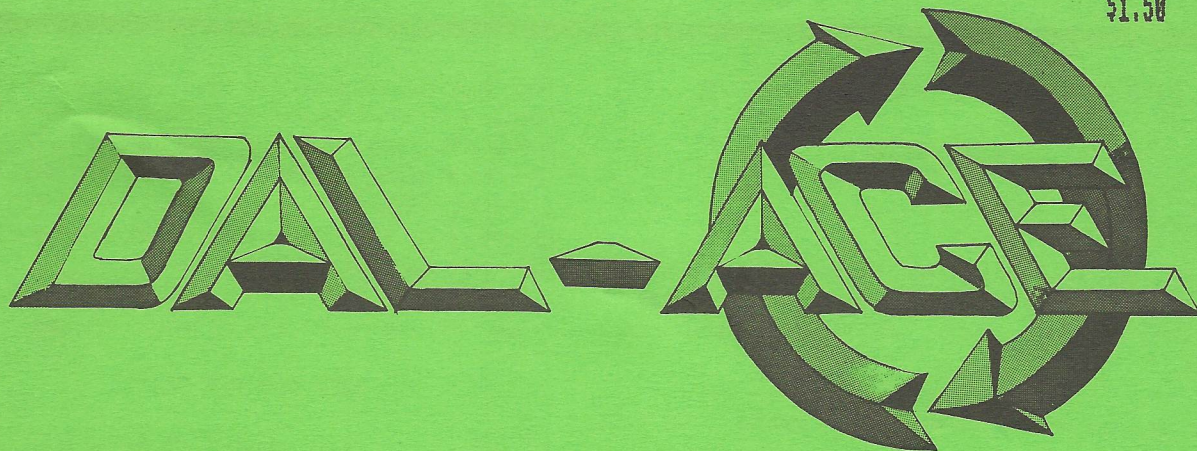


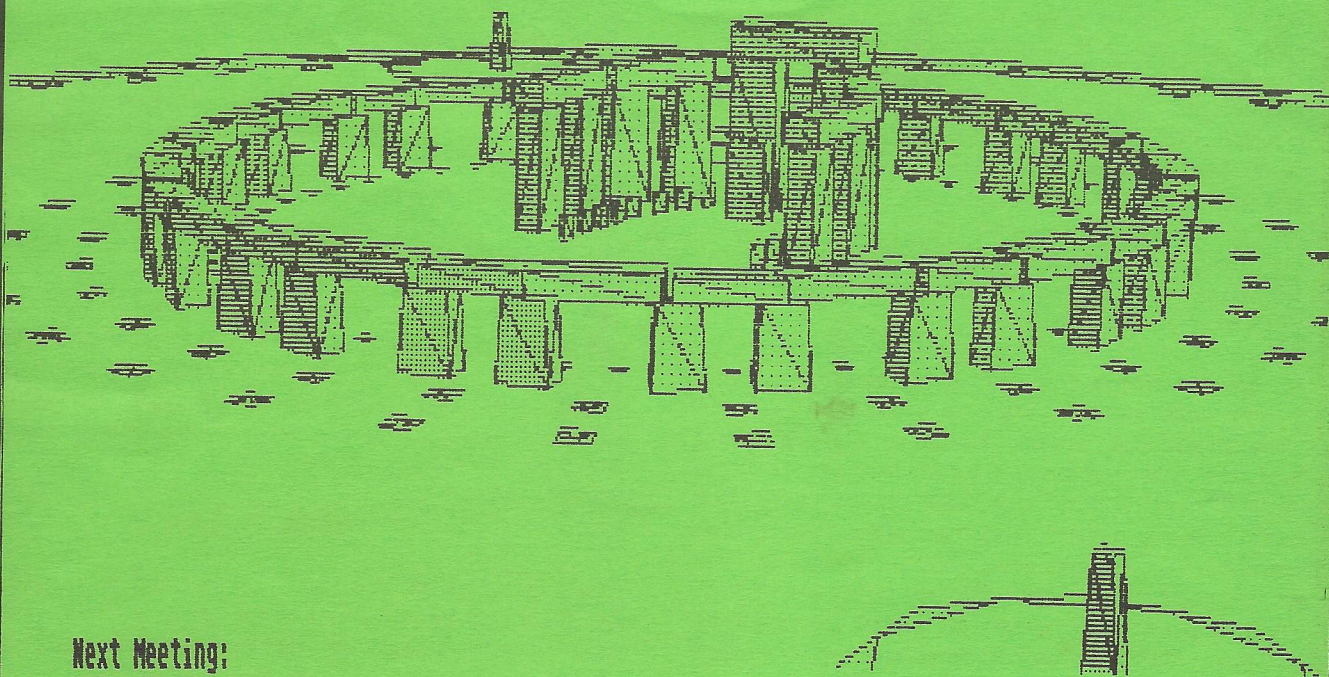
\$1.50



DALLAS Atari Computer Enthusiasts

Volume 7, Issue 8

August 1986



Next Meeting:  
Saturday,  
September 13th



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

By John Pellet

## GREAT ATR GIVEAWAY

At long last, its finally time. You don't have to listen to me hawk raffle tickets any more. I want to thank everyone out there holding one of those little red stubs.

