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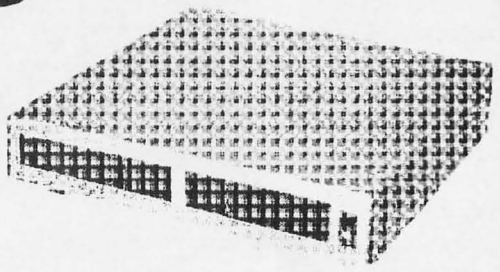

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News & Stuff!

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PageStream 2.1

***PageStream 2.1* is really the *third* generation of Soft-Logik's line of desk top publishing programs. First was *Publising Partner*, a program that was a bit buggy, but was the first on the ST scene to really allow "publishing" at home. Next was PageStream 1.x, a very good and logical extension of what Soft-Logik had begun with Partner. Power and features were expanded dramatically, and with them, the bugs also multiplied. After a flurry of updates, PageStream stabilized nicely at version 1.8, and has been a workhorse for home and small commercial publishers alike. Now we have PageStream 2.1, the long awaited and much heralded next generation...** *Pre:View begins on 15*

Read Me!

Space... the Final Frontier... these are the adventures of Atari Users who have found that the greatest challenges are not always in games—but rather where to keep them all! This month, *AtariUser* is looking at storage. Norm Weinress gives us a good look at the hows and whys to get hard-driving on the ST, as does Chuck Steinman for the 8-bit Atari. Ron Berinstein is back with shareware to help the hard drive, and from New Zealand, Jon Clarke gives us perspectives on the Atari CD-ROM situation.

And at last, we have a preview/review of SoftLogik's long awaited *PageStream 2* Desktop Publisher. Yes, it really is better than ever, and John King Tarpinian helps us look it over.

Distribution of *AtariUser* continues to be refined and enlarged. This month, we add a number of new U.S. and Canadian distributors. We're still working on getting more bookstores to carry us too. Let us know how we are doing.

This month will find the *AtariUser* staff at the *Glendale Atari Faire*. Check the details of this biggest of the domestic shows inside this issue—and join us at the show. We *might* even have advance copies of the October issue. It will concentrate on business, at home and at work with the Atari computers.

—John Nagy, Editor-in-Chief, AtariUser Magazine

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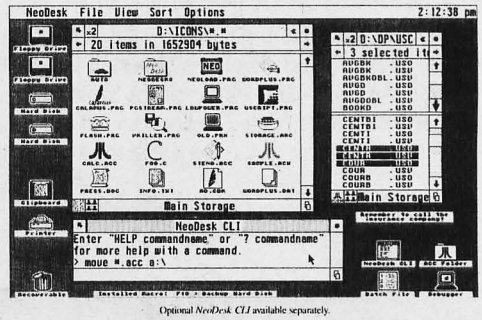

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News&Stuff!

AEGIS takes off, Shows, Turbo stuff

■ *"Ah! Don't say you agree with me. When people agree with me I always feel that I must be wrong."* —Oscar Wildo

There's lots to say and not much room this month—*AtariUser* is doing well, and maybe our next issue will be larger, made possible by more advertisers! Let them know where you saw their ad, and you'll help us bring you more news and features.

AEGIS TAKES OFF

Atari took the first step in a new dealer support and training program which they call the "**AEGIS Strategic Partner Program.**" Thirty-five representatives from twenty-three separate dealers attended a two-day seminar in Sunnyvale, August 5 and 6. Called by some of those who participated "**the single most encouraging and invigorating event ever in Atari dealer relations**," the AEGIS program was a major hit. The program was presented without cost to the dealers, and major distributors were also invited.

According to Atari, "the AEGIS Strategic Partner program creates a unique relationship between Atari, its key resellers and its key developers. This relationship nurtures the development of both vertical-market and cross-discipline solutions, resulting in a strong and effective national sales organization." The first AEGIS Symposium was held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Sunnyvale, California and at the Cogswell Polytechnical College in Cupertino, California. The program featured presentations by Atari President Greg Pratt, Art Morgan, James Grunke, and Bob Brodie. **Even Jack Tramiel dropped by** in the afternoon to shake hands and wish the group well.

The keynote of the conference was "**targeted selling.**" MIDI and DTP were each singled out as the areas where Atari can and does excel, and these strengths were reinforced with sales techniques and technical insights. More than just an Atari program, the AEGIS seminar featured key software developers, including: C-Lab Software, Dr. T's Music Software, Hybrid Arts, Roland Corporation USA, Steinberg/Jones, Codehead Software, Goldleaf Publishing, Gribnif Software, ISD Marketing, Soft-Logik Publishing and Step Ahead Software.

A program of the "Professional Systems Group," the AEGIS Strategic Partner Program was universally well received. Mark Krynsky of The Computer Network in Glendale, California, said that he was encouraged far beyond his hopes by what he saw and heard at the seminars. "I've already seen a significant effect on my store's sales after only a few days of implementation of what I learned at AEGIS." Dealers were also coached on how to approach the vertical markets with private professional seminar programs. Many of the dealers are excited about the possibilities of these markets that they had previously not really considered. Dealers were also cheered up considerably by the assurances of imminent arrival of large quantities of Atari hardware, including the much sought but back ordered Mega STe.

Over and above the training function of AEGIS' first sessions, the dealers and developers got to know each other on a much closer basis. A Monday evening party in Nevin Shalit's room (Step Ahead Software - Tracker ST) was attended by many, including Leonard Tramiel. The social time was as valuable as many parts of the seminars to increase the sense of partnership in success in the Atari community... and offered an informal chance to discuss the hardware and software rumored to be forthcoming from Atari.

Future sessions of the AEGIS program are expected to be scheduled based on feedback and results of this first event. They are expected to be similar, but topics will expand to include other high-potential areas like video as well as more DTP and MIDI applications.

GENCON, BRACE, AND MIST

The **USA's largest game convention** is under way as we go to press in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. GenCon has many dozens of Atari computers engaged in continuous MIDI-Maze games, plus the new Lynx II is making its debut. We'll have more about how it went next month.

Saturday, July 20th marked the second Blue Ridge Atarifest in Asheville, NC. The event was co-sponsored by the Blue Ridge Atari Computer Enthusiasts, and the local Atari dealer, Sheldon Winick's Computer STudio, and featured exhibits from KAUG, the Knoxville Atari Users Group.

While we are used to reports of Atarifest in major convention halls, the BRACE show was held in a shopping center with free admission. Not just free for the visitors, but free even for vendors and developers who wanted to show and sell their goods! Those developers included Dorothy Brumleve, John Fox of Goldleaf, Darlah Pine of GEnie, Jeff Williams of ICD, Nathan Potechin of ISD, Nevin Shalit of Step Ahead Software, Brian Gockley of ST Informer/A & D Software, and of course Bob Brodie of Atari. Over 500 people visited the afternoon event, making it more of a success than some "major" shows with major overhead costs and promotion.

Similarly, the MIST show in Bloomington, Indiana had its third show. MIST is an association of three users groups that has shared members, and needs over the past few years. The groups that form MIST are ASCII (Indianapolis), BLAST (Bloomington), and PAUG (West Lafayette on the campus of Purdue University).

This year's show was put on at CADRE, Inc, a local CAD firm, and offered a day of exhibits by Atari, Gribnif, MP Graphic, Compuserve, Clear Thinking, Unicorn, MegaType, Electronic Spinster, Touch Technologies, SKWare One, ICD, DA Brumleve, MS Designs, WizWorks, Soft-Logik, plus dealers Mars, At/Com, Randall's, and One STop. Also attending were user groups: Milwaukee Atari ST, Cin'tari, STar (Belleville, IL), Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts (Waukegan, IL), Eastside Atari Users Group (Alton, IL). As in Asheville, small was big. Cheap display area and low admission rate made the one-day event hop with near 500 visitors. Vendors reported great sales and high spirits.

Is this the new look of AtariFests? Small scale gatherings may have an edge in productivity of sales on a budget, especially in areas that have not typically been served by major two-day Atari events. The coming months will tell the tale, as the Glendale Atari Show is turning into a huge event with over 40 vendors and 3,000 people expected. It's this month in California (September 15-16, see the close-up on the AtariWatch Calendar, page 38). Then, the WAACE show in Virginia is in October, and Atari's own first show is scheduled for November in Chicago. We'll all be watching these to see if big is best for everyone.

Next month, we'll also have the **news from Deusseldorf**, where the giant Atari show at the end of August should have new products from Atari being announced.

TURBO20 IS ALRIGHT TONIGHT

Jim Allen at **Fast Technologies** has had a **rough time combating unsubstantiated scare rumors** about his latest and fastest CPU accelerator, the TURBO20. When I tried to debunk the story in our July issue, it seemed to just fuel the rumor all the more. Not our intention, folks. Jim's use of the 68000 chip with a clock speed of 20 MHZ is the exact same process that gave us "Turbo" PC's XT's, and AT's in the IBM marketplace. Just as these computers run fast, fine and safely, you should expect the same from the Turbo20 in an ST. $329, Fast Technologies, P.O. Box 578, Andover, MA 01810, 508-475-3810. ■

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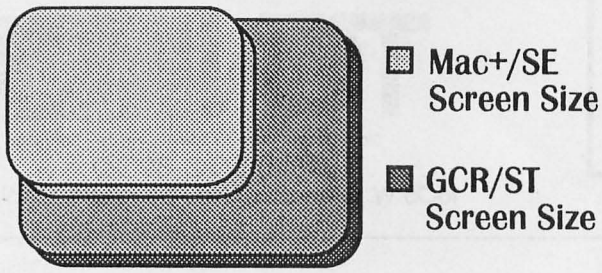

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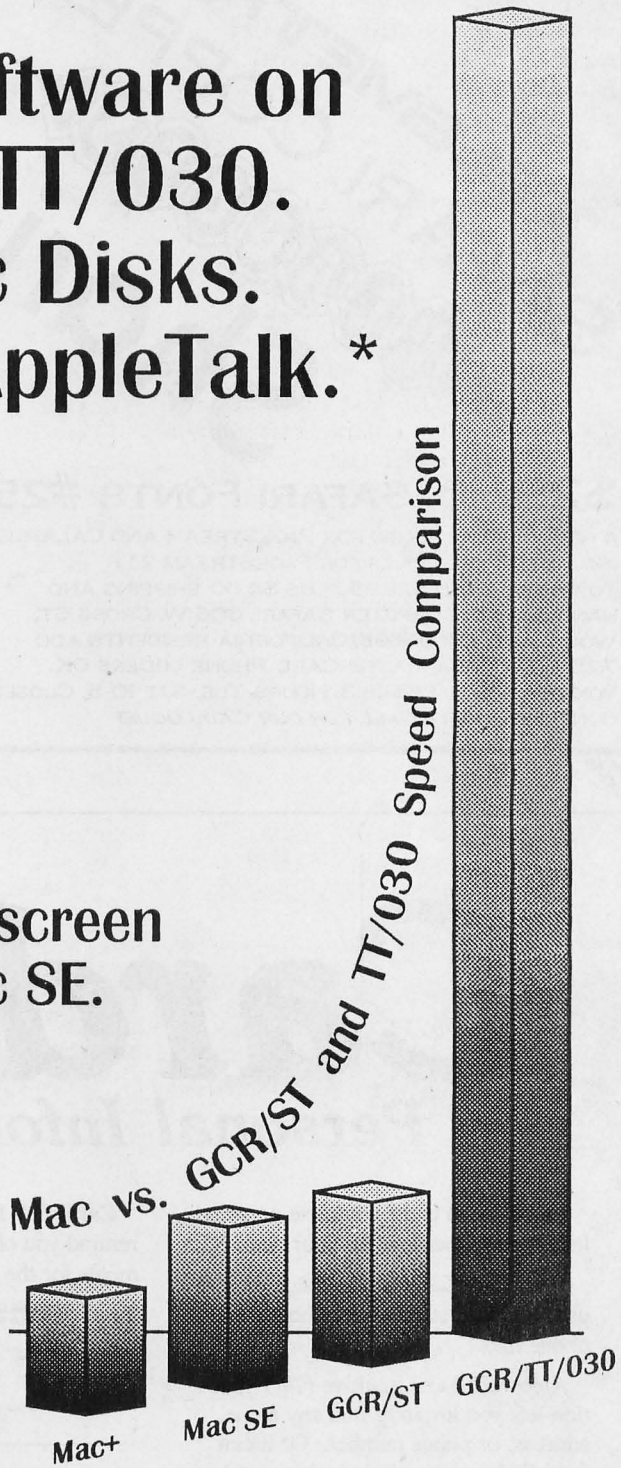

