

and you'll see that the line has changed to

A 01500 A2 00 LDX #500

The machine code in addresses 1500 and 1501 (bank 0, but in this area that's the same as bank 15) is hex A2 00. These two bytes have been placed in memory, and the monitor is ready for your next line of code; in fact, it has typed part of it for you. Complete the next line so that it reads

A 01502 LDA #52A

This instruction, when the program runs, will load the ASCII code for an asterisk (hex 2A) into the A register; that's the register we use for printing. Continue with

A 01504 JSR \$FFD2

A 01507 INX

A 01508 CPX #+20

The first instruction in this group prints a character, calling the Kernal ROM routine usually known as BSOUT (also known in the Commodore 64 as CHROUT). The next adds one to the X register, which we're using as a counter. The last instruction says, "Compare the counter with decimal 20." Note the plus sign for decimal. When you press RETURN, the line changes to

A 01508 E0 14 CPX #514

The value 20 has been changed to hexadecimal. Don't be surprised; it's still the same number. Continue entering with

A 0150A BNE \$1504

A 0150C LDA #50D

A 0150E JMP \$FFD2

The instruction BNE \$1504 sends the program back to print again if we haven't reached 20 characters. The sequence LDA #50D:JMP \$FFD2 prints a carriage return and terminates the program (we know that the ROM routine at \$FFD2 ends with RTS, so we can save a little code by using that RTS to return, rather than ending with the more conventional JSR \$FFD2:RTS). After typing the last line, the computer prompts you with A 01511. Simply press RETURN to end the assembly.

If you like, you can proofread your program by entering the command D 1500 150C. The D command is for disassemble, which performs an activity more or less the reverse of an assembly.

## Starting Up

You can go to this program with a G (go) command, which doesn't permit a return. Better, you can call it with a J (jump subroutine) command. But first, *you must think about what bank you are in.*

If you enter the command J 1500, you'll have a disaster on your hands. Why? Because you're entering bank 0 which contains no Kernal ROM and no I/O chips. Remember, the program uses the Kernal ROM routine BSOUT to print each character. If you JSR to this routine when the Kernal ROM is absent, you'll never print those asterisks, and your program will almost certainly fail. If you really want to call this program from the machine language monitor, invoke bank 15 with J F1500.

It's also quite simple to call the routine from BASIC. First, find the starting address. Type \$1500 and read the answer, decimal +5376.

## Back To BASIC

Return to BASIC by giving the X (exit) command. You'll see the familiar READY response of BASIC. Now type NEW (don't worry, your machine language program won't be harmed) and enter the following program:

```
100 BANK 15
110 SYS 5376
120 PRINT "THIS WORKS"
130 SYS 5376
140 PRINT "WITHOUT PROBLEMS"
150 SYS 5376
```

Run the program and you should see a row of asterisks. If you've done these exercises, you should have a feeling for the 128's machine language monitor. It's convenient and flexible. In upcoming articles we'll learn more about the monitor, and how to link BASIC and machine language programs together. ©

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# Stringing Atari Machine Language

Robert Martinsons

*Storing Atari machine language in a string is a time-honored technique, but how do you get the ML into the string in the first place? This program does the job automatically, creating the necessary string and appending it to the BASIC program of your choice. It's easy and very fast.*

A good way to enhance the performance of BASIC programs is to use machine language subroutines for tasks which either take too much time or consume too much memory. And one of the most popular places to store short ML routines is in an Atari BASIC string. Once the ML code is stored in a string, BASIC's ADR function can calculate the string's address, and the USR function can call it.

Short machine language routines can be dealt with by manually typing them into strings, but this can be somewhat tricky, since it usually involves typing strange-looking control characters. Another possibility is to use DATA statements which BASIC can READ under program control. Neither of these methods is attractive for large routines, however. Substantial ML programs are usually written with an editor/assembler, which produces a binary file as output. The problem, then, is how to convert the contents of a binary file into a string that BASIC can easily handle.

The routine that accompanies this article solves the problem of converting binary files into string form. It reads binary data from a disk or tape file, stores it in a series of strings through the editor's forced read mode, then deletes itself from memory. Type in the program lines listed below, then LIST the routine to disk or tape. Do not save the routine: It must be LISTed so that you can later ENTER it into memory without disturbing a program that's already present.

## Stringing Along

To use the routine, first load the BASIC program to which you would like to add a machine language routine. Of course, the ML routine is one which normally resides in a binary file. (Note that the ML routine *must* be relocatable, since Atari BASIC strings can move around in memory while a program runs.) The BASIC program must not use any line numbers higher than 31499, since this routine itself uses the lines beginning at 31500. Next, ENTER the routine from disk. This brings it into memory without altering the BASIC program. To activate the routine, type GOTO 31500 and press RETURN.

The program begins by requesting the filename of your binary file. Be sure to include the correct device prefix in your response. For instance, to read the binary file CODE.BIN from disk, enter D:CO-

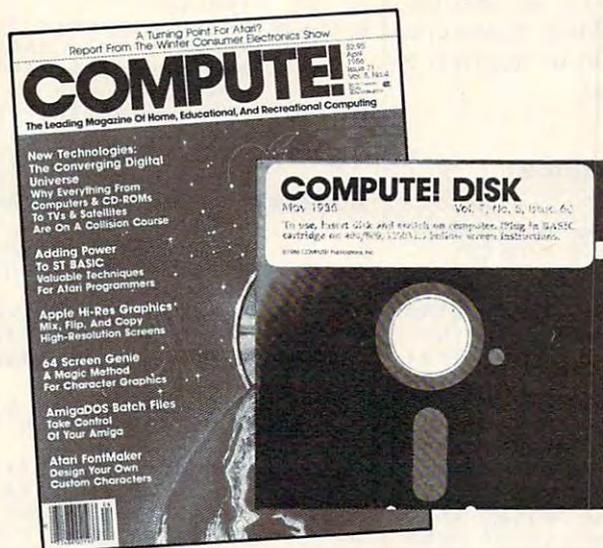
DE.BIN at the prompt. At the next prompt, enter the name of the BASIC string which will hold your machine code. Limit the name to eight characters or fewer (if you enter too many characters, the routine automatically truncates the name). Answer the last prompt with the line number where you want the new ML strings to begin. When answering this prompt, you should take care not to start the new lines at a place which would overwrite existing lines. A safe rule of thumb is to allow ten line numbers for every 256 bytes of machine language.

At this stage, the routine begins reading the ML code into memory and converting it into strings. When the process is complete, the routine deletes itself, leaving your original program plus the strings that contain the machine language. Before you can resave the program, you must manually add a DIMENSION statement for the new string and add USR calls for the routine where needed. It's also a good idea to LIST the revised program to disk, type NEW, and ENTER it again, before saving it a final time. In this way you can clear out all the variables used by the deleted routine.

## The Editor Does All The Work

For those who are interested, here is a short explanation of how the

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conversion routine works. All Atari binary files have a six-byte header, which contains the information shown in the table.

### Typical Binary File Header

Byte	Number	Number	Description
1	255	FF	Identification code for binary load file
2	255	FF	code for binary load file
3	0	00	Starting address (LSB)
4	10	0A	(MSB)
5	72	4C	Ending address (LSB)
6	13	0D	(MSB)

The conversion routine opens the binary file and executes a CIO (Central Input/Output) system call to bring in the first six bytes. It examines these and confirms that you have accessed a binary file, and then computes the file size by subtracting the starting address from the ending address. Next, a subroutine which dimensions a temporary string (TEMP\$) is created and executed. For the sample header shown, the dimension of TEMP\$ will be 841. TEMP\$ becomes the input buffer for the next CIO call which reads in the remainder of the binary file.

A loop beginning at line 31610 now begins to break the data from TEMP\$ into segments short enough to be stored in a BASIC line. Each new string will hold 90 bytes unless we find the ATASCII equivalent of a quotation mark (34) or carriage return (155). These values are handled separately to avoid confusing the screen editor.

The POKES in the subsequent lines switch the editor into forced read mode, causing it to enter the new line just as if you'd typed it manually and pressed RETURN. Because the address of TEMP\$ moves every time the editor enters a new line, its address is recomputed at the beginning of each loop. After the last byte of data has been packed into the new string, the conversion routine again uses forced read mode to delete itself from the finished program.

Chances are that you've been using a more manual method of embedding your assembly language routines into BASIC. If so,

this routine should become a welcome part of your toolkit. Sit back and enjoy watching the screen editor do all the work. A final note: Every effort was made to keep the program as compact as possible. Therefore, no REMark statements are included and error trapping is held to a minimum.

### String Atari Machine Language

For instructions on entering this listing, please refer to "COMPUTE!'s Guide to Typing In Programs" in this issue of COMPUTE!.

```

BD 31500 CLR :GRAPHICS 0:IND
EX=1:LINENO=0:STRTL
INE=45:DIM BUFFER$(
8),FILNAM$(15),STRN
AME$(8),A$(1):CIO=A
DR("H[P]LVE")
BN 31510 ? "Enter filename f
or binary load file
":INPUT FILNAM$
BO 31520 ? "Enter BASIC stri
ng name":INPUT STRN
AME$
NL 31530 ? "Enter starting l
ineno for string":I
NPUT LINENO
PK 31540 A=ADR(BUFFER$):OPEN
#1,4,0,FILNAM$:POK
E 850,7:B=INT(A/256
):POKE 852,A-256*B:
POKE 853,B:POKE 857
,0
CO 31550 POKE 856,6:N=USR(CI
O):IF PEEK(A)<>255
OR PEEK(A+1)<>255 T
HEN CLOSE #1:? "ERR
OR: Not a binary fi
le":STOP
HC 31560 FILSIZ=(PEEK(A+4)+2
56*PEEK(A+5))-(PEEK
(A+2)+256*PEEK(A+3)
)+1
PH 31570 GRAPHICS 0:POSITION
2,4:PRINT "31750 D
IM TEMP$(";FILSIZ;"
):RETURN"
FK 31580 PRINT "CONT":POSITI
ON 2,0:POKE 842,13:
STOP
FK 31590 POKE 842,12:GOSUB 3
1750:TEMP$(1)=" ":T
EMP$(FILSIZ)=" ":TE
MP$(2)=TEMP$:ADDRES
S=ADR(TEMP$):B=INT(
ADDRESS/256)
OC 31600 POKE 852,ADDRESS-25
6*B:POKE 853,B:B=IN
T(FILSIZ/256):POKE
856,FILSIZ-256*B:PO
KE 857,B:N=USR(CIO)
:CLOSE #1
FB 31610 GRAPHICS 0:ADDRESS=
ADR(TEMP$):POSITION
2,4:LINELIM=INDEX+
89
OL 31620 IF LINELIM>FILSIZ T
HEN LINELIM=FILSIZ
OH 31630 A$=TEMP$(INDEX,INDE
X):IF A$=CHR$(34) O
R A$=CHR$(155) THEN
31690
CA 31640 LINESTRT=INDEX:FOR
INDEX=LINESTRT TO L

```

```

INELIM
CM 31650 A$=TEMP$(INDEX,INDE
X):IF A$=CHR$(34) O
R A$=CHR$(155) THEN
LINEND=INDEX-1:GOT
O 31670
PC 31660 NEXT INDEX:LINEND=L
INELIM
HK 31670 PRINT LINENO;" ";ST
RNAME$;"*(";LINESTR
T;"";LINEND;"")="";C
HR$(34);
FK 31680 FOR I=LINESTRT TO L
INEND:? "(ESC)";TEM
P$(I,I);NEXT I:? C
HR$(34):GOTO 31700
BN 31690 ? LINENO;" ";STRNAM
E$;"*(";INDEX;"";I
NDEX;"")=CHR$(";ASC(
A$);")":INDEX=INDEX
+1
LB 31700 LINENO=LINENO+1:PRI
NT "CONT":POSITION
2,0:POKE 842,13:STO
P
BC 31710 POKE 842,12:IF LINE
LIM<FILSIZ THEN 316
10
BP 31720 GRAPHICS 0:POSITION
2,4:FOR I=31490 TO
31650 STEP 10:? I:
NEXT I:? "CONT":POS
ITION 2,0:POKE 842,
13:STOP
FB 31730 POKE 842,12:GRAPHIC
S 0:POSITION 2,4
OB 31740 FOR I=I TO 31750 ST
EP 10:? I:NEXT I:?
"POKE 842,12":POSIT
ION 2,0:POKE 842,13
:STOP

```

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## Sandbox Fred And His Media Maniacs

Recently, while I was in Vancouver, Canada, at the World Congress on Education and Technology, I was asked to teach an intensive week-long teacher's workshop at Simon Fraser University, one of Canada's leading universities. The first night of my course at Simon Fraser, I learned that most of the teachers taking my course were novices in electronic media, and that some of them had never even touched a computer. They saw me as a media expert and hoped the course would give them some hands-on experience creating teaching units with different media equipment.

The learning resources center where I taught the course has one of the richest collections of electronic media that I have ever seen. To be frank, there were so many darkrooms, multitrack tape decks, audio/video mixers, computers, projectors, and the like, that it was downright intimidating. Even I was scared, so how were my fearful teachers to acquire the courage to use all that stuff?

### Electronic Sandbox

As I stood in front of my class that first night, I dug deep inside myself for the one thing that I stood for, the one thing that would charge up the class to leap into the media with gusto and pizzazz. Then I thought of the magic word: *sandbox*. To me a sandbox is more than four boards and a bag of sand. It is a metaphor for play, storytelling, world building, and for a child's personal journey of exploration and discovery. And sand is a metaphor for what good media should be—rich, malleable, and gritty. Playing with media should be a multisensory experience. As with sand, you should smell it, taste it, and touch it. It should get in your ears, in your shorts, and in your hair.

I told my teachers that I was not a media expert nor a teacher,

but an author. And what I could bring to the course was not technical expertise, but my imagination, my gift for storytelling, and my playfulness. I wasn't going to teach them. I was going to climb into the sandbox with them as "head kid." This approach was not what the teachers expected, but it turned out to be just what they needed.