And, as long as I'm thanking people, special thanks to John McFarlen, President of SWP Microcomputer Products, Inc., who came up with the idea then graciously gave us the grand prize, along with all of our other contributors.

Speaking of prizes, the final list is as follows:

- 1st - **ATR8000** from SWP Microcomputers, Inc.
- 2nd - **Zoomracks** from Quickview Systems.
- 3rd - **The New Aladdin, #2**, from Disk Publications, Inc.
- 4th - **Infocom Adventure** from Computer Discoveries.
- 5th - Buy 1, get 1 free coupon for the library.

## ATARIFEST

After mentioning the possibility of a national Atari show here next year at the last couple of meetings, everyone seemed interested. More importantly, someone volunteered. Bill Bailey is going to be heading up our efforts. And I'll try to get him to post status articles to the newsletter regularly. He can be reached on the ST BBS almost daily or at the meetings. Or you can call me anytime with ideas or comments. If I'm mad at the phone, the machine will talk to you. Since Bill volunteered, I'm going to let him run it. Other local groups will be involved in planning as well.

My understanding is that Atari is trying to set up about 1 show each quarter, starting in the Fall. For each show, Atari will advance funding for costs associated with the show, and coordinate contacting and recruiting national participation from major players in the Atari realm. Atari, itself, would be highly visible and represented. The users group would provide the manpower to setup and run the show. Program, dates, and so forth would presumably be worked out amongst the interested parties. Atari will send us details of the forerunners as available. Atari would expect that the programs and fees would be structured so that the show would at least break even. Any profits would be retained by the sponsoring users group.

I've suggested coordinating this with a normal User's Forum, with Atari-related activities on Thursday and Friday with classes, seminars, demos, and so forth. for a fee. Maybe tiered for members? Then a public demo room, like Exhibit Hall A, open to Forum attendees at no charge on Saturday. Based on conversations so far, May or June looks like the preferred times.

In any case, you'll hear more as details develop.

## GOOD IDEAS BEAR FRUIT

In response to those letters y'all helped stuff, we've received the following software for review. For the ST:

BOS demonstration disk from BOS National, Inc.  
SOLAPAK 1.1 from Solar Powered Software

For the 8-bit machines:

SCREENS windowing software from The Soft Cellar  
SOUND MOUSE from Sound Soft, Inc.  
CIRCUIT DATABASE II from Elfin Magic Co.  
SUPER 3D PLOTTER II from Elfin Magic Co.  
MORE GRAPHICS for Printshop from Pierstorff  
ACTION GAMES! from EZUSE Software  
HOME INVENTORY from EZUSE Software  
QUIZMASTER CONSTRUCTION SET from EZUSE Software  
VEHICLE EXPENSE from EZUSE Software

We need reviewers for each of these. If you are willing to write it up for the newsletter, please see Jim about borrowing the review copy. Based on the letters we've received, more software is on its way!

## Disk Library News

Jeff has decided that maintaining both disk libraries is too much effort (Besides, I think he likes the 8-bit better). So we have a new ST librarian, Larry Dineen. Expect even more great things from each library. Including at least a partial return to the vending area. Stay tuned for details.

THANKS!

That's about it for this month. In September we're back to the second Saturday, so I'll see you on the 13th. Be sure to come because we plan to announce some of our special plans for the Christmas season.

ENTHUSIASTICALLY YOURS  
JOHN PELLET



## DALLAS COMPUTER COUNCIL NEWS

July 28, 1986 Meeting

By John Pellet

The Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were still at the lawyer's so the signing party was delayed for yet another month. It looks like the end is in sight, and if no major problems are found by the lawyer, we should finally complete this at the August DCC meeting.

DCC and the Texas Computer Education Association have agreed to a memorandum of understanding and are planning a joint meeting in NOVEMBER! They will have vendors specializing in computers in education, plus the 200 or so attendees for TCEA will be attending SIG meetings they are interested in, especially those relating to education.

DCC filled up ALL available rooms at Infomart at the noon time slot. Of the 26 rooms available, Apple Core has 6, NT PC UG has 6, they use 1 jointly, and DALTRUG has 3. All clubs were asked to consider their room utilization at noon and the major room users have been directed to reduce by at least 1 the number of rooms they use at noon. All other times are much less crowded. The first runner-up is 1 PM, where 18 rooms were used in July.

At the August User's Forum there will be a BBS SYSOP meeting at 9 AM. This should be of special interest, obviously, to bulletin board system operators. SYSOPS for any BBS, in addition to those sponsored by affiliates are encouraged to attend.

Also at the August Forum, there will be a meeting for all newsletter editors, at 2 PM. The primary purpose of both of these meetings are to establish an information exchange among the affiliate users groups.

