

The independent Dragon magazine

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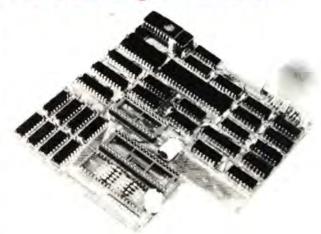
December 1985



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How to submit articles

The quality of the material we can publish in Dragon User each month will, to a very great extent depend on the quality of the discoveries that you can make with your Dragon. The Dragon computer was launched on to the market with a powerful version of Basic, but with very poor documentation.

Articles which are submitted to *Dragon User* for publication should not be more than 3000 words long. All submissions should be typed. Please leave wide margins and a double space between each line. Programs should, whenever possible, be computer printed on plain white paper and be accompanied by a tape of the program.

We cannot guarantee to return every submitted article or program, so please keep a copy. If you want to have your program returned you must include a stamped, addressed envelope.

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Gordon Lee sets the question, and includes a puzzling little Christmas bonus program — Microdeal provide 20 copies of Trekboer as the prize

Editorial

THE OFFICIAL publication date for this magazine is November 20 — which means that you should all have read this before the 6809 Show. So you have no excuse not to go and support your machine.

If you are reading this at the 6809 Show, then you deserve praise for two reasons — firstly, having taken the trouble to show up and prove your loyalty to the Dragon, and secondly, because you've had the sense to buy *Dragon User*.

There will be a lot of other people at the show too.

Microdeal will be present in force, selling a vast number of games for the Dragon, including Mike Gerrard's new rave, *Trekboer:* Compusense will be taking up a large amount of space as well, selling amongst other things, the new 64K expansion board that can make your 64 a 128 (see Roy Coates review): Wintersoft will be selling *Juxtaposition*, another game Mike Gerrard fell over backwards about.

The list isn't endless, but there are plenty of other names as well: Cumana, Design Design, Trojan, CRL, Andtek, Blaby, and our very own Pam D'Arcy to name but a few.

And of course *Dragon User* will be there, and our roving reporters will be doing quite a lot of roving so they can write a proper show report for a future issue.

What's more, over 2,000 people, the organisers say, have already bought tickets, so it looks like it's going to be a record breaking turnout.

So just who isn't going to be there?

Well, it's unlikely that any representatives from the major high street retailers will be turning up.

Remember them? They're the people who decided the Dragon was dead, and nobody wanted to buy software and peripherals for it any more — or so they thought. They're the reason that you have to buy everything for your Dragon by post these days, unless you're lucky enough to live near one of the small independents who really know what there's a demand for.

Letters

This is the chance to air your views — send your tips, compliments and complaints to Letters Page, *Dragon User*, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2H 7PP.

Powerless

COULD anyone at *Dragon User* tell me where I could purchase a transformer for my Dragon 32. I have tried Touchmaster, but they no longer stock it. Can the transformer be repaired or is it cheaper to buy new?

J Webb 44 Downland Place Adastral Road Canford Heath Poole Dorset BH17 7SN

Roll on!

I READ with interest your editorial in the October 85 issue which referred to the lack of effective marketing by some companies supporting the Dragon.

For myself I own a TRS-80 Co-Op 64, and I would like to see more companies providing compatible soft and hardware for both computers.

In the main it is the TRS-80 that is ignored — why is this?

There are over 100 Tandy branches in major towns, and cities in the U.K. alone. It must be an existing untapped market potential for most of these companies, and with the potential of an even bigger one.

I would also like to see Dragon User printing articles for the TRS-80, then I for one would be a regular purchaser of your magazine.

> W. P. Flannery 140 Sevenoaks Road Orpington Kent BR6 9JZ

Pity the editor

PITY the poor Editor.

Make it simpler. Make it more complex. Make it all games. Don't give us any games — only utilities! It must be worse than being the Prime Minister or Leader of the Opposition!.

Whilst I sympathise with G R Guthrie (October issue), we all have to begin somewhere at sometime and I suspect it will not be very long before he might grumble that he could do with something better than kid's stuff (with respect to

those kids who happen to be very advanced).

I hope he is carefully keeping all his copies of Dragon User for he will ultimately find them a most useful source of reference and ideas. I have every issue since No 1, but being very short of time can rarely try a program when first published. Also I am not into games at all nor do I have a disk system, so offerings of this nature are rather wasted on me. However, I am very happy that other readers' interests are being covered since this makes the magazine more of a viable proposition. It would have to be much more expensive to cover merely my interests alone!

I think Dragon User continues to improve — roll on the D'Arcys, Cadges, Whittakers et al, and dear Mr Editor please don't lower that standard but add a little encouragement for the Mr Guthries here and there.

Yes, people do type in long programs — I did Pam D'Arcy's Disassembler recently with much satisfaction.

B Yeoman Walker Prescot Merseyside

Jet Set

I HAVE been "wandering" through Jet Set Willy's mansion and have found 57 rooms/screens so far. Can anyone tell me how many there are supposed to be?

Plus, is there a cheat as in Manic Miner?

> H. James 54 Albion Street Castleton Rochdale Lancs

THE NEXT letter may be of some interest to you — so should the information following it . . .

Pokes!

THE following two programs will interest anyone who has purchased *Jet Set Willy* by Software Projects. Program A gives infinite lives and program B gives total immunity.

To use them type them in

and enter EXEC171. Your Jet Set Willy original will then load and run as normal but without infinite lives or immunity.

If you are hoping to complete the game, there are some things to be careful of: You need 99 objects to finish, no more and no less.

With infinite lives, endless loops can occur if you die at a monster's start position.

With immunity, endless loops can occur if you fall through killing blocks, ie the water in the bridge.

If you go to the top of the drain, an extra item is placed in the bathroom, so don't collect too many.

Program A 10 REM INFINITE LIVES. EXEC 171 TO RUN 20 READM:POKE X+171, M:X=X+1:IF X«15 THEN 20 30 DATA 16,206,0,255,189, 160,146,134,125,183,43,8, 126,9,9

Program B 10 REM IMMUNITY. EXEC 171 to RUN

20 READ M:POKE X+171, M:X=X+1:IF X«22 THEN 20 30 DATA 16,206,0,255,189, 160,146,204,125,57,183,43,8, 183,43,11,247,43,20,126,9,9

Jet Set Willy Afficionado

If the pokes don't work, then you could always try the codeword which allows you access to any screen so that you can practice the game. According to Wonderful Roy Coates (where would you be without him?) the procedure is as follows:

- Get the game running on any screen.
- 2 Press the M, A, and X keys at the same time
- 3 Using the left and right arrow keys, select your screen
- 4 Very quickly press the space bar and Miner Willy will appear in the middle of the screen
- 5 Using the four arrow keys, position Miner Willy where you want him on screen
- 6 Press the space bar and the game will start from that point

Roy stresses that this works on all copies of the game: if it doesn't work for you, this isn't because you've got a different version of Jet Set Willy, you aren't doing it right.

Excellent

I HAVE been reading *Dragon User* since it was first published and find it an excellent magazine. Could I venture to make a suggestion (well two to be exact) which would further improve it?

Firstly I would find an index to topics covered in articles and the answers page most helpful. It would save me hours of searching for the little bit of information I need. Perhaps you could give consideration to this on, say, a yearly basis.

Secondly, would it be possible to publish a list of the useful POKEs which have appeared from time to time in various places. I am thinking of such things as the POKE for speeding up the operation of the computer and the one to obviate pressing <SHIFT+>O in order to get lowercase. Meanwhile, keep on publishing your excellent magazine.

John Appleyard Leeds

Black screen

I HAVE had my Dragon 64 for eight months and although I have attempted some Basic programming, my knowledge of machine code is nil.

Regrettably. I purchased the Datacom games cassette before the review was published in the October edition of *Dragon User*. Jason Orbaum's views more or less sum up my own.

I have made a few minor changes, such as preventing the same word being selected repeatedly in *Execution*. However, as they all use a machine code loader, I have been unable to save these changes. Is there any way I can save these programs after amending them, and be able to load them again?

Also, can someone tell me if it is possible in Basic to change the standard text format to green on black as I am sure this would be better than black on green?

Alan Green 2 Rydal Close Burlish Park Stourport on Severn Worcs HERE IT IS! The 22 screen, 60 level, See Sawing, Frog Slurping, Lift Catching, Apple Munching, Mind Blowing, Eddie Guiding, Arrow Dodging, Mountain Jumping, Laser Zapping, Airship Gazing, Boulder Hopping



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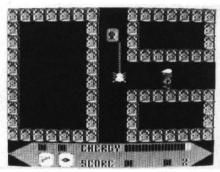
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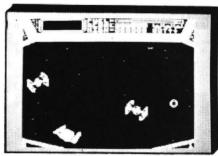


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If you fancy yourself as a safecracker then read on. Thirteen screens of disappearing floors, conveyors and will you find out for yourself. Help light-fingered Fred to collect his golden keys to open each safe, JS

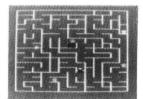
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6809 Show

THE 6809 Show looks like being the best supported ever, if the organisers are right in their estimates.

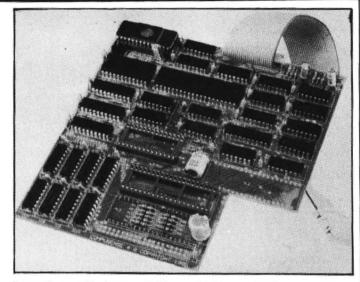
The list of companies attending is impressive — Microdeal, Tandy, Compusense, Cumana, Design Design, Datapen, Blaby, Peaksoft, Trojan, Greenweld, Smithson, John Penn, Micro Concepts, Andtek, Computape, Quickbeam, Incentive, Pamcomms, Cambridge Micro Processor, Modernsoft, Software Projects, Gamesmanship, Wintersoft, Harris Micros, Lucidata, Grosvenor, Modem House, Computer Bookshops, the 6809 User

Group, the 68 Micro Group, and Dragon User. And that won't be all, by a long chalk.

Congratulations to all of them for supporting the Dra-

Congratulations also to the 2,000 or so ordinary Dragon owners who have apparently already booked tickets, thus avoiding all that nasty queuing at the door.

There will be great numbers of new games and hardware on show, including Compusense's new Dragon expansion board that turns your Dragon 64 into a 128, and your 32 into a 96. Wintersoft will be showing Juxtaposition:



Incentive will have Eddy Steady Go!: Microdeal will have hordes of new games, including Trekboer and Module Man: Lucidata will have

the *Dragon's Claw*, a peripheral which gives your Dragon a BBC style interface:

If you aren't there you only have yourself to blame.

Microdeal roadshow

ALL IS not gloom for Microdeal lovers following the company's recent announcement that Microdeal, Pocket Money, Bad Taste, Spectral, Micromania and Salamander products would only be available by mail order from the Cornish company's Micropost division

John Symes, Microdeal's managing director, has copied Radio One and organised a Microdeal Roadshow to bring his products to the public.

The Roadshow will be covering the length and breadth of England and (a bit of) Wales.

On November 2 and 3, it will be at UMIST in Sackville Street, Manchester: On November 5 and 6, at the Civic Centre Exhibition Hall, Newcastle Upon Tyne: on November 7, the Wellesly Hotel, Wellington Street, Leeds: on November 8, Room G63, Aston University, Birmingham: on November 9 and 10, Sloans Hotel, Westgate Street, Cardiff.

Admission to the Show is free, and there will be lots of games, many of them at bargain prices.

And don't forget that Microdeal will also be at the 6809 Show, November 23 and 24, Royal Horticultural Halls, London. You'll have to buy tickets for that, though.

Memo to Microdeal: what about the Scots and the Irish?

