



Al P. Casper

COUNTER

An introduction to numbers in four languages (ages 3-8)

Cassette: 16K (APX-10148)

Diskette: 24K (APX-20148)

User-Written Software for ATARI Home Computers

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Program and Manual Contents © 1982 Al Casper

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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

COUNTER is a colorful, friendly, and fun way for young children to learn to count to fifteen in any of four languages: English, Spanish, French, and German. COUNTER offers six skill levels and a variety of ways to enter numbers, making the program continually challenging and interesting as a child progresses.

REQUIRED ACCESSORIES

ATARI BASIC Language Cartridge

Cassette version

16K RAM ATARI 410 Program Recorder

Diskette version

24K RAM ATARI 810 Disk Drive

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

A set of ATARI Paddle Controllers One ATARI Joystick Controller

CONTACTING THE AUTHOR

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Jill Casper, Carolyn Clay, and Dudley C. Blank helped with the translations for COUNTER.

GETTING STARTED

LOADING COUNTER INTO COMPUTER MEMORY

- 1. Insert the ATARI BASIC Language Cartridge in the left cartridge slot of your computer.
- 2. If you plan to use either the Paddle or Joystick Controller options, plug your Paddle or Joystick controllers into the first (the leftmost) controller jack at the front of your computer console.

3. If you have the cassette version of COUNTER:

- a. Have your computer turned OFF.
- b. Insert the COUNTER cassette into the program recorder's cassette holder and press REWIND on the recorder until the tape rewinds completely. Then press PLAY to prepare the program recorder for loading the program.
- c. Turn on the computer while holding down the START key.
- d. When you hear a beep, release the START key and press the RETURN key. The program will load into computer memory and start automatically.

If you have the diskette version of COUNTER:

- a. Have your computer turned OFF.
- b. Turn on your disk drive.
- c. When the BUSY light goes out, open the disk drive door and insert the COUNTER diskette with the label in the lower right-hand corner nearest to you. (Use disk drive one if you have more than one drive.)
- d. Turn on your computer and your TV set. The program will load into computer memory and start automatically.

CHOOSING YOU OPTIONS

The title and program options display as follows.

1 COU	NTERX	ENG
* OF	* NOIT	
LENGUA LANGUE		LANGUAGE SPRACHE
SELECT STARY	· ж ж	LEVEL BEGIN

The number (1) to the left of the COUNTER* title indicates the skill level, and the abbreviation (ENG) to the right of the title indicates the language. You can change both options, as described below, before starting to play. Or, you can use the easiest skill level and the English version by pressing the START key now.

SKILL LEVEL

Press the SELECT key to choose a higher skill level. The six levels available are:

Level	1	Counts	to	5	Long	time	limit
Level	2	Counts	to	10	Long	time	limit
Level	3	Counts	to	15	Long	time	limit
Level	4	Counts	to	5	Short	t time	limit
Level	5	Counts	to	10	Short	t time	limit
Level	6	Counts	to	15	Short	t time	limit

A long time limit waits for about 60 seconds for a response. A short time limit waits for about 30 seconds for a response. When a time limit expires without a response, the correct number automatically displays and COUNTER then goes on to another set of objects.

LANGUAGE

Press the OPTION key to choose another language. The four languages available are:

ENG English

ESP Spanish Espanol

FRA French Francais

DEU German Deutsch

STARTING THE PROGRAM

When you're ready to begin, press the START key.

COUNTER'S AUTOMATIC CYCLING FEATURES

COUNTER automatically starts cycling through the program whenever it expects some kind of input (for example, selecting an option or entering an answer) but receives none after about one minute.

To regain control of the program, press the START key.

You can start the cycling feature yourself anytime the message:

IT'S YOUR TURN

displays, by pressing the SELECT key.

USING COUNTER

PART 1: COUNT WITH ME

In part 1 of COUNTER, the computer places Gorks (five-legged creatures from Atariland) on the screen, displays the number of Gorks, and chimes once for each Gork. Part 1 continues until all Gorks up to the selected skill level limit display. You can control the time of the display by pressing 2 for the slower speed or 1 for the slowest. Press 3 or any other key to return to the original display speed.

You can end part 1 at any time by pressing the START key. After a short delay, part 2 begins.

