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Specifically, subcommittee X3B8 of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) says so. The fact is all Elephant™ floppies meet or exceed the specs required to meet or exceed all their standards.

But just who is "subcommittee X3B8" to issue such pronouncements?

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make life miserable for everyone in the disk-making business.

How? By gathering together periodically (often, one suspects, under the full moon) to concoct more and more rules to increase the quality of flexible disks. Their most recent rule book runs over 20 single-spaced pages—listing, and insisting upon—hundreds upon hundreds of standards a disk must meet in order to be blessed by ANSI. (And thereby be taken seriously by people who take disks seriously.)

In fact, if you'd like a copy of this formidable document, for free, just let us know and we'll send you one. Because once you know what it takes to make an Elephant for ANSI...

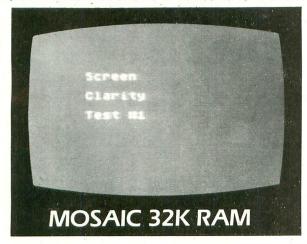
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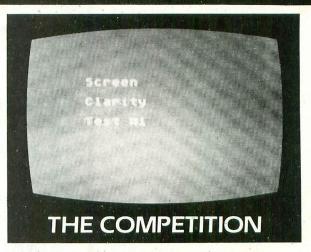
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# THE MOSAIC RAM SYSTEMS FOR ATARI\*

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# THE SCREEN CLARITY TEST



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A.N.A.L.O.G. 400/800 MAGAZINE said in a 32K RAM board comparison test: "The Mosaic 32K RAM showed no sign of interference and gave the best screen clarity" and "Mosaic uses what we feel are the highest quality components which may improve reliability".

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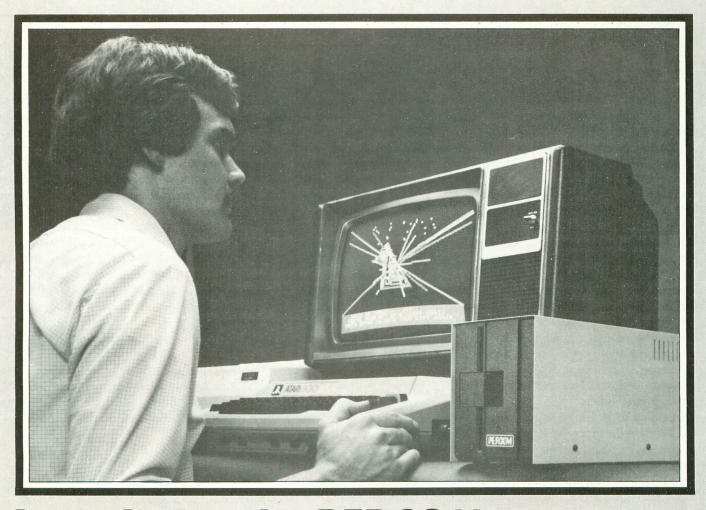
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PRINTERS REVIEWED by John Loveless
<b>ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE</b> by Adrian Dery
<b>DOLLARS TO SENSE</b> by Jerry White
<b>TWO MORE PRINTERS</b> by Capparell and Loveless
<b>STARTING LINE</b> by Dave Plotkin
BANNER by Paul Hoffman
SPYDER by John and Mary Harrison
IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN by Vince Scott
<b>TYPO</b> (TYPE YOUR PROGRAM ONCE) by William Wilkinson
PILOT YOUR ATARI by Ken Harms
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#### **NOVICE LIFER**

I have had my ATARI for 32 days. I studied the BASIC manual and have started to program, but WOW, do I need help! There are zillions of books on Apple and TRS-80, but they don't relate to ATARI. When I ask store clerks, they type something quickly and VOILA!, it works. But I don't know what they typed.

I've seen articles in other magazines about the ATARI, but there's a big gap between them and where I'm at. Everyone writes about machine language. I tried a few lines in my computer, and all I got were ERROR messages.

I believe that someone who doesn't know anything about computers should write a series of articles in ANTIC. As they learn, they can pass their new knowledge on to others.

My family has had a lot of fun with Chicken. It was the first program I typed from a magazine that worked perfectly as written! Here's a money order for a subscription. If you sell lifetime subscriptions, I want one.

#### B.B. Storey Ontario, CA

We hear you loud and clear. Beginners are our lifeblood. Follow Starting Line, and watch for other helpful pieces.

-ANTIC ED

#### **TYPING TIGERS**

The first thing we did with our new ATARI 800 was to type in Chicken from ANTIC #1. It took two days, taking turns with my kids, to get it all in straight, but finally it worked! Using the BREAK key to stop it, though, causes the whole system to lock-up (wide vertical lines). What's going on?

Daley Myers Worthington, OH

The vertical lines are the Player/Missile graphics out of synch. Press System/Reset and everything should be ready to go again.—ANTIC ED

#### DOWNLOADING TO DISK

Your article on modems (ANTIC #2) was not clear on this point: can all information and program from utilities like CompuServe be saved to disks and cassettes, or must the user keep the line open to receive?

Dan Miller Greensboro, N.C.

Downloading is software dependent. The hardware is capable, within memory and speed limitations. Check chart in ANTIC #2, page 13, for more info.—ANTIC ED

#### PLEASANT SURPRISE

As an ATARI owner for over two years, I congratulate you on your first issue.

I was pleasantly surprised by the variety and presentation. I was excited to find a FORTH column (since I've decided I despise BASIC for large program development). I typed in Chicken, and was amazed that it worked, and was even entertaining! In fact, all your listings were clear, easy to read, and accurate. That is no mean feat.

Complaints, I have a few. Please don't split articles up into different parts of the magazine. It's easier to read from front to back. Also, while I think highly of ANTIC, I will not subscribe since I save no money that way. I'll buy at the store and skip any issues that look like "dogs." If there were a subscription advantage, I probably would subscribe.

Keep up the good work.

#### Charles McMath Springfield, VA

We will try to "jump" fewer articles, but there are many considerations. Our price is fair, we think, for the value. A subscription assures you get your magazine regularly. Who knows, your dealer might sell out. Thanks for the encouragement.—ANTIC ED

#### AA5R, DO YOU READ?

In the June ANTIC, James Howard of Austin, TX, asked about RTTY and the ATARI. My call for 30 years has been K2BSM, and I'll pass on what I learned at the Dayton convention last April.

Kantronics, of Lawrence, KS, makes an "interface" and software to send and receive RTTY and CW using the ATARI 400 or 800 and a ham xceiver. I bought one (\$250) and it works like a charm.

So good, in fact, I replaced my 400 with an 800 so I can type faster. I'm 72 years young, and bought the 400 to play with. Now it's excess. Anybody want it?

A. Kruhm, K2BSM Flushing, N.Y.

Delighted to start reader exchange with K2BSM. Feel free to respond to I/O Board items. We will try to accommodate.—ANTIC ED

#### **GAME GAMER**

Your game programs are good, but the typing errors I make are not much fun. "Softside" formats their listings narrower, to match the screen. When you publish the checksum program, please include the tables for Chicken and Death

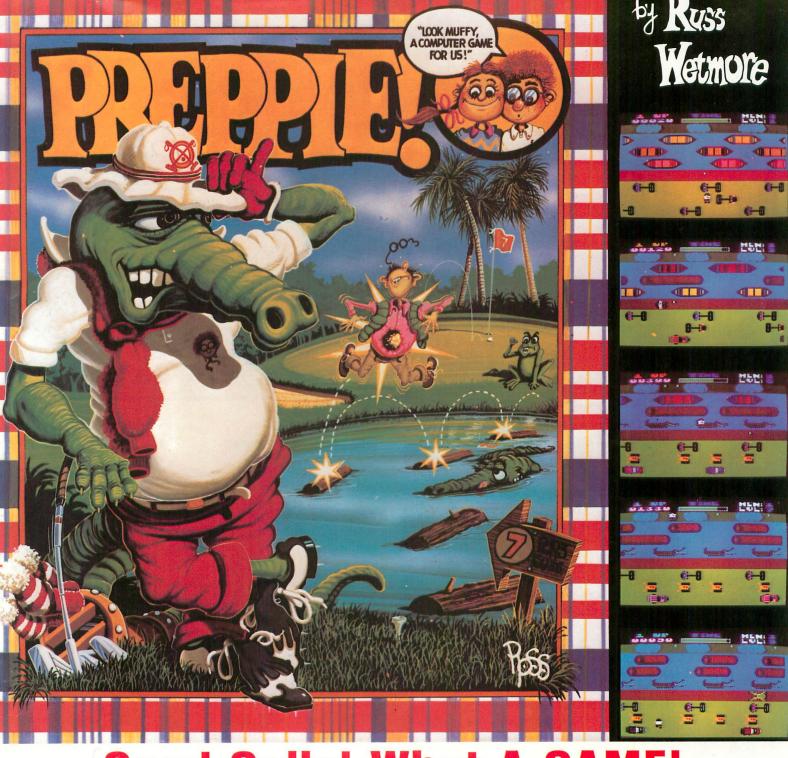
A table of variables, with related functions, would be appreciated. I liked Stan Ocker's "Game Programming," especially the flowchart. All of this helps us LEARN programming.

How do you disable the "end of line" buzzer?

#### Dan Howlett Concord, CA

We are experimenting with narrow formatting and agree it is useful. The checksum program, TYPO, appears this issue. Both games run if entered exactly as listed. Variable tables will be sought from authors of listings, but no promises. The EOL buzzer is there as a warning. Anyone know how to disable it?

—ANTIC ED



# **Good Golly! What A GAME!**

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a division of Scott Adams, Inc. BOX 3435 • LONGWOOD, FL 32750 • (305) 862-6917 "My Atari never did things like this before!"

—Holister Townsend Wolfe

"I had so much fun I almost blew my doughnuts."

-Theodore Boston III

"I haven't had this much fun since Buffy and I went to Princeton for the weekend."

—Martha Vineyard

# Printers Reviewed

by Jon Loveless

In this article we examine seven different printers from seven different manufacturers.

#### **TERMINOLOGY**

Following is some printer jargon you will find helpful.

#### CPS — CHARACTERS PER SECOND

This rating was once considered the true test of a printer. These ratings are often misleading. If a printer has three different sets of characters, it will have three different CPS ratings. Most ratings are based on conditions ideal for speed. We have developed a benchmark to compare each printer under similar conditions. This test prints 50 lines of 80 characters per line.

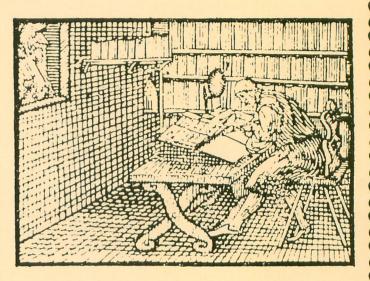
#### CPI — CHARACTERS PER INCH

All printeres seem to use a 10 CPI standard type size. Most also use a condensed (16 or 17 CPI) and an enhanced (bold 5 CPI). A few of the tested printers use a correspondence quality proportional print font. Proportionally spaced characters use only as much space as they need. A capital "W" takes more space than a small "i" for example.

#### DOT MATRIX

This refers to how each of the tested printers forms the characters on paper. Each character is made up of a number of dots. These dots are created by pins that are forced out of the printer head to impact the ribbon and paper, causing an impression. Print heads use from seven to nine pins stacked up one on top of another. Each character is formed by a number of movements of the print head (again, usually from 7 to 9). Each movement of the head forms another column of dots comprising the character. This happens so fast that it appears as though the letter is printed all at once. A  $9 \times 9$ dot matrix, then, would be able to print letters or characters using any combination of 81 dots. Graphics capabilities, requiring appropriate software, allow individual dots to be positioned anywhere on the paper. BUFFER

A buffer is memory within the printer that stores data from the computer until it can be printed. Buffers vary in size, with options for 1000 and 2000 characters becoming widely available. Peripheral products are appearing that will allow attachment of buffers in 8000



(8K) character increments.

#### FONT

This is the style or "face" of the type your printer produces. Many printers now have fonts that change with the CPI. Be sure to see a sample of the available fonts before you buy. Some inexpensive dot matrix fonts are hard to read.

#### FRICTION and TRACTOR FEED

These terms describe the method by which the paper is fed through the printer. Tractor, also known as pinfeed, requires paper with holes in the margins and generally comes in "fan-fold" boxes. This is convenient and allows continuous printing.

Friction feed is like a regular typewriter feed, and allows single sheet operation or roll paper. The latter is not very practical but the paper is inexpensive.

#### LOGIC SEEKING (short line)

Actually, "short-line seeking" is a better description than "logic seeking." If a given line is less than margin-to-margin, the printer will make a carriage return when the last character is printed, rather than wait until the head has moved across the page. This speeds up printing when lines are short as when doing program listings.

#### PARALLEL and SERIAL

Of the two, Parallel data transmission is faster. The 850 interface uses a parallel port to connect with your printer. Since most printers use a standard parallel connection compatibility problems are reduced.

### PRINTERS COMPARISON CHART

FEATURES	NEC 8023A-C	EPSON MX80	ATARI 825	MPI-99G	AXIOM GP100	C.ITOH 8510	OKIDATA 84a	IDS Prism
Friction feed	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tractor feed	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y2	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y
Reverse feed	Y	X NOTE 1	Y1	N	N	Y	N	NOTE 2
Skip over perf	N	X NOTE 1	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Lines per inch	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Max paper width	91/2"	91/2"	91/2"	91/2"	91/2"	91/2"	16"	15"
Min paper width	4"	21/2"	91/2"	1/2 "	1/2 "	4"	2"	2"
Chars per second	100	100	80	100	100	100	200	200
Benchmark speed	81	92	73	79	77	83	161	NOTE 2
Chars per inch — 5 (enhanced)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
10 (standard)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12 (medium)	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	NOTE 2
16/17 (condensed)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Proportional	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y NOTE 3	Y
Letter descenders	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Top of form	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Self Test	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bidirectional	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Short line logic	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Graphics	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ribbon type	С	С	О	С	С	С	S	S
Cable	U	U	Y	Y	Y	U	U	X
Overstrike (bold)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Underline	Y	X NOTE 1	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Manual	1	2	2	1	4	3	1	1

2 = good

3 = fair

4 = poor

NOTE 1: MX80 F/T with GRAFTRAX-Plus NOTE 2: Not Tested

NOTE 3: Requires 2 passess of the print head

Y = Yes, included as part of the package N = No, not included as part of the package X = Extra cost option U = Unavailable from manufacturer

F = Future availability expected V = wide or unlimited selection C = Cartridge O = Open S = Spool

#### THE PRINTERS

#### **NEC 8023A-C**

The NEC printer works well with the ATARI. It is a sturdy, well-built printer and with several good features. First, it has a high-quality proportional character set that is fully supported by the latest version of TEXT WIZARD© by DataSoft and their new companion to MICRO-PAINTER, COLOR PRINT©. This makes it a very versatile printer which will produce quality letters as well as great graphics.

I especially like the ease of paper handling. The NEC supports both tractor and friction feed, with a minimum of difficulty. There is a lever that engages / disengages the pressure rollers, allowing a quick change from one type of paper to another. Tractor-feed paper loads easily on the NEC due to the tractor mechanism that engages the paper before it gets to the roller (platen). This means, that the tractors do not interfere with the print head at all, and allow for the paper to be torn off just above the print head. Most other printers require you to waste a full sheet of paper each time you wish to remove your printed work. I have two complaints about the NEC. First, the sound seemed to be louder and higher than others. Second, the ribbon cartridge cover has snap latches that felt as though they would break each time I removed the cover.

I rate the NEC very high as an all around printer. It includes most of the desired features as standard equipment, is sturdy, and is priced right.

#### EPSON MX80 F/T

The top model in the EPSON line, this is a high quality printer that handles both friction and tractor feed. The standard model comes with 12 character type and size combinations and 3 boldness options, all software selectable. It produces quality type for word processing, and works with all major word processors, and lacks only a porportional print.

The tractor feed is a good one, and is removable, but sits above the print head. This wastes paper each time you tear off the current sheet. A set of user-installed ROM chips add significantly to the MX-80, but cost extra in most cases. This is the second generation of add-on chips for the EPSON, so be sure you are getting the GRAFTRAX-Plus chips. These will add features such as italic print in all 12 character types, underlining, and of course great graphics. EPSON produces a solid printer that will meet most needs. If it only had a proportional character set I would place it close to the top.

#### **OKIDATA-Microline 84**

This top-of-the-line printer put us at a disadvantage very quickly. Our intention was to review printers costing \$1,000 or less. This model retails for \$1495. We were tempted to eliminate it, but reconsidered after working with it for a while. First, it is a wide printer, but not large considering its 16" paper-width handling capability. It's main benefit is speed. Rated at 200cps by the manufacturer, it really seems to go that fast. During a program listing session, it actually kept up with the computer! Also, it produced excellent quality characters, and has full graphics built in. The tractor mechanism is standard and worked well throughout our testing. It is easily removable, but like the EPSON wastes a sheet of paper in order to tear off the current sheet.