Microdeal is at 41 Truro Road, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 5JE.

DRS Rom

GROSVENOR Software has produced a Rom cartridge version of its database utility DRS, extending the size of database supported to 28,000 bytes, compared to 22,000 for the cassette version.

DRS was written by Mike Kerry, who also wrote Grosvenor's Alldream assembler system.

Apparently, there are some very powerful features included — search, update and sort facilities amongst them.

DRS costs £18.40 on cartridge, and £10.35 on cassette, transferable to disk.

Grosvenor Software is at 2 Beacon Close, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2JZ.

Meaning business

HARRIS Software is about to launch three new programs for Dragondos or Cumana Dos users. The three titles are a continuation of Harris' series of programs for home and small business use.

The first title is Stockbox, a stock control system which can record sales, customers orders, deliveries and supplier orders.

It can report on low stock, orders outstanding, stock valuation at cost or selling price, turnover and profit margins and a host of other things.

Orderbox is an invoicing program which prints invoices onto either plain or pre-printed paper. It can be linked to Salesbox, Harris'

sales ledger program, or to Stockbox.

Sharebox is a share management program, which can be used to record the details of a portfolio of stocks and shares, and print or display valuations, capital gains, dividends and tax credits, and so on. It can also draw graphs of price trends.

Stockbox costs £19.99, Orderbox and Sharebox £16.99.

Harris will be exhibiting for the first time ever at the Third 6809 Show, and will have all their software on display.

Otherwise, Harris Micro Software can be contacted at 49 Alexandria Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3

Pamcomms plain

ONE OF *Dragon User's* best contributors, Pam D'Arcy — wizard of the keyboards — has finally decided to make some money out of her programming skills.

She has formed her own company — Pamcomms — dedicated to supplying low priced, high quality software for the Dragon.

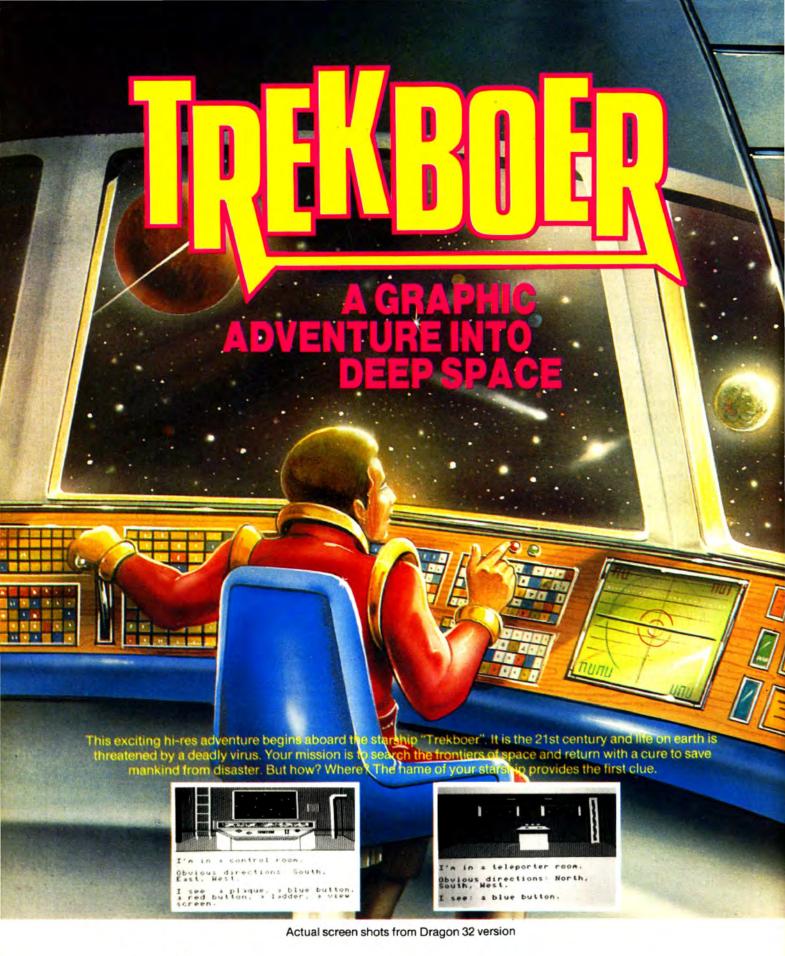
The first fruits of her labours, Pamcomms Plain Packs, will be on view at the 6809 Show.

Diskpix is a PMODE3/4 graphics pixel editor for full screen or individual sprite

character/sprite editing. Supplied on cassette with sample character sets, simple Basic demonstrating programs and supporting documentation, it costs just £3.00.

Also on sale at the 6809 Show from Pam will be an Electronic Book Starter Pack at £1.50, and Golden Oldies, featuring an enhanced version of Disk Detective and a selection of other past magazine contributions, at £3.00.

Pamcomms is located at 21 Wycombe Lane, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 0HD.



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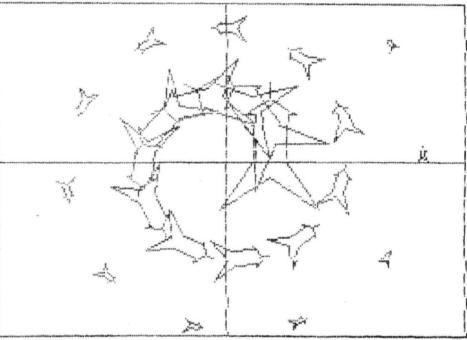


The Dragon draws in two dimensions

Peter Whittaker demonstrates how to get the best out of a flat surface

THE DRAGON'S DRAW command is very powerful, but it does have its limitations. It is no great task to DRAW a square, and it is easy to move the square around the screen, but once complicated rotations are required, the DRAW command starts to show its limitations since objects can only be rotated in ninety degree steps. There are similar limitations with the scaling ability of the DRAW command, and so, it would not, for example, be an easy task to draw a spaceship spiralling away from a planet, and getting smaller as it went (Fig #1). To accurately move objects around in two-dimensional space, we must abandon the DRAW command in favour of a co-ordinate based system. These co-ordinates can be manipulated, and then joined together using the LINE command. This way we will be able to improve on the scaling and rotation of the DRAW command, and also add shearing and reflection to our repertoire.

The equations used to manipulate the co-ordinates are recorded in the form of



matrices. This facilitates the combination of several operations into one equation. Table #1, using an anti-clockwise rotation as an example, shows how an object's co-ordinate system is multiplied with a matrix to give the object's new position. The result of this matrix manipulation is used in Listing #1 (lines 60 and 70) to

draw a rotating space ship. (Delete the REM statement in line 80 before RUNning.) The origin has been moved to the centre of the screen. For a smoother rotation, change the STEP value in line 130. Table #2 gives a list of all the matrices we will need for object manipulation in two dimensions.

All of the matrices in Table #2 are for operations based around the origin (coordinates 0,0). If we try to use them to rotate an object that is not centred on the origin, the object may not move in the way we would like. Change line 80 for DATA 40,40,60,40,60,60,40,60,40,40 and RUN the program again. Instead of spinning about its centre, the square will orbit the centre of the screen. If we want the square to rotate about its own centre, we must first move it to the origin, then rotate it, and then move it back.

This would take three sets of matrix multiplications to do. However, the process can be much speeded up by first combining the matrices into one compound matrix. Table #3 shows how two matrices can be combined, and Table #4 works out the combined matrix for our square rotation program. EDIT lines 60 and 70 to DEF_FNA(X)=(X-50)*COS(THETA)+(Y-50)*SIN(THETA)+50 DEF_FNB(Y)=(Y-50)*COS(THETA)-(X-50)*SIN(THETA)+50 and RUN the program again. Now the square rotates about its

(Xt,Yt) = (XA+YB+C, XD+YE+F,XG+YH+I) (G and H = \emptyset)

(Xt,Yt) = (XA+YB+C, XD+YE+F)

$$(Xr,Yr) = (X,Y,1) \times \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta & \emptyset \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta & \emptyset \\ \emptyset & \emptyset & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

= $(X\cos\theta - Y\sin\theta + \emptyset, X\sin\theta + Y\cos\theta + \emptyset, \emptyset X + \emptyset Y + 1)$

 $(Xr,Yr) = (X\cos\theta - Y\sin\theta, X\sin\theta + Y\cos\theta)$

Table 1. Object manipulation by matrix multiplication.

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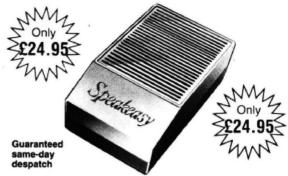
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detect and Action to take on crash etc.

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Table 2. Matrices for origin centred object manipulation.

```
Multiply each row in
          X BEH
CFI
   beh
                             matrix 1 by each
   c f i
                             column in matrix 2.
             Matrix 2
   Matrix
                /aA aD aG
  Top line =
                dB dE dH
                gC gF gI,
                 total
Centre line =
                bA bD bG
                ев ев ен
                hc hF hI
                 total
Bottom line =
                CA CD CG
                fB fE fH
                iC iF
                 total
  aA+dB+gC
             aD+dE+gF
                       aG+dH+gI
             bD+eE+hF
                       bG+eH+hI
   bA+eB+hC
  cA+fB+iC
             cD+fE+iF
                       cG+fH+iI,
```

How to multiply two matrices to get one compound matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \emptyset & \emptyset \\ \emptyset & 1 & \emptyset \\ TX & TY & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & \emptyset \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & \emptyset \\ \emptyset & \emptyset & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \emptyset & \emptyset \\ \emptyset & 1 & \emptyset \\ -TX - TY & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Translation & Translation$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & \emptyset \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & \emptyset \\ (TX\cos\theta + TY\sin\theta - TX) & (-TX\sin\theta + TY\cos\theta) & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \emptyset & \emptyset \\ \emptyset & 1 & \emptyset \\ -TX & -TY & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & \emptyset \\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & \emptyset \\ (TX\cos\theta + TY\sin\theta - TX) & (-TX\sin\theta + TY\cos\theta - TY) & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Table 4. Matrix combination. Translation to origin x rotation x translation back.

own centre, and does not orbit the origin. lation. Restore the original rocket co-The same process of matrix combination ordinates to line 80, and EDIT lines 60 and can be carried out to include scaling, shearing, reflection, and variable trans-

70 to DEF FNA(X)=X*S *COS(THETA) +TX*COS(THETA)=TY* SIN(THETA)

=Y*S*SIN(THETA) and DEF FNB(Y) =X*S*SIN(THETA)+Y*S*COS (THETA) +TX*SIN(THETA)+TY*COS (THETA)). Add lines 125 TX=20:TY=0:S=1 and 135 $S=S^*.9:TX=TX+3$ where S=thescale, TX=the translation along the Xaxis. and TY=the translation along the Yaxis. Now RUN the program and you will see the spaceship spiral out from the centre of the screen, getting smaller each time it moves, until it eventually disappears from the screen. (Fig #1).

Slow

The program works well, but it is quite slow. It can be speeded up by reducing the amount of number crunching carried out. Instead of reading the co-ordinates from data statements each time, we can read them from an array. Secondly, if we update the co-ordinates each time we move the object, we do not need to keep on recalculating the matrix values every time. Instead we can use the same matrix each time on our updated co-ordinate system. Listing #2 demonstrates the increase in speed of operation using this approach, running at about twice the speed of listing #1. To help with this, listing #3, when RUN will calculate the resulting matrix when two matrices are entered for multiplication. The result matrix can be used in the DEF FNA/B statements to modify the movement of an object.

