This, the latest revision (rev. 1.5) of the YEMACYB software has expanded to a three (3) disk set. Both the original YEMACYB (uses four seperate ribbons), and YEMACYB/4 (uses a single four color ribbon), printer drivers are now combined into a single package.

I believe that this software combination, along with the YEMACYB system support utilities, represent the single best GRAPHICS software investment any ATARI 8-bit computer owner can make. With a basic computer system, this software is all that you need to CREATE FANTASTIC GRAPHICS, WHICH CAN NOT BE DUPLICATED WITH ANY OTHER COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE SOFTWARE, and then PRINT THOSE GRAPHICS EXACTLY AS SHOWN ON THE VIDEO DISPLAY. THATS RIGHT...EXACTLY!

I am convinced that you will be very surprised at the high quality color prints that the YEMACYB software is capable of creating. This is the point that the most of our users make. It seems that very few people believe that this type of color printing can be effective, and expect very little performance for their money. I am very happy to be able to report that we pleasantly satisfy our customers to such an extent that we get love letters about the YEMACYB experience.

I believe that many of the people who purchase the "color" dot matrix printers (with the composite 4 color ribbons) will be somewhat disappointed with the lack of color intensity on their prints from these type printers (when compared to printouts from the original YEMACYB software on monochrome dot matrix printers). Therefore, I have decided to make the original YEMACYB printer driver available to these users, AT NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE. It is now contained on the YEMACYB EXTRAS - DISK 2 as an autoboot program, and is well documented in the YEMACYB users manual. You will need to purchase the separate printer ribbons, (one each YEllow, MAgenta, CYan, and Black) in order to use the original YEMACYB, BUT YOU WILL ACHIEVE MUCH BETTER QUALITY COLOR OUTPUT. In fact, much better output than from any other dot matrix printer dump that I've yet seen. Please note that the color chart DLIs and the inverse color pallette referred to in the docs, now exist only on the YEMACYB/4 system disk.

There are several reasons that I can think of for the poorer quality printing obtained from the "color" dot matrix printers. 1) Less ink appears to be used in the manufacturing of these composite ribbons to help reduce the ink migration between color bands, therefore less dye is available to be trans- ferred to the paper. 2) The ink has less time to dry between overstrikes, (with YEMACYB it's about four minutes between overstriking, with YEMACYB/4 it's about five seconds), therefore the composite ribbon quickly becomes contaminated with unpure primary colors, i.e., reds become orange, blue becomes brown or green. 3) Although this reason is not really a detriment to print quality, the YEMACYB/4 prints take somewhat longer due to the constant ribbon- head repositioning between each pass of the print head, and this causes a less efficient printing cycle. Although for most users, the convieniece of not having to change printer ribbons when using YEMACYB/4, more than makes up for the loss of time.

This new release of the YEMACYB/4 software compensates for the lack of color brilliance by allowing the user to select the number of times the printer will print over each color, before moving on to the next line. I find that a value of 2 or 3 creates a printout about as good as an original YEMACYB print (although it may take 2 or 3 times as long!).

Since the good people who purchase YEMACYB/4 also recieve the original YEMACYB, it only makes good sense to treat the purchasers of the original YEMACYB just as favorably. This means that both groups of users will hence- forth recieve identical packages, the one that you have just recieved, which contains both drivers. Perhaps, those of you who purchased this system for the functions of the original YEMACYB, will eventually acquire ownership of a "color" dot-matrix printer (The EPSON JX-80 and its compatibles: the EPSON EX-800, EX-1000, STAR MICRONICS NX-1000 RAINBOW, and SEIKOSHA MP-1300). If you do, then you will already have the best color printing software available for your ATARI 8-bit computer. In any event, PLEASE do not give away copies of YEMACYB/4 to friends whom may already own a "color" printer, it will create very bad karma for you. Please do tell others who have a "color" printer about YEMACYB/4, how well it performs, and where they can legally obtain it.

A major enhancement to the YEMACYB software is that it is now, NO LONGER COPY-PROTECTED. Software is included which allows you to create an archival copy of the system disks. Also NEW in this release, you can now create highly detailed, professional looking COLOR POSTERS of unlimited sizes. These are very suitable for use as attention grabbing signs of the type used at rallys, sporting events, garage sales, protests and pickets, school plays, ect.,)

Other additional capabilities new to this revision are found on the disks, mostly on YEMACYB EXTRAS - DISK 2. There are three new utilities, additional graphics files (They have extension of ".PIC". Use YPICNVRT.BAS to convert them to the MICROPAINTER format), additional border files (".BOR" used with the YBORDERS utility), additional font files (".SET" used with the YADDTEXT utility), updated window files (".WIN" used with the YWINDOWS & YWINDMOD.BAS utilities as clip art), and additional color change files (".DLI" used by YEMACYB & YEMACYB/4 after conversion into the YEMACYB format with YCOMODLI.BAS).

