

# POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

23 September 1982 Vol 1 No 23

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### How to submit articles

Articles which are submitted for publication should not be more than 1000 words long.

All submissions should be typed and a double space should be left between each line.

Programs should, whenever possible, be computer printed.

At present we cannot guarantee to return every submitted article, so please keep a copy.

### Accuracy

*Popular Computing Weekly* cannot accept any responsibility for any errors in programs we publish, although we will always try our best to make sure programs work.

## This Week



Cover illustration by Teoman Irmak

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## Editorial

Aladdin's Cave is not a new type of adventure game. It is an aptly named treasure house of 'free' software games, according to Prestel.


The idea behind the scheme is that, with the aid of a Prestel adaptor, you dial up Aladdin's Cave and see what programs are on offer. If any of the games take your fancy, you can download them directly into your micro.

On the surface, Aladdin's Cave is an excellent idea. But the services of the genie are not free. Apart from the cost of the adaptor, you must join Prestel's Micronet 800 scheme (*Popular Computing Weekly*, September 16) which costs about £50 a year.

In addition, the best programs are unlikely to be in Aladdin's Cave. They will be available elsewhere in the Micronet system, at commercial rates. Unlike Aladdin's Cave, you will be charged for downloading these programs.

Nevertheless, Aladdin's Cave and the Micronet 800 scheme could change the face of the software market in this country. It will certainly be easier to download a program than to go out, buy a cassette and load it into your micro. Whether or not it will be cheaper remains to be seen.

## Next Week



Journey to the centre of the earth and beyond, in Tunnel — a new game for ZX81.

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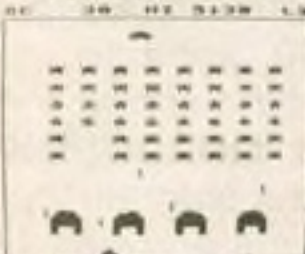
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Actual screen photo

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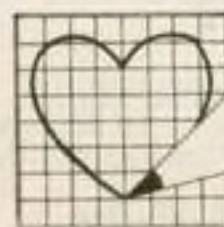
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## New Rom for BBC micro in November

ACORN is to charge owners of the BBC micro for 1.0 operating systems to replace the present 0.1. The new Series 1 Roms should be available by the middle of November.

In the case of orders for the Acorn disc interface (which costs £70) the new operating system will be supplied free. Owners not wishing the disc interface will pay £11.50, says Acorn's Technical Adviser, David Simpson.

Several aspects of the present 0.1 operating system are causing problems for users: the 0.1 will not support paged Roms — including disc operating system teletext adaptor or Econet system; there are problems with the Save and Load facilities and with some of the Fx calls.

These difficulties have been corrected in the new Roms. David Simpson explains: "The new system gives extra operating system calls, irons out a bug in the Rom in the Print # statement and allows the input of serial data using simple Fx commands."

"The 0.1 operating system is adequate but the subject of many discussions. We have asked Acorn for a definitive answer on pricing," said John Radcliffe, Executive Producer of the BBC's Computer Programme.

Acorn's John Horton said "We don't consider that people need the 1.0 system unless they have a disc operating system to support. Problems arise when dumping large amounts of software on to tape, and are caused by machine faults in the 0.1 operating system, but there is a well-publicised machine-code patch to solve most of the problems."

## Cut-price Pets

COMMODORE has cut the prices of its Pet range of products for use in education.

The cost of Pets in schools has been cut by between 20 and 33 percent for a three-month period which began on September 1.

This move is a reaction to the company's exclusion from the government's Micros in Schools grants scheme (August 12).



A window into summer for enthralled youngsters.

## Cheap holidays for micro kids

THIS Summer over 200 boys and girls will have benefited from Tandy Computer Camps, a scheme organised by the North London based community resource group, Inter-Action.

Ed Berman, Inter-Action's founder, said: "The non-residential sessions help those kids who cannot afford to take advantage of the more expen-

sive residential Summer camps outside London.

"We are a charity. The camps are run as a service for kids who are really keen to learn and not as a money-making exercise."

Inter-Action sessions cost £4 per day. Those attending are taught to use the Tandy and Commodore microcomputers by six undergraduate tutors.

## Z80 disc pack from torch

TORCH Computers has launched a Z80 Disc Pack for the BBC micro. The unit includes a Z80 card which enables the machine to run CP/M<sup>R</sup> software.

The unit has a capacity of 800K, uses twin 5¼in double-sided 80-track discs and includes its own power supply.

The Z80 card fits inside the lid of the BBC machine and connects to the tube interface. The disc unit connects to the disc interface. A detailed instruction manual gives installation and operational advice.

Possible expansion options for the system include upgrading to a Winchester drive and addition of the Torch communications card which can be fitted inside the disc unit to provide Prestel, View-

data and auto-dial capabilities.

The disc unit is already available as part of the Torch microcomputer package — based around the BBC machine — and costing £3500.

The Torch Z80 Disc Pack costs £995. An Acorn disc interface is also necessary and costs £70. The Corresponding Acorn disc drive costs £235 for 200K. The Acorn Z80 card is not yet available but is expected to cost over £300.

Further information on the Torch Z80 Disc Pack is available from Torch Computers, Abberley House, Great Shelford, Cambridge.



Torch Z80 Disc Pack.

## HP conference

PPC-UK, the British arm of the Hewlett Packard Programmable Calculator International Users Group, is holding its annual conference in London

on Saturday, October 9.

The cost of the PPC-UK meeting will be £15 (members) and £20 (non-members). More details from David Burch, PPC-UK, Astage, Rectory Lane, Windlesham.

## Micronet 800 — a new deal from Prestel

PRESTEL has released more details of its Micronet 800 scheme, announced last week.

The scheme, due to be launched in January, will enable subscribers to buy a range of software and download it into their micros. An educational exchange library will enable schools and colleges to share programs written by teachers and students. Subscribers will also be able to exchange messages with each other, and any other Prestel user.

The Amateur Computer Club and other local groups will be able to use the system to keep their members up-to-date on club activities.

Aladdin's Cave is a collection of software, indexed by both subject and micro, that can be accessed for free.

Micronet 800 is a joint venture between Prestel/British Telecom; EMAP Computer & Business Publications Ltd/Telemap Ltd; ECC Publications Ltd and Prism Microproducts. Subscription to Micronet 800 will cost approximately £50 a year.

Further information is available from Micronet 800, Telemap Ltd, Bushfield House, Orton Centre, Peterborough PE2 0UW (telephone 0733-236113).

## Move over Jaws — ET is on your trail

ATARI has signed a deal with MCA to produce a series of computer games based on the theme of Stephen Spielberg's new billion dollar film, *ET: The Extra Terrestrial*.

Graham Daubney, Atari's software manager, told *Popular Computing Weekly* "The games will use the *ET* characters and we hope to see them shortly after the film's UK launch at Christmas — definitely in the first quarter of 1983."

The deal is one of many being set up by Merchandising Corporation of America to produce spin-offs from the movie.

*ET* has been on general release in the US since July, and will be released in the UK later this year.

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POC 2

# Letters

write to Letters, Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2

## Spelling out magic numbers

Glad to see that Sinclair have now reached the magic figure of 42 (*Popular Computing Weekly* July 29). I had thought, by the service and attention received from them, that they were at Millways spending the year dead for tax reasons.

J Roberts  
10 Bulrush Close  
Hatfield  
Hertfordshire AL10 8PE

## 3-dimensional graphics

I would like to congratulate you on achieving a good mix of interesting items in your weekly magazine. Of particular interest to me at the moment is Nick Hampshire's page on Spectrum graphics as I, along with others, await delivery of said machine.

Could you ask Nick Hampshire if it is possible to have a moving/rotating disc or wheel, as this could really be developed into some interesting graphics. In the meantime, I am saving all the articles ready to develop in my new Spectrum when it arrives.

Don Williamson  
44 Sutton Park Drive  
St Helens  
Merseyside WA9 3TR

In answer to your query, see PCW July 8 for Nick Hampshire's rotating fan program.

## Conspiracy of talents

One of your rival magazines recently gave the following quote: "It is better to know where to go and not how to get there than to know how to get there but not know where".

Unfortunately, many of your readers, including myself, fall into the latter category. We are capable of writing complex programs, but cannot think of original programs to write. Thus we are forced to reproduce arcade games such as *Puckman* and *Space Invaders*.

However, not only does this

mean that there is only a small range of programs available, but also that many programmers risk prosecution (re Copyright, *Popular Computing Weekly*, August 5).

I feel it would be a good idea if people could pool ideas for new games ie those people with imagination, but little knowledge of programming, could publicise their ideas for others to computerise. A small percentage of any money made selling the program would be paid to the originator of the idea as an incentive.

Unfortunately, this pooling of ideas would need a large database for storage, and printing facilities. At present, I have neither and thus cannot operate such a scheme.

However, I would like to hear from any company with these facilities who would be interested in running this type of scheme. Ideally, the company would also market the finished product, handling the payments to both the programmer and the originator of the idea.

John Hardman  
65 Sandringham Drive  
Welling  
Kent DA16 3QZ

## A philosophers life

I recently realised that I spend as much time watching a 32 x 24 matrix visualised at the end of a cathode ray tube as I do eating.

Is this part of the natural order of life, the universe and everything?

Simon Cross  
6 The Avenue  
Ipswich IP1 3SY

## Leapfrogging in Street Alley

Re Street Alley (*Popular Computing Weekly*, August 12). Excellent game, but the frog has only one foot. To get two feet, the eighth number of 750 should be 199.

If a man is preferred, then 750 should read:

750 Data 60,60,24,255,189,  
189,36,231,63

Alternatively, the first eight numbers can be any from A Blackham's character maker (July 15).

G. Foreman  
82 Hazelton Road  
Colchester  
Essex CO4 3DY

## Soldering on whirrs away

I ordered my Spectrum on May 10 and it arrived on August 5.

When I switched it on, I was surprised to hear quite a loud buzz from inside the case — it sounds like an electric motor whirring away. Using it with a Sony Trinitron, the set recommended by Sinclair, produced disappointing results with rolling bands of random colour. Trying it with a Sharp set was more successful with clean, steady colours although there was a pronounced shimmer on graphics. Yellow ink on green paper was virtually unreadable.

A chat with a friendly TV engineer threw some light on the problem with the Sony. He suggested I try adjusting a trimmer capacitor inside the Spectrum. Getting inside was much easier than with the ZX81, as there are no screws hidden under the feet. A small adjustment to the trimmer was all that was needed to make the Sony lock on.

I also found that very small adjustments affected the shimmer. I have been able to reduce it a little, but it is still far from perfect. The pixels now tend to pulse rather than wobble. Surely this must be a design fault?

After several hours of use, the internal temperature becomes disturbingly high (the heat sink is almost too hot to touch). It was during a cooking session when a bug developed, the *Beep* command caused the computer to *New* itself. Worse still, *Load* would not work and *New* *Newed* without having to press *Enter*. Switching off for a while restored everything to normal. Another look inside for dry joints etc, revealed a crack in a fine section of track, cured with a blob of solder.

Since then the computer has behaved itself and despite these problems, I like the machine.

S R Aizlewood  
19 Brushfield Road  
Holme Park  
Chesterfield  
Derbyshire

## Doubled up on Vic20

Enclosed is a very simple and short method of obtaining double height characters on the Vic20. This method can be used with the basic Vic or with any expanded Vic. But, with cartridges that program the function keys, these have to be re-defined, eg, 'Key 1, "Graphic" '.

This program reproduces all the standard letters and graphics which appear on the right hand side of each key. The memory required to program the characters is just under 1.5K, leaving 2K of memory still intact.

It is advisable, after the characters have been programmed, to *New* the program used, as to get into the double height mode you have to type in the following — *Poke* 36867, (*Peek* (36867)) or 23, and, *Poke* 36869,254. The programmed characters cannot be written over by another program in memory, so a program of up to 2K can be entered safely without fear of deleting the characters.

The program: Line 1 — Sets various memory pointers to prevent 'writing over'. Lines 2 and 3 — Transfer characters from Rom into Ram. Line 4 — Changes screen colour/Puts Vic into double height mode. Line 5 — Changes character set to programmable one (254).

```
1 POKE 56,24:POKE 55,0:CS=6144
2 FOR I=CSTO 7678
  STEP2:Z=PEEK(32768+(I-CS)/2)
3 POKE I,Z:POKE I+1,Z:NEXT
4 POKE 36879,25:POKE
  36867,(PEEK(36867))OR 23
5 POKE 36869,254:POKE 36881,24
```

Chris Groenhout  
25 Kerferd Street  
Watson ACT 2062  
Australia

# Kong's Revenge

A new game for Spectrum  
by Jonathan Flint

This is an arcade style game for the Spectrum. The idea is to climb a layout of girders safely while collecting as many points as possible (as shown by your score at the top of the screen). Points are gained by taking the white parasols which are found at various locations.

For reasons which may escape you, a large gorilla is throwing barrels at you as you climb. These barrels should be avoided at all costs. If there is sufficient head room, you may jump over them as they pass. Your character (a little blue man) is moved using the following keys:

z..... LEFT  
c..... RIGHT  
x..... DOWN  
s..... UP

*Caps Shift* together with one of the above keys enables your man to jump in the appropriate direction, ie *Caps Shift z* jumps you to the left. Jumps are required over barrels and across gaps in girders. Beware the x key — it moves you down whether or not there is a ladder beneath to support you.

The game has four stages. You receive a large bonus when progressing to each new stage. To reach a new stage you must climb to the highest point on the screen and then simply jump into thin air.

The first three levels can always be scaled if you choose your route carefully, but the fourth (with no ladders) is sometimes impossible. You may have to go out of your way to pick up a parasol but this must be done before a barrel rolls over them. If this happens the parasols will lose their *Brightness* and become worthless.

The program starts with a series of data statements. Lines 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16,

define the user defined graphics used in the game. When entering the program from the keyboard, you should Run lines 1 to 90 as soon as they have been written in order to define the graphics.