Fast

This is about as fast as we will get with 'real time' two dimensional graphics, without resorting to machine-code. Unfortunately, this is still not good enough for use in animation sequences. If we want faster graphics, we must resort to 'off line' animation (Listing #4). This technique involves splitting the program into two halves, and running them separately. The first half does all the number crunching. It calculates the spaceship co-ordinates as it spirals around the planet, but instead of drawing in the spaceship, the data is saved to high memory. The second half of the program then does all of the drawing. The data has been poked into high memory, and so all that needs to be done is to peek the data and draw to the co-ordinates

When RUN, select option #1, and the program will take several minutes to calculate the data. Eventually it will crash when the spaceship leaves the confines of the screen, and the program tries to poke a number greater than 255 or smaller than 0 into memory. Run the program again, and select option #4. This will draw in the spaceship as it spirals around the screen. The increase in speed is quite dramatic, with hardly a pause between each movement of the ship. The data can be saved to tape by selecting option #2, and reloaded by option #3. This saves the long wait of the data calculation section of the prgram. The program can be easily modified to manipulate different shapes (change the DATA line) through different movements (change the DEF FNA/B lines). Try it and see.

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LISTING #1. SPACESHIP SPIN

- Ø POKE65495,0: 'HIGH SPEED POKE ..
- 10 '*****INITIALISE*****
- 20 PCLEARS
- 30 RESTORE: NUM=0
- 40 READ A:IF A<>999 THEN NUM=NUM+1: GOTO40
- 50 NUM=NUM/2-1: COUNT HOW MANY SETS
 OF CO-ORDINATES
- 60 DEF FNA(X)=X*COS(THETA)~Y*SIN(THETA):'X ROTATION
- 70 DEF FNB(Y)=Y*COS(THETA)+X*SIN(TH ETA):'Y ROTATION
- 80 DATA 0,40,15,30,10,30,10,0,30,-3 0,0,-10,-30,-30,-10,0,-10,30,-1 5,30,0,40,0,50:'CO-ORDINATE DAT A FOR SPACESHIP
- 90 DATA 999
- 100 *******DEMO******
- 110 PMODE4,1:PCLS:SCREEN1,0:'DISPLA Y SCREEN
- 120 LINE(125,0)-(125,191), PSET:LINE (0,91)-(255,91), PSET: 'DRAW X\$Y AXIS

- 130 FOR THETA=0 TO 6.5 STEP .1:'ROT
- 140 GOSUB170: NEXT THETA
- 150 STOP
- 160 *******DRAW*****
- 170 PMODE4,5:PCLS: 'DRAWING SCREEN
- 180 LINE(0,91)-(255,91), PSET
- 190 LINE(125,0)-(125,191), PSET
- 200 RESTORE: READ X,Y: 'READ CO-ORDIN ATES
- 210 LINE(FNA(X)+125,91-FNB(Y))-(FNA (X)+125,91-FNB(Y)),PSET:'SET LI NE TO START CO-ORDINATE
- 220 FOR A=1 TO NUM
- 230 READ X, Y
- 240 LINE-(FNA(X)+125,91-FNB(Y)),PSE T:'DRAW IN OBJECT
- 250 NEXT A
- 260 FOR A=1 TO 4:PCOPY A+4 TO A:NEX T:'COPY TO DISPLAY SCREEN
- 270 RETURN
- 280 '(C) 1985 PETER WHITTAKER

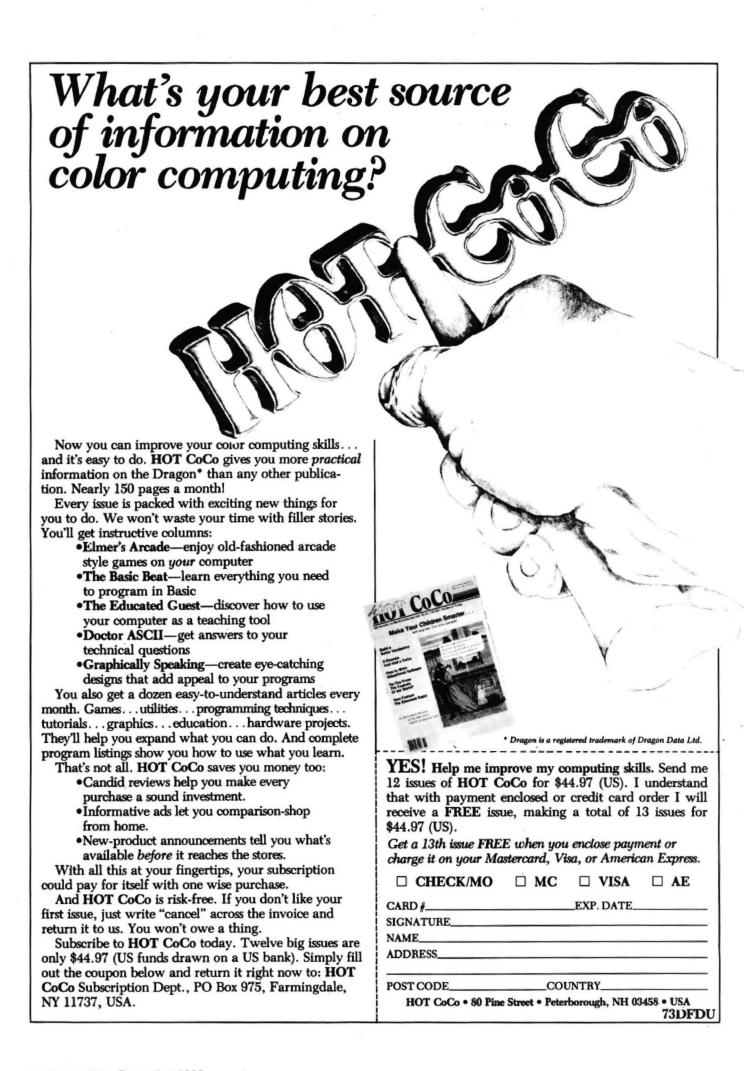
LISTING #2. SPACESHIP SPIRAL

- @ POKE65495, @
- 10 PCLEAR8: PMODE4, 1: PCLS: SCREEN1, 0: PMODE4, 5: PCLS
- 20 RESTORE
- 30 READ A:IF A<>999 THEN NUM=NUM+1: GOTO30
- 40 NUM=NUM/2-1
- 50 DIMX(NUM), Y(NUM)
- 60 RESTORE
- 70 FOR A=0 TO NUM
- 80 READ X(A), Y(A): 'READ CO-ORDINATE S INTO ARRAY
- 90 NEXT A
- 100 DATA 10,0,10,40,25,30,20,30,20, 0,40,-30,10,-10,-20,-30,0,0,0,3 0,-5,30,10,40,10,50
- 110 DATA 999
- 115 S=.95:SS=SIN(.3):CC=COS(.3):'SC ALE/SIN(THETA)/COS(THETA)
- 120 ******DRAW ROUTINE****
- 130 PCLS:LINE(0,91)-(255,91),PSET:L INE(125,0)-(125,191),PSET

- 140 X1=-X(0):Y1=-Y(0):X2=X(0)*1.05: Y2=Y(0)*1.05:'TRANSLATION TO/FR OM ORIGIN
- 150 FOR A=0 TO NUM
- 160 A1=X(A)*S*CC-Y(A)*S*SS+(S*X1+X2)*CC-(S*Y1+Y2)*SS
- 170 A2=X(A)*S*SS+Y(A)*S*CC+(S*X1+X2)*SS+(S*Y1+Y2)*CC
- 180 X(A)=A1:Y(A)=A2:NEXT A:'CO-ORDI NATE UPDATE
- 190 LINE(X(1)+125,91-Y(1))-(X(1)+12 5,91-Y(1)),PSET: 'SET LINE TO OB JECT START POINT
- 200 FOR A=2 TO NUM
- 210 LINE-(X(A)+125,91-Y(A)),PSET:/D RAW LINES
- 220 NEXT A
- 230 FOR A=1 TO 4:PCOPY A+4 TO A:NEX T A:'COPY TO DISPLAY SCREEN
- 240 GOTO130
- 250 '(C) 1985 PETER WHITTAKER

LISTING #3. MATRIX MULTIPLY

- 10 CLS:PRINT"A D G a d 9"
- 20 PRINT"B E H * b e h"
- 30 PRINT"C F I cfi"
- 40 PRINT"MATRIX 1...."
- 50 FOR 8=1 TO 9
- 60 PRINTCHR\$(64+A);"..";:INPUTA(A)
- 70 NEXT A
- 80 PRINT"MATRIX 2...."
- 90 FOR A=1 TO 9
- 100 PRINTCHR\$(96+A);"..";:INPUTB(A)
- 110 NEXT A
- 120 CLS:PRINT@8, "SOLUTION" : PRINT



- 130 PRINTA(1)*B(1)+A(4)*B(2)+A(7)*B (3):
- 140 PRINTTAB(10)A(1)*B(4)+A(4)*B(5) +8(7)*B(6);
- 150 PRINTTAB(20)A(1)*B(7)+A(2)*B(8) +B(3)*B(9)
- 160 PRINTA(2)*B(1)+A(5)*B(2)+A(8)*B (3)
- 170 PRINTTAB(10)A(2)*B(4)+B(5)*B(5) +8(8)*B(6);
- 180 PRINTTAB(20)A(2)*B(7)+A(5)*B(8) +A(8)*B(9)
- 190 PRINTA(3)*B(1)+B(6)*B(2)+B(9)*B (3):
- 200 PRINTTAB(10)A(3)*B(4)+A(6)*B(5) +A(9)*B(6);
- 210 PRINTTAB(20)A(3)*B(7)+A(6)*B(8) +A(9)*B(9)
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ISTING #4 ... OFFLINE SPIRAL

- 10 CLEAR200,20000: PROTECT MEMORY F OR OBJECT DATA
- 20 POKE65495,0
- 30 /*****INITIALISE****
- 40 PCLEARS
- 50 RESTORE: NUM=0
- 60 READ A: IF A<>999 THEN NUM=NUM+1: G0T060
- 70 NUM=NUM/2-1: 'NUMBER OF CO-ORDINA TES
- 80 CLS:PRINT@11, "SPACESHIP":PRINT:P RINT"SELECT CHOICE: - ": PRINT"1.. .CALCULATE DATA":PRINT"2...SAVE DATA":PRINT"3...LOAD DATA":PRI NT"4...RUN DATA"
- 90 INPUT A:ON A GOTO 120,390,400,288
- 100 GOTO 80
- 110 *******CALCULATE DATA****
- 120 DEF FNA(X)=X*S*COS(THETA)+TX*CO SCTHETRO-TY*SINCTHETRO-Y*S*SINC THETA)+125
- 130 DEF FNB(Y)=-(X*S*SIN(THETA)+Y*S *COSCTHETA >+TX*SINCTHETA >+TY*CO S(THETA))+91
- 140 TX=20:TY=-10:S=1:'TRANSLATION A LONG X&Y AXIS AND SCALE
- 150 DATA 0,40,15,30,10,30,10,0,30,-30,0,-10,-30,-30,-10,0,-10,30,-15,30,0,40,0,50
- 160 DATA 999
- 170 BYTE=20000: 'PROTECTED MEMORY
- 180 FOR THETA=0 TO 50 STEP .1: 'ROTA

- TION STEP
- 190 S=S*.99:TX=TX+.3:'SHRINK RATE & SPIRAL RATE
- 200 RESTORE
- 210 FOR A=0 TO NUM
- 220 READ XJY
- 230 POKE BYTE, FNA(X): POKE BYTE+1, FN B(Y):BYTE=BYTE+2: 'SAVE UPDATED CO-ORDINATES
- 240 PRINTBYTE
- 250 NEXT A THETA
- 260 GOTO80
- 270 *******DRAW DATA*****
- 280 BYTE=20000
- 290 PMODE4,1:SCREEN1,0
- 300 PMODE4,5:PCLS
- 310 LINE(0,91)-(255,91), PSET: LINE(1 25,0)-(125,191),PSET
- 3220 LINE(PEEK(BYTE), PEEK(BYTE+1))-(PEEK(BYTE), PEEK(BYTE+1)), PSET
- 330 BYTE=BYTE+2
- 340 FOR A=1 TO NUM
- 350 LINE-(PEEK(BYTE), PEEK(BYTE+1)), PSET: BYTE=BYTE+2: NEXT A
- 360 FOR 9=1 TO 4:PCOPY 8+4 TO 9:NEX T
- 370 GOTO 300:'LOOP
- 380 STOP
- 390 CSAVEM"DATADATA", 20000, 32000, 0: G0T080
- 400 CLORDM"DATADATA" : GOTO80
- 410 '(C) 1985 PETER WHITTAKER

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Machine code made simple

Ray Collinson with some simple machine code routines

HAVING WRITTEN a machine code routine for the 32X16 screen, I also wanted to include some text, PRINTing or POKEing from BASIC being undesirable in this case. The psuedo-op FCC-FORM CONSTANT CHARACTER was the obvious instruction to use, but the problem was in retrieving the characters stored in memory and PRINTing them to the screen. The immediate requirement seemed to be to set a pointer to a memory location, store the operand in a register then send it to the screen.

