTHER ITEM? Y OR N? ":GOSUB 2070
320 IF YNS="Y" THEN 250
330 GOSUB 2680
340 REM WRITE MC TEST
350 LINE INPUT "TEXT? ": BS$ 360 INPUT "LETTER OF CORRECT ANSWER"; C$ 370 INPUT "CHAPTER NUMBER"; D
380 PRINT:PRINT "IS ITEM OK FOR STORAGE? Y OR N? ":GOSUB 2070
390 IF YNS="N" THEN 260
400 GOSUB 1540:GOSUB 1550
410 LSET TS=B$ 420 LSET LS=C$; LSET CN=$=MK$(D)
430 PUT 1,N
440 CLOSE
450 GOTO 310
460 REM WRITE OTHER TESTS
470 LINE INPUT "TEXT? ": BS$ 480 INPUT "CORRECT ANSWER"; A$ 490 PRINT:PRINT "IS ITEM OK FOR STORAGE? Y OR N? ":GOSUB 2070
500 IF YNS="N" THEN 260
510 GOSUB 1540:GOSUB 1560
520 LSET TS=B$:LSET ANS=A$: 530 PUT 1,N
540 CLOSE
550 GOTO 310
560 REM READ FILES
570 CLS:PRINT "INDICATE THE TYPE OF READ WANTED" 580 INPUT "(DUMP) OR (LDUMP) OR (LPRINT)"; TRS
590 IF TRS="DUMP" THEN 630
600 IF TRS="LDUMP" THEN 850
610 IF TRS="LPRINT" THEN 1070
620 PRINT "REDO";GOTO 580
630 CLS:PRINT F$ 640 GOSUB 1540:IN=LOF(1);CLOSE
650 IF TF$="C" THEN 750
660 FOR I=1 TO N
670 PRINT I ";"
680 GOSUB 1540:GOSUB 1560:GET I;CLOSE 690 GOSUB 1580
700 PRINT "ANS: "; ANS$ 710 IF I/5=INT(I/5) THEN INPUT "PRESS ENTER"; $; CLS
720 NEXT I
730 PRINT:PRINT "END OF FILE 
PRESS ENTER"; $ 740 GOSUB 2680
750 FOR I=1 TO N
760 PRINT I ";"
770 GOSUB 1540:GOSUB 1550:GET I;CLOSE 780 D=CVI(CNS)
790 GOSUB 1560
800 PRINT "ANSWER "; LS$ "CHAPTER "; D
810 IF I/2=INT(I/2) THEN INPUT "PRESS ENTER"; $; CLS
820 NEXT I
830 PRINT:PRINT "END OF FILE 
PRESS ENTER"; $ 840 GOSUB 2680
850 REM LDUMP
860 GOSUB 1640
870 LPRINT FS
880 GOSUB 1540:IN=LOF(1);CLOSE
890 IF TF$="C" THEN 980
900 FOR I=1 TO N
910 LPRINT I ";"
920 GOSUB 1540:GOSUB 1560:GET I;CLOSE 930 GOSUB 1610
940 LPRINT TAB(55)"ANSWER "; ANS$ 950 IF I/30=INT(I/30) THEN LPRINT CHR$(12);LPRINT FS;LPRINT "+ 960 NEXT I
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PROGRAM CONTINUED
978 GOSUB 2600
990 FOR I=1 TO N
990 LPRINT I:"
1000 GOSUB 1540:GOSUB 1550:GET 1,:CLOSE
1010 D=CVI(CN5)
1020 GOSUB 1610
1030 LPRINT"ANSWER - ;":LS,"CHAPTER # - ;":DLPRINT"
1040 IF I/8=INT(I/8) THEN LPRINT CHR$(12):LPRINT F$"
1050 NEXT I
1060 GOTO 2600
1070 REM FORMAL LPRINTS
1080 C:INPUT"HOW MANY TEST ITEMS NEEDED";NN
1090 FOR I=1 TO N
1100 PRINT"INPUT RECORD ";I;
1110 INPUT A(I)
1120 NEXT I
1130 GOSUB 1640
1140 C:PRINT"IS THIS PART OF A LARGER TEST? Y OR N? ":GOSUB 20
70
1150 IF YS="Y" INPUT"WHAT IS THE PART NUMBER";D8
1160 INPUT"IS THERE A SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET? YES OR NO";ASS
1170 IF YS="Y" THEN LPRINT "PART "D8;
1180 IF TPS="C" THEN 1200
1190 GOTO 1370
1200 REM MC FORMAT
1210 IF ASCS="YES" THEN 1250
1220 LPRINT "ON THE ANSWER SHEET CIRCLE THE NUMBER OF"
1230 LPRINT TAB(8)"CORRECT ANSWER FOR EACH.*
1240 GOTO 1270
1250 LPRINT"INSERT IN THE PARENTHESES THE NUMBER OF"
1260 LPRINT TAB(8)"CORRECT ANSWER FOR EACH.*
1270 LPRINT"
1280 FOR I=1 TO NN
1290 LPRINT I:""
1300 GOSUB 1540:GOSUB 1550:GET 1,A(I):CLOSE
1310 GOSUB 1610
1320 IF ASCS="YES" LPRINT TAB(58)I;""
1330 IF I/8=INT(I/8) LPRINT CHR$(12):GOTO 1350
1340 LPRINT"
1350 NEXT I
1360 GOSUB 2600
1370 REM PRINT FORMAT (OTHER)
1380 IF ASCS="YES" THEN 1420
1390 LPRINT"ON THE ANSWER SHEET PLACE THE PROPER ANSWER FOR EACH.*
1400 LPRINT TAB(8)"QUESTION IN THE PROPER BLANK.*
1410 GOTO 1440
1420 LPRINT"PLACE IN THE PARENTHESES THE PROPER ANSWER FOR*
1430 LPRINT TAB(8)"EACH QUESTION.*
1440 LPRINT"
1450 FOR I=1 TO NN
1460 LPRINT I:""
1470 GOSUB 1540:GOSUB 1560:GET 1,A(I):CLOSE
1480 GOSUB 1610
1490 IF ASCS="YES" LPRINT TAB(68)I;""
1500 LPRINT"GOTO 1510"
1510 PK=PEEK(16425):IF PK>60 LPRINT CHR$(12)
1520 NEXT I
1530 GOTO 2600
1540 OPEN"R",1,FS:RETURN
1550 FIELD 1,2 AS CNS,1 AS LS,253 AS TS:RETURN
1560 FIELD 1,200 AS $S,20 AS ANS:RETURN
1570 FOR WT=1 TO 1200:NEXT WT:RETURN
1580 LS=INSTR(TS,""
1590 IF LS<>0 M$=LEFT$(TS,LS)
1600 PRINT M$:RETURN
1610 LS=INSTR(TS,""
1620 IF LS<>0 M$=LEFT$(TS,LS) ELSE M$=TS
1630 LPRINT M$:RETURN
1640 REM PAPER
1650 C:PRINT"IS LINE PRINTER ON? Y OR N? ":GOSUB 2070
1660 IF YS="Y" THEN 1680
1670 PRINT"PLEASE TURN IT ON";GOTO 1650
1680 POKE 16425,1
1690 C:PRINT"POSITION PAPER PROPERLY"
2790 INPUT"PRESS <ENTER> WHEN READY";MS
1710 RETURN
1720 REM EDITS
1730 INPUT"ITEM NUMBER";V:MS=""
1740 IF TPS="C" THEN 1760
1750 GOSUB 1560:GOSUB 1560:GET 1,1,CLOSE:GOTO 2170
1760 GOSUB 1540:GOSUB 1550:GET 1,1
1770 D=CVI(CN5):CLOSE
1780 PRINT TS
1790 PRINT"ANS-";LS,"CHAPTER # - "D
1800 PRINT"IS ITEM OK? Y OR N? ":GOSUB 2070
1810 IF YS="Y" THEN 2490
1820 PRINT"INDICATE THE TYPE OF EDITS WANTED"
1830 INPUT"(ITEM) OR (TEXT) OR (OTHER)";ESS

Program continues.
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As the Color Computer finds a home in schools across the country, more and more applications are being aimed at secondary and college students — a situation that concerned elementary teacher Marilyn Scarnaty of Bloomfield, NJ. So she decided to do something about it by writing computer programs for her classes.

"Many of the teaching packages sold glance over the younger students in favor of older kids," she said. "There should be more elementary school programs."

Scarnaty teaches second grade students designated as slow learners at the Kentopp School in East Orange, NJ. She has had success with her students using programs she wrote for the Color Computer.

Two years ago representatives from Radio Shack visited the East Orange school district and demonstrated the Model I's teaching abilities. The district was impressed enough to send a few teachers to Radio Shack to learn more about educational computer uses, and to buy six Model I's. But, Scarnaty said, it didn't go much further. Sometime later, the school bought a 16K Color Computer. Scarnaty took the computer home and experimented with it. Soon after, she bought a 4K machine for herself.

"Vowels are hard for children to comprehend," she told 80 Micro in a telephone interview. "So once I got the hang of it, I started to write programs to help me teach them to the children." Elementary math concepts are also difficult to grasp, so she wrote programs on this subject too.

The kids love it, she said. Questions are put to them in multiple choice form. A right answer displays a happy face before asking the next question. The concept is constant reinforcement. "If a wrong answer is given, the program goes back to..."
EXPENSIVE – The LNW System Expansion II and built-in
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double-sided drives your Model I will have 3.75 
Megabytes of online storage – that's more storage 
than a Model II or Model III!
TEACHER continued

the first question, so the student can work his way up to the one he got wrong,” Scarnaty explained. After successfully completing a drill, the student is treated to a tune played for him by the computer. (See program listings.)

Although Scarnaty has just recently introduced the Color Computer to her second grade students, she has already documented its success with hard to dispute facts. Two weeks prior to a week long vacation she had her students work with her verb agreement program: the difference between usages of is and are, was and were; and her affixes program: proper use of the suffixes ed, s and ing.

The first thing she did with her students the Monday morning after vacation was test their comprehension on these skills. No review was given. The 20-question test was on paper and they had to write their answers in with pencil. “I was looking for 70 percent mastery,” Scarnaty said, “and the entire class achieved 72 percent or better.” In fact, only two students scored as low as 72 percent. Four students got all the questions right, three scored 96 percent, two 92 percent, one 88, two 84, three 80 and the remaining four 76 percent.

Did the students just happen to get lucky? To find out, Scarnaty gave them a second test. “Just for comparison,” she told 80 Micro, “I checked their addition and subtraction with regrouping, which was not computerized. We had been working on this for almost two months. They forgot what to do.”

Not only are the children learning through the computer, but its presence is improving their classroom behavior. “They know if they misbehave, they’re not going to be allowed to get a turn at the computer,” Scarnaty said.

Scarnaty has become a believer in the computer’s place in the classroom. She has given workshops and demonstrations for other teachers and is hoping they and school administrators will take notice of its capabilities. “They put money out for things that don’t work,” she said. “The computer works. You don’t finish with it and throw it away, you use it again and again. It will last for quite a while.”

Scarnaty thinks it’s unfortunate that some teachers see micros in the classroom as threats. “I use it as a supplement,” she said. “Instead of getting one lesson across in a certain amount of time, I can get two across.” Not only that, but teachers are being held more accountable for their students’ progress. In Scarnaty’s opinion, a computer in the classroom, rather than a threat, is more like job security. “With the big stress on teacher accountability, teachers are looking for any type of tool to aid them in the classroom. I have found the microcomputer to be such a tool. It’s like old-fashioned teaching, you’re just drilling them.”

---

PROGRAM LISTING
TITL: VOWELS PROGRAM WRITTEN BY MARILYN SCARNATY
SAMPLE OF A 5-PART LESSON WRITTEN FOR A 4K COLOR COMPUTER.
SONG TUNE IS "WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR"

5 PRINT"READ THE SENTENCES AND PICK THE CORRECT WORD
10 PRINT"* "
15 PRINT"1.HE WORE A....ON HIS HEAD."
20 PRINT"* "
25 PRINT"1.BEAD 2.RAT 3.HAT"
30 PRINT"* "
35 PRINT"PRESS YOUR ANSWER 1, 2 OR 3"
40 PRINT"* "
45 INPUT"* PICK THE WORD WITH THE SHORT A SOUND AND PRESS
ENTER":A"
50 PRINT"* "
55 IF A=1 THEN PRINT"TRY AGAIN" GOTO 15
60 PRINT"* "
65 IF A=2 THEN PRINT"TRY AGAIN" GOTO 15
70 IF A=3 THEN GOTO 65
75 CLS(5)
80 FOR H=150TO48
85 SET(H,5,5)
90 SET(H,28,5)
95 NEXT H
100 FOR V=5TO20
105 Set(V,5,5)
110 NEXT V
115 SET(32,13,8)
120 FOR H=28TO36
125 SET(H,16,4)
130 NEXT H
135 SET(25,10,3)
140 SET(38,10,3)
145 INPUT"PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE*:AS
150 PRINT"* "
155 PRINT"1.CUT 2.CUTE 3.NICE"
160 PRINT"* "
165 PRINT"PRESS YOUR ANSWER 1 OR 2 OR 3"
170 PRINT"
175 INPUT"* PICK THE WORD WITH THE LONG U SOUND AND PRESS
ENTER":A"
180 IF A=1 THEN PRINT"TRY AGAIN" GOTO 145
185 PRINT"* "
190 IF A=2 THEN PRINT"TRY AGAIN" GOTO 145
195 PRINT"* "
200 IF A=3 THEN GOTO 200
205 FOR H=150TO48
210 SET(H,5,5)
215 SET(H,28,5)
220 NEXT H
225 FOR V=5TO20
230 SET(V,5,5)
235 SET(48,5,5)
240 NEXT V
245 SET(32,13,8)
250 FOR H=28TO36
255 SET(H,16,4)
260 NEXT H
265 Set(25,10,3)
270 Set(38,10,3)
275 INPUT"PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE" AS
280 PRINT"HOW MANY DID YOU GET RIGHT*
285 PRINT"* "
290 PRINT"1.HAT 2.CUTE"
295 PRINT"* "
300 INPUT"PRESS YOUR NUMBER RIGHT 1 OR 2 AND PRESS
ENTER":A
305 IF A=1 THEN PRINT"DO OVER" GOTO 5
310 IF A=2 THEN GOTO 315
315 SOUND89,6
320 SOUND176,6
325 SOUND165,6
330 SOUND159,6
335 SOUND148,6
340 SOUND147,6
345 SOUND185,8
350 SOUND125,6
355 SOUND133,6
360 SOUND185,6
365 SOUND176,6
370 SOUND176,6
375 SOUND176,6
380 SOUND197,8
385 SOUND284,6
390 SOUND197,8
395 SOUND193,6
400 SOUND185,6
405 SOUND176,6
410 SOUND165,6
415 SOUND159,6
420 SOUND147,6
425 SOUND185,8
430 SOUND125,8
435 SOUND176,9
440 PRINT"* "
445 PRINT"TYPE CLOAD AND PRESS ENTER"
450 STOP
No home for PO E-Mail

Mail’s a whale of a business

With assets of nearly $4 billion, the U.S. Postal Service is a big business.

In 1980, it had 650,000 workers, maintained 39,000 post offices, incurred operating expenses of more than $19 billion and generated $17 billion in revenues.

Postal workers handle more mail per employee than any other major postal service in the world and believe it or not—faster and cheaper than in most other countries.

In 1980, 95 percent of the first class mail sent in a local or metropolitan area was delivered overnight; 86 percent headed for an address within a 600 mile radius of origin was delivered within two days; and 87 percent outside 600 miles was delivered within three days.

Postal rates in the United States are less than half the rates in France, Sweden and Germany; slightly greater than half the rates in Great Britain and Japan.

According to the 1976 RCA study, E-Mail could bring mail costs down to $19.50 per 1,000 letters. In 1978, it cost $65 to handle 1,000 letters.

However, the National Research Council warned decision-makers to be careful about the RCA study. It predicted E-Mail would be handling 20 billion pieces of mail within 20 years, a figure questioned by later studies. The RCA study also maintained that competition from private, end-to-end E-Mail providers would be insubstantial.

Not only will competition be fierce, the council contended, but it could hurt the postal service’s ability to maintain a competitive E-mail system: “Since employees of the postal service cannot be terminated after six years of service, it could find itself with an overstuffed and overpriced national service whose costs are higher than those of competitors and cannot be easily lowered.”

Too great a separation would eliminate one of the advantages of allowing the postal service to offer electronic mail—the ability to integrate electronic technology into conventional mail handling.”

The report added E-Mail should be an independent unit within the postal service with a degree of managerial and financial independence from regular mail operations.

Competition from private firms in the E-Mail business is accelerating, the report said. It maintained if the post office’s electronic services are to remain competitive, the agency must be able to change its rates faster: “It now takes at least eight to nine months for the postal service to adjust its rates. Since the commercial competition is much more flexible, the postal service may find its competitors have a six to nine-month lead.”

The council warned the postal service against tying its current experimentation to long-range plans. The electronic mail system that emerges in 20 years, the report said, may not bear much resemblance to the one suggested to the postal service in a study done for it by RCA.

“The postal service should concentrate its efforts primarily on implementing discrete services to test and develop the market,” the council recommended. “How far and in what direction electronic mail will evolve from these initial services is difficult to foresee. Hence, the evolution of services arising out of ECOM or other discrete services should not be forced to conform to some long-term system design...in advance of operating and market experience.”

The report also recommended the postal service consult with its unions’ representatives when developing plans for E-mail.

“We wish to emphasize that our concern is not that electronic mail alone will cause labor problems,” the report said, “but that its implementation could be delayed because of cumulative labor problems that may, at particular times, require layoffs that cannot be immediately absorbed by attrition.”

It went on to note labor leaders “would present no serious obstacle to implementation...continued
It's a cottage techie's dream

Writer's guild formed with home in mind

A corporate president talking like this is a cottage techie's dream:

Our ideal, productive environment is one where the writer works out of his or her home with all the office facilities he or she needs—space, phone, typewriter—and all the amenities for a relaxed and stress-free atmosphere—food, coffee, music, tv. In this kind of environment, we find writers can be at their best.

That cottage approach to technical and business writing, according to Ronald Kandel of The International Professional Writer's Guild Inc., enables his Berkeley, CA, corporation to "go to a client with lower rates than are currently the market average, do a better job in a shorter period of time and cut costs in many areas normally considered labor intensive."

"We want to be the town scribe for the microcomputer industry," Kandel, the guild's president, said. "When a user's guide says written by the guild on it, users will know they are in for a treat."

He noted the guild is aimed at meeting the crying need in the microcomputer industry for documentation accessible to the lay computer user. "We understand the difference between good user manuals," he said, "which make a contact with the user, and bad manuals which don't."

Kandel began the guild in April 1981. He envisions it growing into a cottage network of mature and experienced technical writers, working with their word processors and telecommunicating their documents to the guild.

According to an essay on the firm, here's how the guild works:

A client contacts the guild. An agent is sent to the client to assess his needs. The agent returns to guild headquarters with the information he or she has amassed and company writers begin the project. They can telecommunicate portions of their work to the guild and the guild can telecommunicate it to the client for his or her comments while the project is in progress.

The final product can be sent to a client in any form: word-processed final draft, camera plates from a phototypesetter or as printed documents ready for distribution.

The guild will not be limiting itself to microcomputer clients. Kandel expects to be working in any field where clear communications have become vital.

According to a brochure distributed by the guild, it is looking for a varied clientele:

- Small computer software designers needing user manuals and documentation for their packages;
- Professionals needing office procedures described to their employees or clients;
- Scientists or researchers needing editing, proofreading and polishing of a grant proposal or thesis;
- Small commercial businesses needing brochures describing their product;

The IPWG's cottage approach to technical and business writing enables the firm to go to clients with rates below market average.
Hyperlight Patrol

We appreciate this opportunity to tell you about Hyperlight Patrol. Written by Warren L. Greene for a 48K Disk TRS-80, this unique program provides sound output via the cassette port and voice output for a Radio Shack Speech Synthesizer. The latter is not required for play.

In Hyperlight Patrol, your single Star Cruiser must locate and destroy a fleet consisting of unknown numbers of four different classes of alien ships. Unlike the Klingons, Cylons, etc. of most space games, these alien ships maneuver intelligently in the three-dimensional space around you and can move as you do by hyperlight jumps. They have, as you do, many systems which can be disabled or destroyed. Your ability to recognize and capitalize on their weaknesses while maneuvering to maximize the effect of your own systems can be a key element in your victory or defeat.

To help you overcome these difficult odds, your ship is "human engineered" with systems which can automatically follow or fire at targets you designate, can maintain your shields within the limits of your energy bank, and can signal when hostile ships appear within weapon range. Sound effects and visual displays indicate damage, weapon status, alarms, etc. and help you input commands.

The author is an expert in war-games and war technology. His intention in writing this program was to produce a conflict simulation which would realistically create the command environment of a ship's captain in the distant future. He has tried to avoid the torpedo-course-guessing and hand-eye coordination elements so common to today's science-fiction games.

The viewscreen you work from also reflects this philosophy. As in a real conflict the enemy can be all around you, and you can see exactly this in the "projection-map" display. A totally new concept in TRS-80 games, this display continuously updates the position of each enemy ship as they circle you, close in, or try to escape. Our screen is of course flat and two-dimensional, like a wall map of the earth, but within the limits of TRS-80 graphics it will show you the "globe" of space around you - front, sides, back, above, below, etc.

The action in this sphere is real-time. Again as in reality there are periods of rest and inaction, punctuated by bursts of tactical scrambling. To survive and score, you must constantly evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, speeds, and relative positions of your own ship and the enemy. The information presented to you is purposely kept brief so that you can handle it. The computer takes care of all the complexities of the simulation, as it should, leaving you only those decisions requiring intelligence and judgement.

This is not a trivial or an easy game, but it is addicting and fun to play. You must be prepared to learn by experience the best strategies and (a completely different question) the best tactics. It will take some time for you to become familiar with your ship and with the mechanics of the simulation. There's a lot going on in the 28K of code that you will not immediately appreciate. Don't let this be discouraging. Everything here has a reason and as you become more proficient at the game, you will find yourself turning former weaknesses into present strengths.

Certainly Hyperlight Patrol is not the be-all and end-all of space conflict games. Remember that it is first and foremost a simulation. One could write a game with more graphics. One could write a game with more action, or more sound, or whatever. And any of these could nevertheless be conventional and dull. Hyperlight Patrol is different. It offers you a creative and challenging blend of all these ingredients in a completely unique and pace-setting format that will literally boggle your mind. You have never seen anything like it on the TRS-80, and if you enjoy a good game, you will surely get many hours of pleasure from this one.

Thank you for your interest and your time.

Price: $19.95 48K Disk Model I & III

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Mags for high octane micros

Pennsylvania and California firms hitch their wagons to new stars and target new mags at Tandy's Model-16 and the Big Blue's Personal Computer

Mags for high octane micros

magazine aimed at owners of Tandy's glamor machines. "We feel this area has been neglected by magazines like 80 and 80 US," he maintained.

Young, a CPA and financial analytical consultant, told 80 Micro the first issue of his bi-monthly will be May–June. It will have 24 pages of editorial content. Although changes will be made from time to time, he noted, "it will continue to look like a technical journal" and its covers will display the issue's table of contents.

Articles in the first issue include how to patch WordStar to work with Epson printers and the complete specs on the Model 16 and what they mean.

Young said he will be promoting II/16 through advertising in magazines like 80 Micro and through a direct mail campaign using a mailing list rented from HSE Computronics. Sample copies of the magazine will be distributed to computer stores, he added.

He said subscriptions to the magazine are $30 a year and the newsstand price is $5.95.

Prestel boon to microphiles

by Michael E. Nadeau
80 Micro staff

Prestel, the British videotext system, was introduced into the United States in January. Its sponsors are targeting business and users groups, but it appears micro owners will gain as well from this latest invasion from the isles.