These graphics and the lines in which they appear are:

Graphic:	Lines:	
"p"	255,550,560,570	(Parasols)
"d"	1100,1126,2005	(Man)
	2030,2120,5010	
	5030,5050,5060	
"h"	5280	(Ladder)
"f" and "g"	5180	(Gorilla)

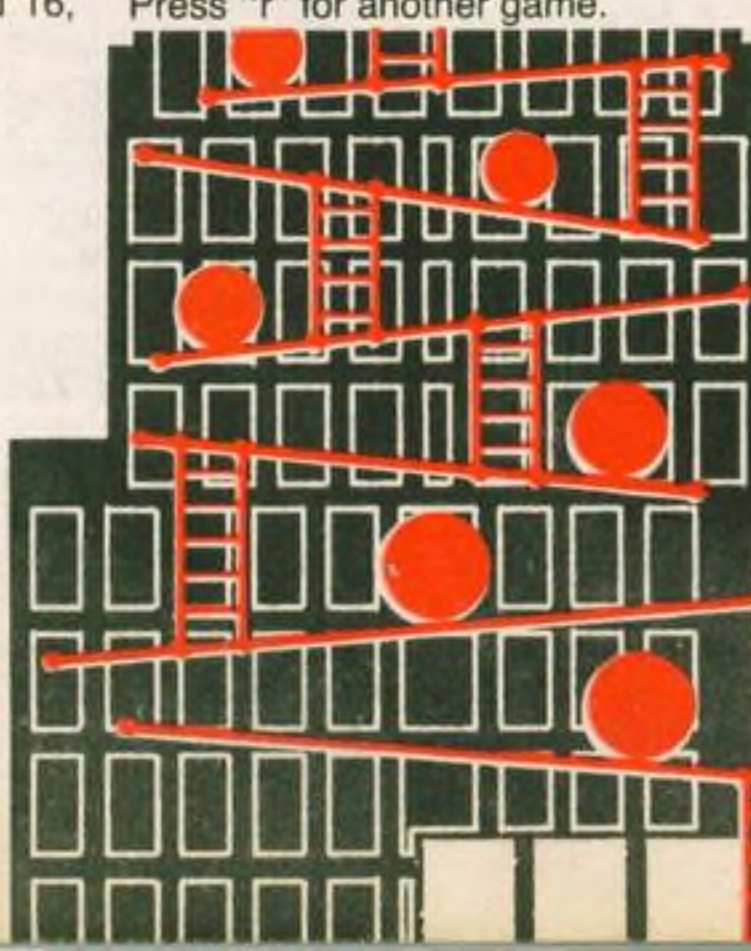
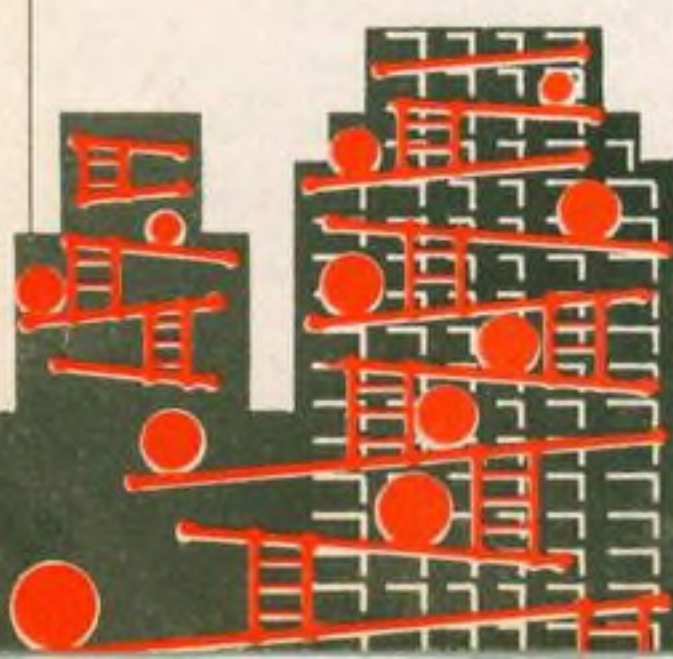
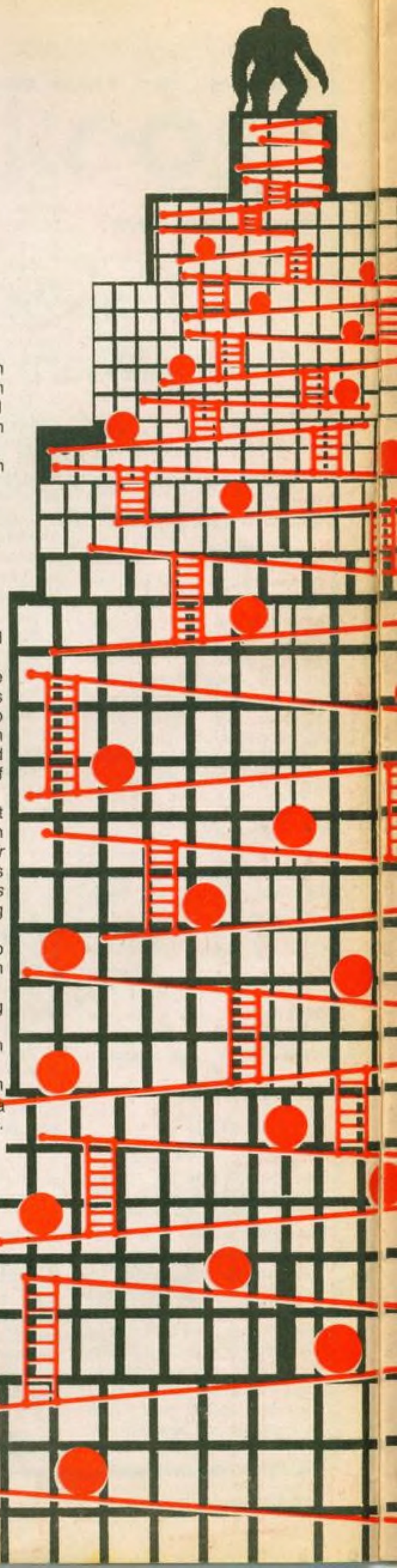
Lines 5190, 5200, 5220 use standard mosaic graphics.

The remaining data statements define the girder layouts and the ladder locations used in stages two and three. Lines 100 to 570 use this data to draw levels. The main playing loop lies between lines 1100 and 1500 and contains a minimum number of lines to keep things fairly fast.

Since the *screen\$* function does not recognise user defined graphics or high resolution pictures, I have used the *Attr* function where necessary to identify items on screen by their colour and *Brightness* status. Thus if you wish to add anything further to the game bear in mind:

- The program as it stands will only stop and think about something it meets on screen if it is *Bright*.
- You cannot jump through anything which is red.
- You can stand on anything except an empty space.

When satisfactorily entered simply Run the game. You may be killed by hitting a barrel or by falling too great a distance. Press "r" for another game.



```

1 REM Kong's Revenge
2 REM By J. Flint
3 REM
10 BORDER 6: INK 1: PAPER 6: C
-5
11 DATA "f",0,BIN 00001100,BIN
00001100,0,0,BIN 00001111,BIN 0
2001010,0
12 DATA "g",0,BIN 00110000,BIN
00110000,0,0,BIN 11110000,BIN 0
1010000,BIN 11110000
13 DATA "p",BIN 10001110,BIN 0
1110001,BIN 01100000,BIN 0101000
,BIN 10001000,BIN 10000100,BIN 1
3000010,BIN 01000100
15 DATA "d",BIN 00001000,BIN 0
1111110,BIN 10011000,BIN 0011110
0,BIN 00100100,BIN 00100100,BIN
20100100,BIN 00110110
16 DATA "h",BIN 01000100,BIN 0
1000100,BIN 01000100,BIN 0111110
0,BIN 01000100,BIN 01000100,BIN
21000100,BIN 01000100
18 DATA 18,17,6,28,14,2,25,16,
4,0,0,32,0,16,18,15,2,3,2,8,5,20
4,12,0,4,10,11,6,9,21,6,3,24,12
7,0,12,21
19 DATA 13,10,0,8,0,12,24,9,5,
2
20 DATA 0,16,20,21,16,10,0,12,
20,21,12,1,22,10,1,12,16,7,27,2,
4,24,1,2,29,0,0,2,8,3,0,0,32,2,4
26,18,6,14
21 DATA 25,5,0,9,0,13,5,0,25,9
30 FOR g=1 TO 5
40 READ a$
50 FOR x=0 TO 7
60 READ a
70 POKE USR a$+x,a
80 NEXT x
90 NEXT g
100 LET sc=0: LET l=0
101 BRIGHT 0: BORDER 6: INK 1:
PAPER 6: CLS
102 OVER 0: INK 2
105 FOR x=1 TO 140 STEP 32-16*(
l>2)
110 PLOT 0,x
130 FOR n=1 TO 31
140 DRAW 4,0: DRAW 0,4: DRAW 4,
2: DRAW 0,-4
150 NEXT n
155 DRAW 0,6
160 DRAW -248,0
170 NEXT x
175 GO SUB 5170
250 FOR y=5 TO 19 STEP 4-2*(l>2)
255 PRINT AT y+1,RND*29: BRIGHT
1: INK 7:"X"
260 LET t=28*RND
261 LET s=26*RND
265 PRINT AT y,s:" "
290 IF l<=2 THEN GO SUB 5270
300 NEXT y
310 PLOT 200,143
320 DRAW 7,0
330 PLOT 216,159
340 DRAW 7,0
350 GO TO 1000
390 INK 2
395 FOR t=1 TO 13
400 READ a,b,c
410 PLOT a*8,b*8+6
420 FOR x=1 TO c-1
430 DRAW 4,-2: DRAW 4,2
440 NEXT x
445 DRAW 4,-2: DRAW 3,3
450 DRAW -6*(c-.1),0
460 NEXT t
500 FOR c=1 TO 5
510 READ t,y: GO SUB 5270
520 NEXT c
530 GO SUB 5170
540 BRIGHT 1: INK 7
550 PRINT AT 6,1:"X"
560 PRINT AT 12,3:"X"
570 PRINT AT 18,30:"X"
580 IF l=2 THEN PRINT AT 2,13:
INK 1:"000000"
1000 LET y=0
1010 GO SUB 4000: GO SUB 4010
1020 BRIGHT 0: OVER 1: INK 8: FL
ASH 6
1030 LET y=20: LET x=0
1040 PRINT AT 1,14: OVER 0: INK
7: BRIGHT 1:sc
1100 PRINT BRIGHT 8:AT y,x:"f"
1104 IF SCREEN$(y+1,x)=" " THEN
GO SUB 2000

```

```

1105 PRINT BRIGHT 1:AT p,q:"0"
1110 PRINT BRIGHT 1:AT p1,q1:"0"
1120 BEEP (INKEY$(<>)/50,-y
1125 IF ATTR (y,x)>64 THEN GO TO
3000
1126 PRINT AT y,x:"f"
1130 LET x=x+(INKEY$="c")-(INKEY
$="z")
1132 LET y=y-(INKEY$="s")+(INKEY
$="x")
1140 IF INKEY$("a" AND INKEY$>"A
" THEN GO SUB 5000
1150 PRINT :AT p,q:"0"
1160 PRINT :AT p1,q1:"0"
1170 GO SUB 3510
1180 IF SCREEN$ (p+1,q)=" " THEN
LET p=p+2
1200 IF SCREEN$ (p1+1,q1)=" " TH
EN LET p1=p1+2
1500 GO TO 1100
2000 REM DROP
2005 PRINT AT y,x:"f"
2007 IF y<1 THEN GO TO 6000
2010 FOR b=1 TO 2
2020 LET y=y+1
2030 PRINT AT y,x:"f"
2040 IF SCREEN$ (y+1,x)=" " THEN
BEEP .1,-12: RETURN
2050 GO SUB 3510
2120 PRINT AT y,x:"f"
2125 NEXT b
2130 IF SCREEN$ (y+1,x)=" " THEN
GO TO 2500
2140 LET y=y+1: GO TO 2130
2500 PRINT AT y,x-2: OVER 0: FLA
SH 1: INK 2:"SPLAT"
2530 FOR x=0 TO -30 STEP -1: BEE
P .05,x: NEXT x
2540 IF INKEY$="r" THEN CLS: RE
STORE 18: GO TO 100
2550 GO TO 2540
3000 REM BRIGHT
3005 IF ATTR (y,x)(>119 THEN GO
TO 2500
3010 BEEP .2,36
3020 LET sc=sc+100
3030 PRINT AT 1,14: OVER 0: INK
7: BRIGHT 1:sc
3040 PRINT AT y,x: OVER 0: INK 1
:" "
3050 GO TO 1130
3500 REM BARREL
3510 LET q=q+d: LET q1=q1+d1
3520 IF q1>30 OR q1<1 THEN LET d
1=-d1: IF p1>y THEN GO SUB 4010
3540 IF q>30 OR q<1 THEN LET d=-
d: IF p>y THEN GO SUB 4000
3550 RETURN
4000 LET d=1: LET q=1: LET p=2*I
NT (y/3): RETURN
4010 LET d1=-1: LET q1=29: LET p
1=2*INT (y/3): RETURN
5000 LET g=(INKEY$="C")-(INKEY$=
"Z")
5005 BRIGHT 8
5010 PRINT AT y-1,x:"f": BEEP .0
5,0
5020 IF ATTR (y-1,x)=50 THEN GO
TO 2500
5030 PRINT AT y-2,x+9:"f": BEEP
.05,12
5050 PRINT AT y-1,x:"f"
5060 PRINT AT y-2,x+9:"f": BEEP
.05,24
5080 LET x=x+2*9: LET y=y-2
5090 BRIGHT 0
5100 IF ATTR (y,x)>64 THEN GO TO
3000
5120 RETURN
5170 REM GORILLA
5175 PAPER 2: INK 0: FLASH 1
5180 PRINT AT 0,9:" "
5190 PRINT AT 1,8:" "
5200 PRINT AT 2,8:" "
5220 PRINT AT 3,8:" "
5230 FLASH 0: PAPER 6
5240 RETURN
5250 REM Ladder
5270 FOR x=0 TO 3
5280 PRINT AT x+y,t: INK 1:"H"
5290 NEXT x
5300 RETURN
5000 REM Again
5020 LET sc=sc+2+100
5030 BEEP .3,12: BEEP .3,24: BEE
P .3,12: BEEP .3,24: BEEP 1,0
5040 INK 1: CLS
5050 LET l=l+1
5060 IF l>2 THEN RESTORE 18: GO
TO 101
5070 GO TO 390

```

# Street Life

## Indoor garden party for ZX fans

David Kelly reports on the 4th London ZX Microfair and finds business is booming.

Over 6000 expectant ZX81 and Spectrum owners made their way to the 4th London ZX Microfair in Victoria on Saturday August 21. The New Horticultural Hall, built in 1928, proved to be far more popular than the previous venue, the Westminster Central Hall. By lunch-time all that could be seen of the hall was a seething mass of heads.

Mike Johnston, the show's organiser was clearly delighted. "My only worry" he said "was that the delay in production of the Spectrum would mean that none of the companies would have any Spectrum products to sell or display."

In the event, most of the companies at the fair managed to put some Spectrum wares on show. This was clearly necessary, since interest seemed to centre on products for the new machine.

Several of the 75 or so exhibitors commented that from the time of the Spectrum launch sales of their ZX81 stock were considerably reduced.