We began the week with imagination exercises: We closed our eyes and tried to imagine holding a baby. We tried to smell the baby, touch the baby, taste the baby, see the baby, and hear the baby coo, laugh, and cry. We explored how media affects the imagination and how imagination is instrumental in creating good media. Although many of the students had never used a computer before, some had, and the veterans coached the beginners so they could sign on to the university's network. Beginning that first night we kept an electronic journal online that eventually amounted to 50 typed pages. We used the journal to reflect on the week's experiences and to examine the effectiveness of the sandbox approach to learning electronic media.

The teachers eventually divided themselves, according to their interests, into four groups:

- Mandalas (video, animation, sound synthesis, poetry, the arts)
- Choclit (a cartoon with sound synthesis)
- The Sandbox Saga (desktop publishing)
- The Media Maniacs (a documentary video of our week together)

Although no one had planned it, all the groups became intensely involved in storytelling and the imagination. And the groups divided neatly into Mandalas and Choclit, which were an exercise of the imagination looking outward, and Sandbox Saga and Media Maniacs, which showed the imagination

looking inward at ourselves. The Media Maniacs theme came from the *Fred's Media Maniacs* buttons that one of the teachers made for us with the help of his mentally retarded students.

### Jumping In Headfirst

By week's end I knew that grown-up, high-tech sandboxing can really work. Teachers threw themselves into their projects with ferocious energy and creativity. They mastered machines that they had never even seen before, fussed with buggy software and malfunctioning equipment, and moved on. Nothing stopped them. And their movies, stories, and cartoons were delightful.

But sandboxes have their dark side, too, and we stumbled into this area often. Playing is good, but sometimes there is nothing in a sandbox to play with. My metaphor of a sandbox as a free, unstructured environment encouraged the teachers to be childlike and playful, but they needed guidance and instruction to produce real results. "It's exciting to watch people playing in a sandbox," said one of my students. "But it's no fun at all if you can't get in."

The best part came at week's end when we held a Sandbox Media Festival for a class of computer software teachers. All the teachers' products were terrific, but I especially liked the ones done by the Media Maniacs. One of its producers, Morey, had gotten his three-year-old son, Cameron, to play the part of Sandbox Fred as a child. In the sequence Cameron zigs and zags around the sandbox in his red shorts and a white sun hat and says, "I'm Sandbox Fred, and I like to play in sandboxes. I'm Sandbox Fred, and I like computers. I'm Sandbox Fred, and I have to go potty on the tree." ©



## Sampled Sounds

While the debate continues to rage over the destiny of the home computer, specialized programmable computers are showing up in people's homes in record numbers. These computers are the inexpensive music synthesizers manufactured by Casio, Yamaha, Seiko, Kawai, and several others.

In an earlier column I mentioned that the acceptance of the MIDI interface standard has resulted in a powerful merging of synthesizer technology with personal computers. I expect that within a few years every new personal computer will have a built-in MIDI interface.

### Music For Everyone

Our love affair with music is extraordinary. At any time of the day or night you can turn on your radio and find that the vast majority of stations are playing music. Given the popularity of recorded music and concerts, you might conclude that we are more interested in hearing music than making it. While this is probably true to some extent, it's not as pervasive as it seems. Musical instruments sell briskly.

Millions of people want to enjoy music by playing it themselves. Historically there have been two barriers to this creative urge. The first is the difficulty of learning to play a conventional musical instrument, and the second is the difficulty of learning to read and write music using traditional notational schemes. Faced with the need to practice for years, many would-be musicians give up in frustration.

From the moment it is brought home, the modern digital synthesizer allows music to be created. Unlike a real trumpet, whose first sounds seem better suited for burglar alarms than for music, a synthesized trumpet sounds sweet from the very beginning.

In addition to providing high-

quality sounds, the inexpensive modern synthesizer provides additional help to musicians in the form of sophisticated rhythm sections, automatic arpeggios and chords, and even the ability to sequence several tracks of music into a completely orchestrated piece. All these features can be found at the local discount store for under \$200.

### New Instruments

If I felt for a moment that synthesized instruments were going to replace traditional instruments, I would be concerned. Instead, we are seeing the synthesizer emerge as a class of instrument in its own right, taking its place next to traditional instruments.

The most exciting aspect of synthesizers is that they can produce sounds unavailable in traditional instruments. If you think about it, musical sounds are made in one of four ways: by hitting something (drums or pianos), plucking something (harpichords, guitars), blowing air into or across something (organs, horns), or scratching two things together (violins). The synthesizer can emulate many of these sounds, but more importantly, it can be used to create sounds that can't be made by traditional methods. This allows the design and creation of new musical instruments by a new breed of craftsman—one who works with programs rather than with chisels and glue.

### The SK-1

If there is a major limitation to modern synthesizers, it is that new sounds can be hard to implement. For instance, the Yamaha DX-7, one of the standard instruments in the field, is difficult to program without the use of a separate computer.

A recent entry into the low-cost synthesizer market has made

this task a lot easier. This instrument is Casio's SK-1 sampling keyboard, which retails for well under \$200. The computer in the instrument allows sounds to be captured from external sources through a built-in microphone. Suppose you would like to make an instrument that sounds like a hammer hitting a pipe. To capture this sound, you need only place the SK-1 near a pipe (an external mike can be used), press the Sample key on the synthesizer, and hit the pipe with a hammer. The internal computer samples the sound for 1.4 seconds, encodes the sound digitally, and stores it in about 14K bytes of RAM. The sound you record is assigned to the A key. Once the sound is entered, you can play it at any pitch by pressing the appropriate key on the keyboard. You can also modify the sound's envelope after it is recorded.

### Experimentation

The most exciting aspect of this instrument, and others like it, is that it stimulates creative experimentation. If it took hours to create new sounds, you might be reluctant to try offbeat ideas, simply because they might turn out to be a waste of time. With the SK-1, a new sound can be captured in a few seconds. As a result, new owners of the instrument typically spend the first day or so capturing everything from motorcycle engines to recited poetry and using these sounds to create new music.

This playful aspect of the synthesizer is its greatest strength. The computer in this synthesizer is completely transparent to the user. There is no barrier between your goal—music making—and a satisfying result. Technology has receded into the background to facilitate the creation of music, and another computer has quietly entered the home. ©



# The Beginners Page

Tom R. Halfhill, Editor

## That Other Computer Language

Usually when someone talks about a "computer language," we think of programming languages like BASIC, Pascal, Forth, Logo, and so on. These languages are of interest only to programmers—if you merely want to *use* a computer, you don't have to learn anything about these languages at all.

But no matter how far removed you want to remain from the inner workings of the machine, there is one computer language you *do* have to learn: *lingo*, all those complicated terms and odd slang words that only computer experts seem to understand. You know what I mean: "Oh, you're having RS-232 glitches? This is just a kludge, but try checking your DTR pin and changing duplexes, and if that doesn't work, flip your floppy and warm-boot DOS with an ASCII batch file."

### Alien Conversations

When you're a struggling computer-illiterate, it's tempting to assume that this kind of gibberish was invented merely to exclude outsiders from the inner circle. Actually, every occupation, hobby, and field of interest has its own lingo. Listen to yourself someday when talking to a co-worker or a fellow student; you'll be surprised how alien the conversation might sound to someone who is uninitiated.

This was brought home to me recently when I was helping a new computer owner learn to set up and use his system. Suddenly he interrupted: "Boot it up? Does that mean the same thing as *turn it on*?" I was caught off-guard. Once you learn lingo, it's amazing how fast you take it for granted.

To help clear up any similar confusion you may be experiencing, let's take a look at some of the terms which make up computer lingo:

**Back door** A secret method of gaining entry to a restricted program by circumventing the password protection. Usually planted by the programmer.

**Boot** To start up a computer system, usually by switching on the power. Some computers equipped with disk drives must be booted with a disk in the drive (a *boot disk*) that contains the disk operating system (DOS). Commodore computers are exceptions, because DOS is built into the drives themselves. On the Amiga and early versions of the Atari ST, the computer's operating system itself must be loaded from disk when booting.

**Bug** A malfunction of hardware or software that can often be replicated. Usually the fault of the programmer or designer.

**Bus** A connector on a computer into which accessories and cables are plugged. Usually referred to as a *system bus* or *expansion bus*.

**Clone** A computer that is designed to run the same programs and accept the same accessories as another computer made by a rival manufacturer. Clones typically sell for less than the computer they're imitating. The computers most often cloned are the IBM PC and Apple II.

**Cold start** To boot up a computer system by switching on the power.

**Crash** Sudden, total failure of a program or computer system. The program or computer refuses to acknowledge commands, usually because of a bug or glitch.

**Daisychain** Two or more accessories—such as disk drives, a printer, or a modem—all hooked together sequentially to form a chain. The term can also be used as a verb to describe the process of connecting a device to the chain.

**Elegant** Perhaps the highest compliment that can be paid to the

design of a program or piece of computer hardware. A solution that achieves both success and efficiency.

**Gender changer** An adapter that turns a male plug into a female jack or vice versa. Intended for matching cables to various kinds of computers and accessories.

**Glitch** A momentary malfunction of hardware or software. Similar to a bug, but more transitory, and not necessarily the fault of the designer or programmer.

**Hacker** Originally, someone who became deeply absorbed in programming or exploring the innards of the machine, even if nothing practical ever resulted—sometimes to the point of obsession. Recently this term has taken on a different connotation, due largely to misuse in popular media. In this usage, a hacker is someone who gains access to a computer system with mischievous intent, often via a telephone link.

**Kludge** (Pronounced *klooj*) A sloppy design or an inelegant solution to a problem. It works, but is clumsy or inefficient.

**Lockup** The keyboard refuses to respond to typed commands. Usually indicates a crash.

**Meg** Short for *megabyte*, a measurement of computer memory capacity. One megabyte equals 1024 *kilobytes* (1024K). A kilobyte equals 1024 *bytes*. A byte, in turn, is roughly equivalent to one character of storage. Thus, a meg of memory can hold 1,048,576 (1024 × 1024) characters.

**Motherboard** The main circuit board inside a computer.

**Warm start** To reboot a computer system that has already been cold-started, but has crashed or needs to be reset for some other reason. Most computers have a reset button or special key sequence for this purpose. ©



## Photo Labeling

There should be a law requiring all photographs to be labeled with the date and content; otherwise, how is one to remember when and where each snapshot was taken? Unfortunately, writing on the back of a photograph is about as much fun as writing on wax paper. Writing on a word processor, on the other hand, is lots of fun—so if we could somehow get our PC to print on the backs of photographs, we just might have something useful. The solution is the BASIC program listed below to print address labels, which stick nicely to almost any surface—including wax paper and photographs. In addition, the program incorporates features to print multiple labels with the same information and to date each label automatically.

The program reads a file named LABELS, which you create using a word processing program or text editor. The file must be in ASCII format, and the length of each line should not exceed the width of a label. The program is designed to use 3-1/2 × 15/16 inch, fanfolded, pressure-sensitive labels that may be purchased in most office-supply stores for about \$7 per thousand. This size label holds five 34-character lines of text.

In order to separate one label from another, the program looks for a dash (-) in the first column of the data. If there is a number immediately after the dash, the program will print that many labels with the text that follows. The first line in the file must either be a blank or contain a date that will be appended automatically to each label. The following figure shows an example of a LABELS file.

```
(July '86)
-15
Vacation at Yellowstone
-
Uncle Eric
```

```
-6
Family Reunion
Miller Park
Mayberry, N.C.
-
Joe and Phyllis
-
Aunt Mary's house
```

This file prints 15 labels for the photos taken at Yellowstone, 1 label for Uncle Eric's photo, 6 to be stuck on the backs of the reunion photos, and 1 each for Joe and Phyllis and Aunt Mary's house. The program prints only five lines to a label; lines after the fifth are discarded, but it's up to you to format the length of each line to stay within the label boundary. The program includes a line-up routine to make it easy to get the labels positioned in the printer.

### Photo Labeler

```
GA 10 REM
AF 20 REM Program to print 3 1/2
   x 15/16 inch
NJ 30 REM labels for the backs o
   f photographs.
DD 40 REM First line in LABELS f
   ile may either be
DI 50 REM blank or a date. The -
   sign signals
CI 60 REM the end of one label a
   nd beginning of
DP 70 REM a new one. The -n opti
   on may be used to
BN 80 REM print "n" identical la
   bels. Each label
DN 90 REM may have a maximum of
   34 characters
MA 100 REM by 5 lines.
PG 110 REM
GI 120 KEY OFF:CLS:DIM S$(20)
FB 130 X=1:I=1:SW=0:CNT=0
MO 140 OPEN "labels" FOR INPUT A
   S #1
LJ 150 LINE INPUT #1,DAT$
BI 160 REM Ready printer and ali
   gn labels
DJ 170 REM Print a test label.
IP 180 PRINT "Insert labels in p
   rinter and press"
OD 190 PRINT "any key to continu
   e..."
KO 200 A$=INKEY$:IF A$="" THEN 2
   00
DH 210 LPRINT "<<*****";SPACE$(6)
   ;"Top Line";SPACE$(6);"*
   **>>"
```

```
PN 220 FOR I=1 TO 5:LPRINT:NEXT
   I
KF 230 PRINT "Is label aligned?
   (Y/N)"
CO 240 A$=INKEY$:IF A$="" THEN 2
   40
BJ 250 IF A$="Y" OR A$="y" THEN
   270 ELSE 210
LL 260 REM Read data from file
KG 270 IF MID$(A$,1,1)="-" THEN
   X=ABS(VAL(A$))
IN 280 IF X=0 THEN X=1
BC 290 LINE INPUT #1, B$
PG 300 IF MID$(B$,1,1)="-" THEN
   GOSUB 360:A$=B$:I=1:GOTO
   270
NF 310 S$(I)=B$
JC 320 I=I+1
IE 330 IF EOF(1) THEN GOSUB 360:
   PRINT:PRINT CNT;" Labels
   printed":END
HD 340 GOTO 290
NM 350 REM Print Label(s)
GC 360 IF SW=0 THEN SW=1:RETURN
LM 370 I=I-1
JO 380 IF I>5 THEN I=5
MI 390 FOR J=1 TO X
IP 400 CNT=CNT+1
DB 410 FOR K=1 TO I-1
JB 420 PRINT S$(K)
NP 430 LPRINT S$(K)
DG 440 NEXT K
FN 450 PRINT S$(I);DAT$
MB 460 LPRINT S$(I);DAT$
LG 470 FOR L=1 TO 5-I
MB 480 PRINT SPACE$(4)
AB 490 LPRINT SPACE$(4)
PJ 500 NEXT L
DJ 510 PRINT SPACE$(4)
PE 520 LPRINT SPACE$(4)
DL 530 NEXT J
NJ 540 FOR K=1 TO I
FH 550 S$(K)=SPACE$(4)
PL 560 NEXT K
NN 570 RETURN
OP 580 REM End of Labels Program
```

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## A Well-Deserved Feast

What restaurant in your home town has the best Szechuan fare? How about barbecue, or Mexican, Thai, or Continental cuisine? Make a mental list of those places, then figuratively fold it up and put it aside for a few moments.