This printer is the fastest of those tested, and that's important when you do a lot of printing. Otherwise, you might want to consider one of the other OKIDATA printers such as the Microline 82A. This is a standard size printer with most of the other features of its big brother, except the speed and graphics.

#### C. ITOH 8510A

This printer looked like a carbon copy of the NEC 8023A-C reviewed earlier. In fact, the paper handling, print mechanism, cover and switches are virtually identical. Print type even seemed similar until the proportional type was examined closely. A few of the proportional letters are not complete looking, the serifs are missing. The serif is the little tail found at the ends of letters. In all other respects this printer performed like the NEC.

#### **AXIOM-IMP MiniPrinter**

This printer has no features that make it stand out, but it is a solid, average machine. The character formation is good, and the print quality clear. It has a wide variety of font/size types, but no proportional font. The built-in graphics are standard, and appeared to be acceptable, but not great. The printer came with a disk of software (the only printer that did). The disk included several sample pictures that could be printed and I assume this will continue to be a standard part of the package.

I have three complaints about this printer. First, the paper is difficult to load. You have to turn the printer upside down and feed the paper through a slot in the bottom. Second, you have to turn the printer "on" to feed paper because there is no knob for manual paper advance. You have to use the line-feed function to set the top-of-form, and that can be difficult. The third annoyance is that the fan runs whenever the printer switch is on.



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#### Micro Peripherals — MPI 99G

When I first saw this printer at last year's Computer Faire in San Francisco, I was impressed by its ability to produce high quality graphics. But the mechanism, I found, was nearly identical to the AXIOM Imp. The paper was difficult to load the first time through, and I began to think that my first impression was wrong. Well, the bottom line is that some of the problems with the Imp still exist, but others have been overcome. Noise is less of a problem because there is no fan, and it comes with a cover that shields out much of the racket. There is a document quality font created by an  $11 \times 7$ matrix giving very good quality, though not proportional. The nicest feature of the MPI is the single sheet tray that fits on the under-side of the body. Once in place, you can feed a single sheet in perfectly from the front of the printer. Finally, MPI gets an A + for providing a cable WITH the printer. This is a nicely packaged printer with a few minor deficiencies.

#### ATARI 825

This printer is the Centronics 727 with an ATARI label. The ATARI 825 proportional print is excellent and produces a fine looking right hand justified document if used with any of the 3 major word processors. It has pin-feed as well as friction feed, and forward and reverse paper feed. This is a solid quality printer, but not without its problems. The inked ribbon is the dirtiest and by far the most difficult to change. I have spewed ribbon throughout my computer room on several occasions. The ribbon is loose and not in a cartridge, which makes handling difficult. Next, it doesn't have adjustable pin feeds. This means you have to find really wide label sheets or use the friction feed option for label printing. If you have ever tried that, you will not consider label printing to be one of the ATARI 825 strengths. Finally, paper feed is poor which causes many jams when doing larger print jobs.

#### INTEGRAL DATA SYSTEMS — Prism 132

Another new entrant to the printer market is the IDS Prism. Makers of the Paper Tiger series have now produced the Prism in 2 models that have 80 or 132 column paper capability. Due to our inability to get a cable in time to do a working test, we can only list some of the specifications. First, it is the largest printer we looked at  $(9 \times 22 \times 12'')$  and the heaviest (29 lbs). It also has some impressive options available at an extra cost. True color printing, for example, using a multi-colored ribbon; a high speed feature alowing over 200 CPS; a semi-automatic single sheet paper feed tray, and one or 2

others. The printer came with a test sheet that indicated very impressive graphics capabilities also, so this one is deserving of more in-depth test. Watch the next issue of Antic for an update.

#### COMPATIBILITY

Peripheral devices not made by or specifically for ATARI raise the question of incompatability.

#### CABLES

There is no standard printer cable, but the Centronics parallel connection is a wiring protocol that comes close. This has little to do with the plug type, however. The most common cable connection for printers is a 36-wire plug at the printer. This is connected to a cable, and at the other end is a 15-pin connector to plug into the ATARI 850. Of the printers tested here, only 3 did not use this type of connection, and 2 of those come with a cable. The MPI has an internal cable connection and comes fully equipped, ready to go. The same is true of the Atari 825 printer. The AXIOM Imp we tested also came with a cable, available at extra cost. The IDS Prism uses a different connector than all three, and unfortunately we were not able to locate one in time to do a true test on the machine. All of the other printers worked fine using the cable I made up for the NEC printer. These printers are noted by a "C" in the cable column in our chart, but if that column does not also show an "I" for "included", then you are on your own for a cable.

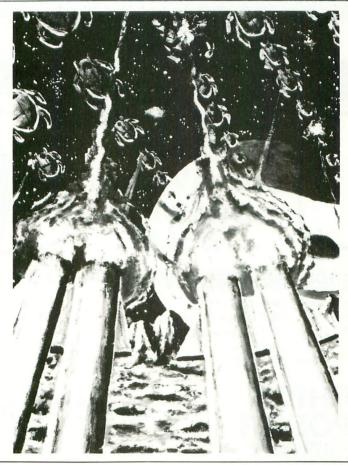
#### CONTROL CHARACTERS

You have heard the term "under software control" before. The major of parameters, such as type size, line spacing, and character emphasis, are controlled by sending the printer code from the computer. There is no discernible standard as to what these codes should be, and as a result, each printer is unique. Be very aware of the following: Word Processors are designed for specific printers. In some cases they may allow modification (LJK's top of the line) and in some cases they can handle more than one printer (TEXT WIZARD). Some printers allow you to modify the control codes to suit a particular application (EPSON—with GRAFTRAX), but most printers and word processors do not. Check the printer specifications and the word processor specifications before you make a purchase. The word processors are being updated to allow a wider selection, so check version numbers carefully. The ATARI Word Processor will work with most printers if you understand the control codes. A unique feature allows you to insert special control characters and it will right justify

continued on page 21

# MODNBASEID

the battle for the moons of Jupiter



Blast your way through the alien mine fields! Defend the moonbases from an

attacking alien armada! It won't be easy. To win you will need to mount a heroic assault on the alien mother ship.

Moonbase Io combines three exciting arcade adventures in one exciting game. The machine-language program by John

Konopa uses advanced graphics and sound effects. Action is fast and exciting — varying levels of skill required to go from one part of the game to the next.

BEYOND SOFTWARE's arcadeadventures are the next generation in

computer games for the ATARI<sup>®</sup> computer. A voice-activated program will help you meet and overcome the challenge—it may be an alien invasion, a fiendish murderer preying on a country village or a treasure trove buried deep in the shark-infested sea.

Moonbase Io is available at fine computer dealers. Or, directly from PDI for \$29.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.

Requires 24K ATARI® computer with disk and cassette. Cassette version available soon.



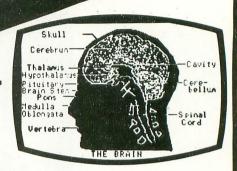


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- Reverse Picture
- Scaling

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- Fix X or Y Axis

Requires: Atari 300, 32K RAM, Basic Language Cartridge, Disk Drive

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#### PADDLE / JOYSTICK GRAPHICS SOFTWARE - \$39.95

- Draw on Hi-Res Screens 7 or 8
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- Geometric Figures Program
- Add Text to Screen

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- Countries-Cities-Capitals-Oceans-Rivers-Mountains, Etc.
- Several Skill Levels

Requires: Atari<sup>®</sup>800, 32K RAM, Basic Language Cartridge, Disk

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# MIND BOGGLERS

THREE STRATEGY GAMES

- Capture
- Mystery Box
- Simon Says

CASSETTE \$15.95 DISK \$19.95

Requires: Atari®400, 16K RAM, Cassette Atari 800, 24K RAM, Cassette or Disk



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### **BASIC RANGE DELETE**

by Adrian Dery

Getting tired of deleting BASIC statements one line at a time? This is an Assembly Language program that will delete any number of lines by simply giving it the FIRST and LAST line numbers in the range.

The BASIC program in Listing 1 is easy to use and requires no memory other than Page Six. Just load and run it, first thing after turning on the computer and the Range Delete function is available as long as the power stays on. System Reset, Break and CLOAD's do not affect it, but be careful not to load anything else in Page Six.

The next step is to set up an easy method to access the Assembly program, by entering a line something like: 32767 INPUT FIRST, LAST:X = USR(1536,FIRST,LAST) Then, from immediate mode, enter:

DEL = 32767

Remember that LOAD's and CLOAD's will wipe out line 32767 and a RUN will reset DEL to zero. Therefore you will have to repeat one or both of the above as necessary.

Complete the above steps and you are ready to do any kind of BASIC editing. To delete any number of lines in a range, enter G. DEL from immediate model and BASIC will respond with the ? prompt. Enter the FIRST and LAST Line numbers in the range and all the lines in between will

disappear.

Another useful feature of this program is that the USR call can be dynamically executed from a running BASIC program. This makes it a super memory saver if you have a program that uses a lot of memory to initialize strings or memory from literals or DATA statements. Put a USR call at the end of the initialization routine with the FIRST and LAST line numbers of the routine as parameters and the whole routine will be automatically deleted. Just make sure that the USR call, if it's going to be deleted, is on a line by itself or is the last statement on the last line.

One precaution is necessary. The USR call must be on a line number equal to or higher than the highest line to be deleted. The reason is that memory taken up by the deleted lines is reclaimed by the lines above the deleted section. Not only do the lines above the deleted section get moved down into lower memory, but also, a few BASIC internal pointers have to get adjusted by the amount deleted. One of them is the pointer to the current statement being executed, which is the USR call. The amount of Assembly code needed to adjust the BASIC pointer did not seem in line with the advantages. Therefore, the Delete Program assumes that this pointer has to be adjusted and does it.

Listing 2 — Assembly

0100 <b>x</b> = 1536	0220 STA LINNER+1	0260 ;	0304 ;
0101 STMTAB = 136	0225 PLA	0261 ;SAVE ADDRESS OF FIRST	0305 PLA
0105 STMCUR = 138	0230 STA LINNER	0262 ;LINE NUMBER	0310 STA LINNER+1
0110 MEMTOF = 144	0235 ;	0263 ;	0315 PLA
0115 HIADR = 203	0236 ;LOCATE ADDRESS OF	0265 LDA HIADR	0320 CLC
0120 LOADR = 205	0237 ;FIRST LINE NUMBER	0270 STA LOADR	0325 ADC #1
0200 ;	0238 ;	0275 LDA HIADR+1	0330 STA LINNER
0201 ;GET FIRST LINE NUMBER	0240 LDA STMTAB	0280 STA LOADR+1	0335 BCC GETTO
0202 ;	0241 STA HIADR	0300 ;	0340 INC LINNBR+1
0205 CLD	0242 LDA STMTAB+1	0301 ;GET LAST LINE NUMBER	0345 GETTO JSR SRCHLN
0210 FLA	0243 STA HIADR+1	0302 ;PLUS 1	0360 ;
0215 PLA	0245 JSR SRCHLN	0303 ;AND IT'S ADDRESS	continued on page 44

# AN ATARI 800 HOME COMPUTER AND A FATHER'S LOVE COMBINED TO HELP CHILDREN EVERYWHERE.

Fernando Herrera became the first grand prize winner of the ATARI Software Acquisition Program (ASAP) competition because he believed in computers, his son and himself.

The story of Herrera's success began with his son's sight problems. Young Steve Herrera had been born with severe cataracts in both eyes and, naturally, his father was concerned. Herrera reasoned that the boy's learning abilities could be seriously affected by growing up in a world he could not see.

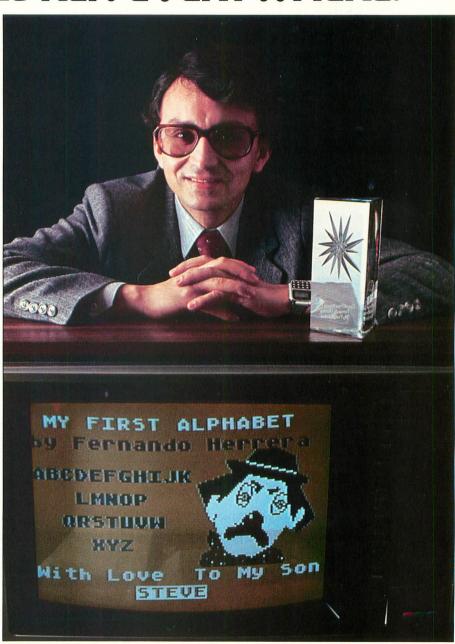
Having just purchased an ATARI 800 Home Computer, it occured to Herrera that this could be the perfect tool for testing Steve's vision. So he wrote a program simply displaying the letter

'E" in various sizes.

Success! It turned out that 2-year-old Steve could see even the smaller "E's" without special lenses. Herrera was first relieved, and then intrigued when he discovered that not only could his son see the "E's," but he would happily play with the computer-generated letters for hours. So Herrera added a picture of an elephant to go with the "E," and then more letters and pictures. Thus, "My First Alphabet"

was born, a unique teaching program for children two-years and older consisting of 36 high resolution pictures of letters and numbers.

Herrera submitted the program to the ATARI Program Exchange, where it became an instant best-seller. ATARI was so impressed with the outstanding design, suitability and graphic appeal of "My First Alphabet," that the program is being incorporated into the ATARI line of software.



In addition to his grand prize winnings of \$25,000 in cash and an ATARI STAR trophy, Herrera also automatically receives royalties from sales of his program through the ATARI Program Exchange.

But Fernando Herrera wasn't the only software "star" that ATARI discovered. Three other ATARI STARS were awarded at the ASAP awards ceremony for software submitted to the ATARI Program Exchange and

judged by ATARI to be particularly unique and outstanding.

Ron and Lynn Marcuse of Freehold, New Jersey, teamed up to write three winning entries in the Business and Professional category for home computers: "Data Management System," "The Diskette Librarian" and "The Weekly Planner."

Sheldon Leeman of Oak Park, Michigan, captured an ATARI STAR for his exceptionally well-engineered "INSTEDIT"

character set editor.

Greg Christensen of Anaheim, California, became our youngest ATARI STAR winner at the age of 17. Christensen designed the clever "Caverns of Mars" game program, which also will be incorporated into the ATARI product line. Greg designed the program in 1½ months after owning his ATARI Home Computer for less than a year.

Every three months, ATARI awards ATARI STARS to the writers of software programs

submitted to the ATARI Software Acquisition Program and judged first, second and third place in the following categories: Consumer (including entertainment, personal interest and development); Education; Business and Professional programs for the home (personal finance and record keeping); and System Software.

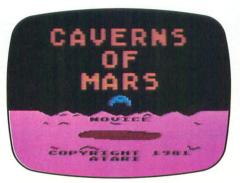
Quarterly prizes consist of selected ATARI products worth up to \$3,000, as well as an ATARI STAR, plus royalties from program sales through the ATARI Program Exchange. The annual grand prize is the coveted ATARI

STAR trophy and \$25,000 in cash.

To be eligible, your software idea must be accepted by the ATARI Software Acquisition Program. Your program can have a broad application or serve a very specific purpose.







After submittal, consultation from ATARI is available if you need personal assistance with sound, graphics, or other technical aspects of your program.

To make your job easier, ATARI provides some 20 software development tools through the ATARI Program Exchange. A list and description of the various system software is published quarterly in the ATARI Program Exchange Catalog. These tools enable you to utilize all the ATARI resources and software, including the six ATARI programming languages.

Fernando Herrera had a great idea that made him a star. ATARI would like to give you the same opportunity.



Enter the ATARI ASAP competition and
you could win \$25,000 in cash, royalties,
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OR CALL: 800-538-1862; in California, 800-672-1850. I'm reaching for the stars. Please send me an entry form today.

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Don't forget to ask for the original ACTION QUEST,™ with its own unique and imaginative assortment of puzzles, prizes, and perplexing predicaments. Another challenging journey through an entirely different network of rooms and prizes.

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JV SOFTWARE, INC

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### TRANSLATE

by Jerry White

Those of you who use your ATARI computers for business applications someday might wish to print checks. It seems like a simple task to write a program that prints the date, amount, and payee, in specific locations on a check form. But who wants to enter the English translation of an amount like ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY EIGHT AND TWENTY THREE CENTS? If you've got to do that much typing, you might as well write your check by hand.

Your computer should be able to perform this task. Unfortunately, the translation of dollars and cents into English isn't as easy as just printing a number. I spent quite a while using the trial-and-error system to provide you with this program. I'm sure there must be a more efficient algorithm than the one I came up with, but this one does the job.

What I did was to store the English versions of the required numbers in the string N\$, and the starting and ending locations of each number in the two dimensional array, N. You enter the number in the normal numeric format, and the program does the required translation. The translation subroutine begins at line 130 and ends at line 320. B\$ is a

string of 80 blanks, EA\$ holds the translated English Amount, and AMOUNT\$ stores the numeric amount you enter through the keyboard.