One software company even went so far as to say that its ZX81 stock 'died' with the announcement of the new machine.

It has been a lean time for companies this summer while they waited for their new Sinclair machines. Now, however, most of the companies have received their Spectrums and are frantically trying to stay in a market that has suddenly taken off at a tangent.

After several fairly dismal microfairs — including the last London and Manchester ZX Microfairs — the scene is once again alive.

There were at least eight Spectrums, and one Dragon 32, available on various stands. They proved to be a strong draw for those people still waiting for their own machines.

Kempston (Micro) Electronics demonstrated its new joystick for the Spectrum. The unit plugs into the Kempston I/O controller card which, in turn, plugs into the port at the rear of the machine. Up to four joysticks can be connected to the card at the same time and individually addressed from the Spectrum. The controller card is currently available for £16.50 and the joystick, together with demonstration tape and instructions, will be available by the



Avid micro enthusiasts, fingers poised at the keyboard.



Inside the New Agricultural Hall.

second week of September for around £9.50.

Stephen Adams displayed his £7 ZX81/Spectrum Ram converter. This device allows a ZX81 Ram pack to be fitted to the rear port of the Spectrum to convert a 16K machine into a 32K one.

Memotech showed a new Centronics printer interface for use either with the ZX81 or ZX Spectrum. A similar RS232 interface will be available by mid-September. Both interfaces cost £39.95.

East London Robotics had its 64K and

32K plug-in Ram expansion modules for the Spectrum for sale. The boards are available for £50 and £35, respectively. They are also available in kit form, although assembly by inexperienced constructors is not recommended.

Sir Computers had an 8-bit Spectrum I/O port on display, price £14.50, available in mid-September.

Nearly all of the main software companies at the fair had some Spectrum material to show.

Bug-Byte demonstrated its *Spectral Invaders* and Quicksilver had its *Space Intruders* and *Meteor Storm* on view — all for the 16K Spectrum.

Silversoft showed their new games for the 16K Spectrum — *Orbiter*, a version of *Defender*, and *Ground Attack*, a version of *Scramble* — each available for £5.95.

Macronics showed *Word-Pro* for the 48K Spectrum and a game called *Star Quest*. J P Gibbons had a 32K Spectrum *Personal Banking System* on display while Zedextra showed off its character programmer. C-Tech showed four new games including *Breakout* and *Fruit-Machine*.

Spectrum material was also in evidence from J W V Software and Silicon Software.

The impact of Atari's copyright actions against Commodore and Bug-Byte was being felt by many of the software companies. Concern centred, not so much on the Atari action itself, but on the general uncertainty of this area of the law. No one knows how different a program has to be from an original game before it ceases to be an infringement of copyright.

The next London ZX Microfair will be held on December 18. The venue has yet to be finalised.

# Machine Code

Ian Stewart and Robin Jones present a new series for beginners

## From the left by numbers

People normally think about numbers in terms of tens. If you write the number 3814 we all understand that to mean:

$$3 \times 1000 + 8 \times 100 + 1 \times 10 + 4 \times 1$$

and we can see that to get a "place value" from the one on its right we simply multiply by ten. We say the number is in *base ten*.

Because we've been doing this for as long as we can remember, it's difficult to realise that there are other, perfectly sensible, ways of doing the same job. Early computer designers certainly didn't; they used base ten representations in their machines and hit some nasty snags. Most of these problems were caused by the fact that electronic amplifiers don't behave the same way for all the signals you want to input to them. For instance, an amplifier that is supposed to output double its input signal may well do so for inputs of 1, 2, 3 and 4 units; but then it starts to "flatten off" so that an input of 5 produces an output of only 9.6, 6 produces 10.8, and you can hardly tell the difference between the outputs for inputs of 8 and 9.

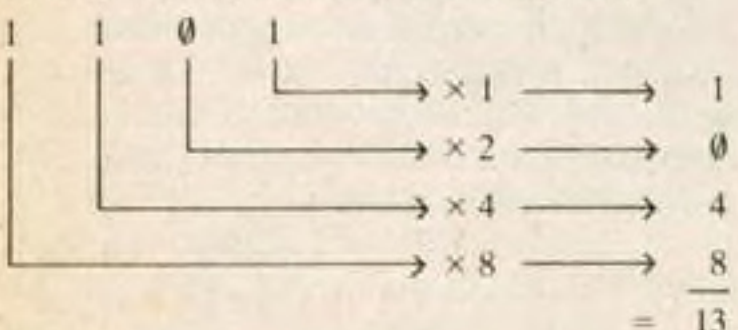
Put a music tape in a cheap cassette recorder and wind up the volume. Hear the distortion in the loud bits? It's the same effect.

The simplest thing you can do with an electrical signal is to turn it on or off; so you can represent the digits 0 (off) and 1 (on) satisfactorily. Distortion no longer matters. It's clear whether a signal is present or not regardless of how mangled it is. But can we devise a number system which only uses 0s and 1s?

Yes. In a base ten number, the largest possible digit is 9. Add 1 to 9 and you get 10—a *carry* has taken place. We can write any number using any other base we choose, and the largest possible digit will always be one less than the base. If the base is 2, the largest digit is 1, so a base 2 (or *binary*) number only contains 0s and 1s.

What about the place values? In the base ten case we got those by starting at 1 (on the right) and multiplying by 10 every time we moved left one place. For a binary number we still start at 1, but we multiply by 2 every time we move left.

So for instance the binary number 1101 can be converted to base 10 like this:



Converting the other way is easy as well. Take 25 for example. If you write down the binary place values:

32 16 8 4 2 1

and work from the left, it's clear that you need a 16. Subtract 16 from 25 and you will be left with 9, and that's made up of an 8 and a 1, so 25 is:

0 1 1 0 0 1

### Hexadecimal code

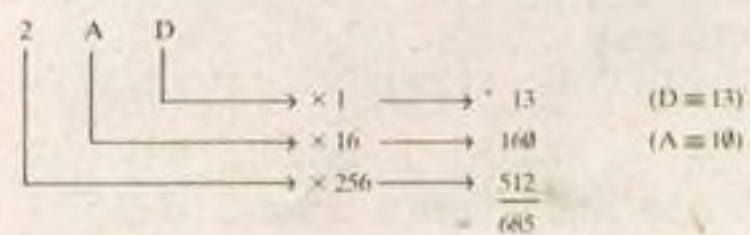
This is fine for relatively small values, but a bit messy for large ones. There are a number of quick conversion techniques, and there are binary-to-decimal and decimal-to-binary conversion program listings in *PEEK, POKE, BYTE & RAM!*; but we want to examine a procedure which makes use of *hexadecimal* code, because it will stand you in good stead later.

A number in hex (nobody ever says "hexadecimal", except us, just now) is a number in base 16. So the place values are obtained by successive multiplications by 16. The first five are:

65536 4096 256 16 1

"Hang about!" everybody's saying. "Those are nasty numbers, and anyway, in base 16 the largest digit has the value 15. Things are getting complicated."

Bear with us. We handle the problem of digits greater than 9 by assigning the letters A-F to the values 10-15. So the number 2AD in hex converts to decimal like this:



Now for the nice feature of hex. Because 16 is one of the binary place values (the fifth one) it turns out that each hex digit in a number can be replaced by the four binary digits which represent it. (By the way, "binary digit" takes almost as long to say as "hexadecimal" so it's normally abbreviated to "*bit*".) The following table shows the conversions:

Decimal	Hex	Binary
0	0	0000
1	1	0001
2	2	0010
3	3	0011
4	4	0100
5	5	0101
6	6	0110
7	7	0111
8	8	1000
9	9	1001
10	A	1010
11	B	1011
12	C	1100
13	D	1101
14	E	1110
15	F	1111

Now suppose we want to convert 9041

to hex. First we extract two 4096s, then some 256s and so on like this:

$$\begin{array}{r} 9041 \\ 2 \times 4096 = 8192 - \\ \quad 849 \\ 3 \times 256 = 768 - \\ \quad \quad 81 \\ 5 \times 16 = 80 - \\ \quad \quad \quad 1 \\ 1 \times 1 = 1 - \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad 0 \end{array}$$

So the hex representation is 2351. Now we just copy the digit codes from the table:

2 3 5 1  
0010 0011 0101 0001

and that's the binary equivalent of 9041 — just run the four blocks together to get 0010001101010001.

The hex-to-binary conversion is so easy that, more often than not, we leave numbers in hex even when, ultimately, we need them in binary.

### Conversion by Computer

Here's a program to convert from decimal to hex. It successively divides the number by 16, looking at the remainder each time, so it extracts digits in the opposite order to that shown previously.

```
1 DIM HEX$(4)
20 LET P=4
30 LET HEX$=""
40 PRINT "ENTER DECIMAL NO. (MAX:65535)"
50 INPUT DN
60 LET N=INT(DN/16)
70 LET HEX$(P)=CHR$(DN-16*N+28)
80 LET DN=N
90 LET P=P-1
100 IF DN>0 THEN GOTO 60
110 PRINT "HEX VALUE IS"; HEX$
```

The result is always presented as a 4-digit number, with leading zeroes if there are fewer than 4 significant digits. The program won't work if the result should contain more than 4 digits, but that's ideal for our purposes, as you shall see.

Here's the code to convert in the opposite direction (hex to decimal):

```
140 PRINT "ENTER 4 DIGIT HEX NO."
150 INPUT HEX$
160 LET DN=0
170 FOR P=1 TO 4
180 LET DN=DN*16+(CODE(HEX$(P))-28)
190 NEXT P
200 PRINT "DECIMAL VALUE IS"; DN
```

We could tie these routines together with a little menu:

```
2 PRINT "DEC/HEX CONVERTOR"
3 PRINT "1)DEC->HEX"
4 PRINT "2)HEX->DEC"
5 PRINT "3)END"
6 PRINT "ENTER 1, 2, OR 3"
7 INPUT SEL
8 IF SEL=1 THEN GOSUB 20
9 IF SEL=2 THEN GOSUB 140
10 IF SEL=3 THEN STOP
```

and, of course, we'll need *Returns* at lines 120 and 210.

Reproduced from *Machine Code and better Basic*, by Ian Stewart and Robin Jones (Price £7.50), by kind permission of Shiva Publishing Ltd, 4 Church Lane, Natwich, Cheshire CW5 5RQ.

# Somewhere over the rainbow?

*Boris Allan treads the yellow brick road, looking at the latest Spectrum software.*

The ZX Spectrum is a far different machine to the old ZX81, but many software writers do not seem to have noticed.

I was rather disheartened to discover that at least two of the programs were being promoted by their length — a program may be long either because it is complex or because it is poorly written. In the case of two programs I suspect the main reason is the latter.

Some programs loaded the user-defined characters of cassette by use of the `Load "" Code` command which meant that 16K programs would not work on 48K (and *vice versa*). All that was needed was the simple command `Load "" Code Use "a"` and the same program worked on either system. Little things like this suggested that the program writers did not know the Spectrum well enough to use it to the full.

Other hangovers from the past were the way in which programs were written to use graphics which — apart from the colour — were in no way superior to ZX81 programs.

Of the programs I review here, only some are worth examining in detail. For a change, I will first look at the three which are far and away the worst specimens.

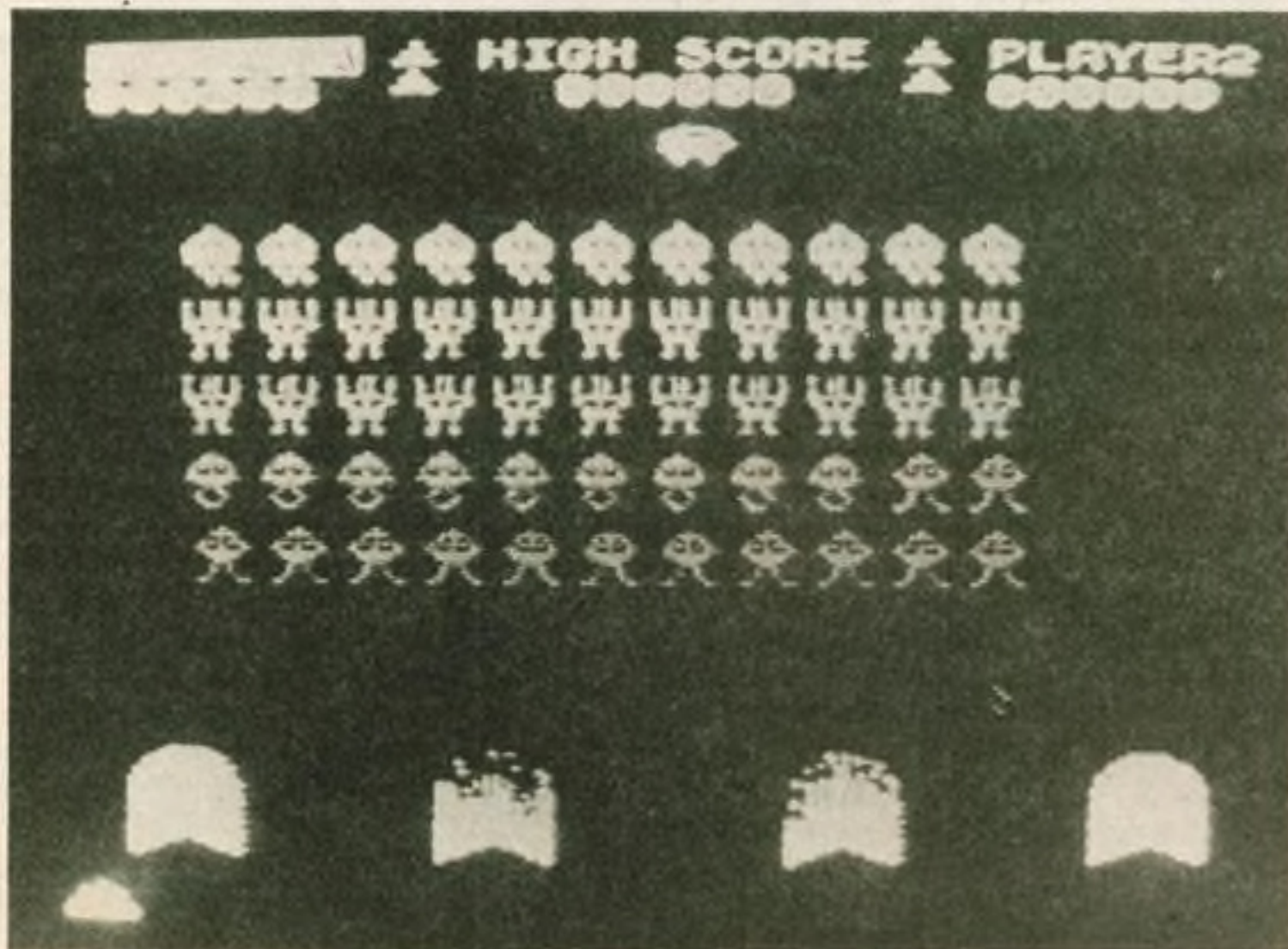


Boris Allan "the ZX Spectrum is a far different machine to the old ZX81".