Fred Driscoll was elected as a Director representing DALTRUG. His knowledge and expertise, as well as enthusiasm, will be appreciated.

DCC is investigating installing a phone line with answering machine to try to answer general questions on Council activities, plus give the current schedule, to increase awareness for abnormal circumstances, like meeting on the fourth Saturday in July, or changing the policy on minors.

The new forms for children at Infomart should be filled out by the escorting adult EACH MONTH when entering

Infomart. These forms simply identify minors in the building. Blank forms are available at any kiosk or booth near the front doors. Please cooperate and fill these out. Infomart has been sufficiently concerned about problems with unruly or unsafe behavior that they have said we (DCC) must eliminate it if we wish to continue using their facilities.

The DCC President has created an Executive Committee to advise him, to meet bimonthly. Members are all DCC officers plus J. Pellet and J. Barrett. If you have ideas that will improve the Forum, please pass them along one of those above, to your representatives, or any other Council member. (DCC officers are: Pres.: G. Sewell; VP: B. Kauth; Sec.: L. Guion; Treas.: E. Kobus)

## NEW ST DISKS

The following are new ST library disks this month:

- #27: ST-WRITER ver. 1.07. Fully debugged with complete documentation and several printer configuration files.
- #28: ST DESK ACCESSORIES. Including pallette, crabs, calendar, clock, dirprint, snapshot, ttool, tipsl, etc.
- #29: TINY COLOR SLIDES. 28 great new pictures in compressed format, with compressor, viewer, and documentation.
- #30: MORE TINY COLOR SLIDES. As above but with different pictures.
- #31: ST TERMINAL DISK. 5 new compiled terminal programs, including MODEN7 for the ST.
- #32: DIRECTORY OF ATARI USER GROUPS. In ST-Writer, dBman, H&DBase, and Zoomracks formats, organized by state then city. In 2 column mode, ST-Writer printout is 27+ pages.
- #33: INSOFT magazine, August issue.

## BOARD ACTIONS

The following actions were taken at the August 2 Board meeting.

The final prize list for the Great ATR Giveaway was approved. A total of 10 prizes are going to be given away.

The ST library will now be run by Larry Dineen. ST library disks will be available downstairs in the vendor area from about 9:30 - 11 AM. Vendor area garage sales will be open similarly. Disk cost will be \$4 in the vendor area. Both libraries will continue to be available to members in the main meeting, starting at about 11 AM, for only \$3 per disk. This will give non-members a better opportunity to buy from us but still let members get the best possible price at the meeting.

The following policy was adopted, to try and let everyone know when they're membership expires in plenty of time to renew, without having the other club members pay for sending them a newsletter after they've expired. For two months before expiration date, the newsletter labels for those about to expire will be a different color, and will be on a separate list. So if your label isn't on the main list this month, check the "IT'S TIME TO RENEW" list.

Plans are being made to open the 8-bit to the general public. With this plan, it is necessary to re-emphasize that the ST BBS is open ONLY to dues paying members plus a single area for Aladdin users. We will make sure club members still have reasonable access to a BBS with the increased visibility of a public BBS.

The board has noticed that some non-members have been showing up every month, picking up a copy of the newsletter and so forth, without ever paying dues. This means that members have been supporting these them. From now on, the newsletter will cost non-members a buck (\$1). Back issues will continue to be available at no cost to all.

An AtariFest committee has been appointed consisting of Bill Bailey, John Pellet, & Jim Chaney. Look for articles in the coming months about news on the fair front.

The board is looking for people interested in putting together a Toys for Tots event this year. Also, it's time to start thinking about officers. If you can help, or want to suggest someone else (hopefully with their knowledge).

(NOTE: I got this poem from a Virginia Atarian on my travels last month. I really enjoyed it!...JLP)

## ODE TO A COMPUTER

By John T. Ellis

I think that I shall never see  
a computer that's "USER FRIENDLY" to me.  
Can't we keep it simple, please.  
I just don't dig computerese.

All I want is a tool that writes,  
Why must I learn about BITS and BYTES?  
Or BAUDS or POKES or C.P.U.s  
or BASIC or PIXELS or MAIN MENU?

Why do they call it a C.R.T.?  
It looks like a small TV to me.  
And I hope I never get the urge  
to become involved with a DATA BASE MERGE.

Although I understand MNEMONICS,  
why must I learn about CENTRONICS?  
I know the meaning of PARAMETER,  
but what, pray tell, is a DELIMITER?

And why should my computer PEEK?  
It might as well speak to me in Greek.  
It's hard to establish communication  
With a machine that speaks of CONCATENATION.

What do I do when my BUFFER is FULL?  
Who PACKED my TEXT and removed my NULL?  
And I honestly don't give a hoot  
if it finds an ERROR in my BOOT.

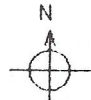
SINGLE D or DOUBLE D,  
what do I care? My sector is FREE.  
And if I saw a DATA BASE STRING,  
I wouldn't recognize the thing.