The program will tell you what it wants and includes error-handling routines. The BREAK key and SYSTEM RESET have been left operational.

I haven't gone so far as to actually print your checks, but I have taken care of the tricky part. Add your own inputs for date and payee, position your data according to the layout of your check form, and put your ATARI to work. When you actually print checks, please remember that Jerry starts with a "I."

See page 20 for listing.

	Total State of the last of the	-	-	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NAMED IN COLUM	
Variable	e che	ecksum	:::	217201	
L. i.ne	FILIM	range		Code	Length
100	•••	190		Y L	547
200		300		RO	546
310		370		ZO	562
380		480		CA E	529
490		550		CT	545
560		570		KF.	101

#### THE MONKEY WRENCH™ FOR ATARI



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```
100 REM TRANSLATE 5/28/82 by Jerry White for ANTIC Magazine
110 DIM B$(80),N$(152),EA$(80),AMOUNT$(10),N(27,27)
120 EA$=" ":EA$(80)=" ":EA$(2)=EA$:B$=EA$:GOTO 330
130 EA$=B$:EA$=" ":SW=0:FOR ME=1 TO LA
140 IF AMOUNT$(ME,ME)="." THEN EA$(LEN(EA$)+1)="AND ":? "AND ":GOTO 280
150 IF SW=1 THEN SW=0:GOTO 280
160 IF AMOUNT$(ME, ME)="," THEN SW=2:GOTO 270
170 TRAP 280:SW=0:N=VAL(AMOUNT$(ME,ME)):J1=N(N,1):J2=N(N,2):TRAP 40000
180 IF N=Q THEN SW=2:GOTO 280
190 IF LA=ME OR ME=LA-3 OR ME=LA-5 OR ME=LA-6 OR ME=LA-7 THEN 240
200 IF LA=8 AND ME=1 THEN 240
210 IF AMOUNT$ (ME, ME) <> "1" THEN 230
220 SW=1:N=VAL(AMOUNT$(ME,ME+1)):J1=N(N,1):J2=N(N,2):GOTO 240
230 N=N+18:J1=N(N,1):J2=N(N,2)
240 EA\$(LEN(EA\$)+1)=N\$(J1,J2):? N\$(J1,J2);
250 IF ME=LA-5 AND N<>0 THEN EA$(LEN(EA$)+1)=" HUNDRED":? " HUNDRED":
260 IF SW<>2 THEN EA$(LEN(EA$)+1)=" ":? " ":
270 IF SW=2 THEN EA$(LEN(EA$)+1)="THOUSAND ":SW=0:? "THOUSAND "
280 NEXT ME
290 IF AMOUNT$(LA-1,LA)="00" THEN EA$(LEN(EA$)+1)="NO ":? "NO ":
300 IF AMOUNT$(LA-1,LA)="01" THEN EA$(LEN(EA$)+1)="CENT":?-"CENT":GOTO 320
310 EA$(LEN(EA$)+1)="CENTS":? "CENTS"
320 LEA=LEN(EA$):? :? EA$(2,LEA):? #2;EA$(2,LEA):? #2:RETURN
330 N#="ONETWOTHREEFOURFIVESIXSEVENEIGHTNINETENELEVENTWELVETHIRTEENFOURTEENFIFTE
ENSIXTEENSEVENTEEN"
340 N#(LEN(N#)+1)="EIGHTEENNINETEENTWENTYTHIRTYFORTYFIFTYSIXTYSEVENTYEIGHTYNINET
Y "
350 DATA 1,3,4,6,7,11,12,15,16,19,20,22,23,27,28,32,33,36,37,39,40,45,46,51,52,5
9,60,67,68,74,75,81,82,90
360 DATA 91,98,99,106,107,112,113,118,119,123,124,128,129,133,134,140,141,146,14
7,152
370 GRAPHICS 0:POKE 82,2:POKE 83,39:POKE 710,140:POKE 752,1
380 ? :? " This program translates numeric"
390 ? :? "dollar and cent amounts into English."
400 ? :? "Input must be numeric so do not enter"
410 ? :? "dollar signs. Always include decimal"
420 ? :? "point between dollars and cents, and"
430 ? :? "a comma between the thousand and the"
440 ? :? "hundred columns when the amount is"
450 ? :? "greater than 999.99."
460 FOR J=1 TO 27:READ J1,J2:N(J,1)=J1:N(J,2)=J2:NEXT J
470 ? :? "
             Make sure your printer is ready, ":? :? "then press START."
480 IF PEEK(53279)<>6 THEN 480
490 TRAP 560:CLOSE #2:OPEN #2,8,0,"P:":TRAP 40000:POKE 752,0:? CHR$(125)
500 ? :? "Enter numeric amount or just press":? :? "the RETURN key to quit";
510 INPUT AMOUNT$:LA=LEN(AMOUNT$):IF LA=0 THEN 570
520 TRAP 550:IF LA<4 OR LA>9 OR AMOUNT$(LA-2,LA-2)<>"." THEN 550
524 IF LA<7 THEN 530
525 IF LA>6 AND AMOUNT$(LA-6,LA-6)<>"," THEN ? CHR$(253):? "A , MUST SEPERATE TH
OUSANDS, HUNDREDS": GOTO 500
530 TRAP 40000:? CHR$(125):? :? "CONVERTING $";AMOUNT$:? :? #2;"$";AMOUNT$
540 GOSUB 130:GOTO 500
550 ? CHR$(253):? "INVALID AMOUNT":GDTO 500
560 ? CHR$(253):? "
                     READY PRINTER THEN PRESS START": GOTO 480
570 GRAPHICS 0:? :? "BASIC":? "IS";:END
```

#### PRINTERS REVIEWED continued

the margins if you use 10 CPI. I understand that the newest versions of both TEXT WIZARD and LETTER PERFECT also allow special control codes to be used, but ASK to be sure. Don't be afraid to call the manufacturers of both products. If they can't answer the question of compatibility you shouldn't purchase the product.

#### OK, So Which Printer Is For Me??

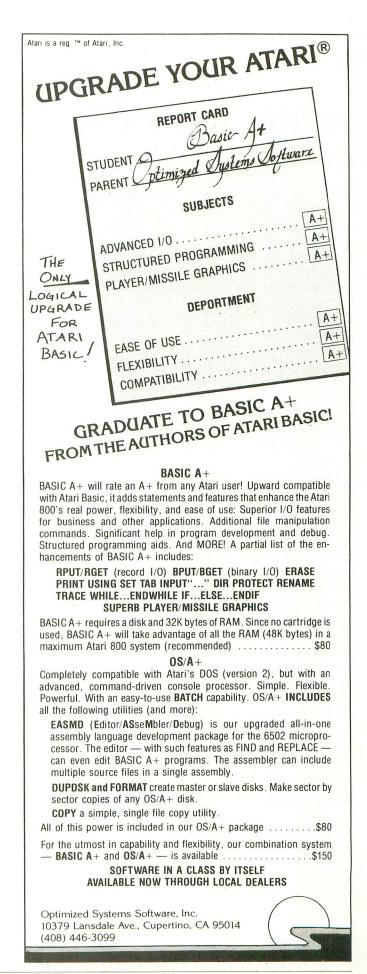
That is a question that can be answered only by a careful review of your current and future needs. If you are a programmer and need little more than good quality but high speed printouts, then you have a very wide selection. All of the printers seemed to fit that bill, with the OKIDATA providing the fastest by a good margin. If you are likely to do a lot of word processing, then you will have to look more carefully at several features. First, compatibility with the word processors. The ATARI word processor, for example, has the ability to send printer control codes from within the body of your text. This simply means that you can address most features of a given printer without expecting too many problems. TEXT WIZARD has added the NEC 8023A-C to its compatibility list which allows an alternative to ATARI 825 for proportional print. I now use this combination more than any other because I really like the NEC printer, and TEXT WIZARD allows right margin justification. LIK claims that their new version of LETTER PERFECT can accommodate any printer. We have not tested this product yet, so cannot verify the claim.

Graphics are more commonly standard equipment and the only thing lacking is good software. Macrotronics produces a cable and software combination that allows graphics on a few other machines, but seems overpriced. The graphics capabilities are there, but the software is not yet abundant, so keep your eyes open for new entries.

Printer choice is a tough one because most of the printers are substantially better than was available as little as a year ago. Your best bet is to review your needs, list your favorite programs that require a printer, consult the comparison chart accompanying this article, and narrow down your choices. Then if you can get some hands-on exposure to a couple of the remaining contenders, you may find that the decision is made for you.

#### SUBSCRIBE TO ANTIC

See page 62.



#### TWO MORE PRINTERS

### **ALPHACOM MODEL 42**

by Jim Capparell

The Alphacom 42, at \$199.00 is the least expensive printer I have found. It works as advertised right out of the box. The cable does cost extra (\$20.00), but is probably worth it unless you've made cables in the past. It connects to the printer port of your 850 interface with no hassle.

The printer has a self-test feature, which can be used to verify proper operation. There is also a DIP switch hidden, but accessible, which allows control of the auto-wrap feature, selection of right or left justification, and use in a parallel or serial mode.

The advantages, other than cost, are speed (2 lines per second), quiet (it's thermal), and ease of use. It is also reliable. This particular mechanism has been used by Olivetti in calculators since about 1974 with very few problems. There are only six major moving parts and the thermal head is replaceable with an estimated life of well over 1,000,000 lines. Service, if needed, is available through Alphacom and they promise about one week turn around.

The current unit is also available in a faster, 4-lps model for \$299. Both units include an auto-wrap around mode. Lines longer than 40 columns are automatically printed on the next line. These units also print graphics. I have yet to use the graphics capability since this requires some software and study of the documentation. I should mention that the documentation seems more than adequate.

The ALPHACOM 42 is a thermal printer requiring special paper (available for \$12.00/box of 4 rolls). Each roll prints about 10,500 lines. Paper is available in either blue or back print. Use black if you intend to xerox your listing. The paper can fade or discolor in strong sunlight. One disadvantage is that this printer is only 40 columns. Although perfect for listings, it is really not sufficient for letters.

I find that due to its speed I use the printer for getting a listing quick. I also have found that I can get a fast working draft of letters. The advantage is speed and quiet.

For those of you on a limited budget you can't go wrong at \$200.00

Printer available from:

Alphacom 2323 So. Bascom Ave. Campbell, CA 95008 (408) 559-8000

### **SMITH-CORONA TP-I**

by Matt Loveless

The new letter quality printer from Smith-Corona, the TP-I, is a remarkable value for small business and personal applications. It is a typewriter-quality, daisy-wheel printer costing less than \$900. That makes the TP-I a printer well worth considering. Combine this printer with your word processor and you will suddenly be able to produce professional looking documents in your own home.

The TP-I supports many formatting features. You have the ability to set, under software control, such things as the right margin, left margin, and tab stops. In addition to this, by moving a selector switch on the printer, you may manually choose line spacings of 1, 1½, and 2. These built in features allow you go get impressive looking documents with even the most rudimentary word processor.

Another nice feature is the automatic page advance. This switch, when enabled, allows the printer to automatically skip over page breaks. When the end of a sheet of continuous paper is reached, the printer will automatically advance over the perforation. This feature is superfluous since the TP-I is friction-fed, and cannot yet handle continuous form paper. Smith-Corona promises continuous form capability soon.

One of the nicer attributes of the printer is the ability to switch print wheels. This allows you the option of printing in more than one font or print style. Some other positive features of the printer include auto underscore, and a backspace code for slashing zero's and other characters. Additionally, ribbon cassettes are the same as those used in typewriters and are readily available.

The TP-I does have some flaws, though. Because it is a letter quality printer, it is very slow (12 cps), and therefore is not good for such things as program listings. In addition it is noisy. The cooling fan runs continuously.

The TP-I was tested with the Atari Word Processor because of its ability to send control codes to the printer via its "CTRL-INS" option. The TP-I is possibly compatible with other word processors, but because of constant upgrades, check with the word processor manufacturer for compatibility questions.

The TP-I is a very sound and affordable letter quality printer. Although you do sacrifice functions that the more expensive letter quality printers possess, you do not sacrifice print quality. The TP-I is a welcome addition to the Atari compatible products.

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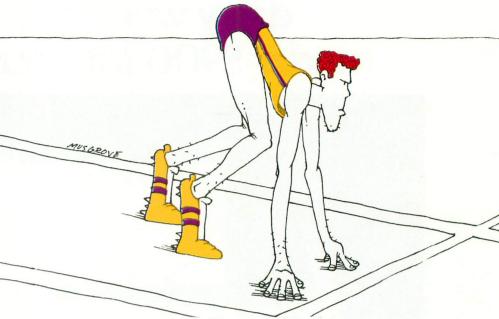
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### OH THOSE BUGS

by David Plotkin



After the publication of "Chicken" and "Attack on the Death Star" in the past issues of ANTIC we received many calls from puzzled readers who were unable to make the programs run. Since both listings were correct, we know many of you need help finding errors. This month START-ING LINE will give some elementary guidance in debugging BASIC programs.

The most important advice we can give is: never attempt to run a program prior to saving a copy on disk or tape. Should your newly typed program contain a fatal error it may possibly cause the computer to fail to respond to the keyboard. This forces you to turn the power off and then on again in order to reset, erasing computer memory and your program.

We assume you've corrected your normal typing errors, those which generate an error message when you press RETURN after a line. The remaining errors are more subtle and are not reported until the computer tries to execute the program.

Such things as NEXT with no FOR or a RETURN with no GOSUB are generally the result of a missing line. Tracing back through the program to the line where the command should be, is fairly straightforward. More difficult are the errors which are not actually in the line the computer indicates. You have to know where else to look for the error. Most notorious of these are errors which result from mistyping a DATA statement.

MOST ERRORS IN TYPED COMPUTER PROGRAMS STEM FROM DATA STATEMENTS. There are logical reasons for this. Human beings are not very good at duplicating long strings of numbers and/or letters separated by commas. Numbers get transposed or dropped, commas get left out or periods are substituted for them. Secondly, the computer does not check DATA statements during input. You can put *anything* in a DATA statement

and the computer won't protest — until you try to run the program.

A surprising variety of errors can be traced to DATA statements. There is, of course, "OUT OF DATA" (Error 6), but often the following errors are due to DATA errors:

- 1. Value Error (outside a specified range; Error 3)
- 2. String length error (Error 5)
- 3. Number greater than 32767 (Error 7)
- 4. Input statement error (Error 8)
- 5. Cursor out of range (Error 141)

It is true that these error messages can also be caused by other mistakes besides DATA statements. OUT OF DATA and CURSOR OUT OF RANGE can be caused by an error in the parameters of a FOR-NEXT loop. Often there will be a series for FOR-NEXT loops in a program, and an error in typing the parameters of one FOR-NEXT loop won't be detected until one of the following loops is executed. A STRING LENGTH error may be the result of mistyping the DIM statement. In general, this is not detected until you try to define or use a portion of the string past the dimensioned length.

Knowing that such a wide range of errors can indicate a mistyped DATA statement is half the battle. Finding out which DATA statement can be difficult because the computer reports the error as occurring in the line containing the READ statement. Thus, if line 10 says (in part), "READ X, Y: PLOT X, Y" followed by lines of DATA statements, any data error will be reported as occuring in line 10, even though line 10 is typed in perfectly! The problem of finding the erroneous DATA statement is somewhat simplified if each READ statement is followed by its DATA statements.

There are other ways to isolate the problems. One way is

continued on page 26



Selecting compatible programs for your computer needs can be puzzling enough so let L.J.K. Enterprises solve your problems for you by offering you these three programs. Letter Perfect, Data Perfect and Edit 6502 all work very well together as well as with many of the other popular programs. Once you've tried them you will agree that compatability makes the difference.

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to check the line where the error is reported and ask the computer to print the value of the READ variable. Often the READ statement is executed in a FOR-NEXT loop, and you can ask the computer to print the value of the loop variable. For example, let's look at the following BASIC program:

- 10 DIM A\$ (10)
- 20 FOR N = 1 to 10: READ Q: A\$ (N,N) = Q: NEXT N
- 30 DATA 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
- 40 FOR M = 1 TO 5: READ X, Y, Z: PLOT X, Y: POKE 256 + M, Z: NEXT M
- 50 DATA 10, 20, 24, 30, 40, 24, 50, 60, 24, 70, 80, 24, 90, 100, 25

Suppose you accidentally typed A\$(5) instead of A\$ (10) in line 10. You'll get the error message "ERROR 5 on Line 20". This is an example of a "misleading" error message. Next, suppose you made "8, 9" into "8.9" in line 30, by substituting a period for a comma. You'll get the message "ERROR 6 on line 40". Line 40? What's going on here? When line 20 is trying to READ Q ten times (N = 1 to 10), it runs out of data on line 30 because 8.9 is one data item, while 8, 9 is two. The computer gets the first data item on line 50. When line 40 executes, it starts reading at the second data item on line 50 and, consequently, runs out of data.

The first thing to do is type in (direct mode) PRINT M.

The computer responds with 5. So you can tell that line 40 did not finish executing, because if it had, the computer would respond with 6 — one *more* than the loop limits. Counting off the data items in line 50 reveals that the last values of X, Y, and Z should be 90, 100, and 25 respectively. Typing in PRINT X, Y, Z causes the computer to respond with 100, 25, and 90. Everything is off by one data item, but line 50 is typed in perfectly. Now go back to the READ statement executed on line 20 and type in PRINT Q. The computer responds with the last value of Q, 10. That's right, so you look at line 30 to find your error.

Leaving out commas is an easy way to get CURSOR OUT OF RANGE, VALUE ERROR, and INPUT STATE-MENT ERROR. Leaving out the comma between 10 and 20 on line 50 would cause the computer to try to plot 1020, 24 — a non-existent position off the screen. Leaving out the comma between 24 and 30 would cause the computer to try to POKE the number 2430 into memory. Since 255 is the largest number a memory location can contain, this will also generate an error.

Finally, make sure that after you have made corrections and deletions that you press System/Reset. Sometimes errors cause critical memory locations to change in such a way that even error free programs cannot run. Prior to every test run press System/Reset. Of course once your program runs correctly this is not necessary.

[For further help in getting your programs to run see TYPO this issue—Ed.]

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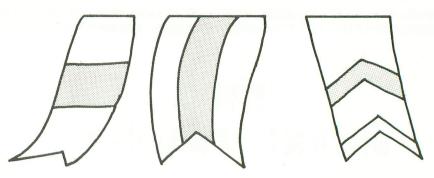
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### BANNER MAKER

by Paul E. Hoffman



The following program allows you to make banners on most common printers. Although the program is short, it shows how to use a few ATARI features.

As you may know, each letter on your screen is formed in an 8 × 8 matrix in your ATARI's memory. This program takes an input string, and prints out an enlarged version of this matrix for each letter. If you use any font generating programs, the re-defined characters will be printed out.

#### The program:

100 Get the input string to be printed as the banner.

110-130 Major loop: get a character and determine its ATASCII value. Type the letter on the screen so you can tell how far along the banner is.

140-170 Calculate which group the current character is in, and translate CH into the keycode.

200 Loop to retrieve the eight bytes for each character, Y being the row of the character received. CHBAS, determined in line 1030, is the page where the character table begins, and CH is the character offset in the table.

210-220 Within each byte, determine which bits are set to 1 by comparing the byte to powers of two (see line 1040) in descending order from 128. If the bit is on, subtract that power of two from the byte so that the next bit may be tested. BITON (and each element of ARR) will either equal 0 or 1, depending on the value of each bit in our BYTE.

Note that line 220 tells us to put our result into the array vertically, starting in the upper right corner, a clockwise rotation of 90 degrees. You can change the rotation with the following changes:

Letter facing: Array:

Same as font ARR(C7-X,Y)ARR(C7-Y,C7-Y)90 deg Clockwise 180 deg Clockwise ARR(X,C7-Y)270 deg Clockwise ARR(Y,X)

230 Get next byte.

500 Print the letter in the array. Our FOR-NEXT loops read the matrix horizontally from the top to the bottom. We must also initialize the LINE\$ to be printed to spaces.

510-530 If the array element is a 1, change a segment to blocks (solid print elements, see line 1100), if it is a 0, do nothing. Loop for each bit in the row.

540–550 Print the LINE\$ and loop back for the NEXT ROW.

560-600 Check if you want to go to a new page for each letter; if so, print a formfeed character. Either way, get the next character.

1030 Locate the character set in memory. This will be page 224 if it is the ATARI character set, otherwise this will point to the beginning of your set.

1040 Set up the BIT array.

1050-1080 These are variables you can set to change the printer's output. WIDTH is the number of times each segment is copied vertically (how thick it will be); SEGHT is the number of characters each element in the array will take up. For most printers, WIDTH should be about half of SEGHT, but you can get interesting results by varying this

PRTYPE\$ holds the type of printer, so that the BLOCK\$ and BLANK\$ will correspond correctly to your printer. PAGE\$ tells whether you want a page eject after each character or not. Most of the time you will not, but it allows you to sheet-feed your printer if you want.

SIXROW\$ should be YES if you are using the ATARI character set. It will truncate the top and bottom bytes, which are zero anyway, and increase your SEGHT by the proportionate amount on 1140.

1100-1120 Sets the correct character values based on the

1130 Gives COLLOW and COLHIGH their initial values, which correspond to reading the entire 8 bytes of the character.

1140 If each character is actually just the middle six bytes from the font, it increases the segment height by 25%, and adjusts the parameters for the FOR-NEXT loop that starts on line 500.

1150-1170 Make the string BLOCK\$ of block characters, length equal to SEGHT. Make the string BLANK\$ be blanks, length 8\*SEGHT (8 segments to a character).

The program can be tailored to your system by changing lines 1050-1080, or by adding another line if you have a printer that is not mentioned in lines 1100-1120. You can determine the character for BLOCK by finding the character in the printer set which is the most filled in. For non-graphic printers, this is usually the pound sign (#). The blank is usually just a space character, ASCII 32.

Printing graphics characters takes about 3.5 times as long as non-graphic ones since the printer must make two passes on the line it is printing. It thus loses its bidirectional printing capability. Graphics characters print much darker, and make a much more readable banner.

continued on page 30

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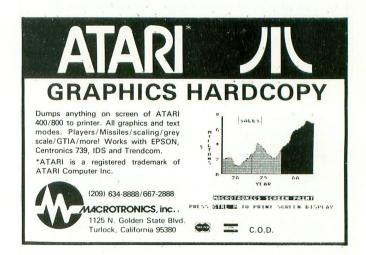
DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME