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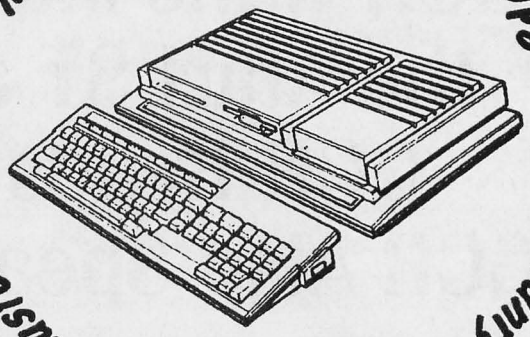

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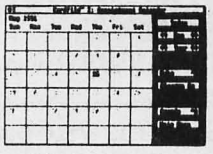

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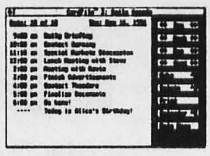

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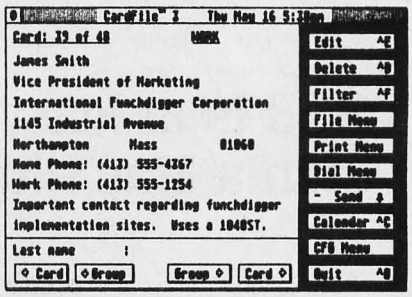

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Secret ST version, 3.5" Eclipse

■ *"The truest freemdom is access to information"* —Benjiman Franklin

■ **UK Atari ST User Magazine reports in its August 1991 edition that Atari has secretly** developed a version of the ST with a PC emulator built in and a hot-key switch to swap between operating systems. Persistent rumors to this effect have been coming from Germany where SACK makes the PC-Speed and AT-Speed emulators for the ST. Product Development Manager Richard Miller is quoted as stating, "...absolutely no comment." Atari UK Chairman Bob Gleadow stated, "There are no plans to release such a product this year." Gleadow did go on to state that new hardware was to be unveiled at the Hannover (Germany) CeBit Show next year. Meanwhile in the USA, it is being said that any such PC inclusion plans onboard ST computers was abandoned when the Atari Texas plant/research center plan was discontinued.

As reported several months ago in Z*Net, a report in the August Atari ST User (UK) says Atari scrapped plans to manufacture the Panther game console. They add that the product was axed because the Jaguar, a 64 bit console, is under development. An Atari spokesman is quoted as stating, "Atari has a policy of running development projects in competition with each other. Neither Jaguar or Panther has been formally announced anyway. Both were development machines and were all supposed to be the subject of non-disclosure agreements. It became obvious that Jaguar was going to succeed Panther very quickly. A decision was made to drop Panther and put all resources into Jaguar." Features of the Jaguar are hazy at best, but CD ROM and LYNX connectivity are expected.

■ **Atari is again advertising in Keyboard magazine**, the most widely read professional musician's magazine in the country. In the August issue (with Yes keyboardist and Atari user Rick Wakeman on the cover), Atari has taken co-op ads with C-Lab (Notator, Creator) and Dr. T's (numerous editor/librarians and sequencers). The Atari logo is large and clearly seen in both ads. There will be an Atari/Dr. T's ad in Electronic Musician this month as well. Bob Brodie is responsible in part, in his new position as Director of Communications for Atari. He says "We've also done similar things in PC-related magazines with some of our Portfolio developers." Publishing magazines are next. Bob still handles user groups as well.

■ **Atari Corporation appears to have cancelled their plans to build** a $53 million computer plant in Israel, and blames the Israel Trade and Industry Ministry for unnecessary delays. A July 21 deadline for negotiations is said to have been set by Atari during June, but the Ministry claims not to have received notice of it until mid-July. Israel still hopes Atari will reconsider. Significant government loans and benefits for Atari may stem from the location of a major facility in Israel.

■ **ST Connection, a monthly newsletter** specializing in public domain and shareware software for the ST, is expanding and will have dealer distribution starting in September. Issues will be 16 to 24 pages and expand to include a desktop publishing section. If you can't find ST Connection, call 303-423-6805 for samples. Computer Publications, Unltd. P.O. Box 2224, Arvada, Colorado 80001-2224.

■ **Former STart magazine editor Tom Byron has moved** to a new position at Spectrum Holobyte. Tom is now in public relations and promotion at the successful software company, leaving a staff position at ANTIC publishing where his duties were limited to writing for the PC Home Journal since the suspension of the STart publication two months ago. (There is no word yet of any progress on a hoped-for sale of STart.) Still an Atari fan, Tom Byron hopes to have opportunities to promote more Atari projects. Spectrum Holobyte is the maker of the already-classic FALCON flight simulation game, but has a limited number of titles available for the Atari computers.

■ **Silhouette is ready to ship after a year of development delay.** It's a bit-image and vector graphics program with auto-tracing. Allowing the integration of scanned and vector graphics, Silhouette will trace a bit-image and prepare a vector outline using points, curves, and splines that can then be further edited within the program. Drawing tools include clipper, freehand, line, polyline, circle, ellipse, elliptical arc, circular arc, polygons, stars, parabolas, spray can, text (supports FSM GDOS), pixel editor tool. More tools will smooth B-splines and bezier curves, convert polylines into splines, circles or ellipses into bezier curves, etc. Graphics formats supported are IMG, DEGAS, Tiny, Mac Paint, and Vector GEM metafiles. Silhouette can rotate polyline objects to a 1/10th of a degree. A 100 page manual in a three ring binder and slip cover finish the package. Silhouette version 1 is available directly from Maxwell CPU for $109.95 plus $5.00 shipping (U.S. Post in U.S. and Canada), and version 1.5 will become available later in the fall with a very low price upgrade charge. Silhouette for Microsoft Windows is also expected to be released this year, and ST owners will be offered a discount. Maxwell CPU, 303-666-7754.

■ **Mind over Midi Productions announced a completely new kind of live** performance software only on the ST computers called Slave Driver. Unlike totally sequecenced "canned" performances where the performer basically has to keep up with the program, Slave Driver (Version 2) allows sequence playback to follow what the musicians are playing. It can run without Atari monitors by printing text to LCD displays of various MIDI devices, has a built in generic SYSEX librarian, transmits and saves system exclusive messages in MIDI file format, and allows you to enter and save SYSEX request messages. Slave Driver is suitable for concert touring or just jamming in the basement, allowing you to improvise the arrangements of your sequences, based on what you play—jam out that solo or intro and the sequence will loop until you're done. It holds up to 255 songs in memory and also works on STe computers. Slave Driver is an upgrade from UltraMIDI, a product of MIDI Mouse, which is no longer supported. Slave Driver is $299.00. Upgrades from UltraMIDI or Slave Driver version 1.5 are $50. Mind over Midi Productions, 302 9131 Capella Drive, Burnaby, B.C. Canada V3J 7K4, 604-444-4424.

■ **Computer-aided Eclipse Viewing**: The South-West United States had a rare solar eclipse viewing opportunity last month, with a 100% eclipse in Hawaii and 70% in California. As always, experts warned of looking at the sun, as eye damage is very possible. While searching for the ideal sun-block filter for direct viewing, a Los Angeles clerk discovered the handiest and best media: computer disks. The disks we think of as opaque black are in fact transparent enough to see the sun through, and the resulting image is a clearly defined red disk. Disk format doesn't matter. The eclipse of the sun by the passing moon was witnessed by growing numbers of L.A. office workers with disks taped to their glasses... another high technology answer to today's environmental challenges. ■

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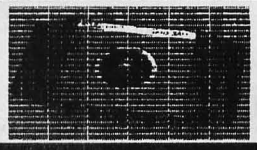

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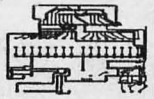

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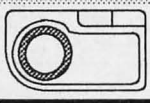

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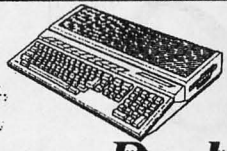

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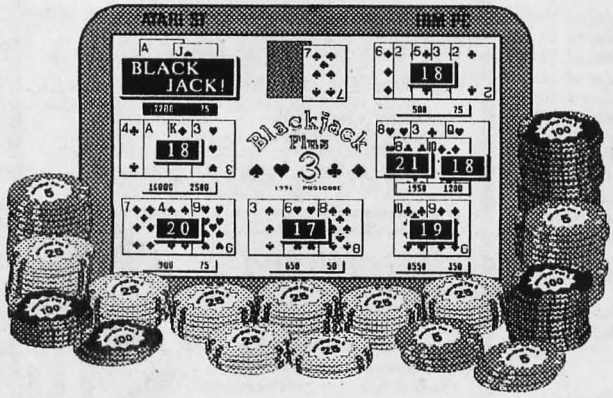

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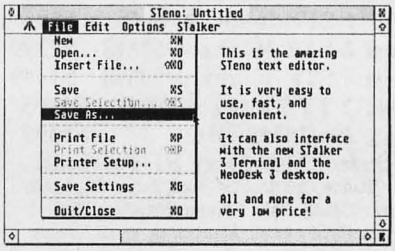

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ICD Advantage Host Adapters

Host adapters are that essential link that allows a hard drive to be used on the DMA (now called ACSI) port of our Atari ST series of computers. ICD, Inc. of Illinois has established itself as the standard against which the few competitors—even Atari itself—are measured. Their current "Advantage" line of host adapters includes the AdSCSI MICRO ST, AdSCSI ST, and the AdSCSI PLUS ST. Retailing for $109.95, $119.95, and $139.95 respectively, they are unbeatable.

ICD has been making hard drive hardware for Atari for years, and they back their products solidly. The Advantage series builds on the design and reputation of their original host adaptor (one of which still runs my primary hard drive system). The AdSCSI MICRO ST is so tiny, it fits between the cable and the drive itself, even inside a MEGA computer. The "standard" AdSCSI ST has a DMA in and out port, and would fit in a cigarette pack. The AdSCSI PLUS ST is the same unit plus a real-time clock, ideal for non-MEGA owners who don't really feel like setting the system time at every boot. ICD's hardware can be used through the ACSI port on the TT computers, even though there is already a SCSI port on the TT's. Some users prefer to do so in order to be able to use the ICD software.

The ICD hard drive software is outstanding in its own right, so much so that they get requests to sell the software separately, for use on competitor's machines. Sorry, but ICD's software is keyed to look for their hardware online, and most of the advanced features depend on finding the expected host connected to the computer. Many of the incidental and utility programs that come with the Host software will abort if they don't see an ICD online, although they will operate on non-ICD drives as long as an ICD unit is in the DMA chain. In the latest revisions, ICD has succumbed to pressure to allow the use of their main boot drivers on STacy portable ST computers that have the built-in Atari host hardware—but the advanced caching system won't operate. Even the boot setup utility and formatting programs (VERY nice and easy to configure!) require an ICD unit online while formatting the STacy. But better a small concession than none at all.

The accessory programs include COPYFIX, a patch for TOS 1 that retains the original file timestamp when copying (finally updated so as to NOT conflict with virtually any other program). Also, several clock drivers, a hard drive speed test, and a remarkable desk accessory to allow swapping of almost unlimited drive partitions to access any one as a boot partition. Oh, and partitions can be up to 32 meg each, with the caching switchable at any time. Additional commercial programs released by ICD also require one of their devices in line include the CLEANUP program reviewed here a few issues back.