I guess my MODEM is out of mode,  
so I'll ESCAPE TO MENU and shift to LOAD,  
And if my MEMORY is ROM or RAM,  
well, frankly, I don't give a DAM!

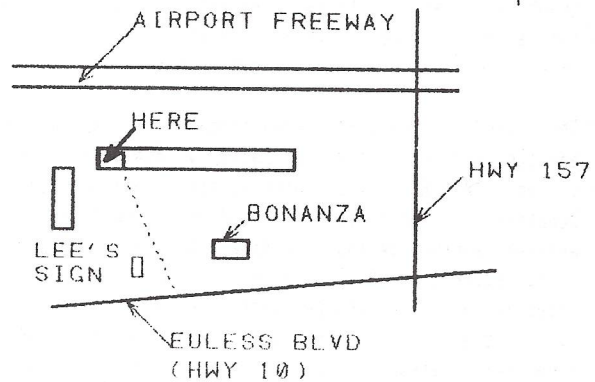


# COMPUTER SKILLS

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EULESS, TX. 76040  
(METRO) 267-5151



520 ST  
1040 ST



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ST SOFTWARE

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## tidbit

Item: ST file manipulation with the RIGHT mouse button

The right mouse button has a very useful if completely undocumented function in GEM. If you want to do something (anything) with a file in a background (non-active) window, all the documentation says you must click on the window you want to use. NOT SO! Simply hold down the right button while clicking normally with the left. You can drag file or show info about files in any window, not just the one you're clicked on.



## EPSON FX-85 PRINTER

Reviewed by John Pellet

The Epson FX-85 is the current model in the famous MX-80 line. It maintains the pluses of, and wide compatibility with its predecessors, and adds many new features.

Probably the major advantage of the FX-85 is its compatibility with earlier Epson models. In text or graphics modes, it is fully an extension of the justly famous MX-80 line. This means that almost every piece of software ever written will run with it.

The FX-85 is very fast when compared to competing and earlier models. This is partially due to the larger buffer. An 8K buffer substantially speeds throughput compared to the older 1 line buffer of the MX series. Another factor is that the time required for linefeeds seems reduced, which also increases speed. The FX-85 is rated at 160 characters per second and while this rating is enthusiastic, like others, it is much quicker than my Prowriter (rated at 120 cps), which was itself faster than many similarly rated printers.

The 8K buffer not only increases throughput, but means you can dump a couple of pages of text at machine speeds, without waiting. And, presuming your machine can generate them fast enough, graphics operations are also aided by the buffer.

If you've never had a printer, you'll like the manual and documentation. If this is not your first printer, I think you'll love the documentation. It is explicit, brief, and clear, but at the same time, full of examples and descriptions, with a full index. A complete quick reference card is also included.

The FX-85 is the first Epson "medium-priced" printer with "Near Letter Quality." The NLQ font is only available at 10 cpi. Many similarly priced printers now also offer NLQ, but the FX-85 uses an enhanced character set that bears little resemblance to the normal dot matrix printer output.

As an added bonus, the FX-85 has a graphics versatility I've not seen in any comparable printer. The FX-85 has many graphics modes, ranging from 60 to 240 dots per inch, with a specific escape code calling each one. The FX-85 permits the user to reassign the escape codes associated with a specific graphic mode. If you have a piece of software that calls, for example, a 120 dpi mode, with the FX-85 you can reroute this to any of the other modes. This changes the aspect ratio and density

of the finished graphic. This feature adds versatility to your existing software library.

While not important to me, the FX-85 can also fully and completely emulate the IBM printer codes, characters, and graphics.

As a final plus, Epson has a hard-earned reputation for quality and reliability that other manufacturers envy.

But any product has areas where improvement is possible.

In general, dot matrix printers are noisy. The FX-85 is definitely NOT an exception to the rule.

Every Epson I've seen suffers from poor quality in the draft mode, plus a tendency toward gray, rather than black text. The FX-85 is also not different in this respect.

NLQ is only available at 10 cpi. Most business correspondence, in my experience, is normally 12 cpi. If only one pitch were going to be supported, I think they picked the wrong one. But competitive printers suffer the same flaw.

One of the major failings of the FX-85 is that true tractor feed is not a standard. The basic printer is supplied with pin feed and friction feed only. Tractor feed is a well-integrated, inexpensive option. If you plan to print labels or post cards, you'll need it!

And, finally, price. The Epson FX-85 seems to be priced at about \$50 to \$100 above many of its competitors. When you add in the extra cost of tractor feed, the difference can be significant.

In summary, the FX-85 offers advantages and disadvantages. You must decide if its particular pluses are what you need. I've had mine for almost a year and certainly never regretted the purchase.

The Epson FX-85 is available from several local dealers for under \$400.