About a year ago, while cruising through the message section of a Chicago-based bulletin board, I ran across a message that caught my attention. It announced the opening of a new bulletin board in the Detroit area for IBM PC and PC-compatible computer owners. Dubbed "The Business Board," it was located in a nearby suburb. I was intrigued. While there were dozens of Atari-, Commodore-, and Apple-oriented BBSs in and around the Motor City, there had been a distinct paucity of PC-related boards. Prior to this time, I had been calling boards in other cities—not an economical practice when you count the long distance charges. A local PC BBS might open up new fields of interest as well as relieve my pocketbook.

As the modem dialed the new board's number, I purposely held down my expectations. Bulletin boards come and go. Most are started by well-intentioned folks who don't realize how much work is involved in maintaining and operating a BBS. The life expectancy of an average new board is about 30 to 60 days.

### Two Deadly Errors

Why such a high mortality rate? There are two common, often fatal mistakes. Many a would-be SYSOP decides to run a board during hours when his or her computer is not otherwise in use. These moonlight boards are usually down more often than they're up. As the novelty wears thin, the neophyte SYSOP soon decides that taking the board up and down constantly is more bother than it's worth. An even

more deadly mistake is attempting to use the same phone line for both voice and BBS communications.

As I logged onto "The Business Board," I was pleasantly surprised to see a nice introductory bulletin with slick graphics. Based on a dedicated Compaq portable with a 30-megabyte hard drive, the BizBoard (as it's called by users) has a download area containing over 1000 files. That's one of the most complete and up-to-date collections of "freeware" and public domain software that I've run across in years.

### Dedicated Downloading

A quick electronic chat with SYSOP Rick Brenner revealed that the BizBoard's collection of files is the result of untold hours of downloading from a dozen or so of the nation's best bulletin boards. Apart from the phone charges, which are not insignificant, that sort of activity represents a very substantial investment in time.

Brenner started his board to facilitate the exchange of information among professionals who use computers in business. In keeping with this special focus, access to the board is limited. Membership is by registration only and costs \$25 per year. You must also participate actively in the board's message traffic. Those whose sole interest is in downloading files are politely dropped from the rolls (and given a refund of their registration fees).

While the BizBoard's house rules may seem straight-laced to some, they have succeeded in fostering an unusually high degree of computer literacy and esprit de corps among BizBoard members. There's much humor to be found in the message bases and recently-added special interest forums, in addition to useful technical information, discussions of some of the more obtuse business applications of microcomputers, and accounts of mem-

ber experiences with new products.

### When Onliners Meet Offline

In February of this year, at my suggestion, the local BizBoard membership met for some offline conferencing at a local French bistro. Prior to the event, some new members had voiced concerns about holding their own in face-to-face communications with established technical heavies. To add to the interest, the suit-to-sandals ratio among the twenty-odd group members ran just about fifty/fifty. How did it go? The dinner meeting had been scheduled to run from 6:30 to 9:00 in the evening. We were finally ushered out the door at 2:00 the next morning. Since that auspicious beginning, bimonthly dinner meetings have become a BizBoard tradition.

It's been a year now since the BizBoard began. Since then, my favorite BBS has garnered about a hundred members, and survived several hard disk crashes, power failures, and even a fried motherboard. Most of the credit is due to its hard-working SYSOP.

There are hundreds of Rick Brenners across the land running bulletin board systems for telecomputing enthusiasts. Their labor of love goes largely unheralded. Have you got a local BBS in your area that deserves recognition? Unfold that piece of paper you stashed away mentally a few minutes ago. In my book, September is National SYSOP Month. Put off buying that new piece of software until next month. Instead, treat your local SYSOP to a gastronomic feast as rich as the one proffered to you via the telephone lines day after day. You'll both be better off for the experience. ©



## Pointer Potpourri

Welcome to "ST Outlook." Beginning this month, I'm taking over COMPUTE!'s Atari ST column from Bill Wilkinson, who had agreed to do the column on an interim basis. By way of an introduction, I'm an ST owner and programmer, as well as a writer and editor. In addition to COMPUTE!'s *ST Programmer's Guide*, which I coauthored, I'm currently collaborating with COMPUTE! programmer Tim Victor on an upcoming book, *Mapping the Atari ST*, the first volume of which is scheduled for an early 1987 release.

### Pick Your Pointer

Every ST owner is familiar with the way the mouse pointer changes appearance in response to system events. When you open an application from the desktop, or load a program from BASIC, the pointer changes from an arrow to a busy bee, and so on. In many situations, the ST manages the pointer shape automatically. But you can also change it under program control to suit your own needs.

This month's program shows how to access the ST's eight built-in pointer shapes from BASIC. It displays all the pointers in turn, prompting you to click the mouse button when you're ready to see the next one in the series. In addition to the familiar arrow and bee, you'll see two hand shapes, three different crosshair pointers, and a cursor shaped like a slender I-beam.

It's not difficult to see how alternate pointer shapes can come in handy. For instance, the bee does not automatically appear when you read or write to disk or perform other time-consuming chores in BASIC. While you can print the conventional PLEASE WAIT message under those circumstances, it's also prudent (and it adds a touch of elegance) to change the pointer to a bee. By reducing the user's tempta-

tion to fiddle with the menus or wave the pointer absent-mindedly, this little icon increases the chances that your program will work as intended. These cautions are doubly important because BASIC freezes program execution whenever the pointer is in motion and offers no easy means for disabling its own menus.

If you've used *1st Word*, the word processor supplied with the ST, you may recognize the pointing hand, which appears whenever you drag the pointer to define a block of text. The I-beam cursor, thin enough to fit neatly between text characters, is ideally suited to word processing and similar applications. The grabbing hand pointer is often used to manipulate objects such as window sliders. And the crosshairs are ideal for drawing or any activity that requires precise positioning.

### Suit Yourself

Of course, you're free to use these pointers as you please. The grabbing hand, for instance, is suitable for jobs that resemble grasping or pulling, but it works just fine as an eraser, too. One exception is our old friend, the bee, whose significance is already defined in clear and narrow terms. Unless you're writing software for apiarists, it's confusing (and, hence, lousy GEM etiquette) to use the bee shape to signify anything other than "busy."

In addition to the pointer-changing routine (labeled CHANGE) the program demonstrates VDI routines which read the mouse button, make the pointer invisible, and force it back onto the screen. The routine labeled CLICK calls VDI routine 124, which can read the pointer's screen coordinates as well as monitor button activity. To read the pointer's *x* and *y* coordinates, add this line to the program:

```
305 print "x=";peek(ptsout),
      "y=";peek(ptsout+2)
```

The subroutines HIDE and SHOW call VDI routines that disable and enable the mouse pointer, respectively. If you don't hide the pointer before you change its shape, it may misbehave, depositing an unwanted ghost image in some cases. Watch out for such unexpected side effects whenever you call a GEM routine from BASIC. It's fun to manipulate GEM artifacts such as the pointer, but with that added power comes an extra measure of responsibility.

### The BASIC Difference

Calling GEM routines from BASIC is significantly different from using them in a language like C or Pascal. Some system routines are downright antagonistic to BASIC, others are a waste of time, and others are redundant. The first difference arises because BASIC is itself a GEM application—a large, complicated program with its own ideas about what should be happening at any given time. Certain GEM routines shouldn't be used because they conflict with BASIC's own manipulation of the GEM environment.

The second category of routines includes those which do a job already performed by BASIC. For instance, since BASIC provides an output window, it's usually not necessary to open a virtual workstation or obtain a device handle before you call a system routine that draws on the screen. In the third category are routines that duplicate an existing BASIC command; why call a VDI routine to draw a circle, when CIRCLE is more convenient and achieves exactly the same result?

There's a fourth—fortunately, quite large—category of GEM routines: those which are both useful

and usable from BASIC. In the months to come, we'll look at more of them.

```

100 fullw 2:clearw 2
110 for j=0 to 7 :rem Show al
    l 8 pointers
120 gosub HIDE:gosub CHANGE:go
    toxy 1,1
130 print:read shape$:print s
    hape$
140 print "Click left button
    to continue..."
150 gosub SHOW:gosub CLICK
160 next j

```

```

170 gosub HIDE :rem Restore t
    he arrow
180 j=0:gosub CHANGE
190 closew 2:gosub SHOW
200 end
210 HIDE: poke contr1,123:rem
    Hide pointer
220 vdisys(0):return
230 SHOW: poke contr1,122 :re
    m Show pointer
240 vdisys(0):return
250 CHANGE: a#gb :rem Key to
    Pandora's box
260 gintin=peek(a#+8) :rem Fr
    om me to AES
270 poke gintin,j :rem New mo

```

```

use shape
280 gemsys(78):return
290 CLICK: poke contr1,124:re
    m Read mouse
300 vdisys(0)
310 if peek(intout)<>1 then C
    LICK
320 return
330 data Ye Olde Arrow,I-Beam
    Cursor
340 data Busy Bumblebee,"Poin
    ting Hand "
350 data Grabbing Hand,Skinny
    Crosshair
360 data Chubby Crosshair,Hol
    low Crosshair ©

```



# Programming the TI

C. Regena

## Game Programming

Many computer games are translations of games that already exist in some other form. The challenge in making such a conversion is to offer features that make you want to play the game on a computer instead of the usual way (with cards, dice, a board, or whatever). In the next two columns, we'll construct a game that has been popular under various names, but is usually called "Solitaire."

The original Solitaire game consists of several pegs arranged in a pattern of holes on a board. The center hole is left without a peg. Your goal is to get rid of pegs by jumping: One peg jumps over another into an adjacent hole, then the jumped peg is removed. You keep jumping and removing pegs until you can no longer jump. The optimum solution is to end up with one peg in the center hole. Actually, if you end up with one peg anywhere, you are an excellent player, and even two, three, or four remaining pegs would be a good score.

Why create this game on a computer? The main reason is that you'll often start to play the game, but find that some pegs are missing. You can't even set up the board without the right number of pegs. The computer will always set up the game without losing pegs, and can also check for impossible

moves and thus prevent cheating. In a computerized version, we can also include a feature which would allow backing up and changing a move, or even replaying several moves. As a final enhancement, the program can keep track of every move in the game and print them out so you could prove to a friend that you really solved the puzzle.

I usually start game programming by designing the graphics. This playing board consists of yellow circles for the pegs and black circles for the holes. Lines 190-240 define graphic characters and colors, and lines 250-280 define strings for printing the board. The subroutine in lines 620-770 prints the starting board on the screen.

The next step is to move the pegs. CALL KEY is used for keyboard input. Use the arrow keys to move to the peg you want to move, then press ENTER. Now press an arrow key to show which direction to jump. The computer then needs to check to see whether you made a valid move.

Since the complete program is too long to include in a single column, I've split it into two separate portions. This month's listing includes enough of the program to draw the graphics and move the pegs, so you can play a complete game. However, not all of the features are included. Next month's

column will explain more of the programming techniques and add the sections that let you back up to change a move, replay the game, or make a game printout.

If you prefer to save typing time, you may obtain a copy of the complete program by sending a check for \$3 together with a stamped, self-addressed mailer and a blank cassette or disk to:

C. Regena  
P. O. Box 1502  
Cedar City, Utah 84720

Be sure to specify the title, "Solitaire" for the TI-99/4A.

```

100 REM SOLITAIRE
110 DIM G(12,12),M$(43)
120 CALL CLEAR
130 PRINT TAB(5);"** SOLITA
    IRE **"
140 PRINT : "MOVE A PEG BY
    JUMPING OVER"
150 PRINT : "ANOTHER PEG TO
    AN EMPTY HOLE"
160 PRINT : "THEN REMOVE THE
    JUMPED PEG."
170 PRINT : "TRY TO END WITH
    ONLY ONE"
180 PRINT : "PEG IN THE CENT
    ER HOLE."
190 CALL CHAR(96,"0")
200 CALL CHAR(97,"0000183C3
    C18")
210 CALL CHAR(98,"00183C7E7
    E3C18")
220 CALL COLOR(9,11,7)
230 CALL CHAR(105,"00183C7E
    7E3C18")
240 CALL COLOR(10,2,7)
250 A$="*****"
260 B$=" 'a'a'a'a'"
270 C$="*****"&A$&"*****"

```





## Five-Year Retrospective

This month marks my fifth anniversary writing "INSIGHT: Atari" for COMPUTE!. In the course of the last five years, I've covered a lot of different topics. Just for fun, I decided to look back through the last 60 issues of COMPUTE! and engage in some healthy self-criticism—listing the worst of Wilkinson as well as the best.