The data bases on Prestel are heavily oriented toward business, and include commodities listings, stock market reports, and airline rates and schedules. Newsweek magazine also supplies a data base consisting of an abbreviated electronic version of each weekly issue. Other American data-base suppliers include: Merrill Lynch, The Wall Street Journal and American Express. The BBC, London Stock Exchange and The Economist are among the international providers.

The data is transmitted to the United States via satellite. The data bases can be accessed within this country through a Telenet number over phone lines. A terminal, monitor and modem are the basic hardware requirements for user access. There are eight sources for Prestel terminals in the United States; Zenith is among them.

Anyone with a microcomputer, however, can potentially access Prestel. Software is available for the Apple II, called Appletel, from Logica, a New York-based company and a sponsor of Prestel in this country. Apparently, software for the TRS-80 is not far behind. At a Prestel demonstration at Babson College in Wellesley, MA, a spokesman alluded to the existence of prototype software for the TRS-80 Model II and Color Computer. Allan Hewitt, sales manager at BVT (British Videotext and Teletex, Prestel's parent company) was reluctant to give details about this software, calling it "commercially confidential. It would be silly to ignore [the TRS-80]," he said, admitting only that software is being written.

Hewitt also mentioned that terminal software will be available for Commodore computers by the end of this year.

Once a micro owner has the needed software and peripherals, he or she must pay Prestel a $50 monthly fee plus a 30-cent-per-minute charge for connect time and a 15-cent-per-minute charge for phone line time via Telenet. This price will limit the number of individual users, but Hewitt said his company hopes to provide enough different services to make Prestel attractive. He suggested the home user may soon be able to do his banking and shopping, get up-to-the-minute news and weather reports and, in idle moments, play video games on his Prestel terminal.

Prestel is aiming at the business market because, obviously, that is where it will be most easily sold. But Hewitt claims that once Prestel is established in business, the businessman will start bringing the terminals home with him. Eventually, videotext and Prestel will be seen as more than a business tool, he said. "We want the man in the street to think of his videotext terminal the same way he does his television set...to become something that [naturally] sits in the corner of the living room."
Writing without disk drives

by G. Bert Latamore
Contributing Editor

Using word processing is like losing your virginity, you'll never go back to what you did before.

So says Ernie Hebert of Keene, NH, Boston Globe columnist and author of two novels and a third about to go to his publisher.

Hebert spent three years part-time on his first novel, *The Dogs of March*. He switched from typewriter to Radio Shack's Scripsit and did his second, *A Little More Than Kin*, also working part-time, in a year on a Model I. When it brought him a hefty advance, he quit his job to write full time.

"I wanted to get away from computers," he revealed, "The Model I kept going down, and I had to keep bringing it back to be fixed. So I sold it, bought an IBM Memory Typewriter and just did that. I didn't want to use it." He replaced the IBM with a 32K Model III, a Line Printer, Scripsit and a tape recorder. Apparently it was what he needed; he finished the 70,000 word first draft of his third novel, a psychological thriller titled *The Viceroy*, in three months.

He hopes to finish the final draft by June and know by August whether it will be accepted. That's an important deadline for him because he has enough money to last until September. If the new novel doesn't sell by then, he will have to take a job and go back to part-time writing.

Although his system is minimal and lacks disk drives, Hebert is satisfied with it.

"I wanted to get the cheapest adequate word processor I could, and I find that for $1,600 I have it," he said. "Everything I've heard about word processing says you have to have disk drives, but really for the creative artist they are a luxury you can live without."

Hebert loads Scripsit off the tape first thing every morning. It takes exactly three minutes. He keeps the machine on—when he walks to Keene State College where he teaches part-time—until bedtime.

"I pretty much write all the time, and I don't use the computer for anything else," he explained.

He developed a special format giving exact control of the number of lines on a page. When he has written and polished a page he saves it on tape, which takes 23 seconds, and prints it out. He logs the page's location on the tape, clears the screen and starts the next.

Using that system he produces three to ten pages a day, which, he commented, is "incredibly swift for me."

Speed does not guarantee quality, however.

"I think the danger in word processing is working too fast. You tend to get into the groove of cranking out words. It encourages verbosity."

To slow down, he decided to type his final draft, copying the text off the screen and stopping to revise rough passages on the computer.

"I just started working this way," he explained. "I find I have to be flexible with my working methods. What worked last week might not work today."

Having a printout is important to Hebert. "I'm very visual," he admitted. "Seeing pieces of text on the screen and seeing the hard copy are different things. You can't look at the whole work on the screen, so you tend to repeat words and become repetitious in sentence structure."

Hebert and his agent have discussed submitting manuscripts in electronic form, but he questions the practicality of the idea.

For one thing, book editors do a lot of their reading and copy editing commuting to work or at home, places where they wouldn't have access to a computer.

The electronic manuscript also could take control over editorial alterations away from the author.

"When an editor makes changes on my manuscript, I see exactly what he did when I get it back, and we can talk about it," Hebert expounded. "If he were working on a word processor I might not find the changes."

Although he is not happy with his present printer—the tractor feed has never worked right—Hebert does not see a major problem with editorial acceptance of dot matrix print.

"From what I know of editors, they don't care what the manuscript looks like as long as they can read it," he opined.

In fact, Hebert writes his weekly column on New Hampshire life entirely on his Model III on Sundays.

"I try to make each one come out to exactly 4090 characters," he mentioned.

The television and radio, situated in his study next to the computer, pick up interference from the Model III, he said, but that doesn't concern him.

The Model III also has brought a new magazine into his life, 80 Micro.

"I always buy it. I don't type the programs in, but I enjoy reading about them," he explained.

For Hebert the Model III is a useful tool, but it doesn't do everything.

"Being a novelist is a risky business because your writing depends on this X factor in the back of your brain, and you always fear it will just go away. For a lot of writers it does. They write one novel or five or 12 and then just stop. It really is a muse."
Dummies growing in the ivy

by Kerry Leichtman
80 Micro staff

Emily Fayen (left) and Margaret Otto (right) are two developers of a computer system at Dartmouth College linking hundreds of terminals to the school’s half-billion volume library. Photo on right shows how library information is displayed.

For an Ivy League school, Dartmouth sure has a lot of dumb terminals. But when Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, goes on line with one of their latest computer innovations those terminals will seem much smarter.

This new system will connect, through a 580 million-byte database, hundreds of on-campus terminals to Dartmouth’s vast 1 1/2 million volume library. By the time the system is up and functional sometime this summer, 450,000 of the library’s 800,000 titles will be stored in a pair of DEC minicomputers.

The system is being developed by William Arms, Dartmouth’s director of computing services; Emily Fayen, director of library automation services; and Margaret Otto, Dartmouth College librarian. Although other institutions such as Northwestern University, the University of California and the Library of Congress have computerized library systems, Dartmouth’s is unique in its approach.

“We want to put up a system that could be used by any student using our library,” Fayen explained. “We are trying very hard to make it comfortable to anybody.” Most Dartmouth students are computer literate, so the system’s designers do not anticipate any of them freezing at the keyboard. But even so, the emphasis is on developing user-cordial prompts.

What this means is that the computer knows there is no difference between Frost, Robert and Robert Frost. Entering the poet’s name in either format will get the user to the author’s work. However, Bobby Frost probably would not.

The pride of the system, according to its developers, is its search capabilities. “ Northwestern’s system,” Fayen told 80 Micro during a visit to the Hanover campus, “is a computer analog of the card catalog. It does more and no less. Ours has considerably expanded search capabilities. You can get at any word in the title, you can look for the illustrator, a certain person as the translator. Essentially, we’ve made the whole record searchable.”

Using Robert Frost again as an example, the user might want to look up only Robert Frost poetry written in New Hampshire before 1950. More specifically he might want only pre-1950 New Hampshire poetry with “winter” in the title.

One of the graduate assistants working on the project offered to look up something more obscure for us: a song called “Slide Frog Slide.” Moments later the screen was full of information about a George Lewis and Punch Miller’s Bunch album called Jazz at Preservation Hall, III. Besides giving Lewis’ dates of birth and death, the album’s library catalog number, its record company release number and a host of other related information, there it was — cut one, side one, “Slide Frog Slide.” The album’s program notes, by the way were written by Thomas Sanction. Who cares? Someone might and if they do, it’s all right there.

The system will also make using the library more convenient. A professor can be sitting in his office, or a student in a dormitory, turn on a terminal and do library research. After finding the books, magazines or records they can check them out using the terminal and pick them up at a more convenient time. The system will even send notices to persons in possession of overdue books.

Emily Fayen came to the library project via her work with computers. Margaret Otto, on the other hand, is a librarian, with training in the Dewey Decimal System rather than silicon chips. “I think it’s just great,” she told 80 Micro, “What the computer can do for us is provide better information for the end-user. We are not trying to duplicate what we have in our catalog, we’re trying to produce a product that’s better than the card catalog.

The system is going to give the researcher, the scholar, the library user capabilities that they simply don’t now have,” she continued, “They won’t have to run to the library and spend hours going through the card catalogue. It’s much more efficient. It’s a real step forward in terms of ease of usage of the library itself. That’s what I’m very excited about.”
Introducing T80-SG2

Forest Fire Dispatcher from SubLOGIC

Forest Fire Dispatcher combines the complex challenge of a realistic simulation with the ease of operation necessary to allow you to concentrate all your energy and imagination on the job at hand.

You are the forester in charge of a district in southeastern Kentucky. Your objective is to save the maximum possible acreage from fire at the least possible cost. Situation variables include the number of fires presently burning, acres already burned, acres threatened, fire spread rate, terrain difficulty, weather conditions, the number of men assigned to each fire, and the previous experience of your crew leader.

T80-SG2 Forest Fire Dispatcher is available on cassette and disk. Both versions contain a 50 minute game. The disk version also includes a longer lasting pure simulation. Your situation can be saved to disk at any time. This allows you to build a history of yourself as a dispatcher and improve your performance record over the course of several fire seasons.

T80-SG2 Forest Fire Dispatcher...a naturally deep strategy game designed to provide you with years of pleasurable interaction.

If you’ve never been into strategy games before, buy this one.

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Specify Model I (Level 2 BASIC) or Model III TRS-80

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For direct order please specify whether you have Model I or Model III (the media are different) and whether you want disk or cassette. Include $1.50 and indicate UPS or first class mail. Illinois residents add 5% sales tax.

Cassette owners may update to disk at any time by sending in the cassette and $6.50 (no manuals please) postage paid.
Future bright for home banking

The bank of the future may be in your TV set.

According to a Cambridge, MA, consulting firm, eight million households will be doing video banking from their homes by 1990.

In a statement on a 230-page report on telebanking distributed privately to 75 of its clients, the Yankee Group predicted the new banking will enable financial institutions to offer consumers "money management tools previously available only to corporate cash managers."

Offering these services will be a future necessity, the statement said, if thrift institutions are to compete with money market funds. Today, 15 percent of all consumer deposits are in those kinds of funds.

Telebanking will also encourage non-banking firms to vie with banks for consumer deposits, Yankee predicted.

It maintained Sears Roebuck Co.'s recent purchase of a brokerage house (Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.) and the nation's largest real estate firm (Caldwell, Banker & Co.) is a sign it intends to move beyond retailing into consumer financial services.

Sears will start by selling money market funds, Yankee noted, and later install automated teller machines and function as a true depository institution.

It said a major role in telebanking will be played by three major computer service bureaus—Tymshare Inc., Automatic Data Processing Inc., and General Electric Information Services—but no single electronic network vendor will dominate the market.

The three service bureaus will try to become "super service bureaus," the consulting firm claimed, and either sell their capabilities to banks or acquire depositories and deal directly with the public.

Meanwhile, it added, Citicorp, American Express, Visa, Mastercard and various bank consortia will be trying to build their own electronic-payment pipelines.

It maintained Citicorp of New York is the most aggressive U.S. developer of video home banking. Citicorp hopes to "cream-skim" high income individuals nationwide, it added, inviting them to manage their money and make investments on-line from their homes at any hour—not just bankers' hours.

Yankee expects Citicorp to offer its home banking service in 1983. The service could include funds management, tax planning, records keeping, "what-if" analysis of financial decisions and information from Dow Jones & Co.

Also in 1983, the consulting firm stated, AT&T may roll out a video-based information utility allowing smaller banks to penetrate the home market and compete with national financial institutions.

Yankee added telebanking will win acceptance first with the "computer comfortable" people and later as part of systems like Viewtron, Venture One and AT&T's EIS which will begin to penetrate the market around 1986.

RECENT VIDEO HOME BANKING TESTS

Citicorp: Homebase

"100-user test" of Homebase is now under way in Queens NY. It features proprietary terminal, card reader, and dedicated 5-1/2" black-and-white CRT, all developed by Citicorp's subsidiary, Transaction Technology Inc. of Los Angeles.

Chemical Bank

Project Pronto free trial in 200 homes in metro NYC, will run 3 months beginning in late 1981. Uses Atari 400 computer, TV set, autodialer. Will probably include banking and other services.

Bank One Corp: Channel 2000

A primitive system done largely for promotional purposes, was tested in 130 households for 11 weeks.

POSITIONING OF LEADING PLAYERS FOR CONSUMER FINANCIAL SERVICES MARKET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proprietary Card</th>
<th>Citicorp</th>
<th>Sears (48 Million Sears Cards)</th>
<th>American Express (Green Card, Gold Card (13 Million))</th>
<th>Bank Card Associations (Visa, Interbank, Visa, Master Card, (40 MM +))</th>
<th>Merrill Lynch</th>
<th>Service Bureaus (ADP, Tymshare, Gersco)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Asset Management</td>
<td>Citicard, Carte Blanche, Diners Club</td>
<td>&quot;Active Asset Account&quot; (Dean Witter subsidiary)</td>
<td>Yes, through Shearson Loeb Rhoades subsidiary</td>
<td>Under development (Master Card, Money Manager, etc.)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>(CMA-Type Service)</td>
<td>&quot;Personal Banking&quot; under development</td>
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<td>Proprietary Depository Institution</td>
<td>Citibank</td>
<td>Allstate Savings &amp; Loan, etc.</td>
<td>No, (Uses Provident National Bank of Philadelphia)</td>
<td>Yes (owned by banks)</td>
<td>No (Uses Bank One of Columbus)</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Related Financial Services</td>
<td>Person-to-Person, Traveler's Check; etc.</td>
<td>Allstate Insurance, Coldwell Bank, real estate, Dean Witter, (brokerage)</td>
<td>Shearson Loes, Rhoades (brokerage), Traveler’s checks</td>
<td>No mow make deals (i.e., Master Card + Fidelity)</td>
<td>Brokerage</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATMENET Network</td>
<td>NYC (regional) &amp; INCA (national)</td>
<td>Has own ATM’S &amp; Express Cash network</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both have proprietary networks (BASE &amp; INAS/INET)</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Financial Strength (Assets)</td>
<td>$11 Billion</td>
<td>$23 Billion</td>
<td>$25 Billion</td>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>$13 Billion</td>
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<td>High</td>
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<td>Medium</td>
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<td>High</td>
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Source: The Yankee Group
How to Buy or Sell Computer Equipment and Software

START HERE WITH...

Begin your search in the index of Computer Shopper's bargain-filled pages.
Locate the category and page number of items that interest you from TRS-80 and Apple to software and peripherals.

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ADDRESS: _______________________
CITY: ___________________________
STATE: ___________________ ZIP: __________

See List of Advertisers on page 354

80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 347
Software to go

The McDonald's Era has arrived in the consumer retail business.

A Pain is Alto, CA. company is peddling software a user can take home and try out before he or she decides to buy it.

Software from Ico-Rally Corporation contains a demonstration program and main program protected by a "Soft-Lok." If a user, after trying out the demo program and reading the documentation, wants to buy the software, he or she tells the retailer. The retailer calls Ico-Rally via a toll-free number and gets the code to open the Soft-Lok.

The system is a boon to retailers, too, maintained Bill O'Brien, National Sales Manager for Ico-Rally. He said, "Retailers are leery of software because of its quality." Rather than force dealers to tie up cash in expensive inventory, they may buy Ico-Rally programs for the cost of the demo program—$49.95. When the program is sold, O'Brien explained, the proceeds are split with Ico-Rally. According to a statement from the firm, the arrangement offers dealers more than a 300 percent return on inventory investment.

The whole idea behind the program is self-service, O'Brien said. To aid users, Ico-Rally also provides users with software support via an 800 telephone number and a free monthly publication to chronicle software developments.

Asked what the chances were Soft-Lok would be picked by a deft software buckler, O'Brien said the developers of the access locking technique estimate it a price tag were placed on the number of man hours needed to break the code it would amount to $10,000. He contended a software pirate would think twice before spending that much time to steal a $300 to $600 program.

Court rules video games covered by copyright

A federal appeals court in New York City has ruled authors of video games may copyright the sound and appearance of their games.

According to a report in the Wall Street Journal, the three judge appeal panel upheld a preliminary injunction issued by a federal district court, which found video display designers are entitled to the same copyright protection as book authors and music composers.

After delivering its finding, the appeals court returned the case to the district court for trial. An attorney for Stern Electronics Inc. of Chicago, the plaintiff in the case, told 80 Micro it could take anywhere from three months to a year before the case is tried.

The Journal quoted David Shoenberg, vice president and general counsel for Stern, as saying the decision was "a landmark case for the industry" because it is the nation's first appeals court ruling on video copyrights.

The Illinois firm alleges a Rhode Island concern, Omni Video Games Inc., copied Stern's Scramble, a game where a player maneuvers his or her rocket ship through electronic obstacles—ground air missiles, buildings and cannon fire.

Booming video game market

This year more than half a dozen companies plan to introduce home video games and sales are expected to reach $3 billion, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal.

Companies are scrambling to enter the market and with good reason. A successful game like Atari's Space Invaders can generate $100 million to $150 million in sales, with margins of about 20 percent.

Atari, expected to double its advertising budget this year to $75 million and release a $349 super game, has cornered 75 percent of the market, Mattel 15 percent and Odyssey, marketed by the Magnavox division of North American Philips Corporation, 9 percent.

Meanwhile, during a press conference announcing the formation of a cable television company by CBS and 20th Century Fox, a spokesperson for the network said the new firm would produce a wide range of products for home video systems and development of home video games "could not be precluded" from the firms' plans.

Eighty million households in the United States have televisions, but only 8.5 percent have video games. The Journal said industry experts predict 50 percent of the households, however, will have video games by 1985. And the European market has just opened up, with a million consoles sold so far there.

The business newspaper also reported many analysts believe the sales of home video consoles will give way to the sale of home computers that can be used for games. If that happens, many of the companies that offer hybrid game and computer systems—including Mattel, Commodore and Coleco—will have to compete with giants like Tandy Corporation and IBM.

"Intellivision will do as well as there is a strong video game-only market," one analyst told the Journal, "but when the home computer comes into play, Mattel and a lot of these newcomers may be in trouble."

Sears to open 45 new computer stores

The success of five computer stores opened by Sears, Roebuck and Co. last fall has spurred the concern to gallop deeper into the retail micro business.

Edward A. Brennan, chairman and chief executive officer of the Sears Merchandise Group, said in a statement: "The performance of these five test stores has exceeded our expectations. The test clearly demonstrates the potential for such retail specialty stores in the rapidly expanding field of electronic business equipment."

Although Sears declined to reveal sales revenues from the new stores, a spokesman told 80 Micro the firm expected a greater return on investment from the stores than its other retail outlets.

James L. Podany, director of marketing communications, also noted the stores "have been able to keep up with all customer demand for product" including orders for the IBM Personal Computer.

The 45 new Sears business systems centers will be located in the test areas and in 17 new markets including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Washington, Miami, Houston, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Seattle and Denver.
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PULSE TRAIN continued

107,000-square-foot plant to manufacture the Color Computer and will convert the
40,000-square-foot facility currently pro-
ducing Color Computers and use it to
manufacture its eight-inch hard-disk drive.
The company also announced it is
building a new 135,000-square-foot
building for software assembly and is
converting the old 39,000-square-foot
software plant into warehouse space.
Both new plants will be in the Fort
Worth area. The new computer plant
is expected to be occupied early
this spring.

Mexico tells
computer makers
to put up or get out

If U.S. computer makers want to tap into
the estimated half billion dollar Mexican
market, they're going to have to start
manufacturing their wares south of the
border.

According to a report in the Wall
Street Journal, the Mexican government
will start decreasing U.S. computer im-
ports this year. The move is aimed at
decreasing computer imports while nur-
turing native industry.

If a microcomputer maker wants to
continue doing business in Mexico, it
will have to take a majority-interest in a
Mexican firm. The Journal quoted Robert
Lynch, senior vice president of Tandy
Corporation's Radio Shack division, as
saying:

"I have no doubt we will eventually go
into some sort of joint venture. We aren't
going to get as much as we do now by
exporting to Mexico, but 49 percent of
something is a whole lot better than
nothing."

For minicomputers, the government
will allow U.S. firms to set up wholly-
owned subsidiaries.

Currently, there are some 35 U.S. firms
in Mexico ranging from giants as Inter-
national Business Machines and Bur-
roughs Corporation to smaller outfits
such as Microware Corporation and
Durango Systems Inc.

Smaller companies contend the move
helps the few big companies that can af-
ford the estimated $10 million to $20
million investment needed to comply
with the government's plan. Its action
does that, the government admitted,
but the existing market is so
fragmented, no one wants to invest in it.

The Journal quoted an official of a
Mexico City computer service company
as saying of the move: "The program of-
fers U.S. companies a unique opportu-
nity to learn how to deal with the na-
tionalistic attitudes they will be seeing a
lot more of in the future. If they don't
learn to play by local rules, they will
have to settle for their own domestic
markets."

Kepler and Ohm
in a black box

A program to rethink the theorems
of early scientists has been developed
at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pitts-
burgh, PA.

According to a report in Computed-
world, Patrick Langley developed the
program as part of a doctoral thesis.
Running on a Digital Equipment Corpo-
ration DecSystem-10, the program has
been able to rediscover a series of
principles set down by scientists
such as Johannes Kepler and George
Simon Ohm.

The program is the same raw data
the early scientists worked with and has
been able to reach the same conclu-
sions—only faster. It takes the computer
minutes to do what the scientists took
months to do.

Currently, Langley's program has only
been used to evaluate principles already
known; however, the program could also
be utilized by scientists engaged in cur-
rent research projects.

An addition to
the three R's

A "C" should be added to the three R's,
according to David Moursand, professor
of computer and information science at
the University of Oregon in Eugene.
That's C for computer literacy—the func-
tional knowledge of computers children
will need to compete for future jobs.
By 1985 a high percentage of all jobs
will involve the use of computers in
some way, placing those who don't know
how to use them at definite disad-
vantage (see 80 Micro, February 1982).
But the educational system has not kept
up with this trend, Moursand maintained.

The problem, he said, is that not
enough teachers are computer literate
themselves, and there are not enough
computer-related instructional materials.

In an effort to overcome this problem,
Moursand has committed himself for the
last 15 years to teaching teachers how
to bring computers into their class-
rooms. He organized special seminars at
the university to introduce teachers to
computers and explain how the ma-
chines will change the way they teach.
He also formed the International Council
for Computers in Education and edits its

The ability to use computers could
become as important as the ability to
read and write when looking at future
employment, Moursand said. Business
and industry leaders have already proven
that productivity increases dramatically
with the use of computers.

"There is a revolution going on in in-
dustry. And we need to prepare our
young people for it," he said.

Moursand contends it's time for the
full-scale use of computers in the class-
room. "Children should begin to
learn how to use computers when they
begin to learn any other subject," he said.
"And with the resources that most
schools have already, children could
start to learn how to use computers in
junior high school now," he added.

"The evolution we are about to see in
education is indeed scary to many
adults," he said, "but to children who
grow up using computers, there is no
fear."

"Our educational system is completely
dependent, in essence, on how teachers
and parents view the world. If teachers
won't adjust to using computers, to this
change in the world, it's going to be very,
very hard for the kids to adjust to it," he
noted.

