





Targhan

Far from Edengarhn is the castle of the evil

Far from your village, a lord keeps the

secret, such a powerful lord that he cannot be human, a creature floating a world that dies and grows again .

Targhan is probably the most stunning game you'll ever play.

Targhan is an adventure-action game with more than 120 landscapes and 40 different characters. The game is playable on either keyboard or

The game offers digitised sound and outstanding graphics.

It will be released on Amiga, Atari and PC (EGA, VGA and CGA) by the end of May. The game will run on both colour and mono screens.

To enter our competition please send your warranty cards of TARGHAN and complete the following:

I like the game Targhan because

Look for reviews in Commodore User,

Popular, The One, C&VG, Ace, ZAP, The

Games Machine

and Amiga User

International soon!

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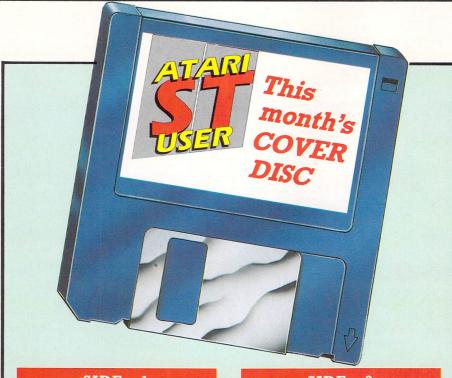
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SIDE

Fastlane

Drive around a Grand Prix circuit against the clock.

Vidi-ST

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Archiver

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SIDE

Things to do With Numbers

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Atari rapped over ANGERED at Atari's attitude towards its

customers, Atari users have raised a petition of complaint which is to be sent straight to the top of the giant corporation. Chairman of Atari USA, Jack Tramiel, is the prime target for the document, which has received overwhelming support. A copy of it will also be sent to UK managing director, Bob Gleadow.

The petition was launched at the recent Atari Computer Show at Alexandra Palace by the chairman of the 16,000 strong Association of Atari User Groups. Ken Ward, and his wife Sherry. It is being circulated to members of the Norwich Atari User Group. Shortly after the show 1,700 people had already signed and copies had gone out to many of the 20 user groups spread throughout the

"We resent the fact that Atari does not support the users in any way", said Sherry. "They have not been at many of the large shows to tell consumers what they are doing. This petition is more than just a complaint, it is stronger than that. A lot of people feel more than let down by Atari. They feel insulted. Atari as a whole totally ignores its users. It looks upon them just as people who put their hands in their pockets".

The strength of feeling was evident from the moment the petition was

support

launched. Signatories range from members of the public to the heads of software companies. Although it was just left on a table at the Atari Computer Show, it snowballed and as word went round the hall people sought it out to add their signatures.

The wording of the petition protests specifically about Atari's lack of support for the European Computer Trade Show, the Atari Computer Show and the Desktop Publishing Show and its "apparent apathy towards Atari users in general"

Ken Ward told Atari ST User. "Atari seem to have this attitude of sitting on their backsides and not going out into the market to support their products. They are not supporting the main shows in the way that Commodore does and we feel they are not advertising sufficiently. We have put a lot of money into Atari machines and we do not want to see their life shortened because people will not market them properly"

An Atari spokesman said: "We were not aware of this situation, but now we are we would be glad to meet with Atari users and discuss their grievances".

Fast facts

DUTCH company Zadok has launched Uni Man, a universal package for the ST which allows Midi musicians to create their own manager/editor for any Midi equipment.

While seeking a UK distributor, Zadok is currently selling the product with an English manual direct from Holland for around £145. Inquiries should be sent to Postbus 1192, 2260 BD, Leidschendam.

* * *

CAVENDISH Distributors (01-323 4761) has taken on what it calls "the ultimate challenge" and developed a product to give PC compatibility to ST owners. PC-Speed is a hardware emulator that provides MS-Dos on the ST.

The circuit board supports both monochrome and colour monitors, hard discs, disc drives through the serial and parallel ports and mouse operation. Cavendish claims a 4.0 Norton factor - four times faster than a PC/XT with a clock frequency of 4.77 MHz. It costs £379.

* * *

EXPRESSWORKS (0252 726255) has been appointed UK distributor for the longawaited 1.5 version of computer aided design package DynaCADD. In addition to offering full technical back-up and tuition combined with associated hardware, software and stationary, Expressworks will also continue its support of Campus CAD, Campus Draft and Draffix CAD.

DynaCADD costs £747.

* * *

PRACTICAL (01-533 2918) has brought out Virus Killer ST, developed to detect and destroy Signum BPL, Mad Virus, Mutant Signum BPL, ACA, Freeze, CT, Maulwurf UK and FDR. BHP. LAB. FAT. Ghost Mouse, 5th Generation, Oil, Kabold, Muta Antivirus, Milzband, Papa & Garfield, Virus Construction Set and VLURV viruses. Price £9.95.

* * *

SOFTWARE cassettes and discs will soon bear an anti-piracy logo which is the latest move by FAST, the Federation Against Software Theft. Being designed by software house Psygnosis, it is likely to be based on the well-known red circle and diagonal line symbol for prohibition and may include a drawing of a pirate.

It is hoped that when the logo is completed, publishers will be persuaded to use it on their software as a warning against copying.

Had its chips?

A QUESTION mark hangs over the future of the Motorola chips which are at the heart of the ST and Atari is likely to move away from the Motorola 68000 chip with a risc-based successor in the ST range. "We are not sure if Motorola has a

range of chips that will take the ST

into the future. We cannot see what the next family of Motorola chips will be, so risc chip technology will

be the way we will be going over the next five years", said a spokesman. Trade sources say the new ST would be aimed at the second time buyer for a price of around £1,000.

ST upgrade coming

MORE than a year since it was first thought of, the STE, Atari's upgrade for the ST, will be launched in the UK before the end of the year, it has been revealed to Atari ST User.

Formerly called the ST Plus, it is based on the same technology as the ST, but with several features to increase performance. The STE is currently waiting in the wings while suitable software is developed. "Extra software needs to be

available for the extended capabilities of this machine", said an Atari spokesman.

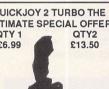
"We will be shipping the machines by the end of the year, but will probably introduce the STE as a normal 520ST without much fanfare until this software is available".

Notable improvements include greater speed and scrolling, but the price of the new machine will be the same as for an existing ST.

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C-Lab Notator in use at Meridion School

Sound education...

C-LAB Notator from Sound Technology (0462 480000) has hit the right note with music teachers who have voted it top of the class. Meridian School in Royston, Hertfordshire, has become one of the first schools in the country to introduce Notator into its GCSE and A level classes.

Hertfordshire is one of 20 education authorities which have invested in the software. There, it is being used as part of Education 2000, a pilot scheme aimed at introducing new teaching methods in secondary schools.

C-Lab Notator is interactive software for music composition which cuts out the

need for teachers to move constantly between the keyboard and the blackboard to translate the audible notes into written score.

Terry Fairbanks, head of music at Meridian School, said: "One of the program's main advantages is the speed at which it processes information and commands."

"It is a boon to pupils who are talented composers but for whom scoring a complex composition might become tedious. It positively encourages them to present their work in notated form".

Notator costs £485.

The doctor on a disc

FROM America comes news of a range of medical software developed for the ST by Schaefer Supergraphics. Diet Version 3.0 is described as "a nutritional consultant on a disc". Written by two doctors, it is aimed at weight watchers and advises on daily caloric needs, exercise and menus geared for weight loss.

Longevity gives pointers on healthy living covering 22 separate subjects including exercise, vitamins, cholesterol, aerobics, cancer, smoking, alcohol, drugs and AIDS.

Code Blue is a cardiac arrest simulator. The program is based on recent recommendations of the National Conference on Advanced Cardiac Life Support. It continuously updates such parameters as blood pressure, pulse, respiration, urine output and cardiac rhythm and displays them graphically in real time on a computer screen. The mouse and function keys are used to make selections from a menu of 41 options for treatment.

Gas-Lyte is an arterial blood gas and

electrolyte analysis program. From information fed in it presents diagnoses for scores of acid-based and electrolyte abnormalities.

Diet costs \$25, in America, Longevity \$39.95, Code Blue \$65.95 and Gas-Lyte \$25. They can be obtained by contacting Dr.Ron Schaefer, 1166 Rosedale Avenue, 103 Glendale, California 91201.

Driving for all

MGT (0792 791100) claims to have produced a unique solution for people who use more than one computer. Its Lifetime drive can be reconfigured to work with a range of different computers by setting switches and changing cables.

Using a Citizen 1Mb 3.5in mechanism, the Lifetime drive has its own power supply. Compatible computers include the Atari ST, PC, Amiga, Spectrum, QL and BBC. Price £129.95. A 5.25in version is also available with an external power source.

SOFTWARE HOTLINE

DOMARK has signed a licensing deal to produce the computer version of popular board game Pictionary. Seen as an appropriate successor to Trivial Pursuits, Pictionary is for up to four teams of players or can be played against the computer.

The machine is used to roll the dice and land on a board square shown on the screen. It then comes up with a grid reference to show the player what needs to be drawn.

Using a built-in art package, the player draws his object on screen for other team members to guess as quickly as possible. Drawings come in five categories with an additional "all play" option where everyone joins in.

Pictionary will be launched at the end of September and will cost £24.99.

Tipped to be a potential chart topper is Hard Driving, a new driving simulation to be launched in November on the Tengen/Domark label. Star Wars writer Jurgen Freidrich has been working at Domark to convert the arcade game which was originally designed by Atari as a driving school simulator. Its a single track test of driving where speed is the aim.

"We believe that we have a real contender for the number one spot in the charts with Hard Driving", said Domark's Clare Edgeley. Price, £19.99.



ARTRONIC (0423 525325) has released the second entertainment title under its recent licensing deal with top US developer Omnitrend Software.

A tactical combat game, Paladin has elements of fantasy, strategy and role-playing plus animated graphics and digitised sound. The player takes on the role of Brandon, a would-be knight leading a party of followers through 10 different quests and doing battle with trolls, zombies, dragons and sorcerers. It includes a quest builder which allows the player to modify scenarios and even create new ones.

Price: £19.99.

SOFTWARE HOTLINE

IMPRESSIONS (0322 555917) has been forced to change part of its latest arcade style shoot-'em-up Chariots of Wrath following an eleventh hour complaint by Mirrorsoft. It centered on one of the six game segments in Chariots of Wrath which Mirrorsoft claimed bore too much similarity to its new Xenon II.

After a confrontation between the two companies it was amicably agreed that Impressions would replace the controversial part of Chariots of Wrath with another scenario.

Mirrorsoft managing director Peter Billotta told *Atari ST User*: "There were some parts in the game which we thought were pretty close to the mark. We got together and there was an amicable relationship between the two companies. There was no need for anything judicious".

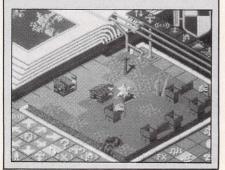
Over at Impressions, head of production Edward Grabowski said: "Chariots of Wrath has six game segments and it was one of these with a spider's web background that worried Mirrorsoft. They rang us and we all got round the table to look at the problem. Because we had lots of other levels which we had not been able to use, we put one of these in to avoid continuing wrangles. The similarity between the two games was a surprise to both parties and pure coincidence".

Chariots of Wrath is now available on the ST at a price of £24.99.

* * *

FANS of Populous – European sales of which have topped 60,000 – who want more challenges, can now find their way into five new lands.

Electronic Arts (0753 49442) has developed Populous: The Promised Lands. The data disc contains five new worlds, each with a different terrain, different strategies and each more challenging than before. They are Revolution Francaise, Silly Land, Block Land, The Wild West and Samurai Land. Price £9.99.



Soccer fans boot up

THE May issue of *Atari ST User*, asked you to test your knowledge of the English Football League.

By correctly answering five questions you could win a personalised track suit and boots. First out of the sack of correct entries was James Baeljaers from Hingham.

The next 20 will all be receiving a copy of Tracksuit Manager from Again Again, so you can experience the stresses and achievements of international football: D.

Allen, Reading; S. Murray, New Malden; J.C. Grimwood, Mickleover; C. Ekins, Hoddesdon; K.G. Ashberry, Heald Green; A.G. Shott, Worcester; S. Gergis, London; K. Marshall, Bishops Stortford; K. McGourty, Croydon; M. McVeigh, Limarady; P. Higgins, Huby; G. Wilkinson, Leyland; J. McNeil, Glasgow; R. Bright, Wolverhampton; P. Williams, King's Lynn; S. Robinson, Cowley; G. R. Upton, Keresley; C. Einig, Maghull; S. Eade, Northampton, and C. Vollbracht, Coventry.



New partnership (left to right) David Bromley, sales director and David Underwood managing director, Istel Inet, with Derek Meakin, chairman, and David Hirst, commercial director, MicroLink.

MicroLink on the move

MAJOR changes are being planned for MicroLink, the rapidly growing electronic mail service. It will leave Telecom Gold and enter into a partnership with Istel Inet, a new telecommunications giant. Istel Inet is a partnership of two major international names in the field of data communications, Istel and Bell Canada Enterprises.

"We have long been faced with restrictions that have prevented us developing the service in the way we know our subscribers would like", said MicroLink chairman Derek Meakin. "We feel that the time has come to break away from Telecom Gold and open new doors. The result will be a considerable expansion of services available to anyone with a computer, a modem and a telephone".

Many of the present facilities offered by MicroLink will be improved and the new service will also include news, sport and weather, a comprehensive financial section plus on-line shopping, computer conferencing, a service long requested by MicroLink subscribers, will also be introduced.

Videos looking better

EVER been bored by a really bad home video? Generally it's a case of stale presentation, but the ST can now come to the rescue. Multigen is a hardware add-on which overlays computer-generated graphics with composite video images.

Developed by Digita International (0395 270273), this genlock uses the RGB output from the ST and allows the screen

display to be mixed with any video source providing RGB and RF outputs for the mixed signal. By using adaptors, it is possible to combine several different micros and video sources.

Overlaying graphics and text on to video opens up the possibility of interesting subtitles, credits, logos and special effects. Multigen costs £206.



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Top note Midi

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Developed in the UK, Music Publisher drives a range of printers, has a wide variety of notes, text, symbols and editing facilities. Price: £333.



Paper changes hands

THE Europress Group has become joint owner of Specialist Retail Press, publisher of Computer Trade Weekly. It is running CTW in partnership with SRP's present managing director Tom Stock. Europress, the parent company of Database Publications, Database Exhibitions, Database Software and Mandarin Software, has joined with Stock to buy SRP from the Spectrum Group plc.

Stock continues as managing director and has been joined on the board by Europress chairman Derek Meakin, managing director Michael Meakin and commercial director David Hirst. CTW remains an independent publication keeping its current location and staff.

"Tom Stock and his team have done a most professional job in building CTW into what it is today, an indispensable part of the leisure computing industry in Britain", said Derek Meakin. "We are delighted to become associated with this successful publication and we will do all we can to support its continued progress.

In particular, the Europress Group's detailed knowledge of the European marketplace will now be available to CTW.

"With our backing, CTW should be able to play a vital role in helping UK companies build a marketing bridgehead throughout the Community in the run up to 1992 with considerable benefits to all concerned".

Tom Stock said: "I have long felt that CTW was the poor relation in the Spectrum Group. This was not deliberate, but it is understandable for the group to concentrate its resources on core activities rather than on the development of a satellite publishing company".

Chairman of Spectrum, Alastair Mac-Gillvray said: "We believe that a company with the expertise and reputation of Europress can actively take CTW and SRP into the next league. On a horses for courses basis we believe that Europress can do a better job for SRP than Spectrum".

Digital's deal in France

DIGITAL Integration (0276 684044) has signed an exclusive distribution deal with Ubisoft to sell its flagship product F16 Combat Pilot in France. With the number of STs in France estimated at more than 100,000 DI is confident the deal will mean good business.

Computers join the dolls

RENOWNED for having the largest collection of children's toys in the world, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood prides itself on its concern for what man has made for his children.

A branch of the Victoria and Albert Museum, it is currently recognising the hi-tech hobbies of modern children with a Computer Dungeon display alongside the impressive exhibits of Victorian dolls and toys. Helping stage the exhibition is Mal Thomas, marketing manager of Network (0302 321134). "Even though the home computer industry is in its infancy it is growing up fast", he told *Atari ST User*. "A display and workshop of this nature can only be of benefit to the industry. This is an ideal opportunity to explain to children and adults alike the benefits of home computing".

High flyer

COMBAT flight simulator F-19 Stealth Fighter has won MicroProse its first award from the giant Software Publishers Association in America. It was named Best Simulation at the SPA awards ceremony in San Diego.

Extracting records

FROM the land of Bread and The Beatles, an A level student has come up with a program which could put the ST into countless dentists' surgeries. Darren Ithell (18) from Merseyside used STOS, the games creation package from Mandarin Software (0625 878888) to develop Dental Practitioner, a program which takes the hassle out of dental records.

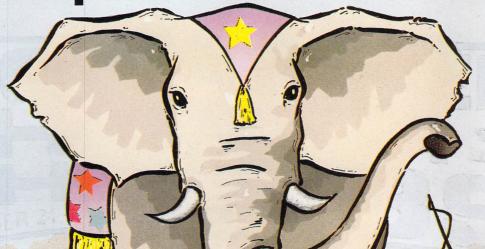
A keen programmer, Darren chose dentistry for his A level project at Birkenhead Metropolitan College because his girlfriend is a dental nurse. His program records the details of a dental check-up and keeps track of patients records. Working in real time, it will produce details of each patient's teeth just prior to their appointment, and also works out the bill.

"I started developing this program in GW Basic, but that was horrendous", Darren told *Atari ST User*. "I found it so easy using STOS, even though it is really meant for designing games. It is good to be able to use the pull-down menus".

Switched . . .

PERFORMANCE of the Megablaster joystick from Konix (0495 350101) has been improved by the addition of microswitches. The firm is offering this new upgraded version for £8.99.

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Thousands enjoy hottest Atari Show ever

HREE days of blistering heat proved the loyalty of Atari users who flocked to Alexandra Palace on June 23, 24 and 25 for the Atari Computer Show organised by Database Exhibitions. As roads melted, the city sweltered and public transport was still rocking from industrial action, 11,500 of the faithful filled the show and defied the hot sun to

leave laden with armfuls of good buys.

In addition to the host of new product launches which were featured in the special show preview published in the July issue of *Atari ST User*, visitors enjoyed an interesting and varied selection of special presentations which ran throughout the three days.

A popular forum was Meet The Editors, when members of the public could take over the mike and fire questions at the editors of leading Atari publications. In the firing line were Hugh Gollner of ST Action, Les Ellingham of Page 6, Richard Monteiro of ST Format, Roland Waddilove of Atari ST User and David Stewart of ST World.

Questions came thick and fast and ranged from the pros and cons of cover discs to editorial freedom versus advertising revenue. The editors acquitted themselves well and the public went away with a clearer picture of publishing.

Having met the editors, visitors also had a chance to meet the experts of the Atari world. Replacing the usual technical advice stand, this was a problem-solving seminar. Giving the benefit of their combined knowledge were Andy Leaning of Silica, Paul Kaufman of GST, freelance programmer and writer André Willey and Atari's former technical manager, Les Player, now working for German firm GFA.

Les Player took the brunt of questioning. Despite the fact that he no longer works for Atari, he was seen by many as a source of information for what the company may produce in the future. He also used his extensive technical knowledge to sort our many problems.

Musician Colin Gay kept feet tapping making music with the ST and the special features were rounded off by HiSoft's David Link and Andy Pennell, author of Devpac who conducted three programmers workshops.



Les Player fielded questions

It's a honey of a prize



Winner Mark Blyth and finacée Lee

A SIMPLE but very marketable idea won the honours for 29-year-old Mark Blyth in the Innovation Awards judged at the Atari Show, and his success gave a fairytale ending to this national competition.

Mark and his fiancée Lee Mealyou hope to use his £3,000 prize of two tickets for a Mediterranean cruise on the P&O line as their honeymoon. They will be off to the sun courtesy of co-sponsors of the competition Silica Shop and Database Exhibitions.

Mark, who lives in Horsham, has developed a program which produces flow charts which are universally used in modern businesses and organisations.

Using a varied menu, boxes, bubbles, rectangles and many other symbols can be positioned on the screen to form the basis of the flow chart to show company structures or even family trees. These are then connected with lines and arrows and can be moved, adjusted and sized to fit the information available.

"I got the idea for this program two years ago and was surprised when I realised that there was no package of this sort available", Mark told *Atari* ST User

His variation of a CAD system will produce bubble charts, data flow diagrams, system and organisation charts. He did the original develop-



THE Atari Show saw the final judging of Computer Games Writer of the Year, a national competition run by Mandarin Software. First position and a prize of £5,000 in advanced royalties went to Simon Cook, a 20-year-old student at UMIST, Manchester.

A game of martial arts set against a Tom and Jerry style scenario, his entry was Cartoon Capers, with beautifully realised graphics which capture the atmosphere of classic cartoons.

"Although the game is only in its early stages of development, we felt that of all the excellent programs submitted this one had the greatest overall appeal", said Mandarin's marketing manager Chris Payne." It had the most potential to make it into the charts once it has been completed".

Entrants had to compile their programs using the Mandarin games creation package STOS. A computer buff all his life, Simon, of Crumpsall, Manchester, is no newcomer to the entertainment software industry. Before opting to go to UMIST to study for a BSc in computers, he spent 18 months working first as a software evaluator then as a games designer for Elite Systems. There he was involved in such blockbuster titles as Paperboy, Live and Let Die and A Question of Sport.

Since arriving at university, Simon has found time to work as a freelance designer and this led to his interest in using STOS.

He will now be working with the Mandarin team to complete Cartoon Capers ready for general release on the Atari ST. He will subsequently convert it to run on the Commodore Amiga using AMOS, a new games creation package which Mandarin will launch in October.

£5,000 caper pays off



Simon (left) receives his cheque from Mandarin's Chris Payne

"Apart from the £5,000 prize money, Simon can now look forward to substantial additional royalties if Cartoon Capers becomes a bestseller, as we believe it will", said Chris Payne.

All games entered for the competition were judged on graphics, sound, playability, concept and the overall presentation.

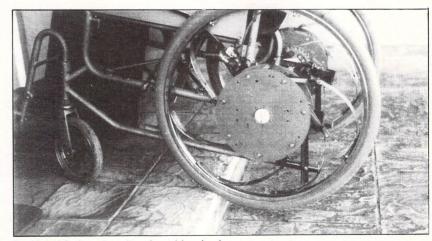
ment work on a 520ST with two floppy drives then went onto a hard disc and 1040ST.

Second position in the Innovation Awards and a seven day holiday in a villa or apartment at one of 30 European or American resorts went to David Jones, who with his father Dr.Sydney Jones has used an Atari ST to help develop a conformable wheel. With hinged flexible spokes, it can absorb the shock of uneven ground or steps and is primarily designed for wheelchairs.

"My father is now 78 and when he retired from his job as a research board member of British Rail he was keen to do something for the elderly", said David. "Originally, to find the effect of changing the length of the spokes he had to use cardboard and pins, which was very time consuming".

David works in computers and hit on the idea of writing a program which would allow information to be fed in on the number and length of spokes, hub radius and other dimensions which when animated would show how the behave while rolling and meeting steps.

Tony Beighton, a committee member of Exeter Harriers, found it difficult and time consuming to collate the results of the club's road relay races. With hundreds of runners in many different classes and teams, the need to work out positions, leg times and a welter of other data as quickly as



David and Sydney Jones' conformable wheel

possible was a real headache.