You may or may not agree with my assessments. But the point isn't simply to rate what's been done. After five years of writing about the same family of machines, it can be difficult to come up with a fresh topic every month. As you read these lists, let me know about some new topics you want me to cover, or some old topics that could stand further explanation or a fresh treatment. Not all of you have been reading COMPUTE! for a full five years, after all. And even long-time programmers can grow rusty in certain areas. This column is designed to serve you, the readers, so please provide some feedback in a card or letter addressed to:

Bill Wilkinson  
P.O. Box 710352  
San Jose, CA 95171-0352

### The Brightest And Best

First, here's what I consider the best of "INSIGHT: Atari." Whether you agree will depend on your own viewpoint and needs. I have listed articles chronologically within broad categories.

- Getting more out of Atari BASIC: 9/81, 10/81, 12/81, 4/82, 5/82, 2/83, 1/84, 2/84, 3/84, 12/85, 3/86
- Calling I/O and GRAPHICS routines from assembly language: 11/81 through 2/82, 7/82 through 10/82, 8/85 through 10/85
- Assembly language techniques, with or without Atari BASIC: 12/81, 4/82, 10/82, 12/82, 7/83 through 9/83, 1/84, 12/84, 1/85,

3/85, 2/86, 4/86

- Converting BASIC programs to assembly language: 12/81, 2/82, 8/82 through 10/82, 5/84 through 7/84
- Atari BASIC internals: 1/82 through 7/82
- Bugs in Atari BASIC: 11/81, 5/85, 6/85
- Benchmarks: 9/82, 1/84, 11/84, 2/85, 3/85
- Playing music and sounds in background while a BASIC program runs: 3/82
- User definable function keys: 5/82
- Undocumented graphics mode: 10/83 and 11/83
- Using the extended memory of XL machines (with pictorial map): 12/83

### Not So Memorable

Now for the less memorable columns. Some of my self-appointed projects have met with less than enthusiastic response. Perhaps the worst of these was "BAIT," a pseudo-BASIC interpreter written in Atari BASIC. The program was supposed to show you how language interpreters worked: It was so slow that you could literally watch the FOR-NEXT loops plod along. I prolonged the agony for four months (March, May, June, and August 1983).

Then I tried to rescue 1050 disk drive owners with an enhanced version of DOS 2.0S. It worked, but I doubt that more than a couple of dozen readers managed to get it installed properly. This series appeared May through September 1984. Less than four months later, we reworked DOS 2.0S for Atari to produce DOS 2.5. More time and energy down the drain.

My April Fool's columns have always received mixed reviews. This year, I got distracted and actually forgot to do a joke column. A couple of readers wrote me to compliment

me on my restraint. Thanks, folks.

Some of the funniest installments of "INSIGHT: Atari" were unintentionally humorous, consisting of various predictions regarding future Atari products. I could have done better with a ouija board.

In addition to the obvious honkers, I've omitted from this list several columns which were relevant at the time they were written, but have since become outdated. One general regret is that I covered certain topics in less depth than now seems desirable. But that's a difficult factor to measure. When I invite you to explore a subject, do you ever sit down to research it further? If so, then I have succeeded. If not, perhaps the topic is inappropriate, or the treatment needs to be refined. Again, the more feedback you provide, the better I can meet your needs.

### Truth Stranger Than Fiction

Since I just made fun of my precognitive powers, it's only fair to mention that one of my predictions is actually coming true. In July 1984, Jack Tramiel and company had just bought Atari. I wrote a column (published in October that same year) containing several predictions about what the "new" Atari would produce. On some points, I was correct: The 1450 died quickly, and the "Atari MAC" was already under development (it became what is now the ST).

Though it caused chuckles at the time, I also stated that Atari would continue to produce game machines and that they would soon come out with the already-designed 7800. As it happened, Atari sold over a million 2600 game machines in 1985. And, at the 1986 Summer Consumer Electronics Show, Atari announced that the 7800 will be available this autumn. Now, how would you like to know what's in store for 1988? ©



## The Operating System

Amiga has released beta-test copies of version 1.2 of the operating system. These experimental versions are being distributed to software developers, but Amiga is encouraging informal distribution to help them get as much testing as possible. There will be a few more beta versions released, and we should see version 1.2 (which may actually be called version 2.0) out by Christmas.

However, it is also reported that Amiga is preparing to replace the WCS (Writeable Control Store, the area of RAM used to store the Kickstart portion of the operating system) with EEPROM (Electrically Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory), finally burning the operating system permanently into ROMs on the motherboard. This would have to be the final version, since replacing ROMs, if bugs are later discovered in the operating system, is not a trivial task.

### The End Of WCS?

If Amiga replaced the WCS with ROM, we would lose the advantage of WCS: the ability to upgrade to a new (and even completely different) operating system at any time. On the other hand, there would be no need for a Kickstart disk, so booting up wouldn't take as long. 256K of ROM is cheaper than 256K of RAM, so this may be Amiga's primary consideration. But does Amiga plan to offer this ROM upgrade to current Amiga owners, or will we just use a Kickstart containing the equivalent of what gets burned into ROM?

Not everyone is clear on the hierarchy of the Amiga operating system, popularly referred to as Intuition. Although Intuition is fundamental, it's only part of the complete operating system (OS). There are actually several layers in the Amiga OS, which can be grouped into four major categories: Exec, Graphics, Intuition, and DOS.

Exec is the core of the operating system and controls every machine language program. Every task in the Amiga is part of a *task list*, and each task has a priority. Tasks with the most priority are allowed to run first. Whenever a task "goes to sleep" while waiting for something (keyboard or disk input, graphics, a response from another task, and so forth), the next highest priority task is allowed to run. However, no task is allowed to run longer than 64 milliseconds, the unit of time defined as a *quantum*. When a task's quantum is up, it is put to sleep to allow other lower-priority tasks to take their turn. Exec also contains subroutines for allocating and deallocating chunks of memory, and low-level input/output routines for accessing Amiga devices directly.

The Graphics library performs all the screen drawing functions such as line, rectangle, filled rectangle, and polygon drawing (and in version 1.2 includes functions for drawing hollow or filled circles and ovals). It contains powerful routines for animating graphic objects (bobs) and virtual sprites (vsprites), as well as providing direct access to the sprite hardware. In addition, the Graphics library allows programmers to modify the copper list, which controls the vertical aspect of the display. If you count the Layers library and Diskfont library as part of the Graphics library, the package also manages overlapping screen areas and multiple text fonts and styles.

### Remarkable Flexibility

Intuition draws upon the resources of Exec and the Graphics library to create the high-level metaphors of windows, screens, menus, and gadgets. Intuition is large and complex, but it offers the programmer a remarkable level of flexibility. AmigaDOS uses Intuition for its CLI

(Command Line Interface) and console windows, and Workbench relies heavily on Intuition to support its illusion of a desktop. Intuition is clearly the most visible part of the Amiga operating system (and probably the most important), but it cannot run on its own.

AmigaDOS is the topmost level of the operating system, the last part written, and was contracted from MetaComCo in England. Most Amiga applications are considered AmigaDOS *processes*, as opposed to Exec tasks. The Workbench is a layer above AmigaDOS, an application that creates a graphic world which performs many of the same functions as an AmigaDOS CLI without the cumbersome typing required by a command-driven DOS. AmigaDOS is much more than just a CLI, though. It includes the tools programmers need to read, write, and manage files and directories, rather than having to resort to direct track and sector access, as well as routines to load and execute programs as processes.

All these parts work in harmony (well, to be honest, with a few sour notes here and there) to orchestrate the complete Amiga system. You boot Kickstart, which loads in Exec, Intuition, and the Graphics library. You then insert a Workbench disk, which boots AmigaDOS and, finally, the Workbench. You open Workbench windows via Intuition and AmigaDOS, and execute applications, which have full access to all Amiga resources, even if many other programs are running at the same time. You can build your own unique working environment by choosing which programs you'd like to run together, and customize other options via Preferences. And when you add extra memory and peripherals, you have a symphony of exceeding range and power. ©

# COMPUTE!'s Guide To Typing In Programs

Computers are precise—type the program *exactly* as listed, including necessary punctuation and symbols, except for special characters noted below. We have provided a special listing convention as well as a program to check your typing—"The Automatic Proofreader."

Programs for the IBM, TI-99/4A, and Atari ST models should be typed exactly as listed; no special characters are used. Programs for Commodore, Apple, and Atari 400/800/XL/XE computers may contain some hard-to-read special characters, so we have a listing system that indicates these control characters. You will find these Commodore and Atari characters in curly braces; *do not type the braces*. For example, {CLEAR} or {CLR} instructs you to insert the symbol which clears the screen on the Atari or Commodore machines. A complete list of these symbols is shown in the tables below. For Commodore, Apple, and Atari, a single symbol by itself within curly braces is usually a control key or graphics key. If you see {A}, hold down the CONTROL key and press A. This will produce a reverse video character on the Commodore (in quote mode), a graphics character on the Atari, and an invisible control character on the Apple.

Graphics characters entered with the Commodore logo key are enclosed in a special bracket: [<A>]. In this case, you would hold down the Commodore logo key as you type A. Our Commodore listings are in uppercase, so shifted symbols are underlined. A graphics heart symbol (SHIFT-S) would be listed as S. One exception is {SHIFT-SPACE}. When you see this, hold down SHIFT and press the space bar. If a number precedes a symbol, such as {5 RIGHT}, {6 S}, or {<8 Q>}, you would enter five cursor rights, six shifted S's, or eight Commodore-Q's. On the Atari, inverse characters (white on black) should be entered with the inverse video

## Atari 400/800/XL/XE

When you see	Type	See
{CLEAR}	ESC SHIFT <	↵ Clear Screen
{UP}	ESC CTRL -	↑ Cursor Up
{DOWN}	ESC CTRL =	↓ Cursor Down
{LEFT}	ESC CTRL +	← Cursor Left
{RIGHT}	ESC CTRL *	→ Cursor Right
{BACK S}	ESC DELETE	⌫ Backspace
{DELETE}	ESC CTRL DELETE	⌫ Delete character
{INSERT}	ESC CTRL INSERT	⌫ Insert character
{DEL LINE}	ESC SHIFT DELETE	⌫ Delete line
{INS LINE}	ESC SHIFT INSERT	⌫ Insert line
{TAB}	ESC TAB	⌵ TAB key
{CLR TAB}	ESC CTRL TAB	⌫ Clear tab
{SET TAB}	ESC SHIFT TAB	⌫ Set tab stop
{BELL}	ESC CTRL 2	⌫ Ring buzzer
{ESC}	ESC ESC	⌫ ESCape key

## Commodore PET/CBM/VIC/64/128/16/+4

When You Read:	Press:	See:	When You Read:	Press:	See:
{CLR}	SHIFT CLR/HOME		[ 1 ]	COMMODORE 1	
{HOME}	CLR/HOME		[ 2 ]	COMMODORE 2	
{UP}	SHIFT ↑ CRSR ↓		[ 3 ]	COMMODORE 3	
{DOWN}	↑ CRSR ↓		[ 4 ]	COMMODORE 4	
{LEFT}	SHIFT ← CRSR →		[ 5 ]	COMMODORE 5	
{RIGHT}	← CRSR →		[ 6 ]	COMMODORE 6	
{RVS}	CTRL 9		[ 7 ]	COMMODORE 7	
{OFF}	CTRL 0		[ 8 ]	COMMODORE 8	
{BLK}	CTRL 1		{ F1 }	f1	
{WHT}	CTRL 2		{ F2 }	SHIFT f1	
{RED}	CTRL 3		{ F3 }	f3	
{CYN}	CTRL 4		{ F4 }	SHIFT f3	
{PUR}	CTRL 5		{ F5 }	f5	
{GRN}	CTRL 6		{ F6 }	SHIFT f5	
{BLU}	CTRL 7		{ F7 }	f7	
{YEL}	CTRL 8		{ F8 }	SHIFT f7	
			←		

key (Atari logo key on 400/800 models).

Whenever more than two spaces appear in a row, they are listed in a special format. For example, {6 SPACES} means press the space bar six times. Our Commodore listings never leave a single space at the end of a line, instead moving it to the next printed line as {SPACE}.

Amiga program listings contain only one special character, the left arrow (-) symbol. This character marks the end of each program line. Wherever you see a left arrow, press RETURN or move the cursor off the line to enter that line into memory. Don't try to type in the left arrow symbol; it's there only as a marker to indicate where each program line ends.

### The Automatic Proofreader

Type in the appropriate program listed below, then save it for future use. The Commodore Proofreader works on the Commodore 128, 64, Plus/4, 16, and VIC-20. Don't omit any lines, even if they contain unfamiliar commands or you think they don't apply to your computer. When you run the program, it installs a machine language program in memory and erases its BASIC portion automatically (so be sure to save several copies before running the program for the first time). If you're using a Commodore 128, Plus/4 or 16, do *not* use any GRAPHIC commands while the Proofreader is active. You should disable the Commodore Proofreader before running any other program. To do this, either turn the computer off and on or enter SYS 64738 (for the 64), SYS 65341 (128), SYS 64802 (VIC-20), or SYS 65526 (Plus/4 or 16). To reenable the Proofreader, reload the program and run it as usual. Unlike the original VIC/64 Proofreader, this version works the same with disk or tape.

On the Atari, run the Proofreader to activate it (the Proofreader remains active in memory as a machine language program); you must then enter NEW to erase the BASIC loader. Pressing SYSTEM RESET deactivates the Atari Proofreader; enter PRINT USR(1536) to reenable it.

The Apple Proofreader erases the BASIC portion of itself after you run it, leaving only the machine language portion in memory. It works with either DOS 3.3 or ProDOS. Disable the Apple Proofreader by pressing CTRL-RESET before running another BASIC program.

The IBM Proofreader is a BASIC program that simulates the IBM BASIC line editor, letting you enter, edit, list, save, and load programs that you type. Type RUN to activate. Be sure to leave Caps Lock on, except when typing lowercase characters.

Once the Proofreader is active, try typing in a line. As soon as you press RETURN, either a hexadecimal number (on the Apple) or a pair of letters (on the Commodore, Atari, or IBM) appears. The number or pair of letters is called a *checksum*.