*Inheritance* is easily the worst program. For a program with such a long listing there seem to be no error traps — an example of inefficient programming. The game is in two sections, building up an inheritance on the stock market (with a bit of gambling) and then using the inheritance to run a business.

To win at the first section, all you have to do is place half your money on a good bet (or what seemed to be a good bet) and an equal, but minus, amount on a bad bet. For example, in Black-jack if your first card was low, bet a minus amount, so that when you lose you lose a minus amount (ie gain a positive amount). Using such tricks it was easy to win. Surely, no decent program with an 11 foot print out should allow this.

In the second section, all that was needed was to have a negative number of



# Reviews



advertising outlets (— 1E14 was popular) to succeed. A waste of time. I had more fun trying to trip it up than actually playing it properly.

*Venture* was little better — a ZX81 program masquerading as a Spectrum program — and again one for which claims were made regarding length. This was the

---

“ *Inheritance is easily the worst program. For a program with such a long listing there seem to be no error traps . . .* ”

---

program with copious ZX81-type graphics, and many superfluous *ifs*. Only capital letters were allowed for input, it would not accept lower case.

The program was a series of games on the way to a final maze, where one collected gold. Included were a bomber style game which made little use of the Spectrum's facilities and a Mastermind type game which gave you 14 attempts to find the solution when the most you need is eight. In the final maze, you could accumulate items simply by going over the same spot.

Supersoft supplied three programs — an *Editor*, *Lgame*, and *Graphics*. At first I thought that the *Graphics* program (it helps to construct user-defined characters) was over-priced at £5 — especially as it is so simple to define characters in any case — but later, when I found that a superior program was part of the free *Horizon* cassette, I was certain.

*Lgame* (also £5) is based on the original version by lateral thinker Edward de Bono. The program was not complex, though an attempt was made to disguise the structure by the use of *Goto* labels (and not line numbers).

The final offering, *Editor* (at £15), was a text editor — not a word processor. The program was so rudimentary it did not even use the screen, input was into a string at the normal input position. The program's author claims "*Editor* is a program that turns the ZX Spectrum into a true word processor" — but this is just not so. True word processors allow you to

change the formatting of the file, within the file as part of text, and this is not possible with this system. *Editor* is not easy to use, is far too easily crashed, and is not recommended.

*Spectral Invaders* from Bug-Byte was a distinct improvement, though I prefer Quicksilver's *Space Intruders* and Campbell System's *Gulpman*. *Spectral Invaders* is a rather sedate game of the invaders type, with large slow-moving aliens. Bands of colour are set across the screen and each invader takes the colour of the band, rather than being individually pigmented.

At the end, the increase in speed of the invaders was not significant. The game was also spoilt by having to enter the game each time a base was destroyed — much better the instant appearance of your next base.

All the offerings from Abacus were standard, usually maze-type, games. *Android Pit-Rescue* had a bug in it such that if your laser blasted the bottom of the pit, you had an out-of-range error.

The three games from Lomax were middling. Two (*Defender* and *Thezeus*) loaded defined characters from cassette and the loading program had to be modified to load at *Usr "a"*. *Defender* was



Looking for a pot of gold?

rather tame — almost an introductory attempt to produce a game using graphics, and was of the blow-up-all-the-Klingon-space-ships-with-your-lasers-type. The instructions are not complex — they do not need to be — and are incorrect at one point (it is 0 to fire and not f). *Thezeus* was of the collect-the-goodies-from-the-maze-but-do-not-trigger-the-hidden-bombs-type. *Squash* was poor, without being terrible.

I will discuss the two disassemblers at this point, because they are not games and every program has to be somewhere — to paraphrase Spike Milligan.

Both utility programs worked. *SPDE* had instructions within the program and offered

Supplier	Program	Comment	Price
Bug-Byte, 98-100 The Albany, Old Hall Street, Liverpool	<i>Spectral Invaders</i>	Standard	£5
Artic Computing, 396 James Reckitt Avenue, Hull	<i>Spectrum Bug</i>	Useful utility	£6.95
Simon W Hessel Software, 15 Lytham Court, Cardwell Crescent, Sunninghill, Berks	<i>Inheritance</i>	Poorly written	£5.95
Campbell Systems, 15 Rous Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex	<i>SPDE Gulpman</i>	Useful utility An extraordinarily good program	£5.95 £5.95
Lomax 25 Parkway Crowthorne, Berkshire	<i>Defender Squash Thezeus</i>	Average	£4.50 for the three
ZX-Guaranteed, 29 Chadderton Drive, Unsworth, Bury, Lancs	<i>Venture</i>	Thinks it's a ZX81 program	£6
Psion, Sinclair Research	<i>Horizons</i>	Excellent value	Free with Spectrum
Abacus Programs, 186 St Hellens Ave, Swansea, West Glamorgan	<i>Destroyer Battle Iceberg Android/Pit-rescue</i>	Subchase Tankchase Grippingly tedious And again	£4.95 £4.95 £5.95 for the two
Supersoft, 6a Newlands Ave, Southampton	<i>Editor Lgame Graphics</i>	Must be joking at this price Poor Free in <i>Horizons</i>	£15 £5 £5

facilities to convert from hexadecimal to decimal and *vice versa* and other little treats. *Spectrum Bug* game with instructions on the insert and an instruction booklet is threatened.

There were little hiccups with both disassemblers. The Artic version (*Spectrum Bug*) was perhaps the more complete, but the Campbell Systems version (*SPDE*) was rather easier to use and modify. *Spectrum Bug* is in machine code, where-

“ There were little hiccups with both disassemblers. Artic was perhaps the more complete, but Campbell Systems-easier to use and modify. ”

as *SPDE* is written in Basic. There is little to choose between them, though my personal preference is for *SPDE*.

The *Horizons* cassette is now to be given away free with every Spectrum. Apart from one bug in the keyboard trainer (characters were selected at random and sometimes *Enter* was chosen, and appeared as a “?”) *Horizons* seems fine.

Side A is explanatory — What is a computer, What is a Spectrum, and What is a keyboard? While it generated no great enthusiasm, the keyboard trainer was more fun than some of the other cassettes reviewed here.

Side B contained games and demonstrations, including the best *Break-out* version yet seen for the Spectrum, a

competent (perhaps even good) character generator, a line draw program, and an intriguing sine-wave addition program (very pretty). Also on the tape were other more mundane programs such as *Life*, *Bubblesort*, *Evolution*, and *Monte Carlo*. Easily the best value for money of all cassettes — it's free — and not bad either.

#### Gulpman

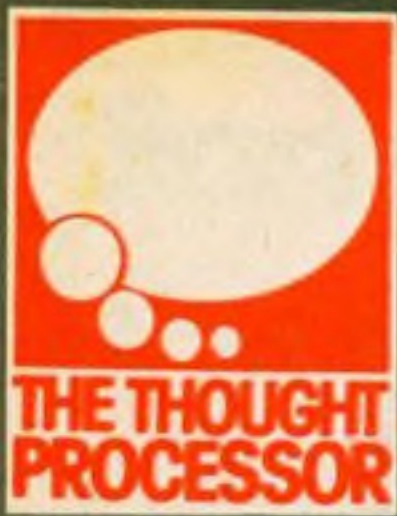
*Gulpman* is the one cassette that I would buy (given that *Horizons* is free). In *Gulpman* you go round picking up apples while being chased by nasties. You are protected only by lasers and your wits. You have nine lives.

It is possible to choose between nine speeds, nine “grades” (how fast the nasties are compared to you) and 15 different mazes (each requiring a different strategy). You can also choose which keys control your movements.

You can run a demonstration on any type of maze, and save that version of the game with *your* keys, plus reset high-score and other twiddly bits. An exceptional program. Given the work involved and the way the whole program is packaged it is well worth the £6 — and I do not often think that.

#### Summary

When are software writers going to realise that the Spectrum is a different machine from the ZX81? And when will people stop re-using all the same old ideas? Apart from the two disassemblers, only *Gulpman* and *Horizons* really stand out.



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# SPECTRUM

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# Open Forum

Open Forum is for you to publish your programs and ideas.  
It is important that your programs are bug free before you send them in. We cannot test all of them.  
Contributions should be sent to: Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court,  
19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2H 7HF.

## How to contribute

Each week the editor goes through all the programs that you send to Open Forum in order to find the Program of the Week.

The author of that program will qualify for DOUBLE the usual fee we pay for published programs.  
(The usual fee is £10.)

### Presentation hints

Programs which are most likely to be considered for the Program of the Week will be computer printed and accompanied by a cassette.

The program will be well documented, the documentation being typed with a double spacing between each line.

The documentation should start with a general description of the program and then give some detail of how the program has been constructed and of its special features.

Listings taken from a ZX Printer should be cut into convenient lengths and carefully stuck down on to white paper, avoiding any creasing.

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

## Bricks

on ZX81

In this game for a 16K ZX81 84 bricks are placed across the base of the screen and they have to be removed by bombing them from a craft which moves backwards and forwards across the top. The speed of this craft is set by the player from fairly slow to very fast indeed. The speed of the game is achieved by writing the majority of the game in machine code.

If a brick is missed — and it becomes harder and harder to hit a brick as the number diminishes — the rows of bricks advance towards the top of the screen. Your mission is to destroy all the bricks before they reach the top.

### Program notes

Line 1 is the REM statement which contains all the machine code.

Lines 130 to 155 set up the instructions on the screen and set the speed of the game from the player's instructions

TO ENTER THE MACHINE CODE PART OF THE PROGRAM USE A REM STATEMENT AT LINE ONE (MAKE SURE THE REM HAS SOME 260 CHARACTERS AFTER IT). THE FULL HEX LOAD PROGRAM SHOULD LOOK LIKE:

```

1 REM XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
10 PRINT "TYPE IN THE NUMBER U
F BYTES TO BE INSERTED"
15 INPUT I
20 CLS
30 FOR X=16514 TO 16514+I
40 LET Y=INT (PEEK X/16)
50 SCROLL
60 PRINT X;TAB 10;CHR$ (Y+26);
CHR$ (PEEK X-16*Y+26);
70 INPUT A$
80 IF A$="" OR LEN A$(<2 THEN G
OTO 110
90 IF CODE A$(<20 OR CODE A$(<2)
<25 OR CODE A$(<43 OR CODE A$(<12)
<43 THEN GOTO 110
100 POKE X,16+CODE A$+CODE A$(<2
)-476
105 PRINT TAB 15,A$
110 NEXT X
    
```

RUN THIS PROGRAM TO ENTER THE MACHINE CODE SHOWN IN THE NEXT COLUMN. WHEN COMPLETE DELETE ALL OF THE HEX LOAD PROGRAM EXCEPT LINE ONE. THE FULL PROGRAM CAN NOW BE ENTERED AS BELOW:

```

130 CLS
132 PRINT TAB 13;"BRICKS";TAB 1
3
135 PRINT "DEMOLISH AS MA
NY BRICKS AS YOU CAN BY PRESSIN
G ANY KEY WHEN YOU WANT TO FIRE."
136 PRINT "EACH TIME YOU MISS
THE BRICKS MOVE UP ONE LINE -
YOU HAVE TO STOP THEM REACHING
THE TOP...."
137 PRINT "TYPE IN THE SPEE
D OF CRAFT FROM 1 TO 5" TAB 2
:"1 IS SLOW";TAB 2;"4 IS FAST";T
AB 2;"5 IS IMPOSSIBLE"
139 LET A$=INKEY$
140 IF A$="" THEN GOTO 139
145 IF CODE A$(<29 OR CODE A$(<33
THEN GOTO 139
150 LET S=VAL A$
155 POKE 16605,21-4+S
160 CLS
200 POKE 16515,0
210 FOR X=1 TO 14
220 FOR Y=11 TO 19 STEP 4
230 PRINT AT Y,X+2;"■";AT Y+1,
X+2;"■"
240 NEXT Y
250 NEXT X
260 PRINT AT 0,0;"■"
270 POKE 16514,0
280 LET L=USR 16515
290 IF L THEN GOTO 500
294 FOR Y=1 TO 10
296 NEXT Y
300 GOTO 260
500 IF L=100 THEN GOTO 600
510 FOR X=1 TO 5
520 LET G=USR 16725
530 FOR Y=1 TO 5
540 NEXT Y
550 NEXT X
590 PRINT AT 19,4;"FAILED...."
595 GOTO 700
600 LET G=USR 16753
605 PRINT AT 10,7;"CONGRATULAT
IONS"
610 PRINT AT 20,0;INT (84000/(8
4+PEEK 16615))/10;"PERCENT OF S
HOTS ON TARGET"
700 PRINT AT 21,0;"ANOTHER GAME
?"
    
```

Lines 160 to 250 set up the game on the screen  
Lines 260 to 300 is the game loop itself  
Lines 510 to 595 are reached if the bricks reach the top of the screen  
Lines 600 onwards are reached if the entire wall is

## BRICKS

THE FOLLOWING HEX CODES NEED TO BE ENTERED USING THE HEX LOAD PROGRAM. THE LOCATION TO WHICH THE CODE IS ENTERED IS SHOWN EVERY TWENTY BYTES. (READ THE LINES OF CODE ACROSS THE PAGE.)

16514	00	3A	62	40	3C
	FE	1E	30	15	ED
	5B	0C	48	21	20
	00	19	54	5D	2B
16534	01	1F	00	ED	50
	32	02	40	10	19
	ED	5B	0C	40	21
	01	00	19	54	5D
16554	23	01	1F	00	ED
	00	FE	3A	20	02
	3E	00	32	02	40
	CD	5B	02	0C	2B
16574	1D	2A	0C	40	3A
	82	40	FE	1E	30
	04	05	02	15	04
	4F	3E	3D	91	06
16594	00	4F	09	22	E0
	40	0E	31	10	0E
	0E	05	05	FF	10
	FE	0D	28	9E	18
16614	F7	00	00	00	1E
	14	09	7E	36	17
	06	0F	10	FE	FE
	80	26	34	1D	20
16634	F1	1E	14	2A	E0
	40	06	00	0E	21
	09	36	00	1D	20
	FA	3A	E7	40	3C
16654	32	E7	40	2A	0C
	40	54	5D	01	21
	00	09	01	55	02
	ED	50	2A	0C	40
16674	23	06	00	0E	20
	3E	80	ED	B1	09
	3E	15	93	2A	E0
	40	05	00	0E	21
16694	09	36	00	3D	20
	FA	2A	E0	40	36
	00	2A	0C	40	23
	05	02	0E	D5	3E
16714	90	ED	B1	06	00
	0E	00	05	0E	64
	C9	2A	0C	40	05
	15	C5	05	20	23
16734	7E	FE	7F	35	04
	DE	80	16	02	C6
	80	77	10	F1	23
	C1	10	EA	C9	0E
16754	03	06	52	15	02
	05	FF	3E	27	D7
	10	FD	0D	20	F6
	C9	3D	3D	3D	3D
710	INPUT A\$				
720	IF CODE A\$(<51 THEN RUN				
750	STOP				
1000	SAVE "BRICKS"				
1010	RUN				

THE CHARACTER IN LINE 260 IS AN INVERSE STAR

to next page

demolished and it then tells you how many shots were on target and invites you to play again (this invitation is also extended if you do not succeed)  
GOTO 1000 can be used to save the program, and it will then run immediately upon subsequent loadings.