When his son bought an ST to play games on Tony saw a solution. He bought a copy of Fast Basic and wrote the program over 18 months.

"It used to take us days to work out the results. Now it takes about an hour to know all the results and times in depth", he said.

Tony took third prize in the competition with a two week stay in Florida for two.

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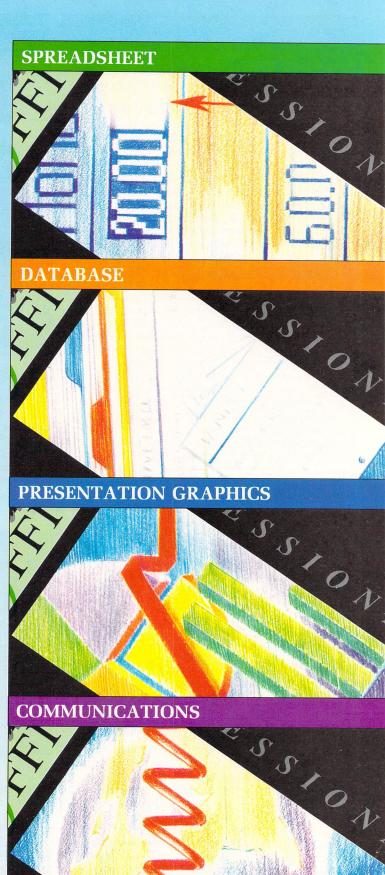
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Gallup gre chart

This month	Last month	Title (Software House)	Price	Month reviewed in Atari ST User		Marks from 10
	2	ROBOCOP Ocean	19.99	Sept 1989	Film to arcade and now to the ST. Stylish but slightly sluggish implementation. Nice use of digitised speech with gameplay to match.	9
2	1	POPULOUS Electronic Arts	24.95	May 1989	This is the game of the gods – play on your own, against another ST, or against another micro via a modem link. Brilliant.	10
3		MICROPROSE SOCCER Microprose	24.99	Aug 1989	Long-awaited soccer package contains two variations of the sport – overhead views of indoor and the more familiar outdoor variety.	9
4	13	FORGOTTEN WORLDS US Gold	19.99	Sept 1989	An interesting variation on a theme. Very enjoyable with hours of fun for even the most hardened arcade fanatic.	8
5	4	DRAGON NINJA Ocean	19.99	Aug 1989	The President has been kidnapped by a group of ninja warriors. You must rescue him and survive against horrendous odds.	5
6	15	HONDA RVF Microprose	24.99	Sept 1989	An excellent simulation – one of the best yet seen on the ST. One of the few racing games to impress you with its realism.	9
7	6	KICK OFF Anco	19.99	July 1989	One of the fastest and most exciting games around. The best football simulation ever – realism, thrills and unrelenting action.	9
8	14	BATTLE CHESS Electronic Arts	24.95	Aug 1989	You'll be surprised what happens in this chess game, A vicious queen, metamorphosing rooks and mischievous pawns.	9
9	9	MILLENNIUM 2.2 Activision	29.99	Aug 1989	Unlike anything you've seen before – atmospheric, arcade sequences, puzzles and totally addictive. A superb strategy game.	10
10	•	SILKWORM Virgin Mastertronic	19.99	Aug 1989	If you are after a good blast and have a partner to help then look no further – it's brilliant. Good even as a one player game.	10
	•	3D POOL Firebird	19.95	Sept 1989	There's no doubt that this is one of the best pool/ snooker simulations around. Watch out for the trick shots feature.	9
12	7	F16 COMBAT PILOT Digital Integration	24.95	July 1989	Impressive documentation, but the aircraft handling is not very realistic with a tendency to over-respond. It is all too easy to crash.	8
13	•	OUTRUN Klassix	9.99	July 1989	New to US Gold's Klassix label is one of the best car simulations for the ST. An arcade conversion, its initial release reached the number one spot.	9
<mark>14</mark> .	17	FUN SCHOOL 2 Database Educational Software	19.95	June 1989	Three versions are available for different ages. Colourful and educational, these are more than games, being suitable for school and home.	*
15	•	PERSONAL NIGHTMARE Tynesoft	19.95	Aug 1989	Impressive and entertaining is this straightforward fight of good versus evil. A welcome addition to any adventure collection.	8
16	•	LEADERBOARD <i>Klassix</i>	9.99	*	Another budget re-release of the classic golf game. A serious and addictive implementation with a good selection of courses to choose from.	*
17	8	FALCON Mirrorsoft	24.95	March 1989	Prepare yourself for a Mach 2 flight in another F-16 and enjoy arguably the best in the growing class of military simulators.	9
18	10	PACLAND Grand Slam	19.95	June 1989	The sequel to Pacmania, with the setting in a cartoon world. You are still being chased by the ghosts from the original.	9
19	16	LOMBARD RAC RALLY Mandarin	24.95	Jan 1989	Still on the racing circuit but this time with a rallying slant. Win enough race legs and you can customise your Sierra Cosworth.	9
20	•	GRAND MONSTER SLAM Rainbow Arts	19.99	Aug 1989	A lovely game full of fun and addictiveness. This loony sports simulation is akin to a cross between a medieval tournament and tennis.	9



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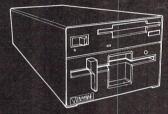
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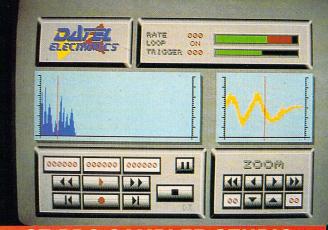
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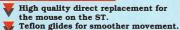
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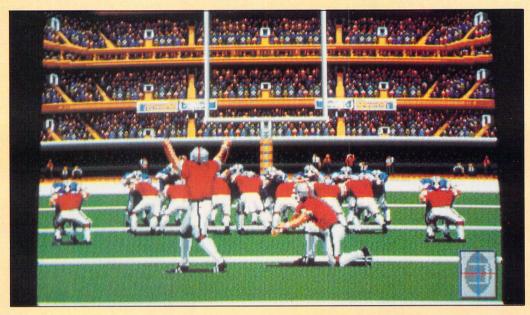
Program: TV Sports Football
Price: £24.99
Supplier: Cinemaware/Mirrorsoft, Irwin
House, 118 Southwark Street, London
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Tel: 01-928 1454

VER wanted to coach or play American grid-iron football but never had the opportunity or couldn't understand the rules? Well, now is your chance with this incredible new sports simulation from Mirrorsoft.

Being something of an Anglofile Soccer and Rugby Union freak, I approached this game with a certain amount of prejudice. However, all misconceptions were blown to the wind after only half an hour's play of a simulation of a game I had previously known little to nothing about.

TV Sports Football comes on a single disc with impressive documentation and packaging. Indeed the documentation will need careful reading if you are to be in any way successful at the gameplay and tactics.

Load the disc and you are quickly presented with a simple menu



screen. From this you can choose from an exhibition match, a league set-up, practice facilities, the weeks' game schedules and updated league tables. You can also edit your team and players' names and qualities which will reflect in the gameplay.

It is probably wise initially to go for the practice mode to get used to the infinite varieties of offense and defense tactics permissible in American football, and to give you a feel of gameplay and hands-on practice at punting and goal kicking.

For instance, there are literally hundreds of different play combinations that can be run from each offensive formation and practice is essential. After that, opt for the Exhibition match to suffer – as you struggle to come to terms with the nuances of the game – and enjoy, a full 80 minutes of American football.

The screen will toggle to a sub menu from where you can choose from a one or two player game. Having made this selection you may



Grid iron delight



now choose the two teams you wish to compete in the match. Making careful selections from West and East divisions one, two and three will influence the difficulty of play.

The umpire now tosses a coin for which the opposition calls and the game begins. In this you can determine play patterns and cope with hand-offs, sweeps, pitchouts, blitzs, shotguns, draws and much

As the game starts you are either kicking or receiving. If receiving, your first task is to make as much ground as possible. Or if following up your own kick you must block the opposition as quickly as possible.

You view all proceedings from a slightly oblique bird's eye position and from here control all play combinations via flip-up menus.

These playcalling menus are the core of all play. Apart from their primary function they also function as a

scoreboard showing the game clock, team names, score by quarter, total rolling score, the Down number from one to four, yards to go for a first down and the position of the football on the field.

By judicious playcalling, quick and decisive joystick dexterity you can in offense - run play, kick for distance or throw a forward pass upfield to a waiting colleague. Equally in defence you can call defensive play and move quickly to block and force back the opposition's attacking

Kicking is a separate acquired skill that is displayed on a close-up screen. There are two ways of kicking a field goal. You may let the ST automatically attempt the kick or you can try to do so yourself. Both attempts will be based on the ratings of the kicker and the timing.

Once you become proficient at TV Sports Football you can take part in a competitive league via the League option and take on friends and micro alike. While all the time keeping an eye on other results and the ever changing league table.

The game closely follows the rules of American football and is well supported by full explanation of rules and tactics in the accompanying

The graphics are superb - the best I have seen in any sports simulation the grunting and thumping sound effects realistic and the gameplay supremely addictive. Just kick a field goal to encapsulate the best of all these qualities.

I have never been so addicted in such a short space of time to any sports simulation on any micro. All power to their padding and visors.

Nic Outterside

Sound	9
Graphics	
Playability	10
Value for money	10
Overall	



American football bores me almost as much as horse racing, but this game had me transfixed. It is excellent and by far the best sports simulation I have seen

It is bound to do well, but I only wonder about the unparalleled success it could have enjoyed if the subject had been football or rugby.

Jayne West

Method in your mission



REACH from Artronic is a single player tactical combat game in which the Federal World's Special Forces want you to take command and lead a squad of top marines through missions varying in difficulty. The object is to improve your leadership abilities.

The main part of the screen is taken up by a window showing part of a map, each square representing one movement point.

Icons across the bottom of the screen let marines pick up, put down and use objects, open doors, shoot and use lifts.

Mission Briefing and Victory Conditions selected from drop-down menus tell you what you must do. With the Breeder scenario your task is to wipe out an alien installation and rescue Federated World citizens being eaten by man-eating monsters.

Your squad can vary in size depending on the type of mission. You could be on your own or you could take command of dozens of marines marauders, scouts, infiltrators and some with psionic talent.

The game is played in rounds rather like a Dungeons and Dragons board game, where each side takes turns to move. The movement and actions of each of your marines is

Product: Breech Price: £19.95 Supplier: Artronic, 1-3 Haywra Crescent, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HGI 5BG. Tel: 0423 525325

controlled by movement points which depend on the type of marine. his vitality and current load.

For instance, to move a marine two places north across clear ground would use up four movement points, but an encumbrance of 15 would require six movement points.

When you take control of a marine, a window to the right displays his moves, vitality, encumbrance, shooting accuracy, detector ability, cracking ability and ammunition. His vitality is measured on how well he is rested

When you finish moving a marine click on the next arrow and the map moves to display the next one with movement points left. Once you have finished moving all your marines the enemy advances.

You will have to learn how to deploy your marines effectively and use the weapons and detectors available to you at your base camp. If you complete all the missions - or just fancy a change - there is a map editor to build your own scenarios.

The graphics are all restricted to

small eight by eight pixel characters and the only smooth animation is the tiny marine walking to the next square. The sound is adequate, but could easily be improved.

Breach is a slow and methodical game which requires patience - not the sort of thing to appeal to bloodthirsty alien shoot-'em-up fans.

David McLachlan

Sound	8
Graphics	8
Playability	8
Value for money	8
Overall	8



Breach will appeal to board game. role playing and wargame enthusiasts, as it has elements of all three. It's not fast paced, but requires you to sit back and carefully think out your strategy. The graphics are quite ordinary as is the use of sound. Overall a competent game, but nothing to write home about. Try before you buy.

Roland Waddilove

QUICK PEEK

Tom and **Terry**

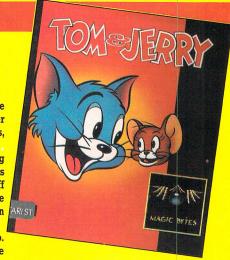
Magic Bytes/Gremlin

WITH the ST's superb graphics Magic Bytes' Tom and Jerry should have been a winner, however, it fails to score a hit. The title and Game Over screens feature superb pictures of those two lovable cartoon characters. but the game itself looks dated.

It's based on ladders and levels with you taking on the role of Jerry being chased by Tom as you scour the house for cheese and eat as much as possible in the time allowed. If Tom catches you 30 seconds is knocked off your time allowed. The graphics are reminiscent of an 8 bit game and the animation crude and simple. The way Jerry shuffles sideways and floats in the air when he jumps gives a very flat feel to the graphics.

Magic Bytes can do better than this. Tom and Jerry deserve better, too.

Roland Waddilove



Gone fishing

Program: Jaws
Price: £19.99
Supplier: Screen Seven, Units 3-7 Bouley
Gate Industrial Estate, Pontefract,
West Yorkshire WF8 2LN.
Tel: 0977 797777

T last one of the most gripping movies of all time, Jaws, has made it to the computer screen.

The hunt for the great white shark is on and a lovely solid vector-graphic routine shows your shark-hunting ship setting out to sea. As in the film, your aim is to destroy the shark despite fears of the local mayor that a scare will ruin the tourist trade.

To that end, you have to close the smallest number of beaches you can to limit shark attacks without spooking the tourists. Unfortunately, the equipment you need to kill the shark has been scattered over the seabed, and you have to retrieve it all before you can hunt down the killer.

The main screen is divided into three sections. The top control panel shows your score, the number of



pieces of shark gun you have collected, your air supply and number of lives remaining.

The bottom display shows a map of the island, giving your position, the weather situation, time, number of swimmers eaten and scrolling messages from home base.

The centre of the screen shows either your ship or your diving bell, depending on the mode you're in, and by pressing the spacebar to switch to full-screen map mode you can use the cursor to select which beaches to close. Those where an attack has occurred are marked with a skull and crossbones.

The arcade element begins when you launch your diving bell to retrieve the shark gun, and here the game departs from the plot of the film. Although the routines in the underwater chasms and caves are fine, with nice colourful graphics and smooth animation, they could just as well be a part of any game.



I wasn't too impressed with the gameplay of Jaws – we've all seen plenty of these maze-based arcade adventures – but I must admit I couldn't think of a better way to adapt the film.

John Renwick

Some of the underwater denizens such as the exploding jellyfish and amorphous globs are so unrealistic that it makes you wonder whether they were designed for a space fantasy.

You steer through the maze, shooting creatures to recover treasure, bullets, air and pieces of gun.

Every now and again you hear the sinister Jaws theme and the great white shark sweeps across the screen.

Although the gameplay of Jaws isn't original, the whole thing is very well put together and thoroughly entertaining.

Chris Jenkins

Sound	8
Graphics	8
Playability	8
Value for money	7
Overall	

No navy lark

Program: Navy Moves Price: £19.95 Supplier: Dinamic/Electron

Supplier: Dinamic/Electronic Arts, Langley Business Centre, 11-49 Station Rd, Langley, Slough, SL3 8YN. Tel: 0753 49442

umping ultra-sensitive enemy mines in a rubber speedboat and tackling killer sharks with just a shark gun to protect you is all in a day's work in Navy Moves, the latest release from Dinamic/Electronic Arts. In this two-part mission your objective is to locate and destroy the nuclear submarine U-5544.

Part one is split into three horizon-



tally scrolling sub-games. The first has you at sea bouncing on the crests of waves while trying to jump mines and dodge enemy commandos on aquatic motorcycles. Your aim is to reach the spot where you can dive down to a submersed enemy base.

You plunge beneath the waves in your frogman gear in the second subgame and now your goal is to locate the entrance to the enemy base. Once there you must capture the bathyscaphe, keeping an eye open for sharks and enemy divers as you go.

You face sub-game three in the bathyscape and battle with giant sea monsters bent on making a meal of you. The aim here is to escape from the enemy base and penetrate a nuclear submarine's defences.

You now enter the second part of your mission in which you have to place a bomb in the submarine's reactor and make your escape.

In this section you shoot and search officers to find computer

access codes to open locked doors.

The graphics are superb and the sprites are detailed and well animated. When you shoot someone he falls over and dies with a spurt of blood and a digitised scream, and the flame thrower burns them up.

There isn't any music during the game, but the good digitised sound effects are very good.

Navy Moves is excellent. Put it on your shopping list this autumn.

Phillip Bexon

9
8
7
8
8



The three horizontally scrolling sub-games in part one are my favourites. The first rate graphics and superb digitised sound effects make this game hard to beat. Recommended.

Roland Waddilove

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Product: Phobia
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RE you reduced to a quivering mass of jelly at the sight of a harmless spider? Do you crumble like a gibbering idiot at the mere hint of the presence of a bee or wasp, leap on to a chair at the sight of a mouse, or dash for cover should a wayward cockroach trundle across the carpet?

Well, now's your chance to vent your frustrations on many of those nasties in a new sideways scrolling shoot-'em-up from Mirrorsoft called, unsurprisingly, Phobia. It's a two disc challenge for either a single player or for two to tackle in partnership.

Lord Phobos, master of fear, has imprisoned the daughter of the galactic president and is holding her captive on the surface of the sun. Hot stuff.

He knows full well that there is many a knight in shining armour who will be only too keen to launch a rescue mission, so he has created a series of weird and wonderful worlds that must be conquered before any would-be hero can gain access to the

After careful study of the human subconscious he has fashioned each planet in the form of a human phobia. Your task is to destroy nine Phobic planets, travel to their core then collect the rare element situated there that will afford protection to your ship when you finally tackle the sun.

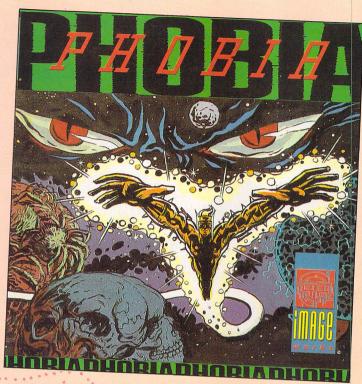
You control your ship using joystick, mouse or redefinable keys. Function keys give access to options for changing screen mode, selecting one or two players, redefining the keys and freezing the game.

Pressing Return at any time splits your ship to give you greater fire power, but you also double the risk of being smashed to a pulp. The opening screen shows the layout of the Phobos galaxy with its 16 planets and their orbital moons.

You always start off on the same planet, but it is from this screen that you select your next target. A press of the fire button and you're into your first battle with Phobos' sun troops throwing everything at you to prevent your success.

These troops come in the form of a mass of strange creatures from giant venom-spitting spiders to missile-launching flies. There's a simple rule of thumb here – if it moves, shoot it. If it doesn't – shoot it anyway. And in the early stages your targets have to

It's all in the



mind

be hit many times before they succumb.

You'll regularly come across power-ups - capsules that will increase your ship's firepower. Many of the components of the planet change into these once they have been destroyed.

Your journey between the planets will not be without incident either, with a fresh range of adversaries to prevent your progress just in case you thought you'd finally cracked it.

Phobos has other defensive systems to deter your rescue mission. The sun troops leave light barriers between planets that will destroy any ship attempting to pass. The only way through is to collect space pods from an orbiting moon and sacrifice one of these instead.

Once you have sufficient powerups the space pods will produce additional fire to that of your ship as they automatically accompany you on your trek.

A nice touch is the ability to play the game with a comrade. If you select this mode a special energy exchange system comes into play firing at your companion's ship will give it a power-up. The ship will change colour as this takes place and when re-charged it will unleash a devastating burst of destruction, proportional to the amount of energy absorbed.

The vast range of graphics is superb and there's some excellent animation, although not a lot of it. My only crib is that the game is far too difficult to get into. It was a long time before I managed to complete the first level.

If you like this kind of mindless mayhem, go out and buy it – you won't be disappointed.

Alan Sergeant

Sound	8
Graphics	9
Playability	7
Value for money	9
Overall	9



Phobia is just my cup of tea, blasting everything in sight and lots and lots of colourful sprites. It's a shade on the hard side but a really good challenge and well worth persevering with.

Bill Differs



Oh,

Product: Eye of Horus Price: £24.99 Supplier: Logotron, Chancery House, 107 St Pauls Rd, Islington, London W1 2NA.

Tel: 01-359 3594

mummy!

GYPTIAN promise is everywhere in this game, which, although not quite finished, contains sufficient already to demonstrate an attractive and addictive experience. In a labyrinth of passages which make up the tomb of an unknown king lies a sarcophagus which holds captive souls aching for release. They cry to the god Osiris, but he is offended by an incomplete mural and will not enter until the situation has been rectified.

You have to negotiate the labyrinth to locate and return seven pieces of Osiris' body to the burial chamber. Exploration is the name of this game.

The walls of the labyrinth are covered with hieroglyphs, some of which come to life as you enter rooms and attack with varying degrees of success.

Initially you are armed only with papyrus darts, but weapons and amulets which can be collected and used are scattered around the playing area hidden in the hieroglyphs.

As a god you can change form. In human form you move relatively slowly and are likely to be speedily wiped out by attackers. On the plus side you can pick up amulets and body parts. Alternatively, you can move much faster and with greater flexibility by transforming yourself into a hawk.

The chambers which make up the labyrinth are linked by lifts, but some are locked and require the collection and use of eight different coloured keys to allow access to different sections of the tomb.

You can make use of 15 amulets which have powers ranging from summoning other gods to providing extra endurance. Other useful ones include the steps which provide a small map of the chambers you have visited, a ladder which teleports you between places and the papyrus sceptre which turns water and dung to papyrus.

Some of the amulets have permanent effects, such as the map, while others confer powers temporarily or can only be used in certain sections of the maze.

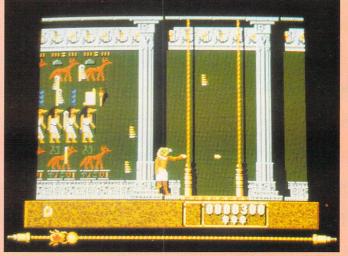
You have three lives, which can be

increased by using the frog amulet. Your strength is indicated by a scarab beetle crawling along a length of rope at the bottom of the screen.

Above this all the amulets and keys collected are shown. They can be selected and used by moving a box along with the joystick and pressing fire.

Amulets are not easy to spot among the wealth of detail on the walls while fighting off animated hieroglyph at the same time. Some sections of the tomb have different coloured backgrounds, but a little more variety would have enhanced the game.

The sound effects have not yet been implemented in our preview version, but a single tune plays constantly. The Eye of Horus is far from



original, and for me holds little attraction because the nasties thrashed me soundly every time.

For hardened arcade addicts looking for a puzzle element to add to mindless blasting, this game should prove an enjoyable challenge.

Pat Winstanley

Sound	8
Graphics	8
Playability	9
Value for money	8
Overall	8



The music of the preview version was very hypnotic and I found the game addictive and playable. The Egyptian theme adds a little variety and is a welcome change to the more usual ideas. The graphics are good, especially the multiplying animated attackers from the walls.

James Brown

Product: Xybots Price: £19.99

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yBOTS, the latest coin-op conversion from Domark, is set in the future and sees you and a friend lost in a maze battling with hordes of alien robots called xybots.

Each player has his own onscreen window showing his part of the maze. Players can split up and tackle separate areas of maze or work together. If you are both at the same location you can see the other player in your own window.

Control for player one is either keyboard or joystick and player two must use a joystick. Normal joystick movement takes you forwards, backwards right and left while the fire button acts normally.

But should you wish to turn through 90 degrees to face a xybot which has crept up on you the controls are more tricky than the enemy. To swivel you move sideways and press fire, which sounds simple, but

Team up for trouble

the controls are so sensitive that more often than not you are left spinning on the spot.

The playing area consists of a series of levels of an underground labyrinth, each patrolled by metallic foes from R2D2 clones to Transformer style giants.