Compare the value displayed on the screen by the Proofreader with the checksum printed in the program listing in the magazine. The checksum is given to the left of each line number. Just type in the program a line at a time (without the printed checksum), press RETURN or Enter, and compare the checksums. If they match, go on to the next line. If not, check your typing; you've made a mistake. Because of the checksum method used, do not type abbreviations, such as ? for PRINT. On the Atari and Apple Proofreaders, spaces are not counted as part of the checksum, so be sure you type the right number of spaces between quote marks. The Atari Proofreader does not check to see that you've typed the characters in the right order, so if characters are transposed, the checksum still matches the listing. The Commodore Proofreader catches transposition errors and ignores spaces unless they're enclosed in quotation marks. The IBM Proofreader detects errors in spacing and transposition.

### IBM Proofreader Commands

Since the IBM Proofreader replaces the computer's normal BASIC line editor, it has to include many of the direct-mode IBM BASIC commands. The syntax is identical to IBM BASIC. Commands simulated are LIST, LLIST, NEW, FILES, SAVE, and LOAD. When listing your program, press any key (except Ctrl-Break) to stop the listing. If you enter NEW, the Proofreader prompts you to press Y to be especially sure you mean yes.

Two new commands are BASIC and CHECK. BASIC exits the Proofreader back to IBM BASIC, leaving the Proofreader in memory. CHECK works just like LIST, but shows the checksums along with the listing. After you have typed in a program, save it to disk. Then exit the Proofreader with the BASIC command, and load the program as usual (this replaces the Proofreader in memory). You can now run the program, but you may want to re-save it to disk. This will shorten it on disk and make it load faster, but it can no longer be edited with the Proofreader. If you want to convert an existing BASIC program to Proofreader format, save it to disk with SAVE "filename",A.

### Program 1: Atari Proofreader

By Charles Brannon, Program Editor

```
100 GRAPHICS 0
110 FOR I=1536 TO 1700:READ A:POKE I,A:CK=CK+A:NEXT I
120 IF CK<>19072 THEN ? "Error in DATA Statement s. Check Typing.":END

130 A=USR(1536)
140 ? :? "Automatic Proofreader Now Activated."
150 END
160 DATA 104,160,0,185,26,3,201,69,240,7
170 DATA 200,200,192,34,208,243,96,200,169,74
180 DATA 153,26,3,200,169,6,153,26,3,162
190 DATA 0,189,0,228,157,74,6,232,224,16
200 DATA 208,245,169,93,141,78,6,169,6,141
210 DATA 79,6,24,173,4,228,105,1,141,95
220 DATA 6,173,5,228,105,0,141,96,6,169
230 DATA 0,133,203,96,247,238,125,241,93,6
240 DATA 244,241,115,241,124,241,76,205,238
250 DATA 0,0,0,0,32,62,246,8,201
260 DATA 155,240,13,201,32,240,7,72,24,101
270 DATA 203,133,203,104,40,96,72,152,72,138
280 DATA 72,160,0,169,128,145,88,200,192,40
290 DATA 208,249,165,203,74,74,74,24,105
300 DATA 161,160,3,145,88,-165,203,41,15,24
310 DATA 105,161,200,145,88,169,0,133,203,104
320 DATA 170,104,168,104,40,96
```

### Program 2: IBM Proofreader

By Charles Brannon, Program Editor

```
10 'Automatic Proofreader Version 3.0 (Lines 205,206 added/190 deleted/470,490 changed from V2.0)
100 DIM L$(500),LNUM(500):COLOR 0,7:KEY OFF:CLS:MAX=0:LNUM(0)=65536!
110 ON ERROR GOTO 120:KEY 15,C:HR$(4)+CHR$(70):ON KEY(15)GOSUB 640:KEY(15)ON:GOTO 130
120 RESUME 130
130 DEF SEG=&H40:W=PEEK(&H4A)
140 ON ERROR GOTO 650:PRINT:PRINT"Proofreader Ready."
150 LINE INPUT L$:Y=CSRLIN-INT(LEN(L$)/W)-1:LOCATE Y,1
160 DEF SEG=0:POKE 1050,30:POKE 1052,34:POKE 1054,0:POKE 1055,79:POKE 1056,13:POKE 1057,28:LINE INPUT L$:DEF SEG:IF L$="" THEN 150
170 IF LEFT$(L$,1)="" THEN L$=MID$(L$,2):GOTO 170
```

```

180 IF VAL(LEFT$(L$,2))=0 AND
MID$(L$,3,1)=" " THEN L$=M
ID$(L$,4)
200 IF ASC(L$)>57 THEN 260 'no
line number, therefore co
mmand
205 BL=INSTR(L$," "):IF BL=0 T
HEN BL$=L$:GOTO 206 ELSE B
L$=LEFT$(L$,BL-1)
206 LNUM=VAL(BL$):TEXT$=MID$(L
$,LEN(STR$(LNUM))+1)
210 IF TEXT$="" THEN GOSUB 540
:IF LNUM=LNUM(P) THEN GOSU
B 560:GOTO 150 ELSE 150
220 CKSUM=0:FOR I=1 TO LEN(L$)
:CKSUM=(CKSUM+ASC(MID$(L$,
I)))AND 255:NEXT:LOCATE
Y,1:PRINT CHR$(65+CKSUM/1
6)+CHR$(65+(CKSUM AND 15))
+" "+L$
230 GOSUB 540:IF LNUM(P)=LNUM
THEN L$(P)=TEXT$:GOTO 150
'replace line
240 GOSUB 580:GOTO 150 'insert
the line
260 TEXT$="":FOR I=1 TO LEN(L$)
:A=ASC(MID$(L$,I)):TEXT$=
TEXT$+CHR$(A+32*(A>96 AND
A<123)):NEXT
270 DELIMITER=INSTR(TEXT$," ")
:COMMAND$=TEXT$:ARG$="":IF
DELIMITER THEN COMMAND$=L
EFT$(TEXT$,DELIMITER-1):AR
G$=MID$(TEXT$,DELIMITER+1)
ELSE DELIMITER=INSTR(TEXT
$,CHR$(34)):IF DELIMITER T
HEN COMMAND$=LEFT$(TEXT$,D
ELIMITER-1):ARG$=MID$(TEXT
$,DELIMITER)
280 IF COMMAND$<>"LIST" THEN 4
10
290 OPEN "scrn:" FOR OUTPUT AS
#1
300 IF ARG$="" THEN FIRST=0:P=
MAX-1:GOTO 340
310 DELIMITER=INSTR(ARG$,"-"):
IF DELIMITER=0 THEN LNUM=V
AL(ARG$):GOSUB 540:FIRST=P
:GOTO 340
320 FIRST=VAL(LEFT$(ARG$,DELIM
ITER)):LAST=VAL(MID$(ARG$,
DELIMITER+1))
330 LNUM=FIRST:GOSUB 540:FIRST
=P:LNUM=LAST:GOSUB 540:IF
P=0 THEN P=MAX-1
340 FOR X=FIRST TO P:N$=MID$(S
TR$(LNUM(X)),2)+" "
350 IF CKFLAG=0 THEN A$="":GOT
O 370
360 CKSUM=0:A$=N$+L$(X):FOR I=
1 TO LEN(A$):CKSUM=(CKSUM+
ASC(MID$(A$,I)))AND 255
:NEXT:A$=CHR$(65+CKSUM/16)
+CHR$(65+(CKSUM AND 15))+
"
370 PRINT #1,A$+N$+L$(X)
380 IF INKEY$<>" " THEN X=P
390 NEXT :CLOSE #1:CKFLAG=0
400 GOTO 130
410 IF COMMAND$="LLIST" THEN O
PEN "lpt1:" FOR OUTPUT AS
#1:GOTO 300
420 IF COMMAND$="CHECK" THEN C
KFLAG=1:GOTO 290
430 IF COMMAND$<>"SAVE" THEN 4
50
440 GOSUB 600:OPEN ARG$ FOR OU
TPUT AS #1:ARG$="" :GOTO 30
0
450 IF COMMAND$<>"LOAD" THEN 4
90

```

```

460 GOSUB 600:OPEN ARG$ FOR IN
PUT AS #1:MAX=0:P=0
470 WHILE NOT EOF(1):LINE INPU
T #1,L$:BL=INSTR(L$," "):B
L$=LEFT$(L$,BL-1):LNUM(P)=
VAL(BL$):L$(P)=MID$(L$,LEN
(STR$(VAL(BL$))+1):P=P+1:
WEND
480 MAX=P:CLOSE #1:GOTO 130
490 IF COMMAND$="NEW" THEN INP
UT "Erase program - Are yo
u sure":L$:IF LEFT$(L$,1)=
"Y" OR LEFT$(L$,1)="Y" THE
N MAX=0:LNUM(0)=65536:GOT
O 130:ELSE 130
500 IF COMMAND$="BASIC" THEN C
OLOR 7,0,0:ON ERROR GOTO 0
:CLS:END
510 IF COMMAND$<>"FILES" THEN
520
515 IF ARG$="" THEN ARG$="A:"
ELSE SEL=1:GOSUB 600
517 FILES ARG$:GOTO 130
520 PRINT"Syntax error":GOTO 1
30
540 P=0:WHILE LNUM>LNUM(P) AND
P<MAX:P=P+1:WEND:RETURN
560 MAX=MAX-1:FOR X=P TO MAX:L
NUM(X)=LNUM(X+1):L$(X)=L$(
X+1):NEXT:RETURN
580 MAX=MAX+1:FOR X=MAX TO P+1
STEP -1:LNUM(X)=LNUM(X-1)
:L$(X)=L$(X-1):NEXT:L$(P)=
TEXT$:LNUM(P)=LNUM:RETURN
600 IF LEFT$(ARG$,1)<>CHR$(34)
THEN 520 ELSE ARG$=MID$(A
RG$,2)
610 IF RIGHT$(ARG$,1)=CHR$(34)
THEN ARG$=LEFT$(ARG$,LEN(
ARG$)-1)
620 IF SEL=0 AND INSTR(ARG$,".
")=0 THEN ARG$=ARG$+".BAS"
630 SEL=0:RETURN
640 CLOSE #1:CKFLAG=0:PRINT"St
opped.":RETURN 150
650 PRINT "Error #";ERR:RESUME
150

```

### Program 3: Commodore Proofreader

By Philip Nelson, Assistant Editor

```

10 VEC=PEEK(772)+256*PEEK(773)
:LO=43:HI=44
20 PRINT "AUTOMATIC PROOFREADER
FOR ";:IF VEC=42364 THEN
{SPACE};PRINT "C-64"
30 IF VEC=50556 THEN PRINT "VI
C-20"
40 IF VEC=35158 THEN GRAPHIC C
LR:PRINT "PLUS/4 & 16"
50 IF VEC=17165 THEN LO=45:HI=
46:GRAPHIC CLR:PRINT"128"
60 SA=(PEEK(LO)+256*PEEK(HI))+
6:ADR=SA
70 FOR J=0 TO 166:READ BYT:POK
E ADR,BYT:ADR=ADR+1:CHK=CHK
+BYT:NEXT
80 IF CHK<>20570 THEN PRINT "**
ERROR* CHECK TYPING IN DATA
STATEMENTS":END
90 FOR J=1 TO 5:READ RF,LF,HF:
RS=SA+RF:HB=INT(RS/256):LB=
RS-(256*HB)
100 CHK=CHK+RF+LF+HF:POKE SA+L
F,LB:POKE SA+HF,HB:NEXT
110 IF CHK<>22054 THEN PRINT "
*ERROR* RELOAD PROGRAM AND

```

```

{SPACE}CHECK FINAL LINE":EN
D
120 POKE SA+149,PEEK(772):POKE
SA+150,PEEK(773)
130 IF VEC=17165 THEN POKE SA+
14,22:POKE SA+18,23:POKESA+
29,224:POKESA+139,224
140 PRINT CHR$(147);CHR$(17);"
PROOFREADER ACTIVE":SYS SA
150 POKE HI,PEEK(HI)+1:POKE (P
EEK(LO)+256*PEEK(HI))-1,0:N
EW
160 DATA 120,169,73,141,4,3,16
9,3,141,5,3
170 DATA 88,96,165,20,133,167,
165,21,133,168,169
180 DATA 0,141,0,255,162,31,18
1,199,157,227,3
190 DATA 202,16,248,169,19,32,
210,255,169,18,32
200 DATA 210,255,160,0,132,180
,132,176,136,230,180
210 DATA 200,185,0,2,240,46,20
1,34,208,8,72
220 DATA 165,176,73,255,133,17
6,104,72,201,32,208
230 DATA 7,165,176,208,3,104,2
08,226,104,166,180
240 DATA 24,165,167,121,0,2,13
3,167,165,168,105
250 DATA 0,133,168,202,208,239
,240,202,165,167,69
260 DATA 168,72,41,15,168,185,
211,3,32,210,255
270 DATA 104,74,74,74,168,1
85,211,3,32,210
280 DATA 255,162,31,189,227,3,
149,199,202,16,248
290 DATA 169,146,32,210,255,76
,86,137,65,66,67
300 DATA 68,69,70,71,72,74,75,
77,80,81,82,83,88
310 DATA 13,2,7,167,31,32,151,
116,117,151,128,129,167,136
,137

```

### Program 4: Apple Proofreader

By Tim Victor, Editorial Programmer

```

10 C = 0: FOR I = 768 TO 768 +
68: READ A:C = C + A: POKE I
,A: NEXT
20 IF C < > 7258 THEN PRINT "ER
ROR IN PROOFREADER DATA STAT
EMENTS": END
30 IF PEEK(190 * 256) < > 76 T
HEN POKE 56,0: POKE 57,3: CA
LL 1002: GOTO 50
40 PRINT CHR$(4);"IN#A#300"
50 POKE 34,0: HOME : POKE 34,1:
VTAB 2: PRINT "PROOFREADER
INSTALLED"
60 NEW
100 DATA 216,32,27,253,201,141
110 DATA 208,60,138,72,169,0
120 DATA 72,189,255,1,201,160
130 DATA 240,8,104,10,125,255
140 DATA 1,105,0,72,202,208
150 DATA 238,104,170,41,15,9
160 DATA 48,201,58,144,2,233
170 DATA 57,141,1,4,138,74
180 DATA 74,74,74,41,15,9
190 DATA 48,201,58,144,2,233
200 DATA 57,141,0,4,104,170
210 DATA 169,141,96

```

# COMPUTE's Author Guide

Most of the following suggestions serve to improve the speed and accuracy of publication. COMPUTE! is primarily interested in new and timely articles on the Commodore 64/128, Atari, Apple, IBM PC/PCjr, Amiga, and Atari ST. We are much more concerned with the content of an article than with its style, but articles should be clear and well-explained.

