

Page 6

Atari Users Magazine

Issue 22
£1

ST PROGRAMMING - SPRITES!



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Smartsheet



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Atari Users Magazine



July/August 1986

Editor & Publisher
Les Elingham

Correspondence
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We can not hope that you will learn from articles submitted by other readers. All published material is eligible for search in the *Atari Reader*. It will also receive additional editorial awards as determined from time to time in the magazine.

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LISTINGS

BLOCKBREAKER Revisited by Dave Hitchens	6
SMARTSHEET by Ken Sims	31
TRICKY CUBES by Peter and Stephen Oldmeyer	40
HIDDEN DEPTHS by Philip Dennis	62

FEATURES

A GUIDE TO ERROR CODES Pt.2 by Steve Pender	10
FRACTALS by Peter Coates	16
TAPE PROBLEMS by Derynck Craker	37
FIRST STEPS by Mark Hutchinson	38
ADVENTURE - DRAGON QUEST and STONEQUEST by Garry Francis	52

REVIEWS

SHORT REVIEWS	57
PAPERCLIP	64

ST SECTION

NEWS	21
TIME BANDIT - review	23
ST SPRITHS by Chris Davies	22
PRO-POETRY 77 by Matthew Jones	24
VIP PROFESSIONAL by Les Elingham	26
The ATARI ST EXPLORED - review	29

Editorial	4
News	1
Letters	8
Listing Conventions	67
Contact	68
Crossword	70

GOTO DIRECTORY

BACK ISSUES	49
	61

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HOLDING ITS OWN

Are you an 8-bit user feeling a little deprived by all the publicity that the ST is getting? Well, let me give you a few words of comfort.

It is true that the ST can do many powerful things that are outside the scope of any 8-bit machine but there are also many applications where the good old Atari can hold its own. Take word processing. I fully intended to transfer the make up of PAGE 8 to the ST but at present, not of the dozen or so word processors available, there are none that are a significant improvement over Superwrap or PaperClip to warrant changing. Indeed the majority of those available are significantly inferior and the remainder all seem to have their own peculiar format making each incompatible with anything else. So, for the foreseeable future PAGE 8 will continue to be produced on a 1985E using Superwrap (I am too used to it to change, despite my comments on PaperClip) and my 8-bit users can continue to feel proud that they have a machine that can still hold its own in many circumstances.

An editorial in another magazine recently bemoaned the fact that although tens of thousands of ST's have been sold finding those owners and gathering all-around concerted support of the machine was, strangely, very difficult. Don't believe, we have lived with this problem for three years! The fact is, as all readers will know, that Atari has never had widespread popular support from the trade in this country, and possibly never will. In hundreds of towns and cities up and down the country you can walk into a computer shop and find software for half a dozen machines (even various ones) and nothing for Atari. That's a fact of life, and despite the eternal optimistic comments from Atari, it is a situation that is not likely to change dramatically because without widespread native software companies will not produce the software and without the software there will be no widespread sales. What happens is that you get (backlogs of) thousands of Atari owners who do little with their machines and seldom make contact with others.

That is the situation so what can be done? Well Atari themselves are the only people capable of redressing the situation and they certainly do little simply. One problem with the way Atari operate is that by turning out warranty repairs to retailers and distributors they do not have any sort of record of who buys the machines and consequently, unlike with other manufacturers, they have a huge user base which they cannot identify. Fair enough if they want others to do repairs but if they simply put a card in each box inviting purchasers to complete and return it to receive information about their machines in the future, they could build up a mailing list of virtually all the users of their machines. This mailing list could then be rented out to interested parties who provide support for Atari machines (can I be first in the queue please!) and the whole Atari market could receive a much needed boost. Software producers would be able to reach a much wider market, magazines would be able to obtain more readers and retailers would be encouraged to stock Atari titles as more became available. Pipe dream? I don't think so. And what's more, by renting out the mailing list, Atari could maintain six months of all their customers without it costing them a penny.

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THE ARIOLASOFT SPOT!

You might be forgiven for feeling that we have some connection with Ariolasoft for every issue seems to mention them. The fact is that they are one of the few companies to have a regular schedule of releases for Atari and to let people know what they are doing. Good for them, they will continue to get our support and deserve yours.

This issue brings news of a cassette version of *Archon II* priced at £9.95. *Archon* has already been reviewed by PAGE 6 and *Archon II* is reported to be better although we have not yet seen it.

On disk priced at £14.95 is *Racing Destruction Set*, a computerised 1 or 2 player slot-car racing game. The game features a split screen with 30 of the world's top racing circuits and a choice of ten different vehicles, 14 gravity settings(!) and four backgrounds. Circuits and vehicles can be customised and you can drive Grand Prix, motocross, roadrace, dirt track and more. Lots more options, sounds like great fun!

Continuing with their excellent 'Home Productivity' range May saw the release of *B/G Graph* on two disks at £29.95. Aside from being the only screen graphing package available for the Atari, *B/G Graph* received nice reviews when it was first released by *Hardware* included a couple of years ago. Anyone interested in putting their Atari to serious use should look out for this. Pie graphs, bar charts, line and areographs each with up to three factors and 100 data points and a lot more besides.

NewsNews



BACK TO TARG?

For all those hooked on *Mercenary*, Navagrah are offering a unique enhancement to the game in the form of the *Targ Survival Kit*, a unique package of a poster, fact sheets, a booklet and *Mercenary* badge. Very nicely produced and costing just £3.99 mail order direct from Navagrah.

Due for imminent release is a second data set for *Mercenary* entitled *THE SECOND CITY*. Using the lead game features of the original game a whole new scenario is presented which the authors claim will provide a really tough challenge for all those who have escaped from Targ. *THE SECOND CITY* is available on cassette at £3.95 or disk at £9.95.

Mercenary II is scheduled for the end of the year if you are still hooked!

OUT OF THE FIRE!

'You find yourself in a smoke filled shop. Your task is to rescue as much software as possible and start trading again in the shortest time possible'. That was the real life situation confronting John Spring of The Atari Center in Broad Street, Birmingham just as we delivered the last issue of PAGE 6! The people next door were not doing too well so decided to let the insurance company provide the profits! They were carried off by the police but not before a huge pile of smoke and soot descended on a lot of Atari software. Undaunted, John Spring and his staff set about stripping out the shop, re-decorating and re-stocking. Just three days later they were back in business.

The enforced lay-off gave them a chance to re-evaluate and John Spring now claims that The Atari Center is 'stranger than ever' and even more firmly committed to providing on going support for the 8-bit and VCS Atari.

PAWN FOR 8-BIT?

The highly praised *ST Adventure*, The Pawn will reportedly be available on the 480/800/1600E later this year with 'no compromises on quality'. Hard to believe after seeing the *ST* version but if *Magnetic Scrolls* pull out all the stops for the 8-bit machines you could be playing the new definitive *Adventure* by Christmas.

DIGICOMM MIDI SYSTEM

Fancy a synthesiser? We recently received from Digicomms comprehensive details of their MIDI music system for the 480/800/512 or XE computers. Featuring a MIDI interface and 16-track Recorder software it enables you to hook up a synthesiser to your Atari and do whatever it is that computers and synthesisers do together! It is hard to comment on the system as four pages of printed information don't sound the same as Rick Wakeman! but if you want more details drop a line to Digicomms, 170, Brackley Common Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK13 8RQ.

BLOCKBREAKER

New Routines

In response to a request from the editor I present a joystick version of the game Blockbreaker from what was published in issue 20. As a bonus, or maybe to frustrate those of you who can't get past level 23, I have also included an auto-play modification so you can see just how the game should be played.

THE MISSING HIGH SCORE FEATURE

Before we begin, however, a correction to the original program. Blockbreaker was written on a ZX8 Atari 400 and until very recently I was unable to test it on the XL or XE. Unless you also use a ZX8 machine you will find that the high score feature is not displayed between games. Fortunately the correction is a very simple one. Referring to the original listing in issue 20, line 153 should be modified by changing the '120' in the fourth statement to 'FM0' as follows.

```
20 170 B:=120:G0:=100:G00:=0:G05=190+7261+P000
    P01=200:P001=105100:4000=1P000(110000=0)
```

PLUG IN THAT JOYSTICK!

I did not include a joystick routine in the original version because I felt that the use of a joystick made the game virtually unplayable since it lacks the precision of the analogue input which a paddle provides. I suppose, to some degree, it will depend on the individual's dexterity and reaction time so I've listed the modified lines below for you to try for yourself.

Type in the original program from issue 20, or load it if you have already typed it in, and then modify it as follows.

Change the following lines:

```
20 1200 G070 24,100,20,70,220,101,04,170,7
    0,100,04,100,101,104,2,100,101,101,0,2
    00,101,0,0
25 1043 P000 G00 70 22:0000 0:P000 2200+0,
    0:0000 0
30 1040 G070 103,00,100,11,107,00,0,107,0
    0,107,72,3,107,72,3,103,33,00,320,32,00
    0,0,70
42 1723 G070 173,7,0,200,07,170,100,0,200
    00,100,00,100,1,0,100,100,100,200,100
    0,0,101,173,0,100,3,101,0,0
```

Now add

```
02 1047 P000 1710,00000
03 1040 G070 170,7,200,17,170,100,0,200,7
    000,3,100,0,0,201,11,200,3,200,0,0,17
    0,0,0,101,0,200,100,0,223,7,00
```

The 2nd DATA statement in line 194 controls the sensitivity of the joystick. Change its value(s) to alter the speed of your bat. Since it controls the delay loop, increasing its value will slow down the bat.

The only in line 190 causes the bat to move at a constant speed. I have not experimented with an accelerating bat since I felt that this would cause further frustration during play but if an auto-widen to double with the routine, ensure that your machine code fits into the listing between lines 190 and 190 and that it reads with an RTS (I've used routine 7 as the delay variable).

SIT BACK AND WATCH

If you would like to see the game demonstrated then make the following changes and additions to the original (i.e. paddle) version of the game. Now sit back and watch Atari do all the work. Of course you could always play in a paddle and pretend you are a real champion!

Change the following lines:

```
00 1200 G070 22,243,0,20,104,17,04,170,7
    00,04,200,101,104,2,100,101,101,0,200
    0,101,0,0
02 1723 G070 173,7,0,200,07,170,100,0,200
    04,104,100,00,100,0,0,100,100,200,
    101,0,0,101,173,0,100,3,101,0,0
```

Now add

```
00 1047 P000 00+000,000+0
00 1000 G070 173,1,0,200,100,170,10,170,3
    0,0,0,100,0,100,0,200,101,0,0,100,100,0
    0
02 1740 G070 173,10,110,01,7,100,7,173,0,
    0,00,100,3,00,100,7,104,101,0,200,101,
    0,0,00
```

Blockbreaker will play forever in this mode (and introduce a minor bug at the higher levels) so you may like to make the Atari a bit more 'human' by modifying the above version as follows.

Change these lines:

```
20 1200 P000 700,000:0=050:000+0000+P000 0=
    1 TO 3:P000 000+010+0,2:0:0:0:0:0:P000 7
    04,104:P000 10004,1
30 1740 G070 173,10,110,01,7,100,7,173,0,
    0,00,100,3,00,100,7,104,101,0,200,101,
    0,0,00
```

The Atari routine is again situated between BASIC lines 1000 and 1050 and machine code breaks will be able to decipher the routine given the following information.

Location 1317 - the ball's (Player 2) vertical position in the FM0 table.

Location 1310 - the ball's horizontal position.

Location 1316 - the ball's (Player 0) horizontal position (left edge).

Location 7 - the 'random' variable.

The bat is either 12 or 8 colour shades wide in the Auto mode!

So there you have it. Blockbreaker playable with paddles, joystick or even a Touch Tablet! If you get frustrated and you may find that you want to go and get some paddles after all, especially if you want to get as good as that Atari mode!



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Readers Write

Dear Les,

My friend Elizabeth Barber who is Headteacher at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital has asked me to appeal to all generous Atari owners for software for the children at the hospital. The hospital were given a DMSX by the TV program Scramble but they are having difficulty in finding any educational software. The children's ages range between 11 and 13 and any commercial or DMSXC programs on disk or tape would be gratefully received. Would any software companies like to donate something? They are particularly interested in LOGO but even programs typed in from magazines would be helpful.

Accepting your readers or advertisers would care to donate would be gratefully received. Please ask them to send items direct to Miss Elizabeth Barber, Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Hospital School, Myrtle Street, Liverpool, L7 7EG.

Thank you.

Linda Taitler,
Liverpool

Dear PAGE 4,

I am a newcomer to computing and am still very much looking my way. I have typed in Train Crazy from issue 21 but have been unsuccessful with lines 40 and 41. It is very difficult to decipher some of the symbols used for example on the second line of line 40 is that a small r or a CTRL-Q?

I would also like to comment on the timing of the contents of the magazine. As the March issue was published late I was unable to get it on the 1st March and so I had to collect it on Thursday 8th March, a little late for the publication. I suspect also that the Carols program in issue 13 was a little late for Xmas 1985.

I am contemplating purchasing a disk drive and notice that you do a disk subscription. Can I buy this locally or do I have to obtain it direct from yourself?

J. Ford,
Hornsea

Finally be lulled with the 'live' publications. PAGE 4 has NEVER been published late, it is always published on the day. The timing of the month preceding publication date helps, referees, gives plenty of time for the reach the shops and subscribers. Unfortunately from what you do in the hands of the Post Office, I can't see how you give my opinion of the Post Office!

Having the listings right comes with experience but we provide as much help as we can new readers. A Listing Conventions page is published in each issue so that every character in a listing can be compared and, of course, we use TTPO if for even checking. I can't see any lower case r in the line you mention, check each character against the table of listing conventions and you will

soon see what is required, and make sure you use TTPO if possible, from each time are only available directly from ourselves either on subscription or they can be purchased individually.

Dear Les,

In reply to the letter from S. Holmes in issue 21 regarding connecting his computer to the Scart socket of his television, this can certainly be done and is relatively simple.

You will require a blank Scart plug, a 3 pin DIN plug and a length of twin screened lead. The connections are as follows (DIN to Scart).

Pin 4 - Composite Video to Pin 20 - CVBS Input

Pin 1 - Audio to Pin 6 - Audio left or Pin 2 - Audio Right

Pin 2 - Ground to Pin 17 - CVBS Earth

If the TV has stereo capability then select mono mode to get the sound to come from both channels or strap Pins 3 and 4 together on the Scart plug.

The resulting improvement in picture quality by using the monitor output of the computer through the Scart input on the TV is well worth the effort.

W.H. Harrison,
Wigan

Many thanks also to all the many contributors who assist with advice on this. Several readers advised that ready-made leads were available from Silicon Shop and we received a Telemagnum from Advanced Computer & Software Ltd. to say that they can supply a ready-made 1 metre lead for £18 fully inclusive with extra length to order at £7.00 per metre. They will also make up any lead to order for connecting video, computer etc. where the TV has a Scart connector. Contact them at P.O.Box 2, Harle Twp, Colchester, Essex, CO6 2PW

Dear Sir,

I recently purchased an HESL and HESL disk drive which came with DOS 1 and Home Filing Manager. As instructed I backed up the DOS 1 using the 'duplicate' routine but could not copy the Home Filing Manager which kept giving an Error 116. Quite by chance I then read the April edition of ANTEC magazine which had a letter from a reader complaining that DOS 3 would not copy certain of his disks. In reply the editor said ANTEC has consistently recommended readers not to use DOS 3. It is incompatible with practically everything. Trade it in for the DOS 2.5.

Is this problem a common one and if so where can I purchase a copy of DOS 2.5? Will I need to reformat the half a dozen or

Dear Les,

I would like to thank all of the readers who voted for 'FIRST STEPS'. While it is nice to win a prize for all the work put into the column, it brings me greater pleasure to know that the column is appreciated by so many people. I hope that it has helped to increase your knowledge and fun, when using your ATARI computer and I hope to continue to help beginners through this column for the foreseeable future.

Please remember that I am contacted directly by beginners for answers to any questions you may have. The only rule is that you enclose an SAE if you want a written reply.

Once again, thank you for all the votes.

Mark Hutchinson

Dear Sir,

I recently bought a HESL disk drive for my HESL. I have about 20 pieces of software on cassette all of which are double loaders. They are all originals which I have bought over the last couple of years. Have you a program which would transfer my tapes to disk?

B. Hart,
Hull

This is representative of about a dozen letters received recently and is becoming a more common problem as more users upgrade to a disk drive. The short answer to the problem is no. As far as I can gather there are no programs currently available which will transfer multi-loading tapes to disk. It is not that easy to do as each program needs to be individually interpreted and many current programs use the area of memory that is used by DOS in a disk based system. This means that certain programs would have to be decompiled and recompiled to written in simple or even assembly language were advanced which claimed to transfer tape to disk, and indeed a few will do, but many of these fail to do what they claimed. I am afraid that there is no easy answer to this problem. You may just have to learn to put up with that long load from time to time.

Let's hear from you!

Other readers want to share your views or read about your problems. Drop a line to READERS WRITE, PAGE 4, P.O. BOX 34, STAFFORD, ST16 1ER. Do it now!

so often that I have formatted with DOS 5.

I hope that you can help and that this letter may be of service to other readers.

N.R. Fairclough,

Kidderminster.

FMDS 4 fully emulates INTIC's comments about DOS 7? You should be able to get a copy of DOS 2.1 from your local dealer directly. Alternatively send £3.95 to FMDS 4 and ask for 2MM XL/XX EXT disk which contains a full copy of DOS 2.1 with instructions along with several other excellent utilities.

You will need to convert all of your files from your DOS 3 disks to DOS 2.1 but there is a program with DOS 2.1 to do this for you. Once you have copied the programs onto a new original disks can be re-formatted using DOS 2.1. Even with DOS 2.1 however you may not be able to copy The Home Piling Manager as it is likely that there have copy-protected the disk as a protection against illegal copying and distribution.

Dear Sir,

I would like to say something about TYPO II. To my mind these are integral disadvantages and for this reason I am therefore still faithful to TYPO II. Firstly when TYPO II is 'stand running' pressing SYSTEM RESET erases it from memory. Secondly, and more important, to obtain the correct code with TYPO II one has to type in the line exactly as it stands putting in all spaces and not using abbreviations. This is tedious to say the least. Is there any way of rectifying it?

N.H. Thirkstone-Smith

Dear Sir,

After reading the letter from A. Joyce in the last issue, I wish to state that I prefer TYPO II to TYPO I. If the program is not typed in one sitting TYPO II is CEASEd with the program and when it is CEASEd next time TYPO II is recalled with GOTO 30000 and typing can be continued. When the typing is finished and CEASEd with TYPO then CLOADd, TYPO can be created by typing END then the program checked then CEASEd without TYPO.

G.F. Bradwell,
Salford

Each of his own I suppose that it seems that many readers do not seem contented here with the way from TYPO I. Firstly on the question of abbreviations. If you wish to abbreviate files, just LIST the line after you have finished typing it, or hit a back of line, place the cursor on each line and then hit RETURN. The correct code will be shown. SYSTEM RESET does not delete TYPO I at merely erasing it. To get it back

again just type J=USER(144). Finally, there is no reason why you can't type a listing in several goes. Just CEASED TYPO I, RUN it and then CEASED your listing. Now type listing whenever you like and load whenever you like, but make sure that you load and RUN TYPO I first.

Dear PAIGE 4,

Could you please tell me where I could obtain the components required to build a speech synthesiser as detailed in issue 18? Are they obtainable through the post?

Simon Roche,
Inland

I am surprised how many people keep asking us questions like this. I thought everyone that owned of Magnet Electronics' Magnet Electronics address is P.O. Box 5, Rayleigh, Essex and their phone number is 0332 342917. They have a comprehensive catalogue available in B.W. Dunit which gives full details of their products which are all available by mail order. An alternative source is one of the many Tandy shops around the country.