Each type of xybot has its own attack and defense capabilities. Some expire at the first blast from your laser gun while others are quite difficult to exterminate even with added firepower from the equipment shop.

For some xybots the only answer is

to use your zapper which stuns all enemies in your line of sight and appears to kill some of the weaker ones off altogether. On each level one or more trapdoors give access to other levels and during this passage you are given a chance to buy extra fire power. To buy them you must collect coins which litter the maze.

Another pair of useful items in the shop are the enemy map and maze map. Get these and an overhead view of the level, together with the position of xybots and other objects, is shown at the top of the screen

Product: EAS Procovision's Stag Price: £24.99 Supplier: Active Sales, Studio Centre, 1 Ranelagh Cardens, London SW6 3PA. Tel: 01-384 2701

N the year 2567 Earth was annihilated by a natural catastrophe and only those humans on board spaceships exploring the universe for other forms of life escaped.

In time the explorers found planets populated by aliens that, although lacking an understanding of economics, had access to vast resources of minerals, crops, water and fuel. So the scenario is set for Stag from EAS.

At your disposal is the spaceship Zynaar 500 linked to the CTS3X communications system. Your task is to reach a high status by profiting from trading goods. Sounds familiar?

The main screen is your communications interface and consists of three message windows and 10 icons. These allow you to buy and sell, equip your ship, view current stock, set text speed, view a galaxy map, check your status, load and save, repair your ship and fly to a selected destination.

Your fuel load dictates flight distance and reachable planets are

Trading places



shown on the map within a circle. Extra fuel can be bought but this reduces your cash for the purchase of merchandise.

Once your fuel is on board via the

Equip option, the Buy icon is your next target for water, crops, meat, metals and precious stones. Also available are weapons and shields with which to defend yourself from possible pirate attack.

A colourful trader appears in the main message window and you must barter with him to settle on a purchase price. Then it's time to set off for a new planet to make a healthy profit.

Click on the Map icon, on a planet within the indicated radius, then on Flight, and it's hey ho, off we go down the space lane. This consists of a series of rectangles flashing towards you to give an impression of 3D flight. Not particularly inspiring for the ST.

You must keep within the rectangle boundaries or damage ensues. Too much damage results in the loss of your ship and you start all over again.

Using the Repair icon before any trip is essential. You can be attacked by pirates in flight, but they can be seen off quite easily using the cross hair cursor and the mouse to aim and fire your phaser – providing you've bought one, that is.

Land on a new planet and you can try selling off your goods to a different trader at a greater price than you paid for them. If you're not happy with the price offered you must search for a planet within range that may do you a better deal. Of course, this needs fuel. And so it goes on.

If you are into trading games you'll probably get a lot of enjoyment from this challenge. Unfortunately, I didn't and I have doubts as to whether there is sufficient variety between it and others of the genre, particularly at the price which, to say the least, is over the top.

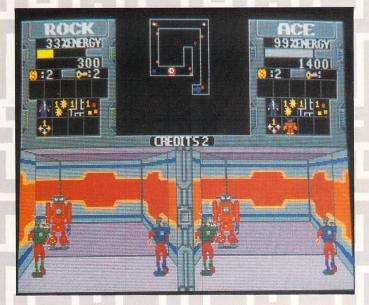
Alan Sergeant

Sound	5
Graphics	7
Playability	
Value for money	3
Overall	6



Being a zap-'em fan, this is not my cup of tea at all. I soon got bored not being able to find a planet that would buy for more than I'd paid. Still, I'll never make a businessman anyway, so perhaps it's me. One to try before you buy.

Bill Differs



between the two players' inventories.

During play your energy gradually dwindles, but scattered around are pods which will restore it. Also to be found are keys which allow access to closed areas Some are red herrings, but others contain useful items.

Teleport pads transfer you from one part of the maze to another. On some levels these are simply a handy short cut, but on others they allow access to closed areas. Make sure you are facing in the right direction before teleporting into a crowd of xybots!

Graphics are excellent, with smooth 3D scrolling and good use of colour; sound had not been included in the preview version. Both the player characters and xybots are



I quickly became frustrated with Xybots due to the over-sensitive controls making the game too difficult to get into. The graphics are average and the gameplay is OK. A pretty ordinary sort of offering.

Andy Swift

well animated and colour scheme changes between levels add to the

I found it hard to tear myself away even in one player mode. Two are definitely better though, adding both to the distance you are likely to get into the game and the pleasure of cooperation – if you can cope with the controls.

Pat Winstanley

Sound	n/a
Graphics	9
Playability	7
Value for money	
Overall	

Dust off a dragon

Product: Forgotten Worlds Price: £19.95 Supplier: US Gold/Capcom, Units 2-3, Holford Way, Holford, Birmingham B6 Tel: 021-356 3388

HE eight evil gods of the Emperor Bios were slowly but surely destroying civilisation. Cities were turned into ruins and became known as the Forgotten Worlds - the title of an arcade conversion from US Gold/Capocom.

To combat this menace two super warriors were created by the spirit of the people's angry minds. You and a friend are these warriors and must fight the Emperor and his minions through four levels of destruction (there is a single player mode, but it's better with two).

The first is a cityscape and you battle through to the underground complex facing lizard-like creatures as well as gas pipes that can burn you to a crisp, not to mention the spider-like robot guards.

If you survive this then you meet the first of the Demi-Gods. Finish him

and its on to the Dust World on level two occupied by the Dust Dragon and his deadly snakes. Gun emplacements try to prevent you destroying the Dragon's heart - his only vunerable spot.

The next level is the High-Tech world, a heavily armed fortress surrounded by gun emplacements. Finally you reach, the Gods' Domain where in a final effort to stop you the Emperor sends maggots and snakes. While you are fighting them off his monks will move in for the kill. Defeat them all and the Emperor himself awaits you on his throne ready to battle to the death.

Forgotten Worlds is another horizontally scrolling shoot everything and collect the bolt-on goodies type game that has been so common recently. Making it a little different is the shopping list.

You collect money in the shape of little blue discs with which to make your purchases at the halfway stage of each level.

A shop appears at the bottom of the screen and if you drop in the scene changes to a shop with a pretty blonde girl behind the counter. You

have 30 seconds to decide what you want from a list including homing missiles, napalm bombs, v-cannon, laser, armour, vital organs and medipacs.

The game is very colourful with large sprites. The detailed background scrolls smoothly and the sensation of movement is excellent. However, you won't have a lot of time to look around, as the action is fast and furious.

Sound is limited to either a

haunting musical background or the effects. Control of your character is difficult at first, but you soon get the hang of it.

One niggling problem is that in one player mode your joystick has to be plugged into the mouse port. This drives me batty on a 520ST.

The game isn't original, but is an interesting variation on a theme. It's very enjoyable and will give hours of fun to even the most hardened arcade fanatic.

Steve Brokenshire

OUICK PEEK

RVF Honda

Micro Style (0666 54326)



FEW racing games have impressed with their realism. Revs on the old BBC Micro was one and RVF Honda from Micro Style on the ST could have been another. It narrowly misses being a top notch simulation because the ST doesn't have analogue joysticks, but this isn't the game's fault.

Despite this, you can still experience a little of the thrills and spills of racing a thoroughbred Honda racing machine from the comfort of your

The game is menu driven and there are plenty of options to choose from. A history of each rider is kept showing the number of races won, lap records held, crashes and so on. You can change riders, view the championship, riders' and lap record tables, set the monitor scan rate, swap an mph speedo for a kph one and set the number of laps in each race.

The championship is spread over a number of races at tracks around the world. Before each race you can practise the circuit and get to know it. Then it's on to the starting grid. Push the joystick forward to accelerate, back to brake, left and right steer and the fire button changes gear. It's difficult keeping up with the other computer controlled competitors at first, but it gets easier as you learn the track.

An excellent simulation, and one of the best yet seen on the ST.

Roland Waddilove

Sound	7
Graphics	9
Playability	9
Value for money	
Overall	8



The control method took some getting used to but worked out well in the end. This was a game that I just had to keep coming back to to have just one more go - and stayed all night. Forgotten Worlds is something of an acquired taste, try it before you buy.

David Jones

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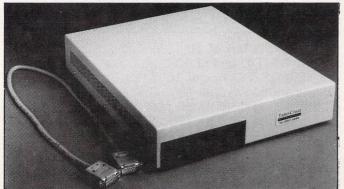
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Old Gods, Product Sleeping Cods Lie Price: £24.99 Supplier: Empire, Unit 4 Stannetts, Cainddon North Trade Centre, Basildon, Essex SS15 6D. Product: Sleeping Cods Lie Price: £24.99 Supplier: Empire, Unit 4 Stannetts, Cainddon North Trade Centre, Basildon, Essex SS15 6D.

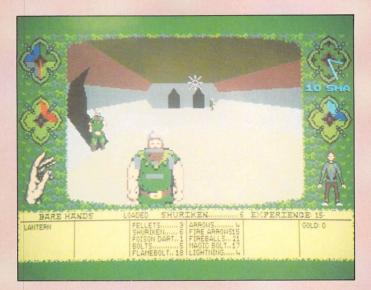
HOUSANDS of years ago, according to Empire's new arcade adventure, Sleeping Gods Lie, the old gods created the world of Tessera, but soon ventured in search of new challenges.

The Archmage, chief wizard of the feeble captive Emperor, uses his demons to maintain control of the peasantry who are suffering poor harvests and sickness.

Their only hope consisting of rumours that N'Gir, one of the old gods, still slumbers in a far flung kingdom and will wake to deal with the crisis. Your task is to find and waken N'Gir.

The journey will be arduous, your knowledge of the land minimal and your only weapons your bare hands. Along the way help and advice will be available from characters you meet. Some Tessairians will provide useful clues while others enlist your aid in return for items and information.

On your quest you will encounter a variety of terrain peppered with secret passages and agents of the Archmage. The plains, mountains,



deserts islands and catacombs containing many species of enemies who will do their best to eliminate you.

Your defensive and offensive powers are restricted initially to throwing stones. Extra weapons from slings to magic wands can be collected from the remains of defeated enemies.

Each hit by an enemy reduces your stamina so you have to search for food to restore your powers. Some food sources are obvious – bushes laden with berries or discarded loaves – but others need more careful observation to root out, such as wild mushrooms and carrots.

The playing area is divided into

large squares and the low viewpoint makes distinguishing features on the horizon quite a puzzle in itself. Fortunately the on screen compass is a great help, as are the paths marked in some regions.

As the game progresses landscapes become more confusing and more than once I found myself going to and fro through the same set of gates while under the impression that I was making great progress.

The upper part of the screen consists of a three dimensional display of your surroundings while the lower part doubles as an inventory listing and message board.

Also on screen are indications of the time of day – the screen darkens at night – direction of movement, stamina, status, position and magical presence together with information about your current weapon, ammunition stocks and experience level.

Control is by mouse, keys or joystick. On screen is a cursor which when pushed to top or bottom of the screen moves you forwards or backwards respectively while moving the cursor left or right spins you in that direction.

Visually the game is tremendous, although I wasn't too struck on the colour schemes. On nearing the edge of an area the screen pales to the point where it is very difficult to see what is happening. However, the feeling of "being there" is very strong with excellent perspective making features unidentifiable until you are fairly close.

The game is an excellent balance of arcade, route finding and puzzles and should appeal to almost everyone.

Pat Winstanley

Sound	6
Graphics	8
Playability	9
Value for money	9
Overall	



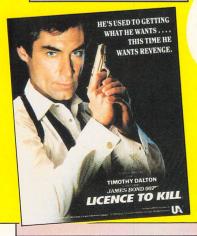
Sleeping Gods Lie has changed enormously over the two years since I first saw a preview version—and is now quite interesting and playable. The graphics are fine, but not spectacular, likewise the gameplay is good, but not outstanding. An unusual game, and definitely one worth considering.

Janice Murray

PREVIEW

Licence to Kill

Domark (01-780 2224)



JAMES Bond is back on the computer screen reliving his latest adventures in Domark's Licence to Kill, a multi-level game based on some of the action-packed scenes from the film. As Bond, your aim is to defeat evil drug smuggler Sanchez. It starts with Bond and Felix Leiter in a helicopter chasing Sanchez in his jeep. It's a vertically scrolling shoot-'em-up and you have a bird's eye view of the action. Initially very difficult, this section turns out to be too easy once you get the hang of it.

In the next level you are involved in a gunfight with Sanchez's henchmen. The controls are weird – you have to stop to aim your gun and while you're doing that the baddies are filling you full of lead. Survive this and you are lowered from a helicopter to attach tow rope to Sanchez's plane. Other scenes include swimming above and below the water where Bond must last out until a plane arrives. Harpoon the sea plane's floats and water ski behind it. Finally drive a tanker, destroying all others in your path.

Music is reminiscent of the Bond theme, but didn't impress – thank heavens for the TV volume control. The graphics are reasonably good, but on level two the sprites are too small for my liking.

Licence to Kill is worth a look, but check out level two - I came a cropper every time due to the strange controls.

Roland Waddilove

Not so red hot

Program: Red Heat Price: £19.95 Supplier: Ocean, 6 Central Street, Manchester M2 5NS. Tel: 061-832-6633

OU'VE seen the movie, now play the computer game. Yes, another film tie-in, this time resulting in Ocean's Red Heat. As the title hints, the plot has something to do with the Russkies. In fact it's Arnold Schwarzenegger who's the Russian and he's on a mission in America to apprehend some Russian bad guys.

The gameplay takes you, as Arnie, through various scenes from the film. On the first level you find yourself in a sauna and have to beat off the baddies with some right hooks and jabs while ducking blows and flying objects. Lots of joystick waggling is required here.

The action takes place on the cen-



tral third of the screen and although the sprites are big and chunky you do get the feeling that you're playing with your eyes half open.

I couldn't find a pause button and there isn't a high score table. I can't believe these features aren't standard. Even arcade games should be user friendly. Another niggle is that you must start from level one again every time you foul up.

Red Heat's a fair game, but nothing to blow your socks off. If you're a

Sound	5
Graphics	7
Playability	6
Value for money	6
Overall	6

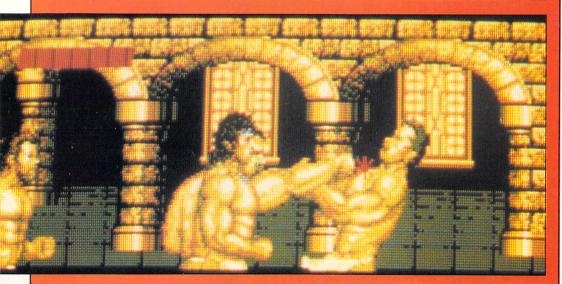
particular fan of Arnie, joystick waggling or Ocean then check it out. Otherwise buy a bottle wine, a pizza and hire the video.

Ian Waugh



Cames produced from film tie-ins are often only average and rely the film's publicity rather than good content to generate sales. Some would say Red Heat falls into this category too.

Jayne West



Program: 3D Pool
Price: £19.99
Supplier: Firebird, Hampton Road Industrial Estate, Tetbury, Cloucester GL8
8LD.
Tel: 0666 54326

AM a sucker for a good hustle and the sound of chalk against cue or the whisper of "rack 'em up" has my ears twitching and my thumb tucked into my waistcoat pocket in no time at all.

3D Pool plays a standard 15 ball game and its novelty lies in the 3D approach.

You can adjust your viewpoint by moving around the table so you square up to the ball from the same angle as if you were actually leaning over the table.

You move by clicking on right, left, up and down arrows in the top left of the screen and there are zoom and telescope functions for those acute angle shots.

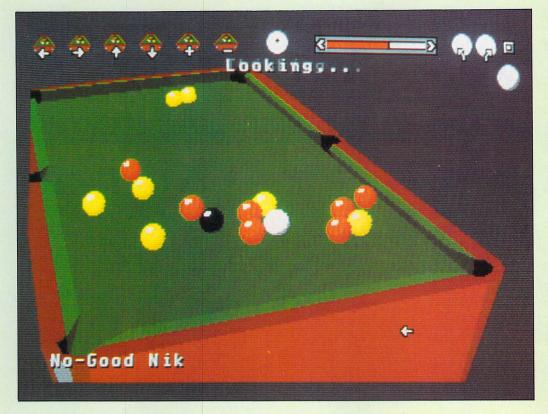
You can also move around by pressing a button and moving the mouse, which spins the table. There's a power meter to set the strength of the stroke and you can put spin on the cue ball.

As you move higher or lower in relation to the table, the point at which you strike the cue ball shifts, so you can apply top and bottom spin. It works pretty well, although the added dimension means you have to practise a little harder in order to

Jump to it

Product: Gnius
Price: £19.95
Supplier: Infogrames, Mitre House,
Abbey Rd, Enfield, Middlesex EN1
2RQ.
Tel: 01-364 0123

OUR interstellar cargo ship has crash landed, sending your maintenance robots off their electronic rockers. So escape from the ship before it completely disintegrates. It all happens against a pseudo-3D backdrop which flips to the next area as you reach the edge of the screen. Exits from some of the screens are blocked



Pot luck in 3D

perfect your shots.

There are practice and demonstration modes and once you get the hang of the game you can enter the tournament. You play against a number of increasingly expert

players until you find yourself stacked against the Man himself -Maltese Joe Barbara. Some of them don't seem to tough in demonstration mode, but just wait until you're playing against them.

One super feature is the trick shot play. There are 20, and you can edit your own trick shots.

Programming is by Orlando and the animation is pretty smooth although the only sound is the click of the balls and a rattle as they sink into a pocket.

My only quibble is the fact that occasionally the whole table is not in view and you may not see what happens to some of the balls after making a shot.

Still, I enjoyed this game of pool enormously.

There's no doubt that this is one of the best pool/snooker simulations I've seen. Watch out for it on a baize table near you soon.

Ian Waugh

Sound	2
Graphics	8
Playability	
Value for money	9
Overall	



3D Pool is totally different to any other computerised pool or snooker simulation. The old style 2D bird's eve view has been thrown out and replaced with a superb 3D display. You can even walk around the table and crouch down to line up your shots.

This must rate as one the the best versions of the game around. Recommended.

into and great fun to play, while at

the same time presenting a difficult

Roland Waddilove

by fallen rubble which is impassable or by piping which can be overcome with a leap.

Jumping over things is difficult, requiring a combination of joystick and keyboard skills. As the ship is arranged as a series of levels, said jumping is an important skill to learn and may well prove your downfall.

Also conspiring to prevent your escape are the spring-loaded floor tiles which catapult you off the walkways if you are lucky or into the middle of a pack of marauding droids if you are not.

Droids drain your energy, but can be shot if your reactions are up to it. Accuracy here brings a welcome bonus not only in game points, but also replacement weapons, shields and so on which can be recovered from the victim's remains.

Although the graphics are clear and colourful with very fast sprite movement, perspective can be misleading making it all too easy to drop off a walkway which appears to

continue behind objects such as pillars, but in reality stops dead, killing you too.

Most attractive feature of the game are the sampled sound effects, coupled with imaginative animation of the main character. If a droid runs into your back he jumps like a scalded cat while simultaneously

Despite the poorly translated instructions the game is easy to get

challenge. giving a yelp of incensed indignation. Pat Winstanley Sound .. Graphics... Playability . Value for money ... Overall





Trust the French to come up with something new. With brilliant sound effects and realistic, if sometimes misleading, graphics, this game is great fun and very addictive.

It's easy to play, but hard to master - and definitely worth buying.

Michelle Perry



Product: Robocop Price: 19.95 Supplier: Ocean, 3 Central Street, Manchester M2 5NS. Tel: 061-832 6633

S Robocop - Ocean's latest arcade conversion - you are the mechanical reincarnation of a Detroit cop, gunned down in the city streets during the course of duty.

You've been rebuilt from the ground up with a reinforced titanium body, a newly programmed mind and a supposedly wiped memory. However, some memories remain and you vow to track down the gang responsible for your brutal murder.

During the earliest stages you roam the streets dealing with thugs intent on converting you into scrap. If they make contact your energy is drained, but a battering with your fists has them tasting titanium before they can get near you.

Entering the Downtown area the hoodlums get meaner, appearing at windows and from behind barricades, shooting and throwing Molotov cocktails. The barricades are made up of boxes and crates which may hold weapons or food.

At the end of the street you are faced by a deadly ED209 robot. Hit the right spot a few times and ED is reduced to a smouldering heap and you get into the next level. This gives you the opportunity of notching up a few bonus points at the police shooting gallery.

Targets move into range, open out for a few seconds and then move off. Shoot as many as you can within the time limit — the quicker you completed level one, the more time you get in the gallery. Then it's back to more thug bashing.

The packaging describes other levels, which include further shooting galleries, photofit identification and hostage situations all interspersing the main stages.

Robocop is well presented, the game plan has been thought through and it is enjoyable to play. I didn't like the compulsory musical accompaniment nor Robocop's relatively slow rate of movement – although the latter did add to the difficulty factor, which seemed to be pitched about right. It's certainly worth a look.

Niels Reynolds

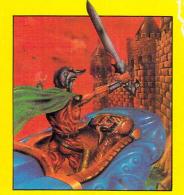
Sound	6
Graphics	
Playability	
Value for money	
Overall	



QUICK PEEK

Chariots of Wrath

Impressions/Active Sales (01-384 2701)



FORGET the story behind Impressions' Chariots of Wrath — it's really a collection of six simple, but very entertaining arcade games which must be played in sequence. The first is a quick-draw shoot out in a castle's dungeons. Standing in a long corridor drawn as a 3D perspective view, you have to blast monsters that appear from doorways or in front of you. They can drain your strength, so shoot fast.

Whether you survive or lose one of your lives, you move on to the second game – a breakout variant. Knock out the bricks by hitting the ball against them with the bat. Collect the cannisters that float down the screen for bonuses, but avoid the deadly arrows.

Game three is a brilliant vertically scrolling shoot-'em-up featuring three-plane parallax scrolling and beautiful graphics. All manner of weird aliens swarm in from the top of the screen while gun emplacements at the side take pot shots at you. Extra weapons, firepower and orbiting droids can be picked up. Another change of scenery comes with the a sideways scrolling levels game four. You run, hop, skip and jump from level to level collecting the diamonds. Progress is always to the right, and a clock ticks away.

I have yet to discover what surprises games five and six will bring, but they are sure to be good. Chariots of Wrath is brilliant and is strongly recommended.

Roland Waddilove

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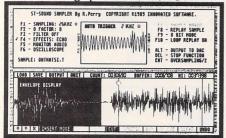


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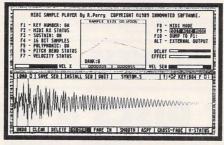
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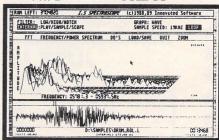
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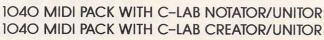
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Product: Dark Side Price: £24.95 Supplier: MicroStatus, Unit 1, Hampton Road Industrial Estate, Tetbury, Gloucester GL8 8LD Tel: 0666 54326

EARLY a year has passed since Dark Side was launched on the 8 bit market. Now 16 bit owners have the opportunity to assess whether the rapturous acclaim it received was hourageh

It uses Freescape to create a 3D universe where you can walk or fly over, under, in and around various objects. Though similar in feel to Virus and Starglider, the promise of brain-teasers should set it apart.

The game is set deep in the future on the moon of Triscupid, a satellite of the planet Evath colonised after Earth's demise. Reading the novella which comes with the package, you will gather that a bunch of ne'er-dowell Ketars threatened Earth some 200 years ago and were featured in the prequel, Driller.

Same aliens are about to try again, using their secret Zephyr One. This gizmo is powered by energy collection devices (ECDs) which are highly effective photon receivers, channelling energy to a main transmitter.