What's happening
in Woodlands?

Walking down the halls of Woodlands
High School in Hartsdale, NY, you can
see microcomputers wheeled into class-
rooms and hear students exclaim, "Fan-
tastic, we're going to use the microcom-
puter in this class, too! I love it!"

What is happening at Woodlands? The
answer is interdisciplinary use of the
microcomputer.

Teachers are finding computers en-
hancing their curriculum. Micros can be
used for drill, reinforcement and enrich-
ment. Teachers are designing programs
when commercial software is unavail-
able to meet their needs.

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DRAWS
This is the poker playing program that’s getting the rave reviews. After a while each of the simulated players becomes quite personal – it’s most uncanny. DRAWS has definitely sharpened my playing skills! (Eldred Martin, 80 Microsampling, Jan. 1982)

If you like playing poker, buy this program and you’ll have a better one coming along. (Richard Slope, Computer Shopper, Jan. 1982)

Five card draw, Stud, Omaha CA types. It’s you against six almost human opponents.

SPREAD 80
The topic of professional football handicapping programs. This is another winner from Real World Simulations. The designers of Draws, SPREAD80 is designed to average $16 per $100 bet for the 1978-1979, 1980 and 1981 seasons. If you bet football and who doesn’t at the colleges, with a bookie, or in the office pool, this is the package for you. SPREAD80 comes on diskette ready for the 1982 season.

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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 351
PULSE TRAIN continued

Students in English are studying spelling, grammar and reading comprehension on the TRS-80; students in Spanish and French are learning vocabulary and verb tenses; students in social studies are learning about the Middle East; students in sciences are learning about the metric system. Programs are also being written for Latin, reading competency, biology, algebra and many other courses.

Most of these programs are written by students for students.

Students are also taught Basic programming at the school. That course is open to all students and is taught at three levels — beginning, intermediate and advanced.

Woodlands High School has five TRS-80 Model IIs with disk drives and 15 16K Model IIs linked in a classroom network.

The programs are individualized and students are able to drill and review in their weak areas and accelerate in their strong areas. In past years, students in the resource math classes showed an average gain of two grade levels in one year.

The microcomputer program is supported by local funds and a grant from a regional group. It has been observed by teachers and administrators from Ardsley, Eastchester, Tarrytown and many other school districts in both Westchester and Rockland counties.

IBM returns to computer services

International Business Machines Corporation has taken the first step toward reentering the computer services business it abandoned years ago. The firm has announced the IBM Information Network, a remote information processing service.

Known internally for some time as the Tampa project, it is IBM’s coast-to-coast computer and telephone network that will use more than 100 IBM program products ranging from text-editing to financial planning and analysis. The network is headquartered in Tampa, FL, where it was developed.

By using an IBM terminal and eventually an IBM table-top personal computer, large computer users will be able to supplement their data processing requirements with specialized services. They will pay a fee to access by telephone IBM’s computers and software programs.

The network will be available initially in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, New York, San Francisco, Washington, DC, and Tampa.

Some experts have predicted computer services will eventually dominate the data-processing market in dollar volume (80 Micro News, February 1982).

Computer store for the stars

Long-time Beverly Hills resident Murray Gorainick, who claims to be a pioneer in the development of simplified computer usage concepts, has opened a computer store in his home town.

The store retails a combination of computers and software set up to meet the needs of each individual customer. It specializes in integrating small computer systems into the non-computer environment.

“We’re focused on removing the trauma often associated with this transition,” Gorainick said in a statement.

He added he started the store in response to the “tremendous interest in personal computers expressed by Beverly Hills people.”

The business will be conducted on an appointment-only basis, he noted.

In Akron schools the name for micros is Firestone

For students and teachers in the Akron public schools, Firestone means more than where the rubber meets the road. Through a grant from that concern, the school system has been able to open its first microcomputer center.

The center has 10 stations each with an Apple II, disk drive, NEC color monitor and Epson MX-80 printer — equipment valued at $38,420.

The facility is designed as a staff training laboratory, but will also be used to train students. Training programs offered range from introduction to micro-computers to skills applications. According to a statement released by the school system, the center will make it possible for hundreds of teachers and other staff members to become familiar with computers.

Legislation and futurists featured on CompuServe

CompuServe has announced two new information services on its videotext system. “Federal Reports” offers subscribers articles and reports on legislation and its impact on the nation. It emphasizes activities affecting the financial and business climate in the United
PULSE TRAIN continued

States. "Future File" offers articles and interviews about the impact of today's decisions and technology on tomorrow's society.

HP hard disk to have MSC controller

Hewlett-Packard has signed a contract with Microcomputer Systems Corporation of Sunnyvale, CA, to buy controllers for HP's 5.25-inch Winchester disk drives. Deliveries of the controllers began last December.

The California firm, in a statement, said it sold the controllers at a price less than it would have cost HP to manufacture the device itself.

"Although HP could have designed its own controller, there was no need for them to expend the development time and dollars that would entail when MSC offered an immediate, field-proven, cost effective solution," said MSC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer James S. Toreson.

The MSC controller features 22-bit error detection, 11-bit error correction, automatic seek verify, automatic fault detection, multiple sector transfers, a full sector buffer, selectable sector size, programmable sector interleave, user-configurable drive parameters and low parts count.

Both firms declined to give details on the duration of the contract.

Slow acceptance of tube shopping

Growth of computer shopping will be sluggish during this decade, according to a Cambridge, MA, consulting firm.

The Yankee Group identified five barriers preventing home terminal shopping from becoming popular:

- Home terminals today fail to provide consumers detailed sensory information on products;
- Consumers shy away from buying expensive, offbeat items "sight unseen;"
- Service after sale is lacking;
- Delivery of items takes too long; and
- Consumers have no opportunity for social contact and recreation in shopping from home.

The next wave of home shopping systems will break by 1989, the consulting firm said, largely wiping away growth barriers and launching a new era of merchandising. But the new systems must overcome the technical limitations of existing video-based systems, lie-in with entertainment programming and be supported by credible post sale service.

The Source on cable tv

Some 1.2 million cable-tv viewers will be receiving information services offered by Source Telecomputing Corporation of McLean, VA.

Called Sourceable, the services are part of the cable-tv packages of four firms—Cox Cable Communications, Cross Country Cable, Storer Cable Communications and United Cable Television.

Sourceable will offer regularly updated general, sports and business news; educational exercises; home shopping; a library of home and consumer information including health, emergency, energy, gardening, food and home maintenance data; and electronic games.

It is available in one-way and two-way modes. In the two-way version, viewers choose the service they want by pressing the appropriate buttons on a hand-held television controller.

The four cable firms also have included Sourceable in their proposals for franchises in communities representing another 1.6 million viewers.

Gadget from Mattel to control swell

A $50 diet computer has been released by Mattel Electronics. Called "Diet Trac," the hand-held device contains calorie and nutrition tables published by the American Diabetes Association and height-weight tables used by insurance companies to screen the obese.

To use Diet Trac, a dieter punches in his height and weight. The computer flashes back how much weight should come off and how many calories a day the dieter can consume to take it off. On the device's calculator-type keyboard are buttons for six major food categories permitting the dieter to find out how much meat, milk, bread, fruit or vegetables he or she is allowed.

It also provides a diet plan with alternative menus based on the "food exchange system" used by many nutritionists and weight control groups. For example, an exchange may let a dieter eat more meat if less bread is eaten. People on special diets can program those into the computer and also get a meal plan.

Dieters are required to punch in a report on everything they eat during the day. When Diet Trac learns too much of a food group has been consumed, it flashes a warning light and a running score of the calories consumed during the day.
This card is valid until June 30, 1982

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   1. Under $2,000
   2. $2,000—$3,000
   3. $3,000—$5,000
   4. $5,000—$10,000
   5. Over $10,000

B. If you read any of the following magazines, please rate their usefulness to you on a scale of 1 (least) to 5 (most).
   1. Microcomputing
   2. Desktop Computing
   3. Byte
   4. Popular Computing
   5. Creative Computing
   6. 80 U.S.

C. Do you own a stringy floppy?
   1. Yes
   2. No, plan to buy one
   3. No, don't plan to buy one

D. How much have you invested in hardware (including peripherals)?
   1. Less than $1,000
   2. $1,000—$2,000
   3. $2,000—$3,000
   4. $3,000—$4,000
   5. Over $4,000

E. What is your level of education?
   1. High School
   2. Trade/Technical School
   3. College
   4. Graduate School

F. Do you have any influence over the use or purchase of computing equipment for your company?
   1. Yes
   2. No

G. Do you own either of the following? Check all that apply.
   1. PC-80
   2. LNW-80

H. What types of programs published in 80 Microcomputing do you actually type into your computer? Check the 2 categories of most interest.
   1. Business
   2. Games
   3. Utilities
   4. Education
   5. Graphics
   6. Hobby
   7. Home/Finance/Management

I. Do you have any influence over the purchase of computer systems for an educational institution?
   1. Yes
   2. No
   3. Doesn't apply

J. How much have you invested in software?
   1. Less than $100
   2. $100—$250
   3. $251—$500
   4. $501—$1,000
   5. Over $1,000

K. On a scale of 0 (no interest) to 5 (great interest) please rate your interest in seeing the following types of products reviewed in 80 Microcomputing:
   1. Business
   2. Games
   3. Utilities
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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 355
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356 • 80 Microcomputing, May 1982
SPECIAL INTERESTS

MOD III ROM COMMENTED—Soft-Sector marketing, 1961. This book is not an instruction course on machine language, but rather an information source that you can use time and time again for writing your own program or patching old Mod I machine language programs. It contains an explanation of ROMs in the latest machine from Tandy, with most every location of the 14K ROMs listed, with comments. BK1228 $22.50.

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RELOAD 80

This month's column is for the newcomer to microcomputing and the TRS-80. It will deal with the questions we most commonly get on the phone: How do I load this tape?

Beginners do not always know the difference between Assembly language source code and Basic. The important thing to remember is that Assembly language programs are loaded and then assembled using an editor/assembly; this is denoted on the LOAD 80 documentation card by the words "needs EDTASM." In general, Assembly programs are more difficult to use. Basic programs are loaded from the Basic prompt (>...) with the command LOAD if you are loading from tape and LOAD "filename" if you are loading from disk.

The correct volume setting of the tape recorder is crucial to achieve a good load from cassette. This may differ from one tape to the next. If you have trouble, simply start at the low end of the volume scale and go up until you obtain a successful load.

The alignment of your recorder's heads is also critical. If the tape sounds muffled this could be the problem. Consult the September 1981 RELOAD 80 column (page 314) for details.

Type CMD "T" before loading a tape under Model I Disk Basic. If you are using the Model II with either tape or disk, remember to toggle the low baud rate. Do this by responding to 'L' to the 'CASS' prompt, or by POKEing 169130.

People often write us complaining of program bugs and enclose a listing like Listing 1. The TRS-80 will often load a tape perfectly for several seconds and then start reading data incorrectly. If the program lists Basic keywords strung along without colons or scrolls irregularly or changes print size, load it again. Even one line number interpreted incorrectly will cause an error to occur.

Please consult the February 1982 RELOAD 80 column for details on using LOAD 80 disks.

Errata

The program DIRECTRD was listed in April's RELOAD 80 column, but was not actually included. This is because our copy went bad.

A program was accidentally deleted from "The Philatelist's Friend" in the December 1981 issue, but was included on the LOAD 80 tape. The program is also listed in this month's Debug section.

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May LOAD 80 Directory

<table>
<thead>
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<td>382</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Program Listing 1

```
60 CLS:QE=X=326:FORG=1:OS=PRINT8K,0:AL=1:X=X+64:NEXT:Q1=6:PRINT
82,ASCII(48)"*"2
78 PRINT#83,CHR$(179)"STRINGS$(3,183)CHR$(179)"STRINGS$(5,287)"AE
90 PRINT#82,CHR$(45)CHR$(66)CHR$(99)CHR$(153)CHR$(166)
95 PRINT#83,CHR$(54)CHR$(168)CHR$(33)CHR$(32)CHR$(0)
97 PRINT#83,CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"
116 PRINT#83,CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"
132 PRINT#83,CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"
142 PRINT#83,CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"CHR$(179)"GND"
```

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SimPut

SimPut is a flexible random access program for the TRS-80 Model I that lets you manage extremely complex data with great speed. It follows you to 38,000 bytes long, and as used with Microsoft Basic, eliminates many disk access statements and saves disk space.

SimPut's simple. The package includes a comprehensive instruction book and easy-to-follow sample program. Once you've tried SimPut, you'll go back to normal random access methods. SimPut has been tested to be compatible with any TRS80 compatible language.

SimPut is available from Hikari Group, 3032 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Available on disk for $29.95. Also available as a manual for $15.00. SimPut is available from any TRS80 dealer.

Copyright © 1982 by Hikari Group, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. All rights reserved.
In the April, 1981 issue of 80 Microcomputing we introduced LOAD 80 to save you the time and trouble of typing our programs yourself. LOAD 80 cassette tapes contain dumps of the major program listings in 80 Microcomputing.

If you have not yet ordered any LOAD 80 tapes and wish you had, don't worry. We are now offering a "back issue" cassette program. You can order any LOAD 80 cassette from April, 1981 to date for $9.97. Back issues of 80 Microcomputing are also available with the LOAD 80 cassettes for $3.50. With the complete documentation found in the companion magazine issue, you should have no difficulty loading any of 80's major programs.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tapes</th>
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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 359
This year may well be the year of the microcomputer in the field of medicine. Physicians have been purchasing microcomputers in record numbers. Several small journals devoted to micros in medicine are available. Even stuffy medical journals have articles on computerization. One orthopedic journal which I receive has just begun a regular column devoted to the subject. The surface has only been scratched, however, if you can recommend a program on diabetes, blood gases, thyroid profile, health education, life expectancy, diet counseling, filing system, statistical analysis, or any program of interest to a physician, please write to me.

For any business the accounts receivable constitutes a most important portion of successful operation. Unfortunately, in medicine and dentistry, patient accounts are far too complicated and numerous to use any of the standard business accounts receivable programs. To provide small clinics with automated patient billing, various software houses have been writing medical packages for the Models I, II and III. The recent releases are vastly superior to earlier attempts. If your clinic is using an older medical or dental program, it may pay to investigate one of the new Model II billing packages. Our next several columns will be devoted to billing packages. We will cover packages for the Model I, Model II and Model III.

The MS80 Dental Financial Management System (clearly benefiting from the abbreviation FMS) developed by MICRO/SYS80 Inc., 236 Waverly Rd., Southampton, PA 18966 (215) 355-5706, is a quality program. There are advantages to purchasing programs developed by experienced software houses. In 1978, the authors of FMS developed their first dental billing package. Written in Basic for the Model I, it was later revised for the Model II. Because of the limitations inherent in Basic, a complete rewrite was made in 1981 using TRSDOS 2.0A and Radio Shack’s Cobol.

FMS is a true turnkey system. It is entirely self-prompting. From the time the computer is turned on, the user simply responds to questions or keys in patient data as the screen indicates. The video capabilities of the Model II are utilized nicely, and reverse video highlights nicely all editable screen information.

The 191 pages of documentation are outstanding. The manual is printed with selectric-quality print and has three major sections.

The first section is an easily understood tutorial which walks the user through the many functions of the system at a comfortable pace. Every video screen and option is covered and any areas of particular importance are highlighted. Since FMS was specifically written for the Model II, all operating instructions, including backup, are specific to the Model II. (This gives it an edge over most CP/M programs which are able to provide only general start-up instructions, broad enough to fit many different computer models.) The tutorial section closes with a question-and-answer chapter. Questions such as, “How can we ‘write off’ this account?” are addressed. Our billing clerk was able to understand the tutorial with no outside assistance.

The second section of the manual is for reference only and is very complete with detailed specifications for every screen, option and function. In my opinion this portion of the manual was unnecessarily difficult to use since it was arranged in alphabetical order rather than organized by nine choices (including six submenus) are listed:

10 Account Maintenance Menu
20 Patient Maintenance Menu
30 Payment Processing Function
40 End-of-Day Processing Menu
50 Billings Option Menu
60 Monthly Processing Menu
70 Peripheral Maintenance Menu
80 Patient Processing Function
90 End System

If “50” is entered, the Billing Option Submenu appears:

51 Account Billing Function
52 Insurance Billing Function

All submenus can by bypassed. In the above example the Billings Option Menu could have been bypassed by entering 51 or 52 directly from the main menu. The response time is nearly instantaneous and entries do not require pressing Enter.

The program provides for 200 dental procedures (the advertisement incorrectly states 300), 20 producers (dentists, hygienists and so on), 20 complications (asthma, penicillin allergy, among others), and 20 insurance carriers.

Patient accounts are limited by disk space to 4,000 patients with 2,000 active billing accounts. If a hard disk is used, this number can be increased indefinitely. Each patient record allows up to five complications to be listed, as well as two phone numbers, birthday, sex, next appointment, recall date, and dentist.

One of my main criticisms of Radio Shack’s Model I Medical Office System was the difficulty our office had in changing over from our manual pegboard system to this automated billing system. It took us a month and much overtime. Finally we abandoned the system, leaving our billing clerk resistant to future computerization. The MS80 Financial Manage-

“Our billing clerk was able to understand the tutorial with no outside assistance.”
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and date of last payment. This makes it convenient for the office manager to discuss the status of the account with the patient if necessary. It also provides a form for the dentist or other producer to write in all new charges.

Patient statements are very versatile. Three lines are provided for a seasonal greeting. Every patient account can be individualized—billed, not billed, insurance only, budget, and so on. Any patient can receive or not receive dunning messages on his statement. Your standard 30, 60, and 90 day dunning messages can be changed easily. A pre-treatment authorization form can be sent to a third-party carrier prior to treatment for payment approval. Third-party billing forms can be standard ADA forms or SUPERBILL format on blank paper.

A reconciliation statement is printed daily. Numerous other accounting reports can be generated including full account aging reports, patient lists, billing reports, and insurance aging reports. Management reports include procedure analysis and producer analysis. All reports can be printed alphabetically or by account number sequence. Complete complication lists, procedure lists, and producer lists are also provided.

An excellent convenience feature of the program is the arrangement of report printouts. The reports are arranged to require an absolute minimum of printer form changing. This feature will appeal strongly to any busy office personnel. Standard forms are utilized where possible, but any format is available from MS80 by request. Insurance billing is always complicated. The program simplifies this billing. All patients are arranged under the account of the person responsible for payment. This is a better solution than having a separate account for each patient.

Although this program is excellent, there were a few areas that iritate me. All prompt response entries require upper case. Lowercase responses are ignored. My personal preference is lowercase. Account-name searches differentiate between upper and lowercase, which I feel is an inconvenience shared by most accounting packages. This program shares another inconvenience with most other packages: Date changing is awkward and requires re-booting.

The program provides an option to schedule the appointment time. Date only is available. This is certainly no major limitation.

No provisions are made to enter patients with past-due balances. All patients must be aged by the program itself. Any outstanding balance must be originally entered as a current balance. Most practices would choose this method of aging anyway, so this would prove of little inconvenience.

No integrated accounting programs are available for this FMS. Also not provided are any reports comparing prior months, years or collection percentages, but neither does any other medical office system I have reviewed.

Another feature absent from every package to date is a simple way to update the procedure-fee schedule. It should be possible to update all charges by a certain percentage without changing each.

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charge individually.

Since the package is written in Cobol, in-house enhancements will be very difficult. A fully operational demonstration version is available for $30. The demonstration version is slower than the complete FMS version and limited to 20 patients. Otherwise, it is identical to the full version and includes full documentation.

This provides an excellent way to test the program for your dental practice. It also gives you the opportunity to arrange for any special needs your practice requires and lets the company make any customization necessary for your office.

Software support is vital and FMS comes with a guarantee that any programming errors will be corrected without charge. (A policy which I believe all software houses should have.)

The package requires a Model II, four disk drives, and an 80-column line printer. (A hard disk is far superior to four disk drives, and I personally recommend it.) The program is reasonably priced at $1,600, which includes full support for one month.

Although there are some significant differences between dental billing and medical billing, there are many similarities. I have reviewed this package with a dental friend to make certain the review is accurate. He was so impressed with the ease of operation that he is considering purchasing a Model II just to have the program.

A medical package is scheduled for release within a few months. A version for CP/M is also to be released "shortly." I

Ed. note: Below is a letter from Frank Weiss of MICRO/SYS80 commenting on Dr. Mills' appraisal of their program.

Dear Dr. Mills:

Your review of the MS80 System is precisely accurate, well written, and certainly friendly to our system.

The few criticisms you relate are also accurate and quite constructive. Your suggestion concerning an index to help find specific sub-functions is also well taken and I will include an index with the next manual publication.

The variation between the 300 procedures advertised and the system limit of 200 is actually a mistake in the screen utilization display. There are 300 allowed and we will change the program to reflect this amount. We have also heard from other sources that it would be beneficial to allow entry of past-due balances when creating the account file, and we are considering adding this feature.

We are working on a new function to allow the user to compose simple letters, and have the system use the account file names and addresses to produce letters to all accounts, selected accounts (such as those with a past due balance), or individual accounts. I hesitate to call this a word processing function since the text composition will not be as versatile as Scripset or Electric Pencil, but rather like the way we allow text entry for the statement messages or the dunning messages.

Again, thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,

MICRO/SYS80

Frank A. Weiss
Attention: European Subscribers

Due to shipping problems in Europe, we are asking our subscribers to send us their most recent mailing label from 80 Microcomputing. If you are unable to provide us with a label, please send us your name and address, and tell us at what point you are presently in your subscription, so we are asking for your cooperation in this matter. Please direct all information to: Attn: Doris Day, 80 Microcomputing, 80 Pine Street, Peterborough, NH 03458.
We Color Computer owners would like to see a monitor interface with switchable 32/64/80 character display.

Howard B. Culbreth
Tabb, Virginia

How about 64 columns for the Color Computer? I know you have done a lowercase modification, so this shouldn’t be too hard to work up. Eighty columns has been done for the Apple, so it should be possible to get 64 on the Color Computer.

Gary Teter
Paradise, California

I would be interested in your thoughts on accomplishing an 80-character display width using either a black-and-white or color set. Can the software be POKEd to achieve the 80-character width?

Thomas V. Schill
Huntington, West Virginia

A. I would like to take this month’s entire column to explain the Color Computer’s video display system to readers Culbreth, Teter, Schill and nearly a hundred others who have written. It is capable of both more and less than other methods of video display.

A good place to start is by asking “what is a computer video display?” A simple question? Well, perhaps not. Folks who have used only one type of personal computer tend to think that a given manufacturer’s method is the way a video display works. I believed that, too; once you feel comfortable with the system you are presently using, you start thinking that its design must have been determined by some digital deity way back during the misty genesis of computer technology.

But there is no standard system; in fact, there is no system that even begins to resemble a standard. Counted among displays presently manufactured are variants on raster and vector displays; 24, 32, 40, 48, 64, 80 and 132 characters per line (and others); 5 by 7, 7 by 9, 8 by 12, and other dot matrices on raster displays; uppercase and lowercase, special symbols and other alphabets, user-definable characters, resolution from coarse block characters to 1,000-dot lines with up to 256 colors and/or levels of grey scale.

In reality, the often mentioned “standard” (an 80-character, 24-line display) is ignored by the majority of major microcomputer manufacturers. Consider: TRS-80 Models I and III and PCE-80 (32/64 by 16); TRS-80 Model II (40/80 by 24); TRS-80 Color Computer (32 by 16, hi-res definable to 48 by 24); LNW-80 (32/64 by 16, hi-res definable 48, 72, 80, etc.); Apple II (40 by 24, hi-res definable to 64 by 24); Ohio Scientific C1 (24 by 24, extendable to the borders to create 32 by 32 with some not visible); Ohio Scientific C4 (32/64 by 24); Commodore PET (64 by 24); Commodore VIC (24 by 24); Osborne OS-1 (50 by 24). The list goes on.