ADDRESS	HEX	INSTRUCTION	16641	00	16715	ED	CPIR
			16642	0E		E1	LD B,0
			16643	01		06	LD B,0
166514	00	NOP-CRAFT MARKER	16644	00		00	LD C,0
166515	3A	LD A,(16514) MOVE	16645	36		0E	RET Z
166516	82	LD A,(16514) MOVE	16646	00		0E	LD C,100
166517	40	CRAFT	16647	1D		04	RET
166518	70	INC A	16648	20		0A	LD HL,(16396)
166519	30	CP 30	16649	7A		0C	LD B,22
166520	11	JR NC (+21)	16650	3A		16	PUSH BC
166521	30	LD DE,(16396)	16651	E7		06	LD B,32
166522	13		16652	40		03	INC HL
166523	00		16653	3C		7F	LD A,(HL)
166524	00		16654	32		0E	CP 127
166525	00		16655	E7		06	JR C,(+4)
166526	40	LD HL,32	16656	40		0E	SBC A,128
166527	00		16657	0A		00	JR (+2)
166528	00		16658	0C		06	ADD A,128
166529	19	ADD HL,DE	16659	40		00	LD (HL),A
166530	00	LD D,H	16660	00		10	DJNZ (-15)
166531	11	LD E,L	16661	5D		01	INC HL
166532	0B	DEC HL	16662	01		7F	POP BC
166533	34	LD BC,31	16663	21		09	DJNZ (-22)
166534	00		16664	00		0E	RET
166535	00		16665	00		03	LD C,3
166536	00		16666	00		00	LD B,130
166537	00		16667	00		18	JR (+2)
166538	00		16668	00		0E	LD B,255
166539	00		16669	00		0E	LD A,B
166540	00		16670	00		07	RST 10
166541	00		16671	00		10	DJNZ (-3)
166542	00		16672	00		00	DEC C
166543	00		16673	00		00	JR NZ (-10)
166544	00		16674	00		00	RET
166545	00		16675	00			
166546	00		16676	00			
166547	00		16677	00			
166548	00		16678	00			
166549	00		16679	00			
166550	00		16680	00			
166551	00		16681	00			
166552	00		16682	00			
166553	00		16683	00			
166554	00		16684	00			
166555	00		16685	00			
166556	00		16686	00			
166557	00		16687	00			
166558	00		16688	00			
166559	00		16689	00			
166560	00		16690	00			
166561	00		16691	00			
166562	00		16692	00			
166563	00		16693	00			
166564	00		16694	00			
166565	00		16695	00			
166566	00		16696	00			
166567	00		16697	00			
166568	00		16698	00			
166569	00		16699	00			
166570	00		16700	00			
166571	00		16701	00			
166572	00		16702	00			
166573	00		16703	00			
166574	00		16704	00			
166575	00		16705	00			
166576	00		16706	00			
166577	00		16707	00			
166578	00		16708	00			
166579	00		16709	00			
166580	00		16710	00			
166581	00		16711	00			
166582	00		16712	00			
166583	00		16713	00			
166584	00		16714	00			
166585	00						
166586	00						
166587	00						
166588	00						
166589	00						
166590	00						
166591	00						
166592	00						
166593	00						
166594	00						
166595	00						
166596	00						
166597	00						
166598	00						
166599	00						
166600	00						
166601	00						
166602	00						
166603	00						
166604	00						
166605	00						
166606	00						
166607	00						
166608	00						
166609	00						
166610	00						
166611	00						
166612	00						
166613	00						
166614	00						
166615	00						
166616	00						
166617	00						
166618	00						
166619	00						
166620	00						
166621	00						
166622	00						
166623	00						
166624	00						
166625	00						
166626	00						
166627	00						
166628	00						
166629	00						
166630	00						
166631	00						
166632	00						
166633	00						
166634	00						
166635	00						
166636	00						
166637	00						
166638	00						
166639	00						
166640	00						

Bricks  
by Peter Vincent

### Golf

#### on Spectrum

Golf, as the name implies, is a game which places you on a golf course generated by the computer. Your task is to get round the course in as few shots as possible by missing the bunkers, dodging the rivers and the trees, keeping out of the rough and putting accurately when you get close to the flag.

When the program is on the computer type *Run* to start and enter the number of holes that you wish to play. After a short pause you will be asked to enter your handicap (between 1 and 3). If you enter your handicap as 1 then you will be able to hit the ball further but you will also have longer holes and you will also have a smaller par.

If you choose a handicap of 3 you will have slightly shorter holes and you will have a larger par but you will not be able to hit the ball as far. When you have entered your handicap the hole will be displayed using the following symbols: the flashing T on the left is the Tee; the dark green (a

chess board character of black and green) is the rough and landing in this will decrease the strength of your shot considerably.

The light green in the centre (a chess board character of cyan and green) is the fairway; the light green square on the right is the green with the flag in the centre; the black objects dotted about are trees and hitting one of these costs a penalty shot.

The yellow and black characters are bunkers and landing in one of these causes the strength of your shot to be cut considerably.

The blue characters are lakes and landing in one of these costs a penalty shot. The distance across the screen is displayed in yards in the top left. The par for the hole is displayed in the centre at the top and the number of shots you have taken is at the top on the right (if you have had any).

You are then asked to enter the strength of your shot (in yards), the direction of your shot (this is like a clock, eg 12 is up, 3 is right, 6 is down, etc, decimals, eg 1.5, are allowed), the computer then works out where your shot landed. **turn to next page**

from previous page

```

GOLF
S.GOODSON AUGUST 82
This was written on a
48K SPECTRUM but the program
will run on a 16K version

1 REM GOLF
2 REM S.GOODMAN AUGUST 82
3 LET TP=0 LET H=0
4 INPUT "HOW MANY HOLES ";TH
5 GO SUB 9500
6 LET C$=""
7 LET B$=CHR$ 150+CHR$ 150+CH
R$ 150
8 FOR F=1 TO 6: LET C$=C$+CHR
$ 146: NEXT F
9 INPUT "ENTER HANDICAP (1 TO
3)";HC
10 IF HC<1 OR HC>3 THEN GO TO
90
102 OVER 0: PAPER 7: CLS
104 FOR F=1 TO 704: PRINT INK 0
PAPER 4;CHR$ 144;: NEXT F
105 FOR I=2 TO 20 STEP 2
110 LET L=S+5+RND
120 FOR J=L TO 11+5+RND
130 PRINT AT J,I; INK 5; PAPER
4;CHR$ 144;CHR$ 144
140 NEXT J
150 NEXT I
160 LET Q=37
170 LET YD=INT (RND*500)+100-(H
C+25)
175 LET P=INT (YD/200+HC+2)
180 LET CD=YD/32
190 LET SH=0
195 LET R=0
200 FOR G=1 TO 2
210 LET L=INT (RND*22); LET I=I
NT (RND+16)
220 FOR F=0 TO INT (RND+4)
230 PRINT AT I+F,L; INK 1;C$( T
O 2+INT (RND+5))
240 NEXT F
250 NEXT G
260 FOR F=1 TO 6: PRINT AT RND*
300,RND*30; INK 0; PAPER 7;CHR$ 1
46;: NEXT F
270 FOR F=1 TO 5: PRINT AT RND*
600,RND*26; PAPER 6; INK 0; BRIGHT
1;B$( TO INT (RND+4));: NEXT F
280 LET HY=INT (RND+14+3)
290 PRINT AT HY-1,29; PAPER 4;
BRIGHT 1; INK 4;
300 PRINT AT HY,29; PAPER 4; BR
IGHT 1; INK 4;
310 PRINT AT HY+1,29; PAPER 4;
BRIGHT 1; INK 4;
320 LET X=INT (RND+2+1); LET Y=
INT (RND+19+1)
330 PRINT AT Y,X; FLASH 1;"T"
340 PRINT AT 0,0;YD;" YARDS"
350 PRINT AT 0,12;"PAR ";P
360 GO SUB 9000
370 IF Q=32 THEN LET R=1: PRINT
AT 21,0; INK 2; FLASH 1;"IN THE
ROUGH"
380 IF Q=57 THEN LET SH=SH+1: P
RINT AT 21,0; INK 2; FLASH 1;"RI
VER PENALTY SHOT";AT Y,X; INK 1;
PAPER 7;CHR$ 147
390 IF X=30 AND Y=HY THEN LET S
H=SH+1: GO TO 3000
400 IF Q=100 THEN LET SH=SH+1:
GO TO 8500
410 IF Q=112 THEN LET R=1: PRIN
T AT 21,0; INK 2; FLASH 1;"IN TH
E BUNKER"
420 IF Q=56 THEN LET SH=SH+1: P
RINT AT 21,0; INK 2; FLASH 1;"TR
EE PENALTY SHOT"
430 LET SH=SH+1
440 PRINT AT 3,23;SH;" SHOT";(
S AND SH+1)
450 GO TO 420
460 PAUSE 250 PAPER 7: CLS
470 PRINT "YOU TOOK ";SH; SHOT
S FOR A PAR ";P;" HOLE WHICH IS
";
480 IF SH=1 THEN PRINT FLASH 1;
"3 HOLE IN ONE"
490 IF SH=2 THEN PRINT ABS (
RND*100+1)
500 IF SH=3 THEN PRINT " UNDER
PAR"
510 IF SH=4 THEN PRINT " OVER P
AR"
520 IF SH=5 THEN PRINT " A BI
G E"
530 IF SH=6 THEN PRINT " AN E
"
540 IF SH=7 THEN PRINT " AN A
"
550 IF SH=8 THEN PRINT " BAIL
"
560 IF SH=9 THEN PRINT " A PAR"
570 LET TP=TP+(SH-P)
580 PRINT "YOU ARE NOW ";ABS
(TP); " OVER PAR" AND TP>0; " UN
D
ER PAR" AND TP<0; " PAR" AND TP
=0)
590 LET H=H+1
600 IF TH=H THEN PRINT "YOU HAV
E NOW COMPLETED THE ";"COURSE";"G
OOD-BYE"; STOP
610 PRINT "PRESS ANY KEY"
620 PAUSE 0: GO TO 100
630 PAPER 4: CLS
640 PRINT AT 11,16;CHR$ 151
650 PLOT 132,98; DRAW 0,40; DRA
W 15,-10; DRAW -15,-10
660 LET Q=0
670 IF Y>HY-.5 AND Y<HY+.5 THEN
Q=Q+1
680 LET Y=INT (RND*6)+INT (RND*
6)+(15 AND Y)+HY+.5)
690 LET X=INT (RND*10)+(INT (RN
D*12 AND (X>28.5 AND X<29.5)))+(
RND AND X)+29.5)
700 PRINT AT Y,X;CHR$ 149
710 IF X<28 AND Y>2 THEN PRINT
OVER 1;AT Y,X+1;CHR$ 154;CHR$
155;AT Y-1,X+1;CHR$ 152;CHR$ 153
720 LET SH=SH+1
730 INPUT "STRENGTH (1 TO 32)";
S
740 IF S<"0" OR S>"32" THEN G
O TO 750
750 LET S=VAL S$
760 IF S>32 THEN GO TO 750
770 INPUT "DIRECTION (0 TO 12)";
D$
780 IF D$<"0" OR D$>"12" THEN G
O TO 750
790 LET D=VAL D$: IF D>12 THEN
GO TO 750
800 LET D=D*(PI/6)
810 PRINT AT Y,X; OVER 1;CHR$ 1
49
820 IF X<29 AND Y>2 THEN PRINT
OVER 1;AT Y,X+1;CHR$ 154;CHR$
155;AT Y-1,X+1;CHR$ 152;CHR$ 153
830 LET X=INT (X+5+SIN D)
840 LET Y=INT (Y-5+COS D)
850 IF X>31 THEN LET X=31
860 IF X<0 THEN LET X=0
870 IF Y>21 THEN LET Y=21
880 PRINT AT Y,X; FLASH 1;CHR$
149
890 IF X=16 AND Y=11 THEN GO TO
8000
900 GO TO 8541
910 INPUT "STRENGTH (1 TO 32)";
S$
920 IF S<"0" OR S>"32" THEN G
O TO 9000
930 LET S=VAL S$
940 IF S>(4-HC)+50+100 THEN G
O TO 9000
950 LET S=S/CD
960 IF R=1 THEN LET S=S/(RND*2+
1.5)
970 INPUT "DIRECTION (0 TO 12)";
D$
980 IF D$<"0" OR D$>"12" THEN G
O TO 9000
990 LET D=VAL D$
1000 IF D>12 OR D<0 THEN GO TO 9
010
1010 PRINT AT Y,X;
1020 IF Q=32 THEN PRINT INK 0; P
APER 4;CHR$ 144
1030 IF Q=37 THEN PRINT INK 5; P
APER 4;CHR$ 144
1040 IF Q=57 THEN PRINT INK 1; P
APER 7;CHR$ 146
1050 IF Q=112 THEN PRINT INK 0;
PAPER 6;CHR$ 150
1060 IF Q=56 THEN PRINT INK 0; P
APER 7;CHR$ 145
1070 LET D=D*(PI/6)
1080 LET XI=X+5+SIN D
1090 LET YI=Y-5+COS D
1100 IF YI>21 OR YI<0 THEN LET S
H=SH+1: PRINT AT 21,0; INK 2; FL
ASH 1;"LOST BALL PENALTY SHOT";
GO TO 9110
1110 LET X=XI: LET Y=YI
1120 LET X=INT (X+.5): LET Y=INT
(Y+.5)
1130 LET D=ATTR (Y,X)
1140 PRINT AT Y,X; FLASH 1;CHR$
149
1150 LET R=0
1160 FOR F=1 TO 250: NEXT F
1170 PRINT AT 21,0; FOR H=1 TO
22: PRINT INK 0; PAPER 4;CHR$ 14
4;: NEXT F
1180 RETURN
1190 STOP
1200 RESTORE 9500
1210 FOR F=144 TO 155
1220 FOR G=0 TO 7
1230 READ A
1240 POKE USA CHR$ F+G,A
1250 NEXT G