Fortunately the ECDs can only exist in an anti-matter gossamer easily breached by pack mounted lasers. By now you should be getting the idea of what you have to do.

pectacular

However, the ECDs are constructed in a grid and must be destroyed in sequence, otherwise they will regenerate

A high speed shuttle transports you to the surface of Triscupid close to a discharge of energy which destroyed an Evathian probe.

Using your backpack, manoeuvre around the moon and blast anything foolish enough to get in your way. Life is not made any easier by Plexats, tank-like devices designed to defend Zephyr One from unwelcome interference.

The game is played via a firstperson perspective. Around the perimeter of what is presumably your visor are score, efficiency of the ECDs, a binary display of the time

PREVIEW

left to you before an attack is launched, shield and fuel status, coordinates, jet-pack status and the name of the sector. That amount of information can be distracting, but its positioning does not detract from the gameplay.

You are able to explore the moon of Evath via keyboard, mouse or joystick. Keyboard operation is by far the easiest to master and you are rewarded with a game where the scrolling is slightly jerky, but where you can turn corners of buildings, look up and down, fly straight or at an angle and always get the correct perspective.

Freescape, it is claimed, will make you feel that you are living the game. In reality though the system is impressive, the screens are hardly lifelike and I was always conscious of playing a computer game. The blocky graphics denied all attempts at living the game for real.

Played over 18 sectors and a tunnel, you start off with a meagre supply of fuel and shield power making your first objective additional supplies. The manual wisely suggests making repeated contact with pentagon-shaped power points to recharge shields and fuel rods to replenish the jet-pack, but it offers no advice on how to do so

> It was only by watching the demonstration mode that I realised that doors could be opened by firing at them and that you have to walk into what appear to be solid objects to stock up.

Once your necessities are secured you can concentrate on the collection of four crystals which are automatically transferred to a teleport device. Firing at them enables you to pass force fields and add the letters D ARK to your itinerary.

There can be no doubt that a considerable amount of time and effort went into this game. However, it provides only a limited amount of entertainment and does little to justify its hefty price tag.

A couple of hours' fun can be extracted, but once the controls have been mastered and the sectors explored all is left is to zap the odd ECD. The graphics can only impress you for so long, and there is no doubt that the Freescape system has a lot of potential. All it needs is the right scenario to bring it to life.

RGB Marshall

Indiana Jones - the Last Crusade

US Gold (021-356 3388)

IT is rumoured that Harrison Ford has made his last Indy appearance. If this is the case this game could be your last chance to jump on this bandwagon. To earn your fedora you must guide Indiana as a youngster (Junior) across the rumbling circus train and then on to his search for the elusive Holy Grail later in life.

This Ford licence deal has culminated in two very different games - a multi-level scrolling platform game due out very soon and an adventure which will follow shortly after. The arcade action has been developed by Tiertex. Again you must use your whip to subdue the bad guys as well as using it to hold on to valuable artifacts.

The adventure is developed by Lucasfilm Games and incorporates excellent graphics. Play Indy and his Dad on this dual control point-inclick mouse controlled adventure. Pam Turnbull



Sound .

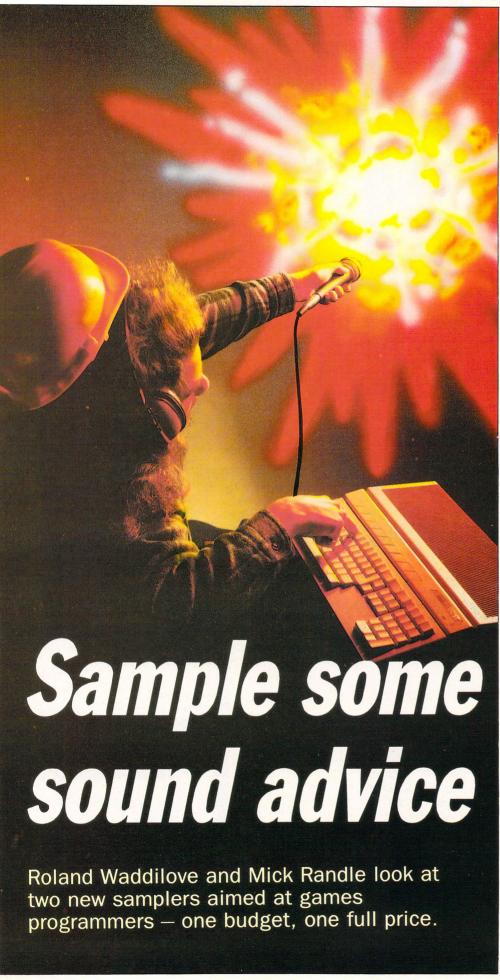
Graphics ... Playability

Overall.

Value for money.

I loved Virus, and to me Driller and Dark Side took a familiar scenario one step further. The graphics are good and there are a few puzzles to keep the brain cells in trim. I would like to see Freescape used for different types of games as well.

Jo Giles



MANY commercial games are enhanced by the addition of digitised sound effects. Not only are loading screens frequently accompanied by real music - as opposed to that the computer has generated - but also zaps, bangs, crashes and even real screams heighten the tension and excitement of the action during gameplay.

Sound samplers have been rather thin on the ground in the past, but with the release of Software Horizons' Master Sound and Mandarin's STOS Maestro the market is rapidly expanding. Although both samplers are basically the same, they are are aimed at different sectors of the market. STOS Maestro at £69.95 is targeted, as you might guess, at STOS users. On the other hand, Software Horizons' Master Sound at £34.95 is a budget product which has a more general appeal.

Master Sound

Software Horizons provides you with a cartridge to plug into the ST's cartridge port, a single sided disc of software and demonstrations and a 14 page manual. It will work on any ST - the more memory you have the longer the samples you can record - but you must have a colour TV or monitor, as the software runs in low resol-

After displaying a title screen you are taken to the main edit screen shown in Figure I. The large window at the top shows the waveform of the sample, an oscilloscope in the bottom right-hand corner displays the recording level and the rest of the screen is taken up by

Plug a cassette recorder into the cartridge via a lead and standard 3.5mm jack plug, click on REC; and Master Sound the on screen cassette recorder-like conwhatever is playing. When it has finished the on-screen cassette recorder-like controls under the sample window can be

used to replay the sound.

The buttons labelled 05Kh, 7.5Kh, 10Kh, 15Kh and 20Kh set the record and replay sample speed. The faster the record sampling speed the better quality is the sound when replayed. The snag is that the faster speed eats up memory - You'll run out of it in seconds on a 520ST, so you must compromise between quality and quantity.

You can record at one speed and replay at another to create interesting sound effects. A Compress button will squash a sample into half its original space and, as a side effect, half its replay speed. Sampling at 20kHz and compressing down to 5kHz often results in a better sound than a straight 5kHz sample.

A spectrum analyser can be used to monitor the sound level of the signal being input.

Load and Save buttons perform as expected. You can also cut and paste, copy and overlay one sample on top of another. You can reverse all or part of the sample and fade in or out. The overall volume can be increased too.

You can zoom in on the sample to examine small sections in detail, and scroll the display left or right. Two buttons allow you to jump to either end of the sample without having to search for it.

The most exciting part for me is the sequencer. On clicking on the SEQ button the panels at the bottom of the screen are scrolled out of view and are replaced by a new set of controls. Load several samples into memory and then enter the sequencer. The samples can be cut and then pasted on to the 18 keys on the numeric keypad. Hitting a key will then play the assigned sample.

You can record yourself playing the samples on the keypad and replay them or save to disc. It's great fun to use, and with up to 15 minutes' of recording space, you can create quite a substantial performance.

The disc contains examples showing how to replay the sampled sounds from within a Basic program. HiSoft, GFA, ST and STOS Basics are fully covered and I found it relatively easy to adapt them to my own programs.

STOS Maestro Plus

Maestro adds 19 new commands to STOS by way of a Basic extension and provides a disc containing more than 50 sound samples. Maestro Plus adds this and a plug-in cartridge too. As the Maestro Plus includes a cartridge – a costly item to manufacture – this is the most expensive STOS product to date.

It is important to note that the cartridge is not needed to replay the samples provided using STOS, but it is essential if you wish to create your own. Maestro owners are provided with a card which lets them buy the cartridge later with no financial disadvantage.

The manual is well written and clearly describes the concept of sound sampling and its use from within STOS Basic with many example programs.

The Maestro cartridge plugs into the cartridge port and is fitted with a phono socket into which a sound source is plugged. It is recommended that you use the headphone socket provided on most audio equipment as this allows the volume and tone to be set before sounds are fed into the sampler cartridge.

Maestro's attractive display features icons and scrolling menus with most functions being mouse operated. Some of the icons are initially confusing, but before long everything seems to click and the manual can be left in the drawer.

At the top of the screen are a pair of spectrum analysers which act like the recording meters of a tape recorder.



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◄ From Page 45

Adjust your audio gear's volume control to achieve maximum sound levels with minimum distortion.

Underneath the analysers is the buffer size indicator which shows the memory available for sample storage. A 1040ST will have about 700k free, but a 520ST will be restricted to about 220k, which offers only seven seconds of sample time at the maximum sample rate of 32kHz. Lower sample rates provide longer running times.

A central window shows the currently stored sample's waveform and it can be made to magnify a small section by moving the left and right boundary markers with the mouse.

A variety of functions are available to customise the sound. You can magnify the window several times for really accurate work and it is possible to add several types of echo, filtering, fades and amplification.

Flexible replay options allow normal, reversed and continuous play, and word processor-like functions offer cut and paste, insert and merge, both from the memory buffer and from disc.

Record and replay sample rates are variable from 5kHz to 32kHz although STOS Basic will only replay at a maximum of 22kHz. A Pack function compresses a sample to about half its original size to save on memory.

An interesting feature is Maestro's oversampling process which automatically operates when using low sample rates. This is a technique employed in CD equipment which helps to produce better quality sound than would normally be possible.

Maestro is pleasantly unconcerned about what it reads from disc. Tell it to load a previously saved sample and it will happily read any file and convert it to sound.

As well as being able to read files produced by other samplers, there is nothing to stop you browsing through commercial games and borrowing their sound effects.

Turning to Maestro's Basic interface, an installation program automatically adds the Basic extension to the STOS folder and the Compiler folder too if you have it. An accessory program is used to create a memory bank containing up to 32 different samples; alternatively, individual samples may be stored in strings.

Not surprisingly, some of the commands are similar to the existing music commands, but additional features include the ability to change the replay rate and play samples backwards, forwards, or in continuous loops.

The manual adopts a tutorial approach to explaining the new Basic commands, and also offers suggestions for writing your own sampler software. Like the music commands, STOS replays samples during interrupts and some impressive

What is a sound sampler?

A sound sampler is a device which records sounds using a computer, By monitoring the ear or headphone output signal of a tape recorder the computer makes many instantaneous recordings each second and stores them in sequence. They are later replayed via the ST's sound chip.

Although these recordings are performed extremely quickly, there are gaps between them which can detract from the quality of the recording. By increasing the recording rate – the sample rate – the computer has more data and smaller gaps, which produces a more accurate replica of the original sound.

The sample rate is described in terms of the number of thousands of samples per second, or kilohertz for short, with 5kHz being slow and 32kHz being quick. Unfortunately, high sample rates produce vast amounts of

data which consumes memory like wildfire. As a compromise, low rates of around 5 to 10kHz are usually used for game sound effects.

Records and tapes are an obvious source of samples, but don't forget the copyright laws. Compact discs offer excellent quality, but their wide dynamic range may encourage hiss, whereas vinyl's more limited dynamics may actually help to produce a better sample.

An often neglected source is VHF/FM radio. Even inexpensive radios use ICs nowadays and though they may have poor loudspeakers, sound quality can be quite good through the headphone socket.

If your cassette recorder has a microphone socket, why not use it? And don't forget the PD Libraries which offer an increasing number of sound samples.

effects can be achieved, as shown by the demonstration programs.

The drum machine is an excellent program which consists of a picture of a drummer sitting at his kit waiting for you to press a key. When you do, he strikes the appropriate instrument and digitised sound comes booming through the monitor speaker.

Samples made with Maestro are of good quality and on a par with other systems. However, many prospective buyers will fail to recognise its qualities solely because it is advertised as a STOS utility.

Although Maestro could be considered to be a luxury, it cannot be denied that it is great fun. Well chosen sound effects can add considerably to the atmosphere and enjoyment of a game and Maestro is tailor-made for the job. Just beware of memory limitations and don't expect to digitise Beethoven's Fifth.

extra features. If you already program with STOS the choice is more difficult. Master Sound is quite easy to use with STOS, but the extra features and the tailor-made commands of Maestro may

well tip the balance in its favour.

Master Sound is the clear winner. It's half

the price and you won't miss Maestro's

FACT FILE

Product: Master Sound Price: £34.95

Mews, London N20 9QH.
Tel: 01-446 9141

POINTS FOR:

Inexpensive. Easy to use. Interesting sequencer. Supports all languages.

AGAINST:

Only four sample rates.

Conclusion

Master Sound is a superb, easy-to-use sampler which produces good quality output. The software has a wide range of features, plus an entertaining sequencer for creating soundtracks. Several examples demonstrate how to replay samples from within your own Basic programs – STOS included.

Maestro has several extra sound manipulation facilities not found in Master Sound, but the software is initially slightly confusing to use. You soon get the hang of it though. Many ready-to-use samples are provided with the package. For ease of use within STOS programs Maestro gains full marks, but no help at all is given to users of other versions of Basic.

To sum up: If you don't use STOS,

FACT FILE

Product: STOS Maestro Plus

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Supplier: Mandarin, Europa House, Adlington Park, Adlington, Macclesfield SK10 4NP.

Tel: 0625 878888

POINTS FOR:

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URING my years in teaching and educational journalism I have often met parents who bought a micro for just one reason only: They hoped it would help their child with school work. Yet in almost all cases child and parent were frustrated either in their search for educational software or how best to use it at

We have already aimed to ease the first problem by publishing a complete



Supplemental Supplemental Sheer fun factor of this software for the ST in the March 1989 issue of Atari ST User, so let's indicate how to get the most out of that software now piling up beside your shills Atari ST. to work in

tandem with your ST to support your child's educational needs

The advent of the micro in schools has laid wide the possibility for all kinds of creative, innovative and structured learning. However, it has also given a bad teacher a tool to keep individuals or even whole classes quiet for periods on end.

One class I saw used computers almost every day with one particular teacher. Yet at the end of two years very few members of that class would say they had enjoyed the experience and most could do little more with a micro than play space invaders. So we as parents have even more reason than ever to follow a "good teacher" model.

Most pre-school infants will sit in awe looking at the flashing lights of your ST for about 10 seconds before they are begging to be allowed to touch a button for themselves.

A home micro is perhaps one of the most wonderful toys now available for any four or five year old. So let your toddler use the ST for games purposes, but make sure you write-protect all the discs that he or she may use.

My own four year old loves playing a simplistic arcade game called Bill Bounces Back. Such games improve hand-eye coordination, familiarise junior to the keyboard and even lead him to load his own programs from disc.

Educational programs such as Fun School 2 (Under 6s) can at this stage be used purely in a game context. Particularly suitable for playing are Find the Mole and Colour Train - see Figure I.

Alternatively all eight programs can be used for structured teaching of reading and counting. Other good packages for this level of teaching must include Microdeal's AB Zoo and Pre-School Kid-

Stay with your child and gently prompt and help when he appears stuck at what to do next. Remember that a young child's attention span on one topic rarely exceeds 15 minutes.

Providing that you don't attempt periods of instruction ad-nauseum, your child should soon learn words such as cry, pop, eat, grow, fly and run. Equally, he should soon be able to count up to 10 with ease.

If inclined you can then encourage your child to try to form the letters on paper or even copy images from the screen and write suitable words or numbers under each. He can even keep his own ST notebook in which to transpose all work he attempts on the ST.

Teddy Count - see Figure II - is most popular in our house, partly for the "Boys and girls come out to play" tune which is played as you succeed, but also for the sheer fun factor of this software.

Counting the teddies in the game is then continued in counting the stairs in our house, the eggs from the supermarket, or even the pieces of Lego in the toy

box. Very soon your child should be counting up to 10 and beyond with ease.

Once at primary school, the real learning can begin. A package such as Tables Test can be used at home to consolidate the multiplication tables taught at school. Tables achievement should be tested regularly, either in the form of jumbled written tests or by using exercise packages such as Add with Oscar.

Needless to say rewards for learning a table correctly can provide superb motivation. I can still remember the policy of my junior school teacher of giving us a sweet for each new table learned.

Further numeracy can be encouraged with Things to do with Numbers - on this month's cover disc - and Add and Subtract. Other software such as Spell with Oscar, Things to do with words, Spellbook and B.Spell may be used to support written exercises or as teaching devices in their own right.

Each program can be used in conjunction with a book such as Joy Pollock's Signposts to Spelling, to teach and con-

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solidate the phonic structure of words and simple spelling rules.

All-in packages like Donald Duck's Playground and Fun School 2 (6-8 year olds and Over-8s) can also provide good home support to work covered at school.

Each program in each package can be used as the basis of one or more half-hour lessons with your child which can then develop into games or consolidated with some written or drawing work.

For instance, Souvenirs from Fun School 2 (Over 8s) can be supplemented by written division work or with a younger child by playing shops with either real or toy money. In all cases the child should not forget that a pen and paper are never far away.

We are not yet at a technologically advanced stage where writing is not a necessary pre-requisite for the next generation. Support reading or writing are essential exercises if the educational software is to be maximised.

All work should be monitored and your child encouraged upon his successes and never berated for failures.

Usborne's series of English Grammar, English Spelling and English Punctuation books will provide superb backing to many of the primary literacy programs I have mentioned. Equally, Four Rules of Number, Money and Time books by Hesse (Published by Longman) will support the numeracy suites.

At secondary school most youngsters

Support reading or writing are essential exercises if the software is to be maximised

will have become quite familiar with their micro and can be left to explore the wonders of silicon technology for themselves.

However, unless your child is particularly self-disciplined, the learning routine should still be supervised. I can remember that even as a fairly academic 14 year old I would still turn on my headphones to Bob Dylan rather than pursue my Maths

That is not to say that you should stand at the shoulder of your teenager, but merely check that the work is being

attempted rather than another high-score being achieved at Goldrunner.

Most secondary software packages fall into one of two categories: They either give rote practise and revision - such as the Akadimias series (produced by Bangor University) - or are supportive tools like word processors and database managers.

To illuminate this, Silicon Chip's ST Accounts can be used to supplement GCSE Economics and 1st Word Plus used to write and edit English or History essays. At this level the software can only be supportive, and nothing can replace the core material provided in books.

Read, study, compute and write is a good adage which can be applied to most academic GCSE and A level subjects.

Don't try to become a teacher, but simply a mentor to guide your child's educational progress. More can be achieved academically in one hour of one to one work with your child and your ST than any teacher could hope to achieve with a class of 30 at school.

Encourage, monitor, help and assess should be the steps that any parent should take if they want their child to gain the most from the educational software I have surveyed in this article and others we have covered during the past year.

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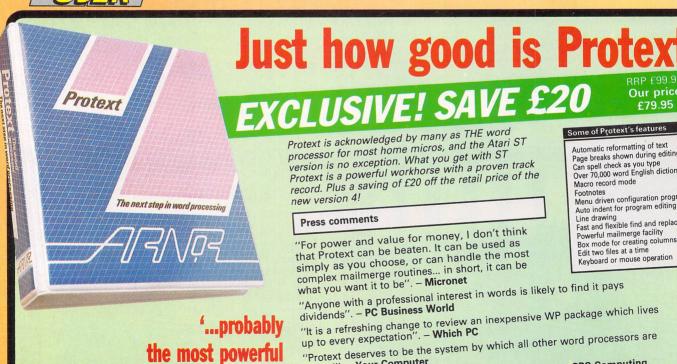
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WELL, it had to happen – I knew it would. Old Uncle Brillig just would not listen. It was only two weeks ago when he was turning yet another critic into a toad that he forgot a simple ingredient – in this case a tincture of mandrake root – and blew himself into the

chasm of mists and time. The sage is, alas, no more.

Okay, I know it's a bit far-fetched but Magnetic Scrolls would have paid a good price to have had that as a beginning to one of its adventures. Now I need my wits about me if I am not to go the same way.

My first fortnight in the cave has been hectic to say the least. I have been inundated with pleas for help, advice and useful tips. I will endeavour to answer all letters which include a stamped self-addressed envelope, but please write your christian name – without it the column will sound far too formal.

The mailbag is almost overflowing so I must make clear that though I welcome correspondence concerning adventures, I cannot answer questions on arcade games such as Star Wars or Typhoon Thompson. Please address these queries to Arcade Corner.

While on the subject of mail, Gareth Hudson writes to ask where he can find a review of that excellent game, Beyond Zork. You will find what you are looking for in the June 1988 issue of *Atari ST User*.

I aim to carry on with the same excellent service provided by Uncle Brillig, but will also introduce a few new ideas. Not least of these will be a begin-

Enter the Pendragon

I must begin by extending my thanks to Allen and Mark Errington for their most concise maps to Leisure Suit Larry II and King's Quest I and IV. Thanks again to the perennial RGB Marshall for complete solutions to Space Quest III and Deja Vu II.

These essential audit trails will be added to my vast vault and used to help readers in future columns. In fact one of these solutions provide immediate assistance to Emma Rutherford of Bath.

She asks what she should do with the organ, where she can find the medal and how she can ride the Unicorn.

The first problem is easily solved if you can locate some sheet music. The Unicorn will only let you ride him if you can harness his wild instincts in some way. And you will need to do a spot of grave digging to find the medal, Emma.

I must also thank Sarah Garner of Redditch for a whole host of tips on various adventures:

Hollywood Hijinx: If you can't open the safe in the bomb shelter, read the plaque and note the number of letters in the names. If you have problems getting into the attic you should fill the bucket with water and hang it on the third peg. Now nip upstairs and wait on top of the closet.

Beyond Zork: When in Froon, pick a flower and wait for the mayor to offer you a key. Take the key which is the same colour as the scarecrow nearest to the Corbies.

Lurking Horror: If you can't defeat the rats, open the valve with the crowbar. Or if the waxer is a problem, take the container and go to the glass cabinet. Now wear the gloves, smash the glass and take the axe. Cut the cord of the waxer machine and open the container. Now pour the liquid on to the floor.

Kings Quest II: Wear the chain and cross to get past the ghosts. Eat the sugar cube to get past the poisonous brambles.

Meanwhile Kyrre Breivik writes from Norway with problems in **Manhunter New York**.

He says "I have been in the flat and smashed the radio, inside which I found Module C. But now I am stuck and don't know where I am supposed to go. After cracking the safe I found the note with the code UCUCC on it. What does that mean? How do I use the modules and where do I go?"

Without giving everything away, I hope the following helps: Module C is

just one of four modules which are essential if you are to negotiate the alien spacecraft computer.

The code is a password for another computer. So the best advice is search and try. A final tip here is that you must destroy a certain famous beacon to liberty if you are to succeed.

Adventure International has – via its various masters – supported the ST with a fleet of traditional top quality adventures. Though some of these were written over five years ago they still remain popular and are the source of many questions.

So what follows is a pot-pourri of tips to some of its more taxing games.

Any stalwarts still missing the crown in **Adventureland** should go to the throne room which is by the ledge where the bear was seen.

The Count is a good adventure for beginners but still has its fair share of problems. A number of readers have asked where to find the nail file. Try entering the solar oven at night.

Graham Wright wants help to burn down the tent in **The Fantastic Four**. The answer is quite simple: Throw a high flame at it.