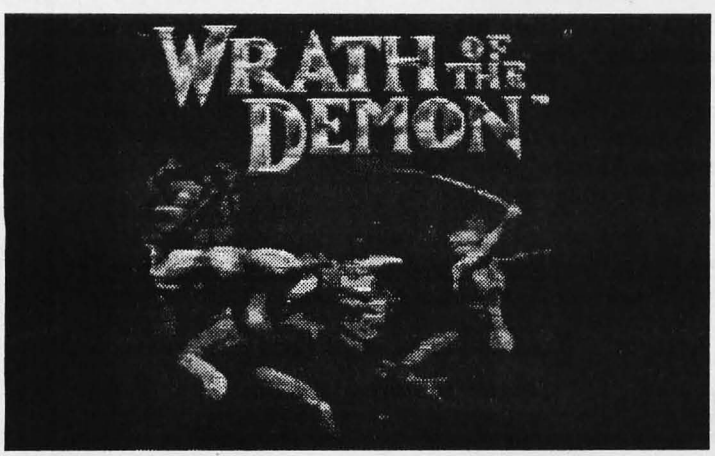
Also included with the ICD host adapters is the MANUAL. Big deal? Yep. The ICD manual takes you through the entire concept of hard drives, assembling your own system, what interleave is all about, and comprehensive how-to on troubleshooting problem files and configurations. The book is a value in itself.

If this sounds like a sales pitch more than like a review, it's because I am quite sold on the ICD products—and the company. While most any host adapter will work and work well, the ICD units will surpass the others in performance due to the constantly updated software and the attention and support of the company itself. Best of all, the pricing is really no more than the competition. ICD Corp, 1220 Rock Street, Rockford, IL 61101, phone 800-373-7700. *—John Nagy*

Wrath of the Demon

The first thing I noticed about WRATH OF THE DEMON was that "this is a BIG game." Spanning four double-sided disks, WRATH is an interesting mix of arcade excitement and role-playing adventure.

Don't skip the opening credits, sound, and animation, they are fabulous! Although not required, the extended color palette and stereo DMA sound on the STE and TT030 computers is used to full advantage. Yes, Wrath of the Demon plays just fine on Atari's new TT. And although the disks are double-sided, they can be read and played on a single sided drive, minus some of the extra scenes and sounds.



■ Opening screen from Wrath of the Demon.

The first sequence you have to get through has you riding your horse and picking up supplies to help you in your quest. The scrolling background is simply beautiful. The graphics throughout this game are good, so be prepared to do a little sight-seeing along with everything else.

When you get to the end of the trail, you dismount and proceed on foot—underground. Some of the goodies your hero collects throughout the game include shield potions, which grants invulnerability for three seconds, and zap potions, which are sort of like smart bombs. The action is fast and may appear intimidating at first to novice gamesters, but with a little practice, it's easier than it looks.

Wrath of the Demon has a save-game function, but is copy protected and cann't be run from a hard disk. Some of the major scene changes are slow, and a hard drive would've helped a lot.

I'm really enjoying this game. Wrath is from ReadySoft, based in Canada, and they have done an outstanding job. I'm looking forward to seeing what they come out with next. Something that uses TT graphics, perhaps? ReadySoft, 30 Wertheim Court, Unit 2, Richmond Hill, Ontario, LAB 1B9 Canada, phone 416-731-4175. *—Michael Alfred* ■

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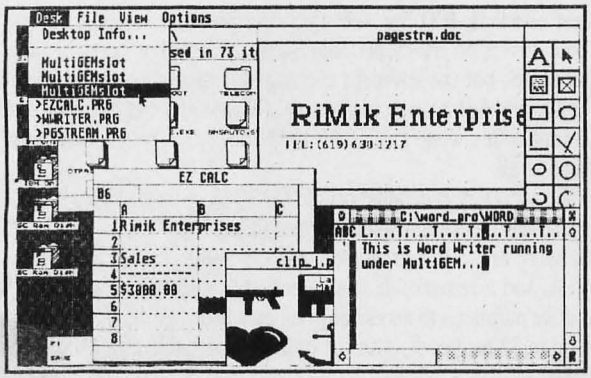

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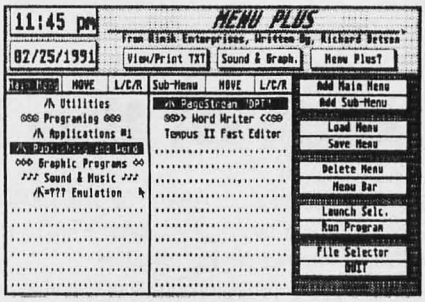
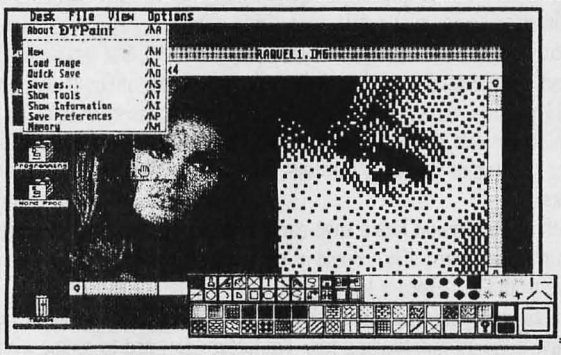
Menu Plus is a full featured "Desk Top" enhancement that allows you to quickly launch (run) any program on your hard disk or floppy disk. Menu Plus uses a creative menuing system that allows you to set up a Main Menu with corresponding Sub-Menus, quick access to over 160 programs, access to the File selector and the ability to launch programs directly from it. View Degas, NEO and Spectrum 512 pictures. Show or print a text file. Play and edit ST-Replay sound files. System settings like screen colors, Blitter Chip and Time and Date can all be set and saved from Menu Plus. Menu Plus includeds a special password feature. All of this and Menu Plus only uses 32k when running a program. ACC version of Sound, Text, and Graphic features included.





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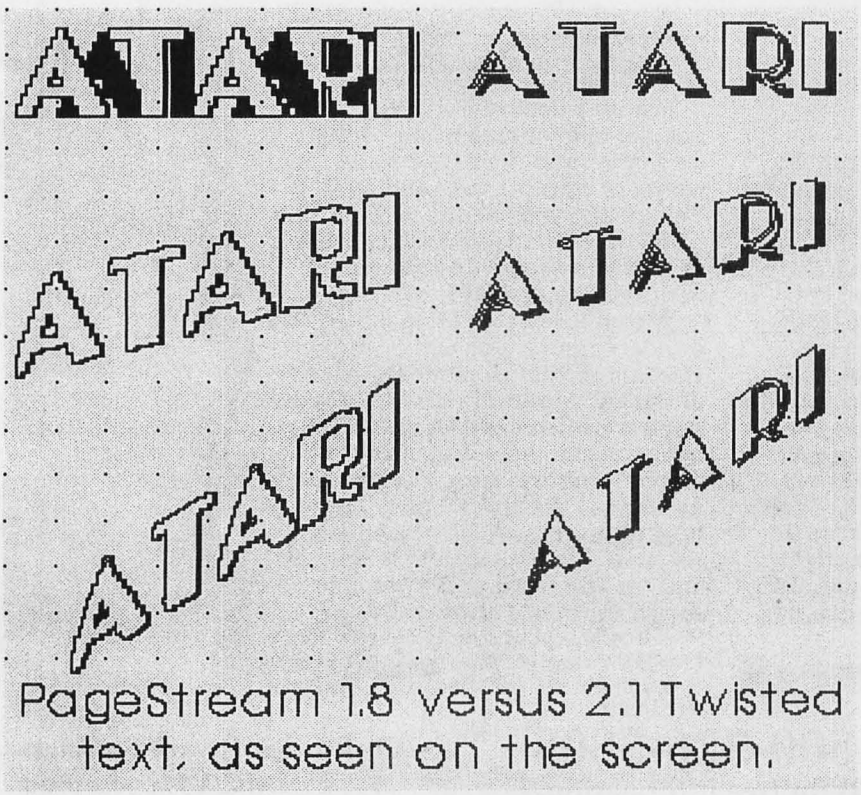
■ *PageStream 2.1* is really the *third* generation of Soft-Logik's line of desk top publishing programs. First was *Publising Partner*, a program that was a bit buggy, but was the first on the ST scene to really allow "publishing" at home. Next was PageStream 1.x, a very good and logical extension of what Soft-Logik had begun with Partner. Power and features were expanded dramatically, and with them, the bugs also multiplied. After a flurry of updates, PageStream stabilized nicely at version 1.8, and has been a workhorse for home and small commercial publishers alike. Now we have PageStream 2.1, the long awaited and much heralded next generation...

■ *PageStream's offering* of type styles within a font is very large. You can choose from backslant, bold, double underline, italicize, light, mirror, outline, reverse, shadow, strike through, underline, and/or upside down. That's twelve type faces of one font! Fonts can be now be scaled from .01 points to 183,000 points in .01 point increments, and the screen representation will remain correct.

To run PageStream 2.1 (as with the earlier versions), you need at least 1MB of memory. The publisher recommends at least 2MB of memory, 2 floppy drives or a hard drive. My recommendation is that the more memory, the better. Multiple fonts and inclusion of graphics can make documents quite large quite quickly, and small memory configurations will require making documents in small several-page chunks. PageStream is not copy protected, and as with any high end program, works best and fastest with a hard drive. The printing speed, a traditional PageStream weak point, has not been noticeably improved on 2.1, but can be assisted significantly by CPU accelerators or, of course, a TT030. Similarly, screen updates are still painfully slow at times.



PageStream 1.8 versus 2.1 Twisted text, as seen on the screen.

As before, you can use either a monochrome or a color monitor with PageStream (unlike the monochrome only Calamus 1.09N). Obviously, if you are planning to take advantage of the four color capability of this program you'll need a color monitor. You can, of course, also work on black & white documents with the color monitor.

PageStream 2.1 comes packaged in a larger box than PageStream 1.8. You get four double sided disks, one program disk, two CompuGraphic Fonts disks and one PGS Fonts disk. The CompuGraphic Fonts that you get are CSTimes, CSTriumvirate and Garamond. The Soft-Logik fonts you get are some old standbys, Artistic, Colombia, Creative, Letter Gothic, Oriental, Saturn, Thom Hudson & Universal Roman.

As a caveat, make sure you heed the highlighted text in the middle of page 7 of the QuickStart Manual. When you install the program using the Fonts Manager, make sure you keep the folder that reads PGSTREAM\FONTS*.*. It's easy to miss it, and it seems that most problem calls from users are being traced to this installation oversight.

Those of you that are familiar with PageStream 2.1's ancestors will quickly note three major improvements:

1 The screen display—you finally get true WYSIWYG, what-you-see-is-what-you-get. Gone are the jaggies that made life miserable when trying to visualize what your creation would look like when printed! Unlike the bitmap fonts used previously, an outline font is made up of points, lines and arcs. The use of the outline fonts by Compugraphic allows the fonts to be scaled to any size without loss of resolution, and hence the display of any selected point size is clean and correct. To add to

■ Continued on page 17

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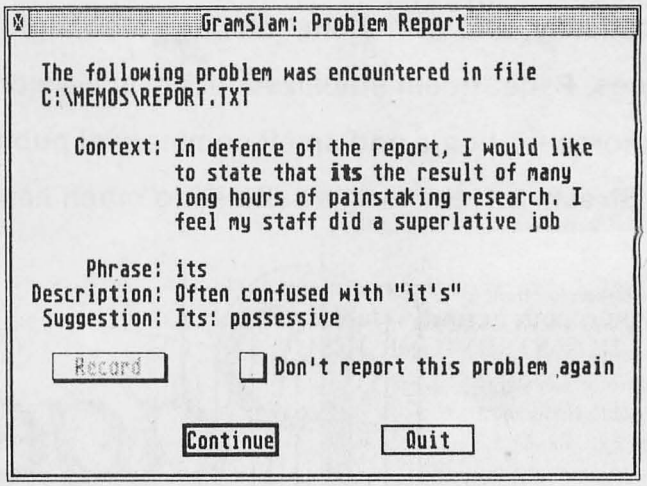

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Don't Take Our Word For It.

ST Informer - June 1991 - 15

By B. David Gockley

The Abbreviator ST program by Kyle Cordes has earned a permanent slot in my Desk Accessories menu. Like so many quality programs, Abbreviator ST keeps showing its usefulness time and time again. Put simply, it saves keystrokes; just type an abbreviation and let the computer look up the whole word.

All the operator has to do is write the appropriate abbreviation into the list once and it's done forever—or at least till the drive wears out. I have a small enough chance of capturing my fleeting thoughts, so any program that can give me a slight edge on brain drain is a boon. Abbreviator ST gets a big thumbs up all around.