The guidelines below will permit your good ideas and programs to be more easily edited and published:

1. The upper left corner of the first page should contain your name, address, telephone number, and the date of submission.

2. The following information should appear in the upper right corner of the first page. If your article is specifically directed to one make of computer, please state the brand name and, if applicable, the BASIC or ROM or DOS version(s) involved. In addition, *please indicate the memory requirements of programs.*

3. The underlined title of the article should start about 2/3 of the way down the first page.

4. Following pages should be typed normally, except that in the upper right corner there should be an abbreviation of the title, your last name, and the page number. For example: Memory Map/Smith/2.

5. All lines within the text of the article must be double- or triple-spaced. A one-inch margin should be left at the right, left, top, and bottom of each page. No words should be divided at the ends of lines. And please do not justify. Leave the lines ragged.

6. Standard typing paper should be used (no erasable, onionskin, or other thin paper) and typing should be on one side of the paper only (upper- and lowercase).

7. Sheets should be attached together with a paper clip. Staples should not be used.

8. If you are submitting more than one article, send each one in a separate mailer with its own tape or disk.

9. Short programs (under 20 lines) can easily be included within the text. Longer programs should be separate listings. *It is essential that we have a copy of the program, recorded twice, on a tape or disk.* If your article was written with a word processor, we also appreciate a copy of the text file on the tape or disk. Please use high-quality 10 or 30 minute tapes with the program recorded on both sides. The tape or disk should be labeled with the author's name, the title of the article, and, if applicable, the BASIC/ROM/DOS version(s). Atari tapes should specify whether they are to be LOADED or ENTERED. We prefer to receive Apple programs on disk rather than tape. Tapes are fairly sturdy, but disks need to be enclosed within plastic or

cardboard mailers (available at photography, stationery, or computer supply stores).

10. A good general rule is to spell out the numbers zero through ten in your article and write higher numbers as numerals (1024). The exceptions to this are: Figure 5, Table 3, TAB(4), etc. Within ordinary text, however, the zero through ten should appear as words, not numbers. Also, symbols and abbreviations should not be used within text: use "and" (not &), "reference" (not ref.), "through" (not thru).

11. For greater clarity, use all capitals when referring to keys (RETURN, TAB, ESC, SHIFT), BASIC words (LIST, RND, GOTO), and three languages (BASIC, APL, PILOT). Headlines and subheads should, however, be initial caps only, and emphasized words are not capitalized. If you wish to emphasize, underline the word and it will be italicized during typesetting.

12. Articles can be of any length—from a single-line routine to a multi-issue series. The average article is about four to eight double-spaced, typed pages.

13. If you want to include photographs, they should be either 5×7 black and white glossies or color slides.

14. We do not consider articles which are submitted simultaneously to other publishers. If you wish to send an article to another magazine for consideration, please do not submit it to us.

15. COMPUTE! pays between \$70 and \$800 for published articles. In general, the rate reflects the length and quality of the article. Payment is made upon acceptance. Following submission (Editorial Department, COMPUTE! Magazine, P.O. Box 5406, Greensboro, NC 27403) it will take from four to eight weeks for us to reply. If your work is accepted, you will be notified by a letter which will include a contract for you to sign and return. *Rejected manuscripts are returned to authors who enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.*

16. If your article is accepted and you have since made improvements to the program, please submit an entirely new tape or disk and a new copy of the article reflecting the update. We cannot easily make revisions to programs and articles. It is necessary that you send the revised version as if it were a new submission entirely, but be sure to indicate that your submission is a revised version by writing, "Revision" on the envelope and the article.

17. COMPUTE! does not accept unsolicited product reviews. If you are interested in serving on our panel of reviewers, contact the Review Coordinator for details.

## 64 Uncruncher

The first line was omitted from the MLX-format listing for this program in the August issue (p. 100). It should read as follows:

```
C000:AD 20 D0 8D 0A C6 A5 73 7D
```

## Screen Machine II

When entering the program that accompanies Part 1 of this article in the July issue (p. 86), you'll encounter many lines for which the published "Automatic Proofreader" checksum will not match the one returned by the Proofreader even when the line is entered exactly as listed. The program in the July listing was generated by processing the commented listing from Part 2 of the article in the August issue (Program 1, p. 95) with the "RE-Mover" program in that issue (Program 2, p. 99). REMover removes all comments, but in the case of comments at the end of program lines it leaves the space between the last BASIC statement and the apostrophe ('). This space affects the checksum calculated by our lister program, but cannot be typed when you enter the program (any spaces after the last character in a program line are ignored). Except for the Proofreader checksums, the July "Screen Machine II" program is correct as listed, so it should work if entered as listed without using the Proofreader. The checksums should all be correct in the commented (August) version.

## Apple ProDOS Catalog Sorter

The article with this utility program in the July issue (p. 96) states that the program can be modified for a 40-column video display simply by changing the PR#3 in line 260 to PR#0. Actually, several other changes are also required if you wish to display the sorted catalog on a 40-column screen: The HTAB statements should be removed from lines 340 and 780. The PRINT L2\$: in line 460 should be changed to PRINT LEFT\$(L2\$,80 - 41 \* (A\$

<> "P")); and the PRINT DA\$(I): in line 740 should be changed to PRINT LEFT\$(DA\$(I),80 - 41 \* (A\$ <> "P")):.

Also, the author has provided the following enhancement (this is not a correction). As published, the program sorts programs strictly by name. However, it's often useful to have programs sorted by type as well as by name, especially for directories on a hard disk. If you would like to modify the program to add this feature, change the assignment of the variable SK\$(E) in line 680 to SK\$(E) = MID\$(L4\$, 18, 3) + MID\$(L4\$, 2, 15).

## Converting IBM ML to BASIC DATA

The article for this program erroneously states that this program will work on the PCjr. Cartridge BASIC for the PCjr does not support the SHELL command. (SHELL is in-

cluded in Cartridge BASIC, but control does not return to BASIC after the command has executed.) Reader Wayne E. Robinson suggests a novel solution for PCjr owners: The PCjr normally uses Cartridge BASIC rather than either of the PC versions provided on the DOS disk, but it's not impossible to use the disk versions which properly support SHELL. When you type either BASIC or BASICA at a DOS A> prompt, DOS checks for the presence of Cartridge BASIC and displays an error message if no cartridge is found. You can trick the computer and use the disk versions of BASIC simply by changing their names. For example, you can use the ML-to-DATA program by using DOS to rename BASICA.COM as BASICB.COM, then typing BASICB (instead of BASICA) to start Advanced Disk BASIC, which can be used to run the program as listed.©

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## Epyx Ships New Entertainment Packages

COMPUTE!'s coverage of the Summer Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in last month's issue inadvertently omitted significant new products from Epyx of Sunnyvale, California.

Epyx has introduced a variety of new entertainment programs for Apple, Commodore, Atari, and IBM computers.

Among the new releases are three bestselling packages recently converted for the Amiga and Atari ST computers: the classic *Temple of Apshai Trilogy*, three adventure role-playing games in one; *Rogue*, a 26-level graphic adventure game; and the popular *Winter Games*, featuring seven Winter Olympic contests. Epyx announced that many more of its most popular titles will appear in Amiga and ST versions later this year.

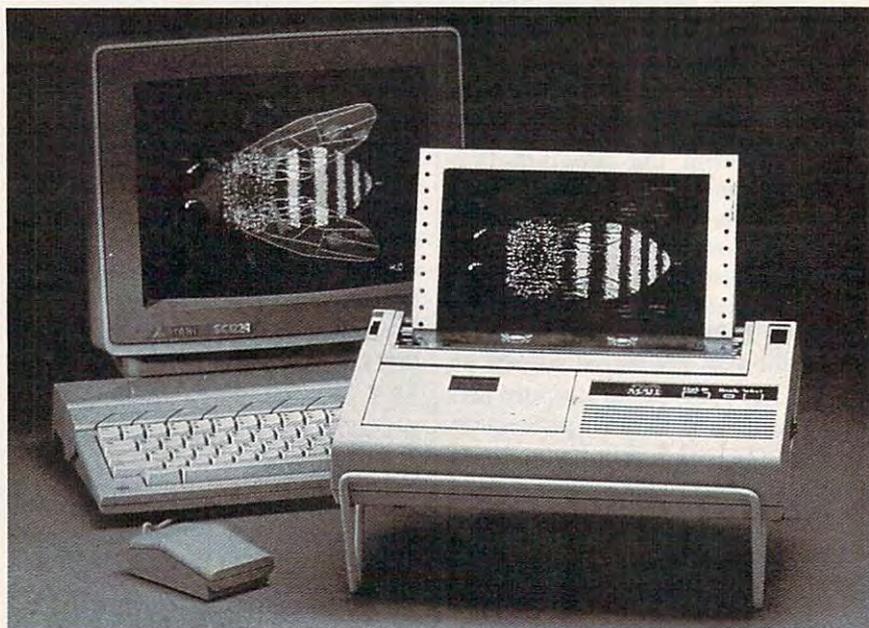
New titles include *The Movie Monster Game*, featuring the ever-popular Godzilla, an action game that lets the player take part in movie monster mayhem; *World Games*, a new series of Olympic contests in which players become international athletes and travel to eight different countries to compete in an event specific to each locale—for example, cliff-diving in Mexico or sumo wrestling in Japan; *Super Cycle*, an arcade-action motorcycle racing game that features a realistic first-person perspective; *Championship Wrestling*, a fast-action wrestling contest in which you choose your own wrestling personality and climb into the ring with a formidable opponent; and *World Karate Championship*, a graphically detailed karate-action program that features eight different competition locations against increasingly difficult opponents. As with most earlier Epyx titles, these entertainment packages are available currently, or soon, for all major personal computer systems. Prices vary.

Epyx, Inc., 1043 Kiel Ct., Sunnyvale, CA 94089.

Circle Reader Service Number 170.

## Color Printer Interfaces For Amiga, ST

Okidata has announced that the Okimate 20, a color thermal transfer printer, can now be easily interfaced with



The Okimate 20 now works with the Amiga and ST computers.

the Amiga and Atari ST through its Plug 'N Print modules. The module is included in the \$268 price for the printer, and contains everything the user needs to begin printing immediately: a data cable, black and color cartridge ribbons, and sample computer paper.

In addition to printing over 100 colors, the Okimate 20's 24-element printhead provides correspondence at 80 cps in draft mode and 40 cps in NLQ mode. Users can select from several different type fonts, including wide print, boldface, fine print, and italics. Underlining, superscript, and subscript are also standard features.

Okidata, 532 Fellowship Rd., Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054.

Circle Reader Service Number 171.

## Electronic Greetings

Create and send electronic greetings—including animation and sound—with *Color Mail* from Hallmark Cards. This program lets you combine graphics, animation, music, sound, and personal messages to send greetings to other subscribers of CompuServe.

To use *Color Mail*, a subscriber develops a greeting offline and sends it through the electronic mail facility. The recipient transfers the greeting for off-

line viewing using his or her own *Color Mail* disk.

*Color Mail* can be ordered from CompuServe for \$40. This includes CompuServe's VIDTEX communications program, 103 design elements, and illustrated user guides. A PalPak costs \$60 and contains two disks, one for the sender and one for the recipient. There is a fee of 25 cents in addition to the connect time charge when using *Color Mail*. New groups of design elements can be ordered for \$3.50 to \$5.00.

Hallmark Color Mail, 2440 Pershing Rd., Ste G-40, Kansas City, MO 64108.  
Circle Reader Service Number 172.

## Database Manager For Commodore 128 And Amiga

Mid-Kansas Computers recently announced the release of Woodsoftware's *Flex File* for the Commodore 128 and Amiga, based on the earlier *Flex File* database manager for the 64 and PET computers.

On the Amiga version, all of the earlier command formats have been retained, and new features have been

added that take advantage of the Amiga's power. These features include sophisticated virtual window entry editor with UNDO and CLEAR LINE functions; minimal mouse commands to speed data entry, editing, and processing; and storage of housekeeping data in machine memory to maximize file space. Two versions are included: An Amiga BASIC version that you can customize; and a machine language version for speed, multitasking with other programs, and more memory to handle extremely large and complex files. It retails for \$79.95.

*Flex File 128* is completely compatible with data disks created on earlier versions of *Flex File* and *Practifile* for other Commodore computers. Its command structure is identical to that of the older version, with a few enhancements. Up to 10,000 records can be created, with up to forty fields per record. 80-column FAST mode is supported, and HELP screens are available without disk access. It retails for \$49.95.

Mid-Kansas Computers, 204 W. 6th, P.O. Box 506, Newton, KS 67114.  
Circle Reader Service Number 174.

### MECC Apple Educational Software

MECC has introduced two educational tools for Apple II series computers.

*Quickflash!* is a utility package that lets teachers create electronic flashcards. The program includes automatic recordkeeping, randomization of questions, control of mastery level, and printed progress reports.

*Quickflash!* can be adapted to various subject levels and includes diacritical marks and special characters for foreign language study. A printer option lets teachers print the questions and answers.