Golden Voyage, which is my personal favourite Scott Adams' adventure poses a number of problems for vari-

ners' column, giving advice and quidelines to the novice adventurer.

I hope to run the odd competition now and again, offering some software treasures from the deeper recesses of the cave, as prizes.

Get your pens ready. For starters, a free adventure in return for the first full practical solutions I receive to War in Middle Earth and Guild of Thieves.

Perhaps my most ambitious project is to complete a definitive list of text and text/graphic adventures available for the ST, to be published in a future issue.

However, I need your help. I am aware of most adventures on the market for the ST, but there are many tiny software houses tucked away in obscure places like the hills of Wales or above a chip shops in Thames Valley new towns which occasionally produce the odd excellent adventure. By way of an example, has anybody else heard of Whiplash and Wagonwheel by Softel?

If you have come across any company that does not get widespread publicity and which produces adventures for the ST, please write in and let me know. Hopefully that list will become a reality in the not too distant future.

Also what do readers think about my featuring maps of various parts of adventures in this column?

In addition I will also publish - on a regular basis - a readers' Top 20 of adventures for the ST. This will be based on readers' marks for their favourite adventures. The chart will appear every four months or so.

Give your favourite adventures marks in the following format. A typical set out of 10 might be similar to those I have compiled for Infocom's Stationfall:

Presentation	. 7
Contents	. 8
Value for money	. 7
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The first Top 20 will be published in the November issue of Atari ST User.

Trevor Davies, Karen Stone and others have written in seeking advice on publishing home penned adventures. The only advice I can give is that if you think the adventure you have written is really exceptional and stands comparison with those currently on the market, send a copy of it to an established adventure software house for appraisal.

This month a number of companies have released some really exciting crackers ready for the run-in to the pre-Christmas buying spree.

Top of my list is the superb graphical jaunt War in Middle Earth - reviewed last month. But also worth looking at is the new blockbuster from the Tynesoft/ Adventure Soft tie-in, Personal Nightmare. Other quality fodder includes: UBI Soft's haunting Zombi, Sierra On-Line's newie Gold Rush and Image Works' Dungeon Master playalike Bloodwych. You are certainly spoilt for choice.

Well, that's about it for this month, so until the buffers run dry, happy adven-



the jungle, one is inside the stone statue and the other is in the hidden chamber.

In juxtaposition The Incredible Hulk is perhaps my least favourite of Adventure International's collection and probably reflects a supreme adventure author fulfilling a contractual obligation. Anyone who cannot

pull the ring in the first dome should remember their nightmare.

Helping the princess in Kings Quest IV

Elsewhere, Elaine Agan wants to know how to open the chest in Pirate Adventure. Use the claw hammer to remove the nails, and look under the rug, Elaine.

Chris Campbell's superb map to Robin of Sherwood has enabled me to offer the following snippit of advice to

Turn to Page 55 ▶

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◄ From Page 53

Richard Barlow and Craig Rowe. Get Siward and find the serf before boarding the cart which will take you to Nottingham.

Sue Mellor asks how to rebuild the raft in **Savage Island 1**. You should have cut a second set of vines. After meeting Argh in **Savage Island 2**, you should use the flower to knock him out, then drag him to the eastern red metal room.

Lucy Kukstas writes to ask how to defuse the bomb without it exploding in **Secret Mission**. This is too complex to answer in full, but try reading the sign in the control room. Lucy.

The Sorcerer of Claymorgue Castle was one of Scott Adams' last adventures, and one of his most difficult, to boot. Adrian Davies must use a spell to dissolve the rope which supports the chandelier. But take care that you don't hang around underneath it.

Spiderman is baffling Chris West. To get the printing presses running, you must load the scale and use the computer. When you find the strange cloud, jump for one location then return and go up.

Whether pride allows us to admit it or not, we were all beginners to adventures once – yes, even mythical kings – and faced such problems as: "What do I do with this lamp and that bottle?"

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Over the coming months therefore I aim to provide a panel in this column for those among you who are new to adventuring or who perhaps have tried several adventures but always seem to end up being faced with the phrase "Do you want to be reincarnated?" very early in the game.

The first decision you may face is in the purchase of the adventure itself. After all there are so many available, and like everything in life there are good and bad, suitable and not so suitable.

Look for good informative liner notes in the packaging, which should tell you a little about the scenario of the adventure and hopefully help build the atmosphere – not to be confused with the advertising blurb.

Don't be too taken in by price. There are some super cheapie adventures - the old Infocom games now available at cut-price are a fine example - but also a few dreadful ones in the £30 price bracket.

A couple of excellent beginners' adventures are Infocom's Wishbringer or if you prefer graphics, Sierra On-Line's Kings Ouest I.

Ordering adventures through mailorder companies will save you some money but you don't get to see the game before you have bought it.

So before actually parting with your hard-earned cash, it may be prudent to ask the shop if it will give you a trial run of the adventure. Most small specialist computer shops are only too willing to let you try out software. After all they will only replace faulty merchandise once you have bought it, so this is a good way of ensuring the customer is satisfied before he takes the adventure home.

Don't be surprised if the bigger chain stores don't offer the same service as they are usually too busy, despite being keen to help. Finally if you really want to make sure that you are buying the right adventure for you, try borrowing a friend's copy, but don't rip it off as that is as bad as biting the hand that feeds you.

Next month I'll deal with getting started, some moves to try, what to look out for and early strategy.

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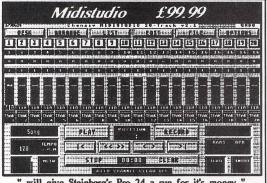
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203166

Sweet sounds on the

front



lan Waugh cocks an ear at some transatlantic Midi discs

JUST in from America are some new Midi discs from Softville which contain lots of programs and represent real value for money. On the Softville Music 23 disc is another 16 track Midi sequencer, this time from New Yorker Brad Quick. It was written using the Megamax C compiler and runs in medium resolution. It's rather basic, having little more than straightforward record and playback facilities, but it works and is virtually free.

There's also a no-frills record and playback program called MidiMike, a program to compress and expand files

and for good measure, a Casio CZ Voice Manager by Jim Glish. The disc also contains a multi-function librarian for the Ensoniq ESQ-1 synthesiser, but with no voices, plus a Yamaha FB-01 patch editor/librarian. This is written in GFA Basic and is quite impressive.

Softville's Music 24 is full of Midi goodies. There's a data dump utility which records system exclusive dumps and converts them to a sequence which can be loaded into Dr T's KCS. It was written by Jim Johnson, who wrote some of the Dr T programs and manuals. It also houses an editor/librarian for Roland's MKS-7

synth module which showed some reluctance to work, plus one for Sequential's Six Trak which is very well documented.

There's also a Yamaha TX81Z editor/librarian which is well documented and quite comprehensive and a rhythm pattern loader for the Roland R-707 drum machine written in good old ST Basic. A RawMidi program displays incoming

Midi data in hex and a Midi Scope program does much the same thing but helpfully translates Note On and Program Change messages into English. Raw ignores active sensing, Scope fills the screen with it.

SWSL's Disc 124 contains a DX7 randomiser by Martin Russ. This is different to the ones mentioned in the June column and requires high resolution to work. It is also available on SOS disc 1. In addition the disc contains a Midi monitor which is an earlier version of the Martin Russ' Midi ChannelScope which displays incoming Midi data but my version copped out with a run-time error.

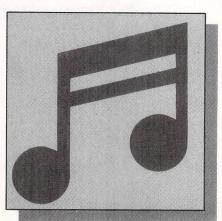
SWSL's Disc 125 contains the current version of Martin Russ' ChannelScope (also available on SOS Disc 6), Hi-Tech Trivia – also on SOS 5 – and IROS (on SOS 4).

Hi-Tech Trivia asks you all sorts of questions about Midi and music. If you don't give the correct answer you're quite likely to get a smart retort back. If you get it wrong, you're not always told the correct answer, either. The program prefers high resolution, but will run in medium.

It uses the ST speech program to talk at you. The voice is fun at first but it holds up the program.

IROS stands for Instant Randomising Octave Sequencer and runs in high resolution only. You input a sequence of 16 notes one at a time and the program plays them back randomly altering the octave of various notes. You can adjust the range and tempo.

The discs mentioned here may well be available from other PD sources than the ones mentioned. Prices vary between £2 and £4 per disc. SOS specialises in music software and its discs are £7.



FACT FILE

Softville PD Service, 55 Highfield Avenue, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7PY. Tel: 0705 266509

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ET's look this month at how a submitted story for say, a club magazine, can be transformed into a column of text to be proud of, paying particular attention to type styles and sizes.

Figure I shows a story produced on an ST word processor and submitted to a quarterly rock magazine to which I subscribe. The text is reasonably well written but contains spelling mistakes and could improve with a little polish.

The first job is to sub-edit the copy into the magazine's usual style, correcting spelling along the way. Figure II shows the same text afterwards. Notice the more topical headline - Bringing it all back home was the name of an early Dylan album - and the rewording where necessary.

At this stage the copy is still word processed-based, in this case using Protext, and now needs to be transferred across to your DTP package. In the case of Fleet Street Publisher you save the text from your word processor with a .TXT file ending. Load this text into the DTP program and it should take on a similar appearance to that in Figure III.

Now let's make the story fit into the publication's already fixed style.

All text is measured in points – 72 to the inch - which represent the vertical measurements of each character. For instance 8pt (eight point) is about the

A point or two

Nic Outterside continues his series looking at

smallest you would ever use for easy reading's sake, while the main body of text would probably be 9 or 10pt. Crossheads - the small headings within the body of text - would perhaps be 14pt, and headlines could be anything from 24pt upwards.

A font is another name for a type face. Fleet Street Publisher offers Serif. Sans Serif, West End, Times, Roman, College and Helga. So make your selection, say Sans Serif for body text and College for headlines. These faces can be set in bold or italic to add variety to the text's appearance - but beware of going hog wild with the different fonts. Too many styles are as bad as too few.

First rubberband the text you wish to modify - as explained last month - and then access the Face, Pointsize and

Leading option from the Typography menu, as shown in Figure IV. Now you can make changes to your text by clicking on the size and style you require until you are satisfied

Most DTP packages supply only a limited number of fonts and some place a maximum limit of 30pt on type size, so you may need to buy a font extension package such as Fontz by Neocept to expand your editorial horizons.

The headline must stand out and appeal and this can be achieved by keeping it short and snappy and using the maximum point size to allow it to fit in the column width.

For the headline in Figure V I used 26pt College Bold, which produced a compact, bold and attractive form. The byline was set in 14pt College to maintain

Dylan's triumphant return by Bill Smith

by Bill Smith

Sixties idol and guru, Bob Dylan completed his 4th tour of Britain in the last 8 years on a triumphant note at Wembley last night. Despite advancing years and a dwindling following he really delivered the goods in electric fashion. Turning back the clock and backed by a tight three piece band Dylan played through a set of songs which had the audience dancing in the isles and stamping the floor for more long after he had left the stage. Dylan has always been unpredictable since his career in music was launched in the pre-Beatle days of 1962. He reached dizzy heights in the early sixties with songs such as Blowin' in the wind and Hard Rain's a gonna fall and was worshipped and reverred by many 60's teenagers as a guru and mentor. It was a position he found awkward and shied away from publicity and the star image. Musically it was also only a position he briefly rediscovered at the Concert for Bangladesh in 1971 and with The Blood on the Tracks album in 1974. In recent years Dylan's career has taken a nose dive which started with his controversial experiment with gospel music in 1979, continued with his shambolic appearance at Live Aid in 1985 and scrapped the bottom of the gutter in 1987 when in a state of drunken stupour he dropped his guitar on stage while performing with Tom Petty and the Maert Breakers.

Figure I: The original copy as submitted

Bringing it all back ho

Desk File Options Typography Layout 3 0 Bringing it all back home loy our music correspondent Sixties idol, Bob Dylan (48) completed his fourth tour of Britain this decade on a triumphant note at Wembley last night. Despite advancing years and a dwindling record buying following he at last delivered the goods in an electric fashion many had waited vears to hear. Turning back the clock and backed by a tight three-piece rock band Dylan played through a set of sixteen songs, spanning his whole career, which had the audience

Figure III: The copy once transferred across to Fleet Street Publisher

by our music correspondent Sixties idol, Bob Dylan (48) completed his fourth tour of Britain this decade on a triumphant note at Wembley last night. Despite advancing years and a dwindling record buying following he at last delivered the goods in an electric fashion many had waited years to hear. Turning back the clock and backed by a tight three-piece rock band Dylan played through a set of sixteen songs, spanning his whole career, which had the audience dancing in the aisles and demanding more long after the star had left the stage. Dylan has always been unpredictable since his career in music was launched by Albert Hammond in the pre-Beatle days of 1962 - but his talent has never been doubted by any but the most cynical.He reached the dizzy heights of guru and super-star in the early sixtles with songs such as Blowin' in the Wind and Hard Rain's a Gonna Fall. It was a position he found awkward and consequently he shied away from publicity and the star image.

Musically it was a position he only briefly rediscovered at the Concert for Bangladesh in 1971 and with The Blood on the Tracks album

In recent years Dylan's career has taken a nose dive which started with his controversial experiment with gospel music in 1979, continued in a shambolic appearance at Live Aid in 1985 and scraped the bottom of the gutter in 1987 when in a state of drunken stupour he dropped his guitar on stage while performing with Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

Figure II: The same copy after editing.

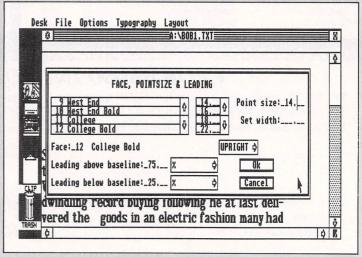


Figure IV: Typeface, point size and leading options

on fonts

publishing on your ST

style, but set it apart from the headline and body text.

The opening word of the first paragraph is in capitals and the whole paragraph presented in 14pt College Bold to add emphasis. The remaining body of text is also in College Bold reduced to

Once you are happy with your type style and point settings, ensure you save the work to disc. Now choose Output from the file menu and send your copy to your

The finished product from the copy I have been using is seen in Figure VI.

 Next month we will look at the benefits of columnising, layout and introducing graphics to brighten your pages.

Editing and writing

MUCH of the writing you may do yourself, but you may also get friends and acquaintances to write specialist articles and reviews for you.

Brief your writers well so they know what to do, otherwise you must take the blame if copy doesn't come up to

Send them a deadline, and ask to see an outline before copy is due if you are at all worried.

The outline does two things: It says what they plan to write so you can change the emphasis if needed, and get them going before the real deadline. Check on the author before the deadline, not when they start writing the article.

It's a good idea to make your writers aware of the style you wish their copy to follow - for example how to use abbreviations and capital letters, standard size of paragraphs and so on. This will save lots of editing later.

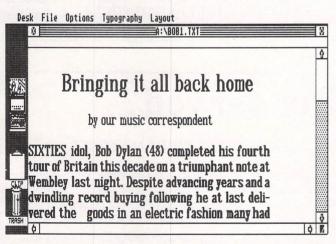
These points apply equally to your own copy. Pay special attention to names, addresses and phone numbers these are where many errors occur. The golden rule is never let anyone check their own copy.

All copy should have double-line spacing, with large margins at sides, top and bottom to make notes and corrections. This enables quick first editing and allows you to spot errors more easily. It is essential that final reading and all proofing is also done

Don't rely on spelling checkers for disc copy, they can't spot the most common pitfalls such as its and it's and words spelt correctly but used in the wrong context, say, made of steal instead of steel.

Remember that in many cases your writers will be reporting as opposed to creating, and reporting is all about

The important facts should be in the first two paragraphs, so you can cut from the bottom if space is tight!



manipulation of font style and point size



Figure V: After

FACT FILE

Product: Fleet Street Publisher Price: £125 Supplier: Mirrorsoft, Irwin House, 118 Southwark Street, London SEI OSW. Tel: 01-928 1454

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Product: Timeworks Desktop Publisher Supplier: Electric Distribution, Meadow Lane, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 4LG Tel: 0480 496666

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On this month's cover disc...

SIDE 1

PAGE

Fastlane

Race around a Grand Prix circuit against the clock in this exciting driving simulation. You'll need a keen eye and fast reactions.

Vidi-ST

Load, save, cut and paste digitised pictures using this powerful software. Or even save images and use them in your own software.

Archiver

There was so much to cram on to this month's cover disc that some of the games and music demonstrations had to be compacted to save space. You'll need this handy utility to de-archive them before they can be run.



Things to Do with Numbers

66 chi

Three fun educational games for young children combined into one package will keep your youngster coming back for more.

Music

PAGE 67

Turn your micro's keyboard into an electronic synthesiser with this powerful program. Create soothing melodies with your ST.

Alphafit

PAGE

Is is a game or an educational program? Either way you'll quickly improve your child's knowledge of the alphabet while having lots of fun at the same time.

DC Clock

PAGE

Keep track of the time with an onscreen clock that runs no matter what you are doing. Now there's no excuse for missing appointments.

Using the cover disc

TO access the programs on the cover disc place the disc in the drive and switch on. If you have a colour monitor a title screen will be displayed and then you'll be presented with the familiar Gem desktop. The title screen won't be displayed if using a monochrome monitor.

To run a program either double click on it from the desktop or click on MENU.PRG and enter the program name using the file selector box. The menu program allows you to browse through the disc contents and also display a help file.

The disc appears to be single sided. This is so that the programs can be accessed by both double and single sided disc drives. However, many more programs are stored on the other side of the disc, but they can only be accessed if you have a double sided disc drive.

Double click on FLIPDISC.PRG from the desktop and click on YES when asked if you have double sided drives. The program will then swap the programs on side one of the disc for those on side two leaving side one on side two. The disc must not be write protected.

You now have a single sided disc as before, but with a completely new set of programs. You can double click on files from the desktop to load and run them or use MENU.PRG.

The disc can be booted to display the title screen by either pressing the reset button or switching on with the disc in the drive.

You don't have to, but as a precaution it is best if you copy the files to a blank, formatted disc before running FLIPDISC.PRG. You'll find this utility on both sides of the disc so you can run it again to restore it to its original state.

Turn the page for full details





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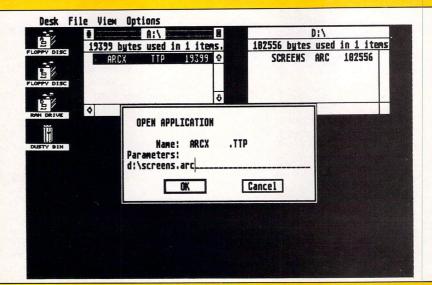


To load: Double click on ARCX.TTP.

EVERAL of the programs on this month's cover disc have been archived – compacted – to reduce the amount of space they take up. You can tell which ones by looking for the .ARC file extension. ARCX.TTP which can be found in the FASTLANE folder must be used to de-archive them before they can be run.

The usual procedure is to format a blank disc and copy on to it both ARCX.TTP and the archived file. Then double click on ARCX.TTP and enter the archive filename into the dialogue box.

You may experience problems with very large archived files and single sided disc drives in 520STs. The solution is to set up a ram disc and copy the archived file to this. ARCX.TTP



De-archiving a file stored on a ram disc

should be copied to a blank disc as before and when clicked on you enter the archived filename, but this time also preceding its name with the drive like D:SCREENS.ARC.

With two drives the best method is to store the archive on one and ARCX.TTP on the other.

Fast Lane



To load: Double click on DEMO.PRG.

AST Lane is a superb Grand Prix racing simulation from Artronic in which you compete against up to 20 computer-driven cars at race tracks around the world.

The preview version on the cover disc lets you practise and finely tune your driving skills at one of these circuits. You're on your own, so you won't have the worry of looking out for other cars blocking the road.

The screens take up a large amount of disc space so they have been archived and must be de-archived before the game can be played. If you have a double sided disc drive copy everything in the FASTLANE folder to a blank disc, double click on ARCX.TTP and enter SCREENS into the dialogue box. Double click on DEMO.PRG to play the game.

The process is slightly more complex with single sided drives. After booting up with the cover disc, double click on the FASTLANE folder.



Race round the track

Create a 150k ram disc by double clicking on RAMDISC.TTP and entering 150 into the dialogue box. Double click on EXFORMAT.TOS and place a disc in drive A – this will be formatted to produce a game disc.

Copy ARCX.TTP to the blank game disc and copy SCREENS.ARC to the ram disc. Put the game disc in the drive, double click on ARCX.TTP and enter D:SCREENS into the dialogue box to de-archive the game's screens.

When ARCX.TTP has done its job, delete it from the game disc and copy DEMO.PRG from the cover disc to the game disc. To play Fast Lane boot up with the game disc and double click on DEMO.PRG.

Press the joystick fire button to

bring up the menu options, pressing left or right to select an option and fire to confirm. Pressing fire again takes you to the game itself.

Your aim is to race round the track in the shortest time possible. Push the joystick forward to accelerate and back to brake. Push forward and hit the fire button to change up a gear and pull back and fire to change down.

Missing in this preview version but featured in the full game are up to 20 computer controlled competitors, 10 other race tracks from around the world, voltmeter, fuel, oil pressure and temperature and water guages.

The weather will vary from race to race, it may even pour down forcing you to enter the pits and change to wet weather tyres or risk sliding about on slicks. Faults may develop in your car which will require a visit to the pits – you'll have to describe these to the pit crewe who will then set to work.

With all these features Fast Lane looks set to become one of the best Grand Prix racing simulations.

Fast Lane will be available from Artronic, 1-3 Haywra Crescent, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5BG from early September.



Vidi-ST



To load: Double click on VIDI.PRG in the VIDI folder.

VIDEO digitiser is a combination of hardware and software that enables you to take a picture from a home video camera or recorder and convert it into a form that can be displayed on the ST's monitor screen.

Rombo's Vidi-ST - reviewed in the February 1989 issue - is a full-featured video digitiser costing just under £100, consisting of a cartridge, disc of software and manual. It not only grabs video images, but also displays them in real-time at up to 25 frames a second.

The pictures are stored in memory – the number depends on how much ram you've got – and can then be manipulated using the Vidi-ST software or saved in Degas or Neochrome form so they can be loaded into other art packages.

On this month's cover disc is Rombo's Vidi-ST software and several digitised pictures. Of course, without the hardware add-on you can't grab your own images, but you can load, save, cut and paste the ones provided.

After booting up, the screen will show a digitised picture with a Gem menu bar at the top of the screen and a number of buttons in a strip along the bottom. Tap the V key to remove the menus and see the full image. Tap it again to access the menus.

There are 10 colour palettes and clicking on either of the two arrows below PAL at the bottom of the screen will cycle through them. The palette you use will depend on the picture – experiment and see which looks best.

A number of screens are accessable by clicking on the SCRN arrows at the bottom of the screen. Initially all will be blank except screen one. Go to

screen two, select Paste from the Options menu and using the mouse click on one of the pictures on the Clipboard. Paste it on to the screen by clicking the mouse again.

You can cut your own sections from pictures using the Cut option. Go back



Five digitised pictures are on the disc

to screen one by clicking on the SCRN arrows and select Cut from the Options menu. Hold down the left mouse button and drag a rubberbanded box around the area you want to cut. Paste it on the Clipboard

Things to do

with Numbers



To load: Double click on TTDWNDEM.PRG.

URING the past year Softstuff has deservedly established itself at the top of the ST educational software tree. Things to do with Numbers is a suite of three programs aimed to teach some basic mathematical concepts to primary aged children and is one of the company's best releases to date.

The version on the cover disc is identical to the full game, but places a restriction on the number of goes you are allowed with each game.

Once the program has been loaded you are offered four alternating pictures which represent the menu.

Select an item by holding down the left mouse button as your choice appears on screen.