The idea behind Abbreviator ST is simple: many times when working on a computer, you type some words or phrases over and over. Things like your name, address, the name of the topic you're discussing, or maybe a product or model number (e.g. TT030 8/80).

With Abbreviator ST installed as a desk accessory, you can type abbreviations in your document instead of the entire word. These abbreviations are referenced back to a previously created master list that is stored in Abbreviator ST's memory. As soon as the space bar or any punctuation mark is pressed after the abbreviation, the list is searched and the full word or phrase is inserted into the document.

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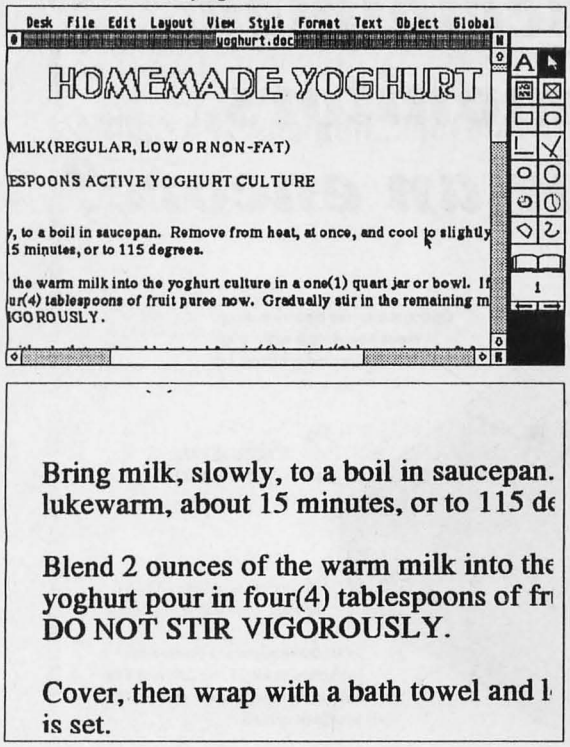
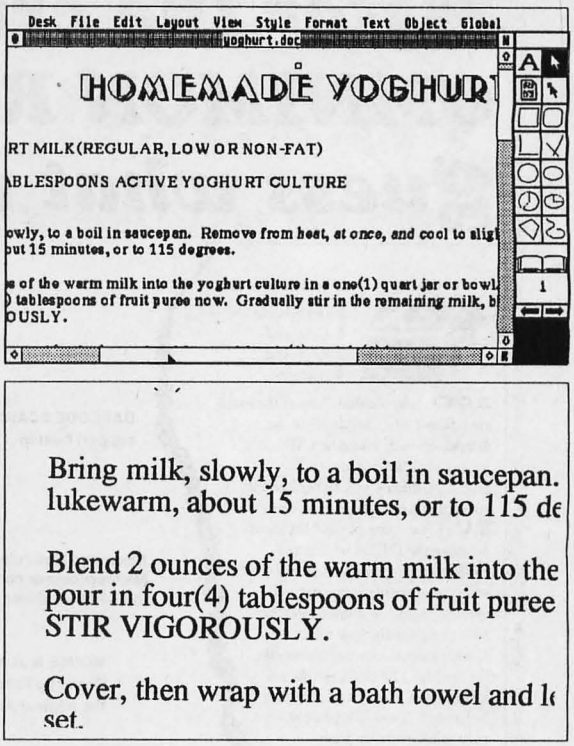
■ Continued from page 15



■ Screen displays and corresponding printer output with PageStream 1.8—*left* and PageStream 2.1—*right*. The headline and large rotated text is using *Thom Hudson* in both versions. The body text shows *Tyme* in 1.8 and *CSTimes* in 2.1, with distinct differences in display and output. Printer used was an Atari SLM605, using standard printer drivers, not PostScript.



this ability, the fonts are "hinted", meaning the character data changes dynamically for clarity when resized.

2 Now the quality of the final printout is as good as any DTP program currently available on the ATARI platform. This is especially true when you are using the three CompuGraphic Fonts supplied with the program. Again, the outline font technology is responsible for the improvement.

3 The final improvement may seem like a small one but it will catch the eye of any experienced PageStream user. The cursor has been thickened, and in simple terms, it's much easier to find.

Other new features include Style Sheets, which allow you to format a complete document. The documentation says, "a style sheet is a description of a document's formatting. Each type of text is formatted separately with a tag." A tag can include such things as headers, body text, steps and captions. "For example, if you italicize a paragraph of text and then tag it with a bold tag, the paragraph will be only bold because italics were not set in the tag."

In the past you had to fudge a template. With PageStream 2.1 creating and using templates has been simplified. With templates you can create a standard form that anybody can use. Documents that you use over and over again with only internal changes or additions lend themselves to templates—newsletters come to mind.

As with prior incarnations of PageStream, you can import text from WordPerfect, 1st Word, Word Writer and ASCII type files. Graphics importation types have been expanded. You can import EPS, GEM, PCX, GIF, TIFF, IFF, MacPaint, Adobe Illustrator, ProDraw Clip, Aegis, IFF, DR2D and PostScript Type I IBM or Mac fonts plus Outline fonts. PageStream's handling of EPS was very solid in the past, and it's just as good with 2.1.

I tested some rather complicated GEM metafile vector graphics, and PageStream 2.1 competently imported them with all attributes correct. This had been an issue with early versions of PageStream, but the new one even properly includes imbedded Easy-Draw text with the graphic, something that the competition does not. One-on-one comparisons of graphic printouts show the PageStream output of vector graphics to be just barely rougher than that of the main competition, Calamus 1.09N. While the image is clear and correct, PageStream line weights are a little thicker and jaggies are slightly more visible on diagonal lines. Comparisons of imported bit-image files are indistinguishable, other than a slight tendency of PageStream to produce a subtly denser image, a trait that pervades all laser output in PageStream.

A unique feature of PageStream which continues in this version is the ability to treat text as an object if you like, allowing it to be shrunk, stretched, twisted, and manipulated simultaneously with graphics. The power of this feature is dramatic, as anyone knows who has made a graph or table and then was forced to re-scale it.

I have yet to talk about the color capability—with good reason. Like most users, I haven't used the feature. It will require an article unto itself, and someday we will do such an article. But in brief, you can design and integrate full four color art. You can use CMYK, RGB, HSV and HLS definitions. You can also use spot and process color.

You do not have to have a color printer to take advantage of the color features. Print outs of "color separations" or color "encapsulated PostScript" (EPS) files can then be taken to any printer who will give you the final color document. The best sale pitch for the color features is to take a look at the color ad Soft-Logik has been running in AtariUser. I showed the ad to a Mac user and he was impressed. He was even more impressed when he found out the price of PageStream 2.1 and a complete ATARI system.

PageStream 2.1, retail price $299.99. By Soft-Logik Publishing, P.O. Box 290070, St. Louis, MO 63129. Phone 314-894-8608. —*John King Tarpinian* with *John Nagy* ■

■ Kerning and spacing are now much more regular and pleasing, adjusting the space between a pair of letters so that they do not appear to be too close together or too far apart. While kerning in PageStream 2.1 is automatic, it does not default to automatic. I presume that some speed or other consideration is at work for this not to be the "normal" mode of operation. The kerning in the new version is now very good, far improved over all earlier versions.

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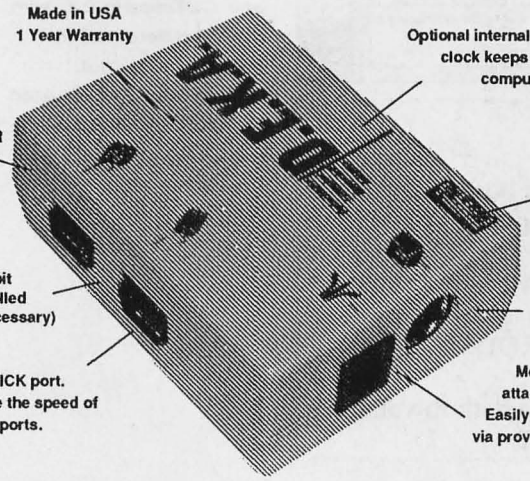

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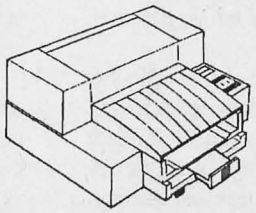

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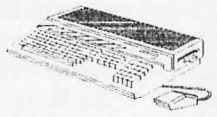

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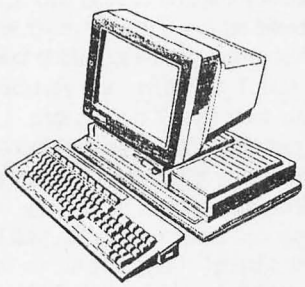

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▼ HARD DRIVES MAKE EASY LIVES

Most people are aware that hard drives are mechanisms sort of like floppies, but they hold lots more stuff and you can't change the disk. True for the most part, but that doesn't tell the whole story. They're also a heck of a lot faster, which does wonders for your disposition when waiting for that program to load, or waiting for that long file to copy, and so on.

Another thing that isn't so obvious when you haven't used a hard drive is that most of the programs you use are immediately at hand. No sorting through a box of floppies—just bring up the directory and double click! It means you will use a wider range of programs (because it's easy) and enjoy your computer all the more.

"Great," you say, "but I don't have a money tree!" Well, times are changing, and hard drives are more affordable. You can buy a hard drive system assembled and tested; or, if you are experienced, adventurous (and/or foolhardy) you can roll your own and save some money. Even if putting together your own apparatus is beyond your intent, the information in this article will help you make an informed choice if you buy one, and help you understand yours better if you already own one.

THE SYSTEM

A hard disk system consists of the drive mechanism, control electronics, electronics to interface to the computer and a cabinet to hold all this, as well as a power supply. The system hooks up to the DMA port of your ST or STe. That's the sucker in back with 19 pins. The signals and the arrangement of this port are called ACSI, a custom interface invented by Atari and used by nobody else. So, unless you buy an Atari made drive system, you have to convert it to something more common.

The "more common" is usually an arrangement called SCSI, generally pronounced "scuzzy", but don't let that scare you. There are a bunch of cards to do this conversion and they are called *host adaptors*. They are made by companies like ICD, Supra, Berkeley Micro Systems and others; and run in the neighborhood of $100. This includes the software needed to get your system running, the cable to connect to the DMA port, and often, a battery-backed system clock.

Choices of recording method include MFM and RLL. Both of these methods actually use the same drive mechanism. RLL gets 50% more data in the same space, but requires tighter tolerances in the disk media specifications to do it. The problem with these two is that you also need to get another card to make these work. This controller card connects between the host adapter and the drive. You can avoid this by selecting a drive with an "imbedded" SCSI interface.

SCSI drives are really just RLL drives but with the controller electronics included with the drive, so you can connect it directly to the host adapter. You will notice the prices of SCSI drives are higher than MFM or RLL drives, but since you don't need a controller, they actually come out to be cheaper in the long run.

Access time is the average time it takes for the drive to shift from one portion of the disk to another. It is expressed in milliseconds and affects how fast your system will operate. Times above 40 ms. are slow, 24-28 ms. is quite acceptable and anything below 20 ms. is very fast. If you haven't used a hard disk before, they *all* will seem blazing fast compared to floppies.

Finally, we come down to capacity. Early hard drive systems often held 10 megabytes, but experience tells me that you will soon find this too restricting on the ST, and simply inadequate for the TT. And the price differential for a larger drive is small. I would set my sights on 40 megs at a minimum.

So let's get practical. There are many MFM and RLL drives available cheap, since they are already considered "old-fashioned" by today's standards. Current prices are generally well under $200 for a lower capacity drive, though expect to pay $200-$225 for a 40 or 50 Megabyte one. Keep in mind, you also need a controller card in addition to the host adapter to use these drives. I have seen controllers (Adaptech 4000 or 4070, or OMTI cards) advertised for $60, but you may have to search around to find one. You *can't* use "PC kits" or controllers for IBM systems.. I don't recommend buying these drives except to upgrade existing MFM and RLL systems.

Current pricing on "bare" imbedded SCSI hard drives vary quite a bit. Running my fingers through a recent issue of a magazine called "Computer Shopper," an 800-page monthly of cover-to-cover ads, I found particularly low prices from outfits like Hard Drives International (Tempe, AZ), Lyco Computer (Jersey Shore, PA) and a place with the descriptive name, Dirt Cheap Drives (or DC Drives) from Nassau Bay, TX. I have not dealt with these businesses, so no endorsement is implied.