```

```

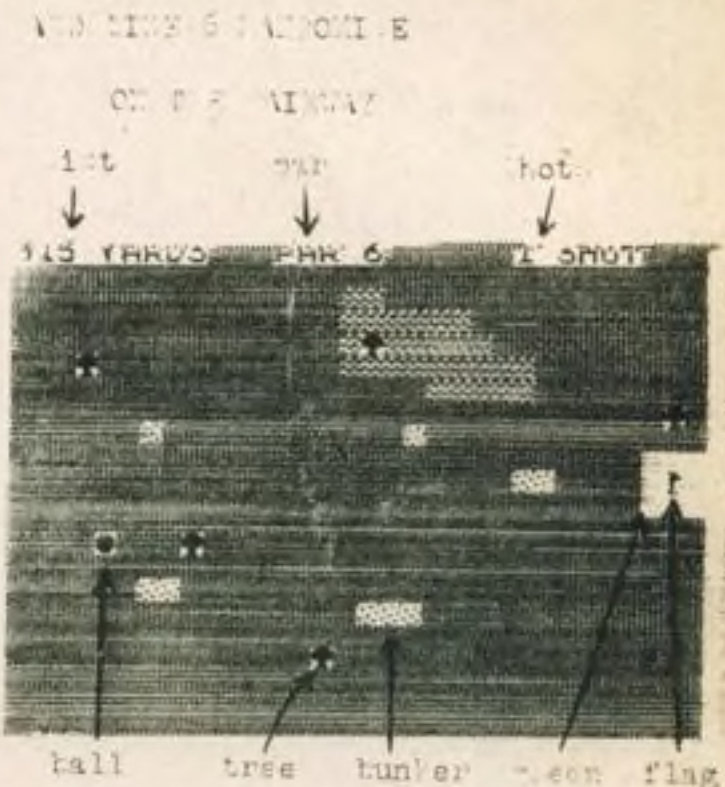
8550 IF S<"0" OR S>"32" THEN G
O TO 8550
8570 LET S=VAL S$
8580 IF S>32 THEN GO TO 8550
8590 INPUT "DIRECTION (0 TO 12)";
D$
8600 IF D$<"0" OR D$>"12" THEN G
O TO 8590
8610 LET D=VAL D$: IF D>12 THEN
GO TO 8590
8620 LET D=D*(PI/6)
8625 PRINT AT Y,X; OVER 1;CHR$ 1
49
8635 IF X<29 AND Y>2 THEN PRINT
OVER 1;AT Y,X+1;CHR$ 154;CHR$
155;AT Y-1,X+1;CHR$ 152;CHR$ 153
8640 LET X=INT (X+5+SIN D)
8645 LET Y=INT (Y-5+COS D)
8650 IF X>31 THEN LET X=31
8655 IF X<0 THEN LET X=0
8660 IF Y>21 THEN LET Y=21
8665 PRINT AT Y,X; FLASH 1;CHR$
149
8670 IF X=16 AND Y=11 THEN GO TO
8000
8675 GO TO 8541
8680 INPUT "STRENGTH (1 TO 32)";
S$
8690 IF S<"0" OR S>"32" THEN G
O TO 8680
8700 LET S=VAL S$
8710 IF S>(4-HC)+50+100 THEN G
O TO 8680
8720 LET S=S/CD
8730 IF R=1 THEN LET S=S/(RND*2+
1.5)
8740 INPUT "DIRECTION (0 TO 12)";
D$
8750 IF D$<"0" OR D$>"12" THEN G
O TO 8680
8760 LET D=VAL D$
8770 IF D>12 OR D<0 THEN GO TO 9
010
8780 PRINT AT Y,X;
8790 IF Q=32 THEN PRINT INK 0; P
APER 4;CHR$ 144
8800 IF Q=37 THEN PRINT INK 5; P
APER 4;CHR$ 144
8810 IF Q=57 THEN PRINT INK 1; P
APER 7;CHR$ 146
8820 IF Q=112 THEN PRINT INK 0;
PAPER 6;CHR$ 150
8830 IF Q=56 THEN PRINT INK 0; P
APER 7;CHR$ 145
8840 LET D=D*(PI/6)
8850 LET XI=X+5+SIN D
8860 LET YI=Y-5+COS D
8870 IF YI>21 OR YI<0 THEN LET S
H=SH+1: PRINT AT 21,0; INK 2; FL
ASH 1;"LOST BALL PENALTY SHOT";
GO TO 9110
8880 LET X=XI: LET Y=YI
8890 LET X=INT (X+.5): LET Y=INT
(Y+.5)
8900 LET D=ATTR (Y,X)
8910 PRINT AT Y,X; FLASH 1;CHR$
149
8920 LET R=0
8930 FOR F=1 TO 250: NEXT F
8940 PRINT AT 21,0; FOR H=1 TO
22: PRINT INK 0; PAPER 4;CHR$ 14
4;: NEXT F
8950 RETURN
8960 STOP
8970 RESTORE 9500
8980 FOR F=144 TO 155
8990 FOR G=0 TO 7
9000 READ A
9010 POKE USA CHR$ F+G,A
9020 NEXT G

```

```

3550 NEXT F
3560 DATA 85,170,85,170,85,170,8
5,170,60,126,255,255,126,24,24,6
0,60,170,17,60,170,17,60,170
3570 DATA 129,60,126,126,126,126,
129,24,20,24,16,16,16,16,55,0,60
3580 DATA 126,126,126,126,126,126,
126,126,126,126,126,126,126,126
3590 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,3,28,28
0,12,28,60,220,60,4,5,0,0,0,0,6
3600 RETURN

```



Golf by Simon Goodson

## Alien Invaders

on ZX81

Alien Invaders is a fast, addictive moving graphics game for the expanded ZX81 in which you are under siege from invading craft from outer space. As they move across the screen you have to try and shoot them down using your laser bases which you can move to the left and right using the 2 and 4 keys.

To fire press the 9 key. Try and hit them as quickly as possible as you'll score more

## Data/Read

on ZX81

The idea is that data is stored in a string, and the string read by the ZX81 string-slicing routines. The data-string is then reduced by the number of digits read.

In the example, the variable D\$ is initialised at the start of the program by a GOSUB 1000; this data-string is then read two digits at a time — (2000 LET R\$=D\$(TO 2)) — and is then reduced in

if you do. But watch out though, the aliens can drop bombs as well.

These are the main sections of the program and their purposes:

- Lines 1-31 Variables
- Lines 50-94 Set up screen
- Lines 100-160 Main program routine
- Lines 200-240 Alien crossed screen
- Lines 300-390 Firing routine
- Lines 400-470 Direct hit on alien
- Lines 1000-1200 Your base has been hit
- Lines 1500-1550 End of game

- Explanation of variables:
- K —Best score
  - C —Number of lives
  - S —Score
  - A & B —Position of alien
  - X & Y —Your position

length by those two digits — (2010 LET D\$=D\$(3 TO)).

The resulting R\$ is then converted to a numeral by use of VAL. In using this routine, it is essential that all data items are the same length; in the case of numerals, they should be padded out with leading zeros, and non-numerics with trailing spaces. Restore is simply a GOSUB 1000, which redefines D\$ to its original length.

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```

00REM I. BEYNON - COPYRIGHT 82
01LET K=0
02LET S=0
03LET B=0
04LET X=0
05LET Y=0
06PRINT AT 2,0;"*****"
07PRINT AT 2,0;"YOUR SCORE=";
08PRINT AT 0,3;"YOUR SCORE=";
09PRINT AT 0,3;"YOUR SCORE=";
10IF C=3 THEN PRINT AT 0,21;"
11IF C=2 THEN PRINT AT 0,21;"
12IF C=1 THEN PRINT AT 0,21;"
13PRINT AT 1,3;"BEST SCORE=";
14FOR B=0 TO 27
15PRINT AT A,B;" " ; AT X,Y
16LET I=INT (RAND*6)
17IF I<3 THEN GOTO 114
18FOR N=7 TO 19 STEP 4
19IF N=7 THEN PRINT AT N-4,B
20PRINT AT N,B+2;"V"
21NEXT N
22IF B+2=Y+3 OR B+2=Y+4 OR B+
23Y+2 THEN GOTO 1000
24PRINT AT 19,B+2;" "

```

```

130 IF INKEY$="2" AND Y>1 THEN
LET Y=Y-2
140 IF INKEY$="4" AND Y<27 THEN
LET Y=Y+2
150 IF INKEY$="9" THEN GOSUB 30
160 NEXT B
200 CLS
210 PRINT AT 10,3;"ALIEN CRAFT
SUCCESSFULLY          CROSSED
SCREEN"
220 LET C=C-1
230 FOR N=1 TO 100
240 NEXT N
250 CLS
260 GOTO 1000
300 FOR N=17 TO 2 STEP -3
310 IF N<17 THEN PRINT AT N+3,
Y+3;" "
320 PRINT AT N,Y+3;"A"
330 NEXT N
340 PRINT AT 2,Y+3;" "
350 IF Y+3=B+1 OR Y+3=B+2 OR Y+
36B+3 THEN GOTO 400
370 RETURN
400 FOR N=1 TO 10
410 PRINT AT 10,12;" BOOM "; AT
10,12;"*****"
420 NEXT N
430 PRINT AT 2,B+1;"T"
440 PRINT AT 20,Y+3;"T"

```

```

455 PRINT AT 2,0;" "
456 PRINT AT 10,0;" "
460 FOR N=1 TO 10
465 NEXT N
467 LET S=S+(32-B)
470 GOTO 90
1000 PRINT AT 19,B+2;" "
1010 FOR N=1 TO 20
1020 PRINT AT X,Y;" " ; AT X
Y;" "
1030 NEXT N
1055 FOR N=1 TO 20
1065 NEXT N
1075 LET C=C-1
1080 IF C=0 THEN PRINT AT 0,26;"
1190 IF C=0 THEN GOTO 1500
1195 PRINT AT 2,0;" "
1200 GOTO 50
1500 CLS
1510 PRINT AT 10,0;"YOU MANAGED
TO SCORE ";S;" POINTS"
1520 PRINT AT 17,2;"PRESS ANY KE
Y TO PLAY AGAIN"
1525 IF S>K THEN LET K=S
1530 IF INKEY$="" THEN GOTO 1530
1540 CLS
1550 GOTO 5

```

**Alien Invaders**  
by Ian Benyon

```

1 REM EXAMPLE OF DATA/READ
2 REM ON ZX81-R K A PHILLIPS
3 DIM R(10)
4 DIM C(10)
5 DIM A(10)
6 GOSUB 1000
7 FOR I=1 TO 10
8 GOSUB 2000
9 LET R(I)=VAL R$
10 LET C(I)=INT (2*PI*R(I)+10+
11.4)
12 LET A(I)=INT (PI*R(I)+2*10
13.4)
14 NEXT I
15 PRINT "RADIUS";TAB 10;"CIRC
UM";TAB 20;"AREA"
16 FOR I=1 TO 10
17 PRINT R(I);TAB 10;C(I);TAB
20;A(I)
18 NEXT I
19 STOP
20 REM DATA STRING IS D$
21 LET D$="2739172973853861466
22 REM NB ALL SAME LENGTH
23 RETURN
24 REM READ BY R$
25 LET R$=D$( TO 2)
26 LET C$=D$(3 TO )
27 REM VARY BY LENGTH OF DATA
28 RETURN

```

RADIUS	CIRCUM	AREA
2.7	16.8	22.9
3.9	24.5	47.7
10.0	62.8	314.2
10.0	62.8	314.2
10.0	62.8	314.2
10.0	62.8	314.2
10.0	62.8	314.2
10.0	62.8	314.2
10.0	62.8	314.2
10.0	62.8	314.2

**Data/Read**  
by Robin Phillips

## UFO

on Atom

The object of the game is to shoot down UFOs which randomly move around the screen. When you hit them they explode.

If you have a 6522 Via on your Atom, you can hear the sound effects by fixing a speaker (via a driver) to CB2 (pin 11 on PL6). If you wish to create your own sounds it is very simple; only 3 pokes are needed:

- Line 1;?EB80B=16
- Line 2;?EB80A= any No. from 1 to 255 (square wave mark space ratio)
- Line 3;?EB808= any No. from 1 to 255 (frequency)

## String Sort

on ZX81

String Sort is a useful routine which will sort words or even full sentences into alphabetical order. This can be very handy when a long list of people's names need to be used for a list such as a register of

members at the local computer club.

The program runs on a 16K ZX81 and output can easily be sent to the ZX printer by using the sequence *Break, Copy, Cont* at any time when a copy of the screen contents is desired (except during an *Input*).

As you would expect, the string inputs are stored in a string array, which is two-dimensional. The program asks you how many words you have and what the maximum length of the word/sentence is. These are both maximum limits, so if you don't know how many or how long your strings are then it is usually a good idea to be generous when you estimate your answers to the two questions.

If at any time you have finished entering your list of words but the computer is waiting for the next word, then input the keyword *Stop* as instructed by the program, and the computer will go into *Fast* mode while it sorts the strings into order.

I have taken exceptional care over the screen presentation, with such nice effects as:

- (1) If your word is more than one line long

turn to next page

```

0 P.$I2" UFOufoUFOufoUFOufoUFOufoUFOufo"
1 P."*****"
2 P."THE OBJECT OF THE GAME IS TO MOVE
THE UFO INTO "
3 P."YOUR SIGHTS AND SHOOT IT DOWN"
4 P."YOU HAVE 20 SHOTS WITH WHICH TO DO THIS"
5 P."CTRL=UP;SHIFT=DOWN;Q=LEFT;" "3=RIGHT;C=
FIRE"
6 P." (PRESS A KEY)";LINK&FFE3
10 S=0
20 B=20
30 ?EB80B=16
40 DIM AA8,BBI4
50 T=0
60 AA0=219;AA1=36;AA2=126;AA3=255;AA4=129
90 CLEAR1
100 MOVE64,0;DRAW64,64
110 MOVE0,32;DRAW128,32
120 Q=A.R.%I024+£8000
130 T=T+1
140 F.X=0T04;?Q=AA(X);?Q;Q=Q+16;N.
150 Q=Q-80
160 ?EB80B=16;?EB80A=16;?EB808=A.R.%60+I00
170 F.X=0T05;WAIT;N.;?EB80A=0
180 F.X=0T04;?Q=AA(X);?Q;Q=Q+16;H.;Q=Q-80
190 D=A.R.%3
200 IF D=0 Q=Q-A.R.%3
210 IF D=1 Q=Q+A.R.%3
220 IF D=2 Q=Q+A.R.%3*I6
230 IF D=3 Q=Q+A.R.%3*I6

```

```

240 IF ?EB00I=247 GOS.330
250 IF ?EB00I=191 Q=Q-(5*I6)
260 IF ?EB00I=127 Q=Q+(5*I6)
270 IF ?EB00I=239 Q=Q-2
280 IF ?EB00I=253 Q=Q+2
290 IFB=0;P.$I2" YOUR LASER ENERGY HAS NOW RUN OUT "
300IFT=300;P.$I2" YOUR FUEL HAS NOW RUN OUT ""
310 IFT=300 OR B=0;P."YOUR SCORE WAS";LINK&FFE3;RUN
320G.I40
330 MOVE0,0;PLOT5,64,32;PLOT5,128,0
340 ?EB80A=33
350 F.X=255T00 S.-I;?EB808=X;N.;B=B-I
360 IFQ>£8200-(I6*3) AND Q<£8200+(I6*3);GOS.380
;S=S+I00;G.90
370 MOVE0,0;PLOT7,64,32;PLOT7,128,0;R.
380 MOVE64,32;G=84;H=32
390 DO G=C-4;H=H+4;DRAWG,H;MOVE64,32;U.G=64
400 DO G=C-4;H=H-4;DRAWG,H;MOVE64,32;U.G=44
410 DO G=C+4;H=H-4;DRAWG,H;MOVE64,32;U.G=64
420 DO G=C+4;H=H+4;DRAWG,H;MOVE64,32;U.G=84
430 F.X=0T03
440 ?EB80A=44;F.C=0T075;?EB808=C;N.
450 ?EB80A=44;F.C=175T00 S.-I;?EB808=C;H.C
460 N.:R.
470 E.
480 REM**(C)P.VERNON**I982**

```

**UFO**  
by P Vernon

# Open Forum

## from previous page

on the screen, then the computer automatically puts in the four-space margin on the left-hand side of the screen, which is reserved for the number of the word (see lines 240-290).

(2) If your string is not of maximum length then the computer won't waste time printing out the remaining spaces of the array element in which the string is stored (see lines 250 and 530).