**dbMAN: a relational database for the ST**

Reviewed by Tim Ekdou

Downloaded from CompuServe W.U.N.

dbMAN is an Atari translation of a dBase III-like database program on the IBM PC, published by VersaSoft. dbMAN is not an exact clone of dBase III, but if you are familiar with dBase III, you should be able to jump right into dbMAN with no problems. Many of its commands and syntax are identical and its capabilities are similar.

For those not familiar with dBase III, dbMAN is a relational database. This means multiple databases may be in use at the same time and information in one database may be linked to information in another database. (Of course, it can also be used for simple "index file" databases.) dbMAN is a totally command-driven system. It has no menus. This means you enter commands interactively, just like BASIC. This is more of a challenge for the new user, but ultimately provides much more power and flexibility. In dbMAN's interactive mode, the top five lines of the screen are reserved for your commands, system messages, and control-key prompts. The rest of the screen is reserved for data display. This is much nicer than dBase III's scrolling dot prompt. The prompt line displays a selection of the appropriate control keys to press, depending on the current operation. You can write your own custom application programs by entering commands and functions from dbMAN's programming language into a command file which dbMAN executes just like BASIC. These command files can be debugged and edited interactively, after a fashion, though not so easily as BASIC. Command files can't name of the file at the TOS-T: (Or don't enter anything to : dbMAN uses its own format for export to and import from length or delimited formats.

I have not used dbMAN will cannot report with author: Sorting does appear to be sorts by writing the sorter would be much faster on : maintain a large database changes, and deletes, you'd up an index file so you d database. Indexing is muc command files, dbMAN's perfor on a par with BASIC. DO separate command files, sl

procedure file is read. This, too, would work better with a hard disk.

There are a few quirks. The only thing I've found that may be an outright bug happens only when using the monochrome monitor. At times, parts of the control-key prompt line disappear and can only be restored by re-booting. This seems to be a timing problem between pressing certain keys in rapid sequence while that portion of the screen is being re-drawn. In any case, it's only annoying and doesn't affect operation. Another problem involves syntax errors in IF/ENDIF statements in command files. If there is a syntax error in a statement within the IF/ENDIF, the interpreter seems to get lost and gets stuck in an error message loop. If the outside ENDIF is missing, it crashes. Also, if you are single-stepping through a command file in debugging mode, IF statements don't branch properly. Finally, dbMAN will not work with a RAM disk installed. If one is, you get kicked back to the desktop. dbMAN likes to use a lot of memory. You must have TOS is ROM. You may have limits on how large your desk accessories can be. (Sorry, you can't use them from within dbMAN. This is not a GEM application.)

dbMAN is probably the most powerful and flexible database available for the ST today. (There is another dBase III clone advertised - Holmes and Duckworth Base, but word on CompuServe is that Mirage Concepts has gone out of business.) dbMAN does need study and practice to become easy to use. VersaSoft provides support, but asks for a fee of \$25. The program disk is not copy-protected. The license agreement permits five copies to be used on a single computer. On-line help messages and command-key summaries are available with the appropriate files on disk. The manual is thick, but has to cover so much : is somewhat cryptic. (I needed to buy a : to figure out how to create a report he tutorial in the manual covers only the ions. (There is a disk tutorial that the same ground.) But for the price, \$150 res point for point with \$500 programs on