Now you will need a box with a power supply in which to mount and power your hard drive and host adapter. These boxes come in several styles and shapes. The higher prices ones (about $125) are low and flat, designed to fit under the computer or monitor. This may be your best bet.

If your appetite is whetted, and you are now thinking of building your own, I have some good news. No soldering required! All of these parts plug together. You may have to do some mechanical things like drill holes, etc. to physically arrange things in the case, but that is the worst of it.

Now, if you decide you don't want to roll your own, please observe the ads in this issue to see what is available "store-bought". In addition, many Atari dealers will make up custom systems for you. As a half-way measure, you can buy a Fast system from ICD, ($329) which is the box, power supply and host adapter, already assembled. You just buy a SCSI drive and install it. And Atari makes the Megafile 30, (typically priced at $479) which makes a good system for a start.

Huh! Did I say start? Yes, I sneaked that in for a purpose. Whether you buy a system or build one, be sure the box has room for a second drive, and that the power supply is rated for two drives. Just as you found it impossible to live with only one floppy drive (didn't you?) if you use your ST very much, you will likely want more storage capacity later.

The good part about this is, you don't just have to scrap your old drive and buy a bigger one. You can buy a bigger drive, just the drive, and install it in the same box, with the same power supply and connect it together with the old drive to the same host adapter! Upgrading in size is easier and cheaper than getting the initial system, which gives one the option of starting small and easing into a monster setup.

The most significant word to use in describing hard drives is convenience. Well, maybe speed. OK, the *two* most significant words are convenience and speed. It makes using your programs so much easier that using your computer becomes much more of a pleasure to use. Hmm... pleasure... OK, the *three* most significant words are convenience, speed, and pleasure... —*Norm Weinress* ■

■ **While hard drives are often called "fixed disk units,"** in fact there is a hard drive with disks that can be taken out and exchanged like a floppy drive. The Syquest 44 is a 44 Megabyte drive that does this. A ready-to-run system with one Syquest for your Atari is about $700. The mechanism alone can be had for $400-$450 and the removable disks cost $60-$90. There is a larger model (88 megabyte) now available—but the price is still out of sight. Syquests come with the SCSI interface, and can end your expansion problems forever.

■ **An alternative to mounting the host adapter** in the external box with the hard drive is to mount it inside your ST. ICD makes a model of host adapter that will mount inside Mega ST models, and it comes with instructions on how to put the whole hard drive inside.

■ Among other things, **Norm Weinress** designed early telephone answering machines and dot-matrix printers (including the first one to sell for less than $1,000), and since retirement continues to create Atari hardware and software. He also is a regular writer for AtariUser and is, in his own words, in all possible ways, a real pain in the neck. We disagree—he is never much worse than annoying. Well, hardly ever.

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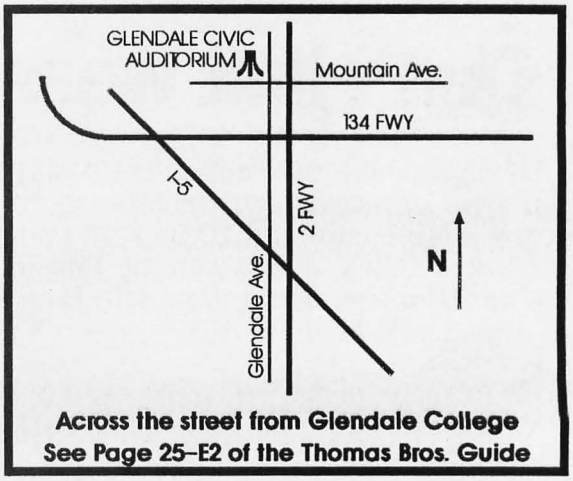

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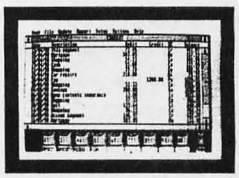
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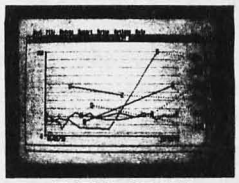
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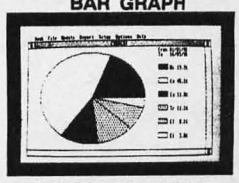
BUDGET PIE CHART

ST ALERT ■ Atari Canada has four new promotional bundles of hardware and software. 1.) 1040STE, SM124 Monochrome monitor, Star NX1000 printer, First Word Plus (word processing), and HyperPaint II (draw/paint application). 2.) Same but with an SC1224 Color monitor (the older 12" version with a single speaker). 3.) Same products except a Mega 2STe in place of the 1040STe. 4.) 1040STe, SM124 Monochrome monitor and Super Librarian, a MIDI application. Pricing and U.S. availability were unknown at press time. ■

CD-ROM for your Atari

▼ INTRODUCING THE CDAR504 AND FAMILY TO THE USA.

CD-ROM..? You've all heard about them, maybe even read a little about these devices. A CD-ROM is a Compact Disc player like you may have in your stereo, but designed for a computer. Compact Disc ROM is "Read Only Media" (not "Memory"). You can read, not write or save to, the optical disks.

CD's are massive storage devices. Atari's players (the CDAR504 and its replacement, the CDAR505) read disks with up to five hundred and fifty megabytes of data. That's over 600 floppy diskettes on one little five and a quarter inch piece of aluminum! Speed of data transfer is about half that of a hard drive, far faster than from floppies.

Imagine plugging in a CD-ROM reader into your STe and playing a fantasy game that not only has sound, but video-like role playing on it. This exists now—it's called "Golden Immortal" and it was mastered in the same way an audio CD would be, some two and a half years ago by a firm in New Mexico called Whitestar Mageware. These days, it can be seen running on the IBM, as there were not a lot of Atari's CDAR504's out there at the time—not that there are now!

But games are only one option for this player. In my case, I use two CDAR504's on our BBS (in New Zealand) for our "files" area. For you Sysops out there, I recommend you take the time to investigate purchasing a CDAR504 or CDAR505 for your BBS. We have over one Gigabyte of data for our users to download and use as they see fit. Just pop in a new disk anytime we want more variety.

But it's not that simple to find the right CD. You will have to ask the following question: Is the CD in High Sierra MAY '86, ISO9660 or in some other custom format? Do you have the MetaDos driver for it? Is it designed for the Atari, IBM, MAC, UNIX or other machines? Does it matter what machine it is for if you have the right driver for it?

To run on your ST, you'll need an Atari CD-ROM player, specifically, a CDAR504 or CDAR505. To run programs from a CD on the Atari will require Atari specific software on the Compact Disc (several are available). However if you are running a BBS, you can get just about any breed of CD ROM for your player and transfer files without problems.

MetaDos..? MetaDos is the driver software for the CD-ROM from Atari, using (surprise) the standard disk formats, such as they are today. It attaches to the ST operating system to access "disk drives" above and beyond your hard disk and into the CD-ROM.

You can also do several other interesting things with the software drivers as well as the CD-ROM player. As I am typing this I am listening to Dire Straits for the eight thousandth time, through my CDAR504. It has is a full infra red remote control, or it can be completely controlled though a desk accessory on the computer, even in audio mode.

There are hundreds of disks that you can use on the Atari CD-ROM player. The US government puts out a catalog of disks each year along with distributors world wide. A few of the more interesting disks we use on a day to day basis that are designed for the Atari ST include the Current Notes CD-ROM, the ST Software Library Clip Art Disk, and The Golden Immortal. Other IBM and MAC based CD-ROMS in either the ISO or Sierra formats will read just fine, as long as it is text. Any software on them will not be understood by the ST. I don't really know how they would fare under IBM emulation, but I have been told that the MAC emulators won't (yet?) read Mac CD's through the ST.

A number of Atari software CD's are expected once (if?) the CDAR505 gets a general release. They include a comprehensive PD and graphics library from Z*NET, more clip-art disks, and Atari's own SoftSource disk. This last disk is to include operable demos of hundreds of Atari applications, utilities, and games, as well as a complete catalog of "every Atari program available." The SoftSource disk is to be (eventually) available to every dealer and user group.

The Atari CDAR504 has been discontinued even before real introduction, and replaced by the also unavailable CDAR505. While the 504 was a large unit with a footprint a little smaller than a Megafile or Mega ST, the 505 is about the size and appearance of an external floppy drive. The 504 had a full remote control, while the 505 has none at all, except for an eject button and a headphone volume control. The new unit must be entirely operated from the computer. Both CD players have Atari ACSI ports, otherwise known as DMA IN and DMA OUT. In the newer CDAR505 is a full SCSI adaptor. This means the CDAR504 is for the Atari ST/TT/STe series of computers only, while the CDAR505 will work with these and any other computers that work with SCSI devices. This versatility might help build the market viability of the player. —*Jon Clarke* ■

■ Atari announced its CDAR504 CD-ROM player several years ago, but then decided to delay its release until it could be sold for "under $500." A number of units were built and distributed to developers, but little more has happened. Some were sold overseas, and a few ST titles were released on CD. Then in March 1991, Atari announced a new unit to replace the CDAR504. The new CDAR505 was much smaller and is to be sold for $399—even below the target price that Atari was waiting for. Some sources say Atari is still hopeful for a 1991 release of the long awaited device.

▲ **Jon Clarke** globe-trots from his New Zealand home, working for an international bank. His heavy Atari involvements keep him in touch with the US community through GEnie telecommunication service and Z*NET.

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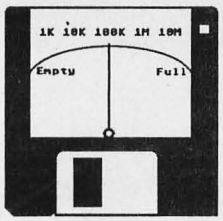

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PORTFOLIO ALERT ■ Atari has released a new Atari Portfolio Bulletin, Number 3, detailing new products for the Portfolio. Call Atari's Special Products Division toll free at 800-443-8020 to find dealers near you, to order products, or for customer support and service. ■ **Computer Books sells Portfolio Application software** for the PC and the Macintosh. These programs will allow your desktop machine to run all the Portfolio applications. The Macintosh version also includes a serial program and cable for your file transfers. Call 714-966-2023. ■

Storage to take with you!

■ **Let Atari show coordinators know** that you would like to see Portfolio support at their fests. Of course, you'll have to help make it happen too! Contact the various shows via the numbers in the AtariWatch Calendar, in the back of this and every issue of ATARIUSER. The Portfolio has sold over 250,000 units, but there is very little user support for it. Atari groups don't support it because it is "an IBM," and IBM groups don't support it because it is "an Atari". If you know of any particularly active Portfolio Users Groups, drop us a note.

■ **B.J. Gleason** is an instructor of Computer Science at The American University in Washington D.C. and he's been programming for over a decade now. He's the author of over two dozen utilities and games, including PBASIC, the 'freeware' BASIC interpreter designed specifically for the Portfolio. His Email address is BJGLEAS @auvm.american.edu and his Compuserve ID is 73337,2011.

The big topic this month in *AtariUser* is external storage. As we all know, the standard method of storage for our Portfolio palmtop computer is RAMcards, which come in sizes of 32K, 64K and 128K. Although a 256K card was planned, costs and electrical noise doomed it. While handy, these credit card size devices are a tad-bit expensive. Let's look at some alternatives...

***Tip**—The battery in a memory card lasts about a year. In order to make sure you replace the battery in time, write the replacement date on the card. You could also set the diary to alert you in about a year.*

The first storage alternative is a desktop computer. File transfer to and from these machines were covered in July's *AtariUser* using the serial and/or parallel interfaces. While providing a lot of storage space at a low cost, they are dreadfully un-portable. Let's move on to goodies you can take on the road.

TANDY DISK DRIVES

For the Model 100 computer, Radio Shack developed a 3.5 inch Portable Disk Drive (PDD) that could be plugged into a serial port. There are two models, the PDD1, which holds 100k of data, and the PDD2 which holds 200k. They're not fast (about 1.9kbps), but they run on batteries and are about the size of a box of 5.25 inch disks. The PDD1 is no longer available, but can often be found used at computer festivals. The PDD2 is still sold by Radio Shack and costs about $220—as low as $170 on special. To use either PDD with your Portfolio, you'll need the serial interface and an access to program. PDD1.ZIP and PDD2.ZIP are both written by Brian C. Woodcox and are available in the APORTFOLIO forum on CompuServe, as well as other support services and BBS systems. A commercial driver for the PPD2 is also available from the Monterey Bay Whaling Company at 408-475-4290.