Dear Len,

Regarding the comments in the introduction to Blackboarder in issue 20 about clearing RAM, I thought you might like to know of a very easy way for a program to clear RAM. In the Blackboarder program change line 10 to line 11 and delete the GRAPHICS:17 statement and then add the following line

```
11 10 LOCATED @CLEAR@:10000:10000:10000000
```

The character inside the quotes is CTRL+. In the program this clears approximately 30k of memory in about 0.5 seconds!

Fred Ross,
Ware, Herts

Dear Len,

Your readers might be interested to know that the standard D type 5 way connectors have metal bits so that prevent them from fitting into joystick ports correctly. Tandy do sell replacement cables with standard 5 way connectors but at a price!

The solution is to use a Modem connection. The part numbers needed are Model A-7290 Plug (main) order code 15-24-4025, Model A-7294-18 (top backshell) order code 15-24-4026 and Model A-7294-38 (lower backshell) order code 15-24-4027. You will also need the metal pins but I am

afraid I don't have the details of these at present. Whilst can be contacted at Modem Electronics Ltd, Farnham Road, Bordon, Hants, GU37 0GZ. Telephone 0429 71912.

John J. Smith,
Marrycote

Dear Sir,

I am a new subscriber to your excellent magazine which I have already found to be superior to many others. TYPO 3 is a godsend for the correcting programs such as Colour Printer from issue 20. Even so, it works my will and I've read everything to cure the error. Other readers may like to note that in line 1266, just before the reversed capital F there appears to be a space. In fact this is a CANS:TR06-R. This makes all the difference!

I was disappointed not to find Aztec Art and STI (asked in issue 21. Please consider this as a regular feature as I am sure that many readers would welcome this along with captions stating which programs and hardware were used for the creations.

Brian Ferris,
Dunfermline

There's also a Chp Flaship for this tip on Colour Printer. That one fixed a lot of people! This gives an opportunity for some criticism along with some problems. You can take a look at issue 1968 and 1170 in Colour Printer you will see several letters capital letters. Find these with spaces to the left of them and you will see that the left side of the Capital is very 'thin'. Now compare the Capital F on the second line of 1168. It doesn't look the same does it? The space to the left of this character therefore is a space. Check the listing comments on page 12 and the only thing it is likely to be is a CTRL-R. Explain the space with CTRL-R and you will find that TYPO puts up with CTRL instead of CR. Solved! When you get problems with other things, that's how closely you have to check them!

We would love to feature short tips in the program and it is expensive to print colour pictures so they will as present appear only once in a while. Besides which nobody has sent us any good pictures lately!

Dear Len,

Here's a quick tip for readers who have gone over to DOS 2.1 from DOS 1. If you are using an R50 interface make sure that you have all the files from DOS 2.1 on your master disk. It was not until I got a full DOS 2.1 disk that I found that the SRTCP.COM file installed on AUTOCORRECTIVE to be created which will hold the interface. DOS 1 used to do it automatically.

Al J.Crooks,
Horsham-On-Trent

?



Part 2 - Operating System Errors

Error codes from 128 onwards are not specific to any one language, since they are codes generated by the Operating System (O.S.) following an input/output (I/O) operation. To fully understand these codes, a working knowledge of the I/O subsystem is necessary. There is insufficient space in an article intended to be a reference guide to go into this in detail, but further information can be obtained from the sources listed at the beginning of part 1 of this article. I have however found it necessary to review certain aspects of the I/O system when discussing the various error codes and I hope that more experienced programmers will forgive any generalisations I have made in the interests of clarity and simplicity.

Beginners should remember that most of the work in setting up IOCBs and calling the OS is done for you by BASIC. Many of these errors will not be seen until you try to access peripherals directly by using BASIC's file handling commands (OPEN, CLOSE, PUT, GET, XIO, etc.), or by setting up the IOCB and calling the operating system routines directly.

Error-128 BREAK abort.

If you press the BREAK key during an I/O procedure, the operation is aborted and this status code returned. Therefore, never press BREAK during I/O unless you mean to stop the operation.

Error-129 IOCB already open.

See error 124 for a brief explanation of the IOCBs. Any given IOCB can only be open for one purpose at any time. If you try to open an IOCB that is already in use, this error code is returned, even if the second operation is identical to the first. Always CLOSE an IOCB before using it again. (Note that trying to CLOSE an already closed IOCB does not generate an error.)

Error-130 Nonexistent device.

After setting up an IOCB (see error 124) the Central Input/Output utility (CIO) determines from the data in the IOCB the nature of the device you wish to use. It then looks up the address of the device handler (the software which actually performs the operation) in an area of RAM called the Handler Table (38 bytes starting at location 794). Each entry in the table consists of three bytes (two additional bytes are unused), the identifier code for the device concerned (C for cassette, B for screen editor etc.) plus the address in low and high byte format of the handler software.

On powering five handlers (the 'resident' handlers) are specified in the table (Cassette, Editor, Screen, Keyboard and Printer). These handlers are located in the OS ROM. Others (the non-resident handlers) are either booted in (such as Disk or RS232-C handlers) or can be added later. CIO searches the table for the appropriate device, but if the handler is not present in the table error 130 is

If you are still tearing your hair out because that error was not covered in the first part of Steve Pedler's article, fear not, the concluding part of this article brings you all the other error codes you are likely to encounter on your Atari.

A Guide to Atari Error Codes Pt.2

by Steve Pedler

returned. To see this, try the following: POKE 19765 will replace the identifier for the cassette handler with the ATASCII value for the letter A. Now try a LOAD. Error 130 will be displayed as CIO thinks the cassette handler is not present in memory.

Error-131 IOCB write only.

Before you can do anything with a peripheral, you must first OPEN a channel (IOCB) to it. The OPEN command will specify whether data is to be read from or sent to the device. (This is of course done automatically with certain BASIC commands such as SAVE, LOAD, LPRINT etc.) If you OPEN a device to send data to it and then try to read data from it, this error results. You will then have to CLOSE the channel, and reOPEN it for read or read/write (update).

Error-132 Invalid command.

On setting up an IOCB, one of the necessary pieces of information you must supply is a command code which indicates the type of action you wish CIO to take. All peripherals share a series of common codes for open, close, put/get bytes, etc. (although not all functions are available for each device - see error 146). In addition, there are a number of "special" codes which are specific to certain devices, such as the disk drive and screen handler. Error 132 occurs when either the common code is incorrect, or you have issued a "special" command to a device which doesn't have any special commands.

If this error occurs from BASIC, you should check the command POKE'd into the IOCB, or the NIO command number (the number immediately following the MID statement).

Error-133 Device or file not open.

This error occurs when trying to access a file or device that has not been OPEN'ed. A common cause of this is a mistake in your file specification, either on OPEN or when trying to access the device.

Error-134 Bad IOCB number.

The Atari maintains a series of eight Input/Output Control Blocks (IOCBs) in RAM, commencing at location \$32. Each IOCB (numbered from 0 to 7) is 16 bytes long, and into this area is placed the information needed by the O.S. to perform the required action. This includes a command code indicating the operation that is required, the source or destination of the data to be transferred, how much data to transfer, and any information that may be specific to the device concerned. BASIC sets up an IOCB automatically when performing I/O operations, but you can also set them up yourself from BASIC or assembly language. Once the IOCB is ready, a single machine language call to the General Input/Output Utility (GIO) will put control to the O.S. for the procedure to be carried out. GIO will in turn call the specific device handler. If the I/O procedure uses the serial bus (cassette, printer, etc.) the handler will set up another area of RAM called the Device Control Block (DCB) and will then call

the Serial Input/Output Utility (SIO) to do the actual data transfer.

When performing I/O operations therefore you must specify the IOCB to be used. BASIC always uses IOCB 6 for the screen handler, IOCB 0 for the screen editor and IOCB 7 for LPRINT. When using OPEN, CLOSE, PUT, GET etc. you specify the IOCB in the number immediately following the command (e.g. OPEN #1, CLOSE #4). With NIO, the first number is the command, the second is the IOCB to be used (e.g. NIO 18 #0).

Since BASIC reserves IOCB 0 for the screen editor, you cannot use this from a BASIC program, error 28 (not error 134) occurs if you try. You can however use IOCB 0 from machine code.

In assembly language, the IOCB number is placed in the X-register for use as an index. Because each IOCB is 16 bytes long, the IOCB number must be an exact multiple of 16 (including 0) and not be greater than 128. If this is not adhered to, the IOCB number is wrong and error 134 is the result.

Error-135 IOCB read only error.

This is the exact opposite of error 131. It means that you have attempted to read from a device opened only for write. You will have to CLOSE the device and reOPEN it for read or read/write (update).

Error-136 End of file.

Not so much an error as a status code indicating that when reading data from a device you have come to the end of the file.

It can be useful to check for this code when you don't know precisely how much data is present in the input file. You could then instruct CIO to read a block of data you know is larger than is actually present in the file and check for this error code (using TRAP in BASIC to prevent the program from stopping). The actual amount of data transferred is recorded in the count and zero/byte of the IOCB used (see *Intapping the Atari* pp. 82-89).

Error-137 Truncated record.

The Atari O.S. supports two main types of I/O procedure - byte oriented and record oriented.

With byte oriented transfers, you simply specify the memory location where the data to be transferred is located (output) or where it is to be stored (input), and the number of bytes to be transferred. The operation continues until the specified number of bytes is moved, or the end of the file is reached, regardless of the nature of the data. If you are inputting data and you have not reserved a large enough area (buffer) of RAM for the incoming data, then data input is not buffered - it just overwrites whatever follows the buffer (program lines, screen memory etc.)

In record oriented transfer, input or output only continues until an ATASCII end-of-line (EOL) character is received. If on input your allocated buffer size is exceeded before an EOL is reached, then only part of the data is input and this error is returned, indicating that the record is truncated.

The BASIC command for record oriented input is INPUT. When using this command, BASIC allocates a maximum buffer of 119 bytes (according to the DOS 3 reference manual). If you use INPUT to read a file created using byte oriented transfer (PUT in BASIC) you may run into this error.

Error-138 Device timeout

This is an error generated by SID following I/O which uses the serial bus (e.g. printer, disk, cassette). For each device the device handler sets a finite amount of time by which the device must respond to the command sent - the device 'timeout'. 'Intelligent' peripherals such as the printer or disk drive can actively acknowledge the command and so the timeout value is short. If this error occurs with these devices the usual cause is that the device is not connected or switched on, as the printer is not switched to on-line.

Unfortunately, the cassette recorder is not an 'intelligent' device and cannot respond in this way. If you try to output to the cassette and it is not connected, or Play and Record have not been depressed, then the Atari has no way of knowing this and continues to send data regardless until it is all sent. This is the reason for the status prompts when using the cassette recorder. When inputting from cassette, the Atari waits until the recorder starts to send data. If it does not do so within the timeout period (about 37 seconds according to Mapping the Atari) then this error is generated and the cassette motor is stopped. Potential causes for this (other than the obvious ones) include excessively long tape loaders or incorrect measurement of the load time (sometimes seen when trying to load programs recorded on another recorder to your own). If this persists in happening with programs recorded on your own system, then have your recorder checked.

Error-139 Device NAK

There are a number of possible causes of this error which is, to a certain extent, dependent on the device. One possibility is that an illegal command was sent to the device such as trying to access a bad disk sector or one not present on the disk (e.g. a sector number greater than 720 on a single density disk). Check the syntax of the command passed to the device.

This error may also occur during the use of the 819 interface module, see the 830 Manual for further details. The error may be returned when using the printer if the printer is not switched to on-line.

Error-140 Serial bus error

The ROM location 18775 (SRSTAT - IDHP hex) holds the current status of the serial I/O port and keyboard. If bit 7 of this register is set it means that data received from the peripheral has become scrambled, e.g. data bits are missing or unwanted ones added. This error is then returned to the user.

According to the DOS 3 reference manual, this is a rare error. I have only seen it once, when first adding a printer to my system, and it occurred due to a bad cable

connection at the printer end. If this error persists, then Atari suggest testing the offending peripheral or computer checked.

Error-141 Cursor out of range

Each graphics mode has its own particular resolution (the number of points which can be plotted on the screen). You must stay within the limits of resolution for the mode you are using, and if you exceed the limits for that mode then error 141 is the result.

If this seems an unusual error to find amongst the I/O error codes, remember that the Atari treats the screen and keyboard just as any other peripheral. PRINT and PLOT operations are considered to be I/O procedures, and when you change graphics modes you are in fact OPENING a channel to the screen handler.

Error-142 Serial bus data frame overrun

The Atari serial port receives data one byte at a time, with the eight bits of that byte arriving one after the other (i.e. in serial fashion rather than parallel fashion, when all eight bits arrive together). The incoming byte must be processed before the next can be dealt with, but the peripheral doesn't wait for the computer - it sends the next byte regardless. If the next byte arrives while the computer is still processing the first, then the data is said to have 'overrun', and error 142 results.

Note that SRSTAT (see error 140 above) contains the serial port status, and if data overruns then bit 6 is set, not bit 5 as stated in the DOS 3 reference manual (see the hardware manual p. III18). Once again, Atari suggest that if this error occurs more than once the computer should be checked.

Error-143 Serial bus data frame checksum error

When data is sent to the computer from the peripheral, a checksum byte is also sent at the end of each block of data. This is a single byte consisting of the sum of all the other bytes in the data frame. On receipt of the data SID calculates its own checksum and compares it with that sent by the peripheral. This procedure is intended as a check of the accuracy of the data being sent compared with when it was recorded. If the checksums don't match then this error is returned.

There are a number of potential causes. The initial recording of the data may have been faulty due to a defective disk or cassette, or the peripheral itself or the I/O connection may be faulty. This error is usually seen with the cassette recorder due to the inherently unreliable nature of cassette storage. If it persists with data recorded and played back on your own system, then have the recorder and/or computer checked.

Error-144 Device done error

This error occurs when you have issued a valid command to the peripheral but the device is unable to carry it out. For example, you may have tried to write to a disk that is write-protected, or there may be no disk at all

in the drive. "Your Atari Computer" implies that this error might also occur if the disk directory was damaged in some way.

The cause of the error depends on the device, so check the command given and whether the device is presented in some way from executing it.

Error-143 Read after write compare error or bad screen mode.

This error has two potential meanings. When the disk handler writes a file to the disk, it reads the file after writing it as a check of the accuracy of the recording. If there is a difference between the file as written and what should have been written this error is returned. Possible causes would include a defective disk or faulty drive, although write errors do occur on occasion for no apparent reason. Try re-saving the file onto another disk to see if the error recurs.

The second cause of this error is if you try to choose a graphics mode not implemented in your computer. For example, the original 400/800 machines have no graphics modes from 12 to 15. Selecting one of these modes on a 400/800 will result in error 143.

Error-146 Function not implemented.

As indicated in the explanation of error 132, all device handlers share common command codes for a series of operations. These include the commands to OPEN, CLOSE, get STATUS, PUT/GET RECORD, and PUT/GET BYTE. Clearly, not all of these operations are possible with all peripherals, so that (for example) you cannot read data to the keyboard or get data from the printer. Attempting to do one of these impossible operations will generate error 146.

Error-147 Insufficient RAM.

This error code is very similar to BASIC's error 2 (see this error for a brief explanation of how the Atari keeps track of memory usage). Whenever you change graphics modes, the value in MEMTOP (74,742) is changed accordingly, being either increased or decreased depending on the memory requirements of the mode selected. If the change of mode would lower the value in MEMTOP so much that it would be lower than that in MEMMH (14,11) then the screen is returned to graphics 0 and error 147 is returned.

This error is not likely to occur in machines of 49K or more, but certainly could occur in 36K machines with a large program using high resolution modes such as graphics 8-11 and 15. There is only one solution - add more memory.

Errors 150-154 are devoted to the use of the RS232-C serial ports. I have not included explanations for these errors here (mainly because I don't fully understand them) but also because anyone using these ports would presumably have access to the RS2 Interface Manual or equivalent. These error codes are fully documented in that manual, to which reference should be made.

Error-160 Drive number error.

You can attach up to four disk drives (numbered 1 to 4) to your Atari, but with standard DOS 2.5 the default number that can be looked up is two. This is because each drive in the system needs a 128-byte buffer reserved for it. Since the majority of users are unlikely to want (or need) more than two drives, the default is two to conserve memory. With standard DOS 2.5 then, attempting to access a disk file with a drive number that is neither 1 nor 2 will result in error 160. If you wish to connect up more drives, a simple modification to your DOS will be needed.

Under certain circumstances however, you can use drive numbers between 1 and 8 without error. For example, if you own a DMK2, you can use the RAMDISK utility of DOS 2.5 to set up the extra 64K of RAM for use as a virtual disk drive, in which case the 'drive' takes on the number 8. The point at which this error is generated therefore, will to a certain extent depend on your system; however, the drive numbers must always be in the range 1 to 8.

Error-161 Too many OPEN files.

DOS 2.5 allows you to have a maximum of three open disk files at any one time (although you can have files open to other devices as well). This is because each open file has a 128-byte buffer associated with it, and DOS 2.5 only provides for three such system buffers. I am not sure whether it is possible to modify DOS to allow more open files than this. If this error occurs, you should check for the presence of any file(s) opened unnecessarily, and close them to free them for further use.

Error-162 Disk full.

This means that there is no further free space on the disk for saving programs or data. If this occurs and you don't have another formatted disk with enough free space available, the only way out is to use the cassette recorder to save your program, format a new disk, then reload the program and put it onto the empty disk. Always have a ready formatted spare disk or two to hand.

Error-163 Unrecoverable system data I/O error.

This error appears to act as a catch-all for any I/O error not covered by the other I/O error codes, and for which the cause cannot be determined. It appears to be a very rare error. Suggested causes are malfunctioning equipment, corrupted DOS, and damaged disks (though there are presumably others).

Error-164 File number mismatch.

There are two possible causes of this error. The first relates to the use of the POINT statement. Having OPENed a disk file, you can refer to any byte within that file by moving an internal pointer with the POINT command. To do this you must specify the channel number of

number on which the file is open, the sector number and the byte number within that sector. If the sector specified by you does not form part of the OPEN file, this error is returned to you. POINT can also generate other errors—see errors 166 and 171.

The second cause of this error will hopefully never be seen with today's reliable disk drives. Disk files are stored on the disk as sectors of data, each sector holding 128 bytes. Of these, only 125 bytes are program data, the other three hold information needed by the disk drive. This includes the file number as present in the directory, and the number of the sector holding the next part of the file (i.e. the next sector to be read or written to). When moving to the next sector, the drive checks that the sector does indeed belong to the correct file. If the file number does not match, then error 164 is returned. This shouldn't be seen with present day drives, but was apparently a fairly common problem with the early ROM. If it occurs and you haven't been tampering with the disk structure, your drive may need servicing.

Error-165 File name error.

The Atari only allows the use of the letters A-Z (uppercase) and numbers 0-9 in disk filenames, plus the wildcard characters "*" and "?". Any other character in a filename will cause this error.

Although the wildcard characters are legal, they are not so when creating a file, only when reading from an already existing one. The reason is fairly obvious, you shouldn't create ambiguous file names, and attempting to do so will return this error.

Error-166 Point data length error.

See error 164 for a description of the POINT statement. When using POINT, you must specify the byte number within the indicated sector. This number must be in the range 0-125 inclusive. If it is not, then this error is the result. See also errors 164 and 171.

Error-167 File locked.

Once a disk file is locked, the only thing you can do with it is read it. You cannot write to it in any way, delete it or change its name. Trying to do any of these things to a locked file generates error 167. You will have to unlock the file using DOS 3.5 option G or XIO 36 from BASIC.