```
10 REM Banner maker by Paul E. Hoffman
20 GOSUB 1000:REM Get initial values, and setup varibles
100 PRINT "String for banner";: INPUT INSTR$
110 FOR CHNUM=C1 TO LEN(INSTR$)
120 CH$=INSTR$(CHNUM):CH=ASC(CH$)
130 PRINT CH$;
140 CHGRF=INT(CH/C32)+C1
150 ON CHGRP GOTO 160,170,170,200,160,170,170,200
160 CH=CH+64:GOTO 200
170 CH=CH-C32:GOTO 200
200 FOR Y=CO TO C7:BYTE=PEEK(256*CHBAS+8*CH+Y)
210 FOR X=C7 TO CO STEP -1:BITON=CO:IF BYTE>=BIT(X) THEN BITON=C1:BYTE=BYTE-BIT(
X)
220 ARR(C7-Y,C7-X)=BITON:NEXT X
230 NEXT Y
500 FOR ROW=CO TO C7:LINE$=BLANK$:FOR COL=COLLOW TO COLHIGH
510 IF ARR(COL.ROW)=C1 THEN LINE$(SEGHT*COL)=BLOCK$
530 NEXT COL
540 FOR I=C1 TO WIDTH: LPRINT LINES: NEXT I
550 NEXT ROW
560 IF PAGE$="YES" THEN LPRINT CHR$(140)
600 NEXT CHNUM
999 END
1000 REM **** Subroutine for setup of variables
1010 C0=0:C1=1:C3=3:C7=7:C8=8:C32=32:C63=63
1020 DIM ARR(C7,C7),BIT(C7),INSTR$(C63),CH$(C1),LINE$(80),PRTYPE$(C7),PAGE$(C3),
SIXROW$(C3)
1030 CHBAS=PEEK (756)
1040 TEMP=C1:FOR I=C0 TO C7:BIT(I)=TEMP:TEMP=TEMP*2:NEXT I
1050 WIDTH=5:SEGHT=10
1060 PRTYPE$="EPSON"
1070 FAGE$="NO"
1080 SIXROW$="NO"
1100 IF PRTYPE$="EPSON" THEN BLOCK=35:BLANK=C32
1110 IF PRTYPES="ATARI" THEN BLOCK=160:BLANK=C32
1120 IF PRTYPE$="LETQUAL" THEN BLOCK=35:BLANK=C32
1130 COLLOW=CO: COLHIGH=C7
1140 IF SIXROW$="YES" THEN SEGHT=INT(SEGHT*1.25):COLLOW=C1:COLHIGH=6
1150 DIM BLOCK$ (SEGHT), BLANK$ (8*SEGHT)
1160 FOR I=C1 TO SEGHT: BLOCK$ (I) = CHR$ (BLOCK): BLANK$ (I) = CHR$ (BLANK): NEXT I
1170 FOR I=C1 TO C3:BLANK$(LEN(BLANK$)+1)=BLANK$:NEXT I
```

Variable	checksum =	1528295
----------	------------	---------

1200 RETURN

Code	Length
NH	373
YW	314
XC	315
EM	8 0
	XC AM MH



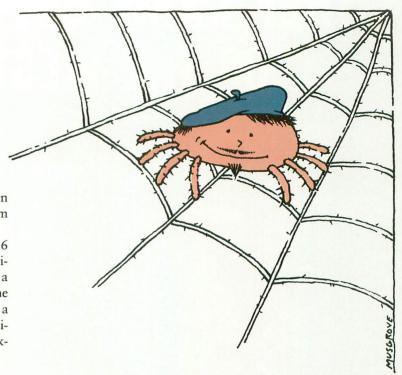
# SPIN COLORS WITH THE SPIDER

by John and Mary Harrison

Since our new ATARI 800 has the GTIA chip, we have been experimenting with it. SPIDER is a little BASIC program that lets you doodle colors with your joystick.

Mode 11 is our choice for this program because it gives 16 different colors in a high resolution mode (80 pixels horizontally by 192 vertically). When you run the program, a white "spider" appears. The "fire" button changes the spider's color. As you move the joystick the spider leaves a trail of its color. When the spider is white it can be positioned without leaving a line. (It actually draws in background color).

To start a new design, press RESET and type RUN.



10 REM ***********************************	330 FOKE I,DAT 340 NEXT I 350 DATA 36,36,90,60,60,90,36,36 360 REM ADDRESS OF ARRAY AND VARIABLE 370 REM TABLES. THIS SECTION OF CODE 380 REM ALLOWS YOU TO USE 128 BYTES 390 REM FOR SPIDER\$ WITHOUT RESERVING 400 REM THAT MUCH MEMORY IN THE DIM. 410 ATAB=PEEK(140)+256*PEEK(141) 420 VTAB=PEEK(134)+256*PEEK(135) 430 OFFSET=256*MEMTOP+512-ATAB 440 M3=INT(OFFSET/256) 450 M2=OFFSET-256*M3 460 POKE VTAB+2,M2:POKE VTAB+3,M3 470 POKE VTAB+4,128:POKE VTAB+5,0 480 POKE VTAB+6,128:POKE VTAB+7,0 490 REM SET UP SHADOW FOR SPIDER 500 SSPIDER\$(1,8)=SPIDER\$(YSPIDER,YSPIDER+7) 510 REM INITIALIZE COLOR AND LINE CO- 520 REM ORDINATES. 530 C=0:XLINE=39:YLINE=69 540 SETCOLOR 4,0,8:POKE 704,8
200 FOKE 559,46:FOKE 53256,1	
230 REM INITIAL PLAYER POSITION	550 GOSUB 880
240 XSPIDER=119	560 COLOR C
250 YSPIDER=48	570 PLOT XLINE, YLINE
260 REM CLEAR STRING FOR VERITCAL MOVEMENT	580 REM CHANGE COLOR ROUTINE
270 ERASE\$=""	590 IF STRIG(0)=1 THEN 660
280 REM POSITION PLAYER	600 C=C+1
290 POKE 53248, XSPIDER	610 IF C>15 THEN C=0
300 REM DRAW FLAYER	620 COLOR C:FOKE 704,C×16+8
310 FOR I=PMBASE+511+YSPIDER TO PMBASE+518+YSPIDER 320 READ DAT	630 FOR DEL=1 TO 20; NEXT DEL
SEU VEHI DEL	continued on page 49



and it's up to you to stop them!

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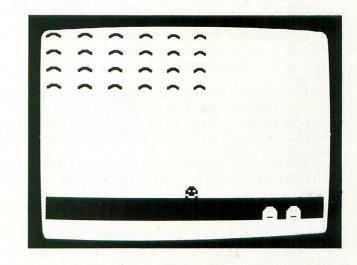
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### **PAC INVADERS**

by Vince Scott

PAC INVADERS combines familiar characters from PAC-MAN and the scenario of SPACE INVADERS. You need 16K and a joystick and then lots of practice. Vince makes good use of re-defined characters set graphics. The action is relatively fast and the response time good (remember this is a BASIC program). This game could be customized into your very own version of a very popular arcade game. Let us know what you do with it!



- 1 REM PAC-INVADERS BY VINCE SCOTT
- 2 REM FOR ANTIC MAGAZINE VOL 1, #3
- 6 REM -----
- 10 LOOP=0:LOOP2=0:TALLY=0:KILL=0:GOSUB 280:GOTO 140
- 30 BHG=PEEK(53248); IF BHG>0 THEN GOSUB 210
- 40 IF LA=1 THEN BG=BG-4:VC\$(BG)=BULLET\$:POKE 53278,1:IF BG-4\*O<10 THEN VC\$(BG,BG+4)=BH\$:LA=0
- 50 BHG=PEEK(53248):IF BHG>0 THEN GOSUB 210
- 60 IF BF=1 THEN SAW=SAW+3;VC\$(SAW)=MISSILE\$;IF SAW>102 THEN VC\$(SAW,SAW+5)=BH\$;BF=0;SAW=20
- 70 IF PEEK(53259)=1 THEN 250
- 80 IF BF=0 AND TALLY>KILL AND O<16 THEN BF=1:POKE 53255,DX+3:SAW=14+4\*O:TALLY=0
- 90 DX=DX+4\*(STICK(0)=7)-4\*(STICK(0)=11):POKE 53248,DX
- 100 IF STRIG(0)=0 AND LA=0 THEN LA=1:DXM=DX+2:POKE 53252,DXM:BG=94:VC\$(BG)=BULLET\$:POKE 77,0
- 110 TALLY=TALLY+1:RETURN
- 120 POKE 656,1;POKE 657,2;? "YOU LOSE-PUSH TRIGGER TO PLAY AGAIN";;SOUND 0,0,0,0;TURNS=0;WAVES=0
- 130 POKE 656,1:POKE 657,2:POKE 704,PEEK(710)
- 135 IF STRIG(0)=1 THEN 135
- 137 POKE 752,117 "3"
- 140 POKE 656,3:POKE 657,2:? "POINTS ";:SCORE=0:GOSUB 240:POKE 705,88:POKE 706,88:KILL=80:HARD=0:HARD=0:HARD=0
- 150 POKE 704,82;VC\$=BH\$;LA=0;BF=0;POKE 53278,1;FOR LOOP=1 TO 8;FOR LOOP2=80 TO 150 STEP 2;SOUND 0, LOOP2,10,6
- 155 NEXT LOOP2;NEXT LOOP:TALLY=80;SOUND 0,0,0,0
- 160 POKE 77,0:KILL=KILL-WAVES\*10:IF WAVES>1 THEN HARD=30:IF WAVES>3 THEN HARDER=60
- 170 FOR O=1 TO 20;HU=-HU;FOR LOOP=0 TO 8;KZ=PEEK(OE)-HU-20\*(LOOP=8);M=PEEK(XD)-(KZ<0)+(KZ>255);KZ=KZ+256\*(KZ<0)-256\*(KZ>255)
- 180 GOSUB 30; POKE XD, M; POKE OE, KZ; GOSUB 30; POKE 756, UJ+4+2\*(PEEK(756)=UJ+4); GOSUB 30+HARD
- 190 SOUND 0,255,10,15:GOSUB 30+HARDER:SOUND 0,0,0,0:NEXT LOOP:NEXT O
- 200 GOSUB 420:VC\$=BH\$:LA=0:BF=0:POKE 53278,1:GOTO 120
- 210 SOUND 0,255,6,10;N=DXM+8\*LOOP\*(-HU)-64\*(HU<0)-48;N=2\*(INT(N/16));BHG=(BHG=2)+3\*(BHG=1)+5\*(BHG=8)+7\*(BHG=4)-1
- 211 SOUND 0,255,6,6
- 220 SCORE=SCORE+10\*(10-BHG);SHOTS=SHOTS+1
- 222 IF SHOTS=24 THEN POP: VC\$=BH\$:WAVES=WAVES+1:SOUND 0,0,0,0;GOSUB 420:GOTO 150
- 225 SOUND 0,255,6,4
- 230 POSITION N, BHG:? #6;" "
- 240 POKE 656,3;POKE 657,8;? " ";SCORE;" ";;VC\$(BG,BG+2)=BH\$;LA=0;POKE 53278,1;SOUND 0,0,0,0;RETUR
- N 250 POKE 706-TURNS,0:POKE 704,PEEK(710):VC\$=BH\$:FOR O=70 TO 0 STEP -1:SOUND 0,220,8,O/5:NEXT O:GOS UB 420
- 260 TURNS=TURNS+1:IF TURNS=3 THEN TURNS=0:SCORE=0:GOTO 120
- 270 GOTO 150