The only problem is that the PPD disk formats are unique. But the software drivers will also work on a PC, so you can read the disk via a serial port on the PC as well.

***Tip**—If using disk formatted for the PDD units, be sure to mark on the labels "PDD" so you don't get them confused with other systems.*

MS/DOS COMPATIBLE DRIVES

There are two approaches to get the Portfolio to read and write standard 720k format disks. The first is the Retriever, a serial operated, battery powered, IBM compatible, 3.5" floppy disk drive for the Portfolio. However, it is currently available only in England from DIP systems and costs 350 pounds (about 600 dollars).

***Tip**—The Portfolio was developed by DIP systems in England. They have much more software and hardware devices available than in the United States. Contact them for more information by international phone at 0483 301555.*

Another approach is the HPIL interface. This interface allows connection to various Hewlett Packard devices, including a 3.5" disk drive. There is a driver to allow the HP disk drive to read and write the IBM format. Contact Interloop at 408-922-0520 for more information. We're told that you can put together all the parts for this unit for about 500 dollars.

HARD DRIVES FOR THE PORTFOLIO

The BSE Company, 14701 Candeda Place, Tustin, CA 92680, 714-832-4316, has developed the Flashdrive hard disk unit for the Portfolio. Much like the built-in Portfolio file transfer capability via the parallel port, the unit also interfaces to almost any computer that has a parallel interface—except the Atari ST. Special software drivers are available for the Portfolio. The 20mb version sells for $499. We'll have a more complete review of the unit in a upcoming issue of AtariUser.

One of the major advantages of the BSE unit is that you can run the hard disk on the Portfolio and then plug it into a desktop PC to access the files further.

For those people holding their breath for the hard drive/memory expansion unit for XoteriX, bad news. According to the president of the company, the unit has been postponed indefinitely. They did not receive enough interest for them to put the unit into production.

PROGRAM ACCESS

Many of the programs that are mentioned above are available on Compuserve and Genie. These are both commercial systems which some readers do not have access to. Here's a couple of free BBS's that have Portfolio areas...

- West Coast—ATARI BBS: 408-745-2191
- East Coast—FIDO BBS: 301-997-7204

For those users who have access to the Internet/Bitnet system, there's a Portfolio archive at ATARI.ARCHIVE .UMICH.EDU.

If you know of any other sources or bulletin boards for Portfolio programs, please send me a note and I'll include it in an upcoming issue. —*B.J. Gleason* ■

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Suggested retail $49.95 Contact your local ST dealer to order. DSA - 5601 Ammons, Haltom City, TX 76117 (817) 485-9293 To see the GP_EDIT LIBRARY in action ask for the GP_DEMO DISK from your favorite public domain source or call and we'll send you one free!

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How to get AtariUser...

- U.S. and Canada ONLY
- AtariUser is distributed mainly through Atari outlets.

■ User Groups

Atari user groups can obtain AtariUser by calling 1-818-332-6428. AtariUser is free to user groups, and is shipped in bundles of 25, 50, 100, or multiples of 100. Here's the shareware part: We ask that you put us on your user group newsletter mailing list and you must pay your own shipping—$8 per bundle of 50—to cover our cost of shipping AtariUser to you. We'll cover the cost of shipping extra copies to shows and festivals.

AtariUser can be a great tool for your group! For example... Use AtariUser, along with your user group info, as a monthly newsletter. Spread the word about your group and Atari computers: Place a flyer showcasing your group inside the mag, and place any extra copies at libraries, computer dealers (Atari and otherwise) Make up stickers with "Compliments of..." with a contact name and number for the group. Give AtariUser to new Atari buyers to educate them and let them see what is available for the Ataris. Give AtariUser away at meetings to those who attend the meetings and/or pay their dues, as another incentive to be active in the group.

■ Atari Dealers/Distributors/Mail Order Outlets

Atari sellers (anyone who sells Atari hardware and software at the manufacturing, wholesale, distribution, retail, or VAR level) can obtain AtariUser by calling 1-818-332-6428. AtariUser is free to and is shipped in bundles of 25, 50, 100, or multiples of 100. You are required to send a check for $8 per bundle of 50 to cover our cost of shipping the magazine to you.

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■ Personal Subscriptions Please see page 6.

LYNX ALERT ■ The new and sexy LYNX II has finally been spotted in stores, starting the week of August 1. The new unit is smaller and features everything the older, bigger unit does. It even includes stereo speakers. Carrying cases and sun screens look like they'll have to be redesigned. Both the new and old Lynx's are now on shelves side by side for the same $99. ■ **Warbirds is the first Lynx title to crack** the Software Publisher's Association's best selling video game list. It was the 5th best selling game in May. ■

A Lynx Oasis in Arizona

A computer with a modem can be a handy tool for today's video game enthusiast. Rather than wait for a video game magazine to pass along some handy tip or piece of information (which is often dated by the time they print it), you can just hook up to an on-line system that covers things as they happen. There are a number of places where you can get Lynx info, but one of the most comprehensive is the Star-Linx BBS in Arizona.

Star-Linx does have non-Lynx related files and message bases, but its main feature is the Lynx Club. To enter the Lynx Club, you first sign up by entering your name, other vital statistics, and what Lynx games and accessories you have. After you've entered everything, you gain access to the Lynx Club menu. Areas and activities include...

Lynx Downloads - Star-Linx BBS has many files of game tips, easter eggs, and even graphic files of maps for games like Electrocop.

Lynx Messages - The BBS has a Lynx message section which is very active and very interesting. Even folks from Atari and some of the third-party developers call and answer questions and get involved in the discussions.

Lynx Trivia - Would you like to win some extra on-line time? Play the Lynx trivia game and see how much you really know about the Lynx.

On-line Text Files - If you feel like a little on-line reading, the BBS has numerous files you can check out. Press releases, news reports, and the Lynx items from GEnie Lamp magazine may be found here.

High Scores - Have you done particularly well on a Lynx game? You can post it here and see how you compare with other players.

Game Rating - This is the latest addition to Star-Linx BBS. You get a chance to rate any of the Lynx games on graphics, animation, sound effects, musical score, gameplay and design, comlynx features, excitement, challenge, long term playability, and presentation and packaging. The system automatically tallies everyone's ratings and gives each game an overall score. This is very handy for giving people an idea of what are the best Lynx games.

Star-Linx BBS runs at 300, 1200, and 2400 baud and is in the process of going to multiple phone lines. Star-Linx was started back in October 1989 and has Lynx callers from the U.S.A., Canada, England, and Australia. Its number is 602-464-4817. Kids, unless you live in the Arizona area this is a long distance call, so ask your parents if it's OK before you call.

■ Just Released for the Lynx on July 31: Ninja Gaiden, adapted from Tecmo's arcade hit. Features the same great graphics and smooth animation, but only four levels. Lots of action as the villans swarm you, the Ninja Master, armed only with your fists and feet and an occasional sword. $39.95 from Atari.

TWO NEW LYNX-ONLY NEWSLETTERS

In the past year we've seen many newsletters which covered the Lynx and usually some other portable game system. My own APE newsletter had been the only Lynx-specific publication. Well, two more strictly Lynx newsletters have started up, and here's the info.

On Target is a bi-monthly newsletter published by Matthew Szewczyk, and a subscription is $4. I've seen the first issue and it's a good publication. The July-August edition features a comparison between the Lynx and other handheld game systems, rumors and gossip, release dates for upcoming Lynx titles, Lynx accessories, a report on new Lynx games, tips and hints, and reviews of Xenophobe and Warbirds. If you'd like to subscribe, send your check or money order (made out to Matthew Szewczyk) to: On Target Subscriptions, 18C Boyle Avenue, Cumberland, RI 02864-2306. If you have any questions, you can call Matt at 401-658-3917.

Gamemaster is published 10 times a year by Stan Swanson, who also does *ST Connection* (a newsletter that covers ST public domain and shareware software). A subscription to Gamemaster costs $10. The first issue of Gamemaster hasn't gone out yet but it's slated to include news and information on new Lynx games, a minimum of two reviews each issue, a full page of tips and hints, and a current listing of which game cards are now available or coming soon. An extensive buy-sell area for used, but complete, games is also expected. If you'd like to check out the first issue for free, send in your name and address to: Gamemaster Computer Publications Unltd., P.O. Box 2224, Arvada, CO 80001-2224, phone 303-423-6805. GEnie address: STCONNECTION

LYNX PLAY TIPS

Blue Lightning - Don't attack targets head-on since this will allow them to lock their missiles on to you. Come at them from slightly to the left or right. When you get close, turn hard towards the target while firing your cannon.

Electrocop - Use the STASIS program whenever you can. This renders your targets as sitting ducks or lets you bypass them entirely.

Gates of Zendocon - When you have a full set of weapons, tap the B button rapidly to fire everything. If hold it down continuously, only the sonic dart and the laser will fire.

Gauntlet 3 - If a plant grabs you (in order to spit you into the air) don't struggle because it will decrease your energy like crazy. —*Clinton Smith* ■

▲ **Clinton Smith** lives for his Lynx. His APE Newsletter is published 5 times a year and has just celebrated its 1 year anniversary. Contact Clint at APE, 2104 North Kostner, Chicago, IL 60639, or on GEnie at C.SMITH89.

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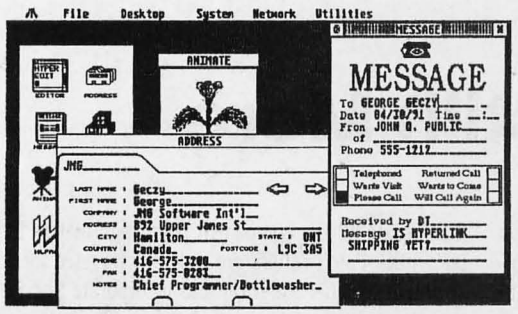

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AtariFest '91 is presented by the Washington Area Atari Computer Enthusiasts

MIDI ALERT ■ Mind Over MIDI has released version 2.0 of Slave Driver, the successor to the earlier UltraMIDI driver. This is a superb MIDI mapper and live performance tool that is unmatched on any other computer platform. For more info: Mind Over MIDI, 302-9131 Capella Drive, Burnaby, B. C. Canada, V3J 7K4, 604-444-4424. ■ Due to differences in the serial port versus the ST or STe, Mega STe users will require an adapter to use Dr. T's Phantom SMPTE interface. Some of the earlier stand alone Caged Artist patch editors also run erratically on the Mega STe. For more help or information contact Dr. T's technical support either through their GEnie category (in the MIDI roundtable) or at 615-455-1458. ■

Making MIDI (still) More

▼ ..AND WHERE TO PUT IT.

Whether buying your first synthesizer or just the latest weapon for your MIDI arsenal, you will eventually pass through the following stages. First, no matter how awesome the built-in sounds (presets) of new your synth are, at some point you will grow exceedingly tired of them. This triggers stage two, where you are sucked into the third party "canned sounds" market and snatch up new ROM cards or sound cartridges to plug into your synth and restore its vitality.

At some point, though, you realize these instant aural gratifiers are costing an arm and a leg. In addition, you start losing track of what sounds were on which cards—and what about saving those patches you created yourself? Surely there must be a better way to feed and care for your MIDI monster!

Welcome to stage four: patch librarian/editor programs for your Atari computer. Like sequencers or other MIDI application software, librarians and editors come in a variety of styles and capabilities. The simplest swallow your incoming patch data and send it back on command, a software ROM card. More elaborate programs let you tweak individual patch parameters and audition the changes in context while playing a sequence.

Librarians usually operate on banks of patch data. At a minimum, they can send and receive patch banks between your Atari and a target synth, as well as save the banks as disk files. One of the best known of these is STMIDIEX (shareware, file 1384 in the MIDI roundtable on GEnie), which all Atari musicians should have in their toolboxes.