Error-168 Command invalid.

Take a look first at error 132. What is the difference, you might ask, between these two errors? Certain device handlers, notably the disk drive, KSIO-C and screen support 'special' command codes in addition to the common codes used by all devices. These are device-specific commands, and for the screen handler are show and fill. The disk handler has seven special commands: rename, delete, lock, unlock, point, reset and format. Error 132 will occur if you issue a special command to a device which doesn't have any special commands associated with it. Error 168 occurs if the device concerned does have

special command codes, but the code you used is not recognised by the handler. You should check the command issued to the device (e.g. via a XIO statement).

Error-169 Directory full.

The 800 and 1050 disk drives from Atari only allocate 8 sectors on the disk for the directory. These 8 sectors allow you to make a total of 64 directory entries (i.e. 64 separate files on the disk). In practice, this should be enough for anything, and you are much more likely to fill the rest of the disk before you exceed this limit. If you do exceed it, error 169 is generated and you will have to use another disk.

Error-170 File not found.

The file name you use for any operation must match exactly one of the file names on the disk. Even if it differs by only one character, if it doesn't match an entry in the directory the disk handler will be unable to find the file and will return this error. The usual cause is inserting the wrong disk in the drive or a typing error when entering the file name.

Error-171 Point invalid.

The next step after a POINT (see errors 164 and 166 for further details) is usually to read (using INPUT or GET) the byte pointed to, or write to it using PRINT or PUT. It is clearly not possible to read past the end of the file, and attempting to do so will cause error 134 (end of file). (There is a mistake in the first edition of Your Atari Computer p. 282, where attempting to read past the end of the file is given as error 170.) It is quite undesirable to write past the end of the file, since you might overwrite part of another file. If you try to do this, then error 171 is returned.

Users of DOS 3 should be aware that NOTR and POINT are treated differently by this version of DOS, since they return a pointer offset from the start of the file rather than an absolute location in terms of sector and byte numbers. The meaning of the error codes related to POINT is however the same.

CONCLUSION

There are in addition to the errors listed so far six errors identified in the DOS 3 Manual but not in earlier Atari publications. I presume that these are errors specific to DOS 3. I do not intend to deal further with these error codes since Atari owners should no longer be using this version of DOS. In any case, they are fully documented in the above manual.

I hope you have found this guide useful in interpreting the sometimes obscure error codes produced by the Atari computers. I would be very interested to hear any comments, further information or corrections (I hope there won't be too many of those!) that you may have. Further information on the inner workings of the Atari resulting in these codes can be obtained from the sources listed at the start of this article. ●



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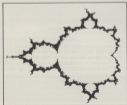


Fractals

Fractals seem to be the subject that the whole computer world is raving about at the moment and this article by Peter Coates provides you with the background to the fascinating world of fractals and gives ideas on how you may wish to write your own fractal generating program on the Atari.

Readers of Page 6 may have come across graphical representations of fractals in a variety of forms - the artificial landscapes generated by some games programs, trees used as examples of recursion, and the colourful and complex patterns employed to demonstrate the graphics capabilities of modern micros. In this article I will be concerned with the last group, as these have the greatest variety of complex and attractive patterns. They are usually associated with the name of Benoit Mandelbrot, who did much to publicise them. For some outstanding examples of fractals, the reader is advised to buy, borrow or steal (not really!) a copy of his book 'Fractals of Chance'. I will also show you how to program your computer to generate these patterns.

It is not generally realised that fractals arise from a branch of abstract mathematics which studies the chaotic behaviour of some functions. By this I mean that the value of one of these functions will change dramatically for quite small shifts in the value of one of the variables. This behaviour is quite different from that of the classical functions of mathematics, whose values in general change smoothly and continuously. A geometrical example of a fractal object is the coastline of an island. If asked to determine its length, we might take a map of the island and measure the length of the perimeter. If we found a map on a larger scale and repeated the exercise, we would obtain a greater value, because small inlets and corrugations not present on the first map have to be taken into account. As the scale is magnified, the length continues to increase, and eventually we have to add in the contributions from rocks, pebbles and even grains of sand. Moreover, as we do this, we would notice an interesting fact, whatever the level of magnification, the sections of coastline being measured have similar shapes, with uncorrelated detail waiting to be exposed.



The Mandelbrot Set

by Peter Coates

A coastline is a simple example of a fractal, but it illustrates the point that there is nature and often much more complex than the simple shapes of classical geometry. However, even the complex fractals of Mandelbrot may be generated with a relatively simple computer program, and I will now describe how to do this. It should be emphasized that the technique given is only one example, and that there is plenty of scope for experimentation with other functions and methods.

We consider the effect of a simple process applied repeatedly to a complex number which initially represents the position of a point (i.e. a picture element) on the screen. A complex number z is given by

$$z = x + iy$$

where x and y are the horizontal and vertical coordinates of the point, and i is the square root of -1. If you are not addicted to complex numbers, don't worry, as the calculations will all be given in terms of the real numbers x and y . The process we shall use here is given mathematically by

$$z_{k+1} = z_k^2 + c$$

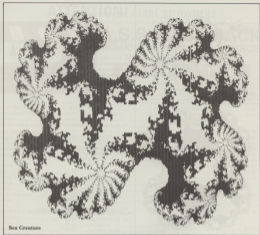
where c is a complex constant

$$c = p + iq$$

In words, this equation says that we form the next $(k+1)$ th term in the sequence from the preceding one by squaring it and adding the constant c . What is likely to happen? Clearly, if both x and y are small, successive terms will quickly become very small. Equally, if x and y are large, then the terms will increase very rapidly. In the regions between, the terms may wander around for some time before deciding whether to become small or go off to infinity. The magnitude $|z|$ of a complex number, by the way, represents its distance from the origin and is given by

$$|z| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

To generate a fractal picture, therefore, we count the number of times that the process must be applied to the initial value before $|z|$ for the term z_{k+1} exceeds a specified value L . As it may be shown that, once $|z|$ has exceeded L , the magnitude increases rapidly, convenient values for L lie between 10 and 100. Also, in some points very small magnitudes will never exceed the limit, and we don't want to spend too long looking at them, so terminate the process after a given number of repetitions, k . The number of repetitions counted, k , can therefore take values for each point from 1 to the upper limit k . To colour the picture, we refer it to one of the available colours on our output device with what we may call a colouring rule. For example, we might colour values of 1 to 10 as blue, 11 to 20 as orange, and so on. The rule is quite arbitrary, and



Sea Cavities

may be varied to improve the appearance of the fractal obtained. Although the more attractive patterns are obtained with high resolution graphics with many colours, such as may be achieved with the new Atari ST machines, I hope the examples provided with this article, produced on my old 800, show that interesting patterns may be generated in black and white. I output the patterns directly to my Kays NLQ printer to achieve higher resolution than that available on the screen.

At this point, I shall complicate the issue a little (as ever, further, I hear you say!) by pointing out that two types of fractals may be generated with the procedure described. The Mandelbrot set is obtained by setting the first term of the sequence equal to zero, and relating the constant c to the point being coloured by

$$z^2 + c = z$$

The Julia set, on the other hand, is obtained by setting the initial value

$$z(0) = x + iy$$

and assigning c a value which is fixed for the whole pattern. The differences between the two in practice are that in the Mandelbrot set we may change not only the position but the magnification, and this gives a very great variety of complex patterns, while the Julia patterns, on the other hand, are plotted over the whole of the complex interval, i.e. $x, y = -1.7$ to $+1.7$, and only the value c is changed.

However, the Julia set possesses a degree of symmetry which I find attractive, and requires fewer numerical resolutions. All the examples shown come from the Julia set and were plotted using a FORTRAN program with 16-bit fixed point arithmetic, which is considerably faster than Atari BASIC.

The first printout shows the whole of the Mandelbrot set, with a horizontal range from -1.7 to 1.7 , and -1.1 to $+1.1$ vertically. The colouring rule was very simple, values of k below 12, on the outside of the figure, and equal to the maximum, 200, around the centre, were left blank, while all points with k between 17 and 199 were printed black. The most interesting behaviour of both the Mandelbrot and Julia sets is found in and around the black area.

So let's look at the programs required to generate fractals. As the systems available to Atari users will vary, I haven't tried to present a complete program, but with the comments provided it shouldn't be difficult to modify these notes to produce a program for your computer.

1) Initial values : ENTER N, M, X0, Y0, D

The plotting area is assumed to contain N pixels horizontally and M vertically. X0 and Y0 are the coordinates of the bottom left-hand corner, and D is the interval between pixels in mathematical units. I prefer to keep the spacing constant in both dimensions, but you can change to different values DX, and DY if you wish. It follows that the

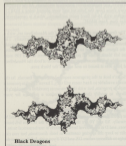
continued on next leaf



Oriental Design



Christmas Decorations



Black Dragons

upper values of x and y are

$$\begin{aligned} XM &= X0 + (M - 1)*D \\ YM &= Y0 + (M - 1)*D \end{aligned}$$

and these can alternatively be entered and D calculated from them.

2) Other values: ENTER PAQ

For the Julia set only, we enter the values for the complex constant c . For all patterns, we set the value K for the maximum number of iterations ($M = 1000$), and for the maximum amplitude L ($10 - 100$).

3) For each pixel e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} FOR I = 0 TO M - 1 \\ FOR J = 0 TO M - 1 \end{aligned}$$

Set the loop counter, which gives the value of k , to zero

$$COUNTER = 0$$

Now set the initial values for $x(0)$ and c .

For the Mandelbrot set:

$$X0 = X, Y0 = 0$$

$$P = X0 + I*D$$

$$Q = Y0 + I*D$$

For the Julia set:

$$X0 = X0 + I*D$$

$$Y0 = Y0 + I*D$$

$$(P \text{ and } Q \text{ already set})$$

Start the iteration and calculate the next values

$$\text{START: } X1 = X0^2 - Y0^2 + P$$

$$Y1 = 2*X0*Y0 + Q$$

Increment the counter and reset the X, Y values for the next stage

$$COUNTER = COUNTER + 1$$

$$X0 = X1, Y0 = Y1$$

Loop-back if the magnitude of the new value is less than L , and the maximum number of iterations has not been reached

$$\text{IF } X0^2 + Y0^2 < L \text{ AND COUNTER} < K \text{ THEN GOTO START}$$

4) Colour pixel (X, Y) according to the value of the COUNTER and the colouring rule, usually written as a set of IF ... THEN statements. Then move on to the next pixel

$$\text{NEXT J} : \text{NEXT I}$$

END

Be warned that fractals take an enormous amount of computing time. 'Sea Creatures' took almost a day to produce, even with the faster PORTH programming, but it is a good idea to run the program first with low resolutions (N and M), to see whether it looks interesting, and to improve the resolution when you have the parameters and the colouring right. It is possible to store the values of k for smaller patterns, and to study the effects of different colouring rules, but for large patterns the storage required, one byte per pixel, becomes excessive. ■

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Magnetic Scrolls, whose first Adventure *The Power* set a new standard for Adventures on the ST, have reached a distribution agreement with British Telecom's **Mailbird Software** and promise to follow up *The Power* with six new products commencing with *The Guild of Thieves* this autumn. ST writing Adventure addicts are in for a good time as Mailbird will also be releasing titles for Level 3, commencing with a trilogy comprising a re-written set of *Colossal Adventure*, *Dragon Adventure* and *Adventure Quest*. Improvements will include the addition of graphics and the implementation of Level 3's latest parser. Other similar releases are planned for later in the year and Level 3 will continue to release other adventures on their own label.

Metacross have re-launched their ST products with upgraded versions of *Lattice C*, *Pascal* and *Assembler* which will include a new 386-based command shell called *Meta+* which is available in its own right. *Meta+* allows programmers to use pull down menus and the mouse to control programs without complicated command lines and allows single programs or batches to be run. Price is just £19.95.

Hippe Software of California continue to bring forth a multitude of add-ons and peripherals for the ST all of which are mentioned in an excellent newsletter released to the trade called *HippeNews*. Hippe have a *Black* and *White* digitiser priced at \$199.95 with a colour version planned. For the same price you can have an *EPROM* burner or for a little extra you can have a computer controlled robot. New software includes *Hippe's Concept*, an 'idea processor' that allows you to organize your thinking and updated versions are available for earlier Hippe software. Altogether Hippe have 14 software products and a proven hardware for the ST. Availability in the U.K. is not known at present but if you contact any of the ST advertisers in this issue they may be able to let you know.

Software from **Atari** include ... a PC/MS/DOS emulator as an add on cartridge for the 5051, 1040ST and 20485 (1) and a BBC emulator which is designed to run BBC software as fast as the BBC machine. What with the famed Macintosh emulator developed by a third party it looks like the ST is the machine to buy if you can't make up your mind!

Mirrored have announced ST ART a new painting package developed by **Amnemon Software** which can handle both graphics and text, allow Art print-outs for letters etc. and allow restoration through colour cycling. Scheduled for release in July, the promotional price is £29.95.

Habe Systems say they plan to introduce a new title for the ST every month and May saw the release of *Habe Spelling Checker* designed to work with *HabeWriter*. Also released is a new database called *Habebase* which uses the *IBM* conventions and has 'powerful sorting and selection capabilities' optimised by the large memory available on the ST. Price is £74.95.

Prospero Software have added to their range of languages with *Pro Pascal*, which is a complete standard Pascal compiler that will allow all kinds of applications to be written for the ST. Dr. Mike Oakes of Prospero states that there is a new breed of computer owner in purchasers of the ST, professional people who want to have the machine do useful things. Prospero's Pascal will allow software authors to take advantage of the new market with applications, utilities, expert systems and more.



TIME BANDIT

Microdial

£29.95

Requires Colour monitor

This program comes in an attractive and colourful box with a well-written booklet which explains some of the basic details of the game and starts with a poem. On opening the first page I was almost someone had once read the type of *Gilgamesh*, but the poem is only one page long. The details are concise and enough to get you started and there is nothing complicated beyond the usual arcade game rules except that you do have mysteries to sort out as well as rapping unhelpful creatures. My only complaint is that the book is crudely stapled and the disk is loose in the box.

It is well worth curbing your impatience to try the game out and just let it evolve through its own routine, the way you will get used to the inhabitants and not die so quickly! When I played it first, I was so impressed by the superb graphics that the game was over before I knew it. A lot of time and effort has gone into this game and it really shows in the detail as the game progresses.

Basically *Time Bandit* is a maze-style arcade game, reminiscent of 'Wizard of War'. You start off on a planet with around a dozen temples, shaped differently (round, hex, pyramid etc.). Just walk through one of the gates and you appear in different lands, each more varied and dangerous than the last. To survive you must find a key to open the way on, but you will also find some valuable treasures as you wander through the locations. These add to your score and give you a chance to acquire valuable lives. There is a tendency to play this game in the usual fun and lighthearted arcade style. Taking it easy will not get you a good reputation as an adventurer (shown on the screen) but you will last a bit longer. The death throes of the enemy have got to be seen to be believed and some of the humour is very subtle!

There is something here for everyone, you can play *For Man*, wander around the 'Xenoptica', hunt ghosts, solve mysteries and more. The best thing about this game is that you can try all the locations on a single level by entering them only once. Like just one level and enter it time after time to increasing the level of difficulty, or do a combination of both. Your score will be recorded upon your death, and if the disk is protected the score is trapped in the game gate on 'Wizard of War' was the only game of this style (I know the word game!) I enjoyed until I had the loss of this, and *Mirrored* might have a light on their hand to get it back again!

I would thoroughly recommend this game, and as yet I have found nothing and only one complaint, the hero moves and shoots in only four directions. It is well worth getting your local *ATARI Dealer* to set up the demo screen, and if he has not obtained it tell him to contact the lovely *Jenny Pope* at 0226 68830.

Two small hints, as you struggle through the graveyard and you come across an interesting tombstone, think twice about digging it up and do not forget to try other titles such as *Ladies or Gents*.

Mark Hutchinson

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ST SPRITES

One thing that helps a games programmer more than anything else is sprite capability and the ST is endowed with sixteen bit square sprites in the same resolution as that chosen for the screen and with any two colours of that available to the screen, i.e. any two-colours out of the sixteen available for low resolution of 320 x 200 and any two colours out of the four available for medium resolution of 640 x 200. You could mix sprite register, more colours per sixteen bit square and many more things but as we set in context I will concentrate in show the rudiments and leave the talented staff to you.

For those who want to understand the 68000 listing and are used to other microprocessors, remember that the memory for the 68000 is stored in bytes, words and longwords (i.e. 8, 16 and 32 bytes are eight bits long, words are sixteen bits long and longwords are thirty two bits long. Each is stored in memory as in any computer but the longword for instance will take up four bytes space (4 x byte=32 bits) and it will be stored in memory in , as I would say, the right way round, that is most significant first then next significant bytes and so on. I think it was wise to confuse us more than enough! Each byte, word or longword can be put in the data register/accumulator, a D stands for a data register and there are eight of them e.g. D0,D1, and soon up to D7. Each of these registers is very flexible and can work on up to 32 bit data with one operation. Word! The address registers are not quite as flexible and can operate only on words and longwords. There are eight of these and they are shown as A on the listing with a number following to signify which register is being used. ST registers though are used as the stack pointers by the processor, I say registers because there are two, one for user mode stack pointer and one for the supervisor mode stack pointer.

When the 68000 in user mode reaches opcode it does not understand it enters into supervisor mode and then works on that command. If it still does not understand forever it will stop the user program. This is how sprites are controlled by the ST, you just load the address and data registers with the information and then give the correct opcode so as to confuse the 68000 in user mode and then it works on the information in supervisor mode. Very clever stuff, eh? There are many other special codes available to the user, hundreds of 'em but we will use two, one for drawing the sprite and another for clearing it.

Drawing the sprite is done with the \$RASC opcode and it is necessary first to load register D0 with the horizontal position of the sprite and D1 with the vertical position, also you must load the register A0 with the start address of the sprite definition block and A1 with the address for where the ratched out area of screen will be stored so as to be able to address it back onto the screen when you move the sprite. Thus you use the \$RASC opcode to combine user mode and, hey presto, your sprite that was defined is displayed. Easy!

Erasing the sprite is done with the \$RASC opcode, it is necessary first to load register A2 with the address holding the ratched out area of the screen, even easier! The amount of RAM required for each stored sprite is 74 bytes for mono, 128 bytes for medium resolution and 256 for low resolution.

The sprite definition block starts with five words (2 x bytes) containing information about the sprite to be drawn and then follows 32 words defining the shape of it.

1st word	horizontal offset to D0 advised position
2nd word	vertical offset to D1 advised position
3rd word	? I am not sure, try and see
4th word	background colour of the sprite
5th word	foreground colour of the sprite
6th word	background bit pattern for sprite's top line
7th word	foreground bit pattern for sprite's top line
8th word	background bit pattern for sprite's second line
9th word	foreground bit pattern for sprite's second line

The pattern continues now so far as you wish till the maximum of 32 words defining the sprite shape is reached. Each bit that is set will turn on the corresponding colour for that pixel, one word equals 16 bits giving a 16 bit pattern for each line of the sprite.

LIST OF REFERENCES

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- 2 The 68000 user manual - a more detailed & easier to read.
- 3 The 68000 to assembly language linker, version 4.
- 4 The 68000 assembler, version 2.0.1 by Michael.
- 5 The 68000 assembler, version 2.0.1 by Michael.
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- 7 The 68000 assembler, version 2.0.1 by Michael.
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- 31 The 68000 assembler, version 2.0.1 by Michael.
- 32 The 68000 assembler, version 2.0.1 by Michael.

by **Chris Darkes**

BASIC listing

New! Prospero's professional language compilers for the Atari 520ST

Each line has a background colour pattern of 16 bits and a foreground colour pattern of 16 bits requiring two words per pattern line with, naturally, the foreground taking priority.