Most old timers—those working in computers for more than five years—claim that the 80-column display is a heritage from the IBM standard 80-column punched card (remember punched cards?). But ironically, even machines such as IBM System 23 minicomputers use only a 40-character line. Heritage or not, however, it is a useful display size, since most business correspondence and reports set margins for about 72 characters per line (or so my 1962 edition of Rowe’s College Typing insists).

On the other hand, 64 characters per line works very easily from a software and hardware standpoint. Sixty-four, being 40 hex and one-quarter of 100 hex, is quick to program and evaluate as an end-of-line trip value. It is also a neat binary number for digital counter chips, allowing a run from 000000 through 11111 (0 to 63), and restarting the next line when a carry drops off the end—nice stuff.

And nice stuff is what is critical to making an inexpensive personal computer. Back in 1976 when the Model I was still a gaggle of wires, that easy 64-character-per-line hardware made the video display attractively economical. Yet even with that economy, the computer’s video storage, control and display circuitry used 35 integrated circuits, two transistors, adjustable and fixed resistors, capacitors and miscellany—nearly half of the total hardware used in a TRS-80!

But turn back for a moment to the two different kinds of video systems: vector and raster display. Vector display uses cathode ray tube (CRT) hardware that allows the electron beam’s position on the screen, its direction of motion, and its intensity to be controlled by the computer. If a screen is to display an image, the electron beam is moved (vectored) to that position on the screen, turned on, and moved in the shape of the object to be drawn. It is redrawn as often as the software allows it to be. You may have seen some of those sophisticated video arcade games—the ones in bars, not living rooms—which use vector display systems for exquisite detail. But because of its expense, the vector display method is used only in sophisticated equipment; no-present-day microcomputers include a standard vector display system.

Raster display is more familiar. The raster is the set of horizontal lines visible across the screen of an ordinary television set. The electron beam is continuously swept across the screen by hardware that is inside the television set or monitor; it is not controlled by the computer. Therefore, in order to display characters, the computer must provide intensity information (dot on or dot off) in precise synchronization with the inexorable sweep of the electron beam. In the United States, that means 15,750 sweeps per second in 60 "frames" of 262 ½ lines each.

The computer’s video circuitry has quite a job feeding information to the raster display. It goes something like this: Send out a synchronization pulse to start the beam on the very top line of the screen; wait until the beam sweeps far enough into the screen to be easily viewed; get the first row of characters to be output; output a sequence of dots representing the top line of that first row of characters; when the end of the line is reached, wait until the electron beam retraces to the beginning of the line; output a second row of dots; continue the process until the first line of characters is completely drawn; get the next line of characters; repeat the whole process until
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- **Fully compatible with all Model III Software**

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<th>MDX-2</th>
<th>MDX-3</th>
<th>MDX-4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bare P.C. Board &amp; User's Manual</td>
<td>$69.95</td>
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<td>Partially assembled</td>
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<td>Custom case</td>
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<td>Any manual ordered separately, $5.95 plus $3.00 postage &amp; handling.</td>
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Dealer inquiries welcomed.
all lines of characters are drawn; wait until
the beam reaches the top of the screen;
start again.
This process is complicated enough;
but don't forget that, depending on the
system, the central processing unit (CPU)
may also have to jump into the act in order
to change the stuff going out to the
screen, or to find what is there. It is this
need to produce complicated combina-
tions of signals—vertical and horizontal
electron beam synchronization (sync);
patterns of dots at the proper signal levels
(video); avoiding use of the screen when
the electron beam is in the borders (blank-
ing)—that makes computer video display
hardware extensive.
The job of video display software, the
so-called video drivers, is to provide
characters to the video display hardware.
When a value is provided for display, the
video driver interprets whether the value
represents a displayable character or con-
trol information (backspace, tab, line feed,
and separate circuitry to mix all the color
and dot information together.

Enter the Color Computer. Some folks
call it a toy computer. But if it is such a
toy, how come it has a full display system,
plus eight colors, plus five modes of
graphics resolution? And, aside from
stealing some memory from program use,
how come it needs only two integrated cir-
cuits for the whole job? And how come it
costs under $400?
The reason is an ingenious and relative-
ly inexpensive device called a Video Dis-
play Generator (VDG). Given the proper
input, this single integrated circuit can pro-
duce 16 lines of 32 characters per line in
either of two pairs of colors, and in normal
or reverse lettering, from a 64-character
ASCII set; 16 graphics characters in eight
colors; point graphics from coarse (64 by
64) to in eight colors to fine (256 by 192) in
two colors; and certain hybrid combina-
tions of graphics and alphanumeric.
When interfaced to a companion Syn-
chronous Address Multiplexer (SAM)—as
it is in the Color Computer—several mixed
alpha/graphic modes can be produced.
For this flexibility and economy, certain
sacrifices are made. The character set, be-
ing an internal one, is fixed at the basic 64
uppercase ASCII letters, numbers and
symbols. Only by tacking on additional
hardware (an option allowed in the VDG
design) can up to 256 characters of any
type be selected. See “80 Applications,”
November 1981, for details on external
character generation for the Color
Computer.
The other sacrifice is those long lines of
characters; the VDG is fixed at 32 per line;
the reasons are explained later on. Since
this device ties in so closely with the other
Color Computer hardware, a virtually com-
plete remake of the computer system
would be necessary to achieve 64 or
80-character lines. Anywhere from 24 to 50
characters per line can be produced in
software (using the high-resolution
mode), but this method sacrifices about
8,000 bytes of memory. It also suffers
from the same drawback that all pig-
gyback software drivers do; They can only
be invoked if the software in use allows
them to be. Thus, unless your text editor
or assembler or whatever allows a user
patch to this special software driver, the
32 characters per line is understood as the
limit.

So, is there any solution to this prob-
lem? Yes, but it is not an easy one. The
current Video Display Generator (type
6847) can be combined, through fairly
complex logic, with another member of
Motorola's 68XX family: The 6845 CRT
Controller. This device is capable of pro-
cucing up to 256 characters per line and
128 lines per screen in any combination. It
has separate screen synchronization, in-
dependently controlled cursor input and
display, and even a light pen input.
However, it is not intended to interface
with the 6883 SAM chip in the Color
Computer, and it cannot produce a color
display. It has a built-in graphics. Fur-
thermore, it would need sophisticated
video driver software to control scrolling and
a complete reassignment of memory space
(since the current character screen
memory is only 512 bytes). That means an
extensive software patch or a separate
version of the Color Basic ROM. If you are
curious about how complicated this kind
of patching can be, try using the LNW-80
computer's 80-character-per-line mode
with your own software.

Sure, it can be done. As a matter of fact,
one engineer is working on a cartridge
plug-in with 80 by 24 video for use with a
black-and-white monitor, to run in con-
junction with standard Flex displays. But
the normal display is lost, along with
graphics and color. All the difficulties I
mentioned turn up; compatibility is lost.

Is it worth it? Perhaps it is, but before I
get a boxful of requests to design one for
this publication, let me mention some oth-
er considerations beyond the hard-
ware complexity. The primary one is sim-
ple: Can you read more than 32 characters
on the video display, especially if you are
using a color television? Is there a charac-
teristic known as bandwidth that affects
every video display system. Simply stated,
it is the monitor's ability to turn the elec-
tron beam on and off quickly and cleanly
enough, so that letters do not smear into
each other.

Maybe "it's a Sony," but unless your
color television was made for tv studio
use, its bandwidth is about four MHz. Four
MHz... what does that mean? It means
that the television can't do anything faster
than four million times per second, what-
ever that anything is. Fast as it sounds, it
is still fairly slow. Turn back to the elec-
tron beam sweep that I mentioned earlier;
it sweeps horizontally at 15,750 times per
second. Okay, four million somethings divided by 15,750 sweeps is 254. The television can display 254 somethings per screen line; that’s it. Now 254 is conveniently close to what the Color Computer actually displays—256 clear dots per screen line.

Unless you are willing to add video output to your Color Computer, and use it on a fast black-and-white monitor or buy a $1,000 (or more) color monitor, then looking for more than the built-in 256 dots per line is futile. As I said, it can be done. The Ohio Scientific C4P has a 64-character color display; but it doesn’t use an RF modulator for television input. Instead, it requires a color monitor, and even then the screen is wearying to read.

If you’re even thinking about that one point, it is because I view the Color Computer as a coherent, solid package—designed well and with considerable consideration toward expansion. It has twice the power and speed at half the price of a Model III. Until (if?) the rumored BBC/Acorn computer hits our shores from England, Radio Shack’s Color Computer and Commodore’s VIC will probably represent the forefront of inexpensive personal computer capability.

Which brings me to another mailbox-filling item. 80 Microcomputing’s publisher Wayne Green said in the January “Remarks” that he thinks the Color Computer is a bust, and Radio Shack is going to phase it out. Well, here’s hoping Wayne was talking to the wrong people, and Radio Shack realizes that, like the Model I, it’s already created another standard in personal computing. I am not about to tell Radio Shack how to run its business—after all, there aren’t 8,000 Dennis Kitsz stores across the world—but you know what I think? I think the Color Computer wipes even the legendary Apple right off the technological map. Challenges invited. Keep those electronic coloring books coming, Fort Worth.

Updates

Readers continue to ask about the Model I lowcase modification suggested in this column (December 1981). In some units there may be problems because of an apparent manufacturing flaw in the unused gate of 225. To avoid problems, piggyback another 74LS32 atop 225, soldering pins 7 and 14 to the chip below. Route the rest of the wires as described. Please note: A self-addressed, stamped envelope is required for personal replies. This is a kind of desperation column, so please write to an author or manufacturer first with your question. That goes double if you are trying to get something like FWPBANO/OMD together with BUMDO 9.46 to run a Quiver-II printer. Insist that dealers and manufacturers support their products fully with good manuals, schematics, explanations and troubleshooting. I’ve been pushing for published source codes from the beginning. Oh yes...Radio Shack seems to have straightened out the customer service mess and is doing a good job these days, so don’t hesitate to try their toll-free number with questions.

I often refer to earlier articles, updates, and columns in 80 Microcomputing, and occasionally to other publications. You may obtain an annotated bibliography by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to me: Dennis Kitsz, Roxbury, VT 05669.
MULTIDOS is Vernon Hester's new disk operating system for the TRS-80 Model I. A Model III version was to have been released in January, 1982. MULTIDOS is available from the Cosmopolitan Electronics Corp., P.O. Box 234, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Vernon Hester is the author of the Basic debugging package Boss, and an earlier DOS called ULTRADOS. If you are familiar with Hester's earlier software, you probably expect MULTIDOS to be a well thought out, compact DOS, with a superior or Disk Basic. You won't be disappointed.

Many programmers excel in a particular aspect of their work. For example, Kim Watt, author of Super Utility, is known for his disk I/O routines. Charlie Heath, creator of Instant Software's Life and Master Reversi programs, shines at optimizing code to perform with incredible speed. Hester's thing is compression. He jams so much programming into so few bytes you might suspect the RAM chips were put through a compactor. MULTIDOS, and especially its new SuperBasic, are the most outstanding examples of Hester's talent to date.

Two keynotes characterize MULTIDOS: interDOS-compatibility and super-efficient Disk Basic. Compatibility with other DOSs was one of Hester's major design goals. He was successful. MULTIDOS is capable of reading and writing files on TRS80, NEWDOS 2.1, VTOS, DBLDOs, ULTRADOS, DOSPLUS, NEWDOS80 and LDOS disks, in single and double densities.

With a single drive double density system, you can boot a single density MULTIDOS system disk and get a directory. Then remove the MULTIDOS disk, insert a double density DOSPLUS disk and get a directory of that too. If you have a four-drive system, you can keep a MULTIDOS disk in drive zero. DOSPLUS in drive 1, NEWDOS in drive 2 and LDOS in drive 3. Make this your permanent working configuration and you will rarely encounter compatibility difficulties.

Model I MULTIDOS can also read and write disks from several Model III operating systems, but not Mod III TRSDOS.

MULTIDOS's omni-compatibility does have a few limitations. Before, when I said you could put an alien disk in drive zero to get a directory I did not mean to imply that MULTIDOS is generally drive zero swappable with other DOS's. That only works for DIRs and single-drive copies.

Also, I have had occasional Load File Format errors when trying to load some alien CMD files. Other than using the original DOS to load the problem file, then booting MULTIDOS and dumping the program, I have not yet found a way to beat the problem.

MULTIDOS, when used with the MicroProof spelling correction program, may have occasionally truncated some of my SCRIPSIT files. But there are so many different factors that I cannot be sure who the culprit is. It might even be (ahem, ahem) me.

Disk Basic Review

Perhaps you are wondering what is so special about MULTIDOS Disk Basic. To give you an idea, let's review a few general facts about TRS-80 Basics. If you turn on a 48K Model I TRS-80, go into Level II Basic and enter :MEM. you will find you have 48340 bytes free. In Disk Basic, there is noticeably less user memory available because the DOS itself takes up room, and Disk Basic offers several code consuming enhancements such as hex and octal to decimal and out defined functions.

Radio Shack Disk Basic 2.2 running under TRS80 2.3 offers 38290 bytes free (with no high memory reserved and a default of three file buffers allocated). NEWDOS 2.1 Disk Basic has 38659 bytes available. This 368 byte improvement is more impressive when you consider the fact that Apparat achieved this while adding several new Basic features, such as renumbering and single-key editing commands. Their NEWDOS80 (version 1) Basic is back down to only 38263 free bytes, but many new enhancements have been added. LDOS 5.0 LBASIC has only 34913 bytes available. This is, in part, due to some Basic enhancements, but I believe most of the extra memory is being used by its very comprehensive operating system.

Some DOSs have more than one Basic allowing the user to choose between features and memory. Micro Systems Software's DOSPLUS has two Basics—a feature packed one and a stripped down (for Tiny) TBASIC. The full-sized Basic gives you 37448 free bytes and the tiny one a whopping 40051. However, it would be deceptive to compare these figures to the others because DOSPLUS Basics come up with a default of zero files reserved, instead of three, as do the others. Entering DOSPLUS Basic with three files reserved leaves 35010 bytes free. Reserving three files for TBASIC leaves 38413 free. TBASIC, when compared on an equal footing to NEWDOS 2.1 Basic, loses out by 246 bytes.

Vernon Hester's earlier operating system, ULTRADOS, has three different Basics. In size and luxury, they run the gamut from motorbike to limousine.

Super Basic

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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 371
tioned. SuperBasic has all the normal Disk Basic commands present in Radio Shack Disk Basic, plus the following:

**CMD C** compresses a program by removing linefeeds and spaces. This is a minimal compression utility. It does not remove REMark statements but is fairly intelligent. It does not compress text in quotes or data statements.

**CMD K** lets you instantly zero an array.

**CMD L** lets you delete an array and regain the memory previously allocated to it. If you desire, the array can then be re dimensioned.

**CMD M** lets you move a line from one part of a Basic program to another. For instance, CMD M, 50,2000 copies line 50 to line 2000 and then deletes line 50.

**CMD N** works like **CMD M** except the original line is not deleted after being moved. Thus, **CMD N** lets you duplicate lines of code. CMDs M and N are handy because SuperBasic's renumbering feature will not allow you to move lines out of sequence. My complaint is that they only work on one line at a time. If you want to move or copy blocks of code, you have to do so line by line.

**CMD O** lets you allocate an additional file buffer. If you did not reserve enough files when you entered Basic, you do not have to go down to DOS and start again. Just enter CMD O and keep right on going. Like the other CMD functions, this can be executed under program control; so if you like, your program can allocate itself files as it needs them.

**CMD Q** invokes a fast machine language string sort. You can sort a one- or two-dimensional array. If the array is two-dimensional, you have to designate which array column is to be used as the key field. The sort can be ascending or descending, and you can specify that only part of an array is to be sorted.

A sort is a handy feature to have built in to Basic, but I wish MULTIDOS's were not limited to just strings. This constraint has two disadvantages. If you want to sort numeric data, you have to first convert it all to strings via the STR$(x)$ function. Then, if you want to do arithmetic with the sorted values, they have to be reconverted to numbers with VAL$(x)$. All this can be very time consuming. Secondly, string sorts, which are alphabetical, often yield results inappropriate to numbers. For instance, in an ascending alphabetical sort, the word zoo comes after the word aardvark because aardvark comes first in alphabetical order. This is valid despite the fact that aardvark is longer than zoo. But when the same logic is applied to strings which look like numbers, 95 is sorted out as being higher than 100, simply because 9 is the first character of 95, is greater than 1, the first character of 100. However, I believe most, or all, TRS-80 Mod I DOSs which offer sorts with their Basics restrict themselves to string sorts.

**CMD V** prints out a list of all your program's currently assigned variables and their values. This is not to be confused with the normal cross-reference feature dating back to NEWDOS 2.1. The latter prints out the line numbers which refer to specified variables or line numbers (or all variables and line numbers), but gives no indication of the values assigned to those variables. In addition to **CMD V**, SuperBasic has the standard cross-reference feature accessed through the semi-coloron($)$.

**CMD X** is an unusual feature. The only other DOS I know of with this feature is Hester's other creation, ULTRADOS. It works in conjunction with the Basic method of entering SuperBasic. These two commands allow you to shuttle back and forth between Disk Basic and Level II. Their purpose is to allow the convenience of SuperBasic while developing and debugging programs intended to run in Level II.

**CMD command** has been in most DOSs since NEWDOS 2.1. With it you can execute any machine language program, or DOS library command, directly from Basic. MULTIDOS's version of **CMD command** is much better than the early NEWDOS 2.1. The desired command is executed immediately—the pause before and after has been dispensed with. And not as much memory is required, so your attempt is less likely to be thwarted by an out of memory message.

MULTIDOS's **CMD command** even lets you nest Basic within itself. If you enter CMD Basic, Basic will then reload within itself. You can then write, load, save and execute programs as usual. If you enter CMD S, instead of going back to DOS, you return to the previous level of Basic with its variables, For...Next and GOSUB... Return stacks intact! You can write a program which recursively loads another level of Basic, loads itself into that level of Basic, and repeats until there is no more memory left. There must be a practical application for that capability somewhere, but I haven't come up with one yet.

To enter SuperBasic from DOS, you use the syntax which has been standard since NEWDOS 2.1. You are not prompted with the Memory Size? and How Many Files? questions. Simply typing Basic will bring up SuperBasic without any memory being reserved, and defaulting to three disk file buffers allocated. To reserve memory, files or both, specify your desire in the Basic invocation line. You can also append a Basic command to the line. For example,

```
BASIC 5,56000 , RUN "STAMPER/BAS"
```

loads Basic reserving memory starting at 55000 decimal and allocates five disk file buffers. Once Basic is in control, the program STAMPER/BAS is automatically loaded and executed.

MULTIDOS also follows the NEWDOS 2.1 standard by allowing you to use Basic * to reenter Basic and recover the Basic program in memory before Basic was last exited. MULTIDOS however, surpasses the NEWDOS standard with its Basic!. Basic ! is similar to Basic * except the former recovers programs left in memory by alien Basics. If you have difficulty loading an alien Basic program into SuperBasic, you can boot its home DOS with its version of Basic, load the program and reboot MULTIDOS. Then enter Basic! and a few seconds later you'll be in SuperBasic with the program still in memory. Then you can resave the program and SuperBasic should be able to reload it at will. And as I mentioned before, Basic # lets you recover a program left in memory by Level II.

SuperBasic supports the short hand introduced by NEWDOS Basic, namely "" for list the current line, "" for edit the current line, up-arrow for list the previous line, down-arrow for list the next line, shift-up-arrow for list the first line, shift-down-arrow for list the last line, L for List, W for Edit and D for Delete.

In addition, SuperBasic adds "" for list the last Break-in line, P for list a page of text, C for Continue, and R for Run. I think the most significant of these is P which gives SuperBasic page-scrolling capability. The only other Basic I know of with this feature is NEWDOS80.

SuperBasic has introduced a minor change from prior Disk Basics. The H can be dropped from the syntax for hex to decimal conversions. To convert 2FAD hex to decimal, type either ?&H2FAD or just ?&2FAD.

SuperBasic has advanced editing commands. Fstring will search your program for every occurrence of "string" and list the line numbers it is found in. If "string" occurs more than once in any line, you will be told how many times it was present in that line.

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Pressing " - " (minus) and then Enter will invoke an intelligent global editor (GE). There are a great many things the GE allows you to do. Suppose you have the variables A, X, AX, and XF in your program and the program contains the line,

```
510 WS "AX"
```
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Notes from BENEATH the KEYBOARD

You could tell the global editor to change all occurrences of X to Y, but only where it occurred in a single-letter variable. The variable X would be replaced with Y in your text, while the variables AX and XF would be left alone. The word AX would also be unchanged.

You can tell GE to only alter the left-most character of multicharacter variables. In this case, changing X to Y would replace all the XF's with YF's without altering the X's or AX's. Likewise, you could change only the second letter of multicharacter variables. Or you might alter only quoted text. Then the line 510 would become

519 WS = "AY"

and everything else would be left alone.

The GE will also globally edit reserved words. You can change Prints to LPRINTs or remove all Stops. The GE also can change CHRS() statements to statements with space-saving compressed graphics. This is true whenever the CHRS() represents graphic or space-compression characters. MULTIDOS also lets you type compressed graphics directly in from the keyboard. Once compressed graphics have been entered into a program, instead of generating garbage listings as in other Basics, they will list looking just like the graphics they represent. Lines containing graphics can be edited in the normal manner. In combination, these features simplify the design of Christopherson-like graphics.

Meanwhile, back at the GE, there is still more it can do, like by allowing you to merge or split Basic program lines. With all GE operations you can restrict the operation by specifying a range of line numbers.

My only reservation about the GE is its complexity. There are many specifiers and special delimiter characters to remember. To specify the variable AX as the target, you simply enter AX (no delimiters). To change only variables which start with X, you must enter 'X' (a single quote to the right of the X and none to the left). To change Xe only, without affecting any multicharacter variables, you enter 'X:e'. And to change the keyword TO, you surround it as follows: <TO>. To change CHRS() statements representing graphics to compressed strings, you enter + (a plus sign) as the editing target. If the CHRS() expressions you want to convert represent string compression codes, you enter " (asterisk) as the target.

To merge Basic lines, you use a / (slash) followed by a line number. To split a line, you use a — (minus sign) followed by the text at the split point of the target line. My feeling is that while the GE is a valuable Basic utility, it will take a lot of used to before it can be used comfortably without referring to the documentation.

Renumbering and Name Commands

Like most other Disk Basics, SuperBasic has a line renumbering facility. You access it by typing "";" (colon). Entering just ;" merely checks for errors; entering ;; followed by four parameters invokes the actual renumbering function. The parameters are the first new line number, the new increment, the lowest old line number to be altered and the last old line number to be altered. All line numbers outside the specified range are left alone.

Renumber's inability to move blocks of code is only partly compensated for by the CMD and N functions. SuperBasic's renumber does, however, have another capability, which, so far as I know, is not available in other Disk Basics. You use it to recover from a New command. Renumber the program not there by typing ;" and—presto, now you don't see it, now you do—your program is back and can be listed, edited, run and saved. SuperBasic's renumber can renumber programs containing a line numbered zero (0), and programs with compressed graphics.

The Name command lets you load and run a program without reinitializing the variables set by a previous program. You can follow Name with either a filename or a string variable containing a file name. Using Name under program control allows true Basic chaining.

SuperBasic does not have the various special file modes of NEWDOS80. It does incorporate NEWDOS 2.1's trick of allowing you to add data to the end of an existing sequential file via the Open E option. And, as stated earlier, SuperBasic supports variable record length files. Other than that, its sequential and random I/O is pretty standard. Yet all things considered, SuperBasic is more feature packed than any other DOS Basic.