More capable librarians understand how the target synth organizes its patch banks and can add, delete, copy, or swap individual patches between bank files. This lets you create customized bank files to organize your sounds. The two major commercial librarian programs are Super Librarian and OmniBanker. Both come with handler routines for many popular, as well as esoteric, synths and other MIDI instruments. There are also some librarian programs on GEnie and other BBS that are targeted to specific devices such as the Casio 101/1000, Kawai K1 and K5, Roland MT-32, and Yamaha DX7.

For many people, this software substitute for costly RAM cards is all they need. Many third party sound developers release their wares on disks in compatible formats. Some use proprietary sound loader programs to transfer their patch banks from Atari disk to synth—but once in the synth, you can use a regular librarian to retrieve them.

The next step up is to modify existing patches or create your own. These actions require patch editors—programs that manipulate all the component patch parameters for a particular synth. Patch editors are generally targeted for a specific instrument (or effects device) and incorporate librarian capabilities along with patch manipulations. The better efforts make good use of graphical interfaces to display and edit parameter settings. The GEnie MIDI roundtable library provides several public domain and shareware patch editors, including ones for the Roland D-50 and MT-32, Yamaha TX81Z, Casio CZ-101, and Emu Proteus.

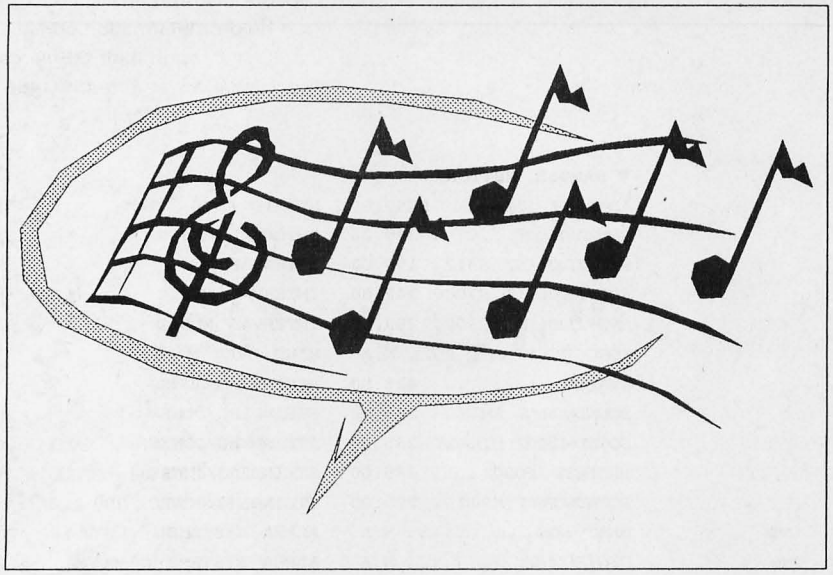
Patch conversion comes in two flavors: importing patch files for the target instrument that were created with a different patch editor or converting patch files from related instruments to their equivalents for the target instrument (e.g. going from a Roland D-50 to a MT-32). Most dedicated patch editors provide little in terms of import capability and often none at all. There are a series of conversion programs in the public domain (XPATxxx) which provide stand-alone conversion capabilities between several Atari and other computer file formats for Yamaha DX7, Oberheim Matrix 6/1000, and Roland D-110 instruments. Converting files between a family of related instruments is somewhat better represented in commercial patch editors such as the Synthworks and Caged Artist (Dr. T) lines.

The most recent developments have been universal patch editors. These are essentially shell programs which come with a host of handler routines for specific target instruments which users can configure for their particular MIDI setups. These programs have a number of trade offs to consider. To the positive, you need only deal with a single program and its standardized interface —saving you the cost of a multiple patch editors and having to deal with different program designs. Against this is that few universal patch editors provide adequate support for the wide variety of MIDI gear users might own and no universal editor provides all the capabilities of the better dedicated editors. Dr. T's X-Or program stands out from the crowd with the widest instrument support and capabilities for controlling your MIDI system. Demos of it and the Hybrid Arts GenEdit universal patch editors are in the GEnie MIDI library. —*Jim Pierson-Perry* ■

■ Depending on the quality of the patch editor, it may offer a variety of extra features such as automatic patch creation and patch conversion. There are a number of different routines used for automated patch creation, ranging from random setting of patch parameters to user-tailored "breeding" of selected parent sounds. One of the best efforts is in the Synthworks patch editor series from Steinberg/Jones with its quadratic mixture. You start by selecting four parent patches at the corners of a square target area. Moving the cursor crosshair creates a hybrid patch, with a timbre relative to its position from the parents. Patch librarians are also available as public domain or shareware on GEnie and on other BBS services.

▲ After several years of MIDI columns for STart and AtariUser, **Jim Pierson-Perry** is taking a vacation to concentrate on making music instead of writing about it. He will still be haunting GEnie to help with questions, debate, and take the usual amount of abuse.

AtariUser Resource #5



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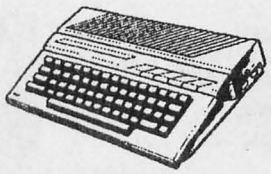
8-BIT ALERT ■ As previously reported in AtariUser, catalog close-out specialist DAMARK has purchased thousands of Atari SX212 300/1200-baud Hayes-compatible modems. The latest Damark catalog (September 1991) now shows a reduced price of only $19.99! Shipping and handling is an additional $5.50. These Atari modems are 8-bit ready, featuring an Atari 8-bit SIO port (no interface required) as well as the industry standard RS232 connector. At this price, no 8-bit owner should miss this modem! Get terminal software for it through your club or any PD software source. Damark, 800-729-9000, item number B-375-181504, catalog B-375-2006. ■

Adding Big Power to Your Little System



■ **An 8-bit Atari hard drive setup will include several parts:** the *host* (probably an MIO or BB), a *controller*, a HARD DRIVE, and some kind of case and power supply for it all. Other than the host, all the other parts will be usable on other computers (including the ST) if you later change systems (shame on you). Total costs can be as low as under $400 with careful shopping. And you won't really need more than a single floppy anymore, perhaps freeing up some hardware you can sell.

■ **Chuck Steinman** not only reads and writes about the Atari 8-bit computers, he designs software and hardware for them, which is sold by DataQue. He can be contacted on GEnie and Delphi as DataQue, or CIS at user i.d. 71777,3223.

One of the most significant time saving and productivity raising peripherals you can add to any computer system is a hard drive. That goes for the 8-bit Atari too, and once you have one you will wonder why you hadn't upgraded before. There is something about having many megabytes of files instantly available on the 8-bit that is nothing short of amazing. And the speed of access and loading is blinding—quite literally indistinguishable from the speed of a RAMdisk.

While there were hard drives made for the original 800, they appear to have gone underground over the years. We'll concentrate on the newer systems.

THE HOST ADAPTOR

The gateway to hard drive use is the device called a host adaptor. There are two main units used in the classic Atari world, the Multi-I/O (MIO) from ICD, Inc., and the Black Box (BB) by Computer Software Services (CSS). Both provide similar performance, with each offering their own special features. They both connect to the Atari 600XL and 800XL PBI (Parallel Bus Interface) and to the 130XE through the ECI (Enhanced Cartridge Interface). Several other companies marketed hosts for the classic Atari, and their products might still be available either second hand or from dusty dealer archives. Beware, it might be impossible to find tech support.

The MIO has been out for many years, but ICD is presently trying to close out their 8-bit lineup. One of the unique features that the MIO offers is its built-in RAM. You can order the MIO with either 256K or 1M bytes of RAM, which can be used as a RAMDisk or a print spooler. The amount of RAM dedicated to each function can be user programmed using the built-in configuration menu.

The Black Box does not have a built-in RAMDisk, but does have an optional printer buffer. There is a print screen button, which will send a text/graphics dump of the current screen contents to your printer. Another pushbutton will activate the BB debugger, extremely handy for programmers. The BB also has a port on it for a parallel floppy drive, but it's not available.

Both the MIO and BB will control up to eight disk drives, of which any number can be RAMDisks, standard Atari floppies, or hard drives. You can change the logical drive number of any drive, or swap drive numbers of two drives. Hard drives can be divided ("partitioned") into several separate sections, each seen as an independent disk drive.

The BB and MIO both offer a serial (modem) port, a parallel (printer) port, and an SASI/SCSI (hard drive) expansion port. This last port will allow industry standard SASI or SCSI hard disk controllers to be attached using a 50 position ribbon cable.

BUILDING A HARD DRIVE SYSTEM

Hard drives are available in a wide range of sizes, from 5 megabytes to hundreds of megs. The capacity of your drive is up to you and your budget, but for the relatively small 8-bit applications, even a (very cheap!) 10 meg drive will hold an incredible array of software. You can also easily add a second drive later.

When buying your hard disk controller, make sure it matches your hard drive. Controllers are available for Modified FM (MFM) and Run Length Limited (RLL) type drives. RLL will provide 50% more disk space at approximately the same cost, and are usually a bit faster. Don't use MFM drives with an RLL controller, as the increased data density of the RLL system will likely exceed the capability of the MFM drive, leading to data loss sooner or later. You can usually use an RLL drive on an MFM controller with no harm, but with only two-thirds of the rated drive capacity.

Another option would be to get a drive which has the controller built right on it. These drives tend to be a bit faster and more expensive. These are designated as "SCSI drives" and have the 50 position ribbon connector right on the drive.

A wide variety of cases (most with power supplies) are on the market, with the most popular being the external "shoebox" type formerly used on the original PCs.

To be able to access all of this disk space, you will need a DOS which will support hard drives—Atari's own DOS systems haven't got the capacity. Both SpartaDOS (including the cart-based SDX, both sold by ICD, Inc.) and MyDOS 4.50 (included with the BB) fill this need very nicely. Both support drives with partitions as large as 16 megabytes.

Both ICD and CSS offer prepackaged hard drive systems to simplify the task of adding a hard drive to your 8-bit. Call CSS or ICD to check their current stock, pricing, or for additional information. —*Chuck Steinman* ■

Computer Software Services P.O. Box 17660 Rochester, NY 14617 (716) 429-5639

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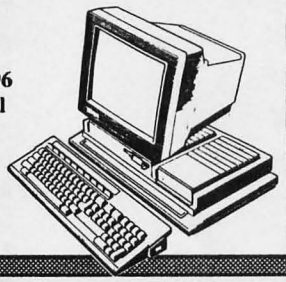

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To the real computer user, a hard drive is not something that gets you to where you're going with back pain, tired eyes, or a hungry stomach. No! So, many programmers develop ways to speed the process of maneuvering through megs of bytes. The result is a myriad of PD and shareware dothingies. Our listed products are available online on GEnie, CompuServe, Delphi, and the countless BBS systems around the world.

▼ Little Green Selector

▼ GoGo ST

PROGRAM LAUNCHERS

Quick Menu 2.5a: 15 slots per screen may be organized for efficient launching of programs, which means with just one key press you are off and running! Other "setup" menus, containing a different set of programs to be displayed on screen, may be loaded into any of the slots as well. Unfortunately, you can't install documents. And Quick Menu allows you to install password protection.

ST Whiz: This one allows the user 16 program slots per group and a total of nine groups are displayed on the screen at once. Besides program launching, ST Whiz will also keep a log of the programs you visited and the amount of time spent with each one. Handy if you allocate one program to a particular business account, etc. The programs are launched with a blank, white screen (no matte), and this may cause some less than pretty redraws. No documents, again. Freeware.

GoGo ST: Now in version 4.1, GoGo ST provides clean and easy access to fifty windows on screen at once, and it does allow you to install those files you are working on, and documents that you choose to visit later. It sets up quickly, but the fresh, clean initial appearance of the program may vanish when you start loading your files. It also has date and time boxes. I didn't see any ability to assign passwords to files. Also, you can forget about using the version that you download. In it, a one minute registration notice appears making the program stall in place for 60 seconds. In the docs, the request was for five dollars, in the on screen registration reminder box the request was for ten dollars and a blank disk.

Please note... When making your choice for a program launcher, watch for compatibility with all the programs that you use it with. There's a number of factors which may cause problems that might be excused by the GEM desktop, but can cause crashing and lockups for program launchers which do not have special cleanup code to handle these situations. Another problem for launcher programmers is the handling to handle the "shel" library calls, allowing successful chaining of programs. It's the attention to details like this that can make a commercial program stand out in comparison to the PD and shareware offerings.