A few other items undocumented elsewhere are:

- YEMACYB/4 will automatically directly read any KOALAPAD/MICROILLUSTRATOR type graphic file without need for any file conversions.

- Both YEMACYB and YEMACYB/4 trap the system reset, but YEMACYB will reboot if the system reset is pressed from the printer selection menu. Both utilities also allow reboot from within the program. This option allows the preservation of ramdisk contents. If you have a ramdisk full of files and then reboot from the integrated utilities into the YEMACYB printing utility (or another program), and then from within YEMACYB reboot back to the system utilities, all files in the ramdisk will remain intact as long as the ramdisk is not reformatted. In order to disable the ramdisk formatting, just reboot with a DOS 2.5 disk without the file RAMDISK.COM on it. The original ramdisk will survive! The only caveat is that the computer must be told that DUP.SYS is already on D8:, in order for the system to look on the ramdisk, instead of on D1:, for DUP.SYS when going to the DOS menu. The best way to accomplish this is to create an AUTORUN.SYS file which will execute these commands; POKE 5439,ASC("8"):RUN "D8:YMENU.BAS", on a disk containing the DOS.SYS file (from ATARI DOS 2.5) to be used to reboot the system if the ramdisk is already loaded with the YEMACYB utilities and data. The AUTORUN.SYS file included on the EXTRAS DISK 2 will execute this function.

- The system utilities are designed to run with ATARI DOS 2.0S or DOS 2.5. If you find that any of the utilities will not run in your system, booting from another DOS is the probable reason. These utilities were designed to be ram- resident. That is, once loaded, no further disk access is needed except for input data such as a graphics file or a font file. Therefore, most of the available memory tends to be used, and little ram is left for a larger DOS. In the default configuration, DOS 2.5 shows 32274 free bytes after booting BASIC.

- Both extra menu positions in the YMENU.BAS utility have been filled with the newest utilities. Any attempts to create a customized menu will require the deletion of an existing menu selection. The YRAMDALO.BAS menu was also updated.

- The files that are loaded into the ramdisk using the unmodified YRAMDALO.BAS leave enough free space in ramdisk to hold one standard 62 sector graphics file.

Since this software has evolved over several years, the documentation is somewhat fragmented. It is best if you absorb the material in this order: 1) This UPDATE sheet. 2) The YEMACYB users manual (although pertaining to the original system, the information is relevant). 3) The YEMACYB Extra Sheet. 4) The YEMACYB utilities documentation.
A synopsis of the three new utilities follows:
1) Y4BORDER.BAS - Users of YEMACYB/4 who wish to create a border around their graphics, should first run this program to create a registration mark on the header page. This mark will be later used by the YBORDERS.BAS utility when determining the alignment of the border start position to the printed graphic. YEMACYB/4 users should select the EPSON MX/80 printer driver when using YBORDERS.BAS.
2) YDISCOPY.BAS - A menu driven program which provides a method of creating a personal backup archival copy of your three YEMACYB system disks.
3) YPOSTERS.BAS - A menu driven utility which allows the creation of large (2 times or 3 times) size color printouts. The source file must be in MICROPAINTER (62 sector) format. The associated color .DLI file (if any) must be in the single density DOS format. The output is also written as DOS format single density files. There will be 4 graphic (.PIC) files and 2 color (.DLI) files resulting from a two times size conversion. This conversion requires at least 262 free sectors on the target disk. If a three times size is required, there will be 9 graphic and 3 color files created, requiring at least 579 free sectors on the disk before commencing. To create even larger posters, simply re-expand the resulting graphics files. The resulting files will be named OUTFILE1.PIC through OUTFILE4.PIC (or OUTFILE9.PIC for the three times expansion). In the two times conversion, the files OUTFILE1 and OUTFILE2 are the top row of the poster (left to right) and they use OUTFILE1.DLI (if used) for color. The files OUTFILE3 and OUTFILE4 make up the bottom row of the poster, and their colors will be found in OUTFILE2.DLI. In a three times conversion, the composite poster will be a result of nine panels of graphics. Three rows of three columns. The top row is made up of three panels (left to right) OUTFILE1,2,&3.PIC and they use OUTFILE1.DLI if DLIs are needed. The middle row is made from OUTFILE4,5,&6.PIC and they use OUTFILE2.DLI for their colors. The bottom row is made from OUTFILE7,8,&9.PIC and use OUTFILE3.DLI for DLI colors. Users who wish to send the output files to a drive other than D1: must change the designator D1: to Dn: (for example to use drive 8 enter D8:) on these three BASIC source lines; 7500 7610 7630.
Users of the EPSON JX-80 color printer should set Printer Select dip switch #2-1, and the Auto Line Feed & Carriage Return dip switch #2-4. Users of the STAR NX-1000 Rainbow should set dip switch #1-8 off to indicate Auto Line Feed & Carriage Returns-Yes.
This concludes the description of the changes contained in the latest release (rev. 1.5) of the YEMACYB/4 (and YEMACYB) color printing system.