The ACCUMULATOR-OFFSET INDE-XED instruction seemed most appropriate in pointing to and retrieving from memory any characters stored there by the FCC instruction. Using both accumulators, it is written #LDA B,Y#. This means take the current value held in the B register, add it to the address held in the Y register, and store the operand to the A accumulatorready to PRINT on the screen.

Enter listing #1 and, when assembled, CSAVE a copy before EXECuting. If you are uncertain about the function of lines 190 and 280, delete or REM each line, re-assemble and EXECute.

If you have studied any physics you may

remember reading about Crooke's Dark Spaces. What you should have is the Dragon's dark spaces. We are in effect POKEing data to memory and, since there is no CHR\$ equivalent to POKE (see Introducing Dragon Machine Code Pp 66-67, by Ian Sinclair), the Dragon gives an inverted space. This means that we need to change the data stored in the A register.

You understand, of course, that numbers are stored and used in binary form. For a space, we have in the A register Hex 20-denary 32, or in binary 00100000; the number that the DRAGON requires is denary 96 or in binary 01100000, which is the POKE equivalent of CHR\$ 32. The INCLUSIVE OR operation returns a 1 if either one of the operands is a 1. So, if we logically OR 64 and 32 together . . .

00100000 32 +01000000 64 We get 01100000 96

In other words, set bit 6 in the A accumulator ready to store in video memory.

The comments in listing #1 should adequately explain the remainder of the program.

Listing #2 shows a slightly different

method in lines 105 onwards. Line 105. LEAX-LOAD EFFECTIVE ADDRESS X adds 43 to the X register and sets up the video memory address where the next line of text is to be displayed. Line 130 finds the first character, in this case a space; the data in the Y register is LOADed into the A accumulator and the Y register is then incremented. This is rather a tortuous method but demonstrates how registers can be manipulated.

Listing #3 inverts the first text line so it is not necessary to carry out any operations on the spaces. However to invert the text we need to reset bit 6. To see why this is so, type into listing #1 FCC "A LINE OF TEXT" in SHIFT 0 inverted characters.

To reset bit 6 we need to carry out an EXCLUSIVE OR operation on the A register. The EOR returns a 1 if one and only one of the operands is a 1. Now the ASCII code for A is denary 65 (in binary 01000000) and for A inverted, which is what we want, it is 00000001, so if we EROA, which contains 65 with 64, ie reset bit 6, as in:

01000001 65 01000000 64 We get 00000001 01

and we get an inverted character.

The remainder of the program follows the same structure as the previous listings.

Listing #4 was originally a subroutine and so the register values had to be preserved, but on its own the PSHS and PULS instructions can be left out.

The first text line is inverted by the program but by calling the routine held in ROM at address \$B54A you can enter text in SHIFT 0 mode. This is an implemented PRINT routine. If you use the SHIFT 0 mode the spaces between words will be unchanged, so a modification to the prog-

```
225 * YES!START NEW LINE
230 BEG GMXTLN
235 * NO!GO FOR NEXT CHARACTER
240 BRA GMXT
245 * ZERO COUNTER, SET SCREEN
246 * FOR NEW LINE OF TEXT
250 GMXTLN CLRB
     LISTING #1
                                                                                                                                                                                                            7FB2 2702
7FB4
7FB4 20F3
7FB6
                                                                                                                                                                                                             7FB6
                                                                                                                                                                                                             7FB6
7FB7
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         5F
30882B
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     LEAX +43. X
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               250 LEAX +43,X
255 * FIND FIRST CHARACTER
260 LDY ##TXT1
265 * MOVE TO ACCUMALATOR
270 * ENCHR LDA B.Y
275 * RESET BIT 6
280 ORA #64
285 * STORE AT SCREEN ADDRESS
290 STA ,X+
295 * ADD 1 TO COUNTER
300 INCB
                                                                                                                                                                                                            7FBA
7FBA 108E
7FBE
7FBE A6A5
100 CLEAR100, $H7FA0
110 EXEC &HCFFA
120 ALL:FML
140 @START EQU *
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          108E7FDB
7FA1 5F
7FA2 7FA2 8E04A8
7FA5 108E7FCB
                                                                  145 PRT
150 CLRB
155 * SET THE PRINT POSITION
160 LDX #1192
165 * GET FIRST CHARACTER
170 LDY ##TXT
175 * MOVE IT TO THE: 'A' REGISTER
180 @NXT LDA B.Y
185 * AND RESET BIT 6
190 ORA #64
195 * STORE IT AT SCREEN ADDRESS
200 STA , X*
205 * ADD 1 TO COUNTER
210 INCB
                                                                                                                                                                                                             7FC0 8A40
                                                                                                                                                                                                            7FC2
7FC2 A780
7FC4
7FC4 5C
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                290 STA , X+
295 * ADD 1 TO COUNTER
300 INCB
305 * CHECK FOR LAST CHARACTER
7FA9
                                                                                                                                                                                                             7FC5
7FC5 C11B
 7FA9 A6A5
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                310 CMPB #27
315 * RETURN TO BASIC :ELSE GO
7FAB
7FAB 8A40
7FAD
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                510 * RETURN TO BASIC :ELSE GO
316 * FOR NEXT CHARACTER
320 BEG GOUT
320 BRA GNCHR
330 GTXT FCC " A LINE OF TEXT "
340 GTXT1 FCC " FOR MACHINE CODE PROGRAMS "
350 GOUT RTS
 7FAD A780
 7FAF 5C
                                                                    210
                                                                                   FOUND LAST CHARACTER
CMPB #16
7FB0
7FB0 C110
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      END @START
```

```
LISTING
                                                                                                                                                                          170 'BRA eNXT
180 ENXTLN CLRB
                                                                                                                                                                                10 CLEAR100, &H7FA0
                                                                                                                               7FBA 30882B
20 EXEC &HCFFA
30 ALL:FML
40 @START EQU +
                                                                                                                              7FBD
7FBD
7FBD
                                                                                                                              7FBD
7FBD 31A810
7FC0 A6A0
7FC2 8A40
7FC4 A790
          BEGIN AS IN LISTING 1
                                                                                                                                                                                LEAY +16.Y

eNCHR LDA ,Y+

ORA #64

STA ,X+

INCB
                                                                                                                                                                          230
7FA1
                                                                                                                                                                          260
7FA1
7FA1 BDBA77
7FA4 5F
7FA5 8E04A8
7FA8 108E7FCD
                                                                                                                               7FC6 5C
7FC7 C11B
7FC9 272D
                                                  *CLS IN ROM
                                                                                                                                                                          270
                                                                                                                                                                         270 INCB
280 CMPB #27
290 BEΩ €OUT
290 BRA €NCHR
300 €TXT FCC " A LINE OF TEXT "
310 FCC " FOR MACHINE CODE PROGRAMS
                                                         LDX #1192
LDY #@TXT
                                                                                                                               7FCB 20F3
                                                                                                                               7FCD 2041204C494F4520
7FAC A6A5
7FAE 8A40
7FBO A780
                                                                                                                               7FDD 20464F52204D4143
7FF8 39
                                                                                                                                                                                END ESTART
                                                                                                                               330 EXEC
340 SCREENO, 1
350 GOTO350
7FB2 50
                                                          CMPB #16
BEQ ENXTLN
7FR3 C110
```

ram will be required if this is not desirable.

In this program, to invert the text we logically OR the A register with 32 and to put in a black space we OR the accumulator with 128. The PRINT routine at \$B54A requires that the ASCII codes are stored in the A register only. In order to put the text at a specific screen position, it is necessary to use the cursor address at locations \$88-\$89.LOAD the X register with the required screen address then STX \$88; the 16 bit address is then stored in both

locations

Before returning to BASIC, you will have to re-locate the cursor position at some appropriate place on the screen. For example, if you want to return the cursor to the home position, then \$400,LDX #\$400...STX \$88, puts it in the top left hand corner of the screen.

Those readers not possessing an assembler should input the Hexadecimal numbers in the OBJECT code and write a READ/DATA program to store the m/c

code in memory.

This program is not written in an ideal format, since you will notice that there are repeated instructions which are untidy and waste memory; the object, though, is to familiarise beginners with the ways in which the registers and memory can be handled.