Students in grades six through nine can learn to write plays with *Show Time*. The students pick the cast from over 1000 possible combinations, build the sets, compose the music, and write the scripts using the integrated word processor, *MECC Writer*. With *Show Time*, students add stage directions, rehearse, edit the scripts, and finally watch the play. A support manual is included. Both *Quickflash!* and *Show Time* require an Apple II series computer with at least 64K. Contact MECC for prices.

MECC, 3490 Lexington Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55126-8097.  
Circle Reader Service Number 175.

### Commodore 128 And IBM Compatibility

S.O.G.W.A.P. Software has introduced *The Big Blue Reader*, a software program

that lets users transfer word processing and ASCII files generated on most IBM-compatible software to Commodore 128 DOS files, and vice versa.

Release 1.0 of *The Big Blue Reader* is priced at \$29.95, plus \$2 for shipping and handling (California residents add \$1.95). *The Big Blue Reader* is self-booting. A full menu appears on the 80-column screen, while on the 40-column screen the program offers a main menu and submenus. Prompts take the user through the copying process, whether going from Commodore to IBM or IBM to Commodore.

*The Big Blue Reader* also offers the user the option of translating MS-DOS standard ASCII characters to Commodore ASCII characters—and vice versa—solving the problem of reversed capitals and lowercase letters.

S.O.G.W.A.P. Software, Inc., 611 Boccaccio Ave., Venice, CA 90291.  
Circle Reader Service Number 176.

### Pro Golf Simulator For Atari ST

*Leader Board*, for the Atari ST, is a realistic golf simulator that provides the player with a true perspective of the game. It features multiple 18-hole courses, 3-D animation, trees and sandtraps, and three levels of play. The program also provides for computerized scoring, a handicap system, and requires the player to make strategic decisions involving the choice of club, distance, and many other variables.

A joystick is required. The ST version of *Leader Board* retails for \$39.95.

Access Software, Inc., 2561 S. 1560 W., Woods Cross, UT 84087.  
Circle Reader Service Number 177.

### RAM-Resident IBM Writing Tool

Micro Logic has released a RAM-resident productivity tool for the IBM-PC and compatibles. *Tornado Notes* lets you process random information using a system of parallel text processing. You can enter text into logical modules and then change, reorganize, and code the information as you wish. *Tornado Notes* has a flexible search capability and includes a pile-of-paper simulator, forms capability, note-joining function, two-keystroke duplication feature, and importing and exporting of both files and screens. There is a built-in editor as well as a helpful icon-based user interface.

*Tornado Notes* runs on the IBM-PC and compatibles with PC-DOS (MS-DOS) 2.0 or later and uses 50K of RAM, plus space for notes. It does not use bit graphics and supports most 80-character monochrome and color displays. The

software is not copy-protected.

*Tornado Notes* costs \$49.95, which includes a collection of reference notes and a 30-day money-back guarantee.

Micro Logic Corp., P.O. Box 174, 100 2nd St., Hackensack, NJ 07602.  
Circle Reader Service Number 178.

### Idea Processor For Amiga

*Flow* is an idea processor that takes full advantage of many of the Amiga's features, including multi-tasking, pull-down menus, windows, and the mouse.

The program's primary use is in organizing and arranging ideas in preparation for writing papers, articles, or books; or for presentations, planning, and decision-making. It can also be used to store and rapidly find important dates and appointments, or to save factual information in an orderly fashion. Suggested retail price is \$99.95.

New Horizons Software, P.O. Box 43167, Austin, TX 78745.  
Circle Reader Service Number 179.

### BASIC Programming On The Apple

Thirty-five lessons in *Ace Programmer* cover the fundamentals of Apple BASIC programming on the Apple-II series computers. This new program from MindPlay instructs users, gives examples, and then offers students a chance to practice with 70 additional *playspace* assignments. The package includes recordkeeping, options to create additional *playspace* assignments, and a guidebook.

*Ace Programmer* is available on level I for grades 2 through 6 and level II for grades 7 through adult. Backup and lab packs are also available. Suggested retail price is \$39.95.

MindPlay, Methods & Solutions, Inc., 82 Montvale Ave., Stoneham, MA 02180.

Circle Reader Service Number 180.

### Hard Disk Drive For Commodore 64

The Data Chief is a hard disk drive system with floppy disk included for the Commodore 64, available in a 10-megabyte or 20-megabyte version. Produced by InConTrol, Inc., each system comes with a 170K floppy drive, a 135-watt power supply, a hard disk drive, and controller/driver cards, all housed in a metal case.

A second hard disk can be added without an additional driver card and, with an expansion kit that will be available this fall, three hard disks can be installed in the system. The Model HFD-60 is a 10-megabyte system

(\$895); the Model HFD-120 is a 20-megabyte system (\$995).

InConTrol, Inc., 103 Baughman's Ln., Ste. 301, Frederick, MD 21701.  
Circle Reader Service Number 181.

### ST Versions Of Popular Text/Graphics Adventures

Spinnaker has announced that several titles in its popular Telarium series will now be available for Atari ST computers. The games include *Nine Princes Of Amber*, a game of negotiation, politics, and alliances in which you play a prince fighting for the throne of the one true perfect world (written by Roger Zelazny); *Amazon*, where as a special agent for a high-tech research firm you must travel to the dangerous, unexplored Amazon (written by Michael Crichton); and *Perry Mason: The Case Of The Mandarin Murder*, in which you play the role of world-famous criminal lawyer Perry Mason.

The ST versions of each program retail for \$49.95.

Spinnaker Software, One Kendall Sq., Cambridge, MA 02139.

Circle Reader Service Number 182.

### Commodore 16 And Plus/4 Programs

Two entertainment programs and a home finance package for the Commodore 16 and Plus/4 computers have been introduced by Robinson Software Associates.

*Bounty Hunter* is a text adventure set in the Old West; *Grave Robbers* is a graphic treasure-hunting adventure; and *Savings & Loan* is a home finance program that calculates principal, interest payments, amortization on loans, and various types of savings.

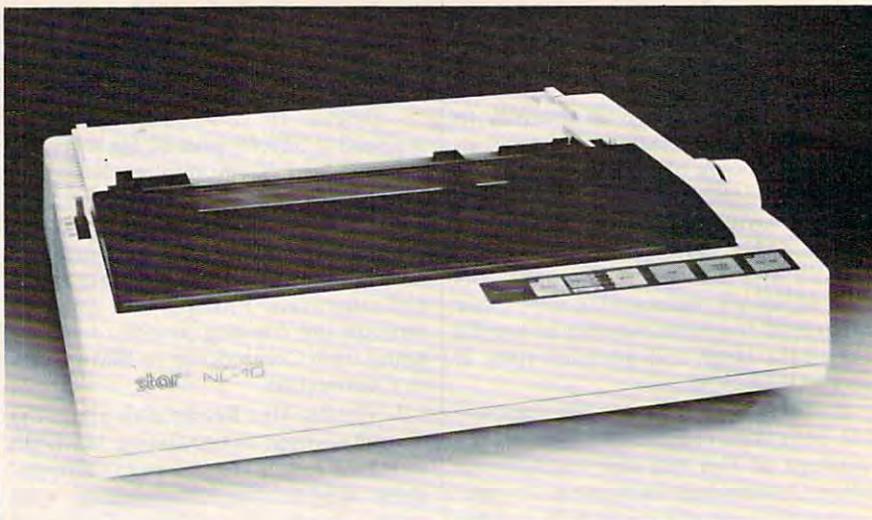
Each program sells for \$9.95, plus \$1.50 postage.

Robinson Software Associates (RSA), 50 South Valley Road B2, Paoli, PA 19301.  
Circle Reader Service Number 183.

### Star Micronics Printer

Star Micronics has introduced the NL-10, a 9-wire dot matrix desktop printer for professional, small office, and home use. The NL-10 prints high-speed draft quality at 120 cps and near letter quality at 30 cps. It offers eleven format and print functions, including three print pitch selections, type style, print mode, margin settings, and forward and reverse paper feed. The rear tractor feed has a quick tear feature plus an automatic feed. There is an optional automatic single and dual bin cut sheet feeder. Ribbon cartridges snap in easily.

The NL-10 has plug-in interface cartridges for the IBM PC and PC com-



The NL-10 dot matrix printer from Star Micronics is compatible with all major personal computers.

patibles, Commodore 64/128, standard parallel computers, Apple computers, and an RS-232C serial interface cartridge.

Suggested retail price for the NL-10 with one interface cartridge is \$379. The base unit retails for \$319 and each cartridge is priced at \$60.

Star Micronics, Inc., 200 Park Ave., Ste. 3510, New York, NY 10166.

Circle Reader Service Number 184.

### Inexpensive ST Software

Keypunch Software has introduced a line of inexpensive game, educational, and personal productivity programs for the Atari ST. Titles include *Trivia Master*, *The Gambler*, *Strategy Games*, *Cards Cards Cards*, *Mind Games*, *Personal Finance Pak*, *Executive Data Pak*, and *Finance I & II*.

Each program retails for \$9.99. Amiga versions are planned for the fall of 1986.

Keypunch Software, 1221 Pioneer Bldg., St. Paul, MN 55101.

Circle Reader Service Number 185.

### Macintosh Graphics

Dynamic Graphics has introduced *DeskTop Art* software for the Macintosh, a new line of programs that contains graphics selected and digitized from the company's library of more than 20,000 exclusive illustrations and photos. All images are based on original art, commissioned and purchased by Dynamic Graphics from leading illustrators for its international art services.

Each volume under the *DeskTop Art* name, categorized by subject and style, includes more than 300 illustrations stored on two disks as *MacPaint* documents. Also included in every

package is a 24-page how-to guide, a pictorial index to the art, and suggested applications projects. The first two volumes are *Graphics & Symbols* (\$66.95), a collection of high-contrast pictograms and symbols; and *Artfolio I* (\$74.95), a miscellany of styles and subjects that includes people, familiar objects, and animals.

Dynamic Graphics, Inc., 6000 N. Forest Park Dr., P.O. Box 1901, Peoria, IL 61656-1901.

Circle Reader Service Number 186.

### IBM Software From Buttonware

Buttonware has introduced several software packages for the IBM PC and compatibles.

*PC-Dial* is a communications package that features DOS access for commands or programs, complete support of DOS subdirectories, a built-in mini-editor for editing files online, support of user-defined scripts, smart keys that save up to 12 macros, a help screen, an automatic redial, communication at speeds from 75 bps up to 9600 bps, screen colors, and an on-screen timer. *PC-Dial* requires a serial communications port, a modem, DOS 2.0 or higher, 164K available RAM memory without the mini-editor and 220K of available RAM memory with the mini-editor.

*PC-Style* analyzes the readability of your writing by computing the percentage of long words, personal words, action verbs, words per sentence, and average syllables per word. This program works with any standard ASCII or *Wordstar* document.

*PC-Tickle* is a reminder program that helps you keep track of appointments, dates, and meetings. It also has

an option that allows you to keep running totals of your checkbook balance, calorie consumption, and more.

*PC-File III* is a general purpose database manager program.

*PC-File/R* has more features than *PC-File III*, including relational database capabilities, integrated letter writing, and mail-merge capabilities.

A word processor, *PC-Type* can perform DOS functions and has keyboard macros as well as help panels to guide you through each process.

The graphics extension to *PC-File III* and *PC-File/R* is *PC-Graph*, which can plot a line graph of a database or a report created with the word processing programs.

*PC-Dial*, *PC-File III*, and *PC-Graph* each sell for \$59.95. *PC-Style* and *PC-Tickle* each sell for \$29.95 and *PC-File/R* costs \$149.00.

ButtonWare, Inc., P.O. Box 5786, Bellevue, WA 98006.

Circle Reader Service Number 187.

### PBS Science Series Offers Free Software

Newton's Apple, the popular PBS science series, will introduce supplementary software to support this fall's series, thanks to a major grant from the Dupont Corporation.

The software series will consist of six Apple programs that deal with the scientific principles covered in the series. For example, as the host relates the laws of probability to the workings of a slot machine, a companion software program brings the lesson to the viewer through computer simulations of coin flipping, dice throwing, and slot machine playing. Additional software will be based on such program themes as mirrors, telescopes, and alcohol's effects on the body.

Newton's Apple software will be available at no cost on major online news and information services, local bulletin boards systems, user groups, and local board of education computer resource centers.

For further information, contact your local Apple user group or call a local FIDO-NET BBS.

Circle Reader Service Number 188.

### Writing Aids For Apple II

*I Can Write* and *Be A Writer* introduce students to word processing as part of a book-building venture which encourages creative writing and helps teach basic grammar and writing skills. Both programs require the use of the Magic Slate, a Sunburst educational aid.

Challenges offered by *I Can Write*,

designed for second graders, range from open-ended explorations of personal identity to changing a monster's description with new adjectives or commanding its actions with different verbs. Students can easily change or add to each exercise, then print out individual lessons to become part of their own personal writing record. In addition, they can create their own books of original stories, poems, letters, and drawings.

In *Be A Writer*, designed for third graders, students explore the narrative, descriptive, and explanatory styles of writing with imaginative characters like Ruby Robot and Giant Geogre.

Both programs, available for Apple II computers, consist of 25 lessons each, and retail for \$40.

Sunburst Communications, Inc., 39 Washington Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570.

Circle Reader Service Number 189.

### Statistical Baseball Game

SubLogic has introduced *Pure-Stat Baseball*, a statistical baseball simulation game originally being released for the Commodore 64, with later versions planned for the Apple II and IBM computers.

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major-league team from the 1985 season, along with eight classic teams from the past. The game, which is for one or two players, lets you trade team players, draft new players, or create your own teams. There are three stadiums to choose from on the game disk, or you can purchase an optional disk with every major league stadium in the U.S.

The emphasis throughout the game is on statistical realism. You select the team you want to manage, then pick the team you want to play against. Choose starting lineups, pitchers, make player substitutions, and call plays. Each player acts and moves individually on every play. The game maintains a complete statistical record as well.

The Commodore 64 version sells for \$49.95. Versions for the Apple II and IBM PC computers will be released at a later date.