Speed of draw and erase is fairly rapid considering each sprite is drawn pixel by pixel into the screen RAM area. I found more than four hundred sprites per second could be handled, but being cautious and trying them in two vertical blocks, BASIC and Assembler programs, 80% draw when controlling four sprites intelligently. Remember that when being controlled by VBL, they are being addressed every 1/50ths of a second. To put this 80% slower into perspective, the ST Basic would still be running faster than the Atari 800 and Spectrum basic's.

New to the listings. The BASIC and Assembler listings are the same except for the routine at address \$70000 which is non-existent in the BASIC listing. Apart from that you can compare notes from both listings. I have included many comments (BASIC statements) to enable you to fully understand and have tried to keep the commands simple.

The routines are loaded into the ST's memory in front of the normal screen memory which resides at \$70000 to \$7FFFF and I hope this is the safer place for linking to the Basic program. Anyway I had no trouble and it was thoroughly tested. I do foresee a possible problem though in line 126 in BASIC and in Assembler line 25, those where the address for the same routine is put into the vector array which on any ST is the current address, if you have problems check this. An address \$406(\$118 decimal) is assigned that points to the vector array, so go there and there look at the foreground address of the vector array. You are looking for an empty address (foreground that equals 0). When you find one, that is the place to point or move the same routine's address into.