Listing #5 uses a ROM routine to PRINT to the screen and the address is repeatedly called as a sub-routine, which makes it compact, fast and tidy.

```
210 @NXTLN CLRB
                                                                      7FRA SE
*NOW USE INVERSE CHARACTERS
* FOR THE FIRST TEXT LINE
                                                                      7FBB 308830
                                                                                                   210
                                                                                                            1 FAX +48. X
                                                                                                            LDY #@TXT1
                                                                                                   215
                                                                      7FRE 108E7FDF
                                                                                                   220 @NCHR LDA B.Y
                                                                            A6A5
                                                                      7FC2
7FA1
                                                                                                            ORA #64
                                                                      7FC4 8A40
7FA1 5F
                            140
                                      CLRB
                                                                                                            STA . X+
                                                                      7FCA A780
7FA2 8E04A8
                                      LDX #1192
LDY #eTXT
                            145
                                                                                                   235
                                                                                                            INCB
     108E7FCF
                                                                                                            CMPB #16
                                                                      7FC9 C110
                                                                                                   240
7FA9 A6A5
                            155 @NXT LDA B, Y
                                                                            2722
                                                                                                            BEO @OUT
                                                                      7FCB
                                 **CHECK FOR LEADING SPACE***
7FAB
                            160
                                                                                                            BRA ENCHR
                                                                      7FCD 20F3
                                                                                                   245
                             165
                                      CMPA #32
                                                                                                   250 @TXT FCC " A LINE OF TEXT "
255 @TXT1 FCC " LISTING THREE "
                                                                            2041204C494E4520
                                                                      7FCF
7FAD 2702
                            165
                                      BEQ @PRT
                                                                      7FDF
                                                                            204C495354494E47
7FAF
                            170
                                 *NO SPACE FOUND, INVERT THE *
                                                                                                   260 @OUT RTS
                                                                      7FEF 39
7FAF
                            175
                                          CHARACTER
                                                                                                            END @START
                                                                                                   260
                                                                      7FFO
                                      EORA #64
     8840
7FAF
                            180
                                                                      265 FORC=0T08
                                 eprt STA .X4
7FB1 A780
                             185
                                                                      270 CLSC: EXEC
7FB3 5C
                            190
                                      INCB
                                                                           SCREENO, 1
                                                                      270
7FB4 C110
                            195
                                      CMPB #16
                                                                      280 FORD=1T03000: NEXTD, C
7FB6 2702
                                                                      GOTO2A5
7FB8 20FF
                            205
                                      BRA ONXT
```

```
335 *## CHECK FOR LINE END ##
340 *NOSPC CMPB #16
345 *## YES!GO FOR NEXT LINE ##
350 BEG *ENXWRD
355 *# NO!GET NEXT CHR: ##
360 BEA *ENLET*
365 *#ZERO!* 'B' REGIREADY FOR NEXT*
366 *## LINE OF TEXT ###
375 *## GO FORMARD 58 POSNS: ##
380 LEAX 58. X
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   335 *## CHECK FOR LINE END
                                                                                                                                            LISTING #4
  7F8A C110
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      7F80
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      7F8C 2702
7F8E
  120 CLEAR160, 8H7F60
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      7F8E 201
7F90
7F90
7F90 5F
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     20EA
   125 EXEC SHOFFA
   130 ALL:FML
135 @START EOU •
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 375 *## 60 FORMARD 58 POSNS: ##
380 LEAX 58,X
385 *## STORE IT AT CURSOR ##
390 STX 488
395 *## GET THE CHR: ##
400 LDY #ETXTO2
405 *#ACCUMALATOR-OFFSET INDEXED
410 *## PUTS IT INTO :'A' REG: ##
415 LDA B.Y
420 *## AND PRINT IT ##
425 **ENXLTR JSR $#54A
330 *## POINT TO NEXT CHR: ##
435 INCB
440 *## GET IT INTO:'A'REGR: ##
445 LDA B.Y
445 LDA B.Y
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      7F91
                                                                               7F91 308830
   7F61
   7F61
7F61
7F61
7F61
7F61
7F61
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     BF0088
                                                                                155 *###PARK THE REGISTERS ON#*
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    108E7FB2
                                                                               195 *###PARK THE REGISTERS ONN*
160 *###THE SYSTEM STACK, THEY#*
165 *###THE SYSTEM STACK, THEY#*
175 *###USE IF THIS PROGRAM ##*
175 *###IS A SUB ROUTINE IN ##*
180 *### A M/C CODE PROGRAM ##*
185
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       7F9B
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      7F9B
7F9B A6A5
7F9D BDB54
7FAO 7FAO 5C
7FA1 26A5
   7F6
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     BDB54A
   7F61
7F61 3436
7F63
7F63 5F
                                                                               190 PSHS A.B.X.Y
195 *** DON: 'T TRUST THE BINMEN##
200 CLRB
205 *** 1ST PRINT POSITION ***
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   GET IT
+45 LDA B, Y
450 *** F***
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       7FA1 AAA5
   7F64
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    FOUND LAST CHR:
                                                                              205 *## 1ST PRINT POSITION ##
210 LDX #1192
215 *#STORE AT CURSOR POSITION
220 STX #88
225 *## FIND 1ST CHR: ##
230 LDY #@TXT
235 *## 1F THERE IS A LEADING ##
240 +## SPACE IN TEXT ##
245 CMPY #32
245 DEO ASPE
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   450 *** FOUND LAST CHR: ##
455 CMPB #27
460 ** YES! #*
465 BEQ @NEWLN
470 **#NO!OK.GO FOR NEXT CHR: ##
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      7FA3 C11B
7FA5
7FA5 2702
   7F64 8E04A8
   7F67 BF0088
7F6A
   7F6A 108E7FC2
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       7FA7 20F4
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           BRA @NXLTR
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      7FA7 20F4
7FA9 308849
7FAC BF0098
7FAF 5F
7FB0 109E7FED
7FB4 A7A5
7FB9 5C
7FBA 6AA5
7FBC 20F4
7FDC 20F4
7FC2 2041204C4
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   475
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   475 BRA ENXLTR
480 ENEMLN LEAX +73,X
480 STX $88
485 CLRB
490 LDY $\text{MeTXTO3} \
495 STA B.Y
500 ENCHR JSR $\text{BS4A}
   7F6E
                                                                              245 CMPY #32
245 BEG @SPC
250 *## IST CHR TO ACCUMALATOR #
255 LDA BLY
260 *## AND INVERT IT ##
265 ORA #32
270 *###ELSE INVERT THE SPACE ##
275 @SPC ORA #128
280 *## PRINT ROUTINE IN ROM ##
285 @NLET JSR *#554A
290 INCB
295 *## TO BY THE COUNTER ##
299 *## TO BY THE COUNTER ##
300 *## PUT INTO ACCUMALATOR ##
300 *## PUT INTO ACCUMALATOR ##
   7FAF 108C0020
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             INCB
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  505 INCB
510 LDA B,Y
515 CMPB #9
520 BEQ ERETN
520 BRA @RICHR
525 @TXT FCC " A LINE OF TEXT "
530 @TXTO2 FCC " FOR HACHINE CODE PROGRAMS."
535 @TXTO3 FCC "LISTING 4"
540 +# GET REGISTERS OFF THE ##+
550 +# RETURN ADDRESS ##+
550 #R RETURN ADDRESS ##+
550 eRETN PULS A, B, X, Y, PC
560 END @START
7F76
7F78 SASO
7F7A SDES4A
7F7A BDES4A
7F7D SC
    7F76 8A20
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       7FC2 2041204C494E4520
7FD2 20464F52204D4143
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       7FED 4C495354494E4720
7FF6
7FF6
7FF6
   7F7E
7F7E A6A5
7F80 8120
7F82 2704
                                                                                                       POT INTO ACCUMALA
LDA BY
CMPA #32
BEO #SPC1
INVERT THE CHR:
ORA #32
BRA #NOSPC
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      7FF6 35B6
7FF8
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             END ESTART
                                                                                315 +##
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      7FFB
565 FORC=0T08:CLSC
570 EXEC
575 SCREENO,1
580 FORD=0T03000:NEXTD,C
585 G0T0585
   7F84 8A20
                                                                                320
                 2002
                                                                                320
   7F88
7F83 8A80
                                                                                           ***
                                                                                                                   INVERT THE SPACE
                                                                                 330 @SPC1 ORA #128
```

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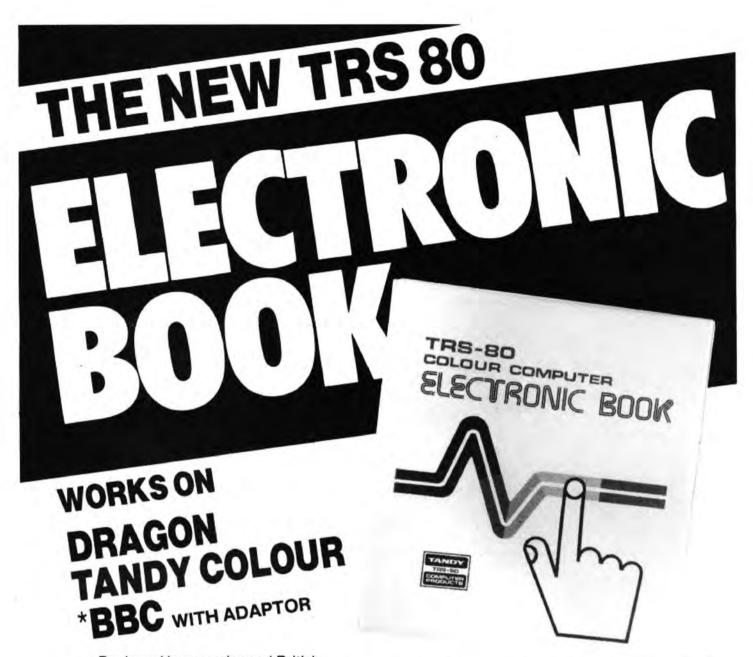
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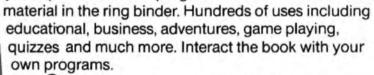
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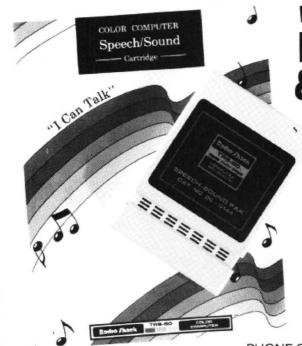
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Firmware

Brian Cadge explores the Dragon's ROM in a special series which builds up month by month into a firmware manual.

This month we take a look at the graphics and sound sections of the Dragon's ROM. These can be usefully used in machine code programs for setting up elaborate displays, and for playing music, but for fast action games customised routines will be needed.

Graphics and Sound Memory Map

101

The following decimal addresses are those used by the graphics and sound commands on the Dragon and Tandy machines.

134	routines
178	Current foreground colour in use
179	Current background colour in use
180	Temporary colour in use (colour

- given as parameter in command to override default settings) 181 Byte value for current colour (ie the value stored in a byte to set
- all pixels to that colour) 182 Pmode graphics mode number in
- 183/184 Address of the last byte of the current graphics display
- Number of bytes used per line in 185 current graphics mode
- 186/187 Address of the first byte of the current graphics display
- 188 Start of graphics pages (MSB). Defaults to \$06, ie address 1536 - changed by Dragondos etc
- 189 Current X cursor position - not user available
- 191 Current Y cursor position - not user available
- 193 Colour set currently in use
- 194 Plot/Unplot flag (0=reset, nonzero=set)
- 195/196 Current horizontal pixel number
- 197/198 Current vertical pixel number
- 199/200 Current X cursor co-ordinate
- 201/202 Current Y cursor co-ordinate
- 203/204 Circle command X co-ordinate
- 205/206. Circle command Y co-ordinate
- 208 Circle Radius
- 232 Current angle to be used in **DRAW** routines
- 233 Current scale to be used in **DRAW** routines
- 140 Sound pitch value
- 222 Current Octave in use (0-4)
- 223/224 Volume data for current volume setting in PLAY routines
- 225 Current note length for PLAY routines
- 226

Graphics and Sound Firmware Routines

The following ROM routines can be used from machine code programs. The details of various commands like circle and paint are not given, as they cannot easily be used as stand alone routines, but see the 'DRAW' routine.

Set VDG Mode

Dragon 43401 Tandy 38395

Sets the VDG into the mode given in the A register. The mode will be displayed immediately.

Set VDG Offset

Dragon 43421 Tandy 38415

Sets the diplay offset for a graphics mode, eg to start a display at address 1536 the A register would contain 6 on entry. This routine also takes account of disks etc. so the same result will not occur if disks are attached - if A=6 then the display will start at graphics page 1, wherever that is.

Select Page

Dragon 43489 Tandy 38483

On entry the B register contains the Pmode page number to be used in subsequent graphics routines.

Select Col Set

Dragon 43536 Tandy 38530

Selects either colour set zero or one. depending on the value of the B register on entry.

Select VDG Col

Dragon 43428 Tandy 38422

Selects the required VDG colour set from the data in location 193.

Set Colours

Dragon 43304 Tandy 38298

Sets up the locations 180 & 181 from the data in locations 194 and 178/179. (See Memory Map for details.)

Select Display

Dragon 43320 Tandy 38314

Selects either TEXT or GRAPHICS modes depending on the Z condition code. If Z=1 then text, else sets up a display in current Pmode (location 182), starting at the address in locations 186/187.

Reserve HRG RAM

Dragon 43555 Tandy 38549

Reserves RAM for graphics and moves Basic program if necessary. The B register holds the number of pages to be reserved - ie this routine does a PCLEAR.

Clear Graphics

Dragon 43207 Tandy 38201

Clears the current graphics screen to the Current tempo for PLAY routines data in the B register on entry.