```
280 UJ=PEEK(106);IF UJ/2=(INT(UJ/2)) THEN UJ=UJ-8
290 POKE 89,UJ:POKE 88,0;? CHR$(125):POKE 89,UJ+3;? CHR$(125):POKE 106,UJ:GRAPHICS 18:POKE 756,(UJ+4
291 FOR DE=1 TO 71? #6:NEXT DE
295 ? #6!"
            SPACE"1? #61? #6
296 ? #6;"
            INVADERS"
300 REM
310 FOR LOOP=8 TO 39;READ N;POKE (UJ+4)*256+LOOP+32,N;NEXT LOOP
320 FOR LOOP=40 TO 71:READ N:POKE (UJ+6)*256+LOOP,N:NEXT LOOP
330 FOR LOOP=72 TO 87;POKE (UJ+6)*256+LOOP-72,0;NEXT LOOP
340 FOR LOOP=88 TO 511;LOOP2=PEEK(57344+LOOP);POKE (UJ+6)*256+LOOP;LOOP2;POKE (UJ+4)*256+LOOP;L
OOP2:NEXT LOOP
350 SOUND 0,0,0,0;GOSUB 500;GRAPHICS 1;POKE 559,34;XD=PEEK(560)+PEEK(561)*256+5;QE=XD-1
360 POKE 89,UJ+2;POKE 88,128;POKE 752,1;? " ":POKE XD+25,7;POKE 708,46;POKE 709,46;POKE 710,46;POKE 7
11,46
370 DIM BH$(128),GF$(1),RR$((INT(ADR(GF$)/1024)+1)*1024-ADR(GF$)-1),PLAYER$(384),VC$(128),P$(128),PL1$(1
28),PL2$(128)
380 DIM MISSILE$(8),BULLET$(8);BH$=CHR$(0);BH$(128)=CHR$(0);BH$(2)=BH$;P$=BH$;VC$=BH$;BG=88
390 FOR LOOP=1 TO 8;READ O,BHG,HU;P$(97+LOOP,97+LOOP)=CHR$(O);BULLET$(LOOP,LOOP)=CHR$(BHG);MIS
SILE$(LOOP,LOOP)=CHR$(HU);NEXT LOOP
400 PL1$=BH$!PL2$=BH$;PL1$(12)=P$!PL2$=PL1$!POKE 53249,185;POKE 53250,171;POKE 704,196;POKE 707,76
410 SAW=10:POKE 53254,100:DX=128:POKE 53248,DX:POKE 54279,ADR(PLAYER$)/256:POKE 623,1:POKE 53277,3
420 POKE XD,PEEK(89):POKE OE,128:POKE 559,46:BF=1:SHOTS=0:HU=-1:POKE 756,UJ+4
430 ? #6;CHR$(125);FOR LOOP2=0 TO 3;POSITION 0,LOOP2*2;FOR LOOP=1 TO 6;? #6;CHR$(5+32*LOOP2+LOOP2
+64*(LOOP2>1));" ";:NEXT LOOP:NEXT LOOP2
431 RETURN
440 DATA 60,126,255,231,195,129,0,0,60,126,255,231,195,129,0,0,60,126,255,231,195,129,0,0
445 DATA 60,126,255,231,195,129,0,0,60,126,255,255,255,255,126,60,60,126,255,255,255,255,126,60
450 DATA 60,126,255,255,255,255,126,60,60,126,255,255,255,255,126,60
460 DATA 60,1,0,126,1,0,219,0,0,255,0,0,189,0,192,195,0,192,255,0,0,165,0,0
500 FOR LOOP=1 TO 7
501 POSITION 0,LOOP-1;? #6;"
510 POSITION 0,LOOP:? #6;"
                            &";;POSITION 13,LOOP;? #6;"&"
520 IF BHR=156 THEN BHR=158:GOTO 530
522 BHR=156
530 POKE 756,BHR
535 SOUND 0,255,8,10:FOR TFMB=1 TO 10:NEXT TFMB:SOUND 0,0,0,0
536 FOR TFMB=1 TO 35;NEXT TFMB
540 NEXT LOOP
550 FOR LOOP=1 TO 500:NEXT LOOP
```

Variable	Checksum	··· 1435997

560 RETURN

L. i.ne	I'ILIM	range	Code	Length
:1.		80	DL.	581
90		1.40	ЖU	616
150		180	QG	545
190		222	TG	531
225	****	290	YC	596
291		350	ΥB	544
360	••••	400	₽₩	595
410		445	L W	557
450	••••	550	₽U	497
560		560	EQ	6

### SUBSCRIBE TO ANTIC

See page 62.

# TYPO - TYPE YOUR PROGRAM ONCE

#### by William Wilkinson

"TYPO" is designed to help you find typing errors made when entering BASIC programs published in ANTIC. When used properly, TYPO will produce a table of values which can be used to pinpoint where an error was made. ANTIC will publish a table with every BASIC listing, and the user may compare the two tables to ensure they are identical. If they are not, then the user presumably made a "typo" which needs to be corrected.

#### How To Use TYPO

- 1. Enter program listing #1 EXACTLY as shown.
- 2. LIST this program to disk (LIST "D:TYPO.LIS") or cassette (via LIST "C:"). When using a cassette, use an entire blank cassette for just this program.
- 3. Type NEW to clear memory.
- 4. Type in a program from the magazine.
- 5. LIST this program to the disk ( LIST "D:NAME" ) or cassette ( LIST "C:" ). Type NEW and reenter the program ( ENTER "D:NAME" or ENTER "C:" ).
- 6. Append the TYPO program onto the end of the program from the disk (ENTER "D:TYPO.LIS") or cassette (ENTER "C:").
- 7. Type GOTO 32000 and a checksum table will be printed on your screen. Compare this table with the one published, if they agree you are finished and the program should run.
- 8. Note the value of the "Variable checksum" printed on the screen; and keep it handy.
- 9. If the table does not agree with the published table, examine the lines which have codes and/or lengths which disagree. Correct any errors.
- 10. IF AND ONLY IF the variable checksum you noted agrees with that printed in the magazine, goto step 7 above and try again.
- 11. If the variable checksums do NOT agree, you MUST goto step 5 above and perform the listing and reentering ritual! You may skip step 6, however, since presumably you have the combined programs now LISTed together.

Follow these instructions exactly!

#### What TYPO Is Telling You

THIS PROGRAM IS FUSSY! It cares about every little

period, comma, and even spaces. It also cares about the order in which you typed in program lines! The order in which the variable names are stored depends upon the order the lines were typed. Should this order be altered the values of the tokens and the subsequent checksums will be altered.

The "Variable checksum" is used to correct for some of this by producing an (almost) unique checksum which depends on the order in which the variables are stored. If your checksum doesn't agree, you have either entered lines in the wrong order or misspelled a variable name. In either case, you MUST correct your error(s) and then go through the LIST/NEW/ENTER sequence to assure that the variables are put back in order.

The length shown is the number of bytes encountered by TYPO within the line number range shown. The two letter code is essentially a checksum of "length" bytes within that same range. If the length is correct and the checksum is off, you have made a spelling or punctuation error. Watch out: since all keywords and operators (including two character operators such as " = ") are tokenized as one byte, the length might stay the same even though you type SET-COLOR for CLR. Note!! You MAY use abbrevations for keywords as long as the LISTed result conforms to the magazine listing.

If the length bytes disagree you have added or deleted characters. If nothing obvious shows, pay special attention to characters in quoted strings and / or REMark statements. It is easy to omit a space or punctuation in a REMark, thinking that "REMarks don't matter"; but to TYPO they do

#### Using TYPO With BASIC A+

Both versions produce identical checksum and length codes when used with any program. BUT entering a magazine program under BASIC A+ and then running TYPO on it will NOT produce the same checksum codes that will be given under Atari BASIC (this is because the internal token values are slightly different under BASIC A+).

This is a small but sophisticated program, use it and typing errors will be reduced.

NOTE: TYPO asks for output file. Respond with S for television or P for printer.

continued on page 52

# COLORS FOR YOUR PILOT

by Ken Harms

This month I will show you how to use all 128 colors of the ATARI and how you can rapidly change these colors in your displays.

To display data on the TV screen, PILOT first gets data (character or graphics information) from your program and then looks at special memory locations to determine the color to use. You can use a maximum of four colors at one time on your screen. Each color is selected by the PEN: (color) instruction. This instruction calls these locations by the names "Red", "Blue", "Yellow", and "Erase". Once PILOT knows what name (location) a line belongs to, it uses the color value found there for all lines drawn by that PEN:(color) instruction.

When PILOT looks at the "Blue" location it will find a color value there. This value will cause the ATARI to draw blue lines when you first turn it on. Fortunately, you can put any color value into these locations. So, even though PILOT calls these locations by color names (for convenience) any color may be found there. You can change these colors using a special form of the C:ompute command. Turn your machine on and type this in direct mode:

C:@B710 = 86 C:@B712 = 5\*16 + 6

The first instruction might be spoken "Compute byte 710 equals 86". In this case, the 710 is the special address PILOT calls its "Blue" location. The 86 is a color value for a red color. In effect we put "red paint into a can labeled blue".

In the second instruction, the "712" is PILOT's "Erase" register. The "5" is a hue (color) number and the "6" is a luminance number (more on them later).

In the graphic mode, PILOT uses four locations or registers. Their names, addresses and uses are listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Name	Register	Value	Used for	Address
Red	O	70	Graphics	708
Yellow	1	26	Graphics	709
Blue	2	148	Text Window & Graphics	710
None	3	148	Not Used	711
Erase	4	0	Background & Border	712

You change the color of any register (paint can) by placing a different color value in any of the addresses. Color values are made up of two numbers, a "hue number" and a "luminence" or brightness number. Table 2 gives these values and what they usually look line on my TV.

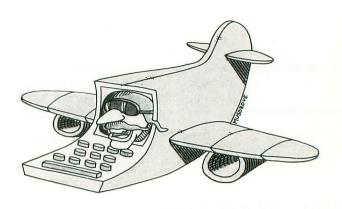


TABLE 2

Hue	Luminance
0 = gray	0—lowest possible luminance (black)
1 = green brown	2—
2 = yellow/orange	4—
3 = orange	6—
4 = red/orange	8—
5 = pink	10—
6 = bluish purple	12—
7 = purple	14—maximum luminance (white)
8 = blue	
9 = bright blue	
10 = turquoise	
11 = greenish blue	
12 = green	
13 = yellowish green	
14 = orangish green	
15 = light orange	

The color value needed in each register is calculated as follows:

Hue number\*16 + luminance number.

A color value for the red we used above is 86 or 165 + 6." Changing a register can be done at any time in your program.

The listing draws two horses in different color registers and then changes the colors rapidly to illustrate the power of this technique.

Let me leave you with an experiment: Use Mode 1 or Mode 2 letters (see last issue) and determine which color registers are used for uppercase and lowercase letters.

You may be interested in a new learning club for PILOT/LOGO users. It has a good newsletter, simple programs and an educational orientation. It is free to people under 18. Write to:

Young People's LOGO Association 1208 Hillsdale Drive Richardson, Texas 75081

See page 38 for listing.

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This is a tracer (debugger) that lets you explore the ATARI RAM/ROM area. You can stop at previously selected address, opcode, or operand. Also very valuable in understanding the microprocessor. At each stop, all registers of the CPU may be changed. Includes ATMONN-1.

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Same as ATMAS but without macro-capability. Cassette-based.
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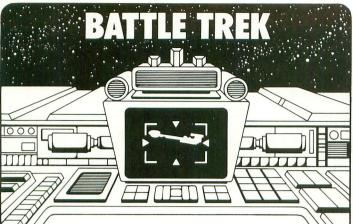
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### PILOT listing

- 10 R:HOUSES
- 20 R:---- Draws houses and shifts
- 30 R:---- all four color registers
- 40 R:---- ANTIC Issue 3
- 50 \*COLOR
- 60 GR: CLEAR
- 70 GR:GOTO -20,10
- 80 U: \*HOUSE
- 90 GR:GOTO 20,10
- 100 U: \*HOUSE
- 110 U: \*REGISTERO
- 120 PA: 240
- 130 U: \*REGISTER1
- 140 PA: 240
- 150 U: \*REGISTER2
- 160 PA: 240
- 170 U: \*REGISTER4
- 180 E:
- 190 \*HOUSE
- 200 GR: PEN YELLOW
- 210 GR: TURNTOO
- 220 GR: TURN 135; DRAW 14
- 230 GR: TURN 45; PEN BLUE; DRAW 15 [REG 2
- 240 GR: TURN 90; DRAW 5
- 250 GR: TURN 90; FILL 8
- 260 GR: TURN -90; DRAW 10
- 270 GR: TURN -90; PEN RED; FILL 8 [REG 0
- 280 GR: TURN 90; PEN BLUE; DRAW 5
- 290 GR: TURN 90; FILL 14
- 300 GR: TURN 45; PEN YELLOW; FILL 14 [REG 1
- 320 \*REGISTERO
- 330 C:#A=192 [HUE 12 LUM 0
- 340 \*INCREMENTO
- 350 C: @B708=#A 360 T:708 = #A
- 370 PA:30
- 380 C:#A=#A+2
- 390 J(#A<202):\*INCREMENTO
- 400 E:
- 410 \*REGISTER1
- 420 C:#A=224 [HUE 14 LUM 0
- 430 \*INCREMENT1
- 440 C: @B709=#A 450 T:709 = #A
- 460 PA:30
- 470 C:#A=#A+2
- 480 J (#A<228): \*INCREMENT1
- 490 E:
- 500 \*REGISTER2
- 510 C:#A=80 [HUE 5 LUM 0
- 520 \*INCREMENT2
- 530 C: @B710=#A
- 540 T:710 = #A
- 550 PA:30
- 560 C:#A=#A+2
- 570 J (#A<88): \*INCREMENT2
- 580 E:
- 590 \*REGISTER4
- 600 C: #A=144 [HUE 9 LUM 0
- 610 \*INCREMENT4
- 620 C: @B712=#A
- 630 T:712 = #A
- 640 PA:30
- 650 C:#A=#A+2
- 660 J(#A<152):\*INCREMENT4
- 670 E:



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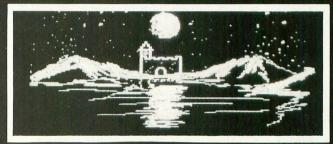
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### **MEMORY MAP**

### Page 2 continued

Memory Map is an on-going feature of ANTIC. We intend to publish the function of all the low memory RAM locations. The format for our description is:

12 \$C 2 DOSINI The Operating System variable called DOSINI uses 2 contiguous locations starting at address 12 (decimal) or C (hexidecimal).

566	\$236 4	SPARE	No Operating System Function.
570	\$23A I	CDEVIC	???
571	\$23B I	CCOMND	???
572	\$23C I	CAUXI	???
573	\$23D I	CAUX2	Command auxiliary byte.
574	\$23E	TEMP	Receives one-byte responses from serial bus controllers.
575	\$23F I	ERRFLG	Error flag any device error except timeout errors.
576	\$240 I	DFLAGS	Disk flags from sector 1, contains value of first byte of boot file.
577	\$241 1	DBSECT	Number of disk boot sectors.
578	\$242 2	BOOTAD	Address where disk boot loader will be put.
580	\$244 I	COLDST	Coldstart flag when $= 1$ then powerup in progress. When $= 0$ then S/RESET in progress. If set $= 1$ during norm program execution then S/RESET will act like powerup giving some protection.
581	\$245 I	SPARE	No Operating System Function.
582	\$246 I	DSKTIM	Disk timeout register.
583	\$247 40	LINBUF	Character line buffer used to temporarily buffer one physical line of text when screen editor is moving screen data
626	\$26F I	GPRIOR	Global priority shadow for PRIOR [\$D01B] controls priority of player/missile/playfield.
672	\$270 8	PADDL0 - PADDL7	Potentiometer 0 - 7 storage.
635	\$278 4	STICK0 - STICK3	Joystick 0 - 3 values.
636	\$27C 8	PTRIG0 - PTRIG7	Paddle trigger 0-7.
644	\$284 4	STRIG0	Joystick trigger 0 - 3.
648	\$288 I	CSTAT	No Operating System Function.
649	\$28 I	WMODE	Used by cassette handler as read/write mode flag. O = read; \$80 = write.
650	\$28A I	BLIM	Cassette record data size Count of # of data bytes being read range 1-128 depends on record control byte.
651	\$28B 4	SPARE	No Operating System Function.
656	\$290 I	TXTROW	Text row cursor range 0-3.
657	\$291 2	TXTCOL	Text column cursor range 0-39 used in split screen. These two variables give cursor position.
659	\$293 I	TINDEX	Split screen text window index always = 0 when SWPFLG[78] = 0 equivalent of DINDEX.
660	\$294 2	TXTMSC	Split screen text window version SAVMSC[58].
662	\$296 6	TXTOLD	Oldrow and old column for text and then some split screen cursor data.
668	\$29C I	TMPXI	??
669	\$29D I	HOLD3	Used by the display handler to hold scroll loop counter.
670	\$29E	SUBTMP	??
671	\$29F I	HOLD2	??
672	\$2A0 I	DMASK	??
			To be continued











### TRICKY TUTORIALS (tm)

There are many things that the ATARI computers can do either better, or easier than other small computers. The following series of programs is designed for anyone who is at least familiar with BASIC programming. What each tutorial offers is similar to an extensive magazine article with all discussion in as simple language as possible, plus you get MANY examples already typed in and running. The instruction manuals range from 10 to 50 pages, and some tutorials fill up a complete tape or disk. There is little overlap in what is taught, so anyone wanting to know all they can should buy them all (my banker thanks you). ATARI buys these from us to use in training their own people! Rave reviews have been published in ANTIC, ANALOG, CREATIVE COMPUTING, and even INFOWORLD. You trust INFOWORLD, don't you?

TT #1: DISPLAY LISTS—This program teaches you how to alter the program in the ATARI that controls the format of the screen. Normally, when you say "Graphics 8", the machine responds with a large Graphics 8 area at the top of the screen and a small text area at the bottom. Now, you will be able to mix various Graphics modes on the screen at the same time. The program does all of the difficult things (like counting scan lines). You will quickly be able to use the subroutines included in your own programs.

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TT #4: BASICS OF ANIMATION—This program shows you how to animate simple

shapes (with some sound) using the PRINT and PLOT commands, and it also has a nice little PLAYER/MISSILE GRAPHICS game you can learn from. The P/M example is explained and will get you started on this complicated subject (more fully explained in TT #5). This would be an excellent way to start making your programs come alive on the screen with movement! Recommended for beginning users.

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TT #5: PLAYER/MISSILE GRAPHICS—Learn to write your own games and other animated applications! The tutorial begins with many small examples that compliment the 50 page manual, then gradually builds up to a complete game where everything you need to know is fully explained. Also included are two machine language utilities that you can use to animate Players with from BASIC. Next we include two of the best editors currently available; one for editing playfield shapes (backgrounds); and one to edit your players, and all in glorious Technicolor!! Everything except the two editors run in 16K Tape or 32K Disk.

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TT #6: SOUND AND MUSIC—Unless you have spent many years experimenting with the four voice channels, you will learn a lot from this one! Learn to play standard notes, chords, and whole songs using some simple "tricks". One of the nicest parts are the examples of special sound effects that you can refer to whenever you need a sound for a program or to impress a friend. This program will be of interest to all ages and levels of experience!

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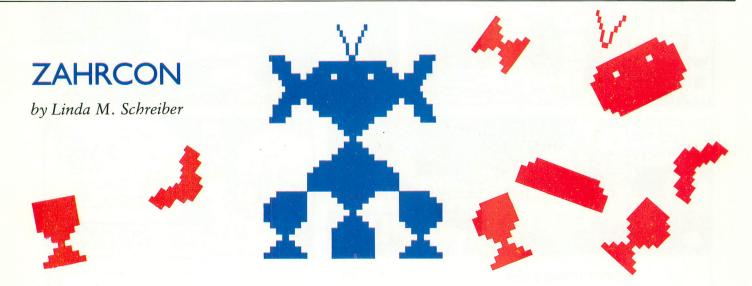
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ZAHRCON is a modification of the familiar game of HANG-MAN. This article shows you how to write it in BASIC with your ATARI computer.

The game of HANG-MAN has been written for every computer on the market today, but as an educational game it has a major flaw. It rewards the player (child) for failing to guess the word. The kids like to see the little "man" get "hung," especially when the computer enhances this outcome with a special graphics display and noises.

When developing educational games for children, we should save the positive reinforcement for correct behavior. There should not be a reward for wrong answers, especially when deliberate. ZAHRCON attempts to improve on HANG-MAN by rewarding the player for guessing correctly the letters comprising the secret word generated by the computer. Each proper letter helps build an animated "creature," accompanied by special graphics and sound.

Since ZAHRCON is designed for children, some as young as five or six, the letters displayed on the screen should be large and clear. Only one word needs to be displayed at any time, so Graphics Mode 2 is a good choice. Upper case letters with numbers and symbols will be better than lower case, and we will need to redefine some of the symbols into graphics characters that will build the creature.

To redefine a character set, we must decide which characters will not be needed in the program. We must also create our new characters to replace the old ones. Each letter, character, or symbol that is on the screen is made up of 8 bytes. Since each byte is 8 bits, a character occupies an  $8\times8$  matrix. If a bit is "on" (set to "1"), the corresponding pixel will be lit on the screen. Next, we must calculate the place in the character set where we will be putting our new characters. Figure 1 illustrates how the character set is place in ROM.

To change the character set, we must first move the character set from ROM into RAM, then replace the old character set

acters with the new ones. In this program, we will replace the character set from the quotation mark to the period. To calculate the RAM location of the first character that will be changed, we multiply its position in the character set by 8. The space, which occupies the first 8 bytes, is counted as the zeroeth position. The exclamation point is the first position, etc. The quotation marks begin with the sixteenth byte of the character set. This is where our new characters will begin. Figure 2 shows the old character set and the new character set that will replace it.

Once we have redefined our characters, we can begin our program. Our menu will offer two choices: to play the game or to end it. By moving the joystick forward and backward, we can move the arrow up or down on the screen. Press the red button on the joystick when the choice has been made.

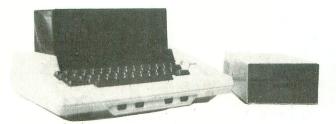
While the player is deciding whether or not to play, our creature displays some life. The winking and blinking is obtained by changing the character that is used for the creature's eyes. The character that replaces the apostrophe is used for both eyes, the quotation mark has been replaced with the left eye, the slash is now the right eye, and the asterisk is for no eyes. If the red button has not been pressed after a given amount of time, the program will choose one of the three options and PRINT it in the location of both eyes. After another set amount of time, both eyes will appear again on the screen. This same principle is used at the end of the game when the child wins. Even though it doesn't seem like much, this kind of enhancement can make the difference between a mediocre program and a good one.

The game essentially plays like HANG-MAN. The player is rewarded with another part of the creature whenever a letter is guessed that belongs in the secret word. If the child solves the word within a certain number of tries, the creature winks and blinks, and there is a graphics and sound reward.

continued on page 46

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0402 ;ADJUSTMENT = 0403 ;HIADR - LOADR 0404 ; 0405 SEC 0410 LDA HIADR 0415 SEC LOADR 0420 STA MEMADJ 0425 LDA HIADR+1 0430 SEC LOADR+1	0458 STA (LUADR),Y 0460 INY 0462 EME NXT256 0464 INC HIADR+1 0466 INC LOADR+1 0468 DEX 0470 EME NXT256 0472 NOFG CPY MOVLEN 0474 EER ADJPNT	0550 INX 0555 INX 0560 DEY 0565 ENE ADULOP 0566; 0567; RETURN TO USER 0568; 0570 RTS 0700; 0701; SEARCH BASIC'S 0702; STATEMENT TABLE FOR A 0703; LINE NUMBER => LINNER 0704; 0705 SRCHLN LDY \$2 0710 LDA (HIADR),Y 0715 STA LINLEN 0720 DEY	0750 ECS LINRET 0750 ECS LINRET 0755 ECC BMPLIN 0760 LOOKLO LDA (HIADR),Y 0765 CMP LINNER 0770 ECS LINRET 0775 BMPLIN CLC 0785 LDA LINLEN 0790 ADC HIADR 0790 ADC HIADR 0795 STA HIADR 0800 ECC SRCHLN 0805 INC HIADR+1 0810 ENE SRCHLN 0820 LINRET RTS 0959; 0960 MOVLEN .BYTE 0 0965 LINNER .BYTE 0 0966 .BYTE 0
0435 STA MEMADJ+1 0445 ; 0446 ;REMOVE DELETED SPACE	ADIO FAL	NATO FOR (UTHOU) 1	0771 +611E 0 0975   TNLEN .EYTE 0

### Listing 1 — BASIC

10 DATA 216,104,104,141,185,6,104,141,18 4,6,165,136,133,203,165,137,133,204,32,1 36,6,165,203,133,205,165,204,133 11 DATA 206,104,141,185,6,104,24,105,1,1 41,184,6,144,3,238,185,6,32,136,6,56,165 ,144,229,203,141,182,6,165,145 12 DATA 229,204,141,183,6,56,165,203,229 ,205,141,186,6,165,204,229,206,141,187,6 ,160,0,174,183,6,240,14,177,203 13 DATA 145,205,200,208,249,230,204,230, 206,202,208,242,204,182,6,240,7,177,203, 145,205,200,208,244,162,0,160,4 14 DATA 56,181,138,237,186,6,149,138,181 )139,237,187,6,149,139,232,232,136,208,2 36,96,160,2,177,203,141,1**88,6,136** 15 DATA 177,203,136,201,128,240,30,205,1 85,6,240,4,176,23,144,7,177,2**03,205,184,** 6, 176, 14, 24, 173, 188, 6, 101, 203 16 DATA 133,203,144,215,230,204,208,211, 96,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 17 RESTORE 10:FOR I=1536 TO 1724 18 READ A:POKE I,A:NEXT I 19 X=USR(1536,0,19)

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You have just been revived from four years of stasis. During your suspended animation, you have traveled 19.8 light years from Earth. Your burst-drive intersteller transport is now orbiting the fourth planet of Epsilon Gygnus. Twenty years have elapsed on Earth since you left. Life on Earth may already have been ended by the interplanetary bombs of the Tartillians. This brutal machine race has already destroyed the civilization of their humanoid creators and has sworn the destruction of all humanoid forms. As you and your comrades board your gravitron drive attack ships, you cling to the desparate hope that it is still not too late to save Earth. The Tartillians await below...

...on & P-6YG-4.

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System Requirements: Atari\* 800/400, Joystick Gontroller, 24K Machine Language Diskette, 16 K Machine Language Gassette.

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continued on next page

### POSITION IN CHARACTER DECIMAL CODE CHARACTER SET

CHARACTER	DECIMAL CODE	CHARACTER SE
[SPACE]	20	0
!	21	1
**	22	2
#	23	3
\$	24	4
%	25	5
[ctrl] A	1	64
[ctrl] B	2	65
[ctrl] C	3	66
a	97	97
b	98	98
С	99	99

The placement of the characters in the character set do not follow their decimal or ATASCII codes.

### FIGURE 2

OLD CHARACTER	<b>NEW CHARACTER</b>
**	left eye
#	antennae
\$	left top ear
%	left bottom ear
&	left top head
,	both eyes
(	right top head
)	left bottom head
25	no eyes
+	right bottom head
,	neck also part of leg
2	right top ear
	right bottom ear
/	right eye

The character set on the left will be replaced with the character on the right.

Variable	e che	ecksum	:=:	438736	Cartain and Miles at Sea
Line	num	range		Code	Length
10		110		RO	524
120		185		JE	435
186		230		ZQ	486
240	-	320		SQ	510
330	****	400		UF	561
410		490		UQ	556
500		560		Z.F	508
570		660		XL	527
670		740		FD	508
750		820		GM	572
830		910		MJ	571
920		1.003		BU	306
1004		1014		MC	1.50

320 IF X=2 THEN S=47 330 POSITION 4,4:? #6;CHR\$(S):IF C>100 TH 340 IF STRIG(0)=0 THEN 390:REM CHOICE HAS BEEN MADE 350 IF STICK(0)=15. THEN 300:REM CHECK FOR MOVEMENT ON JOYSTICK 360 POKE 77.0:IF STICK(0)=14 THEN F=P1:P1 =P1-4:IF P1<4 THEN P1=4:REM CHECK FOR TOP OF MENU 370 IF STICK(O)=13 THEN P=P1:P1=P1+4:IF P 1>8 THEN P1=8:REM CHECK FOR BOTTOM OF MEN 380 GOSUB 990:GOTO 290 390 POKE 77,0:IF P1=8 THEN FE=FRE(S):END 400 ? #6;"}":FOR X=2 TO 10:POSITION 1,X:? #6 CHR \$ (63+X): NEXT X: REM PRINT LETTERS O N THE RIGHT 410 FOR X=2 TO 10:FOSITION 2,X:? #6;CHR\$( 72+X):NEXT X 420 FOR X=2 TO 9: POSITION 3,X:? #6; CHR\$(8 1+X):NEXT X 430 X=INT(RND(0)\*15):RESTORE 1000+X 440 READ WORD\$ 450 L=LEN(WORD\$):P=10-L/2:REM POSITION TO CENTER THE QUESTION MARKS 460 FOR X=F TO F+L-1:POSITION X,11:? #6;" ?":NEXT X:REM QUESTION MARKS FOR THE LETT 470 FOR X=1 TO 26:A(X)=0:NEXT X:YWORD\$(1) =" ":YWORD\$(10)=" ":YWORD\$(2)=YWORD\$:X=1: P1=2:LT1=0:LT2=0 480 LT=0

490 S=(X-1)\*9+95+P1:POSITION X\*F1:? #6;CH R\$(S):GOSUB 990 500 IF STICK(0)=14 THEN POSITION X\*P1:? # 6 CHR \$ (S-32+A (S-96)) P1=P1-1 FF P1=1 THEN P1=10:X=X-1 510 IF X=0 THEN X=3:P1=9 520 IF STICK(0)=13 THEN POSITION X,F1:? # 6 # CHR \$ (S-32+A (S-96)) | F1=F1+1 | IF F1=11 THE N P1=2:X=X+1:IF X=4 THEN X=1 530 IF P1=10 AND X=3 THEN P1=2:X=1 535 IF STICK(O)=13 OR STICK(O)=14 THEN FO KE 77,0 540 IF STRIG(0)=0 THEN 560 550 GOTO 490 560 POKE 77,0:IF A(S-96)=128 THEN 480 570 A(S-96)=128:REM KEEP LETTER BLUE SCREEN 580 S=S-32:REM GET TRUE CHARACTER VALUE 590 FOR C=1 TO LEN(WORD\$):IF ASC(WORD\$(C, C))=S THEN POSITION P+C-1,11:7 #6;CHR\$(S) :YWORD\$(C,C)=CHR\$(S):LT=1 600 NEXT C 610 IF LT=1 THEN 630 620 GOTO 740 630 SN=50:LT1=LT1+1:GOTO 630+LT1\*10 640 POSITION 5,7:? #6; "&": POSITION 5,8:? #6;",":GOTO 880 650 POSITION 7,7:? #6;",":POSITION 7,8:? #6; "\*":GOTO 880 660 POSITION 9,7:? #6; "(": POSITION 9,8:? #6;",":GOTO 880 670 POSITION 6,6:? #6; \*\* ( \*: GOTO 880

continued on next page

### **BUFFER/EPSON PRINTERS**

Reviewed by Ken Harms

As you have probably noticed the ATARI can put letters on the screen faster than any printer can print them. To compensate for this speed discrepancy most printers have a small amount of "onboard" memory which acts to buffer the incoming data. The buffer fills when the ATARI issues a print command. The fill occurs at relatively high speed. The ATARI then must wait while the printer empties the buffer as it prints at a relative snails pace. This fast fill, long wait cycle repeats until the current print job is completed. It is very wasteful of your time.

If the buffer were larger the print/wait cycle would be much shorter. Practical Peripherals now sells a buffer for all Epsons which holds over 16,000 characters. This board, the MBP-16K, fits inside the Epson and connects to the ATARI 850 Interface, if you own an Epson, you can add this powerful accessory for \$159.000.

I called the Practical Peripherals folks

and ordered one. Good service; it arrived in a few days — always a good sign. Even I had no trouble following the simple instructions: open the Epson, remove taped-in plastic door, plug in board (needed a number 0 Phillips screwdriver), close Epson, plug in printer cable. In less than five minutes, I was buffering!

What productivity! My Visicalc sheet with 50 rows of 17 columns each 12 spaces wide is in the printer in less than 10 seconds!. Of course, the printer churns away for another three minutes but I've gone on to save that sheet, call in another and start modifying it. I don't feel bad running a draft of this article in Letter Perfect — it takes only 8 seconds.

After connecting the Macrotronics graphics interface, I dump a full graphic screen to the buffer in 31 seconds. By my calculations, the ATARI drives the buffered Epson at a rate of 750 to 800

Practical Peripherals, Inc. 31245 La Baya Drive Westlake Village, CA 91362 \$159

characters per second, about 10 times as fast as the printer without a buffer.

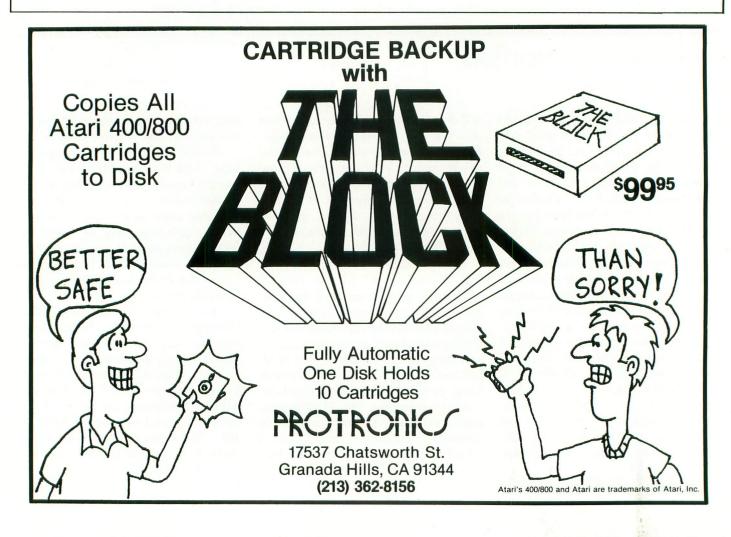
The buffer holds about four pages at a time. The Practical Peripheral buffer handles larger jobs by accepting the first 16,000 characters in one stream and a new line every time a line is printed. While this is happening, of course, the ATARI slows down to printer speed.

I also installed the board in an MX-100 with the new Graftrax Plus; it worked perfectly.

After extensive testing (the publisher owes me a new ribbon!), I found that the Practical Peripherals MBP-16K operated perfectly, with no hassle, on all tested software. After many contacts to verify the results of my testing, I found the staff to be knowledgeable and helpful. If you have an Epson, I recommend the MBP-16K. When you order, be sure to tell them it's for an ATARI and that you want "Revision 2.11" or later.

680 POSITION 7,5:? #6;",":GOTO 880 690 POSITION 6,4:? #6;")\*+":POSITION 6,3: ? #6; "&\*(":GOTO 880 700 POSITION 5,3:? #6; "\$": POSITION 5,4:? #6; "%":GOTO 880 710 POSITION 9,3:? #6; "-": FOSITION 9,4:? #6;".":GOTO 880 720 POSITION 7,3:? #6; "/ ":GOTO 880 730 POSITION 7,2:? #6; # ": POSITION X,P1:? #6;CHR\$(S+128):GOTO 880 740 SN=90:LT2=LT2+1:GOTO 740+LT2\*10 750 POSITION 14,7:? #6; "&": POSITION 14,8: ? #6;",":GOTO 880 760 POSITION 16,7:? #6; ", ": POSITION 16,8: ? #6; "\*":GOTO 880 770 POSITION 18,7:? #6;"(":FOSITION 18,8: ? #6;",":GOTO 880 780 POSITION 15,6:? #6; "&\*(":GOTO 880 790 POSITION 16,5:? #6;",":GOTO 880 800 POSITION 15,4:? #6;")\*+":POSITION 15, 3:? #6; "&\*(":GOTO 880 810 POSITION 14,3:? #6; "\$": FOSITION 14,4: ? #6; "%":GOTO 880 820 POSITION 18,3:? #6;"-":FOSITION 18,4: ? #6;".":GOTO 880 830 POSITION 16,3:? #6; "/ ":GOTO 880 840 POSITION 16,2:? #6; # ": POSITION X, P1: ? #6;CHR\$(S+128) 850 POSITION P,11:? #6; WORD\$: SOUND 0,200, 10,10:GOSUB 990:SOUND 0,0,0,0 860 IF STRIG(0)=0 THEN GOSUB 990: POSITION 0,0:GOTO 210 870 GOTO 860 880 FOR SS=16 TO 0 STEP -2:SOUND 0,SN,10,

SS:NEXT SS 890 IF YWORD\$(1,L)<>WORD\$ THEN 480 900 IF LT1<10 THEN 630:REM FINISH BODY 910 POSITION 6,1:? #6;" ":GOSUB 99 O:POSITION 6,1:? #6; "HURRAY!!":X=INT(RND( 1)\*3)+1:ON X GOTO 920,930,940 920 S=42:GOTO 950 930 S=47:GOTO 950 940 5=34 950 IF STRIG(0)=0 THEN GOSUB 990:GOTO 210 960 POSITION 7,3:? #6;CHR\$(S):REM PRINT A N EYE 970 GOSUB 990 980 POSITION 7,3:? #6; "/":GOSUB 990:GOTO 910 990 FOR TIME=1 TO 50:NEXT TIME:RETURN 1000 DATA COULD 1001 DATA COUPLE 1002 DATA KENNEL 1003 DATA KINDS 1004 DATA CROCODILE 1005 DATA FRECKLES 1006 DATA BACKWARDS 1007 DATA PACKAGE 1008 DATA NICKEL 1009 DATA MECHANIC 1010 DATA LEPRECHAUN 1011 DATA ORCHESTRA 1012 DATA SKUNK 1013 DATA TRAGIC 1014 DATA ANTIQUE



640 REM READ JOYSTICK AND SET PLAYER

650 REM PARAMETERS APPROPRIATELY.

660 ST=STICK(0)

670 IF ST=15 THEN 590

680 IF ST=6 OR ST=10 OR ST=14 THEN YSPIDER=YSPIDER-1:YLINE=YLINE-2

690 IF ST>4 AND ST<8 THEN XSPIDER=XSPIDER+2:XLINE=XLINE+1

700 IF ST=5 OR ST=13 OR ST=9 THEN YSPIDER=YSPIDER+1;YLINE=YLINE+2

710 IF ST>8 AND ST<12 THEN XSPIDER=XSPIDER-2:XLINE=XLINE-1

720 REM VERTICAL MOTION OF PLAYER

730 SPIDER\$(YSPIDER, YSPIDER+7)=SSPIDER\$

740 SPIDER\$(YSPIDER-8,YSPIDER-1)=ERASE\$

750 SPIDER\$(YSPIDER+8,YSPIDER+15)=ERASE\$

760 REM CHECK FOR CURSOR OUT OF RANGE

770 IF XSPIDER<41 THEN XSPIDER=41:XLINE=XLINE+1

780 IF XSPIDER>199 THEN XSPIDER=199:XLINE=XLINE-1

790 IF YSPIDER<14 THEN YSPIDER=14:YLINE=YLINE+2

800 IF YSPIDER>109 THEN YSPIDER=109:YLINE=YLINE-2

810 REM HORIZONTAL MOTION OF FLAYER

820 POKE 53248,XSPIDER

830 REM DRAW SPIDER TRAIL

840 DRAWTO XLINE, YLINE

850 GOTO 590

860 REM ROUTINE TO DRAW FRAME, THIS

870 REM SHOWS LIMITS OF SCREEN.

880 COLOR 1

890 PLOT 0.0:DRAWTO 79,0:DRAWTO 79,191:DRAWTO 0,191:DRAWTO 0,0:RETURN

If you don't have a GTIA chip, you can still play. Just make the following changes to the listing.

130 GRAPHICS 7+16

530 C=0:XLINE=79:YLINE=35

540 SETCOLOR 4,0,0:POKE 704,8

542 SETCOLOR 0,3,8:SETCOLOR 1,6,8 544 SETCOLOR 2,9,8

610 IF C>3 THEN C=0

620 COLOR C: POKE 704, C\*48+8

680 IF ST=6 OR ST=10 OR ST=14 THEN YSPIDER=YSPIDER-1: YLINE=YLINE-1

690 IF ST>4 AND ST<8 THEN XSPIDER=XSPIDER+1:XLINE= XLINE+1

700 IF ST=5 OR ST=13 OR ST=9 THEN YSPIDER=YSPIDER+1: YLINE=YLINE+1

710 IF ST>8 AND ST<12 THEN XSPIDER=XSPIDER-1:XLINE= XLINE-1

790 IF YSPIDER<14 THEN YSPIDER=14:YLINE=YLINE+1 800 IF YSPIDER>108 THEN YSPIDER=108:YLINE=YLINE-1

890 PLOT 0,0:DRAWTO 0,95:DRAWTO 159,95:DRAWTO 159,0: DRAWTO 0,0:RETURN

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### **THRESHOLD**

On-Line Systems 36575 Mudge Ranch Road Coarsegold, CA 93614 40K disk (no cassette); ?

Reviewed by Beth Kaplan

If you're looking for a challenging "shoot-'em-up" space game, try Threshold. The excellent graphics and animation combine for an exciting, yet frustrating time.

Your ship, the Threshold, has the job of defending the trade routes from wave and after of enemy ships. The action is smooth and fast, and the shapes and colors are imaginative and very well executed.

There are 24 different types of enemy spacecraft to be eliminated, each with a unique attack pattern. Some are "kamikazie" pilots that dive down suddenly and destroy your gun! Other ships will disappear off the play field only to reappear someplace else, sometimes right on top of the Threshold. The enemy has six groups of four different ships. So far, I've only been able to reach the fourth group.

If you survived four waves of assailants, a reward of fuel is offered. Fighting stops, the Threshold is automatically moved to the center of the screen, and a mother ship docks. Lasers are cooled and fuel is refilled.

Your mission is completed with the destruction of the last group of aliens. The last group has special characteristics, which the authors refuse to reveal. Their only comment is that when players get there, they'll know!

Four levels of play are available; fast or slow speed, with or without a star background. The stars make the game more difficult because some stars are the same color as the alien bombs. The player gets five ships per game. A bonus ship is awarded at 50,000 points, and another for every 100,000 points after that.

The screen display is relatively simple. On the left is the play field. On the right side are two columns. One column measures fuel consumption. If you run out of fuel, the game is over. The other column indicates the temperature of the laser weapon. When it overheats, the player cannot shoot until it cools sufficiently.

Threshold features two types of defense, lasers and the hyper-warp drive. By pulling back on the joystick, enemy movement and firing rate is slowed, while the Threshold retains its normal powers.

Threshold is one of the better arcade games available for the ATARI. Care has been taken to provide an entertaining and well-developed program. Threshold is the type of game about which you say, "Just one more game and then I'll shut it off", but never do. It's that addicting!

### WORDRACE

Don't Ask Computer Software 2265 Westwood Blvd. B-150 Los Angeles, CA 90064 \$00.00 from dealer or direct from publisher

Reviewed by Ron Mitchel

The wordsmiths at Don't Ask have divided a dictionary of 2000 words into a word game of three levels. The Beginner's level contains words that should be moderately difficult for grade school age. The Regular level has words that are

seldom used and should be known by high school students. The Challenge level would be difficult for even the most devoted crossword puzzle fan.

As many as four players can compete in each game. Each player has a menu of six definitions of a given word. A "clock" starts counting backwards from 600 points as soon as the word appears on the television screen. If the word is defined correctly, the number of points on the "clock" is added to the player's score. If the word is incorrectly defined, then the points are subtracted from the score and the player continues until the word is defined or the clock runs out.

WORDRACE, according to Don't Ask, will increase the players' vocabulary skills. I must agree. Without WORDRACE I never would have learned the meaning of rimrose or pottle. I also found myself checking the dictionary quite often to see if their definition was correct. Except for one word, my dictionary always agreed with theirs.

Don't Ask Software are the folks that created Abuse, the tricky little program that allows you and your ATARI Home Computer to trade insults. WORD-RACE is up to the standards that Don't Ask set with Abuse. The graphics could have been better done perhaps, but then this is a word game.

When my daughters, ages 11 and 12, tried WORDRACE they were frustrated searching for the correct keyboard keys to press to define each word. Perhaps a choice of six definitions is too many for younger players.

Don't Ask plans a series of diskettes, including an additional dictionary of words and a "Famous Names". All will use WORDRACE as the "boot up" program.

### Listing 1 — TYPO for Atari BASIC

### Variable checksum = 50796

### Result of using TYPO to check itself

Line num range	Code	Length	(MUST have changed 32000 to 32500 in lines 32180 and
32000 - 32200	QD	518	32200 first!)
32220 - 32290	WQ	310	