If you do decide to handle multiple sprites, don't forget to erase the first drawn sprite last and erase the last drawn sprite first otherwise when the sprites merge a mess will result, you can see this if you move the mouse cursor into the drawn sprite (the mouse cursor is a sprite).

```

$70000 EQU $70000
$70001 EQU $70001
$70002 EQU $70002
$70003 EQU $70003
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$70010 EQU $70010
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K-SEKA listing

K-COMM

Karna Computers Ltd.
£39.95

If you are looking for a straightforward way to use a communications package for your ST, K-Comm could well provide the answer. If all the settings of bits and parity and handshaking confuse you don't worry as everything is taken care of with fully mouse selectable menus showing all the options available. In using GEM fully Karna have provided one of the easiest to use communications programs so far.

The only file transfer protocols available are straight ASCII and XMODEM and, while baud rates can be chosen from 300 to 9600, split rates are not available. Function keys can be defined as can the keyboard layout. Parameters set for different systems you wish to access can be saved to disk and recalled as required as can printer configurations which, as with all of the K-series, can be easily user defined.



K-COMM is not a highly sophisticated package like PC InterComm but it provides the basic communications software that most people will need in the context to use GEM. Communications is a complex business (I think so!) so the easier to use the software is the better. K-COMM scores quite highly here over such 'all embracing' packages as PC InterComm.

PRO-FORTRAN 77

Prospero Software

reviewed by Matthew Jones

FORTRAN was one of the first high-level languages. It was designed for engineers and scientists to do fine mathematics (hence the name FORmula TRANslation) in a machine-independent way. A Fortran-compiler has been written for just about every mainframe computer, and due to its relative portability and easy access, a vast amount of scientific and other software has been written using it.

An example of the sort of software that has been written in Fortran is a program called COPE, a decision support system, which has been under development for over 7 years at the University of Bath (where I happen to work). Fortran was all that was available when the program was started, and now, even with more powerful languages around, re-writing 16,000 lines of code is hardly justifiable, so an available Fortran compiler is necessary if it is to be used on a micro. Prospero Software's Pro-Fortran 77 aims to fill this role on the Atari ST.

THE COMPILER

Pro-Fortran is a full implementation of the ANSI Fortran 77 standard running on the ST under GEMDOS. In operation the compiler is quite simple, and there are several different ways it can be used, but generally you specify the source filename and the name prepended with each of the various options the compiler has. These include code of error messages in a disk file, range checks on subscripts and/or assignments, a line number track for debugging, a listing and map facility, and INTEGER means INTEGER*2 switch, and a useful facility to report unlabelled variables (useful for spotting typing mistakes). You can accept the defaults or change them (permanently if you want), and then the compilation starts.

Each program module is named as it compiles, and errors are displayed on screen, complete with the text of the erroneous line and an indication of the faulty character. This is where I discovered how tight to the specification Pro-Fortran sticks. I compiled several of the COPE source files and discovered that Pro-Fortran is very particular about getting statements correct, whereas the Fortran on the IBM PC where the code came from accepts our slight sloppiness. The particular examples are that Fortran labels (names of subroutines and variables) are only significant to six letters, and our code which has several seven and eight letter names was thrown out, and changing with character arrays by comparing them with integers (i.e. IF(D(2),EQ,52) is also illegal and must be done properly (IF(D(2),EQ=52)). In general such adherence to the specification is a good thing, as it encourages good programming practice, something the language generally doesn't do (it is not a structured language).

Speed-wise the compiler seems quite acceptable in comparison with other compilers, and it produces IBM library files suitable for input to the COST linker which seems to be becoming the standard linker for the U.K. (and elsewhere I hope). The various IBM files of your program are linked in with the Fortran library interface, and can then be run.

THE LIBRARIES

The libraries provide all the standard functions, and a few machine-specific routines. What really makes the library stand out is the way it is used. It really is another odd, and in the first time I have ever seen of, kind of anything like it. Your code is linked with interface code which loads in, then uses, a section of code called PRL (Prospero Run-time Library) which is loaded completely separately. Most other systems include the library (or required parts of the library) in with the rest of the program so there is only one load. A few systems do have a separate library at run-time from a separate file, but a completely separate load is very unusual. If PRL is not resident, your code will not run.

The reason for this behaviour is that your program can automatically run others, and each child program uses the same PRL code, thus cutting the memory requirement of each program. In principle a sound idea, but each spawning is not standard Fortran, and this system is added hassle to the end user. Prospero do suggest putting PRL in the AUTO folder, but unless you use a regular Fortran user, this seems to be inconvenient as it may have side effects in other programs.

THE MANUAL

The half-inch thick manual that accompanies the compiler comes in a very smart blue ring binder and box. It is written in three parts, general overview, complete language definition, and how to use the various parts of the compiler. The language definition will provide a useful reference on Fortran in general, but it also covers the additional library functions such as GETCOM (get command line), RANDOM, IPEEK, POKE, DATE, TIME, FMSIC-PI (the run another program facility), a DOS-call (SYS), and a complete set of GEM AFS and VDI calls. It is this latter facility that I think gives Prospero Fortran a great bonus. Until now, no Fortran has been designed with a GEM interface in mind, and this will prove very tempting to authors. What does put a damper on this though is that Prospero have no plans to include GEM libraries in their IBM PC version of Fortran. This means that applications cannot be ported between the two easily which, if possible, would double the market and reduce the risk for developers.

CONCLUSION

Pro-Fortran 77 is a good, usable Fortran compiler, and apart from my reservations about PRL, it is quite suitable for developing serious applications with. Those who want a Fortran on their ST will be pleased, but what makes it for me is the GEM interface.

Finally, the price (approximately 100 pounds) is reasonable for a Fortran compiler, but I hope the level of support matches.

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Vip

PROFESSIONAL

One of the first things to catch my eye for the ST was VIP. Several demos were released which made VIP look to be the ultimate spreadsheet program for any of us whose previous experience had been with 8-bit machines only. I couldn't wait and VIP Professional duly became my first software purchase for the ST. Hey was I wrong! This first release was so bug ridden as to be unusable and with 1000in RAM gave your spreadsheet about the size of a sheet of A4! A review began to formulate in my mind along the lines of "VIP - the ultimate one" but then Silicon Distribution came to the rescue with the official UK version of VIP Professional. I booted it up, it worked, and now I am completely hooked. From that dreadful beginning came one of the most used programs on my ST.

It is not possible to go into detail in a review of exactly what a spreadsheet of this nature can do, much of that is left to the imagination of the user. Suffice it to say that if you can think of an application within the capabilities of the spreadsheet format then VIP should be able to do it for you.

Reviews elsewhere have made much of the slow screen refresh on the ST but proper use of the editing keys concentrates this to a large degree. The movement around the sheet is comprehensive and it is worth spending some time familiarising yourself with all the commands available. Almost any part of the worksheet can be reached very quickly especially if use is made of the superb Range Name feature where any cell or range of cells can be given a name and then accessed immediately via a function key. This Range Name feature can also be used when printing out parts of the worksheet.

One of the problems on many spreadsheets is keeping track of rows and columns when working on a large template. VIP is a delight in use in this respect as columns or rows, or both, can be "frozen" as titles and will then remain on screen at all times scrolling in conjunction with the remainder of the worksheet. Alternatively the screen can be split into two windows at any given point and the windows can be synchronised or can be left "frozen".

Copying formulas or cells is very easy with automatic re-evaluation of cell references as desired. If for example you need to total 20 columns (or 1000) then simply define the formula in the first column and copy that in one short process to the remaining columns. All cell references are automatically adjusted.

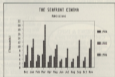
Another area where many spreadsheets become cumbersome to use is in placing cell references in formulas. You often need to check each part of the worksheet and make notes of the relevant cells before entering the formula. VIP allows you to begin defining the formula and then use the full cursor movement features to find any cell on the worksheet. Hitting Return will then add that cell to the formula and then allow you to go and find more cells. This works perfectly well with range also. In fact in all respects VIP is very easy to use once you have remembered the keystrokes but if you get stuck a help file can be called up at any point and of course there is always the 250 page manual!

One area which I felt for some time, finding it was too involved, was the macro facility but with a little practice macros will change VIP from a static piece of software to a superb working tool designed specifically for your needs. If you purchase VIP, learn how to use the macros, you will not regret it.

from disaster to triumph



User defined macros



Graphing capabilities

There are many, many, more features to VIP which it will not be possible to cover in this review so I will attempt to give an idea of what can be achieved by giving you illustrations of an actual template in use involving a fair number of macros. I have set up templates which handle self-employed accounts, VRT systems, household accounts, mortgage analysis and others but the one used for illustration is for analysis of daily cash takings. This is set up as a separate worksheet for each working week with columns headed by each of the hours, in categories, that customers can purchase. There are 22 columns with 40 rows for each day of the week before everything is totalled. A simple macro allows additional rows to be inserted should the space become full and any recalculations of cell references are taken care of automatically. Payments are simply entered as received and broken down into categories. A checkout column is used at the end to ensure that entries balance.

BOOKS

Introduction to SOUND AND GRAPHICS ON THE ATARI ST Computer Books £14.95



reviewed by Les Ellingham

When a new week is started an 'auto-convert' menu choice to see if a week number has been entered on the worksheet just loaded. If not it asks for a week number and the date. All dates for the remaining days of the week are calculated automatically from this. If the worksheet has already been used during the current week, this stage is skipped and the program goes on to present a new defined menu allowing the choice of moving to the part of the spreadsheet for the appropriate day. By using the Range Name feature a single menu keystroke moves the cursor to the appropriate part of the worksheet, moves down lines down, then the rows above the cursor so titles and waits for you to enter the day's payments.

Once the day's receipts have been entered another single keystroke will calculate the entire spreadsheet, updating the totals for the week. If the checkbooks do not agree for any row a warning is given and you are returned to the worksheet to correct the error. Assuming all is well a 'Print' menu is displayed and hitting return will print out a particular day. When printing is finished further menu items ensure that you leave the worksheet and take a backup before spinning or automatically loading another worksheet. All of this is accomplished by user defined macros and makes VIP easy to use even for an operator who is not used to computers.

Defining the macros themselves does require a little understanding of computer programming but will be simple for anyone who can understand even limited BASIC. Macros are extremely powerful and I keep adding little refinements almost week by week to ensure that the program does exactly what I want it to do.

I haven't touched on the graphing capabilities or data functions but any of the information covered can be graphed in several different ways quite easily and graphs menu definitions can be named, used and recalled at will.

There is no doubt that VIP Professional is a very powerful package. It is easy, fun and exciting to use and can do almost anything you can think of. It is expensive at £194.95 but is a fraction of the price your business colleagues will pay for their 1-2-7s and the like and it will do just the same. One initial disappointment, by the way, was that the version I have is a 'user' version in that it does not use GEM. I was upset at this at first but having found the program so easy to use I cannot see how a GEM version will improve it. Indeed I feel that the opposite will be true and I will not bother to get the GEM upgrade which is promised for June release. Fantasying to me, you might think that there are some applications where the GEM environment adds nothing to the ease of use of the program.

Finally a couple of criticisms. There are still one or two minor bugs in the program to ensure that you have backups before making any major changes to the structure of a complex. Secondly, VIP really gobbles up memory in an alarming fashion, especially when using lots of formulas. I have complaints re: open K-SHARD which uses lots of formulas and takes up 114k. With VIP you get an 'out of memory' message on this template when only half has been entered, even on a 1MB 1940ST!

A number of books are now arriving for the ST but most are still very much on a beginner or introductory level. This one clearly states that it is 'an introduction' and treated as such is a worthwhile investment. The book is clearly aimed at those owners who want to write programs for their machines but who have not yet made the decision to learn one of the more advanced programming languages. It therefore concentrates on the two languages supplied with the ST, BASIC and LOGO, with a smattering of FORTH thrown in.

After a brief introduction about setting up the machine the first chapter introduces LOGO from the point of view of graphics and gives several basic examples of shape drawing and movement of the turtle. Only 25 pages are devoted to LOGO and, as can be expected, the coverage is fairly rudimentary. BASIC fares much better with the substantial portion of the book devoted to this language. There are many programming examples which are generally quite short and thus easily typed which will whet your appetite for more advanced techniques later. Again these are mainly concerned with producing shapes of various sorts but there is plenty to give you ideas of your own.

The chapter on Sound and Music is more interesting as, strangely, hardly anyone seems to have explored the sound capabilities of the ST. At least you will be able to start producing some music and sound effects with the information given here which generally has not been easily available elsewhere.

Much of the power of the ST is not accessible from BASIC but there are commands which can be used to access many of the routines built into the operating system and VIEWSYS is correct. A whole chapter is devoted to this command and, for someone who has programmed before, this is probably the most valuable chapter in the book giving a taste of just what is possible with the ST. The remainder of the book, including the chapter on Forth seems to be there for the sake of filling up the book but will provide interesting information in the first time user.

Overall very much an introductory book which users experienced with 8-bit Acorns might find somewhat dull but worthwhile for anyone who has those language skills and wants to do something on his ST.

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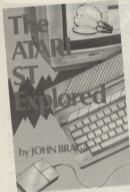
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The ATARI ST Explored by John Braga Kuma Computers Ltd. £8.95

is the first time a book has covered this specifically for the ST. From here onwards, the heading of chapter 17 says it all - Hackers, Start Here!

Over half of the book is devoted to all those things that programmers want to know, bits of code to show you how to access windows, menus and the like. This section begins with a list of memory addresses in low RAM and is followed by details of the BIOS interface with a list of all the normal BIOS commands and examples of how to use them in both C and Assembler. Next comes the TOS interface and the GEM interface and the 'Line A' interface. All these are treated in similar fashion with a full list of commands and Assembler routines for you to explore and put into your own programs. Finally comes four real problems or programming projects to show you how to put all this knowledge to good use.

The projects include how to alter the RAM based TOS, how to change the on-screen font, how to change the 'Times' font descriptions and how to patch in a directory printer. Work through these and you should be well on your way to building your own programs.

The book is rounded off with a discussion of accessing the outside world through the serial port which will help a lot of people and a round up of software which will inevitably become dated but is a good reference for the first time buyer.

In my opinion Kuma have come up with the best book so far published on the ST. It covers far more than many of the books so far published, which often have been just an extension of the manual, and is ideal for anyone who has some experience of computing but little knowledge of the ST. The only thing that lets the book down is a lot of 'jokey' notes such as 'This is a diagram of a blank page' which tend to make anyone flicking through the book think that it is just another worthless tome whose author is struggling to fill the pages. Not so. A fine book published in Britain and priced at just £8.95. If you want to do more than just click that mouse on ready made programs you will find your money well spent.

reviewed by Les Ellingham

All the well known publishers are working on or have released their first ST books but here we have a book published by a software company. Can it compete with the full time publishers? You bet it can, it is probably the best book yet published for the average user of the ST. While it covers the usual introduction to the system, and BASIC and LOGO it is full of little snippets which others have failed to discover and goes much further with good details about aspects of the Operating System, and how to access them via 68000 machine code or C.

Even if you are already familiar with the GEM on-screen reading through the introductory chapters of this book will probably teach you one or two things you did not know such as how to change the names of the disk drive icons or properly install applications. Once you have read this section you should be quite familiar with GEM and will feel quite comfortable in progressing through the chapters dealing with the Operating System, VDI and BIOS etc. The section on BASIC is quite small but does not mess around and goes straight into TINYYS calls from BASIC and is therefore likely to be of much more interest to experienced BASIC programmers than other 'introductory' books. LOGO receives its usual mention before the book introduces 68000 machine code via the R-SERA Assembler (published by guess who?) which, as far as I am aware,

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Smartsheet

Much of the interest in the ET is in the business software available for it is quite possible to use the 8-bit machines for certain business applications. Spreadsheets are an example with *Visicalc* and *Spreads* available. If you haven't tried them, your machine *Smartsheet* may be the ideal introduction. If you have only a limited need for a spreadsheet, *Smartsheet* may well do all you want.

Smartsheet is a spreadsheet calculator which is extremely handy for financial forecasting, budgeting or any calculations that involve many variables. Due to its need for two buffers, *Smartsheet* will only work on a GLE cassette or MSX disk system as a minimum.

The on-screen worksheet is divided up into cells or grid coordinates, arranged 15 columns across (A-O) and 40 rows down. Examples of cell references are A1, C11, B11, etc. Due to the cell format (just 8000 cells) it is only possible to display a portion of the worksheet on the screen, so in order to view different areas of the worksheet, the screen acts as a scrolling window over the worksheet.

OPERATION

To attempt to explain how to operate a spreadsheet in a few pages is an easy task. Those already familiar with spreadsheets (e.g. *VISCICALC*, *VENCALC*), should feel at home since *Smartsheet* is basically styled after *VISCICALC*. To newcomers, I hope the following will be enough to get you started.

When *Smartsheet* is on, the screen is divided into two sections. The upper blue screen is the input window, which displays different screens, input prompts, error messages and the current cell co-



SMARTSHEET first appeared in *Aviation*, the newsletter of A.C.E. (N.S.F.), G.P.O. Box 4314, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia 2001

by Ken Shiu

ordinates. Below, is the grey worksheet screen, the window in the eye of the sheet. The black in error bar in the cursor and is controlled by the normal cursor control keys. Its initial position is cell A1.

Smartsheet recognises three cell types: Labels, Values or Formulas. Since *Smartsheet* only involves itself with number calculations, labels are for the user's benefit, similar to *REP's* in *BASIC*. They are usually placed in the columns left of a value, to identify it, e.g. SALES, COST, PROFIT, etc. Labels are exactly like the list of items on a shopping list. To store a label, position the cursor and type in the label, if the label is too long, the cursor will automatically be forwarded to the next column.

Values are numbers you input for the worksheet calculations to function properly. Values may take any form - positive, negative, decimal, etc. The use of values is similar to the prices used to items on a shopping list. Values are input by typing numbers directly into the cell. When the cursor is moved away, the value is stored in the right to skip the decimal places.

By pressing *OPTION*, formulas can be input into the current cell or answers to simple equations can be found. Note, values must be entered into the appropriate cells in a worksheet for a formula to function at all. *Smartsheet* gathers its input from cells mentioned within a formula and displays the result after all calculations are complete. After pressing *OPTION*, 'Formula' appears on the status line and on the input line you are asked whether the first number in the formula is to be a cell location or a number. The power of formulas in *Smartsheet*, is the ability to access values from other cells, e.g. a formula may calculate a *PROFIT* figure, and therefore will access the values you have input for *SALES* and *COST* and will make the necessary subtraction.

Next the desired operation has to be input - addition, subtraction, multiplication, division or exponent (power of). *Smartsheet* is limited to one operation per formula. After entering the 2nd number as a cell or number the full equation will be seen on the sheet. If no cells have been accessed, the formula will remain until they are calculated after pressing *START*.

A subset of the formula is the *SUM* function, which is accessed by typing a colon (:). The *SUM* function allows you to total values between one cell and another in a particular row or column. After typing a colon, the input line asks 'FROM CELL?'. Here you should enter the cell where the totalling will begin, e.g. A1. Your input will be registered in the brackets in the status line when 'TO CELL?' appears. Input the cell, where the totalling will end, e.g. A6. The input line will be cleared, and when you move the cursor off the formula cell, your *From* and *To* cells will be shown, e.g. A1:A6.

Once you have finished constructing your worksheet, complex with labels, values and formulas, press *START* to calculate the worksheet. The message 'Calculating...' will appear while *Smart-*

continued on page 11

does is computing answers. Calculating time depends on the number of formulas within the worksheet. When SmartSheet has finished, the screen will temporarily clear and the final worksheet will be seen with all formulas replaced with the results.

HELP

SmartSheet also has an optional menu bar aid while developing a worksheet. The menu is accessed by pressing SELECT. The menu "I L E S F M" will appear on the status line. Press the corresponding key to obtain these functions.

G - Global Formats Selects how values are to be formatted when input. Choose from Dollar, Normal and Integer formatting. Dollar will automatically change your input value to dollar and cent format. Normal will leave your value unaltered, while Integer will round your input to the next whole number.

L - Load Worksheets Loads a previously saved worksheet from a disk or cassette. Press D or C to select Disk or Cassette respectively. If using cassette follow the same procedure as loading BASIC programs. If using disk, you may either:

1. Press the bar to cycle through the SmartSheet workfiles on your disk and press RETURN to load the file displayed in the input window.

2. Input a filename directly on the input line and press RETURN to load it.

S - Save Worksheets Saves current worksheet in memory to either disk or cassette. Press D or C to select Disk or Cassette to save on respectively. SmartSheet saves the whole sheet, so cassette owners make sure you have about 50 cassette spaces on the cassette and be prepared to wait during saving and loading times! Disk owners have two choices (same procedure as Load function):

1. Press the space bar to cycle through the SmartSheet files on your disk and press RETURN to update or save over the file displayed in the input window.

2. Input a filename (3 letter limit) directly on the input line and press RETURN to save it. SmartSheet uses ".SH" as an extension so its saved worksheets is identical to them.

E - Erase Worksheets Clears the current worksheet from memory. The program will ask whether you wish to erase the current worksheet in memory. Type Y to erase, or any other key to return to the worksheet. If you type Y then the screen will temporarily clear and a clean worksheet will appear.

P - Print Worksheet Prints the current worksheet to a printer. Make sure your printer is ONLINE! First you will be asked to input the cell at the lower right corner of your worksheet (in order to define the bottom and rightmost column). After entering the cell co-ordinates, you may input printer control codes at the beginning of each row in the worksheet. Type Y to input control codes (e.g. double width for headings). If you don't wish to use printer codes, press RETURN to begin printing. If you type Y for printer codes input the row number to input the code. The program will send control code before printing the row. Next, type the code in and follow the same procedure to input more codes. When you have finished press RETURN to print the worksheet.

H - Home Cursor Returns the cursor to cell A1. When you are moving around the far corners of the worksheet it is handy to use this function instead of repeatedly using the cursor keys.

F - Help Screens Calling up this screen lists all the main keys and functions of SmartSheet.

That about wraps up the first area of SmartSheet. If you prefer to have the cursor move without having to use the CURSOR, and arrow keys simultaneously, just change the value equal to K in the lines 61,76,77 and 80 to 66,41,41 and 42 respectively.

EXAMPLE WORKSHEET

An actual example would better explain the basics behind a worksheet or "template", as shown in the two sample screens. Screen 1 shows a template in its raw state with all formulas being uncalculated. All headings and item names are examples of labels. Any character including numbers may be made into a label by typing an apostrophe before entering the label, e.g. the line of status ages beneath the heading.

The prices of the items are all values and have been Dollar formatted. The format has been changed to "Normal" mid-way to prevent quantity values being shown in dollar and cent format.

In the Examples, formulas are present. In cell D8, the value of cell B8 (price of chicken) will be multiplied by cell C8 (quantity of chicken). The results of this formula will be shown after calculation. The same applies to cell D18, where the item total (D15) is subtracted from the available cash (D14).

Cell D11 (item total) uses the SUM function. Upon calculation, SmartSheet will add all values from cell D6 to D10. SmartSheet calculates all formulas and sums from left to right, top to bottom on the worksheet.

When START is pressed, SmartSheet will pause to calculate and the result will appear as in Screen 2, where all formulas in the D column have been evaluated and replaced by a number. From here the user may experiment with different cash, price or quantity values to view the final outcome on Mrs Jones' purse. As can be seen in Screen 2, Mrs Jones will have trouble paying the bill with only thirty dollars.

Happily, I have made the versatility and applications of the spreadsheet more approachable. The spreadsheet is by far the greatest tool for financial planning. It can definitely save considerable time and effort. SmartSheet is by no means as powerful as commercial spreadsheets but it does help to fill the business software gap that Australian have been complaining about for some time. Maybe now you can justify all that money spent on computing!

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
CHICKEN	1.99	10	
BEEF	1.99	10	
PORK	1.99	10	
FISH	1.99	10	
EGGS	1.99	10	
MILK	1.99	10	
BREAD	1.99	10	
FRUIT	1.99	10	
TOTAL			

Screen 1

Screen 2

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
CHICKEN	1.99	10	19.90
BEEF	1.99	10	19.90
PORK	1.99	10	19.90
FISH	1.99	10	19.90
EGGS	1.99	10	19.90
MILK	1.99	10	19.90
BREAD	1.99	10	19.90
FRUIT	1.99	10	19.90
TOTAL			159.00

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- **PROOFING** - SEC is safe for your pool and your family.
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Smartsheet continued

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- GF 1680 2 *****

- GG 1680 2 *****

- GF 1680 2 *****

- EE 1680 2 *****

- EG 1680 2 *****

- EH 1680 2 *****

- EI 1680 2 *****

- EJ 1680 2 *****

- EK 1680 2 *****

- EL 1680 2 *****

- EM 1680 2 *****

- EN 1680 2 *****

- EO 1680 2 *****

- EP 1680 2 *****

- EQ 1680 2 *****

- ER 1680 2 *****

- ES 1680 2 *****

- ET 1680 2 *****

- EU 1680 2 *****

- EV 1680 2 *****

- EW 1680 2 *****

- EX 1680 2 *****

- EY 1680 2 *****

- EZ 1680 2 *****

Solve those TAPE PROBLEMS

by Derryck Croker

Some interest has been shown in a modification to the 418 recorder published by *ANTIC* magazine some time ago, known as the "Hi-Res" modification. No doubt the 1890 unit would benefit from the same type of modification, however be warned that if your cassette unit is still under warranty then you will void it if you open up the machine.

HOW DATA IS SAVED

To help us understand the reasoning behind this modification it would help us to look at how data is transferred to and from the cassette.

The data to be saved is fed into the tape buffer on Page 4 of the computer in blocks of 128 bytes at a time, and a pointer keeps track of when the buffer is full. When it is full, it is sent to tape and a further 128 byte block is loaded into the buffer. Additional information is added in each block as it is sent out in order to help the O.S. with housekeeping. Each block is preceeded with two marker bytes. This pair of bytes has a start bit, with the remainder set to alternating 1's and 0's. The byte pair is terminated with a stop bit. Following the markers is a control byte, and then the data, in 128 byte blocks as you will recall. Bringing up the rear is a checksum byte, which is the sum of all of the bytes making up this package, including the marker bytes. You will see that 132 bytes are thus required to complete the transfer of each block of data.

With one buffer full, we are ready to save it to tape. Each byte is examined, and every bit that is set is converted to a tone of 1927 Hz, and every one that is not set is converted to one of 1991 Hz, both tones supplied courtesy of POKETT.

So far so good, but we require to distinguish each block from the next, so a further marker tone is added to each block that is sent. You will have noticed this tone particularly when using LIST ("L"), as the length of the tone is quite long. Long enough in fact that when you ENTER the program back, BASIC has time to check each line for correct syntax before the next block of data arrives. As the program length grows so the time taken for this process increases, and finally the tape motor stops until the checking has been completed. The long gap between blocks allows the motor to restart when the next block is requested, and the motor has time to run up to speed again before the next block arrives.

So, we have converted our program into two audio tones to be recorded on tape, and so far we could have pressed an ordinary domestic recorder into service. However, there are no facilities in the computer to convert the one tones back into data. Instead they are converted back into data on the recorder using a process called FSK, or frequency shift keying. This is the reason why we must use the official Atari recorder, or try to interfere to one with a domestic recorder. Such an interface will convert the two tones into an, usually employing a circuit called a phase locked loop, not something we will go into now, but if you wish to buy one there may very well be facilities for remote control of your recorder and that it takes advantage of the "send through" capability. The recorder will require a remote control switch and it must be wired for these two items in function.

WHY A MODIFICATION?

And now we get to the *ANTIC* modification. As we have seen, the requirements for converting the two tones (we will call the 1927Hz tone a 'mark' and the 1991Hz tone a 'space') is met by circuitry inside the cassette deck. On playback, the tones from the playback head are fed to two filter circuits, each of which is designed to pass through only the tone for which it has been used. The outputs from both filters, of which one will only pass a 'mark' and the other a 'space', are then fed to another circuit called a comparator, and the output from this is the data, formed from 1's and 0's, just as it was inside the computer when we saved it to tape.

Assuming, then, that no spurious signals have interfered with the data to your computer, what happens next? Well, the data, now in digital form as we have seen, is received in the tape buffer in the same order that it was sent, that is two marker bytes, a control byte, the block of data and bringing up the rear, the checksum byte.

The two marker bytes are used by the O.S. to set the baud rate for that block by storing the current VCOUNT value from *ANTIC* when the start bit arrives. The alternating 1's and 0's are counted off until the stop bit is reached, whereupon the current house counter is compared with the VCOUNT value previously stored. The resulting time elapsed allows the O.S. to determine the speed at which the next block is to arrive as it is necessary to maintain a pointer to keep track of incoming data to determine when the buffer is full. You will see that this calculation is carried out for each block which allows adjustment for stretched tape or motor speed (within reason).

The baud rate has a default setting of 960 by the way, but can vary from 118 to 1985. It is possible to change the baud rate with a suitable program, but it is likely that suitable results will occur if speeds above 960 are used due to limitations within the system.

The control byte's only function is to inform the O.S. that the end of the file has been reached.

The checksum byte, which we have seen is the sum of all the bytes in the particular block, completes the procession. It is obvious that a single byte cannot possibly store such a large number that usually results, so a complicated formula is used to reduce the sum to a reasonable figure, so it does when the figure was originally compared.

This checksum as received from tape is compared with another computed from the present contents of the buffer, and if there are any discrepancies due perhaps to spurious data introduced in the FSK demodulating process then the loading process stops and we go an error, 143.

That is the theory anyway. Many things conspire against the successful retrieval of data. One of them is that Atari used components in the filters that were not of the highest tolerance.

continued on page 7

TAPE PROBLEMS

continued

That is to say that the values of the resistors used in this part of the circuit could vary from the designed values by up to 10%. It is therefore possible that the response of the filters may then become inaccurate and thus pass through the tone designated by the other filter.

The '48 K Ω modification solves the problem by the replacement of 4 resistors, 3 per filter, with ones of the same value but of the much closer tolerance of 1%.

And the resistors to be changed? Below you will find the components needed for both the 410 and 1010 units. If you cannot read resistor colour codes or would a soldering iron then you may care check the panel with this article.

410		1010	
Ref	Value	Ref	Value
R10	68K	R11	68K
R11	56K	R12	56K
R12	78 Ω	R13	10K
R13	33 Ω	R15	68 Ω
R14	500 Ω	R16	300 Ω
R15	240K	R14	300K

Two of these resistors, R14 and R15 (and the corresponding 1010 components) are connected to a feedback loop from the LM318 IC, from pin 7 to 4 and 1 to 2 respectively.

The remaining resistors set up D-C, bias levels and input levels. Some testing of the circuit is required to locate these components on the 410 board, however the 1010 has the reference numbers printed on the board. Look for two pairs of capacitors on the 410 board of value 0.001 μ F, and you should find that each pair is connected across R14 and R15 respectively. You should now be able to find R14 and R15 connected to the

junction of one pair of capacitors, and you should find that R12 is connected to earth, and R11 and R13 to the junction of the other pair of capacitors. In this case R13 is connected to earth. As a final check, the other ends of R10 and R11 are connected together, and it is this junction which carries the output from the playback amplifier, pin 16 of the IC.

IDENTIFY YOUR PROBLEM FIRST

I said that many things conspire against the successful transfer of data from tape, and if you are having difficulties you must ascertain whether the problem is due to the one outlined, or whether another problem exists. If you find that tapes recorded on your machine won't load, but load correctly on other machines then the above fix will probably deal with the problem, and no doubt you will have had problems with commercial programs too. Another problem exists if tapes recorded on your machine load back but not on other machines, and in this case it is likely that the record/playback head requires adjustment. This is a job best left to an Atari service centre.

In our seemingly never-ending mission to achieve good results from the cassette recorder we must also service it from time to time. No recorder whether digital or Hi-Fi can be expected to give off its best if the heads or the tape transport mechanism are dirty. Filthy capstans and pinch-rollers cause tape speed variations and -skipped up heads may prevent the successful reading of the data from tape.

The technique is simple. Obtain some cotton buds and a can of electrical cleaner. Check first that it does not contain any lubricant, I use B.S. cleaning fluid.

Spray the bud and press the 'PLAY' button on the deck to make the heads move into a position where they can be cleaned with a gentle up-and-down movement with the bud. Work quickly as the cleaner rapidly evaporates. You will see the capstan and rubber pinchwheel to the right of the heads. Run BASS; and type, in direct mode, PULSE 2400,1,2 RE-TURN. With the capstan now turning clean it and the pinchwheel with the bud. Finally, stop the machine and remove any loose cotton wool with your finger nail. You will find that surprising amounts of brown tape deposit collect, and often this deposit will be the cause of loading errors.

This cleaning process is also invaluable on plug-in boards such as cartridges and edge connectors on memory boards etc. in which the 010 should!

The author is willing to undertake this modification and some others for a small fee. Please note that this service is supplied directly by the author and not through PAGE 4 which can accept no responsibility for any problems which may arise.

The services offered and costs are as follows.

410/1010 resistors change inc. components, clean heads and pinchwheel. £3.50

410 addition of red LED 'busy' lamp to illuminate when drive motor active. Specify left or right hand fitting. £1.00

1010 Remote control LED to illuminate only when transport controls present. £1.00

Send your cassette units and power supply only. Please note that I cannot undertake to repair faulty units. There are charges on postal orders, and you must include return carriage. Don't forget your return address. Make a careful note of the serial number of the machine before you send it.

Please telephone me first with your requirements on 0911 670119, Dorset City Centre.

Good afternoon van de Nederlandse lezers van **PAGE 4** en het volledige service pakket is

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THE SLAVE

by Peter and Stephen O'Connell

If you ever wondered why it was so difficult to buy an adventure creation system for the ATARI computers, wonder no more. **THE SLAVE** is here. Now look at what The Slave has to offer and start to wonder again - about how all these features can possibly be available in a single package...

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TRICKY

CUBES

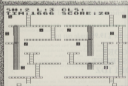
TRICKY CUBES does not aim to attract people whose interest in computer gaming is mainly concentrated on increasing their high scores by continuously hitting fast moving and/or easy targets, though it requires quite some skill in joystick handling to successfully pass through all six screens. The challenge of TRICKY CUBES is more in the strategic approach to find the most economic and the least time-consuming path to reach the final goal of the game. Therefore, people who consider a 'fast thumb' to be the most desirable attribute for a successful 'high score' should be warned that they may find TRICKY CUBES somewhat slow. Others though will find it quite a challenge.

THE GAME

The goal of TRICKY CUBES is quite simply to manoeuvre a little character - let us name him 'Clanney Pete' - safely through six different screens and to pass and/or use all sixty cubes placed on the screens, in the shortest time possible.

This does not sound too exciting nor particularly tricky, but the secret with these cubes is that some of them, when touched and moved, only increase the score whereas others additionally open and/or close downward chutes. This can either facilitate the straight continuation of Clanney Pete's path to reach the next cube or may result in a longer and more risky detour. Involuntarily falling down a chute may force Pete to use a dangerous moving bar to continue his path. It may even happen that once a chute is opened or closed it remains so until the end of the game and some of the cubes will be out of the reach of Pete. This is where the challenge begins and is why we call these cubes 'tricky'. It is unlikely that you will manage to complete all six screens before finding out how some of the cubes influence the structure of the chutes. This is the way to gain experience in solving certain cubes attached to the early stage of the game and only moving them when the most favourable order is evident.

When beginning the game, or upon entering a new lap, the starting position of Clanney Pete is always situated on screen No. 1. Each screen provides six transitions to adjacent screens that can be passed at any time. This is illustrated in the accompanying printout of screen No. 1.



Screen 1

The horizontal transition steps to adjacent screens are **PRINT** to a value of 1 and the corresponding value for vertical transitions between screens is 2. For these initial conditions, the following transitions to adjacent screens are possible with the starting screen always being No. 1:

3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4
7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2
3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4

This configuration applies only to the first lap after booting the game. When the 'GAME OVER' display appears after either the number of lives equals zero or the allowed time has elapsed or when all cubes have been successfully moved, the next lap is enabled through pushing the **START** key. Then, the horizontal and vertical screen transition values are randomly chosen allowing for a total of 36 additional variations of adjacent screen configurations. Only the starting position of Clanney Pete remains unchanged, it is always on screen No. 1. Each time the game is played therefore, alternative strategies are required and consequently the player is forced to memorize the changing screen configurations.

MOVEMENT

The movements of Clanney Pete are easy enough. Movements to the right or to the left on the griders as well as up and down on the ladders are enabled by pushing the joystick into the desired direction. The trigger causes Pete to jump for cubes. Cubes touched will disappear from the screens until the end of the game.

Upon contact with a moving bar Pete will be automatically lifted up or pushed down as long as no joystick signals cause him to leave the bar. To disembark from this platform requires split second timing by moving in the direction of an adjacent gridler. If you miss that fraction of a second the number of lives will be reduced by one.

SCORING

The scoring of TRICKY CUBES is as follows:

10 points are awarded for touching and/or using any of the cubes. Once all ten cubes are removed from one screen you are rewarded with a bonus dependent on the time indicated on the display. This time dependent scoring encourages special strategies to complete individual screens in the early stages of the game rather than following the most economic path to remove all 60 cubes.

Track of the actual situation is kept by displaying the major **SCORE** at the top of the screens. Upon **START**ing a new round, time countdown starts at 2000 time units. The number of lives still left and the actual score are also shown. If you want to know which screen Clanney Pete is actually moving in you should have a look at the upper left corner of the display. Additionally, once you have removed the last cube from a screen, the number of this screen together with all screens completed so far is indicated in the right part of the screen display. This allows for quick information about the screens still to be cleared at any stage of the game.

TRICKY CLUBS

BY PETER AND STEPHAN OHLMAYER
 TRICKY CLUBS HAS TAKEN THE WORLD OF VIDEO GAMES BY STORM. IT'S THE MOST ADDICTIVE AND CHALLENGING GAME YOU'VE EVER PLAYED. YOU'VE GOT TO BE FAST AND ACCURATE TO GET THE GREAT SCORE. IT'S THE ONLY GAME YOU'VE EVER PLAYED THAT'S SO ADDICTIVE THAT YOU'VE EVER PLAYED.

by Peter and Stephan Ohlmayer

PLAY IT!

This is almost everything you must know about TRICKY CLUBS. Now you only have to play it and you will find out the yourself whether it really is tricky or not. I hope that you will have as much fun trying to solve it as we (the game was programmed together with my 14 year old son) had developing it and making it tricky.

When finally trying to get through to a "happy" end you might get the impression that it is very unlikely to succeed in crossing all colors before the time has run out. Believe me that it is not impossible (and it is very easy) to maneuver Chummy Pats through all handicaps until the screen finally turns into the "GREAT SCORE" display. When you have succeeded in reaching the GREAT SCORE, you should try Listing 2. This is the "ultimate" challenge!

THE LISTINGS

There is nothing very particular about the listings. Together with the list of variables and the program breakdown they are more or less self-explanatory. Just type in listing 1 correctly and see it coded as comments. If you are using disk use a filename such as "TRICKYSOURCE.BAS". Now you simply have to RUN the game as described above.

For all those who after some practice have managed to see the GREAT SCORE, and they tend to share our opinion that TRICKY CLUBS analysis is tricky and challenging enough to deserve its name, we have added listing 2 which contains six completely different and much more sophisticated versions. This advanced version is what we consider to be the "real" challenge.

If you follow covered by the initial version to also experience the advanced level, take the time to type in listing 2 as a separate listing and save it using the LIST command. If you are using cassette type LIST "C:" in case it is tape. If you are using disk type LIST "D:\TRICKYSOURCE.BAS". Next LOAD or LOAD Listing 1 and then ENTER Listing 2 by typing ENTER "C:" or ENTER "D:\TRICKYSOURCE.BAS". The two listings will then merge into one and you are ready to RUN the advanced version.

It would be interesting for us to know how long it took until you saw the GREAT SCORE of this version without changing the time units set to 400. It is possible.