Calc Pixel Pos

Dragon 47656 Tandy 43225

On entry the top of stack must contain the low res vertical co-ordinate, preceded by the horizontal co-ordinate. On return the X register contains the address of the byte containing the low res pixel, and location 134 will contain the OR data for the pixel.

Set LRG Pixel

Dragon 47583 Tandy 43149

On entry the X register contains the screen address, the B register the colour and location 184 the OR data. The Pixel will be plotted on the low res screen.

Reset LRG Pixel

Dragon 47623 Tandy 43189

As for 'Set LRG Pixel' above, except the B register is ignored and the pixel is reset to black.

DRAW

Dragon 45137 Tandy 40118

This routine allows access to all the facilities of the DRAW command. Its use is as follows. On entry location 166/167 must point to a string of characters consisting of normal Draw commands, the first character must be code 34, and the last must be code 0. The A register should also contain 34 on entry.

Enable Sound

Dragon 47813 Tandy 43382

Enables 6 bit sound by setting bit 3 of the hardware location 65315.

Disable Sound

Dragon 47811 Tandy 43380

Disables 6 bit sound by clearing bit 3 of the hardware location 65315.

Веер

Dragon 47776 Tandy 43345

This routine sounds a beep for the length held in the B register. The pitch is set by location 140.

Play Note

Dragon 44698 **Tandy 39679**

The A register contains the ascii code of the note to be played. The various octave, tempo, volume and note length settings should be set up in memory before entry. (See memory map for details.) Sound must be enabled before calling this routine (use 'Enable Sound' routine).

This is the fourth in Brian's series on the Dragon's Rom routines. Next month, he will be covering Basic variables.

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Steve Gathercole shows you how to re-create a classic game from the arcades

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To type in the game proceed as follows:-First type in LISTING 1. This is the basic program which draws the simple background — the machine code does the rest of the graphics. When run, and the screen display looks okay, save this at the start of your tape using CSAVEM 'SCRN', 1536,7679,6144. Next switch the computer off and on again, then type in LISTING 2. This is the hexloader for the machine code. When run the program will ask you for the start address. This is the left hand column — ie 20000. Next type in the string of hex digits, (the middle column), and then the checksum (the right hand column). Continue this until the program ends then save this using CSAVEM 'GAME',20000,&H5459,20406 after the

previously saved SCRN. To run the game type CLOADM=CLOADM=EXEC20406 or, if you want to save both parts as one game, load both parts into the memory then save the whole thing using SCAVEM'GAME1', 1536,&H5459,20406 — then just use EXEC20406 to run the loaded game.

If you have any problems then contact me at 16 Hankinsons Estate, Walpole St Andrew, Wisbech, Cambs. Please enclose an SAE

LISTING 1

10 PMODE 3,1:SCREEN 1,0:PCLS 100 LINE (136,0) - (136,14) ,PSET 20 CIRCLE (127,97),130,4 110 COLOR 3:LINE(2,1) - (253,13), PSE 30 PAINT (2,2),4,4 T.B 40 PAINT (2, 192), 4, 4 120 COLOR 1 50 PAINT (253,2),4,4 130 LINE (0,85) - (0,106), PSET 60 PAINT (253,192),4,4 140 LINE (254,85) - (254,106), PSET 70 COLOR 1 150 COLOR 4:LINE (0,97) - (254,97),PS 80 LINE (0,0) - (254,14), PSET, BF ET 90 COLOR2: LINE (0,0) - (254,14), PSET, 160 PAINT (125, 105), 3,4 170 GOTO 170

LISTING 2

10 CLS 100 TT=0: INPUT A\$: Z=0 20 REM HEXLOADER - ENTER THE 110 FOR G=1 TO LEN (A\$) STEP 2 30 REM STRING OF HEX DIGITS FIRST 120 P=VAL ("&H"+MID\$ (A\$,G,2)) 40 REM AND THEN THE CHECKSUM 130 TT=TT+P:POKE (N+Z),P 50 CLEAR200,19000 140 Z=Z+1:NEXT 60 PRINT"ENTER START ADDRESS";: INP 150 PRINT" = "; 160 INPUT T\$ 70 PRINT"ENTER FINISH ADDRESS";: IN 170 IF T\$ <>HEX\$(TT) THEN SOUND 20 PUT FINISH ,30:PRINT"ERROR - ENTER LINE AGAIN 80 FOR N=START TO FINISH STEP 11 ':GOTO 100 90 PRINTN;":"; 180 NEXT

LISTING 3

20000 5656565656565656155040 = 355 20110 4010401040101540050015 = 20011 0015400010554015504000 = 19F 20121 0005000500154015404010 = 104 20132 0540100055501540401005 = 20022 4000400015501540401040 = 1A4 20033 1040101540154040105540 = 1EF 20143 4040101540050011005550 = 140 20044 4040401015504000554040 = 24A 20154 0100054055504000554000 = 100 20055 0015501550400015400010 = 16F 20165 1055401550400055404010 = 20176 1540555040400100040010 = 20066 5540401040105550401040 = 26A 20187 0015404010154040101540 = 20077 1015404010401040101540 = 1AA 19F 20088 5550050005000500050015 = CE 20198 1540401015400010554000 = 19F 20099 5040001540001055401540 = 1DF Continued overleaf

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Juxtaposition

Software: Juxtaposition, Wintersoft, 30 Uplands Park Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN2

Price: £6.95

IT'S WELL over twelve months now since Wintersoft's last Dragon adventure, Return of the Ring, but the time's been well spent judging by the quality of their new mega-tale, Juxtaposition: Barons of Ceti V.

Fans of their earlier quests may or may not be delighted to know that there isn't a ring in sight in this new one, it's a completely fresh story - well, fresh to Dragon adventurers. though players with access to other machines might spot resemblances to adventures such as Snowball, Return to Eden and, most of all, Lords of Midnight. What, you say, all this on a Dragon? Almost, as the program must be a masterpiece of compression, with no subsidiary programs to load, as has happened in the past.

You are Cross — no, not because you've bought the adventure, that just happens to be your name, and you live on the planet Ceti V as a fairly low grade servitor, the planet being split into colour-coded sections and each one ruled by the appropriate Baron. You and a few million others are servitors to Baron White, living in a domed city in the middle of his lands.

The game begins with you waking in your tiny, poorly decorated apartment, a sort of Ceti V council flat, with seemingly the bare minimum for a happy existence: a bed and a Vidphone. A message comes through on the Vidphone, the equivalent of a Royal summons, it's Baron White himself sending you on a suicide mission to the lands of Baroness Black to find out why she hasn't attended the last few cabinet meetings and discover if she's got her hands on the secret of Juxtaposition, enabling her to cross the line of dimensional instability which passes right through Ceti V. Got that? Right, off you

As you're undertaking this mission on behalf of the Baron himself, you'd think he'd give



you a bit of co-operation and protect you from the dreaded droids which are patrolling the corridors outside your apartment, but no, you have to deal with them first, but that's not too difficult with a little careful observation of their movement habits. This first section is basically a text adventure, with a small picture of the domed city in the upper right of the screen. The text has been redefined for easier reading and a more attractive layout, and occupies the bottom half of the screen.

Superior

Examine every object you can and you should find a way of getting down to a slightly superior set of apartments below yours, and if you can deal with the patrolling droid here you get yourself a blue key card allowing you through the locked doors that lead to the city itself.

Almost immediately you come across an airlock, though something tells me it's not wise to step through here just yet. Wandering round the "Endless Rez Zone" for a while convinced me I was heading nowhere fast, but after finding a monocar I was able to travel to four different parts of the city, in one of which was an ultra-modern Lasertheque, with a girl saying "Let's Dance." After umpteen Terran Twists and being accused of making improper suggestions, I left her for a while and explored elsewhere. This led to me finding a breather mask, at which I rushed for the airlock and

found myself outside the domed city.

Out on the surface of the planet itself the game switches to a Lords of Midnight landscaping style of game. though you're still entering text commands underneath. The top half of the screen shows you your current view and you can look in any of the eight compass directions, with the up arrow key moving you forward in the direction you're facing. The speed with which your viewpoint changes is incredible, faster even than Lords of Midnight, I would say, and you can whizz around the landscape - graphics have obviously been kept simple, and you do notice slight duplications of mountains and forests here and there, but this doesn't detract from the very impressive effects. Don't whizz round too quickly, though. I set off in one direction and found myself in the lands of Baron Red, unable to get back again before I was spotted by the Baronial Choppers. Not being able to furnish the appropriate ID card, I was zapped without mercy. Curse you, Red Baron!

Thanks to the SAVE facility I returned to Baron White's domain, and made sure I stayed there. I found a pyramid which I was able to enter, but the only thing inside was a wide cavern leading nowhere, so that's something to come back to later. I eventually found a fort, inside which was a maze of pillars, not to mention everpresent electronic eyes watching me, but at last I made contact with the Baron himself, who gave me a red ID Tag. Scurrying through the Red Baron's lands I found another pyramid, a tower, and eventually a domed city bearing a remarkable resemblance to the white one I'd left. In fact it was identical . . . almost. But it did give me chance to stock up on food from the dinner droid and restore my health to a sae state - you have to eat once a day, with SCORE showing you not just what percentage of the game you've done, but your current bill of health

Out again on to the planet, I obviously had to find the home of Baron Red, but such is my luck I wandered off into Baron Brown's lands and was reduced to a pile of smouldering

aventurer yet again. All this playing, and still only 8% completed. Mapping the planet's surface is a tricky business, as there are apparently 4,000 locations, and of course you can move off in any one of eight directions from most of them, the exceptions being the mountains which border the map. You have to really keep your eyes open and try to spot potentially interesting buildings in the distance, then head for them. If you want to map this lot properly I'ds suggest you go out and buy yourself a roll of wall paper.

Complex

As if 32,000 viewpoints wasn't enough, the text parser is equally complex, coping with long sentences - yet ironically having trouble with shorter ones, sometimes. You have to try several variations on a command to hit upon the right combination of words. You can also speak to other characters using quotation marks, such as SAY TO DIN-NER DROID "SAUSAGE EGG AND CHIPS PLEASE", as well as get them to carry things for you, but as yet I've only found the unco-operative girl and a few droids so I think there's more of this still to come.

After a couple of days' play, the adventure itself looks like it's going to be fairly straightforward, and possibly a little repetitive - I sincerely hope that when I get to the Red Baron he isn't going to give me a Brown ID Tag, which I then take to the Brown Baron etc. But I still have a few objects I haven't yet been able to make use of, so maybe it'll get more complicated thatn that. And I've also a feeling the apparent similarity of the cities is going to be deceptive. Apart from these slight reservations, then, I'd say Juxtaposition looks like being one of the best programs you're likely to see on your Dragon this side of Christmas, and maybe even the other side as well. Programmer John Humphreys deserves all credit for squeezing more into the Dragon than you'd have thought possible, and my guess is it'll be an even bigger seller than Wintersoft's earlier successes.

Mike Gerrard



Dark Star

Program: Dark Star, Design Design, 125 Smedley Road, Manchester M8 7RS

Price: £7.95

FROM THE people who brought you Rommel's Revenge and (ahem, ahem) Tubeway Army comes quite simply the best 3-D game for the Dragon since — you guessed it — Rommel's Revenge!

Dark Star puts the player in the role of Luke Skywalker, Captain Starbuck, Buck Rodgers, or any other space hero from Dr Who to Hari Seldon, flying through space, diving towards the planet to loot fuel and destroy everything else, in runs that George Lucas would be envious of!

The game places you literally in the pilot seat of a small craft. The controls are simple. By adjusting your sights you also control your roll, climbing, and diving. You can fire, accelerate, and decelerate. And that is it for controls. Very simple, right? Wrong. At least not when there are what seem like 15 billion alien ships (usually there are actually two or three!) all opening fire with equal vehemence upon your timid little craft.