PART 2: IT'S YOUR TURN

In part 2, a number of objects such as barns or sailboats display, one at a time. This lets you count the objects as they appear on the screen. After all the objects display, the bars at the bottom of the screen rotate their colors. That's your signal to count the objects and enter a number.

Entering your count

You may enter your count in different ways, and you can go back and forth between these ways at any time. You can use the SPACE BAR on the keyboard or the Paddle Controller or Joystick Controller to count up to the total number of objects on the screen. Or, you can enter the total number directly by pressing a number key on the keyboard. In every case, if the number you enter is correct, the screen turns green and a short melody plays before COUNTER continues. If the number is incorrect, the screen briefly flashes orange and yellow and then COUNTER waits for another guess. COUNTER doesn't continue until you select the correct number or until the time limit is reached.

Counting with the SPACE BAR and START key

Press the SPACE BAR once to count each object on the screen. The numbers in the upper right— and left—hand corners of the screen, as well as the word for the number being counted (displayed in between the two numerals) show how far you've counted. If you make a mistake and press the SPACE BAR too many times, keep pressing the SPACE BAR until the number starts over at 1, and count up again. Then press the START key to tell COUNTER you've finished counting.

Note. When you use this method, you can't have a Joystick or Paddle Controller plugged in.

Counting with a Paddle Controller

Using a Paddle Controller requires more skill and is recommended for older children. Turn the paddle slowly to count each object on the screen. The numbers in the upper right— and left— hand corners of the screen, as well as the word for the number being counted (displayed in between the two numerals) show how far you've counted. If you make a mistake and increase the number too far, turn the paddle in the other

direction. Then press the red trigger button to tell COUNTER you've finished counting.

Counting with a Joystick Controller

Press the red trigger button once to count each object on the screen. The numbers in the upper right— and left— hand corners of the screen, as well as the word for the number (displayed between the two numerals) show how far you've counted. If you make a mistake and press the red button too many times, keep pressing it until the number starts over at 1, and count up again. Then move the joystick in any direction to tell COUNTER you've finished counting.

Entering a total with the number and START keys

You can count up the objects on the screen to yourself and then enter the total by pressing the number key(s) and then pressing the START key. If you press the wrong number key, correct the number by pressing the number key(s) you really wanted.

THE PROGRESS REPORT

COUNTER doesn't continuously display the number of correct and incorrect answers. However, you can obtain a progress report by pressing the ATARI key. After a brief pause, the score displays above the bars at the bottom of the screen.

RESTARTING COUNTER

To restart COUNTER at any time, press the OPTION key, which returns you to the option display. You can then reselect the skill level and language. Do <u>not</u> press the SYSTEM RESET key to restart the program.

QUICK REFERENCE SHEET

SKILL LEVEL AND LANGUAGE SELECTION

Use the To

OPTION key Select the language

SELECT key Select the skill level

START key Start COUNTER

1 Display Gorks at slowest speed

Display Gorks at slower speed

PART 1: COUNT WITH ME

Use the To

START key End the Gork display and continue the program

End the auto-cycling feature

OPTION key Return to skill level and language selection

PART 2: IT'S YOUR TURN

Use the To

SPACE BAR Increase the number displayed (then press START)

Number keys Indicate the count total (then press START)

START key Complete a number guess from the keyboard

End the auto-cycling feature

Joystick Increase the number by pressing button (and move Joystick)

Paddle Change a number by turning paddle (then press button)

OPTION key Return to skill level and language selection

SELECT key Start the auto-cycling feature

ATARI key Display a progress report

TO USE THE DO THIS

Keyboard Make sure no paddle is plugged into jack 1

Paddle Plug the paddle into jack 1

Joystick Plug the joystick into jack 1

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1. Name and APX number of program
2. If you have problems using the program, please describe them here.
3. What do you especially like about this program?
4. What do you think the program's weaknesses are?
5. How can the catalog description be more accurate and/or comprehensive?
6. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being "poor" and 10 being "excellent", please rate the following aspects of this program? Easy to use User-oriented (e.g., menus, prompts, clear language) Enjoyable Self-instructive Useful (non-game software)
Imaginative graphics and sound

/• Describe any technical errors you found in the user instructions (please give page numbers).

-	
	-
What did you especially like about the user instructions?	
What revisions or additions would improve these instructions?	
). On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 representing "poor" and 10 representing "excellent te the user instructions and why?	
1. Other comments about the software or user instructions:	
	
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