```
32000 REM Type Your Program Once -- "TYPO"
32100 CLR :DIM Q$(20):QF=7:CLOSE #QF:? "File for output ";
3211Ø INPUT Q$:OPEN #QF,12,Ø,Q$:QREM=Ø
3213Ø QCNT=1:FOR QADDR=PEEK(13Ø)+256*PEEK(131) TO PEEK(132)+256*PEEK(133)-1
32140 QSUM=QSUM+PEEK(QADDR)*QCNT:QCNT=QCNT+1:NEXT QADDR
32150 ? #QF; "Variable checksum = "; OSUM:? #OF
3216Ø QADDR=PEEK(136)+256*PEEK(137):? #OF;"
                                             Line num range Code Length"
3217Ø QLINE=PEEK(QADDR)+256*PEEK(QADDR+1)
32180 IF QLINE>=32000 THEN END
3219Ø QLEN=Ø:QSUM=QLEN:QCNT=QLEN:? #QF;" ";QLINE,"- ";
32200 IF NOT (QCNT<12 AND QLEN<500 AND QLINE<32000) THEN 32270
3222Ø QLEN=QLEN+PEEK(QADDR+2):QCNT=QCNT+1
32230 IF PEEK(QADDR+4)=0 AND OREM THEN CADDR=OADDR+PEEK(QADDR+2):GOTO 32260
32240 FOR QADDR=QADDR TO QADDR+PEEK(QADDR+2)-1
3225Ø QSUM=QSUM+PEEK(QADDR): NEXT QADDR
32260 Q$=STR$(QLINE):QLINF=PEEK(QADDR)+256*PEEK(QADDR+1):GOTO 32200
3227Ø QSUM=QSUM-676*INT(QSUM/676):QCNT=INT(QSUM/26)
32280 ? #QF;Q$,CHR$(65+QCNT);CHR$(65+QSUM-26*QCNT);"
                                                        "; OLEN
3229Ø GOTO 3218Ø
```

### Listing 2 — TYPO + for BASIC A +

### Variable checksum = 50796

### Result of using TYPO + to check itself

Line num range	Code	Length	(MUST have changed 32000 to 32500 in lines 32180 and
32000 - 32220	PH	478	32200 first!)
32230 - 32300	JG	243	