The game is very simple (in fact so simple that it could become boring after a while) but seems to have an extraordinary addictive quality that makes me want to keep playing for about an hour and then suddenly bores me.

There are enough options to set up a game for every day in the year, and they can certainly cater for any player's level of expertise. You can choose to use one or two joystick options or set his own keys for keyboard play.

You then choose difficulty level, type of enemy missile, and other options and launches into space.

The game operates in 3-D and is graphically stunning. The graphics are simple but fiendishly effective and the speed at which they moved seems to have no effect on the smoothness and clarity of screen action. The planet is depicted simply and effectively and the feeling of diving and climbing is quite superbly gutwrenching!

The game is a must. I have given it five stars. It probably only deserves four and a half as I'm not yet sure of its

durability, but seeing as Design Design have done this on the Dragon thus continuing to support our micro with quality sofware it gets five!

Jason Orbaum



Trekboer

Software: Trekboer, Microdeal, 41 Truro Road, St Austell, Cornwall
Price: £8.00

A NEW graphics guest to gladden the hearts of Dragon adventurers, coming as it does from the same stable which produced *Shenanigans, Sea Quest, Black Sanctum* and *Calixto Island*, and just in case you'd forgotten those you'll be reminded should you find the advertising leaflet hidden somewhere in the first few locations

The screen layout is identical to those earlier titles, as is the style of the graphics with their occasional moving sections and flickering lights — flickering in this case because you're aboard the hi-tech Trekboer, a starship from the 21st century when life on earth is threatened by a deadly virus. All you have to do is search the known universe till you've found a cure. No problem.

First location is the control room, with a couple of buttons to press, a plaque and a view screen to look at, and a ladder to climb up. Moving around, there's a teleporter room, dusty storage room, communications room and environmental control room. There's also a pitch black room, which I haven't yet figured out how to illuminate, and a few possibly useful objects. After a certain number of moves a message comes through from Boer Control telling you that plague is still rampant, Xendos is the only known cure, there's been no contact with the Veldboer starship for three months and their last known co-ordinates were 8350.

Setting the controls for 8350 brings up a planet on the view screen. Next step was a little tricky, but after being ejected into space a few times I finally worked out how to get down

onto the planet's surface, and if nothing else then the graphics here are even more interesting. Your view of the planet scrolls across the graphic window, and after a little searching I found the wrecked Veldboer, a virtual copy of the ship I'd just left, except that everything is dead and empty — though that wretched pitch black room is still there.

I don't want to give too much away, but something here should show you a way of visiting a frozen planet, and there you might learn something to help you find your way to a beautiful garden planet, though not as beautiful as it might sound as I plunged to my death here trying to cross a bridge that wouldn't bear my weight. Nasty, but not as nasty as returning to earth, I imagine, which I haven't yet tried to do.

The adventure unfolds nicely, opening up well yet you somehow always have to leave something behind that you're sure you'll need to go back to. A convincing story and some nice effects, and I think an even better effort than its enjoyable predecessors. I can see the questions in the adventure column already!

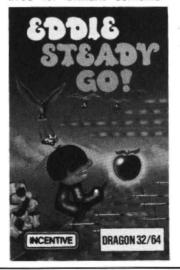
Mike Gerrard



Ready Eddy?

Program: Eddie Steady Go!, Incentive Software, 54 London Street, Reading RG1 4SQ Price: £6.95

TIME FOR another rave! This game is all the usual adjectives for brilliant combiner



with another few thousand that you've never heard of ('cause I've made them up!) so I haven't bothered to print here!

This is a deceptively simple concept that owes a lot to Manic Miner (surprise!) but has also successfully devolved it into something less complex, but even more exciting and addictive.

The story runs that having finally escaped the vicious labyrinth tests (*sic*) in *Back Track*, this guy Eddie now has to go through a crazy assault course that the malicious processor has designed for him.

There are three controls (left, right, and — you guessed it — jump), and the aim on each screen is simply to get Eddie from one side of the screen to the other, vis-a-vis, left to right.

To stop him are arrows, lazers, frogs, pits, rivers, etc, and they are usually (although not always) coming from the other side of the screen. It owes a lot to Hunchback, especially the look of the early stages.

The thing that sets this game up above its brothers is (as is usually the case with quality programs) its design. The screens really do get progressively more difficult, with screens that appear simple thrown in, which, of course, have a catch (the notable one being a screen involving simply precise running and jumping but with a horrifically short time limit).

I've hardly stopped playing Eddy Steady Go! since I got it. There are 22 screens, I'm on number 17 but progress has become slow in comparison with the early screens. One of the most notable things about it is the way that individual people find different screens easy (one man's thingy is another man's other thongy, or something like that)!

It plays through at the normal speed, and then when all 22 screens are complete, it plays again at medium speed, and then fast.

The sound is more than vaguely "Shaper"ish but then one can't have the perfect game, that would be too much to ask. This one's nearly there though.

Lustrous — and you can quote me on that!

Jason Orbaum



Show?

Program: Show-jump, Computerware, PO Box 318, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 6UX

Price: £6.50

I, FOR one, have never really had much interest in show jumping, probably due to a blind fear of horses! However, that is not to say I do not know what it involves. I would be able to tell the difference quite easily between, for example, show-jumping and organised crime, or, to use a more appropriate example, show-jumping, and Computerware's Show-jump program.

Years ago, in pubs, there was a neat little game called Stunt Biker. What you had to do was drive a cute little graphic Hell's Angel biker over

ramps and jumps.

In this game, you control a cute little Princess Anne as she trots over various jumps. The ramps have gone, the game is now more complex: you have a jump button.

This game has been badly classified (and anyway the "horse" could just as easily be a stunt bike with the quality of definition!). That is not to say it's a bad game. It's just lost some of its prospective market; I mean surely something like Speedy Stunt Man would sell more copes than Show-jump?

Thus endeth the first lesson in creative marketing.

I'd love to be able to go on to say that the game itself was a superbly addictive challenge. Oh well, another unrequired love!

Show-jump consists of a horse jumping fences of various length and height spaced over several lines on the screen (the horse goes left to right on the top line, then the second, and so on to the end of the event). The controls are accelerate, decelerate, and jump. Basically, you want a lot of speed for the long jumps and very little for the high ones. And that's it.

There are nine courses, which would be nice if there was any real variation between them other than slightly taller and longer jumps, more frequently on the later courses.

The game has a "jump-off" option for two tying competitors which I was fortunate enough never to require. All in all it does seem to be a well written and thought out program.

It is sad that this game is so (... look out ... ugly word alert ...) boring. It just doesn't make me want to load it. It is suffering from the length-grab problem.

Jason Orbaum



and "/"). Whenever there is a request for data the "format" required is displayed at the top of the screen.

For quickly locating entries a "short-form" of the name is entered for each record. For example, for Fred Smith one might use SMI-F. This short-form is also used by the program for sorting the records into alphabetical order before sorting.

Requests for information are signalled by a flashing cursor enclosed within <> brackets. System prompts, such as "Press any key" appear on the bottom line of the screen as do any error messages generated. Pressing the down arrow key with shift produces a line of help information at the bottom of the screen which cuts down on repeated references to the manual. Pressing shifted up arrow returns you to the main menu, that is, it aborts the option selected. Sensibly, the Break key has been disabled and has no effect.

Once you have entered your data, it can, if necessary, be edited by selecting this option from the main menu. Records are selected by entering the Short-form of the name. The program will attempt to find the nearest match for you if you include the "wild card" character "?". For example, if you want to edit the record of a Mr Smith, but can't remember his first name you might enter SMI-? as the short-form. When a match is found you can either accept it to edit, or scroll forward or backwards through the file.

This method of retrieving records is also used for the "view", "delete" and "Print" options. When printing is selected the program can make use of another field that can be entered for each record, the "Salutation" field. This is the "Dear Fred" part of a letter head. The program always prints "Dear", so it is only necessary to enter the "Fred" part in the salutation field.

A final option in the Mailbox menu is to "Run Report Program". This loads and runs another program from the Mailbox disk, used for most of the printing options. The Report program allows address labels to be printed, the user can set the horizontal and vertical tabs for the particular type of labels being used.

Most of the Report Program options depend on selecting batches of records using selective tests on the fixed and user defined fields. It is possible to select certain names, towns and regions using the wild card character once again. The testing on user fields is possibly more useful. The tests available are =,<,>,<>,<=, and >=. As an example, if a file contains a user defined field, number 10, which is called "Occupation". you could select only the records where occupation is "Programmer" by the follow-ing test: IF 10 = PROGRAM-MER

In addition to "IF", "Either" and "OR" is allowed, several tests can be combined for very powerful selection of particular records. The other main option of the Report Program is to display or print selected fields from selected records in the form of a report, with automatic totalling of numeric fields.

There are two more programs on the Mailbox disk. 'MAIL PURGE" and "MAIL MERGE". The former allows selected records to be deleted in bulk from a file, and the latter allows different files to be merged together. Neither of these two programs use the 42-column screen which seems to tarnish the professional feel of the software a bit, I would suggest that these two programs were rather hurriedly written to get the software out.

Mailbox is undoubtedly the best Name & Address file management program I have seen running under Dragondos. The screen display is excellent, the keyboard has a variable autorepeat speed, and the help messages make the program very userfriendly.

The manual is also very well written with useful examples. With its very powerful selection options and user-defined fields this program is ideal for a small business which needs to hold simple customer records, or a club or society. The price is also just about right for disk software of this type. Harris deserves to do well with Mailbox.

Not perhaps one for the Christmas stocking, though — unless your loved one is a small business!

Brian Cadge



Mailbox software

Program: *Mailbox*, Harris Micro Software, 49 Alexandra Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 4HP

Price: £14.99

MAILBOX is a new name and address database program for the Dragon 32 and 64 with Dragondos, from Harris Micro Software, the company that produce the Moneybox program.

As with Moneybox (disk version), Mailbox uses Harris's custom 42×24 screen and keyboard driver which produces a very clear and pleasant display, including full lower case and so on. Mailbox can handle up to 99 separate files on one disk (named MAIL01 to MAIL99) of variable length. Each file contains records of names and addresses plus up to 10 user defined fields.

The program is menu/form-

fill driven, and has extensive input error checking. The first thing to do is to select the CREATE file option. Information on the size of the file and the number of user defined fields is required for the program to then create the empty file on a data disk. *Mailbox* always assumes that you only have a single disk drive, so prompts are output to swap program and data disks when required.

The idea behind user defined fields is that you can store extra information, such as occupation or age, about each person on the file. These user defined fields are given names and formats by another option from the main menu. Three formats are available. "Alpha" simply means any character, "Num" means numeric only, and "Date" means only dates will be accepted (the characters 0-9

IW-JU



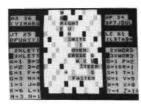


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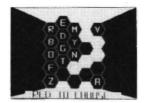
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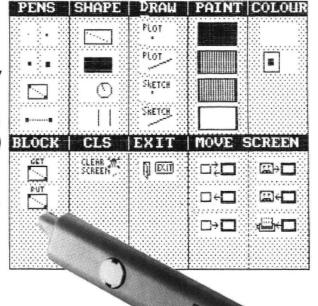
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Dragon Answers

C SAVE

I HAVE been trying to write a program which has to read in a program that has been saved by CSAVE"

When I save a program this way, I always get an IO error at the beginning of the last block of information when loading it back

This means I cannot load or read the last block. Is this a common fault, or have I got a problem with the computer?

C Tuckwood Plymstock Devon

THE following program reads in a program previously saved with the CSAVE''',A command line by line. This could be used as part of a custom editor for example. You should not get I/O errors with this program; if you do then the most obvious fault is vour cassette deck, or less likely the computer itself.