```

01 1 REM *****
02 2 REM *          TRICKY CLUBS          *
03 3 REM *          BY                        *
04 4 REM * PETER and STEPHAN OHLMAYER *
05 5 REM *          *****          *
06 6 REM *          PACE & MAGNETIC - EMDL80 *
07 7 REM *****
08 8 REM
09 10 REMPPROCS LP1FORM P00,LP1FORM P10,LP
10 11 PPO11FORM S,1017 NS11"CARDS"PPR11FORM
11 12 4,1017 NS11"*****"
12 13 P00 P00 400 00 P0010001 M1000000 01P0
13 14 P00,010000 000,010000 0010
14 15 P00 P000 P00,010000 00,010000 002,01P
15 16 000 00000,010017,0014
16 17 00 0010,00000P000100001P10P0000001
17 18 0 000
18 19 000 000 0000 0000 000P 000
19 20 0100000011P 1100110100 1000 00000
20 21 000
21 22 00000000101001010000P 000P 100
22 23 0000P00000 000
23 24 00 IF 0011 1000 0000P1,00000 010
24 25 00 P000 00000,010000 000,00000 000,1P
25 26 0000 00000 00000 1000
26 27 100 IF P00100001 1000 400
27 28 100 LOCATE 10-0401,04,100111-0111-000 ,
28 29 11P 00111 00 00100 1000 P00P0000P0
29 30 100
30 31 100 IF 00100 1000 010
31 32 100 IF 00100 1000 010
32 33 100 00000 100000 00
33 34 100 000000 001001000000-000100000
34 35 010000 000100000 00000000 1011P 000
35 36 10 0010 000 00000 110
36 37 100 IF 10041 00 10110 1000 110
37 38 100 LOCATE 10-0401,04,100111-0111-000 ,
38 39 11P 00100 1000 00
39 40 100 0000 100
  
```

Line	Function
10-40	initial data
50-70	while loop
120-130	while-never-start
150-160	move values and display screen
180-220	player movement routines
240-280	check on moving by
300-350	player dead
420-500	open and close doors
600-750	main table game over, user input
1000-1100	variable list
1200-1300	array values and their meaning
1400-1500	function list
1600-1700	174 initialization
1800-1900	checkboxes set from ROM to RAM
2000-2100	positions for colors and bars
2400-2500	DATA

Variable Name	Description
ANS	No of lines
BP1000	horizontal position of moving bar
Y1000	Y value
CBAR	flag for opening and closing of bars
CD	color to move character on
CDL	flag to open 11BART on non screen transition values
CDR	non character without
CDT	into string
CDU	Time (hours) of PM server
CPROG	PROGRAM-Compiling
DV0	actual player steps
DV1	steps of moving bar
FD0	player on ladder on jumping
FD1	player moving left
FD2	player moving right
FD3	player in status
FD4	status when the
FD5	is
FD6	is
FD7	time units actually left
FD8	number of seconds completed
FD9(N00)	flag the table positions
G, T	actual player positions
NC, SC	color positions
SL, FL	flag for values to be created
TS	vertical positions of moving bars
US	any width for the movement



```

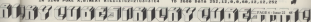
00 2000 T " bcdabceda          *****
00000000 71
01 2000 T " 001
02 2000 001 71
03 2000 T " 001          bcdabceda 00000000 71
04 2000 T " 001          0017 011
05 2000 T " bcdabceda 0017 011
06 2000 T " 001 0017 011 0
07 2000 T "          011
08 2000 T "          1 011
09 2000 T "          011 000000
10 2000 T "          011 71
11 2000 T " bcdabceda000000000000000000000000
12 2000 T " 001 1 011 0
13 2000 T " 001 011
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15 2000 T "          011 000000
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70 2000 T " bcdabceda          *****
71 2000 T " 001
72 2000 001 71
73 2000 T " 001          bcdabceda 00000000 71
74 2000 T " 001          0017 011
75 2000 T " bcdabceda 0017 011
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77 2000 T "          011
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GOTO DIRECTORY

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Retailers who are interested in an entry in this list are should contact the Editor on 0783 213928

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First Steps

COPY

Another look at

WRITE A GAME

plus some problems

Cliff Winship from Gloucester has been a real eager beaver since "WRITE-A-GAME" appeared. I have included his routine to allow the computer to choose and play. The first thing that I noted was that he had read my article on Boolean algebra (issue 18) and included a sample in line 10020. He also made use of the ON GOTO routine instead of separate lines using the IF statement (line 10034).

Unfortunately no-one seems to have tried the 'homework', i.e. storing previous choices and comparing them. Cliff used a random routine which will work well but will not give an intelligent game. So, in an effort to elicit some reader responses I will offer a tutorial tape to the person who comes up with the best answer to this problem by 15th July. I would ask that the more experienced programmers leave this little problem to the novices, after all this is their column! Failing all this I guess I will just have to rack my brains and come up with some sort of solution - right!

Tape Problems

I noticed in issue 21 that Nick from South Wirral had a faulty 418. I would like to suggest some possible remedies for similar 418's (or 1M0's, or even XC's). The most common cause of tape failure concerns the read/write heads. These tend to pick up airborne dust and grease as well as the usual ferric dust from the tapes. This is easy to cure - just give them a wipe with a soft cloth or cotton bud soaked in a proprietary degreaser and then wipe dry. Make sure the cotton bud is not held on with adhesive! When my brother worked for Grundy he used carbon tetrachloride as a degreaser. This is carcinogenic (cancer causing) and is now banned, so be careful what you use and always wash your hands afterwards. As a pinch, he used lighter fuel - the aerosol variety! The heads can be cleaned more easily by opening the lid, pushing the little silver lever at the left rear of the tape compartment and pressing the PLAY button to extend the head platters.

Tape heads sometimes tend to hold magnetic flux (becoming a magnet and thus corrupting tape data). Manufacturers deny this with modern materials, but it is known to happen - why else can you buy de-gaussers? The de-gaussers, a device used to remove the flux, can be a hand held device or come in the shape of a cassette. They can be borrowed from some hi-fi libraries, but they are cheap. If you know anything about the Philadelphia Experiment please do not panic, de-gaussing is not so catastrophic!

The last item is seldom mentioned but is a contributing factor. The 418 is belt driven and the belt will age and stretch over a period of years. Belt slippage causes speed fluctuations

and will make the tapes unreadable. Belts are only a few pence from most hi-fi or electronic shops (e.g. Maplin).

Drive Heads

I was recently asked by Stan Fallaise to recommend a good drive head cleaner. This is a real controversial subject, and whoever you talk to will have a different opinion on it. Although the drive head is extremely close to (but not touching) the disk and therefore not picking up ferric oxides as well as tape head, the coating is open to airborne intrusion of dust, grease and other 'crud'. I believe that the use of a wet cleaner applied for a few seconds, once a month, will not go amiss. The only bad bit is the dreadful 'sizzling' noise your drive will make when it looks at the cleaning disk on, unfortunately, ATARI drives do not have a cleaning cycle. (Just to confuse you, I have never cleaned the heads on my drive and they probably got ten times more use than most people's do! lol.)

To aid this best of spring cleaning I would recommend that the edge terminations of cartridges be cleaned with a liquid and soft cloth. Do not use anything abrasive with the contacts, they are gold coated to stop contamination and corrosive welding. My ATARIWRITER cartridge will sometimes do weird things and dirty edge connections are the cause.

Bugs

As an aside, do you know the origins of the words 'bug' and 'debug'? Well, when computers were in their infancy they were room sized and had to be very well ventilated. This left them open to various small insects which crawled or flew into the computer, landing on terminals and causing short circuits. Every so often the engineers had to go inside the computer and hunt out these bugs. Fascinating stuff!

I look forward to some hints about future editions of this column, as well as answers to the above problem. Don't forget you can always write to me at P.O. Box 123, Belfast, BT10 8BB

by Mark Hutchinson



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MJ 10000 0700 1000 000400-0
00 10000 07 007000 07000000 07000000 070000
000 07000000 07000000 07000000 07000000
1E 10000 00 0 0070 10000,10000,10000,1000
0,10000,10000,10000,10000,10000
ML 10000 0070 10010
07 10000 LOCATE 0,0,0,0 IF 00010 THEN IF 0
0000 THEN POSITION 0,0,0 00,00,007000
00 10000 LOCATE 00,0,0,0 IF 00010 THEN IF
00000 THEN POSITION 00,0,0 00,00,0070
1E
1E 10000 LOCATE 00,0,0,0 IF 00010 THEN IF
00000 THEN POSITION 00,0,0 00,00,0070
00
07 10000 LOCATE 0,0,0,0 IF 00010 THEN IF 0
0000 THEN POSITION 0,0,0 00,00,007000
1E 10000 LOCATE 00,0,0,0 IF 00010 THEN IF
00000 THEN POSITION 00,0,0 00,00,0070
00
07 10000 LOCATE 00,0,0,0 IF 00010 THEN IF
00000 THEN POSITION 00,0,0 00,00,0070
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07 10000 LOCATE 0,0,0,0 IF 00010 THEN IF 0
0000 THEN POSITION 0,0,0 00,00,007000
01 10000 LOCATE 00,0,0,0 IF 00010 THEN IF
00000 THEN POSITION 00,0,0 00,00,0070
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07 10000 LOCATE 00,0,0,0 IF 00010 THEN IF
00000 THEN POSITION 00,0,0 00,00,0070
00
01 10000 0070 10010
  
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13. Dragon Quest and Stonequest

I estimate that there are close to nine hundred Adventures available for the Mac. These range from simple BASIC language puzzles and adventures through to intricate, multi-linguistic epic fantasies. In fact, the quality varies from lower through to the light with prices usually being indicative of quality. Fortunately for (most) owners, very few Mac Adventures fail like the "badly" category, but those in the "too cheap" category tend to be a bit pricy.

Dragon is a 3 1/2 disk, you find something out of the ordinary - something that really makes you sit up and pay attention. Continuing this theme, you begin to view with the most expensive commercial Adventures, Dragon Quest and Stonequest are commercial Adventures. If you've never heard of these before, then I'm not surprised. These Adventures cannot be bought over the country or your local computer store. They are only available by mail order from the U.S.A. and hence are not very well known - although they deserve to be. Both are top quality games. Buy them if you can. I doubt that you'll be disappointed.

DRAGON QUEST

or A Twist in the Tail

Dragon Quest is an illustrated Adventure written in BASIC and machine language by Ed Chastrow. It is just one of the many fine programs available from the APS Classic in Japan magazine's most very catalogue. Unfortunately, it is the only Adventure.

The game comes on a double-sided disk. You should begin by looking at the menu which contains all the instructions. You will be given the option of printing the instructions to the screen or a printer. Choose the printer option if you've got one as the instructions are very lengthy - certainly too much to remember in one sitting. They give a helpful overview of the game, system requirements, loading instructions, very thorough playing instructions, additional notes, game playing hints and three appendices. It's a pity that instructions for all commercial Adventures aren't this thorough. The playing instructions make a mistake that the author has put a helpful warning into making the game easy to use. For example, you can save up to ten games on each disk and this can be on a second drive to avoid disk swaps. To get in format, a disk or get a directory of the saved games and file space available from within the game, you can keep a record of your quest on a printer (a bit tedious) and print toggle the various character on an and off (a bit better). Ahem.

As if that's not enough, the author even has an answer to the "hidden death syndrome" common in many Adventures. While you carry out some action that causes your demise, you may be offered a second chance. The program asks "Would you like to try that again?" If you answer "YES", you can continue on from the previous position though nothing had happened. Great stuff. When you're finished with the

instructions, flip the disk to side 1 and boot the main program.

Dragon Quest begins in a forest. Isn't it amazing how many Adventures start in a forest? I often wonder how you get there in the first place. Anyway, this particular forest and all subsequent locations are depicted by brightly coloured pictures in GRAPHICS 7. The resolution of GRAPHICS 7 is a little better than what you've probably used to in an illustrated Adventure, but it doesn't detract from the game. The pictures have been drawn using Paint (Raster/Star) and Draw II (APS/Amix), and have been saved in a compressed format so that they load very quickly. But back to the game...

It just so happens that a sign is posted to a nearby tree in the forest. Upon reading the sign, you find that the king is offering a large reward for some unspecified task. Now being the adventurous type (never hungry?), you set off to see the king for more details. When you find him, he reveals that he and the princess were once hunting in the forest when they became separated from the main party. While wandering about by themselves, a dragon swooped down and carried the princess away. The king knows that the princess is dead, but wants you to find and kill the dragon and return with the princess' pendant as proof of your success. Only then will he give you your reward. However, he is good enough to give you 500 gold pieces to use in your quest.

Now that your aim is clear, you can set off and explore the castle and the forest and anything else that pops up along the way. Note that important items are sometimes shown in the picture, but not in the description and vice versa, so examine everything! Be careful in the forest. It is in fact a maze, but not worth exploring. Read the scene descriptions carefully as each one is unique.

The game is absolutely riddled with hints and bonuses, but it's sometimes hard to distinguish between the two. It is sometimes only in retrospect that you realise a humorous line was actually a subtle clue. Therefore, don't take anything for granted. And don't be shy! Talk to anyone and everyone...and then not Miss importantly, this game is very logical. There is a reason for everything and nothing is random!

Dragon Quest comes close to the perfect blend of subtle clues, interesting puzzles, humour and downright fun. It even has an element of mystery that I've never encountered before in an Adventure. Just like an Agatha Christie novel, there is a twist in the ending, hence the sub-title "A Twist in the Tail". There's even a twist in the sub-title! (By its own lead and ignores the spelling. Go it!) I did find a couple of minor bugs, but even those were humorous. Can you imagine my surprise when a certain save/load sequence gave me a picture of a dragon superimposed over the king!

Finally, just to top everything off, a successful completion of the game rewards you with a completely unexpected surprise. I won't reveal the surprise, but it did induce a great feeling of pride and achievement unlike anything I'd experienced with

by Garry Francis of Sydney, Australia

other Adventures. I'm not sorry that it's over. A sequel was mentioned in the instructions of another APE Classic called *Drew*. If Let's hope this comes to fruition. Anyway, if you want a refreshingly different Adventure with just the right level of difficulty, try *Dragon Quest*. It's the best game I've played for ages.

Dragon Quest costs just US\$11.99 plus US\$6.00 for return airmail postage. You can pay using VISA, Mastercard or an international cheque in U.S. dollars payable to a U.S. bank. Send your order to Arctic Product Catalog, 524 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94107, U.S.A.

STONEQUEST

or

The Quest for the Great Stone of Prosperity

Stonequest is an all-text Adventure written by David Terzillo. It is again written in BASIC which proves that this language is more than adequate for a fast reacting, complex Adventure when placed in the hands of a competent author.

The six double-spaced pages of instructions for *Stonequest* are nowhere near as thorough as those for *Dragon Quest*, but adequate just the same. They consist of a title page, a lengthy background story and helpful playing instructions. The background story tells how a struggling alchemist created a stone that magically gave prosperity to whoever owned it. He gave this to the king of Paradise, hoping that the kingdom would prosper. And it did. Unfortunately, the king did not give credit to the alchemist, but claimed that he'd invented the stone himself. The alchemist became angry and bitter and soon turned to evil. When the king died, his son Wooney took over the throne. Wooney was a good king, but "not well endowed in the brain department". The alchemist was able to trick Wooney and steal back the stone. Without the stone, prosperity left the kingdom and "the Paradise stock market crashed". King Wooney summoned the greatest adventurers in the land to try and recover the Great Stone of Prosperity (as it had become known), but none were successful. In desperation, he offered "the greatest reward imaginable" for the recovery of the stone and this is where you enter the picture.

Stonequest is actually three games in one. When you first boot the disk, you are presented with a simple title screen - hits asks you to enter a password or press RETURN. The first time you play the game you won't know any passwords, so just press RETURN. However, when you later complete part 1, you will be given a password which you should write down for future reference. It will disappear when part 2 has finished loading. Whenever you reboot the disk, you can enter this password to skip directly to part 2 without having to replay part 1. Similarly, when you complete part 2, you will be given another password which allows you to skip directly to part 3. This is a novel idea which not only makes use from the user's point of view, but also allows the author to requote a lot more Adventures out of the machine than would normally be possible in a single BASIC program.

Part 2 starts outside the royal palace. From here, you can explore the countryside of Paradise (including the fountain another author) and the township of Grew. There aren't many locations, but the descriptions are very lengthy and full of atmosphere. Once you've mapped the area and found the only object lying around, you may be left wondering what leads next. I should warn you that magic is conspicuous in this

kingdom. The puzzles you need to solve and the objects needed to solve them are very cleverly concealed all around you. Give it some thought and you'll find that the solution to part 2 is actually fairly easy. The last puzzle very shamefully forces you to drop all objects so that you can sprint through a trapdoor. This leaves you empty handed when you start part 2.

Part 2 is not completely underground. When you will meet two particularly nasty characters and solve equally nasty puzzles. Magic again comes in the form of more ways than one. At one point you find a small metal container. If you pick it up and repeat your actions, you find another metal container. If you take one of these to another room, then return and again repeat your actions, you'll find yet another metal container! Ad infinitum. A cynic would say there's a bug in the program, but I know magic when I see it! Anyway, with a little persistence, you'll eventually find the wizard's lair and in the game's instructions and get sucked into the third and final part of the game.