Click on the Search box to select Book Search. This 10 by 10 grid hides a little book bug called Betty. Your job, as her boyfriend Buddy, is to discover where she is hiding while at the same time learning all about coordinates.

You do this by clicking on the sliding bars at the top right-hand corner of the screen which determine lateral and vertical movement. Then begin the search by clicking on the Search box. Buddy will now chew through the squares to find his love. A thermometer at the side of the grid lets you know how close you are to finding Betty – it measures cold, warm and hot. When you find the correct square the thermometer has a cracking surprise for you.

Click on the watch to choose Time

Teller. This simple but effective game aims to teach and consolidate telling the time using the 24 hour clock juxtaposed to the rotary 12 hour clock. On the left of the screen is a large clock, the minute and hour hands of which move to randomly programmed times. Your job is to correctly display these times on the digital watch alongside. You have to click on the correct numbers and also decide whether the time should be AM or PM.

Click on the train and you enter the world of steam with All Aboard. The object here is to construct a train with a given number of passengers on board, using the number grid at the foot of the screen. If the answer is correct the train will issue a reward.

A restriction is placed by Buddy Book Bug on the numbers you can use to encourage you to use addition and multiplication to arrive at the correct answer. The pass option is useful here for younger children who are not yet able to break down larger numbers.

Finally by clicking on The End you exit via a lovely picture of Buddy and Betty who wish you "Bye Bye".

Things to do with Numbers costs £19.95 and is available from Softstuff, 19, Quarry Hill Road, Tonbridge, Kent.



screen. You can Paste it to another screen as before.

The File menu has options to load and save screens, palettes and the clipboard. You can also print the current screen and delete files on disc.

Clicking on Status on the Settings menu will tell you how many pictures you can hold in memory. Monitor on the same menu allows you to set your monitor running at a scan rate of 60Hz instead of the normal 50Hz.

There are four more pictures on side two of the disc, stored as an archived file. To access them, copy ARCX.TTP from side one and VIDIPICS.ARC from side two to a blank disc. Double click on ARCX.TTP and enter VIDIPICS to dearchive them. They can be loaded into Vidi-ST using the File menu.

Vidi-ST costs £99.95 and is available from Rombo Productions, 107 Raeburn Rigg, Livingstone EH54 8PH

Alphafit



To load: Double click on ALPHAFIT.PRG.

LPHAFIT is an educational game for children which is also entertaining for adults. It displays a five by five grid holding the letters A to Y in a random order.

Starting with the A and progressing to Y, your task is to enter the correct coordinates of each letter.

Sounds easy, but finding them within the allocated time limit puts you under pressure. When you progress to the next level things get harder as letters are hidden.

Enter 10 as the coordinate and you will be given the option of going to the next level or finishing the game. Try Alphafit and see for yourself how hard reciting the alphabet can be.

DC Clock



To load: Boot up the ST with the disc in the drive after de-archiving DCCLOCK.ARC.

H.S simple, but extremely useful utility is available on the disc both as a desk accessory and as a stand alone program. First however, it must be de-archived: Copy DCCLOCK.ARC from side two and ARCX.TTP from side one to a blank disc. Double click on ARCX.TTP and enter DCCLOCK.

On booting up you are presented with a dialogue box into which you can enter the date and time. As you work away with programs and utilities a handy clock ticks away in the top right hand corner of the screen.

Any program saved will be stamped with the date and time. This utility can also be accessed by clicking on DCCLOCK.PRG.



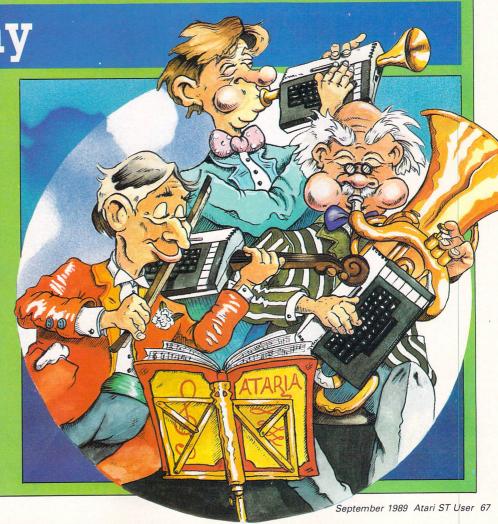


To load: Double click on PLAY.PRG after dearchiving MUSIC.ARC.

RCH-PLAY is an interesting and enjoyable micro jukebox which enables you to play and listen to a variety of tunes. First copy MUSIC.ARC from side two and ARCX.TTP from side one to a blank disc. Double click on ARCX.TTP and enter MUSIC. Double click on PLAY.PRG and after the title screen pull down the File menu and opt to play either a single song or choose from the full juke box.

If you choose to play only one tune a file selector box will scroll down and you can click on the one of your choice. You can abort at any time by clicking the right mouse button.

If you choose to play with the full array of tunes on the juke box the screen will clear to the juke box display. Now you can either type in your selection from the file menu or simply click on OK to hear all the tunes in order. Each one lasts about two minutes.





Disc Bargains!

Home Accounts

Day by Day

Home Accounts has been designed to make full use of the Atari ST's features, giving you the widest range of home accounting facilities available at this price.

The system design uses consistent logic throughout, so

that you can very soon begin to use the program without reference to the manual. The program lets you set budgets and control up to 13 separate accounts, with optional printouts of any data. Within seconds of loading your data disc you can check your budget or any account, and even display or print the data

Home Accounts is simple and flexible, allowing you to use the software the way you want to work.

Day by Day replaces your manual system for diary, business organiser, notepad, planner, reminder and so on.

It's suitable for both business and home applications, including numerous useful functions which serve every requirement.

Written in the easy-to-use Digita style, Day by Day is certainly one program that once you've bought it you'll wonder how you ever managed without it.

Among its many features are:

- * Calender/diary/planner
- Categories such as bills, birthdays and
 - Appointment sorting
 - 'Urgent' notice board
 - 'Overdue' notice board
 - Advance notice of forthcoming events
- * Updating of regular appointments

RRP £54.90 **Our Price**

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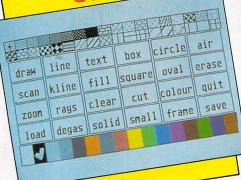
- Comprehensive search facility Automatic reminders
- At-a-glance week and month
- summaries
- * Print option
- * Grouping of related messages

Both of these powerful programs are excellent value on their own, but if you buy this exclusive combination package we'll knock £15 off the combined retail price.

Remember though, this is a limited offer, so send for yours today.

DIGITA

the week by week . . . month by month . . year by year organiser



Stage II

Stage II is a versatile art package incorporating virtually all the functions you need - without the inflexibility and jumble of other packages.

Designed specifically for younger people, the thought put into the layout of the icons and overall operation of the package make Stage Il ideal for use at school or in the home.

Some of Stage II's features:

Normal Draw * Circles/ovals

Line draw

Box draw

Text entry

- * Air brush

- * Zoom feature
- * Rays
- * Accepts scanner input * Cut and paste
 * Fast fill option * Compatible with Degas & Neochrome

As Nic Outterside said in Atari ST User. "I have no hesitation in recommending this art package for all primary, middle and secondary school children"

And for just £11.95 this is an offer you should not miss.

Gilbert

Gilbert's spaceship, The Millenium Dustbin, has had certain important parts of its sanitation extraction system removed and spread around the planet Drill. You, Gilbert, have to find the missing toilet pieces before 24 hours have elapsed. RRP £19.99 **Our Price** 99

RRP £14.95 **Our Price**

The game plays in the form of an arcade adventure as you journey through the Drillian State of Chaos, the Dry Drillian Desert, underwater and through the sewers, in search of the lavatorial parts. During play you are presented with a number of coin-op machines which you must play, and beat, to succeed in your mission.

The combination of features and gameplay on offer in this program are guaranteed to keep you coming back again and again. And if you buy it from us, we'll knock £5 off the recommended retail price!

"Gilbert is instantly recognisable... the sound effects and music are pleasant and well prepared... will tax your manual dexterity and reflexes. Most of all the gameplay is addictive due to its variety – it will keep you hooked on your ST for hours on end." – Atari ST User.



Send for the full version of selected programs on this month's Atari ST User cover disc — and SAVE UP TO £20!

Grab graphics like never before

...with the Vidi-ST Digitiser

Rombo's Vidi-ST is a fully featured digitiser consisting of a plug-in cartridge, sophisticated picture manipulating software and a comprehensive manual.

As well as grabbing single images from TV or Video for use with art programs or DTP packages, the Vidi can actually capture pictures and display them in real time – at up to 25 frames a second!

This is the essential package for anyone who wishes to make use of the full graphics potential of their ST. With a saving of £10 off the retail price this is an offer you should not miss.





Fun number crunching

...with Things to Do with Numbers

Softstuff is one of the top software houses producing high-quality educational software for the ST. And Things to Do with Numbers is one of their best creations.

On the disc there are three games designed to combine learning with fun in such a way that the child using it will automatically pick up various useful elements of mathematics — without even realising it.

With its clearly designed graphics and well thought out structure, Things to Do with Numbers is a value-packed educational tool which, with a saving of £5, is even better value for money.



Once more . . . unto the Breach

Breach is a game which demands nerves of steel and sound tactical judgement for you to win. RRP £19.95
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RRP £19.95
Our Price

You can select from a number of scenarios. For example with Breeder your task is to wipe out an alien installation and rescue Federated World citizens who are being used as fodder for maneating monsters.

Breach is one of those games you just can't put down. With its addictive gameplay, tactical combat and facility for extra scenarios, it's guaranteed to keep you coming back for more.

• We're also giving away an extra scenarios disc – absolutely free!



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THE FORM
ON PAGE 109

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NE of the nice things about owning a computer like the ST is that software companies seem to be falling over themselves to provide programming languages. Although each compiler has its own unique combination of strengths and weaknesses, most share a common Achilles heel – the generally poor quality of the supplied source program editor.

Microdeal's C-Breeze is a configurable text editor designed to be a replacement for the ones supplied with most language packages. As you would imagine from its name, it is initially set up for the C language, but this editor is something special so don't flip the page if C is not your cup of tea.

Although C-Breeze is a remarkably versatile program, it is quite easy to use without even glancing at the manual. Gem-based, and capable of running in both medium and high resolution, many of the usual text editor commands can be called from the menu bar.

Comprehensive search, replace and block operations are provided, together with the ability to go to a line number or several types of marks, and it is even possible to go to a function simply by clicking on its reference in the main program. Up to six different files may be in memory at any time with full cut and paste between them.

A particularly well designed Undo option remembers a series of deletions in a buffer, ready for recall, and is an excellent safety net for impetuous programmers. A keypress record and replay option is handy for entering repetitive sequences of code and is quite versatile, although it can take some time getting used to.

A superb option allows you to change the size of the character set in the text windows. It is possible in high resolution to use the standard display or switch to 50 lines of 80 column text or 66 lines with 106 columns.

Medium resolution monitors have restricted options due to system constraints, and if you are struggling along with a TV it is best to stick to the standard

Like a breath of fresh air

display to avoid eyestrain. In practical terms, this facility allows you to see much more of your source code, and is a great programming aid in itself.

Keyboard shortcuts are available for users who prefer them, and each control key alternative is given next to its corresponding menu selection for reference, although many more are available. The manual adequately describes all of the available keyboard commands, but a quick reference card would not have gone amiss.

A Help menu provides extra information on several subjects from disc files stored in the CBREEZE folder. The Help files cover such things as command keys, menu commands, and mouse control and are stored as ordinary text files.

An online manual, again accessible from the menu bar, provides advice on standard C functions and other miscellaneous information concerned with the syntax and semantics of that language.

This excellent provision will be welcomed by novice and expert programmers alike and may well save a trip to the stationers for a quick-reference C manual.

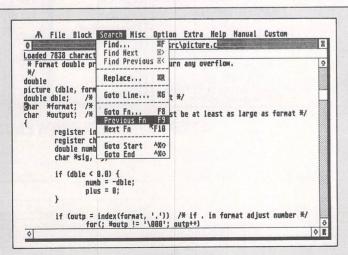
Like the Help files, the components of the online manual are stored in the CBREEZE folder and can be customised or rewritten to provide a similar facility for other languages, although no alternatives are provided.

At this base level, C-Breeze is a competent product with a few additional features which ensure a niche in the marketplace, but nothing particularly revolutionary. However, just below the surface is a layer of sophistication which sets this program apart from most text editors and word processors.

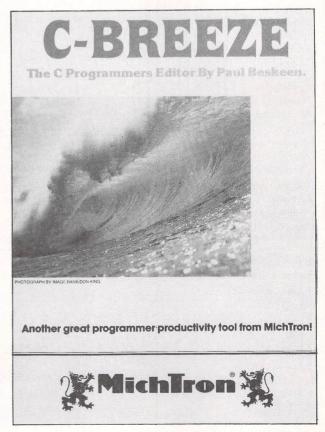
The menu bar also includes a configurable Custom menu. This enables C-Breeze to operate as a stand-alone editor – Megamax style – or as a workbench –

Turn to Page 73 ▶

Mick Randle examines a flexible text editor aimed at C programmers



The Gem-based text editor is easy to use and all the menu options are available directly from the keyboard



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◆ From Page 71

Prospero style – where compilation and linkage can be performed directly from the editor without disturbing the source file in memory.

File pathnames may be specified, which enables you to customise the editor to suit your system rather than having to adapt your system to conform to the editor – normally the case with conventional programs. The 19 slots in this menu may all be redefined in a special configuration file which C-Breeze reads at initialisation time.

Defining macros

The manual dedicates the majority of its text to explaining how to create the configuration file. This is not surprising, as this feature holds the secret of C-Breeze's power. It is a text file containing macrolike instructions which cover three areas of performance.

One type of macro is used to define the Custom menu as already mentioned, and a second type allows the keyboard to be redefined. If you don't like any of the keyboard commands you can create your own and assign them to the keys of your choice.

Keyboard redefinition is extended to the Control shift, Alternate shift, and the numeric keypad in addition to the standard function keys. This facility allows you to design your own unique command set or even emulate another editor, such as Vi on Unix, although multiple-key commands are difficult to reproduce with C-Breeze.

In addition to the command macros, a key may be assigned a string containing a language keyword which may be inserted into your source code at the press of that key. This is probably more useful to programmers using other languages such as Pascal.

This facility may be extended to provide templates for functions and procedures with automatic indenting and cursor positioning to suit your individual programming style. After using these shortcuts for a while, you wonder how you managed to do without them.

The third type of macro is concerned with system configuration, and these instructions are executed during program initialisation. Although there are several possibilities, the most useful is the ability to transfer several files automatically to a ram disc and tell C-Breeze where to find them for all subsequent processing.

If you have sufficient memory, it is possible to have automated memory-based compilation and linking, which can reduce the waiting time from several minutes to a few seconds.

My first attempt at writing a configuration file resulted in the ST crashing; my

> It could well be the only program editor you will ever need

fault entirely, but indicative of the care required when using this facility. Thankfully, the system disc contains a selection of sample configuration files for Megamax, Lattice, Hi-Tech and Mark Williams, with alternatives to accommodate different floppy disc or hard disc systems. They are liberally commented

and are an invaluable aid to producing a genuinely customised editor.

To get the most out of this program I would recommend suspending all other projects for a few days in order to become fully familiar with its capabilities. Time spent at this stage will probably pay dividends later.

C-Breeze could be more appropriately described as a text editor construction kit. It is difficult to criticise the product because if something irritates you all you have to do is change it via the configuration file.

It would have been nice if the mouse pointer automatically disappeared when using the keyboard, instead of having to manually park it out of the way.

Systems with less than a megabyte of memory or only a one single-sided disc drive will find it difficult to take advantage of some of C-Breeze's more advanced features, but that is a sad fact of life with any development system. The program is more than 80k in length and, together with its resource file and the CBREEZE folder, occupies quite a chunk of your disc storage and memory space.

The manual

To its credit, the manual is very helpful in this respect and doesn't try to pull the wool over your eyes. In fact, it is very well written and takes its time to fully explain what at first glance can appear to be an immensely complicated program to manage.

It assumes a plain English, slightly technical, approach without confusing jargon or technospeak. Ring-bound with tinted plastic covers, it looks as though it has just been run off on a Xerox machine.

Learning another language can be difficult enough without having to cope with a user-hostile command shell and editor. C-Breeze reduces the task to more reasonable proportions by allowing you to concentrate on the main project rather than on tedious housekeeping. Its adaptability should ensure that, whatever your requirements, it could well be the only program editor you will ever need.

A File Block Search Misc Option Extra Help Manual Custom C Quick Reference ASCII Table d:\cbreeze\misclib.man Loaded 12336 characters Crash Analysis main(argc, argv) /* Entry point into C program */ Û int argc: Std C Miscellany char *argv[]; Std C Strings Std C Maths Std C Files argc is equal to the number of parameters passed (ind. argy is an array of pointers to the programs parameters. The parameters were delimited by spaces on the command line. e.g. the invocation: FRED.PRG 1 2 3 Has this result on main's parameters: argv[0] -> "FRED.PRG" - i.e. argv[0] contains a char pointer to "FRED.PRG" argv[1] -> "1" argv[2] -> "2" argv[3] -> "3" **◇ E** Comprehensive online help facilities are available to C programmers

FACT FILE

Product: C-Breeze Price: £24.95 Supplier: Microdeal, PO Box 68, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4YB. Tel: 0726 68020

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Roland Waddilove shows how to write Stretch your flopp your own floppy disc formatter to create more file storage space aisc.

HE first thing you must do when you buy a box of floppy discs is to format them, a procedure which lays down magnetic patterns on the disc surface to partition it into tracks and sectors. Then when you save a file the data is saved in 512byte chunks placed in these sectors.

Gem has quite a good built-in formatter just click on a drive icon, pull down the File menu and click on the Format option but it can be improved easily.

When you format a single sided disc 80 tracks are created, each with nine sectors per track. This means it can store 80x9x512, or 368,640 bytes of information. (If you format a disc and check how many bytes are available you'll only get 357,376 bytes because certain sectors are set aside for the operating system's use, such as the directory and file allocation table).

The operating system - Tos - has a small degree of flexibility built in and is not restricted to this format. It can recognise and use discs with different numbers of tracks and sectors by checking how many there are before reading or writing to the disc.

Gem can't create these alternative formats, though it can use them if it detects them. Now by writing your own formatting utility you can create your own special floppy disc format either to speed up disc access times or store extra information on the disc.

It is quite easy to format 81 tracks with 10 sectors per track, giving a total of 81x10x512 or 414,720 bytes on a single sided disc - 403,456 bytes after the operating system has taken its workspace - an increase of 46,080 bytes storage space.

The operating system contains all the necessary formatting functions. All you need to do is call them in the correct order and pass the right parameters. It can be done in any language - the procedure is the same.

Format the tracks using the Xbios call FLOPFMT. Fill the sectors in the first track with zeroes - strictly speaking you should zero the first two tracks, but I haven't experienced any problems just doing the first. Create a boot sector using the Xbios PROTOBT function call and write it to the first sector on the disc using

the Xbios FLOPWR function.

In 68000 assembly language the FLOP-FMT function call looks like:

MOVE #\$E5E5,-(A7)	format code
MOVE.L #\$87654321,-(/	(A7) magic number
MOVE #1,-(A7)	interleave factor
MOVE #Ø,-(A7)	side Ø
MOVE D7,-(A7)	track D7
MOVE #sectors,-(A7)	10 sectors/track
MOVE #0,-(A7)	drive Ø
MOVE.L #Ø,-(A7)	not used
MOVE.L A6,-(A7)	buffer address
MOVE #10,-(A7)	_FLOPFMT
TRAP #14	format track
ADDA.L #26,A7	tidy stack

Call this routine 81 times with the track number in data register D7. A 10,000 byte buffer is required as workspace by the operating system and this is passed in address register A6 in the above code.

When this procedure has been carried out successfully - D0 should always be zero after calling FLOPFMT - the buffer must be zeroed and written to the first track (and the second if you want to play safe):

loop1	MOVE #2400,00
loop1	CLR.L (A6)+
	DBRA DØ, loop1

You can skip the write function and



The full listing of the assembly source code is on side two of the cover disc and an assembled executable program is on side one in the FASTLANE folder.

create a boot sector in the zeroed buffer with a call to PROTOBT:

MOVE #Ø,-(A7)	not executable
MOVE #2,-(A7)	80 track single side
	,-(A7) random serial numbe
MOVE.L A6,-(A7)	buffer address
MOVE #18,-(A7)_PF	ROTOBT
TRAP #14	make boot sector
ADDA.L #14,A7	tidy stack

There is a problem with this call in that the operating system creates a standard boot sector, but as we're creating a disc with a special format it must be modified. The number of sectors per track is stored in byte 24 of the boot sector and the standard nine must be replaced by 10.

The number of sectors per disc is stored in bytes 19 and 20 - low byte/high byte - so these must be altered too:

MOVE.B	#10,24(A6)	10 sectors/track
MOVE.B	#42,19(A6)	42+3*256 sectors
MOVE.B	#10,24(A6) #42,19(A6) #3,20(A6)	per disc

Now the zeroed buffer containing the boot sector can be written to the disc using the Xbios' FLOPWR function:

MOVE #10,-(A7)	10 sectors
MOVE #Ø,-(A7)	side Ø
MOVE #Ø,-(A7)	track Ø
MOVE #1,-(A7)	sector 1
MOVE #Ø,-(A7)	drive Ø
MOVE.L #0,-(A7)	not used
MOVE.L A6,-(A7)	buffer address
MOVE #9,-(A7)	_FLOPWR
TRAP #14	
ADDA.L #20,A7	tidy stack

That's all there is to it. The formatting procedure is finished and you now have a disc with more than 400k of storage space.

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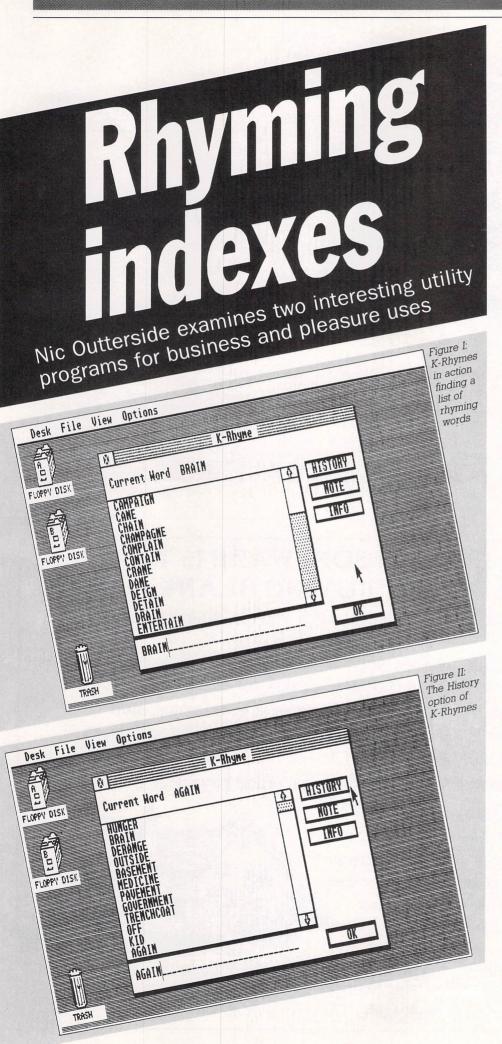
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R-RHYMES and K-Index are two simple utilities from Kuma, a company well known for its business and utility packages. K-Rhymes is based on the Longman Top Pocket Dictionary of Rhymes and is probably of greatest use to poets and songwriters. It comes on a single disc with an accompanying concise manual.