So, how much memory has Hester left us with after adding all the special features? 40033 bytes with three files reserved—or doing it the DOSPLUS way, 40900 with no files reserved. SuperBasic

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There's More

MULTIDOS also comes with a file called BBASIC. The extra B is for Boss—Hester's debugging package. Boss Basic has all the features of SuperBasic, plus its own specialties. In Boss, the "@" key becomes a control key, much as in SCRIP-SIT. It works in conjunction with the keys 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, down-arrow, up-arrow, N and O keys, thus establishing 11 special control functions.

@1 and @2, respectively, turn off and on the trace function. This is not the standard Basic Trace, but a special enhanced Boss version. Instead of filling the screen with line numbers and wreaking havoc with your display, the trace presentation restricts itself to the upper-right edge of the top four screen lines.

The number of the first line executed during a trace is displayed at the end of the top line of the video. The next line number is displayed below that, and so on. The fifth line number will replace the first one on the top line. The trace continues to cycle through those five locations. You can always tell which line number is current, because a "x" (greater than) character acts a pointer.

If it seems this arrangement would make the numbers disappear too rapidly, read on! Boss has several features to ensure you will not miss a single step (a single simplest?) of your trace.

The DOS Itself

Though Basic is MULTIDOS's specialty, the DOS itself is nothing to sneeze at. It has many practical and unique features, and some special utilities as well. One interesting feature is the Mighty Multi. This is sort of a small scale implementation of the MINI-DOS concept. Mighty Multi allows you to access certain DOS features while running an application program, provided the program does not interfere with DOS's interrupt processing. Whenever you press "": and "": (colon and semi-colon) simultaneously, the program running pauses allowing you to execute any of Mighty Multi's functions. When you are through with Mighty Multi, your program resumes as if it had never been interrupted. Mighty Multi does not however, restore the video to the pre-interruption display.

NEWDOS80's MINIDOS, which I believe was the first to appear for the TRS-80, allows you to access almost any DOS function. LDOS 5.1's restricts you to: toggling the clock display on and off; entering DEBUG, FREE, DIR, KILL a file; sending a top of form to a printer; sending any specified character to a printer; or repeating the last issued DOS command. MULTIDOS' is restricted to only four functions: DIR, Copy a file, Kill a file, or List a file.

Mighty Multi does not have a repeat-last-DOS-command function. One is not really needed since pressing Enter, without any other input, automatically repeats the last DOS command anyway. You can even do a little command editing. Suppose you have just entered the following command:

| DUMP W2:TST;START=X'T1A5', |
| END=X'TAEP',| TRA=X'T1B0' |

and you get an Improper File Name message. On closer inspection, you notice you accidentally typed 2W>TST instead of W2:TST. If you are like me, retyping such dump commands gives you headaches. With MULTIDOS you need only retyp DUMP W2/.

After typing the slash, press Clear and Enter. The entire corrected Dump command will be entered and executed by MULTIDOS.

MULTIDOS has two different screen printing functions: plain old JKL and HJK. JKL sends the contents of the screen to the printer, translating all graphics characters into dot. But if you are lucky enough to have a printer with the capacity to print TRS-80 graphics, the HJK option sends the graphics as they are.

Other DOS's allow you to preconfigure your system to perform one type of dump or the other. MULTIDOS leaves both options at your fingertips. This would be an advantage for people who frequently switch between the two printers; but for the rest of us it could be a disadvantage, because of the potential for pressing the wrong set of keys.

MULTIDOS is exceptionally fast. Its boot-up sequence, library commands and general disk I/O are all quick.

DOS command lines can contain more than one command. If you enter DIR /1,FREE (note the separation by comma), you first get a directory of drive 1 and then a display of the free space on all your active disk drives. By the way, MULTIDOS is the only DOS I know of whose Free command displays totals of the free space on all your drives as well as for each individual drive. It also totals vacant directory file slots for you.

MULTIDOS prompts you for the date when you first boot-up. If you don't want to enter MM/DD/YYYY, just hit Enter to bypass the question. If you have already entered the date in a previous MULTIDOS session, and you have not yet powered down and nothing has overwritten MULTIDOS's date storage area, MULTIDOS will remember the date and bypass the date prompt automatically. MULTIDOS also remembers the time through a reset.

It is generally a good idea to enter the date, since MULTIDOS will then automatically include it in the directory entries of files saved during that session. It can be retrieved via the DIR (A) command. This can be helpful in determining which file is the latest version of a program. While MULTIDOS's use of the date is not as comprehensive as LDOS, it is a feature most DOS's do not include at all.

MULTIDOS Library

MULTIDOS has all the library and utility features of TRSDOS and a good many others. I will only outline the ones that make MULTIDOS outstanding. So if you do not see something mentioned here do not assume it is lacking in MULTIDOS; there's just no need to rehash it.

Speaking of hashing, MULTIDOS's Hash command calculates the hash code for any file you specify.

MULTIDOS' Build and Do commands comprise a chaining function. Build allows you to create a preprogrammed series of DOS commands and save them in a file. Later you can execute the file via the Do command. While this is not as sophisticated as LDOS's Job Control Language (JCL), MULTIDOS's ability to nest Do files puts it a step ahead of most other DOSs in the chaining department.

The TOPMEM mmmn command lets you enter an address above where the DOS ain't allowed to mess around. It is similar to answering the Memory Size? question in Basic. You can enter the address in either decimal or hex. If you enter TOPMEM without an address, MULTIDOS will return the address currently protected by TOPMEM.

Clear, zeros all memory between 5200H (the beginning of user, or /CMD file, memory) and TOPMEM. I am not sure what someone would use this for, except possibly as preparation for a project in which, at some stage, memory has to be inspected to see what was altered by the previous stage of the project.

@3 directs the trace to your printer. If you have a printer, this feature is all you will need to ensure you don't ever lose track of a trace because of a clear screen statement in the target program. You can turn the printer trace off or redirect it to the video with the @2 and @1 keys.

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Notes from BENEATH the KEYBOARD

@4, @5, @6 and @7 control the Basic singlestep mode. @4 turns singlestep off, @5 turns on the singlestep-by-line mode. In this mode, the target program will pause before starting to execute each program line and wait for you to press a key. This allows you to observe the line number being executed (as revealed by Boss' trace function) and the effect of that program line.

@6 turns on the singlestep-by-state-ment mode. This is just like its line-by-line equivalent, except the pause occurs before each statement. This allows you to singlestep through multiple statement lines.

@7 sets a mode to provide automatic continuous singlestepping with a user selectable delay. The auto-singlestepping stops either before each line or each statement, as you desire. After a brief pause, the next line or statement is executed. You can slow down the stepping by pressing @ down-arrow. Conversely, you can speed up the trace by holding down @ up-arrow.

The control functions @1-@7 can be turned on and off from within a program. To do this, you insert a

POKE 16667,n

statement into your program at the point where you want to change the trace status. N is one of the control digits. That is not as easy as typing TRON or TROFF into a program; but in view of the extra capabilities, it's well worth the extra memorization (or peeks in the manual).

Boss also allows you to keep track of critical target variables. If you type @N, you are prompted to enter the list of the variables which most concern you. There is a limit to the number of variables you can specify: 128 variables for those with one character name lengths of eight variables 16-31 characters long. In case you're wondering what variable could have a 16 character name here is an example from the MULTIDOS manual. Its name length is 19 characters long, containing the substrings: Tm,F,B(A,N),E(R).

You can key @N and enter the variable specification dialogue while your program is running, or while in the Basic ready mode. Once the variables have been selected, pressing @0 allows you to see the current values of those variables. Also, @0 gives you an opportunity to edit the variable list. To return control to your Basic program press Clear twice and wonder of wonders, your program's display restores itself and execution continues with the screen looking just as it did before the interruption.

So, just how much free memory is available with Boss Basic and all its extra goodies loaded? 36669 bytes. Boss Basic leaves you more user memory than the Basics of TRSDOS, NEWDOS 2.1 (or 80), LDOS, or DOSPLUS (full size or tiny). Vernon, you've done it again!

Dead is much like Clear, except it doesn't restrict itself to the range between 5200 and TOPMEM. It zeros memory from 4000H (the start of RAM) to the top of physical memory. This effectively causes a reboot with a clean memory slate. To reboot without reinitializing memory, you simply enter Boot.

Auto in MULTIDOS is somewhat better than other DOS Autos. Here the Auto statement may contain several DOS commands instead of just one. You can make an Auto command undefinable, in the sense that holding down Enter during boot-up will not prevent its execution. To do so, use an exclamation mark (!) before the Auto command. For example: !BASIC

---

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RUN ACCOUNTS. If instead of "19" you use "9" (pound sign), the Auto line will be invisible on boot-up. If you enter AUTO CLOCK, the next time you boot-up, the clock display will immediately be turned on, but you will not see the word Clock on your screen.

The Break command is a switch to enable and disable the Break key. This can be used in combination with the unbreakable Auto statement to produce a disk which will always load and run an unbreakable Basic program. This could be useful when you have to entrust certain critical operations to an unsupervised employee.

Since VTOs introduced the concept of device independence to TRS-80dos, most DOSs have included commands like Route or Link, MULTIDOS has both. Their application is limited to the video (DO) and printer (PR) devices. Route PRDO will video display anything which would normally have been printed. This is useful for people without printers. Route DOPR does the opposite. Link PRDO will cause information to be both printed and displayed. These two features are a far cry from the true device independence of VTOs and LDOS, but they are useful nonetheless.

MULTIDOS’s KEYBD (for keyboard) and CONFIG (for configure) commands perform a similar set of functions to those performed by the System command of some other DOSs. They allow you to custom reconfigure MULTIDOS to your own specifications. KEYBD lets you enable or disable the lowercase driver, the graphics driver, key repeat, the clear key and the blinking cursor. It also lets you select your own cursor character.

The effect of the KEYBD command is not immediate. It takes effect the next time you boot-up the disk. If you have enabled the lowercase driver, MULTIDOS makes sure your system is capable of displaying lowercase before turning it on.

CONFIG lets you alter and display default power-up drive attributes. This refers to the density (single or double) and stepping rate (6, 12, 20, or 40 ms) of each disk. If the default density setting is incorrect for a particular drive, MULTIDOS’s automatic density recognition detects this and ensures that you still have proper disk I/O.

MULTIDOS’s DEBUG module has some unique features. Like the standard DEBUG package, you can use it to execute a single machine language instruction, or C which has the same effect, except that CALLED or RESTARTED routines are executed in full. However, MULTIDOS’s DEBUG has an automatic continuous repeat mode for each of these commands allowing you to perform high speed machine language traces. This is analogous to Basic’s TRON.

MULTIDOS’s Forms command is similar to those of several other DOSs. It lets you establish print formatting parameters for printing operations performed by DOS and Basic. You can define such factors as the width of the print line, the length of a page and the number of blanks between pages. MULTIDOS does not provide left margin control.

Utilities

These days the big buzz phrase is user-friendly. That description is probably more applicable to MULTIDOS than to other Model 1 DOS. A primary reason for this is MULTIDOS’s Help file. Like Models 2 and 3 TRSDOS, MULTIDOS will show you the syntax for most of its commands, without sending you to the manual. To see the proper syntax for using the Dump command, you enter Help Dump, and the information is displayed.

Skip is a utility for reading 35 or 40-track disks on an 80-track disk drive. This is extremely useful for people (like me!) who have upgraded to a higher capacity disk drive only to have trouble accessing the files on their old disks. Even if you’ve had 80-track drives right from the start, most of the disk software you buy comes on 35-track disks.

MULTIDOS’ Spool utility, like others of its ilk, allows printing operations to take place while you do other computer work, instead of tying up the system until the printout is finished. MULTIDOS’S Spool lets you specify the size of the RAM buffer used for this purpose. In my experiments with spool, I found that when I selected a large buffer, the keyboard response seemed as fast as if no printing was taking place, even though my MX-80 was chugging away. But when I selected the smallest allowable RAM buffer (256 byte), it was as if there was no spooling operation in effect at all. I had to wait until the printout was finished before the keyboard would listen to me.

VFU is MULTIDOS’s Versatile File Utility. It allows you to perform a number of disk functions. They are Copy, Execute, Purge and Hard Copy. The Copy and Purge functions allow you to deal with groups of files, without the repetitious input required for Killing or Copying them one at a time. If you want to copy 10 files from the disk in drive zero to the disk in drive one, you enter VFU by typing VFU. You then get a menu of choices. If you press C for Copy, you can then choose between a selective or total copy. If you key S for Selective, you will be asked whether invisible files should be included—likewise for system files. Then you are prompted to enter source and destination drive numbers. In the example we are considering, you would enter 0 and 1, respectively.

A directory of the source drive will then be put on the screen. It will contain only the files belonging to the classes you specified. In other words, invisible or system files will not be presented if you had not selected those categories during the preceding dialogue. This VFU directory display is actually a menu. You can move the cursor from entry to entry. Keying Y will tell VFU the file under the cursor is to be copied. In our example, you would specify the 10 files you want copied. Then, you would press Enter and all 10 files would be copied to the destination disk without your having to type another keystroke.

Purge works the same way as Copy, except the specified files are Killed, instead of copied. Execute does the same thing that typing in a file’s name directly from DOS would do. I do not see any advantage to using VFU for this purpose. Hard Copy prints out a listing of a disk’s directory, suitable for keeping in a disk jacket.

GR is the graphics utility I referred to earlier. You select it by typing GR, or through the KEYBD command. It can be enabled or disabled by using the Shift Clear key as a toggle. When enabled, it allows you to type any graphics character directly from the keyboard.

RS stands for RAM Scan. This utility allows you to search memory for any byte or word. You can tell RS to only report occurrences of the target value which are the object of certain machine language instructions. The parameters allowable in a RAM Scan search are:

- Call
- Carry
- Sign Positive
- Jump
- Parity Even
- Load
- Parity Odd
- Sign Minus
- Zero

They all have one letter abbreviations.

Again, I am not sure just what the normal application of this utility is. But just when I had decided it was fairly useless, I had occasion to employ it.

It seems I cannot write anything these days without bumping my head against
one aspect or another of the software copyright controversy. Well, here we go again. Apparatus has received criticism because their original DOS, NEWDOS 2.1, was mostly enhanced Tandy code. Their literature only documented the enhancements, leaving the bulk of the DOS undocumented thus forcing users to obtain TRSDOS legitimately in order to decipher NEWDOS. This was their gesture of protection to Tandy.

Back in those days, TRSDOS was a pretty flaky system. Tandy was not doing a great job of supporting it, either. It was lucky for all of us that NEWDOS came out when it did. In my opinion, Apparatus greatly contributed to the TRS-80's success by making it a more powerful, reliable system.

In NEWDOS Plus, Apparatus did the same copy, enhance, but don't document trick with Microsoft's Editor/Assembler. Unlike TRSDOS, the Editor/Assembler was a fine product and Microsoft was not substandard in their product support. I believe Apparatus did Microsoft an injustice in this case.

Now Vernon Hester has turned the table on Apparatus. He has taken the Apparatus EDTASM, which is basically the Microsoft Editor/Assembler patched for a disk system, and added enhancements of his own. He has put the whole kit and caboodle on MULTIDOS under the name of EA. He only documented the portions he changed. Features unaltered from the Microsoft/Apparatus version are not described.

It's a pretty good joke on Apparatus—poetic justice you might say. It would be quite awkward for Apparatus to protest. But it does perpetuate the injustice done to Microsoft. I am sure Hester meant no harm but as I'd rather not involve myself in the situation I will refrain from describing MULTIDOS's EA utility, other than by saying that it is there.

**Documentation**

The organization of MULTIDOS's documentation is similar to that of TRSDOS, starting with a general description of the DOS and its special features. The various library commands are then treated in alphabetical order. The utilities are dealt with next. Finally, the features of SuperBasic and Boss Basic are described. The manual is replete with examples of user input and descriptions of their results. Anyone already familiar with TRSDOS or any other TRS-80 operating system should have no difficulty learning the ins and outs of MULTIDOS from its documentation.

**Conclusions**

MULTIDOS's Basic is unequalled, in both features and size, among TRS-80 Disk Basics. The DOS is probably the most universally compatible DOS, inter-system wise, among any TRS-80 operating system. It is not as comprehensive as LDOS or NEWDOS-80, but it is very fast with many unique and convenient features.

The price, at time of writing, is only about $80, a low price for a DOS of this quality. This is partly because MULTIDOS lacks some utilities such as disk-zap and tape/disk programs. Hester is working to correct these omissions. As more utilities are added to MULTIDOS, the price may go up. If you use your system mostly for basic programming, or would benefit from MULTIDOS's special compatibility, MULTIDOS might be a best buy for you.
**MONEY DOS**

an operating system for financial survival

by J.M. Keynes

"A Chimpanzee making random decisions is favored to outperform the stock market.”

The brokerage business offers little education about the finest investment medium for most investors. I speak of Convertible Securities which include certain bonds and preferred stocks. Had you randomly invested $10,000 in convertibles in 1972 today it would show a profit of over 40 percent while a like amount randomly invested in common stock would show a loss of 20 percent. In fact, $10,000 invested in carefully chosen convertibles since 1972 would be worth over $250,000 today! I have taken the figures from The Value Line Convertible Survey. You may wonder why your broker never mentioned an investment wherein a Chimpanzee (making random decisions) is favored to outperform the stock market. Chances are he has little expertise in this area. It is seldom that I find a brokerage firm recommending a convertible. Not that they are unaware of their advantages. There simply are not enough to go around. Most convertibles are relatively small (number of bonds or preferred stock outstanding), and, should a major firm put out a buy recommendation chaos could result. For example: In April 1980 a bond issued by Allegheny Ludlum was selling for 88 or $880 per bond. The bond carried a five percent coupon (paid $50 in interest yearly) and matured October 1, 1982. It was convertible, at the option of the bondholder, into 28.8 shares of the issuer’s common stock. At that time Allegheny Ludlum common was selling for $26 per share. The value of the bond if converted to common stock was 28.8 x 26 or $748.80. So was it a good deal at 88? Not only good but spectacular! Examine the analysis: The issuing company had paid dividends on their common stock each year since 1935 and was in an excellent financial condition, so the bond interest payments and the redemption on October 1, 1982 must have been considered safe. If nothing good happened to the price of the common stock within 18 months you would let the bond mature. In the worst case you would have received $756 in interest and, at maturity, $120 long term capital gain profit (1000 rec. minus 880 paid). The $120 long term gain will yield a net of at least $96 after taxes (if in 50 percent bracket) which would be the same as making $192 ordinary income from a T-Bill or CD. This, plus the interest received of $75, equals an investment which would have returned the same after taxes as a CD paying 20.2 percent. There was no such animal... and this was worst case! As it turned out, the common stock went up to over $50 at which time the bond was worth 28.8 x 50 or $1,440 in common stock. It is true that in this case buying the common stock would have been more profitable as it increased 92 percent while the convertible bond went up only 63 percent... but... my stock selections don’t always work and hence... so one must look at the side of the equation.

What if the stock price was $13 today? The guy who bought the common at 26 would be hitting his naries while you, the wise one who bought the convertible bond, would be waiting patiently for your 20 percent CD (the bond) to mature this October. Had a brokerage firm advised its clients to buy this bond they would never have been able to fill the orders... because... only just over 4,000 of these bonds were ever issued. On any market day, perhaps ten to 50 of them were for sale. Most were held by professionals who saw no reason to sell. There is no point in getting clients excited about something they can’t get at a favorable price. That would be bad PR. Furthermore, the commissions on common stocks are from two to six times what they are on bonds. Unavailable in quantity... not a high profit item (for the broker)... neglected... save for a few professionals.

I am frequently asked why companies issue convertible securities? If they need to borrow money why not just issue regular bonds? Another example is in order: The Board of Directors of the XYZ Company decides that the Company should borrow five million dollars to finance...
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80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 383
some new plant construction. They contact an Underwriter (The investment firm that sells the bonds... Merrill Lynch, Dean Witter, or some other) and explain their need for long-term financing.

The underwriter determines (based on the company’s credit rating) that they will have to pay 17 percent interest to attract investors. On $5 million this means a debt service of $850,000 per year (5,000,000 x .17). The underwriter proposes an alternative which will reduce the debt service by $150,000 per year. The company can sell the bonds with a 14 percent coupon if they will add something to sweeten the deal. The company owns one million shares of their common stock which they repurchased in the market. The current stock price is $15 per share. The underwriter suggests that they make each bond convertible into 50 shares of common stock. So the deal comes to market as a 20 year 14 percent bond which is convertible into 50 shares of the company’s common stock.

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MONEY DOS

bond price will fall only about 10 percent because, unlike the common stock, it has a ”floor” of what it’s worth as an ordinary bond. Of course the bond can be sold at any time if one doesn’t like the outlook for the company. All in all, convertibles offer companies and investors unique opportunities.

There over 700 convertibles available. Less than five percent of them offer far superior risk/reward ratios vis-a-vis the common stock. There are over 35 pieces of data which must be analyzed in order to select the best ones. My program is very large and must be on daily stock and bond quotations. This data is unavailable to most TRS-80 owners. If you have interest in following some of the outstanding convertibles write to me c/o 80 Microcomputing and I will see that you get a current printout which will include the risk/reward ratio... that is, if the common stock goes up or down 25 or 50 percent, the effect it would have on the convertible’s price.

Now let’s talk about your current portfolio... which has likely been neglected. I am forever puzzled at your Dr. Jekyll-Mr. Hyde behavior. In your business you make objective, hard headed, decisions which are carefully thought out and monitored, yet in your investments you behave differently. For example: You hire Jones. If he does a poor job you make a simple, unemotional business decision. You fire him. If Jones does well you keep him. Why can’t you approach your investments in the same successful way? When you buy stock in a company you are actually hiring management to manage your money. If they do poorly why not make the same decision you did in your business... fire them (sell the stock)? You see, there are no good or bad companies, only good management or bad management. In most sectors if you show me a company that is doing poorly, I can show you a company (in the same business) that is prospering.

Investors seem quite willing to sell at a profit (firing good management) but are reluctant to sell at a loss thereby retaining poor management. In fact, most investors just neglect their responsibility of reviewing their investments. I frequently do portfolio analysis for potential clients. It is quite an eye opener to see a printout of exactly what is really happening. I use Viscicalc which is the best program I have ever seen and is a snap to use. For those who don’t have Viscicalc I sat down for a few hours and wrote the Program Listing.

I included a random portfolio generator with which you can have some fun. See Fig. 1. Run the program and see how well you have done. I ran out of horizontal space or I would have included two more variables... how long you have owned a security and the average yearly return. That should be easy to figure long hand. Some of the stocks you have held for ten years will be exposed as having been very poor investments considering the dollars they sell for today will buy 30 percent of what the dollars paid for them would buy!

Editors note: If you have a special investment question, you may write to the author c/o 80 Microcomputing. I promise a prompt personal answer.

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Figure 1

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**Microcomputers in the Schools** is a collection of 25 articles, papers and reports edited by James L. Thomas. Along with its helpful bibliography and useful appendices it considers such issues as the selection of a microcomputer, hardware and software development, applications in the curriculum (case histories), and trends and issues.

This volume presents a rounded picture of educational uses of micros. Though the various writers express compatible views, their differences of opinion become most apparent when forecasting the future.

My only complaint about *Microcomputers in the Schools* applies to all books and periodicals concerning microcomputers. The simple fact is new developments affecting the power of these machines take up so rapidly that anything in print may be behind the times. But then, in the computer field we are accustomed to this and make mental updates as we read.

Altogether, *Microcomputers in the Schools* presents plenty of useful and interesting ideas and information. It is primarily practical rather than theoretical in approach. If you cannot find a copy locally, contact the Oryx Press, 2214 N. Central at Encanto, #106, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

**The Administration and Computers**

For almost two years this column has discussed a variety of educational computer applications. Looking back, one important area has received little attention.

Now that the end of the academic year is just around the corner, a look at the potential of computers in school administration is needed.