```

100 PRINT "STRING SORT. (C)DAVID
D. M. WEBB"
110 PRINT "NUMBER OF WORDS="
120 INPUT N
130 PRINT N
140 PRINT "MAX LENGTH="
150 INPUT L
160 PRINT L
170 PRINT "TO EVALUATE EARLY
INPUT KEYWORD", " " STOP " "
180 DIM A$(N,L)
190 FOR A=1 TO N
200 IF PEEK 16442=2 THEN GOSUB

```

```

550 PRINT A,TAB 4;
560 INPUT A$(A)
570 IF A$(A,1)=" STOP " THEN GO
TO 540
580 FOR F=1 TO L
590 IF A$(A,F TO F+(F<L))=" "
THEN GOTO 580
600 IF PEEK 16441=1 AND PEEK 16
442=3 THEN GOSUB 710
610 IF PEEK 16441=1 THEN PRINT
TAB 4;
620 PRINT A$(A,F);
630 NEXT F
640 PRINT
650 NEXT A
660 STOP
670 LET B$(A)=A$(C)
680 LET M=C
690 RETURN
700 LET A$(A)=" "
710 GOTO 330
720 PRINT AT 0,19;"PRESS ANY KE
Y"
730 IF INKEY$("<") THEN GOTO 670
740 IF INKEY$=" " THEN GOTO 680
750 CLS
760 RETURN
770 IF INKEY$(">") THEN GOTO 720
780 IF INKEY$=" " THEN GOTO 730
790 CLS
800 PRINT TAB 4;
810 RETURN

```

```

500 IF PEEK 16442=2 THEN GOSUB
510 PRINT A,TAB 4;
520 FOR F=1 TO L
530 IF B$(A,F TO F+(F<L))=" "
THEN GOTO 580
540 IF PEEK 16441=1 AND PEEK 16
442=3 THEN GOSUB 710
550 IF PEEK 16441=1 THEN PRINT
TAB 4;
560 PRINT B$(A,F);
570 NEXT F
580 PRINT
590 NEXT A
600 STOP
610 LET B$(A)=A$(C)
620 LET M=C
630 RETURN
640 LET A$(A)=" "
650 GOTO 330
660 PRINT AT 0,19;"PRESS ANY KE
Y"
670 IF INKEY$("<") THEN GOTO 670
680 IF INKEY$=" " THEN GOTO 680
690 CLS
700 RETURN
710 PRINT AT 0,19;"PRESS ANY KE
Y"
720 IF INKEY$(">") THEN GOTO 720
730 IF INKEY$=" " THEN GOTO 730
740 CLS
750 PRINT TAB 4;
760 RETURN

```

String sort  
by David Webb

## Canyon

on BBC Micro

"Canyon" was developed on a BBC model B microcomputer. It has been compressed to run on the model A. However, there is insufficient memory available in the model A unless the space reserved for the user supplied resident routines between &D00 and &E00 is made available to this program.

If the command PAGE = &D00 is entered BEFORE loading the program "Canyon" will then run on the model A.

This program was developed from Road Runner by Tim Hartnell as published in *Popular Computing Weekly* April 20, 1982 vol. 1 No. 1. Substantial modifications and enhancements have been made.

The fleet is surrounded. There is only one chance. Someone must make it through the canyon to find reinforcements. Only a madman would venture through the narrow and treacherous canyon. As you no doubt qualify I will explain the controls. Use the cursor control keys to move left and right and the space bar to energise your laser.

Line 1 If escape is pressed goto average routine  
Lines 2-3 Instructions  
Lines 4-8 Initialisation  
Lines 9-22 Main program section  
Lines 23-28 Crash routine  
Lines 29-43 Top 10 scores update and display routine  
Lines 44-46 Display average and reset routine

I have got rather bored waiting for the BBC wordprocessor chip and so as a stopgap measure I have written a three-line wordprocessor for my Epson MX80 F/T printer. I keep this under the bit of plastic guarded by the BBC owl.

Line 10 MODE0  
Line 20 VDU8:INPUT LINE" "IS  
Line 30 VDU11,2:PRINT\$:VDU3:GOTO20

```

100 ERROR 8010 44
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```

# Open Forum

## Black Hole

on Vic 20

This is a Space Invader game with a difference. At any one time three invaders pass in front of you from the top of the

screen each having a different score value, which you simply have to shoot. You can shoot the alien when it appears anywhere in the sight.

But beware, there are six invisible black holes in front of you. You will be sucked into the black hole when the centre of the

sight passes over one of these holes.

A good average for the game is 100. All keyboard directions are shown in the instructions.

The program runs in a minimum of 6.5K and can also be used without any modification with any memory above that level.

```

1  REM *** 1982
2  REM N. ECHERSLEY
3  PRINT "BLACK HOLE"
4  PRINT "SCORE: 0"
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Black hole  
by N Echersley

A GREAT NEW COMPETITION WORTH £THOUSANDS TO THE WINNER

# Whizz-Kid '82

Fancy your chances?  
We're looking for a bright young thing who can out-shine all the commercial software houses and come up with a sparkling new program that can be marketed commercially.  
We want you to prove you can write a selling program and if you win the competition you'll be well on the way to making big money.  
The winner will receive:

1. A Dragon 32 computer.
2. Advice from *Popular Computing Weekly* on how to market and sell the winning software and how to form and finance the company to do so.
3. £2,000-worth of free advertising in *Popular Computing Weekly*.

The winner will be the author who submits the most commercially viable program together with a written outline of the author's own proposals on how he would run his software house and why he would like to do it. The judge will be *Popular Computing Weekly* editor, Brendon Gore.

If a number of equally good and commercially viable programs are submitted the decision of the overall winner will be based on the best accompanying written outline of the author's proposals for running a software house.

Entries to the award scheme must be accompanied by at least four out of five of the numbered coupons published in *Popular Computing Weekly* throughout September. The closing date for the competition is October 18. The winning entry will be announced in the issue published on November 18.

- Rules**
1. There is no limit on the number of entries you can send in, but each entry must be accompanied by four differently numbered competition coupons.
  2. Closing date for entries is October 18, 1982.
  3. The names of the winners will be announced in the November 18 issue of *Popular Computing Weekly*.
  4. The Judges' decision is final.
  5. No employees of Sunshine Publications Ltd, or their families, will be eligible to enter the competition.

## Popular Computing Weekly Whizz-Kid '82 Scheme

Fill in this coupon. When you have collected four differently numbered coupons, send them with your program to: *Popular Computing Weekly*, Whizz-Kid '82, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2.

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

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# Spectrum

## Breaking up is always hard to do

David Hawkins explains how to disassemble Z80 instructions into mnemonics.

The ability of Sinclair Spectrum Basic to hold relatively complex data structures in a 'visible' form, ie, in the program listing, is well demonstrated by this Z80 disassembler. This is made possible by the new (to ZX Basic) commands: *Data* (with expressions as data), *Restore* (with a line-number pointer), *Read* and multi-statement lines for greater speed (less line-numbers for *Goto*, *Gosub*, *Return*, *Restore* etc to search through).

The program provides a disassembly of all Z80 instructions — indexed or otherwise — into mnemonics and, optionally into byte values (decimals and characters/keywords). Illegal instructions are *Beeped* and *Flashed*, whereupon the program goes into byte printing mode. *Jr* opcodes are printed with actual addresses. The program prints 2-3 lines a second.

The instruction relationships and mnemonics are held in *Data* statement tables as opcode (or pointer), arguments (or pointers) and brackets requirements. Some opcodes and arguments are contained in array tables, so certain *Data* lines hold pointers to the arrays — notice how an opcode can be built from two parts as in line 3271.

Each instruction byte is rearranged and split to form a pointer to a *Data* line. As certain instructions have a slightly different structure, the opcode is replaced where relevant by an indicator and pointer to a further line eg line 1001 points to line 4000 modified by variable *b*.

The lower-case letters *u* to *z* are used to indicate special editing requirements be-

Figure 1

45	RST	56	
46	RST	56	
47	RST	56	
48	PUSH	BC	
49	LD	HL, (23649)	
52	PUSH	HL	
53	JP	5790	
56	PUSH	AF	
57	PUSH	HL	
58	LD	HL, (23672)	
61	INC	HL	
62	LD	(23672), HL	
65	LD	A, H	
66	OR	I	
67	JR	NZ, 72	
69	INC	(IY+64)	
72	PUSH	BC	
73	PUSH	DE	
74	CALL	703	
77	POP	DE	
78	POP	BC	

Address Bytes Bytes Continue

fore output ie insert Index registers, calculate displacements, double byte values, etc.

The program automatically determines the number of bytes in the instruction so printing the correct number of byte values is simple.

### Variables used

- a* to *e* — components of split byte.
- f* — index register displacement.
- g* — indicates which argument is bracketed (0 = none) also used for byte printing.
- l* — used for index instruction validation.
- k* — indicates instruction classification.
- l* — instruction block pointer.
- m* — modifies 1 pointer, also indicates which argument is being edited.
- p* — address of byte being examined.
- p1* — address of first byte of instruction.
- q* — contents of byte being examined.
- s* — indicates if byte values are to be printed, 0 = no, 1 = yes.
- z* — Table initialisation For loop counter.
- a\$* to *c\$* — opcode and two arguments.
- d\$* — holds arguments for editing.
- \$* — holds "HL", "IX" or "IY" as required.
- n\$* — contains flashing "?" for errors.
- c\$* to *y\$* — Mnemonic tables.
- z\$* — holds "+" or null for index register displacement.

### Detailed Description

- 1 Print title, set Caps Lock and initialise.

#### Main program

- 100 Input start address.
- 110 Get first byte, set class and index defaults.
- 120 'Half' opcode.
- 130 Determine class of instruction.
- 150-180 Index instructions.
- 200 Split byte and rearrange, set *Data* pointer to line and *Read* first item.

- 230 If extended structure read next two items (line no and modifier), reset *Data* pointer and read item.
- 240 Check for invalid opcode.
- 250 Read two arguments and brackets indicator.
- 260-270 Check/edit both arguments.
- 280 If index instruction check if index editing was done.
- 300-310 Insert brackets if necessary.
- 700 Print disassembled instruction.
- 720 Print byte values if required.
- 740 Check for interrupt.

### Argument editing

- 920 "u" — displaced address.
- 930 "v" — single byte value.
- 940 "w" — double byte value.
- 945 "↑" — invalid argument.
- 950 Set index edit flag.
- 955 "y" — index register.
- 960-990 "x" — index register and displacement.

### Tables

- 1001-1371 Instruction byte not equal 203 or 237.
- 2071-2371 Instruction byte = 203.
- 3071-3371 Instruction byte = 237.
- 4001-4048 Extended instructions.

### Miscellaneous

- 4500-4560 Handle interrupts.
- 4900-6000 Determine mode and set up mnemonic arrays.

When the program is *Run* it will ask if byte values are to be printed — press B (bytes to be printed) or N (not printed). Next, it will ask for a start address for disassembly. Printing will continue until a key is pressed. The options are: A — new address, B — byte values, N — no byte values or C — continue.

Figure 1 shows the output address and mnemonics only, Figure 2 shows address, mnemonics and byte values. Figure 3 contains the program listing.

### Possible enhancements

Use a 16K array to map and disassemble the Rom, marking addresses of *Calls*, *Jps*, etc. Follow only these established instruction addresses in the disassembly. Place these symbolics into a large array and write with address array to Microdrive files for subsequent searching/editing. Symbolic names can be given to many addresses eg system variables and commonly used subroutines.

Next requirement — editor/assembler. Watch this space!

Figure 2

4605	INC	B	4	?
4606	JR	Z, 4533	40	{
			25	?
4608	LD	(23732), HL	34	"
			180	TAN
			92	\
4611	LD	DE, 16047	17	?
			175	CODE
			62	>
4614	LD	BC, 168	1	?
			168	FN
			0	?
4617	EX	DE, HL	235	FOR

Address Bytes Bytes Continue