DRIVE UTILITIES:

Fatspeed: A must for any hard drive user with TOS 1.0 or 1.2. Can cut the time needed to save a file on a fairly full hard drive from as much as 10 seconds (YUK!) to under 1 second.

PinHead: A great time-saver on all versions of TOS. Will cut your bootup time in half, as well as save a couple of seconds every time you run a program. PinHead causes your programs to "fastload", skipping the full memory clearing that may not be required every time a program or accessory executes. The more memory in your machine, the more time PinHead will save. Users of TOS 1.4 and later don't need PinHead—if they set ALL the "fastload bits" on ALL their programs. Ick. PinHead is shareware from Little Green Footballs, AKA Charles F. Johnson of Codehead fame.

Little Green Selector: LG Selector replaces the system file selector and makes it much easier to locate and choose your files by allowing you to click on drive buttons or select predetermined paths with the function keys. It also includes many other handy features such as a "file finder", other sorting options, a 16-file display, extender selection, file and folder info, and much more. Little Green Selector is shareware, again from LGF.

Desk Manager: This lets you quickly and easily select which AUTO programs and accessories you want to install as you boot up, using the mouse to select with. You can choose them individually or select from up to 20 preset configurations by pressing a function key. Desk Manager is shareware (LGF).

SuperBoot: Like Deskmanager, Superboot lets you set up your starting configuration of AUTO and ACC programs. It goes further, allowing up to 30 pre-sets, different defaults for different resolutions, startup pics and sounds, etc. It also allows selection and preset of Assign.SYS files, desktop config files, and just about any other config files that might be used by any program in your sessions. Doesn't use the mouse, though. Shareware.

RWABS Monitor: This unique utility will let you watch your disk drive in action. It provides you with disk information in the upper right hand corner of your screen, and will show you exactly where your drive is being accessed or written to. Why? Why not?

BACKUP PROGRAMS

Turtle: The author of Virus Killer, George Woodside, gave us what remains one of the most popular and fast hard drive backup program, called Turtle. In its most recent shareware versions, Turtle is by no means slow, and an UN-Turtle program makes restoration of your hard drive easier, after the sad event of a data loss or (shudder) head crash. Remember, your data is only safe when it is backed up. Your masterpiece of programming or writing can be a total loss after one second of mechanical or media failure.

RAMDISKS

There's a million of them—and they mostly work fine. But as a solution to your storage problem, keep looking. Your files are safe—until you turn off the machine! Sort of the reverse of a good backup system. But maybe that's the ultimate solution to a software junkie's problems... oblivion! —*Ron Berinstein* ■

■ **Ron Berinstein** is one of the busiest humans we know. He's a concert producer and talent manager, runs a top-notch jazz nightclub/restaurant (Hollywood's Vine Street Bar and Grill—plug), operates a pasta manufacturing shop, sells said pasta to dozens of Hollywood's finest dinner spots, teaches Karate flys airplanes, runs the CODEHEAD QUARTERS BBS, and is a new homeowner. If anyone sees him, ask him to call us at the office...

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Cassette Label Maker, Label and Envelope Printer and more.
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#888 - *Atari ST Subjects* (Book) Programs
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#1038/1039 - DC Desktop Icons
#1041 - ST Data Handler V3.0 - Simple, mouse driven data base program.
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#1130 - Double Click Utilities - Disk full of handy utilities from Double Click Utilities.
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#1175/1176/1177 - Programming in Assembly (DBL)
#1209 - German to English translator, STE Fix

Bible on Disk

King James Version (8 Double Sided Disks) $24.95

Desktop Publishing

#500/600 - Publishing Partner Fonts
#737 - Calamus V1.09 Demo - Fully functional except for Save (Mono/1 Meg RAM/DBL)
#758/759/994 - Calamus Fonts
#895 - PageStream V1.8 Demo (DBL)
#935 - *Desktop Publishing Utilities*
Convert to .IMG V1.20 - Converts Degas, Neochrome, Spectrum, Art Director, Mac Paint and TNY pics to .IMG format
Demos from Wiz Works
Fontverter Demo - Convert fonts between PageStream and Calamus
PageStream File to 300 DPI .IMG conversion
#1028 - ***PageStream Font Editor V0.8***
Now you can edit and touch up those PageStream Fonts. 20 page manual included on disk. Also included: Improved Postscript Screen Fonts: Book, Chancery, New Century Schoolbook, Palatino, Times

PageStream Fonts

#599 - Binner, Futura Black, Hal, Lubalin, Futura Extra Bold Condensed
#870 - Atari, Baby Teeth, Lucida, Old English
#1044 - Adverse, Barnum, Burlington, Oblique, Caligraphy 2, Celtic, Chancery, Chicago, Dingbat, Flash, Harloe, Olympia, Souvenir Medium, Souvenir Medium Italic
#1094 - Architect, Avant Guard, Bookman, Broadway, Chancery, Dingbat, Kibo, Oakville, Palatino, Western

Calamus Fonts

#1150 - Architect, Broadway Engraved, Counter Point, Fancy Chancery, Swiss Medium, Tiempo, Tiempo Bold, Tiempo Italic, University Roman
#1153 - Lucifer, Bodoni, Bodoni Italic, Drurylane, Drurylane Italic, Hallbats
#1179 - Complete Glib font from FontAbility
#1190 - Micron, Tiempo, Swiss Medium, Leecaps, Medici, Windzor, Zalescap
#1223 - Chicago, Cornet, Cursive, Gaudy Cond, Gallia, Gillies, Goudy, Legend, Old English

Applications

#810/811 - SHEET V2.5P - Shareware Spreadsheet.
#965 - Checkbook V1.09, Almanac (Color)
#989 - Paperless Accountant

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#1299 - **ST Writer V4.1** -Simple easy to use word processor with extensive documentation on disk. H.P. Deskjet Driver included.
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#1063 - **Address Database V1.45**
A dedicated address book (Color)
#1131 - Deluxe Paint Demo
#1133 - Gramslam Grammer Checker V2.3

Children's Programs

All Children's Programs Require a Color Monitor
#551 - *Kid Shapes*
Graphics design program patterned after a magnetic set. For ages 2-8
#552 - *Kid Shapes Plus*
As above, but for older children. Larger number of choices for more complex pictures. For ages 8 & up.
#667 - *Benjamin's ABC's*
Teaches young children the letters of the alphabet with digitized speech. (DBL)
#699 - *Kid Adder* - Uses pictures to teach addition
Kid Color - Learning game for 3-7 year olds Uses the mouse to point to boxes with a certain color.
Kid Story V1.4 - A silly version of the Little Red Riding Hood. Allows children to create a story.
#920 - Simply Math, Picture Puzzler
#982 - Body Shop: Human Anatomy Tutor

PrintMaster Utilities/Graphics

#393/394/533/773/774 - Additional Graphics for use with PrintMaster Plus (5 Disks in all)
#799 - ***PrintMaster Utilities***
PrintMaster to Degas, View/Transfer graphics, Print graphics on Epson/compat.
#1169 - ***PrintMaster Utilities***
Convert to & from IBM Print Shop/Master

800/XL/XE Programs

Applications & Utilities

#42 - Turbo BASIC
#45 - 130XE Utilities
#73 - Turbo BASIC Documentation
#75 - PACE Disk Labeler
#115 - Labeling Program (Disk/Mail/VCR)
#171 - DOS XE
#183 - Script 80 V2.0 - 80 column word processor
#210 - Gradebook / Teacher's Aids
#217 - Translator/Emulator
#219 - Copymate 4.3 - One of the best copiers
#220/221 - TextPro V4.0
#223/224 - MyDOS 4.5 - Many added features
#225 - DOS 4.0 - Compatible with all densities
#226 - Checkbook Balancing System
#228 - Family Finance - Family budgeting program
#231/232 - Draw7 V2.0 - Complete drawing and animation program. Requires 128K
#234 - Font Master - Print text file in various fonts
#235 - Disk cataloging program with printer output for disk jackets, labels, disk inserts & more
#242/243/244 - Learning to program in Atari Basic Tutorials to make you a pro. (Text files)

Games

#89 - Jeopardy
#90 - Wheel of Fortune
#256 - Monopoly
#271 - B 1 Nuclear Bomber
#296 - Super Quiz - Trivia game for 2-4 players

800/XL/XE Disk Prices

1 - 4 Disks	$3.99 Each
5 - 14 Disks	$3.49 Each
15 + Disks	$2.99 Each

ST Public Domain/Shareware Disk Prices

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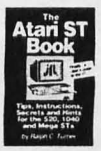
Atari ST Book



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AtariWatch '91

▼ Here's the schedule of 1991 Atari appearances as scheduled.

September 7 The *Connecticut AtariFest*, hosted by the FACE and STARR user groups, and sponsored by Computers Etc. The show will be held at the Bridgeport Hilton at 1070 Main St., Bridgeport, Connecticut. The hours are 10am to 5pm. For further information, call Brian Gockley at (203) 332-1721 for details.

The Southern California Atari Computer Faire, Version 5.0 (AKA The Glendale) is this **September 14 and 15**, 10 to 6 Saturday and 10 to 4 Sunday. Admission is $6.00, children under five free. Again this year, the Glendale show will be in the Glendale Civic Auditorium, 1401 N. Verdugo Road, Glendale, California, across the street from Glendale College. For a more specific map refer to page 25-E2 of the Thomas Brothers Guide.

In 1986, the Glendale Show was the first Atari/User Group co-sponsored show in the USA. It came about by an effort of nineteen Atari clubs in Southern California and Atari Corp. Atari had participated in prior shows but had never been part of the sponsorship of a show before.

This Southern California Atari Computer Faire will be their fifth show in six years. It may be the largest show of its type ever in the Americas, with more than 40 vendors already signed up or expected.

Developers/vendors include Atari Corporation, The Computer Network, Mid-Cities Computers, Goodman's Music, Musicode, Safari Fonts, Sliccware, Clear Thinking, Micro Creations, Rio Computers, Best Electronics, Branch Always, Michtron, ADG Productions, CodeHead Software, Omnimon Peripherals, Gadgets by Small, Zubair Interfaces, ICD, Grove School of Music, S.D.S., ISD Marketing, Soft-Logik Publishing, AtariUser Magazine, PDC, Beckemeyer Development Tools, Rimik, JRI, McDonald & Assoc., Soft-Aware, JMG, Talon Technologies (Medionix), Z*Net News Services, COMPO, Soft-Aware, Phil Comeau Software, D.A. Brumleve, Gribnif, and Sudden, Inc. The list may change before showtime, of course, as new vendors are still contacting show organizer John King Tarpinian. For more information, call John at 818-246-7286.

Come and meet the staff of AtariUser at the Glendale Show, September 15 and 16!

October 12-13 *WAACE AtariFest '91*, Sheraton Reston Hotel, Washington D.C./Virginia, contact J.D.BARNES via GEnie or by mail to WACCE Vendor Coordinator, c/o John D. Barnes, 7710 Chatham Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

October 21-25 *Fall COMDEX* Las Vegas Nevada. *(real cool)*

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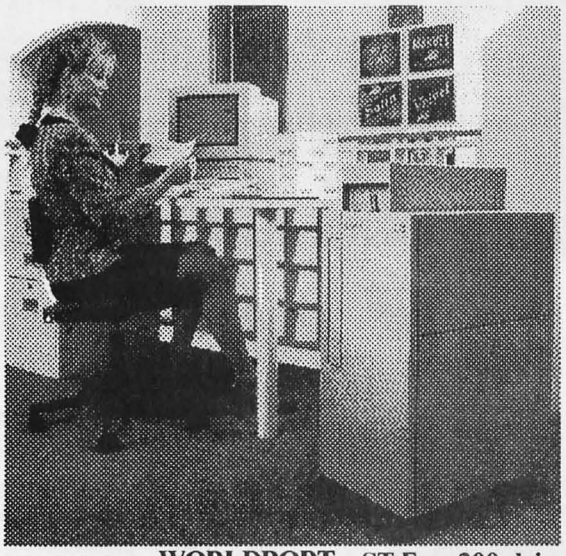

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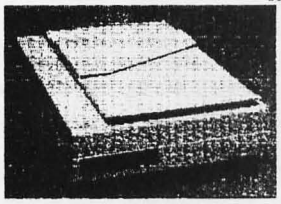

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