There are at least two good reasons teachers should take an interest in this topic. Instruction cannot take place in a vacuum. Classrooms, materials and supplies, salaries, heat, custodians, textbooks, buses and a whole list of things are needed to make instruction possible today. The provision of such materials is the province of the administration.

Anything which increases the effectiveness and efficiency of school administration also increases the potential of the instructional program. Administration, like instruction, has grown in complexity; legal and regulatory requirements have increased almost beyond reason. Consequently, computers are needed as much in school offices as they are in the classrooms.

When a computer provides an administrator with more, better and quicker information and service, classroom teachers benefit both directly and indirectly. Furthermore, the administrator who uses a computer is more likely to see the advantages for having one in the classroom.

Being reasonably objective about the question, I suggest that teachers who want computers for CAI should be equally aggressive about selling the computer to the administration.

To sell anything to anyone, you must have a minimum of two things: knowledge of your product and a passable knowledge of the client's operations. Let's assume you know the microcomputer's potential. If you don't have a fairly good grasp of office and business applications, read business and application articles in past issues of *80 Micro*. It isn't necessary you completely understand the applications—just what is possible.

The second factor, knowledge of school office operations, may be a bit more difficult to acquire. Here, again, you don't need to know the details, just have a feeling for the types of tasks and their magnitudes. If you have been teaching more than a year or two, you probably have a good start on this.

At times everyone feels inundated with clerical work. We are in a data-using, record-keeping business. Even your principal suffers from the paperwork syndrome, an affliction affecting all educators more severely with each passing year. It will not lessen or remain constant; the paper monster can only continue to grow as local, state and federal demands increase.

If you accept the premise that a computer-using principal will be more receptive about CAI, the paper monster is your ace in the hole. Attack your principal where he is most vulnerable—show how a microcomputer can reduce paperwork in his office and, at the same time, provide more usable information.

Table 1 will assist you in planning your attack. A broad spectrum of administrative tasks can be accomplished more efficiently and effectively using a computer. This is not an exhaustive list; it is just a topical outline. You will have to supply the details.

### Potential Applications

Non-users are notoriously unable to see the potential applications of a computer (every good salesman knows this). Your principal will not understand, at first, that the list of students and their homeroom assignments can be typed into the computer once and used in a dozen different ways in other programs.

Begin by giving the principal a break-

---

**Table 1. Selected Administrative Applications**

- Financial
  - Accounts Receivable
  - Accounts Payable
  - Payroll
  - Student Activity Accounts
  - Budgeting

- Pupil Accounting
  - Daily, Monthly, Yearly Attendance Records and Reports
  - Daily Absentee List
  - Student Directories
  - Report Cards
  - Grade Distribution Studies
  - Student Records

- Word Processing
  - General Correspondence
  - Personalized Form Letters
  - Reports
  - Curriculum Guides
  - Newsletters, Bulletins
  - Handbooks, Manuals

- Personnel Accounting
  - Records, Reports
  - Directory

- Miscellaneous
  - Inventories (textbooks, supplies, equipment)
  - Mailing Lists, Labels
  - Activity Calendar
  - Room Utilization
  - Energy Utilization
down on one application (for example, pupil accounting; specifically, attendance). Absentees may be entered daily or weekly. Based on a file of all students in the school, the computer can produce the information listed in Table 2. Point out that these items are often needed but are not always available because they take too much personnel time to prepare.

Ask your principal how often he receives a detailed grade distribution study and report. How many times does his secretary type the same letter over and over with different student/parent names? How many hours does he and his bookkeeper spend on the calculator working on the annual budget? How many days are spent reconciling bank balances and the myriad student activity accounts?

It is important to stress not only the savings in time and effort but all the additional information at his fingertips with just the touch of a couple of keys.

When the conversation strays to other areas (as it surely will), here are a couple of additional lists to help you formulate responses. Table 3 lists some specialized school departments for which a computer can do clerical work. The uses shown are but the tip of a very large iceberg.

Table 4 provides a list of some of the clerical applications for the classroom, included primarily to be sure you have not overlooked any major areas of use. (I am reminded of the teacher who asked a new colleague what he would do all day if he did not have the students copying notes from the chalkboard. The quiet answer was, "I'll do what I'm paid to do—teach.")

Let's consider the strategy more carefully. First: Don't hit the principal with all this at once. Go easy, not because he deserves great sympathy, but because he won't be able to absorb all the information in one serving. Your objective is to sell, not to overwhelm.

The second point to consider is to avoid creating unreasonable expectations. Tell him repeatedly that the changeover must be orderly and slow if it is to be successful.

Third: Don't let him assume that one computer can do all the things you have been telling him about.

My final piece of advice is to get some assistance. Find a knowledgeable colleague or two to reinforce your efforts. Suggest a visit to a school where a computer does a lot of the office work and provide literature of a general nature. As an example of the latter, you may be able to get a copy of the book mentioned above. In the meantime—good luck!

### Table 2. Some Possible Outputs From Daily Entry of Student Absences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daily absentee list</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily list of students with cumulative absences greater than xx days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily list of students with consecutive absences greater than yy days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monthly or other teachers' registers (or whatever the local official record may be called)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly principal's attendance report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual principal's attendance report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As needed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Updated class rosters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of students withdrawn to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of students enrolled since fall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: That None of the Above Require Manual Computations

### Table 3. Quasi-Administrative Applications

- **Cafeteria**
  - Time Keeping
  - Bookkeeping
  - Payroll
  - Inventory
  - Reports
  - Personnel Records

- **Library**
  - Accession Records
  - Shelf List
  - Card Catalog
  - Inventory
  - Utilization Records
  - Reports
  - A V Schedule, Records, Reports

- **Guidance**
  - College Selection Assistance (admission requirements and programs available)
  - Class Standing
  - Student Records
  - Transcripts
  - Test Statistics and Studies
  - Student Schedules
  - Correspondence and Reports

- **Student Publications**
  - Newspaper
  - Magazine
  - Yearbook

- **Athletics**
  - Inventories
  - Schedules
  - Individual and Team Statistics
  - Analysis of Scouting Reports

### Table 4. Selected Teacher Clerical Applications

- **Test Making**
  - Test Item Bank
  - Test Printing from Selected Items

- **Evaluating/Reporting**
  - Test Score Analysis
  - Competency Analysis
  - Grade Averaging
  - Grade Distributions
  - Parent Reports—Progress
  - —Deficiencies
  - Grade Summaries at any Time
  - Grade Book

- **Word Processing**
  - Study Materials
  - Course Outlines
  - Reports

- **Miscellaneous**
  - Monitor Student Progress
  - Test Individual Students
  - Pupil Accounting (if not incorporated at the school level)
In February we discussed the basics of differential calculus. We introduced the ideas of a limit (an infinitesimally small increment $dx$) and the derivative of a function.

Now let's consider the integral—it is just the opposite of a derivative. That is, if you find the integral of $g(x)dx$, you are finding the function $f(x)$ such that its derivative is $g(x)$, or $f'(x)$ equals $g(x)$. That is why the integral is sometimes called the antiderivative.

Usually, the integral is introduced either as an antiderivative or as a means of finding the area under a function. It may not be obvious that these are really the same thing. Let's explore the integral as a means of finding the area under a curve.

One Approach

Let $f(x)$ be the curve shown in Fig. 1. $f(x)$ is a function of $x$. The curve is a plot of $f(x)$ versus $x$. It shows the values of the function $f(x)$ with its corresponding $x$ values.

Now $dx$ is a very, very small change in $x$; we can let $df$ be the correspondingly small change in $f(x)$. The derivative of the function with respect to $x$ is $df/dx$ or $f'(x)$, which we'll call $g(x)$ for now. The product $f'(x)dx$ corresponds to the area shown in Fig. 2 (with $dA$ and $dx$ blown up in size). In Fig. 2, we have $g(x)$ versus $x$, which differs from $f(x)$ versus $x$. What is the geometric interpretation of $g(x)dx$? Remember, the area of a rectangle is equal to the product of the length of two adjacent sides. For the rather narrow rectangle shown in Fig. 2, $g(x)$ is the height and $dx$ is the width. So their product is that rectangle.

If we divide all the area under the $g(x)$ curve into such small rectangles and add them up, we have the area under that curve. Notice that since we actually showed a relatively big $dx$, we only have an approximation of that area. As the value of $dx$ gets smaller and smaller (which gives more and more rectangles to add), we approach the true area under the curve. This is shown in Fig. 3. When we get to the smallest value $dx$ could be and still be greater than zero (here $dx$ is said to be "infinitesimally small"), then adding up all these rectangles (there is now an infinite number of them, each with a very small area), we get the exact area under the curve.

That is what an integral is. The symbol $\int$ is actually an elongated $S$, indicating a sum. The integral of $g(x)dx$ is the area under the curve. Note that we did this between two limits; that is, we performed this summation starting at $x$ equals a and ending at $x$ equals $b$. This is a definite integral, because we assigned definite limits to it (shown by putting $a$ at the low end and $b$ at the high end of the integral sign: $\int_a^b$).

Now, let's show the equivalence of the two definitions of the integral given at first. We defined $g(x)$ to equal $f'(x)$. Since $f'(x)$ equals $df/dx$, the product we integrated, $g(x)dx$, equals $df(x)$. If we add these from $x$ equals $a$ to $x$ equals $b$, we get the infinite sum:

$$\int_a^b f'(x)dx = f(b) - f(a)$$

Two things should be understood here. Since $df(x)$ is a small increment of $f(x)$, it is the difference of $f(x + z)$ minus $f(x)$, where $z$ is a very small increment equal to $dx$. The sum of all of these increments equals the integral of $g(x)dx$. Note that all the terms cancel out, except the two endpoints which only appear once. Thus, the integral of $g(x)dx$ from $a$ to $b$ equals $f(b)$ minus $f(a)$. This is so important in calculus that it is called the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. It appears in mathematical notation below:

To reiterate, we have just shown that the area under the curve $g(x)$ between the limits of $a$ and $b$ equals the difference in the value of $f(b)$ minus $f(a)$, provided that $g(x)$ equals $f'(x)$.

Another Approach

Now, let's approach integration from the other view. If you know how something is changing, can you determine what it is doing right now? For example, if you drop a ball (we won't deal with air resistance here), you know it actually accelerates towards the ground. Not only does it fall, but it falls faster and faster as time goes on. The rate of change of the speed (also known as acceleration), is a constant with the respect to the length of time $t$ it has been falling. This is the "g" constant. You may remember from high school physics. That is, $A(t)$ equals minus $g$ (the minus sign shows that it is falling). Since acceleration is the change in speed with time, the speed must be a function of time. (How fast the object is moving is a function of how long it has been falling.) Further, its position in space relative to where it was dropped from is also a function of time. Can we determine how fast the object is falling and where it is knowing only its acceleration constant? You bet! For now, we'll do it symbolically. If you'll take your word for it, the derivative with respect to $x$ of a constant times $x$ to some power is given by the following relation:

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The derivative of a constant is zero (it doesn't change). Now, since the integral is an “antiderivative,” the integral of \( a \times x \) must be

\[
\int \frac{a(x + 1)^2}{x(x + 1)} + c
\]

(Verify this by taking the derivative of the result.) Also, since acceleration is the rate of change of the speed, the integral of the acceleration must be equal to the speed (by the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus). Since we know experimentally that the acceleration of a falling body is a constant (g), speed must be a linear function of the time spent falling. That is, \( S(t) \) equals \( g \times t + a \), where \( a \) is the integration constant. We exclude it because we don't know if a constant was lost in the original differentiation (the derivative of a constant is zero). It may turn out to equal zero later. Now, we can use our rule again to integrate \( S(t) \) to get the position as a function of time, \( P(t) \). See if you can do it yourself...

That's right, it is \( P(t) \) equals \( (g/2) \times t^2 + a \times t + b \). Notice we had to add another integration constant, \( b \). We get the values of the integration constants by knowing the value of the function at some points. We can do all this numerically as well. Not all functions can be so simply integrated; however, a wide range of functions can be integrated symbolically using these and many more symbolic integration rules.

Analytically, integration is generally much more difficult to perform than differentiation. Many functions do not have an integral that can be expressed in terms of elementary functions. For example, the integral of \( (1/x) \) produces the logarithm. Many other integrals, such as the integral of the Gaussian error function \( \exp(-x^2) \) also may not be expressed as simple functions. If this is the case, the function is said to lack a closed-form solution. Integration of such functions requires numerical methods. This is particularly true in differential equations, a topic we will take up some other time.

For now, let's develop programs to find the integrals of some functions. An obvious approach would be to use the same algorithm I presented for the integral earlier. Take small increments in \( x \) across the interval, find the corresponding \( f(x) \) values, and add up the products. This is the simplest algorithm known and one of the least accurate. It is demonstrated in Fig. 3.

You can easily see the reason for the inaccuracy. We can add all those rectangles, but look at how far off we are using the rectangles as an approximation! We can use smaller increments and add up more rectangles to improve our accuracy—to a point. If we keep taking smaller increments and summing up the areas of more rectangles, we do decrease the error of our approximation. This is shown in Fig. 5. But notice that for single precision, the error bottoms out at about 1000 rectangles and then begins to climb again. Why?

Every time we represent a number, add, subtract, multiply or divide, some error is introduced. If we don't perform too many operations that add up (or propagate) error, we can usually get by. But if we find and add the areas of so many rectangles, eventually we no longer gain accuracy by finding smaller rectangles. Error increases beyond this point due to propagated round-off error. Double precision postpones this somewhat, but no matter what precision you use, eventually round-off error becomes a problem.

**What Are You Going To Do?**

You could look for a better approximation. The next approximation is called the trapezoid rule shown in Fig. 4. Instead of the flat “head” that we found in the previous rectangular approximation method, we have sloped ones. These are called trapezoids. Notice that the approximation looks better (it looks more like the true area under the curve). The area of a trapezoid is the same as for a rectangle in the previous example, with a little triangle up above added. The area of each trapezoid would be (using \( i \) and \( j \) as the values of \( x \) on the sides of the trapezoid):

\[
f(i) + f(j) + \frac{1}{2} \times (f(i) - f(j))
\]

Since \( f(j) \) minus \( f(i) \) is the height of triangle and \( j \) minus \( i \) is the base, the area of a triangle equals \( 1/2 \) the base times the height. Note that we can collect terms to get:

\[
f(ij) + f(ij)'j'j'^2
\]

We can now write a program to integrate some function \( f(x) \) between two limits \( a \) and \( b \), using this trapezoid rule. (See Program Listing 1.)

There are even better methods than the trapezoid rule, such as Simpson's 3/8 rule. I will develop a more general method of numerical integration that is simple to implement, yet fairly accurate. In fact, the trapezoid rule, Simpson's rule, and other quadrature methods are merely special cases of this general procedure known as the Romberg Algorithm.

The trapezoid rule is sufficient for some purposes, but often it lacks the ac-
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curacy required. It does come close to the actual value for the area, but it does so linearly as you increase the number of subintervals. Therefore, it is called a linearly converging or linear method. Other algorithms, such as the Romberg Algorithm, converge much faster. Accuracy increases as the square of the number of subintervals; these are quadratically converging or quadrature methods. Almost two digits of accuracy are added with each iteration using these methods.

The Romberg algorithm produces a triangular array of numbers, each of which is an approximation to the definite integral being evaluated. We will call each element of this array \( R(i,j) \). The triangular array produced is:

\[
\begin{align*}
R(1,1) & = f(a) \\
R(2,1) & = f(b) \\
R(1,2) & = \frac{f(a) + f(b)}{2} \\
R(2,2) & = \frac{R(2,1) + R(1,2)}{2} \\
R(3,2) & = \frac{R(3,1) + R(2,2)}{2} \\
& \vdots \\
R(n,1) & = \frac{R(n-1,1) + \sum_{k=1}^{n} (\frac{1}{2^k} - \frac{1}{2^k} \cdot \frac{1}{2})}{2} \\
R(n,2) & = \frac{R(n,1) + R(n-1,2)}{2} \\
R(n,3) & = \frac{R(n,2) + R(n-1,3)}{2} \\
& \vdots \\
R(n,n) & = \frac{R(n,n-1) + \sum_{k=1}^{n} (\frac{1}{2^k} - \frac{1}{2^k} \cdot \frac{1}{2})}{2}
\end{align*}
\]

The first column \( R(1,1) \) is actually the coefficients produced by the trapezoidal rule. \( R(1,1) \) is obtained using only one trapezoid, producing the formula \( R(1,1) = \frac{b-a}{2} f(a) + f(b) \). \( R(2,1) \) is obtained using two trapezoids, and so on. In general:

\[ R(n,1) = \frac{R(n-1,1)}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left( \frac{1}{2^k} - \frac{1}{2^k} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \right) \]

This is actually the formula used to compute the trapezoidal rule, although it may appear in a slightly different form. The

**Program Listing 1a. Trapezoid rule, Basic Version**

**Program Listing 1b. Trapezoid Algorithm, Disk Basic Version**

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Romberg algorithm is a much better algorithm. In general, \( R(N,N) \) requires much less computation than \( R(2^N, N) \) and is much more accurate. This is true because the error terms from two different approximations of the integral \( R(N,k) \) and \( R(N + 1,k) \) generate a better approximation to the integral \( R(N + 1,k + 1) \).

The computational formulas for the Romberg algorithm may appear a bit formidable, but see how short a program can produce the Romberg triangular coefficients. The number of subintervals into which we divide the limits of integration is inversely related to the step size. It shouldn’t take too long to convince yourself that the step size, \( h \), equals \( (b - a)/2^N \). This is the size of the delta \( x \) we are using. This formulas to calculate the new coefficients \( R(i,j) \) and \( R(i,1) \) appear in Table 1.

This translates into the short programs shown in Program Listings 2a (Disk Basic version) and 2b (Level II Basic version). As written, the programs generate and display all the Romberg coefficients. You may omit the display if you don’t care to see them. It might be instructive to see how the numbers converge to the integral.

**Applications**

There are many applications for numerical integration; I will present only a few here.

First, let’s use the Romberg algorithm to estimate the value of \( \pi \). We know the area of a circle is \( \pi r^2 \). If we choose a unit circle, its area should equal \( \pi \). Let’s look at only \( 1/4 \) of the circle, the area in the first quadrant. This is shown in Fig. 6. Note that for each point on the curve in this region, the \( x \) and \( y \) coordinates are related by the expression \( y = SQRT(1 - x^2) \). If we substitute this from the Pythagorean theorem relating the sides of a right triangle, we get \( y = SQRT(1 - x^2) \). Solving for \( y \) yields \( y = SQRT(1 - x^2) \). Our job is to find the area under this curve from \( x = 0 \) to \( x = 1 \). The total area equals the value of \( \pi \).

The integral we need to evaluate is

\[
\frac{1}{4} \int_0^1 (1 - x^2) \, dx.
\]

If you have Disk Basic, use the DEF FN to define the function:

30 DEF FNF(X) = 4 * SQRT(1 - X^2)

If you use the Level II version, use:

30 F = 4 * SQRT(1 - X^2); RETURN

Compare the results obtained with the trapezoid and the Romberg algorithm. Remember that \( R(N,1) \) is the trapezoid rule with \( N \) subintervals. Run an order 15 approximation (that is, run to \( R(15,15) \)) and compare \( R(7,7) \) with \( R(15,1) \). You will find that \( R(7,7) \) is more accurate (the value of \( \pi \) is approximately 3.141592653589793).

Perhaps you would also like to know the area between two curves. Figure 7 shows two such curves. What is the area between \( F(X) \) and \( G(X) \)? The area under curve \( F(X) \) between \( a \) and \( b \) is \( \int_a^b F(X) \, dx \) and the area under the curve of \( G(X) \) between \( a \) and \( b \) is \( \int_a^b G(X) \, dx \). The difference of these two areas must be the area between them. To find this area, we just integrate the difference \( F(X) - G(X) \) from \( a \) to \( b \). For example, if we want to know the area between \( f(x) = x^3 \) and \( g(x) = x^4 \) where \( x \) varies from 0 to 1, we can use our integration program to generate this. Use the form 30 DEF FN (X) = X^3 - X^4 (version 1) or 30 F = X^3 - X^4; RETURN (version 2). The actual area is 0.05. How close did you get?

The idea of work done as an integral may be new to you, but it has been around in physics and chemistry for quite some time. Newton’s classical physics states that force equals mass times acceleration, or \( F = ma \) * A. If we apply force for some period of time, we ought to do some work. If the force is constant, then the work done is the force times the displacement (from \( x = a \) to \( x = b \)). This is precisely what we get when we integrate a constant from \( a \) to \( b \). If the force is not constant (a more interesting and realistic situation), then the integration becomes more complex.

An example of constant force is gravitational attraction. How much work is done by gravity when you throw a five-pound object straight up 15 feet and gravity pulls it down to earth? Gravity does some work slowing down the object, and then it does some work bringing it back to earth. If you throw it a height of six feet (since you are standing when you throw it), the work gravity does bringing the object to a halt at 15 feet is \( 5 \text{ ft} \cdot \text{lb} \).
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Program Listing 3a. Tenth-order Romberg approximation, Disk Basic Version.

(Remember that weight is a mass times g, the gravitational constant, and since it points down, you attach a minus sign.) The work done for the falling phase is $-\int_{-\text{g}}^{0}0.15 \, dt = 75 \text{ ft-lbs}$. So overall, gravity did 30 ft-lbs of work.

Suppose the force exerted is proportional to the distance, as it is with a spring (Hooke's law). Then $f(x)$ equals $ax$, where $x$ is the distance. Let's use our Romberg algorithm to determine the work done in stretching an elastic spring six inches (use 1/2 foot, so our answer will come out in foot-lbs), if an 81/2 lb weight will stretch the spring one inch (1/12 foot).

To solve this, we must first determine the proportionality constant in the equation $f(x)$ equals $ax$. Since $8.5$ equals $a(1/12)$, then $a$ equals 102. Our equation now becomes finding the integral of $102x$ from $x = 0$ to $x = 1/2$. Use the Romberg program to check your answer—it should be 12.75 ft-lbs.

The last example is to find the area under the curve of the Gaussian error function $(erf(x))$ from $x = 0$ equals minus infinity to $x = x$ equals infinity. This function does not have a closed form, as previously stated. The function is defined by $erf(x)$ equals $\int_{-\infty}^{x} e^{-t^2} \, dt$. It is often normalized by multiplying it by the constant $1/SQR(\pi)$. This makes its area equal to one. We will integrate the unnormalized version given above, and it should equal $SQR(\pi)$. Now, how do you integrate numerically from minus infinity to infinity?

The distribution of this function appears in Fig. 8. Notice how small it gets, the further you are away from $x = 0$. If you choose a and b far enough away from zero, the area eliminated should not be significant. Since this is a symmetrical function, we will set a equals minus b. We can use our previous Romberg program to write a program that will integrate this function from $-a$ to $a$, using a given order, say 10. This will take a while to run.

This program will perform a 10th order Romberg approximation of the integral and display it. It will then add one to a and repeat the procedure until you get a equals 10 (starting at a equals one). It will only print $R(10,10)$, rather than all coefficients. Run it. As we get farther away from zero, the relative size of the contribution of the additional area included by expanding becomes less (we approach the true value for the integral). Now, compare the value of the integral with the true value for $SQR(\pi)$, 1.77245385090552.

Notice that we do not actually approach the value of the integral as we increase the limits to large values. Why? This is because the number of intervals stays the same, even though the limits get farther apart. Since the function values get smaller and smaller the further you get from zero, the less these areas add to the area under the curve. But since we have taken more total area, and the number of intervals is the same, these areas further out are included in computation of the integral, and the large area around $x = 0$ is computed less accurately. So, in this case, with a fixed number of intervals, it is not better to take more area under the curve to compute the integral. If we take too small an area, we will be leaving out significant portions of the area under the curve, but if the limits are too far apart, then we lose accuracy where it is needed. In there somewhere are the optimum values for the limits that will yield the most accurate value for the integration. Program Listings 3a and 3b print the 10th order Romberg approximation for the limits of minus one to one up to minus 10 to 10. Compare these with the actual value for $SQR(\pi)$ to determine this optimum.