```

1 PRINT AT 5,5;"Spectrum Disa
ssembler": POKE 23658,8: GO SUB
4900
100 INPUT "Start address ?":P
110 LET p1=p: LET q=PEEK p: LET
p=p+1: LET k=1: LET i$="HL"
120 IF q=116 THEN LET a$="HALT"
: LET b$="": LET c$="": GO TO 70
0
130 IF q=203 OR q=237 THEN LET
k=2+(q=237): LET q=PEEK p: LET p
=p+1: GO TO 200
150 IF q=221 THEN LET i$="IX"
160 IF q=253 THEN LET i$="IY"
170 IF i$<>"HL" AND PEEK p=116
THEN GO TO 850
180 IF i$<>"HL" THEN LET q=PEEK
p: LET p=p+1: IF q=203 THEN LET
k=2: LET f=PEEK p: LET p=p+1: L
ET q=PEEK p: LET p=p+1
200 LET a=INT (q/64): LET b=INT
(q/8-a*8): LET c=q-b*8-a*64: LE
T d=INT (b/8)+1: LET e=b-2*d+3:
LET a=a+1: LET b=b+1: LET c=c+1:
RESTORE x=1000+a=100+c=10+e-111
: READ a$
230 IF a$=">" THEN READ l,m. RE
STORE l+m: READ a$
240 IF a$(1)="↑" OR a$(LEN a$)=
"↑" THEN GO TO 850
250 READ b$,c$,g
260 LET i=0: IF CODE b$>90 THEN
LET d$=b$(1): LET m=2: GO SUB 9
00: LET b$=d$
270 IF CODE c$>90 THEN LET d$=c
$(1): LET m=2: GO SUB 900: LET c
$=d$
280 IF i$<>"HL" AND NOT i THEN
GO TO 850
300 IF g=1 THEN LET b$="("+b$+"
)"
310 IF g=2 THEN LET c$="("+c$+"
)"
700 PRINT p1;TAB 6;a$;TAB 11;b$
: IF c$<>" " THEN PRINT ", ";c$:
"
720 IF s THEN FOR z=p1 TO p-1:
LET q=PEEK z: PRINT TAB 21;q;TAB
25;CHR$(PEEK z AND (q<16 OR q>
23)): NEXT z
730 PRINT : POKE 23692,255
740 IF INKEY$<>" " THEN GO TO 45
00
800 GO TO 110
850 LET a$=n$: LET b$="": LET c
$="": BEEP .1,0: LET s=1: GO TO
700
900 REM edit arguments
920 IF d$="u" THEN LET q=PEEK p
: LET p=p+1: LET d$=STR$(p+q-25
6+(q>127)): RETURN
930 IF d$="v" THEN LET q=PEEK p
: LET p=p+1: LET d$=STR$ q: RETU
RN
940 IF d$="w" THEN LET q=PEEK p
: LET d$=STR$(q+256*PEEK (p+1))
: LET p=p+2: RETURN
945 IF d$="↑" THEN LET d$=n$: B
EEP .1,10: LET s=1: RETURN
950 IF i$<>"HL" THEN LET i=1
955 IF d$="y" THEN LET d$=i$: R
ETURN
960 LET g=0: IF i$="HL" THEN LE
T d$="HL": RETURN
970 IF k=1 THEN LET f=PEEK p: L
ET p=p+1
990 LET f=f-256+(f>127): LET z$
="↑" AND f>=0: LET d$=i$+z$+STR$
f: RETURN
1001 DATA ">",4000,b
1010 DATA "LD",s$(d),"w",0
1011 DATA "ADD",u",s$(d),0
1021 DATA ">",4010,b
1030 DATA "INC",s$(d),"",0
1031 DATA "DEC",s$(d),"",0
1041 DATA "INC",r$(b),"",0
1051 DATA "DEC",r$(b),"",0
1061 DATA "LD",r$(b),v",0
1071 DATA v$(b),"",0
1171 DATA "LD",r$(b),r$(c),0
1271 DATA x$(b),r$(c),0
1301 DATA "RET",q$(b),"",0
1310 DATA "POP",t$(d),"",0
1311 DATA ">",4020,d
1321 DATA "JP",q$(b),"w",0
1331 DATA ">",4030,b
1341 DATA "CALL",q$(b),"w",0
1350 DATA "PUSH",t$(d),"",0
1351 DATA "CALL",w",a",0
1361 DATA x$(b),v",a",0
1371 DATA "RST",STR$(b*8-b),"",
0
2071 DATA w$(b),r$(c),"",0
2171 DATA "BIT",STR$(b-1),r$(c)
,0

```

```

2271 DATA "RES",STR$(b-1),r$(c)
,0
2371 DATA "SET",STR$(b-1),r$(c)
,0
3071 DATA "↑"
3101 DATA "IN",r$(b),"C",2
3111 DATA "OUT",c",r$(b),1
3120 DATA "SBC",HL",s$(d),0
3121 DATA "ADC",HL",s$(d),0
3130 DATA "LD",w",s$(d),1
3131 DATA "LD",s$(d),w",0
3140 DATA "NEG",0$(d),"",0
3141 DATA "↑"
3150 DATA "RETN",0$(d),"",0
3151 DATA "RETI",0$(d),"",0
3161 DATA "IM",p$(b),"",0
3171 DATA ">",4040,b
3231 DATA u$(c)+y$(b),"",0
3371 DATA "↑"
4001 DATA "NOP",",",0
4002 DATA "EX",AF",AF",0
4003 DATA "DJNZ",u",u",0
4004 DATA "JR",u",u",0
4008 DATA "JR",q$(b-4),u",0
4011 DATA "LD",BC",A",1
4012 DATA "LD",A",BC",2
4013 DATA "LD",DE",A",1
4014 DATA "LD",A",DE",2
4015 DATA "LD",e",e",1
4016 DATA "LD",e",A",1
4017 DATA "LD",A",e",1
4021 DATA "RET",",",0
4022 DATA "EXX",",",0
4023 DATA "JP",y",y",1
4024 DATA "LD",SP",y",0
4028 DATA "↑"
4031 DATA "JP",e",",0
4032 DATA "↑"
4033 DATA "OUT",v",A",1
4034 DATA "IN",A",v",2
4035 DATA "EX",SP",y",1
4036 DATA "EX",DE",HL",0
4037 DATA "DI",",",0
4038 DATA "EI",",",0
4041 DATA "LD",I",A",0
4042 DATA "LD",R",A",0
4043 DATA "LD",A",I",0
4044 DATA "LD",A",R",0
4045 DATA "RRD",",",0
4046 DATA "RLD",",",0
4048 DATA "↑"
4500 PRINT "Address Bytes Bbyte
s Continue"
4510 IF INKEY$<>" " THEN GO TO 45
10
4520 IF INKEY$="A" THEN PAUSE 0:
GO TO 100
4530 IF INKEY$="B" THEN LET s=1:
GO TO 110
4540 IF INKEY$="N" THEN LET s=0:
GO TO 110
4550 IF INKEY$="C" THEN GO TO 11
0
4560 GO TO 4520
4900 PRINT AT 21,5;"Bytes or Bb
ytes ?"
4910 IF INKEY$="B" THEN LET s=1:
GO TO 4940
4920 IF INKEY$="N" THEN LET s=0:
GO TO 4940
4930 GO TO 4910
4940 CLS
4990 LET n$=CHR$ 18+CHR$ 1+"?"
4995 LET o$="↑↑↑"
5000 LET r$="BCDEHLxA"
5002 LET p$="0↑12↑↑↑"
5005 DIM s$(4,2): DIM t$(4,2)
5010 FOR z=1 TO 4
5015 LET s$(z)="BCDEy SP"(2*z-1
TO 2*z)
5020 LET t$(z)="BCDEy AF"(2*z-1
TO 2*z)
5040 NEXT z
5050 DIM q$(8,2): DIM x$(8,3): D
IM v$(8,4): DIM w$(8,3): DIM y$(
8,2): DIM u$(8,2)
5055 FOR z=1 TO 8
5060 LET q$(z)="NZZ NCC POPEP M
"(2*z-1 TO 2*z)
5065 LET x$(z)="ADDADCSUBSBCANDX
OROR CP"(3*z-2 TO 3*z)
5070 LET w$(z)="RLCRRCL RR SLAS
RA↑↑SRL"(3*z-2 TO 3*z)
5075 LET v$(z)="RLCARRCARLA RRA
DAA CPL VCF CCF"(4*z-3 TO 4*z)
5076 LET y$(z)="↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑I D IRDR
"(2*z-1 TO 2*z)
5077 LET u$(z)="LDCCPINOT↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑
"(2*z-1 TO 2*z)
5080 NEXT z
6000 RETURN
9999 REM © Aug 82 David Hawkins

```

# Classified

## ZX81 VIDEO INVERTER PCB

Displays sharp white characters on solid black background screen. Kit £4, built £5, will fit inverter £7.50 (includes VAT + P&P, instructions). Send cheque/PO to D. Fritsch, 6 Stanton Road, Thelwall, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 2HS.

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## BBC SOFTWARE

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Write to: Professor F.H. George Bureau of Information Science Commerce House, High Street, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks.

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**16K ZX81** with £200 software plus extras. Total cost £340, will accept £100 ono. Nottingham (0602) 264851.

**VIC20** complete with Vic cassette unit in original box, as new condition, £180. 061-223 0493 after 6 pm.

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# Peek & poke

Peek your problems to our address. Ian Beardsmore will poke back an answer.

## INFORMATION, HELP ME

*D McIlfratrick of Salloon, Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, writes:*

**Q** I was about to order a 48K Spectrum when I came across a company offering an 80K Spectrum, for the price of a 48K model. This was done by supplying a 64K add on, in place of the 32K offered by Sinclair, at the same price.

However, I have also read that the Z80a processor in the ZX81 can only address 64K, and 8K of that is used by the Sinclair Rom, so in fact the maximum available memory could only be 56K. Is this true of the Spectrum? I do not want to void my guarantee by having the 64K extra put in for no real gain, but if the claim is true it would be better for me to order a 16K Spectrum, and the 64K Ram extension.

**A** The Z80a processor in the Spectrum can only address 64K. In the Spectrum 16K of that memory is used by the Rom, so it does not take a mathematical genius to work out that you will be left with a maximum possible 48K of user Ram at any one time. This does not mean that you cannot have a memory capacity larger than 48K, as long as the balance is not being used.

What the advertisement does not say is that the spare Ram can only be switched in after a corresponding, or greater amount has been switched out to make room for it.

This is just one of the first of many such add-on memories of various sizes that will soon be available for the Spectrum. Extra Rams produced by independents are likely to be cheaper than the £50 or £60 that Sinclair will charge.

## LOADING ONLY

*M Haghzenas of Dunsmuir Grove, Tyne & Wear, writes:*

**Q** I have written a few programs and would like to send them to your magazine, but I have no printer for my

Vic20. However, I have access to a Pet with a printer. I would be grateful if you could tell me how to Load my Vic programs onto a Pet, so I can get a proper printout.

**A** For the unexpanded Vic20, type the first line in on the Pet, followed by `Poke 4096,0 : Poke 41,16 :` then `Clr/Ret`. No changes need to be made for a Vic that has the 3K expansion. If you have more than 3K then use the following: `Poke 41,18 : Poke 4680,0 :` then `Clr/Ret`.

## POSTING THE PRICE

*Simon Young of Hermon Avenue, Blackpool, Lancashire, writes:*

**Q** In the editorial of *Popular Computing Weekly*, July 22, you said that the Atari 400 could now be bought for under £200. I would be grateful if you could give me an accurate price, and an address where I could get one from.

Could you also clear up another question about the same machine. It was said that the 400 model could not have more than 16K user Ram, but I have seen an advertisement for 48K Ram. Which is right?

**A** The cheapest Atari that I can find is £199 from Deans of Kensington, 191 Kensington High Street, London W8. But, Deans do not say what postage and packing costs are.

As for your second question, the Atari 6502 chip is capable of addressing 64K, of which a block of 16K is allocated to memory. However, the 400 is designed in such a way that only 16K of this can be normally accessed.

The 48K extension is not recognised by Atari, whose technical department said that such an expansion will void the warranty, as physical changes to the pcb are needed. However, Maplin assured me that they offer their own one year guarantee.

If you read our August 26 issue, you will see that Maplin chose to work with the Atari because it had so much poten-

tial. No one can doubt that the machine offers superb graphics. But it does strike me as odd that a company should develop a machine with so much potential, and then make it difficult for that potential to be fully realised by the average user.

## ... FROM SANTA

*Andrew Morgan of Buscot Drive, Abingdon, Oxford, asks:*

**Q** Could you please tell me if there is a machine code book available for the ZX Spectrum. Also do you know which tape recorders are compatible with ZX computers.

**A** As yet there are no Spectrum machine code books available that I know of. However, I know that at least one book is in preparation, and I would not be surprised if there were more.

There is going to be another ZX Microfair in November and I would suggest that you keep a look out around then. The run up to Christmas seems a logical time to release such a book.

As for tape recorders, Monolith makes a machine that is designed particularly for Loading and Saving on the ZX81. Data-Asstette sells a Ferguson model that is also meant to remove the trouble normally associated with the ZX machines.

The Spectrum's Load/Save facilities have been improved by the introduction of a Schmitt trigger. As yet, I have come across no Save/Load problems on the Spectrum. All you have to ensure is that your recorder has jack sockets of the right size (3.5mm).

Data-Asstette is based at 44 Shroton Street, London NW1 6UG. Monolith's address is: 5-7 Church Street, Crewkerne, Somerset.

## CAUGHT NAPPING

*R S Guhra, of Alicia Gardens, Harrow, Middlesex, writes:*

**Q** On Page 5 of *Popular Computing Weekly*,

June 17, you say that the Spectrum has a design fault, and in the review section you say that it is crude and bug ridden. Only yesterday I ordered a Spectrum, but I feel uneasy and unsure of my choice now. Are there any simple programs which I can use to Benchtest my Spectrum and check all its functions easily?

On receipt of my Spectrum, I am allowed two weeks to make up my mind as to whether I want to purchase it. It would be useful to use this time to test the Spectrum to see if it malfunctions. The most obvious is *Print 2+2* to see if it answers four. But there must be other programs to test it exhaustively.

**A** This is what happens when a company supplies a pre-production model for review. All the faulty Spectrums were caught before going out to the public (as far as we know). Only the computer press got the bad machines, and that has not done Uncle Clive's reputation much good.

You do not say whether you ordered a 16K machine or a 48K machine. Only the 16K machines were faulty, and these now have an extra Nand gate wired in. Our machine has had this modification and, apart from the fact that it looks messy, we have so far found no further bugs. It is thought that the later 16K machines will have the fault rectified on the pcb.

The 48K machines are late for the simple reason that Sinclair made the same mistake as Acorn in underestimating the demand for the larger machine. Far more people ordered the 48K version, and Sinclair Research were just not geared up to meet this demand.

● Stop agonising over that problem. Write to Ian Beardsmore. Peek and Poke, *Popular Computing Weekly*, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2 7 HF.

Ian Beardsmore regrets that he cannot answer each question personally, so please do not enclose a SAE.



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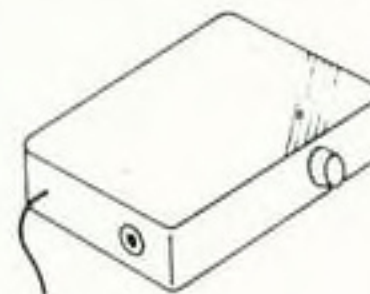
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