```
37000 REM TYPE YOUR PROGRAM ONCE FOR BASIC A+ -- "TYPO+"
32100 CLR :DIM Q$(20):QF=7:CLOSE #QF
3211Ø INPUT "File for output ? ",Q$:OPEN #QF,12,Ø,Q$:QREM=Ø
32130 QCNT=1:FOR QALDR=DPEEK(130) TO DPEEK(132)-1:QSUM=QSUM+PEEK(QADLR)*QCNT
       QCNT=QCNT+1:NEXT QADDR
32150 ? #QF; " Variable checksum = ";QSUM:? #QF
3216Ø QADDR=DPEEK(136):? #QF; Line num range
                                                  Code Length"
3217Ø QLINE=DPEEK(QADDR)
32180 WHILE OLINE<32000
        QLEN=Ø:QSUM=QLEN:QCNT=QLEN:? #QF; USING "#####
                                                        /- ",OLINE;
32190
        WHILE QCNT<12 AND QLEN<500 AND QLINE<32000
32200
          OLEN=OLEN+PEFK (QADDR+2):QCNT=QCNT+1
32220
          IF QREM AND NOT PEEK(QADDR+4):QADDR=QADDR+PEEK(QADDR+2)
32230
            ELSE
32235
            FOR QAPDR=QADDR TO QADDR+PEEK(QAPDR+2)-1
32240
              QSUM=QSUM+PEEK(QAPDR): NEXT QAPDR
32250
32255
            ENDIF
3226Ø
          Q$=STR$(QLINE):QLINE=DPEEK(QADDR)
32265
          ENDWHILE
        OSUM=OSUM-676*INT(QSUM/676):QCNT=INT(QSUM/26)
3227Ø
        ? #QF;Q$,CHR$(65+QCNT);CHR$(65+QSUM-26*QCNT);"
                                                           ":OLEN
32280
32290
        ENDWHILE
32300 END
```



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ATMASD (macro-assembler)
Manufactured by:
ELCOMP, Inc.
53 Redrock Lane
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(714) 632-8314
Price: \$89.00
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ATMASD means ATARI Macro-Assembler, Disk version. This is a soft-ware tool from ELCOMP that combines the abilities of several of its products into a masterful whole. The product is meant for use in Assembly Language programming, and essentially provides a way to move about in the program, see what has been done, examine registers and memory locations, make specific changes, and when ready, compile the completed program.

Some tool of this kind is necessary for machine language programming. ATMASD includes a machine language monitor (available separately as ATMONA-1 for \$19.95), and an assembly language editor (available separately as ATAS for \$49.95).

### DATA PERFECT ATARI

(program)
Manufactured by:
LJK Enterprises
P.O. Box 10827
St. Louis, MO 63129
(314) 846-6124
Price: \$99.95
Diskette

This data base program for the ATARI 400 or 800 requires 32K RAM. It is compatible with LJK's "Letter Perfect" word processor program and drives any parallel printer.

DATA PERFECT ATARI is written in machine language, so is very compact, and eliminates disk-swapping. It is menudriven, but allows the user to design his own screen mask. Multiple searches and sorts are possible. Output includes reports (lists) and labels. Mathematical operations, including formulas, can be performed on or between fields. A complete disk utility section is included, and the program will support one or two disk drives.

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These programs simulate chemistry experiments that can be used with a group, or individually. They are designed by a chemistry professor, and are interactive with the student(s).

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Data transfer time is increased up to seven times normal, significantly reducing "waiting-time" for busy programmers. It can also be used for fast duplication of diskettes by driving a chain of up to eight drives (\$375 each); or serve as a word processing disk conversion system.

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ATTACK AT EP-CYG-4 (game) Manufactured by: BRAM Inc. 18779 Kenlake Pl. NE. Seattle, WA 98155 (206) 644-3425

You have just been revived from four years of stasis. The brutal machine race called Tartillians have already destroyed their humanoid creators and have sworn the destruction of all humanoid forms. As you board your gravitron drive attack ship, you cling to the hope that it is not too late to save Earth. The Tartillians await below . . . on EP-CYG-4.

This unique new game from BRAM requires 24K disk version, 16K cassette version. There are 3 different missions to choose from on the disk, and 2 on the cassette.

### CROSSWORD MAGIC

Manufactured by: L&S Computerware 1589 Fraser Drive Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (408) 738-3416 Price: \$49.95

This program generates crossword puzzles. You provide the words and definitions, it connects them and designs the format. Somewhere between a game and a tool, Crossword Magic should be educational as well as fun. Puzzles can be generated around any theme (eg. ATARI) in any matrix from 3X3 to 20X20.

It requires the ATARI 800 with 40K and a disk drive, and will print out on most graphics-capable printers. A version for the ATARI 400 is in the works.

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### TURTLE GRAPHICS

Part |

by Gordon Smith



This is the first of two articles on implementing a Turtle Graphics system in FORTH.

Let me make two quick points about FORTH:

- Doing this project in any other computer language would have been so involved that I would never have done it, and so lengthy that this magazine would never have published it.
- Doing it in FORTH was so easy it took me considerably longer to write the English for this article than the FORTH!

Those of you who have Pink Noise Studios' pns-FORTH (I use version 1.4) can edit the screens accompanying these articles "as is" and start turtle-ing. If you have another implementation of FORTH for the ATARI, some revisions are inevitable. I have used words like PLOT and DRAWTO, that pns-FORTH provides for making graphics calls to the ATARI's operating system. Your system may already have similar words. In Part 2 (next issue), I'll discuss the functions of any non-fig-FORTH words that I've used.

### Turtle Graphics Versus Coordinate Graphics

"Turtle Graphics" is a simple but powerful approach to creating graphic designs with a computer. It was originally developed in the 1960's at MIT — primarily by computer scientist, child psychologist, and educator Seymour Papert — as part of the LOGO system.

Let me give you a very simple example of how it works. Suppose we want to draw a square on the screen, 10 units on a side. The sequence of commands

10 DRAW

90 TURN

10 DRAW

OO TUDN

90 TURN

10 DRAW

90 TURN

10 DRAW

90 TURN

or, in a shorter form,

4 ( 10 DRAW 90 TURN )

requests an imaginary turtle on the screen to crawl 10 units forward, draw a line as it goes, turn 90 degrees clockwise, repeat four times. The turtle will leave behind a square.

By typing

DEFINE SQUARE AS 4 ( 10 MOVE 90 TURN ) END we can add the new command SQUARE to our turtle's graphics repertoire. Then typing the single command

**SOUARE** 

will have the same effect as our previous sequence of commands. For example, to draw a square tilted by thirty degrees, we need only to type

30 TURN SOUARE

The conventional approach to graphics, in which one must specify fixed screen coordinates and the endpoints of each line is much more complicated.

The principle advantage of Turtle Graphics is that it describes shapes in an intrinsic way, without referring to where they are or how they're oriented. The numbers used in Turtle Graphics represent easily visualizable things, like lengths of lines, or angles.

A further important aspect of a Turtle Graphics system is the nature of the programming it encourages: structured, modular, and hierarchichal. The DEFINE . . . AS . . . END construct shown above is the key to this. Basic subdesigns can be made into new turtle commands which are then as much a part of the turtle's language as the predefined system commands. These higher-level commands can then be used to define still higher ones, and so on.

For example, a simple picture of a house like that in Figure 1 could be drawn with a long sequence of DRAWs and TURNs (along with another command for the turtle to move without drawing). But the structure of the design cries out for the programmer to instead first enrich the turtle's vocabulary by defining commands such as, perhaps, RECTANGLE, WINDOW, DOOR, FRONT, AND ROOF, before using these higher-level command to define on called HOUSE.

### The FORTH Advantage

FORTH is so ideally suited to Turtle Graphics that, in a sense, implementing it is a trivial exercise.

The most complicated aspect of Turtle Graphics is the problem of providing a programming environment in which

turtle commands can be executed. Such a capability is already intrinsic to FORTH, while it is quite foreign to conventional languages like BASIC.

The point here is that the turtle's language can be just an extension of the FORTH language — turtle commands are simply FORTH words. There is no need to write an extensible command language processor. That's what a FORTH system already is!

### What the Screens Contain

The ten screens of FORTH listed in this article lay the necessary foundations for us to build a Turtle Graphics system in Part 2 (next issue). The words here are not specifically turtle-oriented. Rather, they extend FORTH's capabilities in directions particularly useful to the application.

Screens 1, 2, and 3 add some trigonometric capability to FORTH. If the turtle is to move 10 units forward at 30 degrees from the vertical, we need to compute how far up and how far over she goes. For this we use a lookup-table approach. Scaling the values by 10000 enables us to store them as single-precision integers. The words SIN\* and COS\* are the result of this. For example,

10 30 SIN\*

leaves 5, or 10 times the sine of 30 degrees, on the stack; and this is how far over the turtle would move.

Screen 4a makes available a defining word, VALUE, for a new data type. An alternative to CONSTANT and VARIABLE, VALUE words tend to make FORTH code more readable. They are best explained by the following example:

VALUE A VALUE B VALUE C

ok 2 TO A 3 TO B ok A . B . 2 3 ok A B + TO C C . 5 ok

VALUE words return their value when executed, except when they are preceded by TO; in which case they store the top of the stack into themselves. (This idea has been discussed in the FORTH DIMENSIONS newsletter of the Forth Interest Group.)

In screen 4a the words TO and VALUE are defined in assembly language, rather than FORTH, so that they will execute as fast as CONSTANTs and VARIABLEs. If you don't have an assembler, use the alternate FORTH code on screen 4b.

Screens 5 through 8, culminating in the word CLIP, implement a line-clipping algorithm. We want the turtle to be able to cross the edge of the screen, so that if we execute SQUARE when she is near the top we'll get a clipped box. But the opearing system will refuse to draw a line whose endpoints aren't both within the screen boundaries. Therefore, we must be able to calculate the endpoints of the portion of the line which lies on the screen. If we give CLIP the coordinates of two points, it first determines whether any part of the line between them lies within a "clipping rectangle" whose extent we can specify by setting the values of

LEFT, RIGHT, TOP, and BOTTOM. (Note that these words are in the vocabulary CLIPPING). If so, it returns the coordinates of the endpoints of the portion within the clipping rectangle, and a true flag. If not, it returns only a false flag.

For example, suppose we set the clipping rectangle to be the size of the mode-7 graphics screen with

CLIPPING
0 TO LEFT
159 TO RIGHT
0 TO TOP
79 TO BOTTOM
Then

30 30 50 50 CLIP

leaves 30 30 50 50 1 on the stack because the line between (30,30) and (50,50) is completely within the clipping rectangle. But

80 100 200 40 CLIP

leaves 122 79 159 61 1 because only the portion between (122,79) and (159,61) of the specified line lies inside the clipping rectangle. And

200 200 300 300 CLIP

leaves 0 because no part of the line lies inside. The Cohen-Sutherland algorithm that CLIP uses is described in detail in Chapter 5, "Clipping and Windowing", of Newman and Sproull's *Principles of Interactive Computer Graphics*.

The last screen, number 9, defines the word GRAPHICS for opening the screen in the graphics mode specified by the top the stack, and LINE, which takes the coordinates of two endpoints and draws the clipped part of it on the screen.

If you want to see the clipping in action, before the rest of the code is given in Part 2, try the following: Define the words BORDER, RANDOM\_LINE, and RANDOM\_LINES as

### : BORDER

CLIPPING
1 COLOR
LEFT BOTTOM PLOT
LEFT TOP DRAWTO
RIGHT TOP DRAWTO
RIGHT BOTTOM DRAWTO
LEFT BOTTOM DRAWTO;
: RANDOM\_LINE
4 0 DO CRANDOM LOOP LINE;
: RANDOM\_LINES
0 DO RANDOM\_LINE LOOP;
and then type
CLIPPING
20 TO LEFT

See you next issue!

100 RANDOM\_LINES

140 TO RIGHT

**60 TO BOTTOM** 

20 TO TOP

7 GRAPHICS

**BORDER** 

### FORTH FACTORY listings