The utility is installed as a desk accessory which calls on a 71k data file of rhyming words. It is quick and easy to access either directly from the desktop or from within a word processor like Kuma's K-Word.

You can either directly type in a word for which you wish to find a rhyme or send one from K-Word by choosing the To K-Rhymes option in the Edit pull-down menu. Click on OK and the program will search and present a list of words which rhyme with your chosen one, as can be seen in Figure I.

If your word does not appear in the K-Rhymes dictionary the program will attempt to find words which may have a possible phonic ending match.

Two problems cropped up: One is that the K-Rhymes dictionary is not exhaustive and the program didn't recognise 6 out of a random 20 word trial. The other point is that K-Rhymes works only on Oxford English pronounciation, so for someone like myself who writes poetry in an Allen Ginsberg/Bob Dylan style, the utility often fails.

The program keeps a history of all the words you have asked it to find rhymes for since it was last booted (see Figure II) which is particularly handy for back referencing, and a Note option allows you to update the History file with a word on the input line without looking it up in the K-Rhymes dictionary.

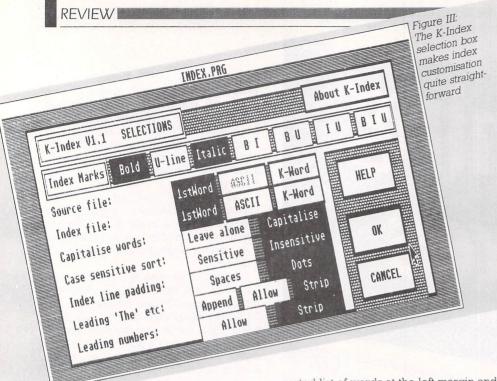
K-Index is a 32k, Gem-based indexing program to create an index for a document or book produced using an ST word processor. It, too, comes on a single disc but with only a flimsy instruction card. However, this is supplemented by a useful onscreen Help facility.

The program reads from either a standard Ascii, 1st Word or K-Word file and builds up a page-referenced index of marked words in either bold, underline, italics or a combination, in a word processed document.

Double click on the INDEX.PRG and from the main selection menu, pick the index text style, – capitalisation of words, case sensitive sorting, line padding in spaces or dots and stripping or editing of leading words such as *The* and *A*. These options are shown in Figure III.

This is all easily achieved by clicking on appropriate boxes in the selection menu, or if in doubt by clicking on HELP. When happy with the nature of the index to be created you are ready to index your text file. Click on OK and the screen will toggle to a catalogue of the files on disc.

Simply double click on the relevant file



◄ From Page 77

name and you are presented with another file selector, Index File. Enter a name for your index file – not the same as the text file – and click on OK. Your index file is now generated and saved to disc.

The index is written to a file with a

sorted list of words at the left margin and the page reference numbers in the right margin. The process is easy and quite fast but I did experience some difficulties in getting used to the indexing protocols the program uses. I also feel that £20 is a little steep, even if it is for business purposes.

On the whole these are two interesting utilities which will prove useful to many business and casual users.

FACT FILE

Product: K-Rhymes Price: £19.95 Product: K-Index Price: £19.95

Supplier: Kuma Computers, 12 Horseshoe Park, Pangbourne, Berkshire RG8 TJW. Tel: 07357 4335

K-Rhymes

POINTS FOR:

A handy and easy to use utility. Complete compatibility with K-Word. Can be used in conjunction with most ST word processors.

AGAINST:

Only a 9k index and 71k data file of rhyming words. Only caters for standard Oxford English pronounciation.

K-Index

POINTS FOR:

Easy to use and very useful for many purposes. Compatible with nearly all ST word processors.

AGAINST:

Rather expensive for such a small and simple program.

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IN our Gallery this month we proudly display a series of readers' pictures based on the theme of rock stars, beginning with a couplet sent in by Robert Matthews of Teddington in Middlesex. Both superstars Madonna and Michael Jackson were created using the public domain art package Neochrome and Robert shows how totally different effects on a similar subject can be produced using a very

basic art program.

The third picture is a submission by Paul Canty of Billingham in Cleveland. Using Degas Elite, he has produced a stunning monochrome image of U2 chanteur Bono.

Finally we offer an electric picture of a member of the German rock band, Kraftwerk. Again developed using Neochrome, it was drawn by Jorge Albuquerque from Portugal. If you have a work of art you would like to see exhibited on our worldwide stage why not send it in on disc to Gallery. Remember though, anything you submit must be all your own work. You must own the sole copyright and provide us, in writing, with confirmation of this fact, as well as your express permission for us to publish your work. If you want your submissions returned you must supply us with an sae.



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Adding Adding Quality

OVER the past year Miked has spent much time and effort trying to make an impact in the expanding educational software market. It looks now as if the company has finally turned the corner with the release of Add and Subtract and Word Search.

The first is a basic rote learning program aimed to teach and practise the funda-

mentals of addition and subtraction. Its workings are simple, with the emphasis squarely on educational content.

Load the disc and you are asked to enter your name by clicking on letters from an on-screen grid. The display now toggles to an add or subtract option menu.

Make your selection and choose the level at which you wish to work. Within the addition option, level one allows you to add two tens and units numbers. Level two progresses to two hundreds, tens and units numbers, while level three deals with addition of three hundreds, tens and

FACT FILE

Product: Word Search
Price: £9.95
Supplier: Miked, 6 Devonshire House,
Stonehouse, Plymouth PL1 3HE.
Tel: 0752 671464

POINTS FOR:

A novel little program which succeeds in its objectives. Easy to use.

AGAINST:

Rather over-priced. Could be improved with better graphical and musical content.

Nic Outterside reviews two new educational programs

units numbers. The subtraction option offers similar levels of work.

Within each level you may also opt for easy or hard sums. The easy option allows helpful on-screen carrying and borrowing for the respective addition and subtraction.

Once you have decided on the difficulty level you choose the number of questions you wish to answer. This can range from 10 to 50 at a time.

The program will now set out the questions individually and answers are entered by clicking on a number from a grid. If you make a mistake you may click on the Delete box, but this will only give you one more try.

The whole program development is more sophisticated than Miked's earlier offerings and it does its job admirably. Better graphical and musical reward would have been an improvement to motivation. I also find the price of £9.95 a bit steep for such a simple facility.

Word Search is exactly what its name implies, an on-screen word search with an option to find words from 20 subject areas. It is aimed at children aged between 7 and 12 but will provide entertainment for all ages.

Load the disc in the usual way and you are presented with the selection menu of subjects ranging from fish to sport. Click on one and an orthodox word search screen appears with your subject's words cleverly hidden among a jumble of 144 letters.

To mark the words you find, click on their first and last letter, then click on the YES box

to confirm the selection. Each word is then marked off against a check list.

When all the words have been found, you mark completion by clicking on an End box. The program then displays the time taken to complete the word search.

Anyone in difficulty can click on a Help box, when the listed words will be shown in red.

This is a super little educational facility, but like its partner is rather over priced at £9.95. Despite the fact that neither program bursts with originality, these commendable efforts are worthy of inclusion in any educational software library.

FACT FILE

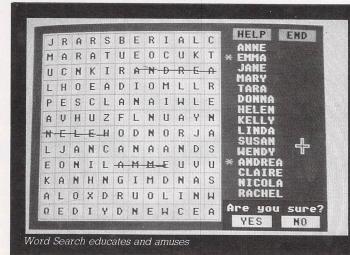
Product: Add and Subtract
Price: £9.95
Supplier: Miked, 6 Devonshire House,
Stonehouse, Plymouth PL1 3HE.
Tel: 0752 671464

POINTS FOR:

Does a sound educational job. Good progression through the procedures of addition and subtraction.

AGAINST:

Rather over-priced. Would improve with better graphical and musical rewards for successful answers.







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T is difficult to know how to describe Elmtech's new ParSec graphics board. Can it really be classified as just an add-on board for the Atari ST? Or perhaps more accurately as an extremely powerful high resolution graphics engine in its own right? Whichever way you look at it, the ParSec is without a doubt the most impressive, innovative and significant ST product to be released for a long time.

The system has been in development for almost two years and was in the final stages of software testing when I visited ElmTech's Birmingham headquarters to see the unit being put through its paces.

Adding a Parsec board to your ST takes it far beyond comparisons with such machines as the Amiga or the Archimedes – and even Atari's own transputer workstation the ATW, formerly known as the Abaq, palls into insignificance in many ways.

The graphic power of the ParSec is more in line with the kind of industrial workstations used in the professional video market, but its £918 price tag places it within reach of most serious

Give your graphics a new engine

home computer users.

Put simply, the ParSec board is a computer in its own right, complete with a microprocessor, plenty of ram and a number of input/output ports. It doesn't have a keyboard or mouse, or even an operating system, because all of these are supplied by the host micro – the ST.

André Willey looks at an outstandingly powerful new add-on board for the Atari ST

anything that would detract from its primary task off creating and manipulating very high resolution colour graphics. The ST can be left to worry about the vagaries of interacting with the user, transferring data and programs to and from disc and other such menial tasks.

The specifications of the unit read like some kind of over-optimistic wish list

dreamed up by some eager micro owner without any real grasp on reality. The 32 bit TMS 34010 processor runs at 50MHz – that's more than six times faster than a standard ST – and is capable of executing 6.25 million instructions a second.

The system can run in two basic resolutions, 640 by 480 pixels – already higher than monochrome high resolution mode on a standard ST – and 1024 by 768 pixels, which uses up a massive 384k of on board video ram.

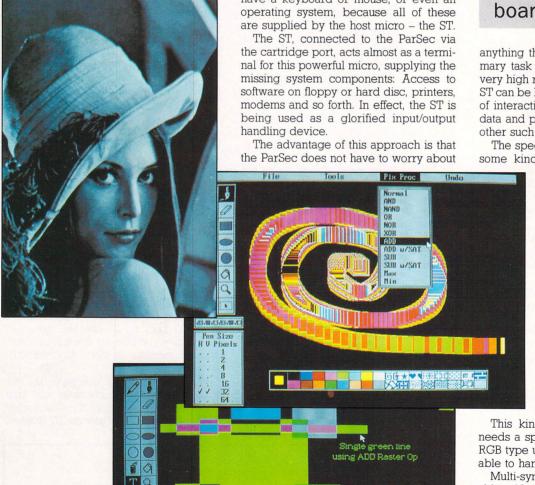
This kind of resolution unfortunately, needs a special monitor as the standard RGB type used with most STs will not be able to handle the faster display rate.

Multi-sync monitors are generally suitable, although not even all of those are capable of doing justice to the ParSec's highest resolution.

The resolution is completely software configurable to achieve specific results, although an approximate four by three pixel size ratio is desirable in order to

is desirable in order to

Turn to Page 88 ▶



These three screen shots demonstrate the astounding graphics capability of the ParSec board IVENDIVEND

Specifications			
	4768 version	8768 upgrade	
Processor Speed Memory 2Mb Resolution Colours Colour planes Columns per line	TMS 34010 GSP 50MHz, 6.25mips 768k vram 4Mb DRAM 640x480 or 1024x768 4,096 4	TMS 34010 GSP 50MHz, 6.25mips 1.5Mb vram 640x480 or 1024x768 16,777,216 4, 4+4, 8 256	
Price	£918	£458-£573	

Both versions:		
Average Bit Move Horizontal Line/Fill Line Draw Line (Read) Fill Rectangle Copy Block 32-bit Addition	25.0M bits/sec 50.0M bits/sec 1.25M pixels/sec 2.1M pixels/sec 12.5M pixels/sec 3.12M pixels/sec 6.25M instructions/sec	
32-bit Addition 32-bit multiply	6.25M instructions/sec 0.29M instructions/sec	

Ports: SCSI, RS232, ST link SCSI, RS232, ST link

◆ From Page 87

view the whole display on a standard monitor.

If, for example, you plan to use the system to generate a normal PAL video signal, a vertical resolution of 625 lines would be required, thus dictating a horizontal resolution of 4/3 this amount – or 833 pixels.

16 million colours

The basic ParSec 4768 configuration offers a range of 4,096 colours, all of which may be displayed on the same screen so long as no more than 16 are shown on any individual line. If this seems limiting, the upgraded version – the ParSec 8768 – offers a choice of 256 colours per line, from a palette of 16 million, but at a cost of 768 kilobytes of video memory per screen.

The whole screen may be given an overall colour palette, or each individual line may have its own completely separate palette, handled automatically by the hardware.

There are four planes of graphic information on the standard version resulting in the 16 colours available at any one time. The expanded version uses eight colour planes, hence the 256 colours available on each line.

It is also possible for the expanded version to split its eight colour planes back into two individual four plane systems – effectively giving two completely separate video outputs of 1024 by 768 pixels in 4,096 colours.

These may be displayed on different monitors if desired, or superimposed by the hardware on to a single screen, allowing some amazing overlay effects to be created.

Further expansion facilities will be made available in the near future — including a video digitiser and a Genlock module. The digitiser will allow live video frames to be captured, and with a 16 million colour palette and a resolution far greater than broadcast television, the results should be astoundingly realistic.

The Genlock module which will cost £200 to £300, will superimpose the output from the ParSec over a standard video signal generated by a camera or video recorder – useful for creating captions, titles and overlay graphics.

As with any project of this nature, all the hardware in the world is useless without equally good software support, and ElmTech certainly seems to realise this fact. A number of programs will be shipped with the basic board, and many more are now under development.

It is also providing a good level of support and assistance to third-party software houses wanting to develop ParSeccompatible products, even to the extent of supplying the complete set of TMS 34010 technical documentation free of charge to anyone with serious intentions of producing ParSec software.

All software will be supplied on standard 3.5in ST discs and may then be run from floppy or hard disc in the same way as any other program. Once running, however, most of the program code is transferred via the cartridge port to the ParSec for execution, leaving only control operations to be performed by the host ST.

There is no reason why the ST screen

shouldn't be used at the same time for menus and other control operations, for example. This would enable complex functions to be selected from the menu screen on the ST while the main ParSec graphics display remains active.

It is also possible to re-route all Gem screen output to the ParSec in a similar way to the various large screen monitors currently available. Indeed, there is no reason why the ParSec shouldn't be used as a high resolution Gem screen for any well-behaved desktop publishing, CAD, spreadsheet or other application program.

ElmTech is working on a Gem output driver which will be available later in the year for about £49.

Supplied with the unit is Da Vinci Art, a simple-to-use art package employing all the board's features. All of the usual facilities are present – lines, circles, boxes, polygons, text and so forth – plus some exciting extras which you won't have seen on existing ST products. Extensive block manipulations are also available, though they are not yet quite as powerful as those on some art packages.

What is new is the ability to perform a whole range of high speed pixel processing operations such as AND, OR and XOR on blocks or areas of the screen, which can provide stunning effects. Also the whole package is lightning fast, with no noticeable delay in even the most complex operations.

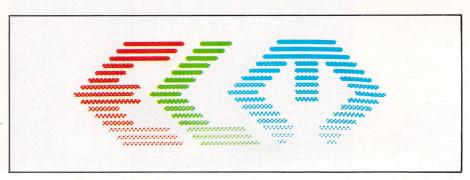
If you've ever tried moving large transparent text blocks around the screen on an ST you'll certainly appreciate the Par-Sec's incredibly smooth operations.

Also under development is a very much higher specification Paintbox-style graphic manipulation environment, with which it is hoped to interest the industrial and broadcast television market.

Although I only looked at a preproduction sample of the unit, minus its final black outer casing and metallic gold go-faster stripes, it was clear that this product has a healthy future.

ElmTech also seems to be taking a refreshingly professional attitude to the need for solid third party support and it shouldn't be long before we see other companies developing compatible software, especially in the CAD and DTP environments.

Compared to the competition, the ParSec is by far the cheapest and best specified device of its kind on the market today – and that's not just the ST market.



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Coonsolidate the features we have covered so far in this series, on this month's cover disc we have included a fast and addictive arcade game. It's a variation on the Pac Man theme called Snack Attack, and it shows just how easy it is to create almost professional quality games using simple STOS commands.

The aim is to guide Snack Man to eat all the tablets and occasional random offerings of fruit scattered around a while avoiding the creepy ghosts. Your controls are A, Z, < and >. You can get your own back on the nasties by eating the special power pills in each corner of the maze. The ghosts turn blue with fear and you can dispose of them by running them over.

Games usually consist of a main control loop which calls a series of subroutines that perform various actions like drawing the screen, and moving the ghosts or man. Snack Attack is no different, and here is its structure in pseudo-code:

Start Loop1
Set up screen
Check directions
Start Loop2
Check for pressed keys and move
Check directions
Control ghosts
Collision detection
Fruit time?
End Loop2
End Loop1

Control ghosts is a subroutine that itself calls other subroutines for each of the three ghosts. These determine the direction in which the ghosts are travelling, which sprites to use, how fast they travel and so on. The maze is read from data statements at the end of the program and stored in memory bank 5.

To move Snack Man or a ghost you must first find out what directions are available – there may be a wall in front or behind him. So the subroutine *What directions* is called. By passing the sprite's X,Y coordinate the four direction variables *u*, *d*, *l* and *r* are set to one or zero depending on whether or not a wall is in the way.

The keyboard is checked in the



Snack Attack is stored on side one of the cover disc, but to save space it has been archived. To use it, copy SNACK.ARC and ARCX.TTP (stored in the FASTLANE folder) to a blank disc. Click on ARCX.TTP and enter SNACK into the box. Now boot up STOS and load SNACK.BAS. Type RUN to play the game.



Finishing his series on getting the best from STOS, David McLachlan turns to a maze game



subroutine *Check keys* and Snack Man's animation and movement are also set up. The animation strings are defined in the *Set up* routine.

Simple intelligence

A ghost's intelligence is based upon these two simple rules:

- If it's at a dead end turn it around.
- If it comes to a junction it must decide which way to turn to head towards Snack Man.

These rules are implemented along with a few exceptions in the subroutine *Find next ghost direction*.

The fruit is controlled by the built-in timer and a marker. When the game starts, the variable *firtim* is made equal to the timer. The simple calculation:

timer-FRTIM

tells you how long the timer has been running since the fruit last appeared or the game started. When the result of this calculation is greater than 1,000-20 seconds – a random fruit is selected and

left on the screen for five seconds. After this time if Snack Man hasn't eaten it, it is removed from the screen and *frtim* is set equal to the timer again.

The music used is taken from the music files provided with STOS Basic. If you're musically inclined you can create your own tunes using the music editor. I've produced one for when the Snack Man dies by using part of the musical scale, copying it to the Cut buffer, pasting it back on to the end of the scale, transposing it by 12 and then repeating the process.

Don't just play the game – although it is very addictive – as there's a lot to be learned by trying to add extra features yourself. Snack Attack is fairly basic, so further enhancements like a two player mode or a high score table would improve it

Also bear in mind that if you have a copy of the STOS Compiler, compiling the program will result in the key responses being keener and the game much faster. And how about adding digitised sound with STOS Maestro, to produce an even more professional result?

A new C development system gives Roland Waddilove a few surprises

THE C programming language has always been compiled – that's the way the author intended it. The Ascii source code is taken by a compiler and turned into an executable machine code file that can be run directly without the need for support programs.

Until now, that is. For along comes-HiSoft with its unique C interpreter which throws tradition out of the window in a bid to open up a new market.

The software comes on two single

manual. You can run HiSoft C on all STs with either a colour or monochrome monitor. The program is Gem based, and on booting up you are presented with a large blank window with a menu bar at the top from which you can enter C source code using the built-in program

You can enter and delete text, move around the screen using the cursor keys, point and click at the Gem window controls with the mouse, pull down menus to save and load and so on. Invisible markers can be placed in your program and your current cursor position is remembered when you scan ahead or back. You can jump straight back to a marker or your cursor position with a single command.

Everything works as you would expect, but there are some useful extras like automatic backing up of files, plus traps to prevent you quitting without saving your work or overwriting existing files. The editor can be instructed to automatically load the last file worked on when you boot up the package. Unusually, the search facilities extend to searching files on disc too.

You can load or type in up to eight programs, each stored as a separate module. Cut and paste facilities allow you to transfer blocks of code between the modules which can be treated as being separate or linked together when the program is run.

The function keys can be programmed to produce a series of macros when pressed in combination with the Shift key. Not only can text characters like printf() be programmed, but also cursor commands can be used to move around the text; menu options can be selected too. Figure I shows the Macro Command dia-

A particularly nice feature is that you can point and click on a function onscreen and you'll either be taken directly to the definition or to the next occurrence in the program. The Print function is thoughtfully implemented too. - you can carry on

editing your program in memory while you print a file on disc at the same time.

When C source code is entered it is partially tokenised - much like Basic programs used to be - and is saved this way on disc too. This means you can't load the program into another text editor or C package. However, you can select text editor mode and load a tokenised program to turn it into Ascii form. It can then be altered or saved, so it can be used by other text editors.

Once your program source code has been entered other C packages require that you save it, compile, then link it before it can be run - a procedure which can take five minutes or more. Not HiSoft C. It can run the program directly from memory, interpreting the code, thus



cutting out the very time-consuming compile and link stages.

If your program doesn't perform as expected there are a number of superb debugging aids not found in other C packages, all available from the Run menu, which is shown in Figure II.

In Trace mode you can single-step through a program. Each line of C source code is displayed onscreen and you tap a key to execute it. If the problem occurs well into your program it can be tedious going through all the preceding lines one by one, so Trace mode can be turned on and off from within the program with the functions trace_on() and trace_off().

The value of variables used within the program can also be displayed, as shown in Figure III. The type of variables shown can be set using the onscreen buttons. A memory dump enables you to examine the contents of ram and this facility could be useful for examining large arrays that can't be shown in the variable dump.

A single program can be split up into smaller, more manageable, chunks and combined together they become a HiSoft C project. A project description text file tells the system which files are to be loaded. Most will be interpreted C files, but executable machine code and precompiled functions – using another C package – can be incorporated.

Available from the menu bar is a useful Help facility providing information on keywords, menus and some of the library functions. On the same menu is the pop-up calculator shown in Figure. IV, and an excellent disc utilities package shown overleaf in Figure V. The latter allows you to copy, delete, rename and move files.

The 340 page manual describes the editor's functions and the utilities. It provides an easy-to-follow tutorial to C which takes you from first principles through to writing full blown Gem programs. Around half of the manual is taken up by a list of the many functions provided by Gem and HiSoft.

HiSoft C provides many functions which greatly simplify the writing of Gem programs. For instance, open_window() opens a window, clear_window() clears it and print_window() writes in it. Also init_menu() creates a menu bar while item_menu() adds menu options. These are normally quite complex tasks requiring large amounts of complex code with other C systems.

HiSoft C has many superb features not found elsewhere which make it one of the best packages around for the C programmer. The program editor is quick and has a vast range of facilities, the debugging tools are superb and the disc utilities are handy.

However, it has two major faults that prevent me from wholeheartedly recommending it: It can't compile to produce

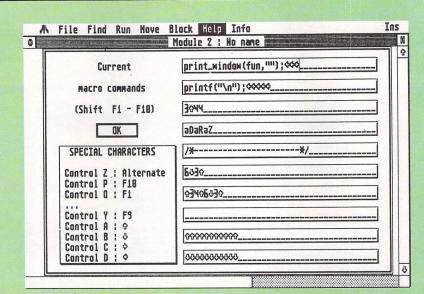


Figure I: You can program the function keys to produce a range of macros

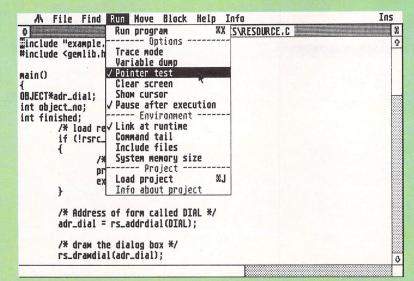


Figure II: The Run option allows you to step through the program line by line and display the variables and their values

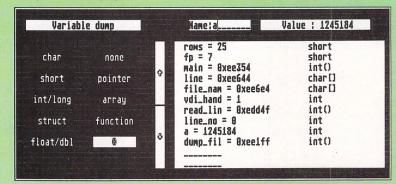


Figure III: A pop-up dialogue box shows the variables and functions defined and their values

Figure IV: A pop-up reverse Polish calculator is on hand at all times



◄ From Page 93

programs that can be executed from the desktop, and the manual does not fully explain all the function calls.