SubLogic Corp., 713 Edgebrook Dr., Champaign, IL 61820.

Circle Reader Service Number 190.

### ST Cookbook On A Disk

*Micro Cookbook*, from FTL, consists of more than 150 recipes, and is an authoritative source of cooking tips and nutritional information designed to make you a better cook. It's a time-saving meal planner for organizing every menu detail. You pick the menu, and *Micro Cookbook* creates a shopping list of all the ingredients you'll need.

Available for the Atari ST, *Micro Cookbook* retails for \$49.95.

FTL, 6160 Lusk Blvd., C206, San Diego, CA 92191.

Circle Reader Service Number 191.

### Apple, IBM, Commodore PlayWriter Programs

Woodbury Software has announced the availability of two new programs in the company's PlayWriter series for the Apple II, Commodore 64, and IBM PC/PCjr computers. Each title in the series helps young authors write, edit, print, illustrate, and produce hardcover novels.

*MYSTERY!* and *Castles & Creatures*, the newest additions, are aimed at users age seven and above, including adults. In *MYSTERY!*, you write your detective novel by choosing and describing your sleuth, determining the method and motive of the murder, and creating your own cast of characters. In *Castles & Creatures*, you build your own adventure in a world of fantasy and imagination. Your environment is filled with dragons, knights, sorcerers, and royalty.

Each PlayWriter title is priced at \$39.95 and includes a software story

disk, color stickers, full-page illustrations, a hardcover book jacket, special paper, and easy to use instructions. Earlier PlayWriter titles include *Tales of Me and Adventures In Space*.

Woodbury Software, 127 White Oak Ln., CN 1001, Old Bridge, NJ 08857.

Circle Reader Service Number 192.

### Commodore Music Software Guide

*Commodore 64 & 128 Music Software Guide*, by noted computer music consultant Lolita Walker-Gilkes, is a comprehensive music software guide that ranges from advice on how to use the Commodore for music to detailed explanations of individual software programs and their target audiences. The text presents descriptions, age groups, and prices, and breaks the information into sections on theory, eartraining, fingerings, composition, entertainment, and graphics. A separate section is devoted to MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface), and appendices include vendor addresses, periodicals, and books that can further help users.

The guide sells for \$11.95.

Unsinn Publications, P.O. Box 672, Drexel Hill, PA 19026.

Circle Reader Service Number 193.

### Telecomputing Package

A new hardware and software package from Kinesis Corporation allows up to 23 simultaneous callers. *POPnet* lets users carry on private or open conversations with other users, take part in any of the two-player games, including chess, checkers, backgammon, and othello, or drop into one of the multi-player games such as poker, liar, star trader, and house-o-fun. There are also mail and bulletin board areas.

*POPnet* is set up for operation as a business, complete with accounting software. Typical charges to a user is 75 cents an hour. Contact Kinesis Corp. for price.

Kinesis Corp., 3000 Citrus Circle, Suite 212, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

Circle Reader Service Number 194.

### Apple II, IBM Grammar Program

*Grammar Gremlins*, a comprehensive grammar program for elementary students, is the newest release from Davidson & Associates, for the Apple II+, IIe, and IIc at a suggested retail price of \$49.95. An IBM version will be released in September.

*Grammar Gremlins* presents grammar rules with over 700 practice examples and sentences. The program covers

abbreviations, subject/verb agreement, capitalization, contractions, parts of speech, plurals, possessives, punctuation, and sentence structure. Its features include an easy-to-use editor, animation, color, optional sound effects, record-keeping, and print-out capabilities.

Davidson & Associates, Inc., 3135 Kashiwa St., Torrance, CA 90505.

Circle Reader Service Number 195.

### Commodore 64 Music

Free Spirit Software, publishers of the classical music disk, *Music of the Masters*, has announced a second classical music disk for the Commodore 64, *Music of the Masters, Vol. II*.

The program contains 40 compositions by composers such as Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and others. Instrument simulations include piano, harpsichord, violin, flute, guitar, and clarinet. Screen commentary on the composers is included.

*Music of the Masters, Vol. II*, has a price of \$9.95. Both volumes may be purchased for \$16.95. No shipping and handling charges.

Free Spirit Software, Inc., 5836 S. Mozart, Chicago, IL 60629.

Circle Reader Service Number 196.

### Commodore Bulletin Board

*Blue Board* from SOTA Computing Systems is a bulletin board system for the Commodore 64 that supports over 200 online messages (of up to 1,023 characters), up to 220 users, and more than 25 sysop-definable sub-boards.

Written entirely in machine language, the system includes remote SY-SOP access, a private sysop sub-board, and unlimited session connect time. *Blue Board* also includes *Scribbles*, which are mini sub-boards for messages of up to 80 characters (for opinion forums, voting, chess games, etc.). The system can be reconfigured by the sysop.

*Blue Board* requires a Commodore 64 or 128 with one disk drive (1541 or equivalent), and a 300-baud auto-answer modem (Commodore 1650 or equivalent). The suggested retail price is \$69.95 (U.S. funds).

SOTA Computing Systems, Ltd., 213-1080 Broughton St., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6G 2A8.

Circle Reader Service Number 197. ©

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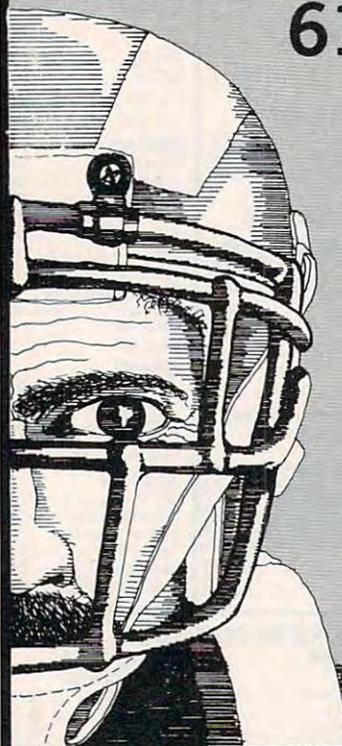
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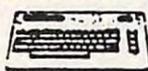
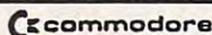
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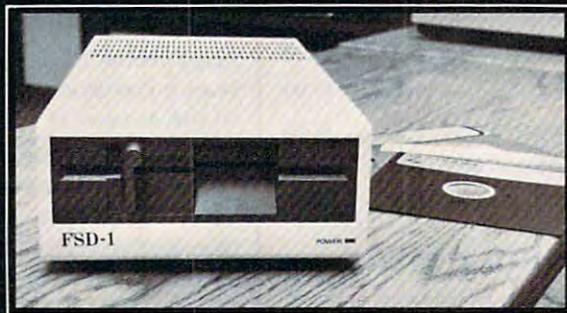
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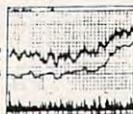
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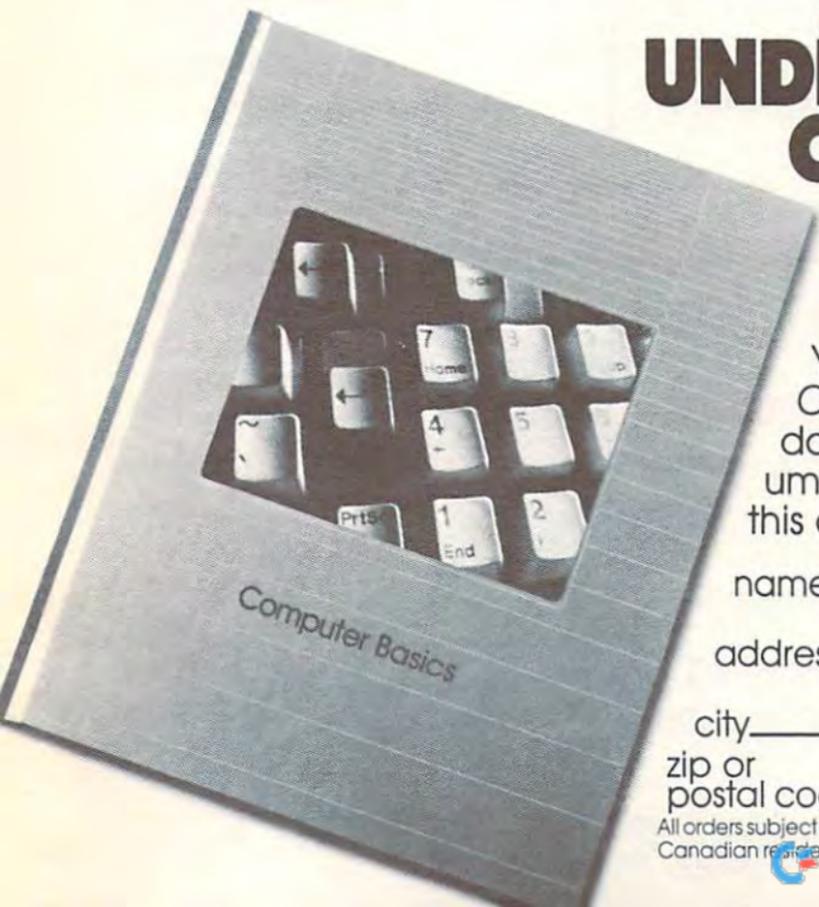
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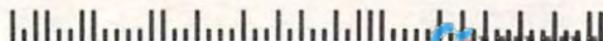
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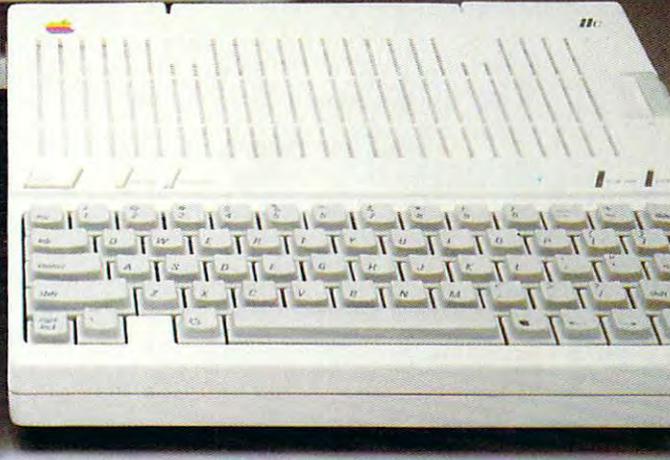
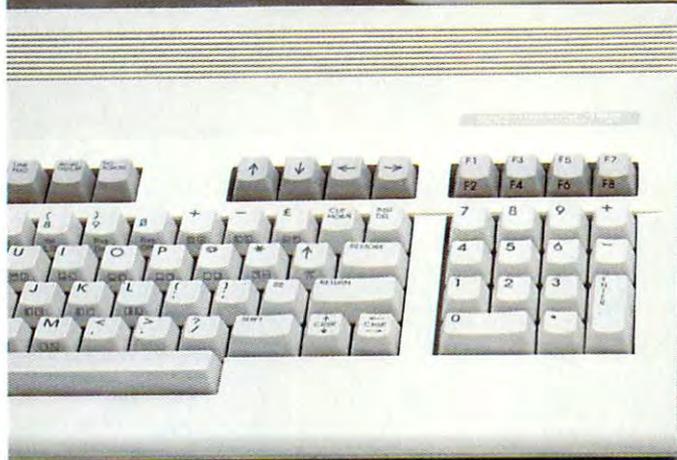
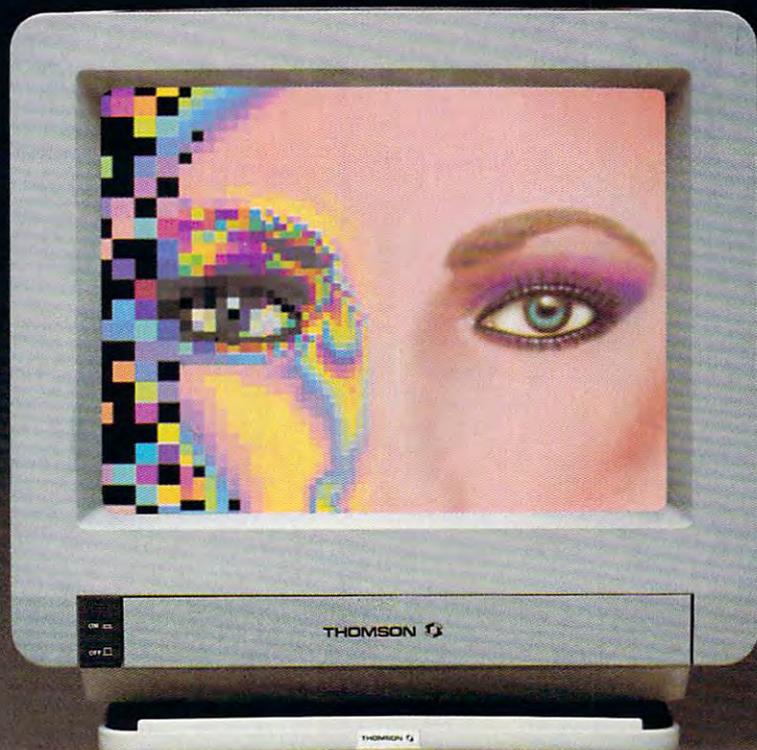
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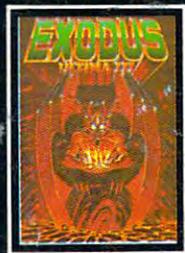
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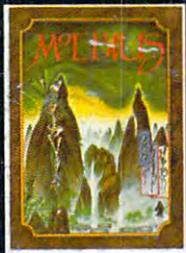
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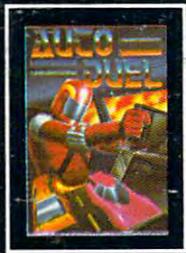
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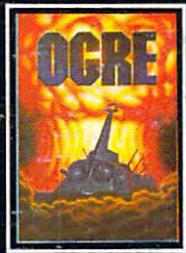
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