\* Next Meeting \*\*\*  
 \* Saturday, \*\*\*  
 \* September 13th \*\*\*

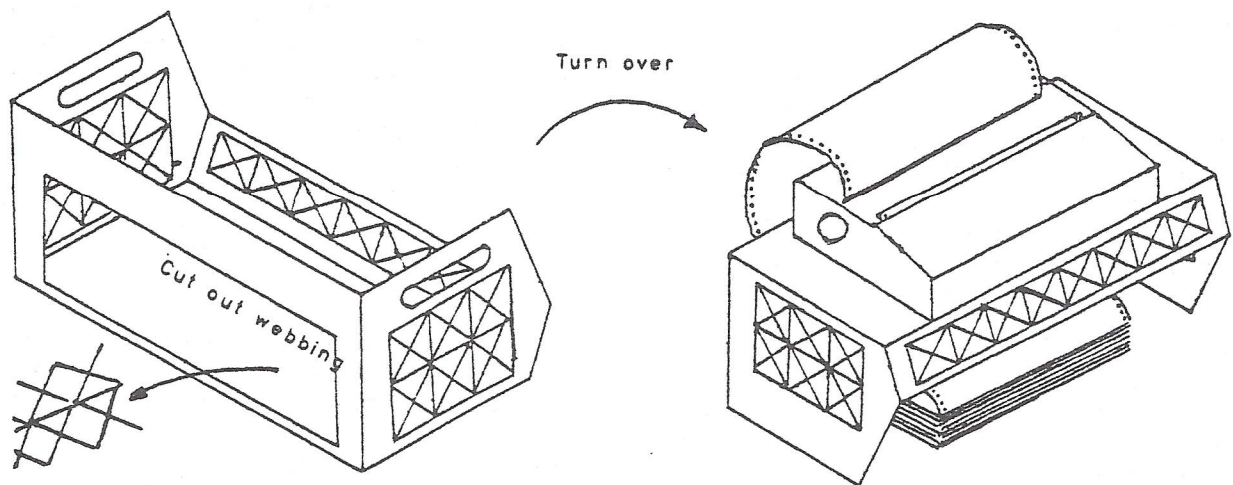


Reprinted From Pokey Press 3/86

## The Computer Handyman

by J. Pazienza

Does your stack of printer feed paper twist it's way thru a maze to get to your printer? Does it require the dexterity of a carnival rubber man to change your paper? Well your troubles will be a thing of the past after you've constructed this simple and inexpensive front loading printer stand. Simply purchase a 7 1/16 x 14 x 9 1/4 "StorageMate" modular plastic storage bin and cut out the back side webbing as shown. Turn it upside down and presto an instant front loading printer stand for 2 to 4 dollars. The same unit can also be used as a low cost monitor stand for a 13 inch or smaller TV depending on the weight.



The following is a reprint from the September, 1985 issue of 'Feedback', Adelaide Atari Computer Club, South Australia.



## DETACHED KEYBOARD FOR THE ST

By Larry Dineen

I have built a detached keyboard for the ST! It uses the original ST keyboard, original keyboard top cover (bearing the Atari 520ST logo), and a few (new, but surplus) parts. Hardly any electronics experience needed for this project. Most of it depends on how well you can construct an enclosure for the keyboard.

To me, the whole thing looks much classier: the plexiglass I bought was dark satin brown, and it contrasts perfectly with the ST's native color.

So far, it has been in daily use for about 5 weeks without any problems. The coiled chord from the keyboard plugs into the "main" box, the mouse (and the joystick, when we have some need for it) plug(s) into the keyboard housing. If need be, it can be reassembled into the way it originally was, except for the saw cut made along the deep groove you find running along the entire width above the function keys and the 520ST logo.

## CONNECTIONS

The keyboard plugs into the main board using an 18-pin connector (J12).

These pins are numbered 1 through 18, one starting at the bottom (closest to the keyboard). Only five of these need go to the board; of the remaining 13 pins, one is a keyway ("pin" 2 which is absent), pin 18 is unconnected, and eleven send/receive signals from the mouse/joystick ports:

	Mouse J12		Joystick J12		
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Up/XB	1	12	up	1	7
dn/XA	2	10	dn	2	5
lt/VA	3	9	left	3	4
rt/YB	4	8	right	4	3
---	5	N/C	reservd	5	17
fire/lt	6	11	fire	6	6
+5V	7	13	+5V	7	13
ground	8	1	ground	8	1
fire/rt	9	6	--	9	N/C

The main reasons I moved the DB-9s to the keyboard were: (i) I could not find a coiled chord with 16 conductors (I can't stand external ribbon cables) and (ii) I felt the mouse and keyboard should be close.

## J12

16 reset (generated on the main board)  
 15 Tx Data (of U21 6850 ACIA)  
 14 Rx Data (of U21 6850 ACIA)  
 13 +5V  
 1 ground

## Parts List

-----  
 coiled chord of sufficient length, min 5 conductors  
 5- or 6-pin DIN socket and plug  
 2 DB-9s  
 1 18-pin (or >18) plug 0.1in pin separation  
 1 18-pin socket (can use up to 20-pin socket)  
 and some scrap plexiglass sheets.

## CONSTRUCTION

Most of it is this "box" making with a few solder connections as indicated above. To instruct how to do the construction is so tedious that I am going to suggest the very obvious: Open up your ST, and carefully examine it until you discover your own way of doing it. Two cautionary remarks, however: the plexiglass enclosure should be constructed with precision. My wood working imprecision made me ruin a couple of panels before I got everything accurate to within a millimeter! And the edges should be real straight. Underneath the keyboard are a few chips; make sure you allow for them and do not make the keyboard rest physically on these.

Have fun!

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5.....	Softworks Basic (Compiler).....	\$65.00	\$79.95
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**A-CALC: a GEM spreadsheet for the ST**

Reviewed by Tim Ekdom

Downloaded from Compuserve W.U.N.

A-Calc is a light-duty spreadsheet imported from England and published by Antic Publishing. A-Calc does not have macros or report-generating capabilities and its size is rather small, but it does have a very nice and thorough implementation of the GEM user interface. Its maximum size is 512 cells high by 256 cells wide. Each cell takes a minimum of 10 bytes of memory.

When you first run A-Calc, you are presented with a window open to an empty spreadsheet and several icons on the desktop. You can begin entering data and formulas into the new spreadsheet by pointing and clicking on the desired cells. Each time you begin typing in a cell, an edit window opens. You select whether your entry is a formula, a value, or text. The edit window can be a little annoying if it happens to open up right over the part of the spreadsheet you're working in. You have to take a couple seconds to drag it to a different location. Cells can be duplicated across rows or down columns by pointing, clicking, and dragging. A dialog box opens to ask the range of the desired duplication and whether formula cell references need to be adjusted. Rows, columns, and cells can be easily inserted or deleted and column widths can be adjusted just by dragging. A group of cells can be treated as a block. Pointing and clicking on a cell shows you its contents.