That about wraps up this introduction. You now understand the basics of differential and integral calculus, although I left out most of what goes into a first-year calculus course. If you are interested in pursuing this, there are many calculus books available you can use to learn more.

If you have any requests for topics you would like covered in this column, drop me a line at my office address:

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Figure 8
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Jay Chidsey will have a progress report on the first local electronic newspaper. The Advertiser-Tribune of Tiffin, OH, uses a Radio Shack host system to publish its electronic newspaper, which is reportedly up and running.

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The STARBUCK-8882 is a complete eight channel data acquisition and control system, plug compatible with the Model I Level II TRS-80. It includes 6 protected analog inputs (0-5 Volts with 8-bit 1-bit accuracy) & 8 protected digital inputs. 8 optoisolated digital outputs and two joystick ports. Interrupt-driven software package allows simultaneous data acquisition and storage while using the TRS-80 for any other purposes. Application manual covers home security, energy monitoring, weather station use, appliance control, graphics and games. Price includes case, power supply, extra expansion card edge, connector cable, complete software package and detailed applications manual. Manuals only available for $4.00 pdd. Model III version also available. To order write:

STARBUCK DATA CO.  
P.O. Box 24, Newton, MA 02126

Massachusetts residents add 5% sales tax.  
*TRS-80 is a trademark of Tandy Corp.

4 MHz FOR THE MOD 3

PC BOARD & DOC.  ONLY $19.95

THIS EASY TO INSTALL KIT WILL DOUBLE THE SPEED OF YOUR MOD-3 COMPUTER.

COMPLETE KIT  $99.95

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P.O. BOX 2752  
TULSA, OK. 74104

PHONE [918] 742-7104

TRS80 color

From the January 1981 issue of the CSRFA Computer Club newsletter:

There was some excitement at the November meeting when the Radio Shack representative stated that the software in the ROM cartridges could not be copied. This month's 68600 Journal reported they had disassembled the program ROM by recovering some of the computer's tape. They promise details next month. Never a hobbyist something can't be done! This magazine seems to be the only source so far of technical information on the TRS-80 color computer. **Devoted to SS-50 8880 and 6809 machines up to now, 68 Micro Journal plans to move to TRS-80s in future issues.**

To get the most from your 6809 CPU - This is the BEST SOURCE! The Only Magazine for the 6800 Computer. Monthly. Available at stores.

68 MICRO JOURNAL  
5900 Cassandra Smith Rd.  
Hixson, TN 37343

USA  
$1.00 - $2.50  $2.50 - $5.00  $5.00 - $9.00  
*Foreign Surface Add $12.50 to USA Price  
*Foreign Airmail Add $5.00 to USA Price

80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 401
Yes, our disk drive has a proven performance and an established reliability record. We specialize in single sided 5¼ inch single or double density drives featuring 5 ms stepping and 40 tracks with case and power supply. The case is color matched to IBM and PMC personal computers.

Price $495 for 2

Compare printer specifications . . . compare design reliability, repairability or any other parameter! Our DMP-85 is a true “work-alike” to C. Itoh 8510 or NEC 8023 and offers many more features than the MX-80FT at a lower price. You need excellent printers and a professional supplier. Come to PMC.

Price $495

IBM Selectrics or similar typewriters become 12 cps letter-quality printers at a quarter the cost of “daisy wheel” printers. The ETF-80 coupled with a word processor becomes your personal typist accurately reproducing text at 100 wpm. What a bargain, ETF-80 . . . CALL now for details.

Price $495

PMC peripherals are designed for PMC, IBM, Apple, Radio Shack or other fine personal computers. We don’t advertise our unprintable dealer/distributor prices but if you call or write you’ll find we don’t meet the competition . . . we make it!

PMC Personal Micro Computers, Inc.
475 Ellis Street, Mountain View, CA 94043
(415) 962-0220
WORD PROCESSOR Electric Pencil System (EPS-80)

Lowest priced combination word processor/microcomputer that everyone can afford and so simple that anyone can use! The EPS-80 is a word processor designed to replace typewriters as a personal tool and also to be used as a popular personal computer with thousands of programs available.

Use without a printer
In an office environment, the EPS-80 word processor gives the user editing power which is not available in the latest electronic typewriters. The built-in high speed cassette storage achieves inexpensive and reliable transfer of text from one EPS-80 to another. Therefore, where multiple EPS-80s are used, not every one has to have its own printer. For instance, a single letter quality printer on one EPS-80 can prepare final copies of letters for four to ten non-printer stations. The overall system is efficient, costs less per station than an equal number of electronic typewriters, and provides much higher throughput. There is no need for the usual cycle of dictation, correction and proofreading as the basic composing function can be in the hands of the originator.

Use with a printer
Writers, students and businessmen will find the most intelligent investment is the EPS-80. For high speed printing, we offer our model DMP-85 dot matrix printer and for letter quality printing, our Electric Typing Fingers, Model ETF-80, turns your IBM Selectric or similar typewriter into a printer. When you buy the EPS-80, you get both a word processor and a powerful personal computer that will do many necessary tasks. There are fully proven computer programs for invoicing, billing, financial or engineering analysis, spreadsheet calculations, and many more. Even if you never utilize the computer capability, the EPS-80 word processor can provide filing and retrieval of reference information and mail list handling in addition to fulfilling normal typing needs.

How can we offer a product with so much capability at such a low price? It is due to our highly reliable, low cost cassette storage system that performs as well as many floppy disk systems! We believe the EPS-80 is an immediately important tool in small and large offices and it is also destined to be your personal typing friend at home. If you think word processing and low cost computing power would improve the jobs you do, call or write now for complete information.

PMC Personal Micro Computers, Inc.
475 Ellis Street, Mountain View, CA 94043
(415) 962-0220
NEW PRODUCTS

Edited by Janet Fiderio

Featuring—The K&K Synthesizer
A totally software implemented synthesizer system.

Software Synthesizer
A synthesizer system totally implemented in software is being marketed for the Model I.

The program simulates many features found on hardware synthesizers including white noise, variable frequency cutoff pink noise, frequency and pulse with modulation, variable duty cycle, white noise superimposed on square wave, and full variable glissando. The program also has limited ability to produce two tones at once.

The operating system has a 300-note buffer with full edit capabilities (copy, insert, delete, change, examine, and makes a progression of notes). It also features full error trapping and many prompts for ease of use.

The synthesizer package is available for $24.95 from K & K Computer Peripherals, Box 85203, Kentwood, MI 49508-8203.

Reader Service 562

Property Management
An enhanced version of the disk-based Property Management System for tracking income and expenses on rental property, is now available for the Model I and III, 48K disk system.

The system handles a mixture of property rentals including single-family and multi-family homes, and condominiums. Features of the system include late rental displays, year-to-date, monthly (of all rentals), and total building income can be displayed or printed; easy expense entering; operating statements for each building may be printed separately or combined to form a consolidated operating statement for all properties owned.

Check and receipt writing is featured plus complete information on each rental including up to three renter names (or name and address), four phone numbers, date rented, rent amount, deposits, number of returned checks, plus two memo items.

For more detailed information on addi-

New Graphics Editor
Crayon is a 10K, machine-language graphics/text editor for the Models I and III. This screen-oriented editor allows you to typeset your own logos, business cards, letterheads and other business needs. You can also create real-time machine-language cartoons and access them from simple Basic programs.

Crayon capabilities include directories, keeping appointment schedules, writing letters, and helping write Basic program graphics. Over 90 commands allow free movement and manipulation of picture segments on the screen.

Full cassette or disk I/O and manual are provided. Crayon supports MX-80 and other parallel printers. The cassette version costs $35, the disk version, $45. Contact Pioneer Software, 1746 NW. 55th Ave. #204, Lauderdale, FL 33313, (305) 739-2071, for information.

Reader Service 561

Compuvoice and Sound-Source
The Compuvoice Synthesizer ($44.95) is a completely software-based speech synthesis program allowing you to form words, phrases, and sentences with simple string commands. Compuvoice may be placed into your own Basic programs enhancing their quality with speech synthesis.

Sound-Source ($24.95) enables you to load any recordable sound into the Color Computer’s memory or enter it with a joystick. Once loaded, the data can be played back at a faster or slower rate through the tv sound system. Joysticks enable you to modify or create new data in memory.
Sample sounds for use in games or teaching aids may be easily constructed and tested.

For information contact Spectral Associates, 141 Harvard Ave., Tacoma, WA 98466, (206) 565-8483.
Reader Service  557

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NANSII

NANSII is an information management system compatible with any microcomputer using the CP/M operating system.

NANSII uses English language commands. Some of its unique features include: a learn mode which remembers command streams eliminating repetitive typing; inplace sort capability requiring no additional disk storage; a single disk drive requirement; and an extensive error-detection function which traps 150 types of errors.

A demo package is available for a trial period for a nominal fee. The system retails for $249.95 and is marketed by XPS Inc., 323 York Rd., Carlisle, PA 17013, (600) 233-7512.
Reader Service  589

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Pretty Print

Pretty Print provides expanded character enhancements for Epson, Okidata and MPI dot-matrix printers.

This software customization program allows using the sophisticated character enhancements of WordStar (formerly only accomplished by using higher cost daisy-wheel printers)

Available in standard eight-inch CP/M format and on disk for the Model III from Hurricane Laboratories Inc., Box 631, Cupertino, CA 95015, (408) 446-0777.
Reader Service  588

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The Zapplicator

The Zapplicator contains all current zaps to the NEWDOS80 versions 1.0 or 2.0.

Designed to save time and trouble (and mailing your original disk back to Apparat). The Zapplicator is available for $13.95 for the Model I and III. All current zaps and a maintenance program to let you add future zaps is available for $17.95.

For more information contact Micro Pro Systems, Route 2 Box 533, Cumming, GA 30130, (404) 887-8814.
Reader Service  587

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The Transtar 140 daisy-wheel printer

Daisy Wheel Printer

The Transtar 140 daisy-wheel printer combines 40 cps (38 Shannon) letter-quality performance and high reliability.

The serial printer is Diablo (tm) code compatible for plug-and-go use with Magic Wand and Wordstar. Ribbons and printwheels are also industry standard.

Transtar's low-profile package is only six inches high, and shipping weight is under 50 pounds for UPS delivery.

The printer is available for $1,695. from Micro Distributors, 11794 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852, (800) 638-6621 and Sigma Distributing, 2110-116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, WA (800) 426-1412.
Reader Service  598

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Coordinated Accounting System

The Coordinated Accounting System includes separate modules for General Ledger (GL), Accounts Payable (AP) and Accounts Receivable (AR). The AR and AP modules print statements and checks on a variety of New England Business Service forms. The system is completely interactive with automatic postings to the General Ledger system.

The minimum system is designed to operate on a three-disk Model I, a twodisk Model III, or a single-disk Model II. The systems can be expanded to use increased disk space. The price ($200) includes over 200 pages of documentation and four disks (on the Model I & III) or a single eight-inch disk.

A variety of modules coordinated with the basic system, i.e., Inventory ($129.95), Job Costing ($250), Payroll ($59.95), Order Entry-Invoicing ($129.95) and Purchase Order Entry ($129.95) are also available.

Contact D.B. Software Co., 11840 NE Breeze, Portland, OR 97220, (503) 255-7735, for additional information.
Reader Service  563

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Maxprint

Maxprint is a printer-driven utility program developed to allow the Model I or III to use all the features of the standard MX-80 printer. Functions such as underlining, superscripts, subscripts, title centering, proportional justification of the right margin, and dynamic control of line spacing and margins are available.

The program features two main operating modes. A text mode allows the user to select functions on a character basis in the body of the text. A menu mode enables the user to achieve printer control in general purpose applications.

Maxprint is composed entirely of Z80 machine language and works with most programs including Scripsit. Source-code listings of all I/O modules are provided for those who wish to modify the program for unique applications.

Maxprint is available for $27.95 from Peggytronics, 381 First Street, Suite 5147, Los Altos, CA 94022, (408) 737-2253.
Reader Service  558
NEW PRODUCTS

Model 200 Print Buffer

The Model 200 Print Buffer allows making simultaneous use of your printer and computer. Once the Print Buffer is connected, information to be printed is transferred at high speed from the computer to the Model 200, which then transfers the data at a much slower rate to the printer. The Print Buffer maintains complete control of the printer, thereby freeing the computer to perform other, more intelligent tasks.

This product has a storage capacity of up to 80,000 print characters. To provide additional storage capacity, two or more buffers may be connected together. The Model 200 connects to your computer system using the supplied cable set. Either a parallel or a serial (RS-232C) interface may be used.

Priced at $545, the unit is available from Modular Microsystems Inc., 28-17 201 Street, Bayside, NY 11360, (212) 352-1715.

Reader Service 566

C.C. Writer for Disk

C.C. Writer, a word processing program, is now available for the Color Computer and Radio Shack or Exatron disk systems.

Disk C.C. Writer retains all of the features of the cassette C.C. Writer and in addition allows full control of the margins, page length, line spacing, centering, justification, and most features of smart printers. Editing features allow changes, insertions, deletions, and moves anywhere in the text. Files may be chained together for extended printing.

This version requires 32K, Extended Basic, and one Radio Shack or Exatron disk drive. Disk C.C. Writer is $40 from TransTek, 194 Lockwood, Bloomingdale, IL 60108.

Reader Service 559

Master Reversi

Master Reversi teaches and plays the popular board game and features a tournament mode and built-in help functions. Written by one of the top Reversi players in the country, this program is designed to simplify the process of learning Reversi for beginners and sharpen the wits of experts. Master Reversi allows you to play against the computer or another opponent.

This product is available for the Model I with 32K and one disk drive from Instant Software Inc., Peterborough, NH 03458, (603) 924-9471 for $29.95.

Reader Service 592

For Inventory Control

INV-X is an inventory control system for the Model II.

Its features include: a built-in sort/merge package; the fastest key access method (a new hashing algorithm); a report writer; a large storage capacity, 6,600 records on the Model II and 28,000 for unlimited disk storage.

INV-X requires a dual-disk system with 64K and TRSDOS. It is priced at $299. For more detailed information contact The Micro Architect Inc., 96 Dothan St., Arlington, MA 02174, (714) 643-4713.

Reader Service 568

CP/M for the Model I

The Mapper/64 converts the Model I into a 64K CP/M machine.

The Mapper/64 consists of a printed circuit board that is installed with no additional soldering, cutting and jumpering. This board substitutes 16K of RAM for the ROM Basic when running under CP/M.
FORM LETTER (Use alone or with the mail list system below) $39.95
Create letters and store on disk with provisions for later retrieval
and additions. Then print your letters using your mailing list:
- Same select and purge features as mailing list system.
- Select either continuous form or "cut sheet" paper.
- Selectable tabbing, test printing, and paging.
- Allows regular or legal size pages.
- Greetings are selectable by codes on mailing list. Options
  include Mr./Mrs., First/Last Name, global, or user defined.

MAIL LIST SYSTEM (Model I or III) $89.95
We proudly present here what many consider to be the most versa-
tile and powerful mailing list system on the market today. Note
that this newly revised system performs equally well on the very
small lists as well as the very large (tens of thousands of entries).
To assist you in evaluating our system, we offer our manual alone
at essentially our own cost ($49.95 + $2.00 P&H). Many of our
customers have declared that ours is the most thorough manual
they have seen – yet easily understood:
- Simple to use...even for the novice.
- Maintain virtually an infinite number of disks all in con-
tinuous alph or zip order, essential for large lists.
- Sort 2260 entries (2 full 40 track double density disks) in
  only 32K or an incredible 4640 entries (2 full 80 track
double density disks) in only 48K! Made possible with
  our unique date compression techniques.
- Super fast sort by alph or zip order (8 sec. for 1000 entries)
  both orders can exist simultaneously on disk.
- High speed recovery of entries from disk. Speed of sort is
  meaningless if retrieval from disk is slow; ours pulls in
  over 11 per sec.
- Transfers old files to our system LOOK!
- Zip order is "sub-alphabetized".
- Less than 5 digit zip has leading 0's appended.
- Supports 9 digit zip. Canadian zips, and foreign abbrev.
- Backup data disks are easily updated as entries are created,
edited, or sorted...extremely useful!!
- Optional reversal of name about comma
- Permits telephone, account, and/or serial numbers, etc.
- Prints on envelopes or on labels, 1, 2, or 3 across.
- Test label/envelope printing lets you make horizontal and
  vertical adjustments with ease.
- Master printout of your list in several formats (not just a
  rehash of the labels). extremely useful.
- Selective print by specific zip or by zip range.
- Editing is simple and fast automatic search. Batch
  transfer of edited entries to backup disks
- Optionally provides for duplicate labels.
- Deleted entries have "holes" on disk filled automatically
  and alph order is still maintained!
- System adjusts to any DOS
- Automatic "repeat" feature for ease of entry.
- Print and "scroll" through entries on disk.
- All labels optionally support an "ATTN:" line with provi-
sions for multiple entries.
- Plenty of user defined fields with various options for
  simultaneously purging and selecting the printout...even
  allows for inequalities...powerful and easy to use.
- All 0's in address labels are replaced by easier to ready 0's
- Continuous display of numbers of labels/envelopes printed.
- Each disk entry automatically "remembers" how many
  mailings have been made for that particular entry. Can
  be tied in with purge/select.
- Primarily written in BASIC for easy modification.
- Embedded machine code for those speed sensitive areas.
- Extensive use of error traps (both operator and machine
  induced). even recovers from a power failure during a
  printout...recycling on disk errors.
- Hardware requirements. 32K, printer, and 1 or 2 drives.

TRY OUR ONE DAY PC BOARD SERVICE
Fast service and high quality at a reasonable price.

PROVEN QUALITY SOFTWARE
FOR YOUR TRS-80*
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Sign (Supplied on tape only) $19.95
Produce large (reduced 50% here) attention getting signs with your
printer. supports most keyboard characters. will print multiple
lines. use alone or interface to your own BASIC program. requires
just over 16K and a printer.

SUPER CALENDAR (Supplied on tape only) $19.95
Prints out calendars (screen or hardcopy) of individual months
of years ranging from 1583 to any
time in the future. Standard banker's holidays are
noted. Additionally prints out large "graphics" type wall
calendars with memos under each day. Use as a planning calen-
dar with optional disk storage. Requires 16K and a printer.

Football Scouting Report (Disk only) $89.95
Charge local high schools and colleges up to $1000 per season
for these sophisticated reports. Documentation manual avail-
able alone for $3.95 + $2.00 shipping and handling.

Loan Amortization (Supplied on tape only) $29.95
Achieves pin point accuracy with a built in calendar. This
sophisticated program produces an exceptionally professional
looking printout that includes yearly summaries as well as
"totals-to-date" Several options for calculating interest includ-
ing one that pushes the payment date ahead to the next business
day if the regular pay date falls on a weekend or holiday.
Hardware requirements: Model I or III, 16K, and a printer.

Interfaces to your own basic programs. sort with the speed of
machine code but with the con-
venience of basic. Use your disk to merge our short basic programs
(with embedded machine code) with your own basic program.
Follow simple instructions to set up a sort of string, integer,
single, or double precision arrays (also ascending or descending
order). Also included is a ready to use basic program (already
merged with the ORDER program). Use it to obtain a printout
of alphabetized names.

Sample Sort Times
8 sec for 1000 dbi prec. numbers. 50 sec for 5000 integers.
(Orders is one of the only alphabetizers that both ignores non alph.
characters and treats upper and lower case alike.)

16 Sort Types

PAST SORT and
ALPHABETIZER
(disk only)$29.95

FAST SORT TIMES

Check: COD Visa: MC

Card No:
Name:
Address:
City, State, & Zip:

PREFERENCE PROTOTYPES

410 E. Roca  Refugio, Tx. 78377  (512)526-4758

See List of Advertisers on page 354

80 Microcomputing, May 1982 • 407
NEW PRODUCTS

This product enables your Model I to run most of the CP/M software on the market and languages including Pascal, Fortran and Cobol.

Complete with documentation and CP/M 2.2, the Mapper costs $49.95 and is available from Omikon, 1127 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702, (415) 845-8013.

Problem Solving
On the TRS-80 Pocket Computer

Problem Solving on the TRS-80 Pocket Computer by Don Inman and Jim Conlan, begins with a nuts and bolts approach to the machine’s own form of Basic, its keyboard and special features.

Further instruction describes a range of practical and educational applications and exposes the multiple problem-solving capabilities of the Pocket Computer. Ready-to-run programs are included for common data processing functions.

The book, priced at $8.95, is available from John Wiley and Sons, 605 3rd Ave., New York, NY 10158, (212) 850-6497.

Drive Control Unit

Optronics Technology has introduced a product for eight-inch floppy-disk users which provides automatic on/off control for the drive motor. This eliminates noise from the drive unit as well as significantly reducing media wear.

The Drive Control Unit (D.C.U.) is designed for easy installation and has connectors which allow it to fit within the drive assembly in series with the drive motor. During drive access, the motor is energized at zero-crossing for low noise and turns itself off after eight seconds (adjustable) of idle time.

The unit is available in kit form for $18.95 or assembled for $29.95 from Optronics Technology, Box 81, Pittsford, NY 14534.

For Personal Finances

Perfin is a customized program enabling you to make periodic audits of your personal financial status.

It allows foolproof and bombproof entries of your bank accounts, real estate holdings, stock and bond investments and more. Each category is automatically totalled and compared with previous audits to show your current financial status. Your entries are recorded on disk and listed on screen with optional printout.

Perfin is supplied on cassette for transfer to your disk for the Models I and III. It is priced at $11.95 and is available from Shirley Software, Box 417, Old Greenwich, CT 06870.

Computer Software

The Giant Book of Computer Software begins with the fundamentals of computer languages assuming the reader has no

One Key Loading

ONEKEY II loads any of the 96 possible runnable programs listed in a TRS-DOs directory with a single keystroke. Arrows are used to roll files up or down as if they were on a continuous loop. Hitting Enter selects the program and one key can be

The Optronics Drive Control Unit
We're not soft on software

Data resources continues its commitment to professional quality TRS-80® software with the Silver Edition Software Series...selected programs from talented and popular authors.