Boy, this game gets harder and harder! Part 3 is set "in a dark and foreboding island". The dominant feature is a huge maze. It's really easy to map as all lines obey the laws of real life physics instead of Adventure physics, but it's HUGE - about 200 rooms! Make sure you map it all or you may miss some important items. The closing chapters of the game include some more magic and a couple of puzzles before entering the Black Fortress for the final showdown with the Evil Alchemist and (spoiler!) the recovery of the Great Stone of Prosperity. Phew!

Stonequest is another great game for the price. It's a bit harder than *Dragon Quest*, but takes an equally light-hearted and head-on approach which makes it all the more enjoyable. If you like your Adventures, give *Stonequest* a go!

Stonequest costs US\$11.99 plus US\$6.00 for return airmail postage. It is available from Lonsdale's, 15445 Yukon Boulevard, Suite 100, Sherman Oaks, CA 91416, U.S.A. Unfortunately, Lonsdale's will not accept credit cards, so you'll have to send an international cheque in U.S. dollars payable to a U.S. bank. (Money orders or International Money Order or air freight of *Axis*, etc.) I notice that Lonsdale's haven't had their usual advertisements in recent issues of *Arctic* and *ANALOG*, so you might be well advised to write a letter before sending any money, just to make sure they're still in business.

New Issue

I haven't made any firm plans for next issue although I've tentatively thinking of a trip to outer space. I've completed several Adventures recently, but most of them are the sort of rare and obscure titles (like *Dragon Quest* and *Stonequest*) that I really wish, yet most people haven't heard of. As usual, if you've got any criticisms, comments or suggestions for future issues, feel free to contact me at the address below.

Finally, my thanks to my regular Adventure reviewers, John Sweeney, for his judgement and *Arctic* (Issue 20). Your hot disk of Adventures is on the way!

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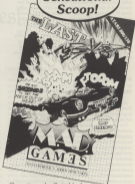
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Garry Francis' ADVENTURE HINTS

DRAGON QUEST:

1. Can't enter the castle?
33 30 11 40
2. Don't know whether to trust the King?
03 06 11 45 03 03 11 36 22 30 4 07 38
3. Can't enter the lair?
47 47
4. Can't find the wizard's hat?
20 30 4 17 38
5. Still can't find the wizard's hat?
30 48 23 66 11 43
6. Don't know whether to trust the King?
04 04 12 03 7 18 14 2
7. Can't open the door to the dragon?
21 30 4 17 38
8. Can't leave the castle without falling into the moat?
04 23 47 45 20 23
9. Don't know whether to trust the King?
18 34 9 11 45
10. Objects disappear when you drop them?
22 30 4 27 18
11. Can't find the disappearing object?
30 48 23 66 11 43
12. Can't climb the tree?
41 29
13. Can't get the castle?
33 30 4 17 38
14. Still getting killed?
45 42
15. Can't see in the cave?
04 34 42
16. Missing wood?
27 45
17. Missing flag?
37 14 16 28
18. Missing steel?
37 14 17 28
19. Who is what in Thar?
23 33 4 17 38
20. Can't get gold in Thar?
62 1
21. Missing a shield?
09 17 17 18
22. Haven't found the woodland stone?
30 33 11 36
23. Still haven't found the woodland stone?
04 4 34 33 37
24. Still haven't found the woodland stone?
32 36 44 11 3 28
25. Can't cross the stream?
60 42 31
26. Can't enter the woodland stone?
30 18
27. Can't open the safe?
17 28 29 28 40 38 28 58 28

28. Can't decipher the third scroll?
33 48 44 65
29. Still can't decipher the third scroll?
33 33 19 26
30. Can't get the shield out of the shrine?
62 21 11 4
31. Can't enter the pit?
24 08 11 43 28
32. Can't enter the chapel?
42 31
33. Missing a sword?
22 30 4 17 38
34. Can't find your way (4) through the maze of tunnels?
31 18 11 36
35. Troll kills you?
42 15 55
36. Missing a magic sword?
34 34 60 5
37. Can't afford the magic sword?
27 49
38. Can't cross the lava floor?
18 9 11 43
39. Still can't cross the lava floor?
5 14
40. Can't find the dragon?
24 28 31 36 23
41. Can't find your way OUT through the maze of tunnels?
15 30 12 36
42. Goblins kill you?
30 19 18
43. King throws you in the dragon?
16 14 26



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3. WELL	21. CLAP	39. BUT	57. BROWN
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8. AGAIN	26. DRAGON	44. CROWN	62. 150
9. WAGON	27. SEARCH	45. BEEP	63. SPOOLS
10. HELP	28. 1	46. ART	64. LETTER
11. 39	29. WOODS	47. 1. BATTLE	65. 100
12. 39	30. THING	48. 100	66. 100 FT
13. SUBSTITUTE	31. POINT	49. 100 FT	67. 11
14. 100 FT	32. BECOME	50. 100	68. 100
15. 100	33. POSTERS	51. 100 FT	69. 100
16. 100	34. 100	52. 100	70. 100
17. 11	35. 100	53. 100	71. 100
18. 100	36. COURTYARD	54. GIVE	72. 100

STONEQUEST:

PART 1:

1. Can't get past the road barrier?
1 24 46 13
2. Can't find anything to trade with that?
1 4 12 64 20 31
3. Still can't find anything to trade with that?
1 43 37 3 46 28
4. Can't find anything to trade with that?
8 44 49
5. Haven't found the treasure?
30 33 30 7 22
6. Can't pass the treasure?
19 42 47 1 44 48 28 23 41 21

PART 2:

7. Can't make sense of the inscription?
7 1 44 25 34

8. Can't get the castle?
7 1 44
9. Still can't get the castle?
40 43 30 15
10. Still can't get the castle?
40 23 34 30 31 46 22
11. Can't open the first cage?
36 43 2 29 11 1 13
12. Can't get past the cage?
34 5 49
13. Can't get past the cage?
41 3 39 39
14. Can't keep the monkey alive?
41 29 1 49
15. Can't find anywhere else to go?
44 1 30 15

PART 3:

16. What's a quick way out of the maze?
30 5 18

17. Can't find anywhere else to go?
27 42 15 17
18. Can't answer Edward's first riddle?
40 34 26 32 57 18
19. Can't answer Edward's second riddle?
9 1 03 03 43 22 1 42 16
20. Missing a gold coin?
41 3 42 17
21. Still missing a gold coin?
09 1 29 44 27 24
22. Can't read the tapestry?
8 44 49
23. Can't open the great wooden door?
40 4 49
24. Can't defeat the first skeleton?
44 5 42 37 34 17 44 46
25. Can't find anywhere else to go?
41 29 1 29



1. 10	2. 100	3. 100	4. 100
5. 100	6. 100	7. 100	8. 100
9. 100	10. 100	11. 100	12. 100
13. 100	14. 100	15. 100	16. 100
17. 100	18. 100	19. 100	20. 100
21. 100	22. 100	23. 100	24. 100
25. 100	26. 100	27. 100	28. 100
29. 100	30. 100	31. 100	32. 100
33. 100	34. 100	35. 100	36. 100
37. 100	38. 100	39. 100	40. 100
41. 100	42. 100	43. 100	44. 100
45. 100	46. 100	47. 100	48. 100
49. 100	50. 100	51. 100	52. 100
53. 100	54. 100	55. 100	56. 100
57. 100	58. 100	59. 100	60. 100
61. 100	62. 100	63. 100	64. 100
65. 100	66. 100	67. 100	68. 100
69. 100	70. 100	71. 100	72. 100
73. 100	74. 100	75. 100	76. 100
77. 100	78. 100	79. 100	80. 100
81. 100	82. 100	83. 100	84. 100
85. 100	86. 100	87. 100	88. 100
89. 100	90. 100	91. 100	92. 100
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97. 100	98. 100	99. 100	100. 100

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1 Player
Joystick

Of all the sports which have been turned into computer simulations, snooker has to be the most unrealistic conversion of the lot. I've seen several versions on different machines and, to be honest, they're as true to life as an episode of the 'A-Team'. However, if you're a snooker fanatic and in the market for a computer version of your favourite sport then this first-time Atari release from CDs is the one to buy. It's even endorsed by Steve Davis (not exactly the best of recommendations when you consider the way he played against Joe Johnson recently), which probably means that he pockets his fair share of the royalties!

A good way to assess the game is by comparing it with the old Thors-End version which was re-released a couple of months ago as part of their 'Spot the Ball' package. Both are reasonably similar but the CDs game has a number of additional features which gives it the edge over it's only other Atari rival.

Firstly, the table is black. Yes, I know what you're thinking - someone please tell this idiot that snooker tables are green. Whilst this is unquestionably true, it doesn't alter the fact that, where computer snooker is concerned, a black table makes for greater clarity, imposed colours and enhanced definition. Simply compare the two versions - green Thors-End against Black of CDs - and you'll see what I mean. Anyway, what's wrong with being King of the Black Balls for a change?

The CDs game also offers a greater



variety of changeable parameters such as table speed and cue-ball spin. All moves are via the joystick. You line up a small target cursor on the object ball, set the desired spin and power of shot before letting fly with the firebutton. After that you hope for the best. If a ball drops in the pocket, nine times out of ten it's more by luck than by design. Of course, that magical 147 maximum break is at least possible in theory, but in practice it's about as likely as Alex Higgins refusing a free gin & tonic (I've already spent the Steve 'Interesting' Davis line, so I may as well even things up by sporting the Hurricane Higgins line as well). In more realistic terms you can consider yourself 'World Champion' if you manage to pot three balls in a row!

Normal snooker rules apply and you can visit since your opponent to play again if a 'Goal shot' is committed. Due to obvious limitations the 'Free Ball' rule is not implemented though.

Incidentally, just in case you were wondering, the black ball has a white circle around it to help distinguish it

from the table, but this is also true of the green ball in the Thors game.

STEVE DAVIS SNOOKER can be played against a computer or human opponent, with selectable skill levels for the computer. If you so desire, you can choose a double computer option and sit back and watch Steve Davis play himself. At the highest skill level the breaks are likely to approach table figures with some totally unbelievable shots taking place - impossible doubles, playing off the rails first to pot the object ball which the likes of Jimmy White wouldn't attempt, let alone Steve Davis! Yes, the computer does cheat!

In the words of a certain popular lager ad - STEVE DAVIS SNOOKER - probably the best snooker game in the world (or Great Britain at least). Me? I still think it looks and plays more like a game of marbles.

THE LAST V-8
Mastertronic
48K cassette
£2.99
1 Player
Joystick



Caught on the surface of a nuclear devastated planet you have seconds to return underground before your radiation shield decays. In any other car you would stand no chance - in the LAST V-8 survival is possible. ... Maybe!

Okay, that takes care of the sales hype on the cassette label, now let's get down to facts. Despite Mastertronic's dynamic build-up which makes the LAST V-8 sound like an introduction to the latest Mad Max movie, it's actually another driving game (of sorts) similar to

Adventure International's 'Rally Speeding'.

The screen view is a plan view looking down on the action from above and the general idea is to try and guide a tiny car along a narrow road, heading for home. The road starts off straight enough but, inevitably, begins to twist and turn in erratic fashion almost before you've managed to get the car into it's stride.

Time is the single most crucial aspect of this game. Like it says in the introduction - you have only seconds to reach your underground base before disaster strikes and, as you struggle violently to keep the car on the track, the timer at the bottom of the screen ticks away at an alarming rate.

The control panel is a space-age art display in the form of a futuristic car dashboard and takes up almost three-quarters of the screen. It shows all the required info relative to the game but there are also a host of other lights and dials which do absolutely nothing and are of ornamental value only. The flash drawing of the '08 below the control panel is nice to look at but takes precious screen space away from the actual game. Speaking of drawings, a colourful hi-res title screen is incorporated into the Commodore II Amstrad versions of the game but, for reasons unknown, Mastertronic decided to give it a miss on the Atari version.

Scrolling is fast and smooth even by Atari standards, but the game is a bit of a pig to play. Car control is the main problem as the program is over-sensitive to joystick commands. A heavy touch in the wrong direction will send the car spinning out of control. Also, the track is far too narrow and it's easy to stray off and collide inevitably with the trackside scenery - ah yes, and you only get one life. No second chances here!

Graphically, the game is a big improvement over their previous Atari effort - *Clancy Collie the Action Rider* - but there is a distinct lack of any game sounds apart from the haunting theme music which plays away incessantly. I get the feeling I've heard this tune before, or something remarkably like it, on one of the Synapse games - *Dimension X*, I think!

So what happens when you eventually reach the underground base? *Answers* on a postcard please. So far I haven't even managed to register the first U-head and it seems the inner delights of the LAST '08 will forever remain a

mystery to me.

Despite all this, it's far from the worst Atari game on the market and should appeal to anyone who likes a good challenge. At the asking price of £2.99 it must rate as quite a bargain.

One final point. Mastertronic claim the game features voice synthesis, but I never encountered any (it's almost as rare as *Orion's Atari software*). As far as I know, only the Commodore version has speech. Seems like Commodore owners got an even better deal for their £2.98.

SPRONG
Biggame Software
48K cassette/disk
1 Player
Joystick



Author Paul Lay is a regular Page 6 contributor and was responsible for the excellent 'Freeway Ace' in issue 16. This time he makes the progression into the hard-commercial world with an all-machine code arcade type game entitled SPRONG.

In SPRONG you must guide a page-jumping character through an incredible 50 screen adventure to claim the elusive 'Golden Pogonick'. You traverse each screen from left to right, leaping across various assorted platforms of all shapes, forms and sizes.

The game opens up with a real little title screen (which then becomes Screen 1 of the game itself) accompanied by a jazzed-up version of the song 'Denny Day' - an unusual but nonetheless well-orchestrated musical choice. Like all theme music it becomes annoying after a short while and can be turned off if desired.

SPRONG has a certain cartoon feel to it with every single screen possessing it's own unique background scenery ranging from houses of little towns or villages, wooded countryside, underground caverns and a host of other artistically drawn designs. Obstacles include moving platforms, raging fires, lava flows, laser beams, acid rain, lightning, helicopters, meteors etc. and

critical timing is required to jump your way past them all. You are limited in your jumping ability, but possessing the illustration gives you extra 'oomph' to keep those long distances.

If, by some minor miracle, you make it through all 50 screens you are then treated to a 'Graphics Spectacular' depicting that illustrious Golden Pogonick.

SPRONG shares certain similarities with English Software's *KISSING KOUSINS*. However, I maintain that these similarities are only superficial and SPRONG boasts vastly superior graphics and playability. Paul has made exceptional use of the Atari's colour palette and could show many Atari programmers a thing or two in this respect. Some of them seem to think the Atari is limited to its four default colour!

I would be lying if I were to say that SPRONG was easy to play. It rates pretty high in the difficulty league, but it's addictive enough to keep you coming back for more. Plenty of variety too - how many other games have 50 different screens? A splendid first-time effort!

ARCADE CLASSICS

Datasoft US Gold
48K cassette
£8.95
1 Player
Joystick



Four classic arcade games - *POLE POSITION*, *MAR (M)*, *DOG-DOG & PACMAN* - all on one tape is the latest offering from US Gold. In actual fact this is a compilation of some old, from bits from the past which have been re-viewed periodically in their individual forms, so only a brief summary is now required.

POLE POSITION needs no introduction. It's the computer race game which sets the standards for all other race games and, with the exception of Activision's brilliant *US ROAD RACE*, still leads the field. However, it's inclusion in this set may turn out to be a bit of

a white elephant as it's given away free these days with just about every Atari computer package.

DIG-DUG is identical to the Atari Rom - hardly surprising really seeing as it is the Atari Rom downloaded onto cassette. The forerunner of the popular travelling games, it's an enjoyable version of the arcade original but not a very authentic conversion. It could have been better, I feel.

The exact opposite applies to MR DO. This is possibly the best conversion of an arcade game that I've seen so far on a home computer. Identical to the original, equally as playable and you don't have to keep banging money into the machine for the privilege!

PACMAN rounds off the quartet. To put it bluntly, this game is a dinosaur and that pesky little dot-gobbler should have been possessed off years ago regardless of how cute some people think he is! Old Atari hands will already have this game and I doubt if any new owners would want it except as a collector's item (or antique more likely). As with DIG-DUG, Dataeast have taken the Atari Rom and downloaded it onto cassette. It's one redeeming feature - purely drama-collector's point of view - is that Dataeast have added animated sequences between certain rounds of play to bring it in line with the version of Pacman released for the now defunct 1200 games machine. Incidentally, all pre-Pacman letters should be addressed to the editor!

Four great games in their day then, but I have a slight suspicion this compilation may struggle to find a market. POLLE POSITION and maybe even MR DO are capable of holding their own amongst the mass of new software releases but, in my mind, ARCADE CLASSICS has been released a year or so too late.

COMING SOON

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ALAN GOLDSBRO

has the ultimate Dream

TECHNICOLOUR DREAM

Red Rat Software
40k disk/cassette

'The Ultimate 256 Colour Graphic Art Program' shows at you from the colourful box with dense pictures displayed all over it, and what's more it could be just that depending upon your style of graphics. The program is suitable for any 48k machine XL/XE included and is taking you through both the favourable and unfavourable points. Presume you'll be able to decide whether Technicolor Dream is for you.

Technicolor Dream has many excellent features including Help Screens, 256 Colour Palette, 128 colour Filters, joystick or Touch Tablet control, Picture Dump to Screen or Printer, Quick Colour Selection and High Quality Picture Control. The disk version has the main program on side one, coupled with a selection of picture files on both sides. The disk takes approximately one minute to boot up owing to the heavy protection against copying. From the title screen (a Red Rat) it soon slips into the help-screen which can be recalled at any time by pressing [ESC]. XL/XE owners can also use the [Help] key to access the screen. The help screen comprises 11 commands, all of which can be used when the picture is displayed.

Selecting a colour is quite good. Pressing the Space Bar displays a 256 palette of colours on the screen and moving the cursor via the joystick (Port 1) or Touch Tablet (Port 2) to the colour of your choice and pressing [Start] will select your colour. At the bottom of the screen are three boxes, the first box displays your selected colour, the second shows your mixing colour (obtained by using Option &

Select, more about this later) and the third box displays the 'Mix Mode' colour i.e. alternate pixels from boxes one and two. Below these boxes are alphanumeric codes (letters & numbers to me & you) signifying the selected colour. These codes are important for later use. Press the Space Bar to return to the drawing screen and start your picture. To access the colours again press the Space Bar and the palette overlays your picture without affecting the drawing screen.

Once you have colours on the drawing screen an easy way to select a previously used colour is to position your cursor over the colour and press [Start]. The manual also suggests 'painting' a selection of colours down the side of the screen to 'dig into'. The 16 main colours are of a solid construction, whilst the brightest are made up from a line of luminance and a thinner line of black, thus giving a striped effect, however this does look effective no matter how strange it first seems.

Drawing is done with only one brush size although this moves with speed and ease. Alternate changes of colour or luminance can be achieved by typing in an alphanumeric code and using the [Option] key to signify Colour and the [Select] key to choose a Luminance. Using the 'Mix Mode' colour can have pleasing results. As previously stated this gives you a characterboard palette.

You can at any time use either the joystick or Touch Tablet to draw your picture and I hope that other programmers will make use of this feature more often in the future. Uncompletion of your picture, any of 128 different files can be overlaid to give a delicate tint. A handy feature is the Temporary Storage area in which you can 'store' your picture in its original format whilst you experiment with different colours, shades, and designs. Restoring to the original picture can be achieved quite easily.

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Saving the picture is fairly easy as in loading. In such case you need to type in the [Device filename] but no extender is required. This is mainly because the file is saved twice, once under [Filenameool] and the other as [Filenameool]. Deleting pictures and formatting disks can also be achieved from within the program. Pictures can also be saved in Compacted or UN-Compacted format. All the pictures can be loaded onto an amonon file (provided) for displaying as a continuous show without the need for the main program.