Spreadsheets can be loaded either by menu or by dragging the disk icon over the spreadsheet icon. My personal opinion is that the icons are redundant, since they don't perform any operations that aren't included in the menus. However, they really don't get in the way. A-Calc uses its own format for spreadsheet files, but it can load and save files in DIF format.

In addition to a full complement of math operators and functions, A-Calc has several additional features. "Switches" such as display of cell status, cell protection, automatic recalculation, numerical display, text display, etc. can be reset under the "Options" menu. A "Split" option opens up a second window. This is handy for displaying row labels in one window while scrolling across the spreadsheet in the other window. A "View" option selects a smaller character font and displays more of the spreadsheet in the open window. Strangely, with this option selected, it displays more with the medium resolution color monitor in use than with this option on the monochrome monitor.

Printing capabilities are limited to printing the spreadsheet and the formulas in the cells. Sideways printing is not supported, so if the spreadsheet width exceeds printer width, the remainder is printed on the next page. You can alter the printer configuration file to print in condensed mode to get more of the sheet on one page. Also, you can create your own printer configuration file for non-supported printers if you know the appropriate control codes. There is a sub-program which creates/edits the configuration file.

In summary, A-Calc works well within its limited capabilities. I could not get the program to crash once. It appears to have been well thought out and evidences craftsmanship in its programming. If you need a light-duty spreadsheet and enjoy working with the GEM interface, you will probably be pleased with A-Calc. There is no tutorial program and the documentation is quite sparse, but you don't really need much for a GEM program. There is no explanation of error messages, and I did get one, but eventually figured out on my own that I needed to increase the cell width for my long formula. If you already know a little about spreadsheets, A-Calc is easy to get up and running without getting bogged down in the documentation. The program disk is not copy-protected.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* SUPPORT YOUR NEWSLETTER, \*  
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\*\*\*\*\*



Mini Review of EXPRESS 1030 Version 2.1  
By Ron Hunter

Well, I said I would review Express 1030. So here it is.

There are many things which a good terminal program must be and many things which it must not be. Express has most of the good and little or none of the bad.

Express 1030 was written by Keith Ledbetter of the Greater Richmond Atari Support Group (GRASP) and generously contributed to the Public Domain. In the beginning, it can be loaded from DOS MENU or as an AUTORUN.SYS file. It contains its own RS-232 driver program. Express 1030 V2.1 contains the driver from the XM301 package. This driver corrects some of the problems of the driver in the 1030 ROM. The program loads, allows the user to configure it as to color, default disk drive, redial time, translation, duplex mode, tone/pulse dialing, and left margin. All of these settings can be saved in a configuration file and will load automatically. Complete DOS functions, directory, rename, delete, copy, lock, unlock, view file, and print are supported from the main menu which is available at any time by pressing SELECT. The program works well with MYDOS and a 192K RAMDISK as well as Atari DOS 2.0 and 2.5. There is a buffer of about 4K which can be loaded, saved, viewed, or uploaded or deleted.

There is an autodial list menu. From this menu, you can dial, redial, dial a group of marked entries, add entries, edit entries, delete entries, view entries, and save or load lists. Each entry can contain a name such as DAL-ACE I, a phone number, with automatic dialing of long distance access codes, three macros usually used for logon passwords, a time to wait for connection before redialing, and an indicator of ASCII or ATASCII translation mode. The program will load a list if it is named PHONE.LST. Any number of lists may be saved on disk and loaded from the autodial menu.

Express 1030 has a display at the top of the screen which indicates the time online, the translation mode, and the buffer information.

Express is written in ACTION! and compiled. It is very fast and smooth. The program supports upload and download in both XON/XOFF and Xmodem (Amodem). I have had very little trouble uploading or downloading from local bulletin boards, STARTEXT, or GENie. I was not able to download from BYTE Listings because they do not stop sending when the buffer fills and must be written out.

Now for the few shortcomings. Express does not have word wrap. It does not fine scroll. The view file operation is hard to use. The buffer is small. It does not have an input edit feature (useful on CompuServe and GENie for conferencing).

In summary, Express 1030 V2.1 is not the perfect terminal program but is the closest thing to that ideal I have found. It is fast, smooth, convenient, and friendly. I have Amodem 7.2 on the other side of the same disk but almost never use it. If the program would do word wrap and had an input editor, I would not even want for anything else. On a scale of 1-10, I give it an 8.5.

Hometerm Mini-review  
by Bill Sheppard

Hometerm, published by Batteries Included as part of the Homepak series, seems to be one of those pieces of software which you either love or hate. It is a full-featured terminal program, compatible with any Atari-made modem, any modem using the 850 interface, and the MPP modems when used with a public domain driver available on DAL-ACE and elsewhere.