```
Turtle Graphics I, screen 1
DECIMAL
TABLE SINES
0000 , 0175 , 0349 , 0523 , 0698 ,
0872 , 1045 , 1219 , 1392 , 1564 ,
1736 , 1908 , 2079 , 2250 , 2419 ,
2588 , 2756 , 2924 , 3090 , 3256 ,
3420 , 3584 , 3746 , 3907 , 4067 ,
4226 , 4384 , 4540 , 4695 , 4848 ,
5000 , 5150 , 5299 , 5446 , 5592 ,
5736 , 5878 , 6018 , 6157 , 6293 ,
6428 , 6561 , 6691 , 6820 , 6947 ,
7071 , 7193 , 7314 , 7431 , 7547 ,
7660 , 7771 , 7880 , 7986 , 8090 ,
8192 , 8290 , 8387 , 8480 , 8572 ,
8660 , 8746 , 8829 , 8910 , 8988 ,
9063 , 9135 , 9205 , 9272 , 9336 ,
9397 , 9455 , 9511 , 9563 , 9613 ,
9659 , 9703 , 9744 , 9781 , 9816 ,
9848 , 9877 , 9903 , 9925 , 9945 ,
9962 , 9976 , 9986 , 9994 , 9998 ,
10000 . -->
   Turtle Graphics I, screen 2
: (SIN) ( n1 --- n2 )
     DUP 90 > IF
  180 SHAP - THEN
            SINES ;
: SIN ( n1 --- n2 )
  ( Returns 10000 times the sine )
  ( of n1 degrees. )
                 360 MOD
               DUP OK IF
              360 + THEN
            DUP 180 > IF
  180 - (SIN) MINUS ELSE
              (SIN) THEN :
: COS ( n1 --- n2 )
  ( Returns 10000 times the cosine )
  ( of n1 degrees. )
 360 MOD 90 + SIN :
-->
```

```
( 32 Turtle Graphics I, screen 3
: SİN* ( n1 n2 --- n3 )
  ( Returns n1 times the sine of )
  ( n2 degrees. )
  SIN 10000 x/;
: COS* ( n1 n2 --- n3 )
  ( Returns of times the cosine of )
  ( n2 degrees. )
  COS 10000 x/;
-->
( 33 Turtle Graphics I, screen 4a
0 VARIABLE TO-FLAG
CODE TO ( --- )
  1 # LDA, TO-FLAG STA,
     NEXT JMF', END-CODE
: VALUE
                      0 CONSTANT
                           ; CODE
             TO-FLAG LDA, 0= IF,
        2 # LDY, W )Y LDA, PHA,
  INY, W )Y LDA, PUSH JMP, ELSE,
          0 # LDA, TO-FLAG STA,
    BOT LDA, 2 # LDY, W )Y STA,
     BOT 1+ LDA, INY, W )Y STA,
                  FOR JMF, THEN,
                        END-CODE
-->
( 34 Turtle Graphics I, screen 4b
0 VARIABLE TO-FLAG
; TO
  1 TO-FLAG ! ;
: VALUE
         <BUILDS 0 ,
  DOES> TO-FLAG @ IF
        0 TO-FLAG !
                ELSE
               THEN :
                    continued on next page
```

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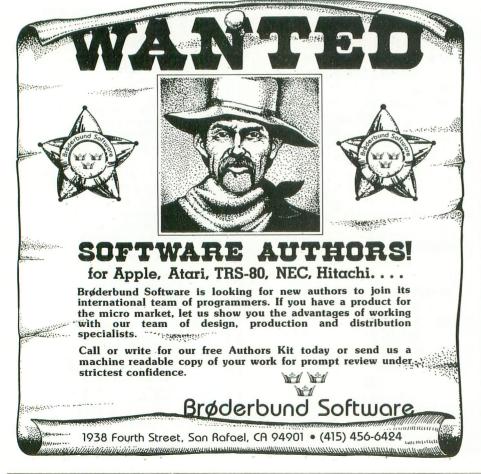
BINARY CORPORATION

```
Turtle Graphics I. screen 5
VOCABULARY CLIPPING IMMEDIATE
CLIPPING DEFINITIONS
VALUE LEFT
                    VALUE TOP
VALUE RIGHT
                    VALUE BOTTOM
2 BASE !
: CODE (p --- ri)
            OVER TOP < IF
    1000 + SWAP DROP ELSE
        SWAP BOTTOM > IF
             0100 + THEN
                     THEN
           OVER LEFT < IF
    0001 + SWAP DROP ELSE
         SWAP RIGHT > IF
             0010 + THEN
                     THEN :
    Turtle Graphics I, screen 6
VALUE X1
```

VALUE Y1

```
VALUE C1
UALLIE X2
VALUE Y2
VALUE C2
VALUE C
: CLIP_X ( n1 --- n2 )
      Y1 -
   X2 X1 -
   Y2 Y1 -
  x/X1+;
: CLIP Y ( n1 --- n2 )
      X1 -
   Y2 Y1 -
   X2 X1 -
  w/ Y1 + :
-->
( 37 Turtle Graphics I, screen 7
2 BASE !
: WHERE?
          ( --- p )
                   C 0001 AND IF
          LEFT LEFT CLIP_Y ELSE
                   C 0010 AND IF
```

```
RIGHT RIGHT CLIP Y ELSE
                 C 0100 AND IF
   BOTTOM CLIP_X BOTTOM ELSE
                C 1000 AND IF
        TOP CLIP_X TOP THEN
                          THEN
                           THEN
                            THEN :
DECIMAL
          (p --- )
: HERE!
                            CC1 = IF
  TO Y1 TO X1 X1 Y1 CODE TO C1 ELSE
  TO Y2 TO X2 X2 Y2 CODE TO C2 THEN;
( 38 Turtle Graphics I, screen 8
FORTH DEFINITIONS
: CLIF
         (p1 p2 --- p1' p2' t)
                or
         ( p1 p2 --- f
                          CLIFFING
          TO X2 X2 Y2 CODE TO C2
   TO Y2
   TO Y1
          TO X1 X1 Y1 CODE TO C1
                             BEGIN
                    C1 C2 OR WHILE
                     C1 C2 AND IF
                        0 IS THEN
                            C1 IF
                     C1 TO C ELSE
                     C2 TO C THEN
               WHERE? HERE! REPEAT
                     X1 Y1 X2 Y2 1 ;
--'>
( 39 Turtle Graphics I, screen 9
: GRAPHICS ( n --- )
  ( Clears the screen and sets it up )
  ( for graphics mode n with a text )
  ( window. )
  >R SETUP S
               CLOSE S
   SPLIT-SCREEN R> GR. :
: LINE ( p1 p2 --- )
  ( Displays whatever piece of the )
  ( line from p1 to p2 is within )
  ( the clipping window. )
       CL# @ COLOR
           CLIP IF
  PLOT DRAWTO THEN ;
```



Reviewed by Cassie Stahl

### ATARI LEARNING BY USING

by Thomas E. Rowley Copyright by Inc. W. Hofacker GmbH 53 Redrock Lane Ponoma, CA 91766

If you've finished your ATARI BASIC book by Albrecht and do not understand the Hardware/Software Manual yet, then this book may be for you. Thomas Rowleys' "ATARI BASIC—Learning by Using," will teach you some valuable techniques that will add a lot of diversity to your programs! This book is so thin you'd be apt to pass it up. Please don't. You'll be pleasantly surprised at the amount of information packed into these 73 pages.

The book gives you some simple sample programs. Type them into your ATARI and watch the action. These are deceptive programs to look at. They are so short that you won't be expecting the complex results.

One program illustrates how you can squeeze more colors out of Graphics 8 mode.

You'll also learn how to draw a circle and a star in graphics 7 & 8. Would a cover page add some extra pizazz to your program?

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There are several games in this book, yours free for the typing. Try them out and with a little study you'll learn even more.

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