A pict arc dump to printer is included on the disk although I couldn't get this to work on my Epson RX30P/T. A basic listing is also included in the manual for a printer dump, this does work and takes about 3 minutes to print out a picture on its side down the paper. There is a section entitled 'Advanced Effects' which can be selected by pressing [Control] E, whereupon the screen will disappear and a small black and white miniature is retained in its place. From this section you can change a colour or luminance, add a luminance or create a negative of your picture.

Most of the effects are obtained by typing in commands using the aforementioned alphanumeric codes.

With basic listings and explanations in the amonon page manual, inclusion of pictures into your own programs shouldn't be too much of a problem.

It's a shame to have to come to the unfavourable parts in any program but sometimes there are definite problems with software. In the attempt to be completely innovative, the programmers have forgotten the simple adage of brevity. Many of the commands could easily be achieved by simple keystrokes or use of the joystick styles, but invariably you have to press a number of keys to obtain the desired result, for example, to clear the screen there are 8 keys to be pressed and to change a colour through the 'Effects' screen can take you up to 21 key presses!

You may have noticed no mention of standard features such as Circle, Square, Line, Point, Fill and Zoom etc. These are not included in the program with the exception of Line which takes so long in setting up that you'll achieve it faster manually. The other exception is Fill, which I could only get to fill the

whole screen and not selected parts. The other difficulty I encountered was when you choose a colour from the palette which overlays the drawing screen, already full of colour, discerning which colour is which is extremely hard.

Technicolor Drawn was originally designed to enhance the quality of artwork for games software and if this is the main reason for buying then you've made a good choice. On the other hand, if you view it as 'The Ultimate 256 Colour Graphic Art Program' then it falls short of the mark. The demo pictures show the obvious quality of the program and if you can put up with its limitations then, priced at £119.99 for disk and £24.99 for cassette, it's a good buy. The package includes a well presented and informative manual all bound in a rigid plastic case which should survive even the harshest throw the postman can give it.

I hope that future modifications will include some of the more easily accessible commands and in turn lose some of those interminable 21 key presses.

Alan Goldbars

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PaperClip

Ariolasoft/Batteries Included

Ever since Issue 17 when I reviewed Superscript I have been using that program to prepare every issue of PAGE 6. I considered Superscript to be the finest word processor available for the Atari as I was most interested to have the opportunity at last of testing PaperClip, a word processor which has been hailed in the States as the 'definitive' Atari word processor.

Let's start out by saying that PaperClip has everything that Superscript has, well almost, and a lot more besides. From the very start it is evident that this is a fine word processor containing virtually everything you would need for any task from writing a letter home to producing a fully indexed book complete with a table of contents! As with any complex program it will take you some time to learn all of the facilities available but on-screen Help files are available at the push of a button or with a couple of key strokes. If you just want to do something simple to begin with, however, just type!

EDITING

The first thing that strikes your eye is that PaperClip uses a re-defined character set. Each character is slightly larger than the standard Atari characters and it is in a sort of 'old English' style. Quite pleasing on the eye and very easy to read. All of the editing commands that you would expect of an advanced word processor are available from deleting characters, words or lines to deleting and moving, copying or deleting blocks of text. All fairly standard but PaperClip has many little extras such as character or word toggle. If you make the classic typing mistake of transposing two characters, you need only place the cursor on the second character and, with one keypress, flip the characters. Likewise with any two adjacent words.

SEARCH and REPLACE

Any word or character can be found quickly and changed if required for any other text. Global substitutions are possible, but not just over one document. Multiple documents can be chained together, in fact as many as your disk will hold, and a global search and replace can be performed over every chain, or linked, file on the disk! What's more several global substitutions can be performed at the same time.

PRINT FORMATTING

Control over the printed output is one of PaperClip's strongest points. The disk comes with dozens of printer configuration files with a utility program to create your own. Invariably one or two printer features seem to be missing, such as enlarged text, but special user defined printer commands can be included on a configuration file can be changed to suit. Obvious settings such as margins, page length, line spacing, etc. are all standard but also included are unusual features such as Microspacing. If it works on your printer you can obtain superbly justified text with each word evenly spread out in the conventional way in which extra spaces are added between words. I say 'it is worth' for although my NEC supports microspacing, PaperClip tended to split up words and throw odd lines out of the margins. Not very useful!

Headings and footers are available as well as page numbering and new page joins. One thing not supported is 'showcase



reviewed by Les Ellingham

pages' where odd and even numbered pages can be treated differently with margins and headings set to the left or right as appropriate. Superscript sorts heavily here as it can print odd numbered pages first and allow you to reverse each page and then print the even numbered pages on the other side. One thing PaperClip does have though and which is very easy to implement is double column printing which it achieves in one pass i.e. the two columns are printed at the same time rather than reversing the paper as some word processors do. This feature is easier to use than on any other word processor I have tried and can produce some excellent professional looking results, particularly if the Print Preview option is used here.

MUCH MORE

There is even more to PaperClip such as the ability to include graphics in a document, do mathematical calculations on columns etc., use its 'Typewriter mode', produce automatic tabling of contents, include comment lines and more. It also allows you to work on two documents at once in different windows. And you can do mail merge. And you can define keyboard macros. And...

In fact there is too much to comment on everything so check the features necessary to see just what is available.

CONCLUSIONS

PaperClip comes with two options, one for the EROS and one for others. The only difference is in the size of the text buffer. I would not try the EROS option as this is supposed to be on the reverse of the disk along with several new utilities but the reverse of the review copy disk was blank! One of these utilities was the automatic indexing which I longed to try!

The disk is not copy protected so can be backed up with ease. Protection is achieved by means of a dongle which is plugged into a joystick port. A much more sensible way to prevent illegal use. Superscript is so heavily backed up that I cringe each time I have to load it up.

They have to be one or two criticisms but they are limited. If you can type fast it is possible to 'get ahead' of PaperClip which can cause problems. Superscript has a superb file loading system where all the files on a disk are shown on screen and you merely place the cursor over the file you want and hit Return whereas PaperClip requires you to remember a filename. The packaging produced by Ariolasoft is superb, in fact probably the best yet seen for this type of software but the manual, which by the way is excellent, is almost impossible to

read without using two hands. It should be spiral bound so as to flip flat when you are typing. As present you would need to weight it down or copy parts of it to use it while typing.

THE FINAL OPINION

I have to admit it. PaperClip is probably the finest word processor yet produced for the Atari although it does lack a spelling checker which many might consider tops the scales towards Superscript. Nevertheless Superscript may have to bow down! Apart from its features the price, now that it finally has U.K. distribution, makes PaperClip one of your best ever buys if you need a word processor. It costs £84.95. Still quite a lot of money, but worth every penny.

AtariSoft should feel proud to have a product such as this available at a reasonable cost and anyone needing a powerful word processor should look to PaperClip as the definitive Atari word processor.

PAPERCLIP FEATURES

No page preview ■ *Handless manual* ■ On screen menu and command lines ■ Disk directory display and print ■ File merge ■ Two row sublines ■ Text scrolling

OPTIONS

Cursor movement toggle ■ Screen scroll toggle ■ Left margin ■ Line length ■ Alarm bell toggle ■ Window size ■ Auto save of text ■ Always make toggle ■ Key lock toggle ■ Screen colour change ■ Printer configuration ■ Full DOS options

EDITING

Full screen control ■ Delete characters, word or block ■ Text toggle ■ Undo ■ Cut & Paste ■ String search ■ Text replace ■ Global substitution ■ Tags ■ Copy/Insertion toggle ■ Delete/Retraction toggle ■ Centre wrap toggle ■ Word wrap toggle

PRINT FORMATTING

Margins ■ Page length ■ Line spacing ■ Block right ■ Centering ■ Mixed formats ■ Justification ■ Microspacing ■ Headlines ■ Footers ■ Page numbering ■ First row page ■ Bold ■ Underline ■ Character pitch ■ Underlines ■ Head spaces ■ Show status ■ Managing index ■ Tabs ■ Single sheet pages ■ Multiple copies ■ Double column printing ■ Print preview ■ Print to disk

SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

Mathematics ■ Table of Contents ■ Indexing ■ User defined print commands ■ Non-printing comment lines ■ Typewriter mode ■ Include files ■ Back files ■ Global substitution within back files ■ Graphic inclusion ■ Mail merge ■ Macros

EXTRAS

No pin printer configuration ■ Epson character set load ■ User defined configuration ■ Distribution converter ■ Graphics dump for Knobs, Atari 400k, 8 Graph, Pin with Art, Paint and more ■ Help files ■ Demo documents



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Contact

GRAPHICS ENTHUSIAST enthusiastic user of Graphics utilities, Atari Action, Fun with Art, MicroPainter etc. would like to exchange print files on disk, problems, ideas etc. Also want to exchange print exchange my 800K for a plotter or for more print. Keith Harvey, 35, Bevington Road, Birmingham, B6 7DR. Tel: 021 328 5821.

BOOKS FOR SALE: Your Atari Computer (L), Computer's First Book of Atari 26, Basic, 10th edition, A Self Teaching Guide (6), Monitoring Computers (6, Atari) 400/800 Basic Reference Manual (6, Atari) 400/800 DOS 2 Reference Manual (6, Will not exchange). Please J. W. Harrison on 0942 644721.

HANDS ON BAGS: Wanted any-style, baggies or bags with the Atari logo. Also I would like to get in touch with any other Atari users in my area. Vincent Compagn, Lickfield, Leval, Porsviken, Co. Lanes, Ireland.

SHERLOCK PRINTER FOR SALE: Sherlock GP-800 800K printer complete with Blackboard Communications interface, both boxed as new. 200 the pair. Will connect to any Atari. David Wilmshy, 62, Meadon Park, Gulgane, No. Lancaire. Tel: 029 731919.

FRactal PROGRAMS: Information, help wanted. Does anyone have any listings such as shown on Microline in January? Or could anyone convert Specware or 800K programs to Atari? Any information welcome. Don Sharkey, 177, Lupton Avenue, Glenview, IN 46526 USA. Tel: Glenview 74124.

MISCELLANEOUS PEN PALS: Pen pals wanted in the Metropolitan area to swap files and tips on games and programming. I own 486 500 kb 1MBSE and am shortly buying a ST. Please write to Mike Lewis, 24, Chelmsford Road, Arnold, Liverpool, Merseyside, L4 2JK.

BOOKS TO SWAP: Offer - Computer Animation Primer - wanted Atari Books. Offer - Computer's 64.1 for Beginners - wanted Keyword Mapping (the Atari) or Art of Computer Game Design. Also don't receive books when you obtain the program disks for Atari Graphics and Arcade Design? Paul Marshall, 12, Elmfield Avenue, Milton, Manchester, M13 9PB.

ATARI BASIC REFERENCE MANUAL: Perfect condition (6. Also found and Graphics Self Teaching Guide in good condition (6. Contact Steve Wrenham 73129.

FIVE USERS GROUP: I am looking for Atari User Group in Pitt. I hope that this will encompass both 8-bit and the ST. There is virtually no retail support on Pitt so some of Atari users visited me on 0292 714887 and we will try and get that back-up that our computers need. Les Ganges. Tel: 0292 714887.

ANALOGS WANTED: I would like the programs ANALOG (magazine issues 26, 27, 28, Mark Hutchinson. Phone 0292 621221 evenings.

BOOKS FOR SALE: Computer's Machine Language for Beginners and Computer's Second Book of Machine Language. Both in excellent condition (2 each. Tel. D. Harwood on 0923 34331.

ADVENTURERS OR OTHERS: I would like to contact other Atari users. I have a 1505E and enjoy a good adventure. I have all of Brian Stewart's adventures and will gladly swap lists with other adventures. Please write to Tony Langworth, 11, Greenfield Road, Larch Junction, South Wood, Chesham, Lee 1PA.

16K PRINTER: Any information on graphics programs for the 1619? Does anyone know how to use Printshop on the 1619? Please contact Alan Whittaker, 44, Cameron Crescent, Buxton, North Shire, Scotland.

MIKE INTERFACING: Has anybody seen any MIDI interfacing or sampling projects for the 800K? Is any publication has anybody designed their own? Jim Durrell, 179, Herries Road, Sheffield, S2 2TL.

FOR SALE: Direct contact modem for Prostat, 800K or 128, 1024 printer 240, 418 Recorder (15. Cassette software originals, books, magazines going cheap. Amstruc cartridges and P401 (18 each. Call Bostick on 01 203 4140 or write. 824 Pave, 47, Church Road, London, N6 4JH.

PEN PALS WANTED: I would like to make new friends all around the world by writing to about my Atari. I have a 1205K and 800K4, and disk drive. Please write to Martin Bradwell, 17, Cranby Road, Gravesend, South Essex, SS14 3LT, England.

ITALIAN ATARI USER GROUP: Would like to contact English and foreign people to write about Atari matters and discuss programming and ideas. We own Atari 800K, and 1050 disk drive. Please write to George Bussard, 1612 Concorde Street, 10311 TURIN, Italy.

PRINTSHOP: Is it possible to use the Atari 1619 printer directly with Printshop? If not is there a way to configure the printer to run with the program? Would a printer driver be of any use. Any help appreciated. R. Burdon, 185, Excham Street, Sharn, Cheshire, SK2 7DR.

DARK CRYSTAL: I cannot find Anglia. Can anyone help? Please write to Alan van der Aarvick, Schepboom 40, 4204 HBB Oostburg, Holland.

ARROW OF DEATH Pt. 2: I am stuck on the part where you are on the empty slab with the grill. I can get help on Shrewsbury, Darren Scully, 151, Turin Road, Palmersham, Dorking 20, Ireland.

CLASH OF THE KINGDOMS: Can anyone let me know how to get a boot copy of this program from the March 1983 (6) or work on a cassette. I have checked my typing and it correct but the boot copy will not load. Steve Anthony, 547, College Road, Birmingham, B44 8JF.

INSIDE ATARI BASIC: Does anyone have a copy of this book for sale? Also can anyone help on using Graphics Art Department and Printshop on a 802K. Advice regarding control codes required. A. B. Clark, 25, Blitham Farm, Colston, Dorset, DT9 9BB. Tel: 0773 4453.

KIT FOR SALE: Atari 400 486, 1014 cassette, Index GT (Brand new), 0035 30, with Index GT Synchronise, computer housing inside 400, GT, 1010 of power supply. BASIC cartridge, manual. All for sale (350. Phone 0354 730093 and ask for Mike.

THE LOST KINGDOM BBS: Situated in the Birmingham area. Name - The Lost Kingdom. Band - 100/600. Time - 24 hours. System - Variable. Tel: 021 353 5486. Running on 1001K, 5002000 Modem, two 1024 disk drives and 800 Interface.

DISK DRIVE WANTED: £10 or 1050 disk drive wanted on good standing order. Any reasonable price paid. Sean Lintan, 6, Shelton Fields, Shrewsbury. Tel: 09853.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE: 800K with XCL1 data recorder, 7 months old. Price Atari 1619 printer as new, £100. Please George on 029 741723.

PEN PALS WANTED: I would like to make new friends with anyone in the U.K., U.S.A., Europe, Australia, Canada. I have a 1205K, 1050 disk drive, 1024 printer and 418 recorder. Please write to David Morgan, 15, Wilton Road, Ammanford, Dyfed, S. Wales, United Kingdom.

804 RAM PACK: disk expansion for 800K. 141 2.5in. 588K1, will loads but no means performance (18. Mike Phillips, 5, Lower Place, Puchewick, 1666, Gillingham, GFS. HX. Tel: 06261 4289.

ARROW OF DEATH Pt. 2: Could anyone tell me how to get past the stone slab and how to open the grill? Also how do you get past the water in the chaise? Could the person who assumes a pretence of hints for Pt. 1 send me one for Pt. 2. I have lost your phone number? Thank you. Please write to David Katten, 80, Kenilworth, The Grange, Southport 7, Merseyside, ST2 3JT. Tel: 0712 201599 (after 4 p.m.).

BELGIAN PEN PAL: I would like to contact Atari users and groups all over the world. I'm looking for users who want to exchange tips and ideas etc. Please write to Mike De Cock, Poncevauxstraat 11, 2000 Brussels ANTWERP, Belgium.

VARIOUS FOR SALE: Having purchased 800K, I now have the following surplus items. 384 RAM for 400/800, 48K RAM for 400/800. Dual cover for 400. Main transformer for 400/800 (no 418 motor). Non-working 400 (ANTIC and POKEY chips/active - no RAM). Working 400 (unintentional POKEY problem) - no RAM. Any questions offer for the above items would be greatly appreciated. I can be contacted most nights on 021 6231211. Mark Hutchinson.

PRIZE CROSSWORD

compiled by Alan Goldsbro

Several readers have requested a crossword so here it is! It also gives us an opportunity to give away a few consisting items of software so if you fancy your chances write down the answers on a sheet of paper, add your name and address and send it to us by 28th July 1986. Please indicate which of the software items you would prefer if you win. There will be 12 lucky winners in all and the winning entries will be drawn on 28th July 1986 from all correct entries received by that date.

The prizes: *Blaise Compend*, *Qix*, *Print* (disk), *Antenna*, *Control*, *Music Composer*, *Delenda*, *Magix Windows*, *Kid*, *Moss*, *The Worm in Paradise*.



A Mini One also gives a clue to all the other clues!

ACROSS CLUES

1. Its possible there (2)
2. Just right for beginners (2,4)
3. Last tillermap? (1)
10. Inevitable (2)
12. A clear one by the (1)
13. They're still alive and kicking (1,2)
15. Encouragement when writing (2 across)
16. House of David (2)
17. An opportunity for Lee (2)
22. The second part to this is steep (2)
23. One from, six to two (2)
24. The biggest diamond? (2)
27. To be the best (2)
28. One answer (2)
31. Unpleasant little insect this one (2)
34. What a supply (2)
35. The second word will get you there (2)
37. PAGE it is always this (2)
39. For down to it (2)
41. Take this out next! (2)
42. There are five pairs waiting for you (4) (2)

DOWN CLUES

1. From 22 down to here (2)
1. Six (2), and I say more! (2)
1. One trick or two (2)
1. 20 feet (2)
1. Keep 'em coming, Jim (2)
1. Did you take part? (2)
1. When to do (2)
1. This one's an art (2)
11. Do you believe in magic? (2,2)
14. This company's not for (2)
17. Eight or sixteen (2)
17. Politician (2)
20. One word for advances (2)
21. Plenty for all levels (2)
21. Paul is immortal (2)
26. The answer? (2)
27. Not one up from 27 across (2)
28. All the answers are in the last one (2)
30. In and out (2)
32. The number one magazine (2)
33. No need for further love (2)
36. Small one from the BT one across (2)
38. 70% of the readers are one (2)
40. Media coverage (2)
42. Means grows (2)

The crossword was compiled on an Atari with the program *Crossword Magic*. This is the only crossword program we know of for the Atari but it has always been difficult to obtain. Now it is virtually impossible! The copy used for this crossword was loaned by Thomas and Software Club of Northland.

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Compend	51
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Database Publications	14
Glenn's 88	69
Gregory Software	19
Hika Systems	20
Homeview Video	11
Ludovick Computing	7
Licensed?	BC
Lawman Software	69
Mintamoon	26
Microdeal	17C
Midlands Atari Centre	14
Parsons	24
PP Software	64
Progress Software	27
Stashit	21
Red Hat Software	14
Salvo Soft	67
Salvo Software	14
Silica Shop	BC
Software Express	17
Software Supplies Company	20
Suzuki Software	67
T-Rex Systems	4
Wootton Computers	69

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