Data Resources
New subsystems for Aids III
AIDS FILE EDITOR
Allows you to update and edit records in AIDS data files without loading the file into memory. Now you can change a single record in a mailing list quickly and easily with random access selection.
MODEL I ........................................... $24.95

AIDS DATA ENTRY MODULE
Designed for inputting data directly into AISDISK files. Each command may be fired to read the same data. The key-in routines are improved in speed. Data can be added to the end of an existing file or a new file can be created, no more than 255 key-strokes can be lost.
MODEL I ........................................... $24.95

AIDS DISK SORT
Designed for files that are too large to sort "in memory" with AIDS or for when you don't want to wait while AIDS loads the records. Records are physically rearranging on disk.
MODEL I or III .................................... $24.92

AIDS SYSTEMS BY META TECHNOLOGIES
MTC AIDS III
This easy to use system allows even a novice TRS-80 user to create data files custom configured for many applications from cash flow analysis and financial journals to price lists and record keeping. It requires NO PROGRAMMING and is complete with features for adding, deleting, sorting, updating and printing.
MODEL I or III .................................... $69.95

MTC CALCS III
Performs numeric calculations of data contained in AIDS files. Ideal for financial applications.
MODEL I or III .................................... $24.95

MTC CALCS IV
The same features as CALCS III with more powerful formulas and the ability to store report formats.
MODEL I or III .................................... $39.95

MTC MERGE III
Combines up to 14 AIDS data files into a single file. Duplicates may optionally be purged, and sorted order of records is maintained.
MODEL I or III .................................... $19.95

INTERACTIVE BUSINESS SYSTEM INVENTORY CONTROL
By Tom Williams
The interactive system for inventory control offers the small manufacturing business savings in the thousands of dollars in reduced staff and accounting costs. Here's how it works...
When an invoice is typed:
• the customer's name and both addresses are obtained from the CUSTOMER LIST file.
• the company data is obtained from the COMPANY DATA file.
• the product data is retrieved from the INVENTORY CONTROL file.
• the INVENTORY CONTROL DATA file is updated by the invoice.
• the SALES DATA file is updated by the invoice.
• the invoice is automatically entered in the ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE file.
The results are: the invoice is typed, customer data is gathered, items purchased are listed, multiples extended, invoice totalized, discounts computed, shipping costs added, interest added for late payments and debts is entered in inventory control, sales data file and in accounts receivable... in about 80 seconds without mathematical or posting error.
For Model I or III .................................... $500.00

B.T. ENTERPRISES
UNITERM/80
By Pete Roberts
This is the state-of-the-art in communications software. It configures itself for either Model I or Model III and can be used with any standard modem, both RS-232 and Bus-Decoding. Especially designed to use the extended commands in NEWDOS/80, but fully compatible with all major DOS systems.
For Model I and III .................................... $89.00

THE FLOPPY DOCTOR
By Dave Stambaugh
FLOPPY DISK/MEMORY DIAGNOSTIC programs are designed to thoroughly check out the two most trouble prone sections of the TRS-80, the disk system (controller and drives) and the memory arrays.
MODEL I ........................................... $24.95
MODEL III ......................................... $29.95

NEWDOS/80 Version 2.0
for Model I and III
The hottest Disk Operating System is now available in its latest version. This is the ONE from Apparatus, Inc., the people whose systems have made the TRS-80 the reliable computer.
$149.85

SPECIAL
AIDS I Super systems
AIDS I & CALCS III & MERGE III
MODEL I or III .................................... $99.95
AIDS I & CALCS IV & MERGE III
MODEL I or III .................................... $109.95

1981 DATA RESOURCES CORP.
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Just Pick Up

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TRS
ADD 6.3 MEG TO 38

VR Data has grown with the microcomputer industry for over ten years.
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Our designs are tested, re-tested, and "burned in." We are so sure of our quality control, we offer you a 120 day warranty including full coverage of parts and labor.

Warren G. Rosenkranz
President VR Data Corporation
since 1972

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VR data
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ALL VR DATA PRODUCTS CARRY A 120-DAY WARRANTY INCLUDING PARTS & LABOR
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8:30AM-7PM E.S.T. Mon.-Fri., Sat. 10AM-3PM CABLE "VRDATA" TELEX 845-124
Phone or write to order direct, or for name of your nearest dealer.
If you don't see it advertised call us and ask for it.
HARD DISK FOR 80™
MEG TO YOUR TRS-80
VR DATA WINCHESTER HD
SUBSYSTEM FEATURES:
• TRSDOS Compatible Operating System
• State-of-the-Art Circuitry
• Full Calibration, Test and Burn-in
• Up to 4 drive configuration
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• Warranty—120 days—parts & labor
• 115/230 VAC, 50/60 Hz.
6.3 MEGABYTE WINCHESTER
(external) HARD DISK SUBSYSTEM
With Chassis, PS, DOSPLUS $3195

Optional Winchester
Subsystem Configurations:
9.5 MEGABYTE $3695
19.0 MEGABYTE $4295
2 x 6.3 meg drives $4695
2 x 9.5 meg drives $5395
2 x 19.0 meg drives $6795

MODEL III
COMMUNICATIONS

HERE NOW:
VR-RS232C $90.00
Direct Replacement For
R.S. RS232, Fully Tested
& Burned-in, Easy
Installation, 120 Day
Warranty, Programmable
Pinout, Prototype Area

COMING SOON:
D-CON $299
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NEEDS NO RS232—Direct
Connect, Programmable
Dialing, AUTO
ANSWER/ORIGINATE,
Easy Installation

DISK III
100% Compatible
COMPARE AND SAVE
Model III Disks
Complete Business System includes:
48K TRS-80™ Model III, Disk III™2
Drive System, TRSDOS
and Manual
$1882

DISK III Single drive assy. $599
DISK III Two drive assy. $864.00
DISK III Assy. w/out drives $435.00
TRSDOS™ & Manual $21.90
DOSPLUS $149.00
LDOS $129.00
External drives (3&4) $275.00 ea.

40tk 2 sided floppy (optional) add $120.00
80tk 1 sided floppy (optional) add $120.00
80tk 2 sided floppy (optional) add $240.00

“DISK III single drive assembly includes: one 40 track 5½” double density drive, power supply, controller, mounting hardware, applicable cables, and manual.

VR Data’s DISK III features:
• Completely compatible with TRSDOS
• State-of-the-art circuitry
• Fully tested, calibrated & burned-in
• Up to 4 drive configuration
• Warranty 120 days—100% parts and labor
• Installation with simple hand tools
• Optional 80 tk and 2 sided drives
• READ 40—Pgm. to read 40 tk. Diskettes on 80 tk. Drives $25.00

MODEL I/III
External Drive
w/PS & ENC $275

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Products</th>
<th>Peripherals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISK &amp; MYSTERIES BOOK $22.50</td>
<td>Epson MX-80 w/GRAPHTRAX $595.00</td>
</tr>
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<td>BASIC &amp; MYSTERIES BOOK $29.95</td>
<td>Epson MX-80FT 615.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEC Ribbons (min. 6) 5.95</td>
<td>Epson MX-100 800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>C ITOH Ribbons 5.95</td>
<td>Centronics 739 700.00</td>
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<td>Epson Ribbons—MX-80 12.50</td>
<td>CENTRONICS 704 1749.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDOS Operating System 129.00</td>
<td>G ITOH F-10 40 cphs 1695.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOSPLUS Operating System 149.00</td>
<td>Tractor 200.00</td>
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</tbody>
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Printers cables 25.00
LEXICON MODEM 125.00

**ITEMS**
NEW PRODUCTS

knowledge of programming whatsoever.

The contents include: an introduction to computer languages, beginning through advanced programming techniques, electronics and antenna programming, ham radio operating programs, RTTY and SSTV programs, games, and more.
Reader Service ➤ 593

Copy-Tape

Copy-Tape is a utility program used to duplicate Basic or System tapes on the Model I and III.

On the Model III, Copy-Tape also converts 500 baud to 1500 baud and vice versa. This utility program has menu-driven options including one which advances the tape for your convenience. Copy-Tape allows scanning through memory and viewing the ASCII code of the program you duplicate and a verify command makes it possible to check tapes for validity.

Available for the Model I, Level II and Model III with 16K. The guaranteed cassette tape sells for $9.95 and is available from David Modney, 4144 N. Via Villas, Tucson, AZ 85719, (602) 293-5186.
Reader Service ➤ 584

Educational Software

Testrite stores test items and generates customized tests suitable for all grade levels from the middle elementary through college and technical schools. Testrite allows teachers to efficiently maintain curricula referenced test items.

Test items from any discipline may be entered, edited, selected and printed as classroom ready tests and study guides. Whole files, portions of files or selected questions may be used to print a single test. Large exams may be created from multiple files. Questions may be printed in either multiple choice, true/false, matching and completion. Numbering options, customized titles and user edited test taking instructions give the program flexibility.

Versions are available for the Model I, III and for the Model II with CP/M for $139 from Class 1 Systems, 17909 Maple St., Lansing, IL 60438, (312) 474-4664.
Reader Service ➤ 570

Quietline 6

Quietline 6 is a power-line conditioner for electronic applications which continuously monitors your ac power source, protecting sensitive equipment from power-line interference and surges.

This product plugs directly into a standard wall socket, converting it to six fully protected outlets. When detected, surges and interference are purged from the power line by the activation of protective circuitry. Interference is also prevented from contaminating the ac power line when noisy electrical equipment is plugged into the unit.

The conditioner is available for $39.95 from BWJ Technology Inc., Box 6214, Arlington, TX 76011.
Reader Service ➤ 552

Data Ace

Data Ace is now available for Models I, II, and III.

This product combines a Data Base Management and Operating System, a conversational Data Definition Language (DDL), a Interactive Query Language (DQL), a Block Structured programming language for easy development and a full screen text editor to create and maintain programs and procedures. The combination of these features enable the user to automate a business rapidly to the exact requirements needed. The Model I and III version include MMSFORTH. The Model II offering is supported with a General Accounting Package.

Data Ace runs on Models I and III with 48K. This version costs $375. It also runs on the Model II with 64K, an expansion box, at least one drive and a printer. The price of this system is $1350. The package includes a utilities disk, a demonstration disk, two systems disks, and both volumes of the Users Guide.

For additional information, contact Computer Software Design, Inc., 1911 Wright Circle, Anaheim, CA 92806, (714) 634-9012.
Reader Service ➤ 568

Speaking Pascal

Speaking Pascal: A Computer Language Primer is written in concise mathematical language. The text requires no technical background or previous programming experience on the part of the reader.

The author employs top-down structured analysis and key examples to illustrate new ideas. Readers are encouraged to construct programs in an organized manner for complete understanding. Elementary and complex data types are covered, as well as the use of control structures, procedures and functions. Extensive artwork, illustrations, and exercises at the end of each chapter are included.

For more detailed information contact Hayden Book Co., 50 Essex St., Rochelle Park, NJ 07662, (800) 631-0856.
Reader Service ➤ 572

Epset

Epset is a set of files that enable users of the Epson MX-80 printers to set CPI, column width, line spacing, and do printer test runs under direct control from the keyboard of their terminals without having to write software programs.

The disk includes a series of nine files, eight of which are for testing the printer's accuracy in printing its entire set of ASCII characters including numbers, upper and lowercase alphabets, punctuation, and graphic blocks in column widths of 10 to 80. The eighth file provides a menu for instantaneous selection and configuration of the MX-80 for combinations of CPI; single, double, and emphasized strike; and line spacing.

Written in PL/I/80, Epset is available for systems running CP/M with 32K from Success Analysis Corp., 174 Holly Oak Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94303, (415) 494-2613.
Reader Service ➤ 573
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SYSTEM PRICING

Price includes disk subsystem, host adapter, SASI-NET, and DosPlus 4.0D*. Mod-II* operating system available at additional cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SASI-NET Multiplexer</td>
<td>$795.00 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-50FM (5.2 Megabytes formatted)</td>
<td>$3195.00 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-100FM (11.1 Megabytes formatted)</td>
<td>$3995.00 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Host Adapters available for</td>
<td>$325.00 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDC-3B Floppy Disk Controller Board</td>
<td>$139.95 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDC-3C Floppy Disk Controller (runs 5&quot; and 8&quot; floppy disks)</td>
<td>$199.95 ea.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call for the location of your nearest Micro Mainframe Dealer
Dealers please inquire on your letterhead

MICRO MAINFRAME
2227 McGregor Ave. • Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 635-3997
NEW PRODUCTS

Reference Sheet

A Reference Sheet containing all the Z80 mnemonics for OpCodes 0-255 identified in decimal, hex and octal for identification is now available.

Included are ASCII code identification of printer control codes, keyboard characters, graphics codes, space compression (tab) codes, as well as Basic's reserved words token codes.

In addition, the Reference Sheet contains four number-base conversion tables in powers of 2, 16, 2-to-16 conversion, and hex-to-decimal.

The Reference Sheet is free to anyone sending ABS a #10 SASE indicating if for Model I, Model II, Model III. Write to ABS Suppliers, 3352 Chelsea Circle, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Reader Service » 553

High Yield Ribbons

A new NEC high-yield multistrike ribbon cartridge is now being marketed. With the addition of a new gear ratio system and by using a five-overstrike formula multistrike ribbon, approximately 100,000 additional characters have been added to the existing NEC cartridges. A total average yield of 325,000 characters per cartridge is now possible.

Aspen Ribbons is also marketing standard NEC Multistrike ribbons in blue, red, green and brown, in addition to black.

Contact Aspen Ribbons Inc., 1700 N. 55th St., Boulder, CO 80301, (303) 444-4050.

Reader Service » 571

The GEAP Inkslinger

The GEAP Inkslinger enables printing with a library of different character sets or creating your own lettersets, character fonts or graphics for unique correspondence. The characters are created using an Epson MX-80 or 100 with the Graftrax option. The GEAP Inkslinger provides the programming to print bit image graphics and the fonts, you just type in the text and give a Write command.

The package includes the tools used in creating Inkslinger letters allowing non-programmers to modify the letters or create their own lettersets or type fonts. Once letters are created they may be printed, stored on disk, or reedited at a later time. In addition, other types of artistic drawings may be created including custom logos or graphs. Using a "tile" concept, full page drawings can be created. Print time options allow the manipulation of the bit images into different forms including a magnification option.

The Inkslinger requires a Model I or III, 48K and at least one disk drive and the original GEAP 48K disk version. Introductory price is $29.99 from J.F. Consulting, 74-355 Buttonwood, Palm Desert, CA 92260, (714) 340-5471.

Reader Service » 570

Data Logging With the Pocket Computer

The Protean Scientific PTR Interface allows using the Pocket Computer as a portable data-logging device. It transfers your data quickly and easily to a desktop unit.

The Interface reads Pocket Computer data tapes into a Model I or Model III. It is connected directly to the computer's cassette recorder cable and need not be removed during normal cassette operation. An LED flashes to indicate when data transfer is taking place. The unit is battery operated and designed for low power consumption.

The PTR Interface reads both alpha and numeric data. Its format allows loading of data files as they occur on the tape or searching for data files by name. You can load complete files or specify the number of memories you want transferred. Checksum errors are reported to identify invalid data.

The package includes the interface, a

Sample GEAP Inkslinger lettersets

![The GEAP Inkslinger](image)

The Protean Scientific PTR Interface
NEW PRODUCTS

cassette tape with Assembly-language and Basic programs, and manual. The software requires 16K, 32K or 48K of memory. The package is priced at $99.95 and is available from Protean Scientific, Route 13, Lincoln, NE 68527.
Reader Service 565

Stock Trackers
A new generation of Stock Tracker pro-
grams for the Model I and III are now available.
Modules include comprehensive graphics, data editing and several new reports. A new trading logic is featured for direct integration with the optional companion program, Market Tracker. All programs and subcommands are list selectable, include extensive error trapping, execute faster, and can be repeated or aborted.
The program requires 48K and one disk drive. They retail for $265 and may be pur-
chased through H & H Trading Company, Box 549, Clayton, CA 94517, (415) 673-3233.
Reader Service 567

Automatic Curve Plotter
Autoplot provides high-resolution graphics capabilities for Model I and III owners. Using an Epson MX-80 or
MX-100 printer and Graftrax as an output device, this curve-plotting program creates graphs with a resolution of 480 by 192 dots.
Autoplot is written in Disk Basic and enhanced by machine-language routines in high RAM. Data points are entered with a small user-written Basic subroutine. By selecting options, you can override the automatic scaling of the axes, plot con-
tinuous curves or separated markers, choose linear or logarithmic presentation, request a grid overlay, compute derivatives or integrals, plot more than one curve, or select from four different print sizes and formats.
The package is available for the Model I and III (48K, 1 disk drive) for $79.50. For more information, contact Menlo Systems, 3790 El Camino Real, Palo Alto,
CA 94306, (415) 327-7424.
Reader Service 550

High Contrast Electrosensitive Paper
A whiter matte finish is now available with Dennison Manufacturing's Electrosensitive paper for non-impact printers.
By combining a white matte surface finish with black undercoating a contrast is produced for high legibility. The paper can be ordered in all standard plus custom
printer sizes. Perforated paper, a variety of colors, pressure-sensitive adhesive for labeling, and other options are also available.

The Coupon Shopper
The Coupon Shopper keeps organized records of redeemable coupons.
The program stores up to 99 coupons, their brand names, values, and expiration dates. Coupons can be added and deleted as necessary. This product also prepares shopping lists from the program's 160 grocery items (20 additional items may be added by the user). When preparing your shopping list a symbol appears next to the items you have entered a coupon for. After preparing the shopping list, coupon deductions are totalled up at the bottom of the screen.
This program is available on cassette for the Model I and III, for $9.95 by contact-
ing V. Bertrand, Box 217, Wallingford, CT 06492.
Reader Service 564

TextPro For the Color Computer
TextPro is a complete text editor and text processing program for the Color Computer.
The entire program utilizes only 6K of memory including the tape, screen and keyboard buffers. Its fast editing and pro-
cessing is compatible with Basic ASCII formatted tape and disk files.
The editor itself includes 24 commands including string search and replace, line
TEX TED IT — A Complete Word Processing System in kit form
by Irwin Rappaport

TEX TED IT is an inexpensive word processor that you can adapt to suit your needs, from writing form letters to large texts. It is written in modules, so you can load and use only those portions that you need. Included are modules that perform:
—right justification
—ASCII upper/lowercase conversion
—one-key phrase entering
—complete editorial functions
—and much more!

TEX TED IT is written in TRS-80 Disk BASIC, and the modules are documented in the author’s admirably clear tutorial writing style. Not only does Irwin Rappaport explain how to use TEX TED IT; he also explains programming techniques implemented in the system.

TEX TED IT is an inexpensive word processor that helps you learn about BASIC programming. It is written for TRS-80 Models I and III with TRS-DOS 2.2 or 2.3 and 32K.

TR-80 and TRS-DOS are trademarks of the Radio Shack Division of Tandy Corporation.

*TR-80 and TRS-DOS are trademarks of the Radio Shack Division of Tandy Corporation.


Annotated BASIC — A New Technique for Neophytes.

BASIC programming was supposed to be simple—a beginner’s programming language which was so near to English that it could be easily understood. But, in recent years, BASIC has become much more powerful and therefore much more difficult to read and understand. BASIC simply isn’t basic anymore.

Annotated BASIC explains the complexities of modern BASIC. It includes complete TRS-80 Level II BASIC programs that you can use. Each program is annotated to explain in step-by-step fashion the workings of the program. Programs are flowcharted to assist you in following the operational sequence. And—each chapter includes a description of the new concepts which have been introduced.

Annotated BASIC deals with the hows and whys of TRS-80 BASIC programming. How is a program put together? Why is it written that way? By observing the programs and following the annotation, you can develop new techniques to use in your own programs—or modify commercial programs for your specific use.


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Learning electronics theory without practice isn’t easy, and it’s no fun to build an electronics project that you can’t use. Kilobaud Klassroom, the popular series first published in Kilobaud Microcomputing, combines theory with practice. This is a practical course in digital electronics. It starts out with very simple electronics projects, and by the end of the course, you’ll construct your own working microcomputer!

Authors Young and Stark are experienced teachers, and their approach is simple and direct. Whether you’re learning at home or in the classroom, this book provides you with a solid background in electronics—and you’ll own a computer that you built yourself!


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80 Microcomputing, May 1982  •  417
and automatic line-edit modes allowing you to insert, delete, change or add characters. The text processor includes 29 commands for formatting the output.

For more detailed information contact Cer-Comp, 5586 Richochet Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89110, (702) 452-0632. TextPro is priced at $49.95.

Reader Service 595

**Small Business Package**

A small business package, Mailpack, has been introduced for the Model I and III with a minimum of 32K and two disk drives.

The package combines the best features of Kwirkit, a simplified letter and text-writing set of programs; Docurite, a multi-page, comprehensive word processor; Customer, a specialized data base manager; and Mailsite, a new interfacing program. The operation of Mailpack software is fully interactive with the master menu and sub-menus of each module (which can be purchased and used separately.)

The total Mailpack software is available for $149.95 from Simplified Software Systems, 118 Third Ave., N.W. Box 1192, Hickory, NC 28601.

Reader Service 594

**Encyclopedia Loader**

The Encyclopedia Loader was designed to save the monotonous typing of all Encyclopedia for the TRS-80 programs into your computer.

The Loader is produced as each volume of the series goes to press. The Level II Basic cassette contains the majority of the programs for the volume it accompanies. A sample of the programs include business, education, graphics, home applications, tutorials and utilities.

Individual Encyclopedia Loaders retail for $14.95 and are available from Wayne Green Books, Peterborough, NH 03458, (800) 258-5473.

Reader Service 586

**Form80/Data80**

Form80/Data80 is a data base management system with an applications generation program, a report generation subsystem, and a letter-writing subsystem.

Form80, the applications generation program, allows persons with no prior computing experience to sit down and write their own data base management application quickly.

Data80, the data base manager, allows the user to collect information on his application using five basic commands. Reports may be also run against the data base using the on-line report generator. A word processor, text editor and letter writing subsystem are featured. Data80 needs a maximum of three disk accesses to find any record on system regardless of the length.

These programs have a combined price of $995 and operate on any system running CP/M. Contact Alpha Data Inc., 417 Welshwood Dr., Suite 103, Nashville, TN 37211, (615) 333-1934.

Reader Service 574

**Earthquake—A New Adventure**

Earthquake is the latest in Adventure International's Other-Venture Series.

Crafted with attention to historical accuracy and detail, Earthquake returns you to San Francisco on April 19, 1906. The city streets are awash with flames as buildings burn and crumble. You are left to test your survival skills.

The tape version of the program is $19.95, the disk version $20.95. Both are available from Adventure International, Box 3435, Longwood, FL 32750, (305) 862-6917.

Reader Service 585

**Trashman**

Trashman is an arcade-style game for the Model I and III with 16K which tests your skill as you guide a little "critter" from the Coalzack Nebula around the halls of the Deneb IV Haladay Inn devouring the trash left behind by careless guests.

While you are avoiding the alien pets that also have been left wandering the halls, search for Dr. Peppo’s Elixir of Health and Vitality and become "Super Trashman!"

Trashman retails for $14.95 from Creative Thaumaturgy, Box 107 Forrest Park Branch, Dayton, OH 45405.

Reader Service 596

**Direct Plug Isolators**

The Direct Plug Isolators provide the same equipment interaction isolation and power-line protection as the line-cord Isolator series. A retention screw prevents accidental withdrawal from the wall socket.

Direct Plug Isolators can accommodate a total 1,875-watt load, with up to 1,000 watts per socket. A high-capacity spike/surge suppressor is designed into each unit. The Direct Plug Super Isolator, Model DP-SI5032, provides two super-isolated channels for $96.95.

Contact the Electronic Specialists Inc., 171 S. Main St., Box 389, Natick, MA 01760, (617) 655-1532, for more information.

Reader Service 554
HOW TO USE YOUR EPSON WITHOUT WASTING COMPUTER TIME:

Your computer is capable of sending data at thousands of characters per second but the Epson can only print 80 characters per second.

This means your computer is forced to wait for the printer to finish one line before it can send the next. A waste of valuable time.

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Microbuffer model MBP-16K is a Centronics-compatible parallel interface with 16,384 bytes of on-board RAM for data buffering.

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Either model fits the existing auxiliary interface connector inside the Epson MX-80, MX-80 F/T or MX-100 without modification, and is compatible with standard Epson cables and printer control software, including GRAFTRAX-80.

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Frustrating isn't it! No matter how much you speed up your program it still seems to take forever to save data onto a cassette. Wouldn't it be great if someone could design a mass storage system with the speed of a disk, but at half the cost? Exatron did, the Exatron Stringy Floppy (ESF).

Totally self-contained, the ESF is an extremely fast, reliable, and economical alternative to cassette or disk storage of programs or data. All of the ESF's operations are under the computer's control, with no buttons, switches, knobs or levers to adjust or forget.

The ESF uses a miniature tape cartridge, about the size of a business card, called a wafer. The transport mechanism uses a direct drive motor with only one moving part. Designed to read and write digital data only, the ESF suffers from none of the drawbacks of cassettes - without the expense of disks.

Several versions of the ESF are available, for the TRS-80, Apple, PET, OSI and an RS 232 unit. Even the slowest of the units is 15 times faster than a cassette, and all are as reliable as disk drives - in fact a lot of users say they are more reliable!

To get further information about the ESF give Exatron a call on their Hot Line 800-538 8559 (inside California 408-737 7111).

If you can't wait any longer then take advantage of their 30 day money-back guarantee, you've nothing to lose but time!

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