Although HiSoft C isn't intended to compile programs, it is this feature that makes the C language so useful. Once you've created your utility or application

program you can't pass it on to your friends because they can't run it without HiSoft C Interpreter and you can't market the program for the same reason.

When you want to use the program yourself, you have to boot up the C interpreter then load and run the program. Interpreted programs run much slower than compiled ones, too.

The function documentation is inadequate and I constantly had to refer to other sources for further explanations and worked examples. The documentation that comes with Prospero C for instance, has more than 1,000 pages – compare that to HiSoft's miserly 340.

To sum up, HiSoft C Interpreter is ideal for the novice who wants an easy-to-use C package to learn the basics of the language. However, you'll soon outgrow it and then you'll have to dig deep into your pocket for a compiler.

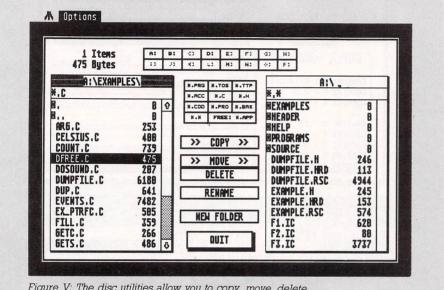


Figure V: The disc utilities allow you to copy, move, delete and rename files using a simple, point and click procedure

FACT FILE

Product: HiSoft C
Price: £49.95
Supplier: HiSoft, The Old School, Greenfield, Bedford, MK45 5DE.
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POINTS FOR:

Very easy to use with comprehensive editing and debugging facilities. Ideal as a learning tool.

AGAINST:

Can't compile to produce executable programs. Documentation of library functions is inadequate.



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THE Fontkit Plus Accessory Pack consists of a disc packed with programs invaluable to users of Fontkit Plus, which allows either screen or printer fonts to be created. The disc is produced and marketed by the public domain library ST Club, and costs £4.95 - £3.95 if you are a registered user of Fontkit Plus.

The most important accessory on the disc is COPYFONT.ACC, a desk accessory which allows characters or images to be taken from the screen and saved in Gem font (Gdos) format. The characters can then be modified or edited using Fontkit Plus. Copyfont can be used in all three screen resolutions and is compatible with any Gem or Tos program which does not disable the Alternate+Help interrupt - normally used to dump a screen to the printer.

With Copyfont a font buffer can be set up to store characters. The program asks for a filename for the font and an ID number. The character required can then be grabbed from the screen and saved in this buffer. Images may also be grabbed from the screen, converted to RSC format in the Fonkit Plus paste buffer, and then stored on disc.

Copyfont will also convert non-Gem fonts to the Gdos standard. They can then be used with applications which use Gem fonts like Easy Draw, Timeworks DTP, Fleet Street Publisher and Wordup.

Important changes have been made to the Fontswitch program, now renamed FSWITCH2.PRG. This utility is used to download fonts to the printer and access screen fonts.

Most of the changes affect the printout section which has been completely rewritten. Printer settings are now adjusted automatically when the appropriate onscreen buttons are selected.

The Translate option allows metacharacters which have Ascii codes ranging from 128 to 255 outside the normal range of keyboard characters, to

More fun Edgar Howard reviews an upgrade kit which adds new screen and printer fonts to Fontkit Plus fonts

be printed. If you use 1st Word the metacharacters are displayed on the start-up screen and can be redefined to include, for instance, mathematical symbols or Greek characters.

There are several utility programs on the disc. SIG2GEM.PRG will be of interest to users of Signum as it converts its fonts to Gem format.

CFILT.TOS is a text filter program which translates characters. For instance, it could be used to change every occurence of £ to \$. A translation table must be prepared for each character to be converted. This is saved and then CFILT. TOS is run.

SCONVERT.TOS converts Star NL/LC fonts produced by other font editors to the format used by Fontkit Plus.

Also included in the package is a set of both screen and printer fonts Century and Century italic. It is claimed that the italic face is probably the first true italic Gem font for the Atari ST and can be used with 9 and 24 pin dot matrix and laser

The manual is stored on disc. Fontswitch is used to print out the file and the result is a beautifully formatted 32 page A4 manual.

Timesave 3.1 is a handy utility, which when placed in an AUTO folder on your boot disc will remember the time and date if the computer is reset. After a cold start the program prompts for the time

Anyone who uses Fontkit Plus will find this package of utilities very useful. Recommended.

FACT FILE

Product: Fontkit Plus Accessory Pack Price: £4.95

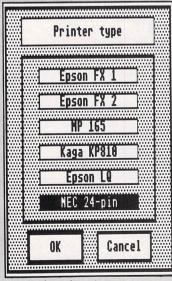
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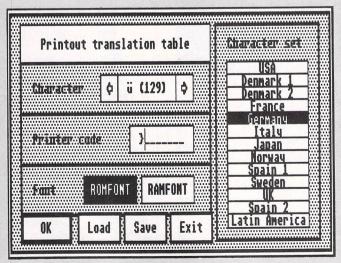
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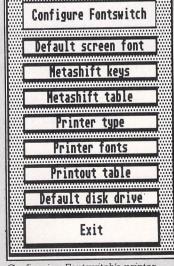
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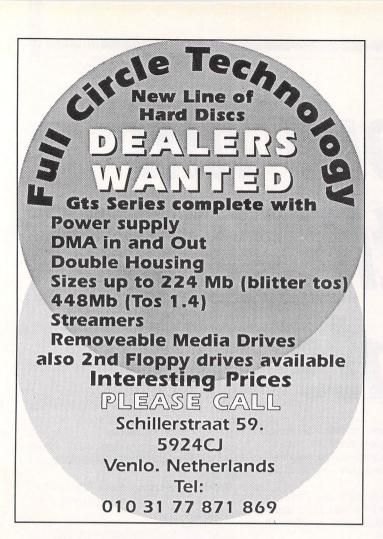
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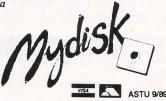
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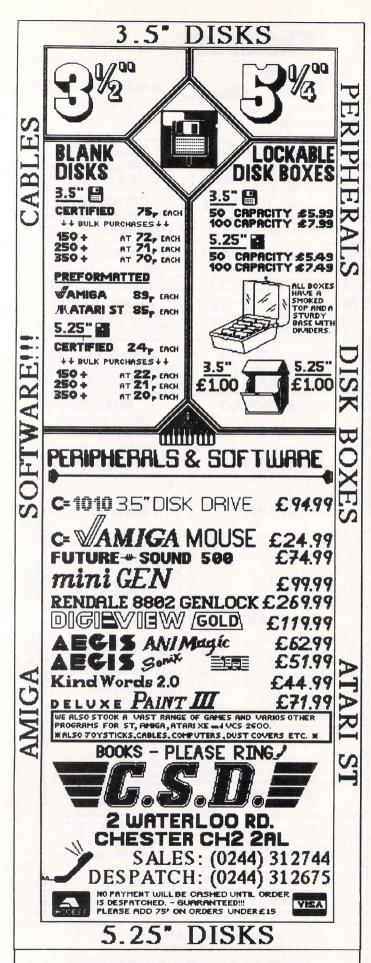
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WITH the ST in low resolution mode it is possible to display 16 of its 512-colour palette on the screen at once. However, with Rainbow – a Fast Basic utility – you can display up to 200 different colours at the same time.

This effect is achieved by the use of the horizontal and vertical blank interrupts. These are generated when the monitor draws the picture on the screen. When the electron beam returns to the edge of the screen – in the case of horizontal blanks – or to the top of the screen – with vertical blanks – the ST

Multicolour

interrupt. When one of these occurs we can instruct the ST to execute a small piece of machine code. Rainbow is an example of how to use the interrupts to create a moving multi-coloured background using a palette-switching technique.

A large circle is drawn on screen in a single colour. As the screen is redrawn by the monitor, the colour of this circle is swapped with another from the ST's palette. This happens several

times in rapid succession, so the circle appears to be multi-coloured. The program is written in Fast Basic and uses the in-line assembler for the machine code.

First subroutines are



called to set up the machine code and the screen display. Then the interrupt routine is started and the program waits in a loop until you press a key before ending.

mode a big boost

The machine code calculates the memory address of the colour to be changed by the program. There are 16 addresses for the 16 colour registers, starting at \$FF8240 for the first, \$FF8242 for the second and so on. The colours are stored in the order: 0, 15, 1, 2, 4, 6, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 11, 13.

A point to be wary of is that the colour must be changed in supervisor mode, as the palette is stored in protected memory.

The code saves the original vertical and horizontal blank vectors and changes them to point to the palette-switching routine. When the program ends the saved vectors are replaced.

Other important addresses used by the program are: \$FFFA09 to turn off the keyclick, \$FFFA07 to enable interrupts and \$FFFA13 for the interrupt mask.

With the aid of Rainbow you can now produce some really stunning multi-colour displays.



COVER DISC SIDE 2

generates an

This program can be found on the September cover disc. It's in the FASTBAS folder on side two, and you'll need Fast Basic to run it.

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HOME BASED BUSINESS

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IS it possible to get a BBC emulator for the Atari 520ST? I have learnt about the BBC Micro from primary and senior school, so can do many more things with it than I can with my ST. If one is available could you please tell me where it can be obtained and the cost? - Jayne Chesham, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire.

to the BBC

 There isn't a commercial BBC emulator for the ST. However, there are a couple of BBC emulators available in the public domain from libraries such as Softville of Waterlooville. These work rather slowly and their emulation isn't perfect, but may be just what you're looking for.

Ramming in more memory

I BOUGHT my ST during the summer promotion and have now decided that I would like to increase its memory. Do you know of anyone who sells memory upgrades for the new 520STFM, as I believe it uses a different type of ram than the earlier models?

I believe the upgrade kits such as those advertised in your magazine are only for the old types of ST. Is this true? - A. J. Sharkey, Fulham, London.

 Ladbroke Computing International of Preston can provide the upgrade kit you require for your new model ST. Ring them on 0772 203166 to obtain current prices, as ram chip costs fluctuate rapidly.

Pools predictor fails the test

HAVING read Roland Waddilove's review of Apolonia Software's Pools System I thought you might like to hear from someone who used the system for the last English football season. I suppose the question on everyone's lips is: "How much has he won?". The answer to that, after much calculation, is absolutely nothina.

Mr Waddilove claims that you can expect to spend around three or four hours a week entering data. He must have a mouse that is collecting a pension, as I normally take about one and a half hours to enter the data and five minutes to enter the results after the matches.

The review also says that the facts and figures can be taken from the daily newspapers which publish match results and league tables. I only know of one paper that has the appropriate information and that is the one that Apolonia recommends, the Racing and Football Outlook, which is available every Tuesday. I would be pleased to know of any other paper that gives the necessary information.

I agree that it does perform better than just sticking a pin in a pools coupon, and I also agree that it is tedious to use, but nobody gets anything for nothing. I have also found it very useful to use a PD accessory called Fast Mouse to avoid wear and tear on my right arm. - A.J. Emery, Benfleet, Essex.

After using the program for a year and with the aid of Fast Mouse, Roland could probably reduce the time spent entering data to one and a half hours too. However, for the first couple of weeks it was taking three hours.

The Daily Mail publishes a good football results round up that can be used by the program.

DTP compatibility

I FELT I should write in to put the record straight regarding a common misconception concerning compatibility between GFA Draft Plus and Timeworks DTP.

GFA Draft Plus metafiles is not the same as that used by Timeworks DTP. Draft Plus has no font features, characters are drawn as polylines without even programmable widths. However, Easydraw 2 files are compatible with Timeworks

Mr Campbell - June Mailbag - won't find IMG snapshots of part of the screen, which might only be part of a larger drawing, very satisfactory for inclusion in a Timeworks document. On the other hand, Draft Plus drawings on separate sheets inside, or appended to, a report produced by Timeworks DTP might be

GFA Draft Plus has many useful design features not present in either of the other two packages, and the lack of font fea-

prices tumbled

HAVING been an Atari enthusiast for some years, I felt I would like to add my own feelings to those printed recently concerning high software prices. Once upon a time it was acceptable to pay upwards of £15 and in many cases twice that for a cassette version of a game for an Atari 400. Supply was limited, and demand was painfully slow in taking off.

Retailers, when they could be found, were understandably reluctant to commit themselves fully to what was then a new, and I suppose risky, undertaking. So high priced software was born and until things changed for the better it was simply a case of the consumer liking it or lumping it.

Things did get better. It took a long time, but software eventually became more abundant, quality improved and new titles appeared more regularly. Retailers, though still thin on the ground, showed a lot of confidence in this fast growing industry.

Hardware was still relatively expensive, but there was a nice surprise with the introduction of the Atari XL, more so when its price started to fall, and it was even being bundled with all kinds of freebies. Things were definitely getting better and "power without the price" was still to come.

tures can give a large reduction in file size. - A. W. Nicholson, Clifton, Nottingham.

Learning new languages

I APPLIED for a computer training course in applications programming with a company called Computeach International. It claims Cobol is the language to learn and offers to teach it to City and Guilds standard for about £300. I must say Cobol is not something much talked about on the ST front but perhaps it's more common on PCS

If you reckon the course is OK could you also recommend a good ST version of this language? If not, are there any home study courses you would recommend? -Gair Sheilds, Giffnock, Glasgow.

If you intend to work with business

The STs were what we'd all been waiting for, and Jack Tramiel was justifiably proud of what he'd achieved; 16 bit computing was now available to the masses, but I feel it can only ever be regarded as a partial success.

There is a vast range of software available, covering all manner of subjects, stunning games, huge adventures, applications utilities, communications, you name it, it's there somewhere. But it is all, with very few exceptions, vastly over-priced.

I admit that on occasions a high quality product deserves a price that reflects the effort, ingenuity and hard work that goes into producing the finished article. But let's be honest, looking back over the releases there have been a few let-downs. Was anyone really pleased with Outrun, Afterburner or Thunderblade, to name but three "classics"? Criticism cannot be confined just to games software, but this market is a lucrative one to say the least.

I don't wish to demean the programmers' efforts or the work which goes into creating a best-seller, and I do realise that there's more to software than writing it and sticking on a price.

I think it might be interesting to read about the life of a particular title, the costs incurred during the various stages of development and production and just how a price tag of, say, £24.99 is arrived at.

The argument is perhaps even more apt if applied to databases and

Star Game for a Star Letter

Each month we select a letter of the month – and the sender will receive the program which our reviewers have rated Atari ST User Star game. This month reader S.E. Hislop will receive TV Sports Football, which is reviewed on Page 26. Letters on every subject of interest to Atari ST users are welcome. Send them to: The Editor, Atari ST User, Europa House, Adlington Park, Adlington, Macclesfield SK10 4NP.

all the various other serious software. Does it really follow that because it is for a serious purpose the price should be even higher than leisure software?

Hardware, too, seems at best unfairly priced, especially when a lot of users are simply trying to put together a neat, efficient system. Just look at what Atari themselves ask for disc drives, monitors and printers.

When all said and done, it really comes back to liking it or lumping it. If it doesn't improve then it won't hamper my enthusiasm, but it will make me scan through the mail order adverts that little bit harder, or try and find what I want in the public domain catalogues – they do seem to be a little more interested in giving the consumer a fair deal.

It's sad to say, but I just don't need a High Street retailer, no matter how well stocked he keeps his shelves.

If some daring software house did take the cut-price initiative it just might start the snowball down the mountain. Better sales figures through increased demand, happier consumers able to afford a wider choice of serious or leisure software, and it might herald the beginning of the end of software piracy. – S. E. Hislop, BFPO ships.

• Prices may drop slightly, but it is unlikely that we will ever see a return to the level of budget software available for the old 8 bit micros, because software simply costs far more to produce than it used to.

A few years ago a game could be written for the 8 bit micros by one programmer in a matter of weeks. A top quality ST game may take a team of three or four programmers, like the Bitmap Brothers, six months to a year to write. Just consider the wage bill to see why 16 bit software is so highly priced.

Serious software like a word processor may take a whole software company several years to write – look how long Arnor has been working on Protext.

programs running on mainframe computers then Cobol is probably the best programming language to learn. However, if your niche is to be the ST and an IBM compatible PC you should look for a course on the increasingly popular C language.

Cashing in on Wall Street

COULD you please tell me if there are any business or finance-related simulations available for the Atari ST? I already own a copy of Tynesoft's Stock Market simulation and I find it enjoyable. – J. Yew, Orpington, Kent.

● There are plenty of good finance packages available for the ST such as BAS Business System (£333.50) and Silica's Financial Cookbook (£49.95). However, to

our knowledge Tynesoft's Stock Market is the only simulation of this type available. Do any readers know differently?

Have STOS, will program

I AM desperate for information on the ST games creator STOS. I've read the reviews, seen the adverts, heard the hype and now I'd like some of the facts.

All I've ever achieved in programming is a short quiz for the Spectrum, an adventure that never was for the Commodore 64 and colourful blobs on the ST. As you can see, I'm not really your average Bitmap Brother. So would STOS be of any use to me? I have a few questions concerning it.

Is it as easy to program as it's made out to be? Could someone like me really create a game of reasonable standard using it? Does it have an easy-to-follow and understood manual, designed for the newcomer rather than a technical wizard?

Are there any hidden costs or unmentioned extras involved, or is it true that I could produce a game of near marketable quality using just my ST, a mouse, and the STOS package.

Is it possible to create anything other than arcade games or shoot-'em-ups with it, or will I require other packages such as STAC for this purpose?

Sometimes I can think of a concept for a game that would put things like Xenon into the shadows, but implementing them is impossible as I wouldn't even know how to make a sprite. I use my ST mainly for playing games, but I see STOS as the perfect way to expand my computing knowledge. – S. Sandford, Woolston, Southampton.

Put simply, STOS is a toolkit providing

Turn to Page 106 ▶

◆ From Page 105

many ready-made utilities designed to make the task of writing games much easier. However, it will not turn you into a brilliant games programmer overnight.

A simple analogy with a carpenter might make matters clearer: Give a set of tools to a carpenter and he will produce a beautiful cabinet or table. In our hands we'd end up with a pile of sawdust and sticks only useful for firewood.

STOS won't write quality games for you, but a good set of the right tools always makes any job that much easier.

Commodore 64 programs on ST

I HOPE you can help me with the change from a Commodore 64 system to one based on the Atari 520STFM with a 1Mb internal drive

I have been using the Mini Office II word processor on the CBM 64 and intend to get the Mini Office Professional Document processor for the ST when it becomes available. I will want to transfer my files which are, of course, on 5.25in discs suitable for the 1541 disc drive. I have fitted Evesham Micros' Dolphindos 2.0 which has been a great success.

I am wondering if it is possible to adapt the drive, with or without the Dolphindos, to load files saved under Mini Office, which are in a simple Ascii form, into the Atari. I believe I can buy a compatible disc drive, but this might not be worth the cost. The 1541 has its own Dos.

Is it possible to use the socket marked "floppy disc" on my Atari, possibly with an adaptor, to load the files from the 1541? I am reasonably competent at DIY electronics. – William Fulton, Glasgow.

 All you need is a lead linking the RS232 ports of both micros. Mini Office Comms running on both micros will then transfer Ascii files.

Final scrolling encounter?

WILL a games programmer out there please design the ultimate vertical scrolling shoot-'em-up never to be equaled by any other? We poor home users won't then be confused by the bewildering number of games of the same genre and reviewers won't have to begin with "Yawn, yet another vertical scrolling...".

Which is the best - most varied, mind boggling graphics and sound that blows your brain away - shoot-'em-up vertically

Will this software self-destruct?

I AM writing to ask about copying commercial software. Not to give to or take from friends, but as backup copies. The reason for this is that I have heard that to combat piracy some software companies have come up with a system that will alter or even destroy the original software when attempting to copy it.

Is this true? If so how can we tell if trying to make a backup copy will harm our original software? I understand the reasons for coming up with such a system, but if you've just spent £20 to £25 on a game or even £60 on a word processor you want to protect it somehow, and to lose it while making a back up is ironic to say the least.

If we can't safely backup our software, what can we do to protect it? Write protecting is all very well, but it won't give protection against a faulty disc drive or a misplaced cup of coffee. Does anyone have any suggestions as how to protect our valuable software? – John Roberts, Tiverton, Devon.

You can't damage a disc by trying to copy it from the Gem desktop. Our advice is to only make backups of a program if the documentation clearly says you are allowed to do so.

As for your comments about faulty drives and spilled cups of coffee, we can only say treat your discs with care.

scroller available at the moment?

The reason I ask is that I am about to embark on buying my second commercial game since I got my ST at Christmas. My machine is used mainly for word processing, programming and fiddling with PD software, but I also like to shoot the odd alien occasionally.

Which brings me on to my third point, the cost of software for 16 bit micros. I'm glad to see that Ocean is to lower the price of some of its games, it is at least a step in the right direction. – Steve Sharples, Harden, Bingley.

• It is true that many games are billed as "the ultimate vertically scrolling shoot-'em-up". Probably as programmers and thus programs become more advanced the ultimate will always be stretched that little further.

In our office, Roland opts without question for Microdeal's Goldrunner, while Nic plumps for Xenon. What do readers think?

You get what you pay for

RECENTLY I bought the excellent word processor, Protext. In your magazine there were no less than five different prices for the product, varying between £59 and £99, the latter being asked by Arnor itself. Perhaps it would like to explain why it is charging users who buy direct £40 more than the retailers. I always thought it was cheaper to buy direct. – W. P. Neill, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

● One reason for the wide difference in price is that Arnor is offering the latest version of Protext v4.21 at its recommended retail price, while the version offered at £59 is likely to be an older one with fewer facilities. Check which version you're buying before handing over your cash.

Also buying direct from a software company at full price often entitles you to help and upgrades not available from cutprice mail order firms.

If you are fairly experienced with word processing software, and won't need help or upgrades, go for the mail order bargain. Novices are best advised to buy direct – then you've a helping hand at the end of a phone.

Modified Scart connection

MAY I reply to the letter from T. Wellerman of Chester which was published in June's issue. I had exactly the same problem after buying a Sony KV-P14U TV/monitor connected via standard ST Scart lead. This yielded a perfect picture, but vertically flipped every two to three seconds.

Contacting Sony, the lead supplier, the ST supplier and the local computer service centre produced no answers or help in any way. I then read in several magazines that every lead advertised was not suitable for Sony. I dismantled the Scart plug and referred to a copy of the Scart connector specification.

I found that the lead branching to Pin 16 (fast video blanking) was taken from Composite Video In, after an attenuation resistor. Modifying this so that the connection is made before the resistor, yielding an un-attenuated vertical sync line, gave a perfectly stable picture. – R.

C. Steele, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

● Thank you, Mr Steele, we are sure this information will prove invaluable to many users.



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"To sum up, Protext is probably the most powerful word processor on the Atari ST and is quite likely to become the best selling too"... ST USER 4/88

..."At last one that seems to fit most of what I call essential in a word processor" PAGE 6 #34

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Spelling checker

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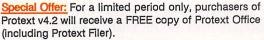
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