Hometerm works well with both local BBS's and national on-line services. It has a limited vidtext option for use with CompuServe, and uses standard Xmodem (as opposed to Amodem-style Xmodem, which will not work with some national and non-Atari boards.) It requires 48K, and is not copy-protected, allowing it to be customized with another public domain file, also available on DAL-ACE. Customization consists mainly of character font, colors, and several technical parameters needed by certain boards.



Some features present in Hometerm not often found in public domain terminals include:

**Word wrap.** Rather than breaking a word between two lines, Hometerm will move the whole word to the next line, similar to how a word processor operates.

**Edit window.** When using CB on CompuServe, or Partyline on Peoplelink, you can have a separate window open where you can type your response, edit it to make sure it's correct, and then upon pressing RETURN, Hometerm will send the entire message.

**Macros.** Hometerm will allow up to ten macros per file, which can do the entire log-on sequence, including dialing and pauses.

Other features include dialing functions on Atari 835/1030/XM301 modems, elapsed time clock, all disk functions including copy file, and double-density operation (the only double-density DOS I've been able to use has been SpartaDOS.)

The major dislikes I have with Hometerm are its small buffer (must write to disk after each 7220 bytes, and I'm told is limited to 255 sector downloads with Xmodem), inability to dial when used with MPP modems, and lack of a screen save (although Smarterterminal is the only terminal software I've seen with this feature.) I'm told that there is an undocumented joystick ability but I have not experimented with this.

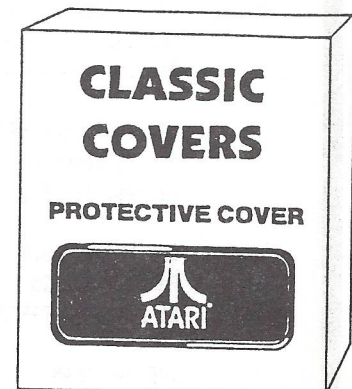
In summary, Hometerm is a well-written, full-featured terminal program for use with all popular Atari modems. However, unless using an on-line service which does not work well with public domain programs, there really isn't enough reason to justify the \$34.95 expense when there are many free full-featured terminal programs available (although for your money you will also receive a very adequate word processor and a questionable database manager).

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HEART OF TEXAS ACE

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Dave Gillen 931-6058  
 Production Manager: Jeff Golden 252-3268  
 Production Crew: Frank Corlett  
 Susan Henderson  
 Steve Markley  
 Distribution Manager: Roger Markley 231-6918  
 Distribution Crew: Steve Markley  
 Cathy Barros  
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Submissions are WELCOME in ANY form. It is extremely helpful if all submissions conform to this format:

Condensed print (16 to 17 CPI).

Column width of 56 characters (3 7/16 inches).

Page length of 9 inches (54 lines @ 6 LPI).

Right and left margins justified for text.

All submissions should be given to one of the staff above or brought to the production meeting both printed out and on a DOS or TOS disk.

DAL-ACE CALENDAR

Here is the current schedule of upcoming DAL-ACE events.

Saturday, August 30	Newsletter Production Mtg
Saturday, September 13	Main Meeting
Saturday, September 27	Newsletter Production Mtg
Saturday, October 11	Main Meeting

Newsletter production meetings are usually held at 1 PM on the Saturday two weeks before the regular meeting date at Jim Chaney's house, 916 E. Berkley in Richardson.

Main Meeting dates that are more than 90 days ahead of time are tentative. The Infomart reserves the right to change the dates, so check the newsletter for the latest schedule.

INFOMART DIRECTIONS

From north Dallas, take either Stemmons (I-35E) or the Dallas North Tollway SOUTH. From Stemmons, take the Oak Lawn exit, turn east (left) and park at Infomart, on the left just after you go under Stemmons. If you're using the tollway, exit right on Wycliff, go left on Harry Hines to Oak Lawn and turn right. Infomart will be on your right. From the south, take Stemmons north then follow above. Infomart is the big white steel and glass building south of the other 'marts. The main entrance

faces Stemmons. Guests are WELCOME!!

\*\*\* MEETING INFORMATION AND AGENDA \*\*\*

10:00 - 10:30	NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE SIG
11:00 - 12:00	CLUB SALES
11:00 - 11:30	NEW ATARI USERS
11:30 - 12:00	MEMBERSHIP SIGNUP & NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION
12:00 - 2:00	8-BIT DEMOS BUSINESS MEETING OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS
1:00 - 2:30	CLUB SALES
2:00 - 4:00	ADVENTURE SIG ST SIG

Meeting rooms and additional information will be posted on the schedules at the main entrance, and the main kiosk, which will be manned from 9AM to 4PM. Disk-of-the-month and garage sales will be in the main meeting room. Vendor sales will take place in the basement.

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DAL-ACE membership is \$16.00 per year. This newsletter is written, edited, and published by volunteers. Its availability and/or distribution may, at times, be subject to circumstances beyond the control of club officers. Members will note that their renewal date appears on their address label.

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