10 Open "I", -1,"" 20 IF EOF (-1) THEN 60

30 LINE INPUT #-1,A\$

40 PRINT AS

50 GOTO 20

60 CLOSE -1:PRINT "END-OF-FILE"

P POINT

COULD you please write a small program demonstrating PPOINT and how to use it. The manual isn't a lot of help as it doesn't actually give a very good exam-

I am a complete beginner and am trying to teach myself programming.

Linda Puah

THE PPOINT command seems to create more confusion than most graphics commands. Its purpose is to return the colour of the pixel at the specified position. The program below should demonstrate this by changing any green pixels to blue and any red to yellow on every other line.

10 PMODE 1.1:PCLS:SCREEN 1,0

20 COLOR 4:LINE (10,10)-(80,80), PSET, BF

30 LINE (120,90)-(220,170), PSET, BF

40 For Y=0 TO 191 STEP 4

50 FOR X=0 TO 255 Step 2 60 C=PPOINT (X,Y)

70 IF C=4 THEN PC=2 80 IF C=1 THEN PC=3



90 PSET (X,Y,PC): NEXT X,Y 100 GOTO 100

70 STX P2

Variable pick up?

I'VE been working on a machine code routine that needs to pick up specially reserved variables incorporated in a Basic program, look through the Basic Variable table and, after converting the five byte floating point number to an integer, pass it to the machine code table.

Something is not right, as all the variables return the same number from the first variable name - as in the short program example below:

10 CLS

20 FOR P1=0 T0 512

30 FOR P2=0 TO 256

40 ENVELOPE (P1, P2, etc)

50 NEXT P2

60 NEXT P1

The variable P2 returns the same value as P1.

Inside the Dragon has been my main source, especially the 'Number Representation' section, but I need more help.

> Richard Brooks Croydon Surrey CRO 3DE

THE simplest way of incorporating a routine such as this is to use the EXEC command with parameters. For example, the Envelope command could be written as a routine at address 30000 which could be called as; 40 EXEC 30000, P1, P2

The first part of the routine would read as follows

10 ORG 30000

20 JSR 35242 ;Skip comma

JSR 36483 ;Get P1 in X

40 STX P1

50 JSR 35242 ;Skip comma

60 JSR 36483 ;Get P2 in X

500 P1 RMB 1 510 P2 RMB 2

Beeb data

IS IT possible to transfer data from a BBC computer to the Dragon 64? I wish to use a large amount of data and so cannot re-enter it directly into the Dragon. I have a disk drive and the BBC data is on disk

Peter Bennett Hindlip Worcester

THE BBC disk format is not directly compatible with the Dragon disk system. The easiest method of transfering data is to use an RS232 link. The Dragons' DLOAD command could be used. but this would mean writing code on the BBC to send data in a standard Dragon file format. A simpler solution would be to write a small program on both computers to send and receive the data on a character by character basis, saving the data to disk on the Dragon as it is received using FWRITE.

Interrupts

I HAVE recently been trying to understand the use of interupts and how these are initiated in a program. My interest is in their application to games program-

E Tomlinson Preston

THE START address of an interupt routine is placed in locations 269/270 and the routine must end with a JMP 40253 (or

JMP 50944 for Dragondos) rather than a RTI.

It is not necessary to 'call' an interupt from a program; the routine will automatically be executed every 50th of a second transparently to the program running at the time. If you want to use interupts which are called from the program you should use 'Software Interupts', initiated by the SWI instruction. The address of the interupt routine should be stored in locations 263/264 and the routine should end with a RTI. The SWI instruction automatically saves all registers and the RTI automatically restores them.

Structure

I AM attempting to structure my Dragon Basic

I would be grateful if you could help me overcome some of the problems I have encountered.

How does the Dragon evaluate such expressions as (A<B) OR (A>B)?

How do I access and use CLOADM, CLOAD and SKIPF?

Kevin Coward

THE Dragon, in common with most Basics, evaluates true/ false expressions, such as (A>B), as 0 for false, and -1 for true. In fact, the Basic will allow any non-zero value to signify a 'true' status.

For details of the Cassette I/O routines see Dragon User October 1985. The evaluation routines you mention return the value of the following number in the B and X registers respectively. The only pointer used is the 'Text Pointer' at address 166/ 167 which should point to the first character of the expression.

Dancing

WHICH locations are affected by sound input from the cassette player? I wish to write a bar graph program which will 'dance' to the music entered from the tape.

N A Shelkh

THE ONLY hardware location affected by the cassette input port is \$FF20 - bit 0. By sampling this bit a number of times in a loop, it is possible to obtain the frequency of the sound coming in which can be used within a 'bar-graph' program such as you describe.

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the dragon's claw





CHRISTMAS is coming, the goose is getting fat, and no doubt if you put a few pennies into Adventure International's hat they'll be delighted to supply you with your choice of Scott Adams' adventures this Yuletide. Which you choose is up to you, but whichever it is I doubt if you'll be disappointed with the challenge of a Scott Adams title. The two I'll be looking at this month have very distinct scenarios. *Pirate Adventure* should obviously cater to the pirates amongst our readers, whilst *Voodoo Castle* should cater to . . . well, we won't go into that.

Pirate Adventure is actually the second in the lengthy Adams' series, and was in fact written by Scott jointly with his wife Alexis. Scott's first adventure, Adventureland (reviewed last month), allegedly occupied so much of his spare time that his wife at one point put the master disk of the game in the family oven. Fortunately for all concerned she didn't turn the oven on, and obviously it didn't take long for her to be bitten by the adventure bug herself. For her first attempt at authorship she chose a desert island setting, though the opening location seems to be fairly hum-drum, being a flat in London: a hum-drum drum, as Arthur Daley might call it. At first it looks just like any ordinary flat, with a pair of sneakers lying on the floor, a rug, a

AN ORIGINAL SECTION AND SECTIO

discarded bottle of booze, a sack of crackers. A sack of crackers? No doubt there'll be a parrot lurking somewhere. And what's that sign on the wall? "Bring treasures here, say: Score."

Nailed

Taking what I could (the rug proved to be nailed to the floor) I went upstairs to an alcove, in which there was a bookcase, in which there was a book, in which there was a word written in blood on the flyleaf: Yoho. Sounds suspiciously like a magic word to me. The book itself is Treasure Island, and another message informs you that Long John Silver left two treasures there, which must be news to Robert Louis Stevenson but let's not quibble. There are a couple more locations in the flat, if you can find them, and then it's out on to a window ledge, provided you've done something to prevent yourself hurtling to the pavement far below.

Do everything right and you might find yourself on a sandy beach on some tropical isle. Resisting the temptation to get out the towel, rub in the sun-tan cream and settle down with the latest Jeffrey Archer paperback, I examined the lagoon and found that luckily the tide was out. I went boldly into the lagoon, found an immovable rusty anchor, went north and promptly discovered that I was out, out of the game and in "Never-never-land," from where every direction takes you nowhere. You can usually escape from a Scott Adams death, but seemingly not this one. I restarted and had the sense to explore the island before venturing into the lagoon again, and it's a good job I did, although I didn't think so while I was wandering around the maze of caves.

Apart from Never-never-land, *Pirate Adventure* had only 25 locations, and if you think that's small then *Voodoo Castle* is limited to only 23! With very little by way of text, you could probably fit these adventures into an unexpanded ZX-81, maybe even a pocket calculator, but with Scott Adams it's the puzzles that matter and it will take you a goodly while to uncover those paltry few locations, believe me.

Voodoo Castle is written solely by Alexis Adams and "dedicated to all Moms!" The moms among my readers will no doubt feel that's a good reason for buying it, while those with moms might feel it would make an excellent Christmas present. What,

your mom doesn't like adventures? All the more reason, then. You, or your mom, begin the game in a chapel with nothing but a closed coffin for company. Taking our life in our hands we use the magic words OPEN COFFIN and discover not a rotting corpse but a sign saying "Count Cristo's been cursed! There's one way for him to flee! Find it, and he'll go free!" What can it all mean? And what about the man wearing the sapphire ring? Is he dead or alive? Who cares, give that ring here, it's bound to come in useful somewhere.

Heading north I walked into a room where the window slammed shut instantly. and wouldn't open again. I left that problem for later and headed south, which brought me to a dingy-looking stairwell and a dungeon with an open jail cell. It didn't seem a good idea to enter here just yet, so I pocketed the pocket shovel that was lying around and went instead into the torture chamber. I couldn't get through the tiny door that requires a bit of magic, but did go into the armory which contained a shield, a sword and a suit of armour. Or rather a suit of armor, this being an American adventure. Strangely, you could MOVE ARMOR, but nothing happened when you did.

Witch's brew

Next I wended my way past a room full of animal heads, another room with a pot of witch's brew, and finally into a lab containing several interesting items. There was a ju-ju bag, which I naturally tried to get to match up with the ju-ju man statue I'd already found. No dice, it was stuck to the floor. There were some chemical tubes, though taking these only prompted one of them to explode periodically and eventually kill me. There was also some labelled chemicals. I was informed, on examining them, that they appeared to be mixable. Is this a good move? Maybe not. By the time I found a secret tunnel leading to a slippery chute down into another room, the exploding tubes had got me . . . what a painful way to go.

For all their brief text and few locations, I think any adventurer worthy of the name ought to try tackling these titles from the Adams family.

Philip Blazdell of Biggin Hill has been trying a later Scott Adams effort, his adventurisations (if there is such a word) of Spiderman, and has kindly sent in a few clues for the benefit of other readers.



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Scott Adams

When you can't go any higher in the elevator, PUOG NEHT DNAP UHSUP; if the fan is proving a problem, TITA BEWT OOHS; and if Hydroman is a problem to you, MIHE ZEERF.

Another helpful reader is Alan Millhouse of Nottingham, who has sent me a copy of the introductory notes that should accompany *El Diablero*. Alan thought those readers who have bought the adventure without the cassette inlay might appreciate a copy of these, so if anyone would, then write and ask me nicely, as well as enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, and I might just send you one. If you're well into the game then it won't help you much, but if you're having trouble getting started then it might prove useful.

G Evans of 10 Kent Close, Penymynydd, Clwyd CH4 0LQ is having trouble with *Mystery of the Java Star*, having spent many late nights on board a shipwreck looking for the Java Star. If anyone can help him, or her, please write to her, or him, at the above address. Any reader who sends in SAE with their queries will be sure to get a reply, but the naughty ones who don't will have to wait till the letter can be dealt with in the column itself. If you can't bear to wait several weeks for it to appear, the answer's simple: EASE SOLC NE!

Gerrard Saunders didn't even include an address with his queries on *The Ket Trilogy*, so if you want to write again, Gerrard, I'll do my best for you (we're very pushed for space, this month.)

Not too pushed to thank S E Woodbury of Bromsgrove who sent me a map of the various floors in *Mansion of Doom*, along

with some playing hints. Someone obviously making use of the school holidays, as the letter dates from the end of August. One tip from among many relates to moving the snake: TAHTE SUDN AESO OGNO MEHT EGAC.

Help on *Black Sanctum* is offered by John Tomes, 79 Lakeside Court, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 3RQ, but John asks for a stamped envelope as his pocket money doesn't stretch very far. A hint on *Syzygy* from R A Read of Manchester, who points out that there are no space suits without holes in them, but to use the corridor type: HTAE RBDL OH. That should help Andy Hughes of Hertfordshire, who wrote in asking about just that point.

Damian Griffiths of 163 Sycamore Avenue, Burnley, Lancs BB12 6AS seems to have completed about six million adventures, but not *Syzygy*, for which he'd like someone to tell him how to obtain the communicator. Some bugs on *Quest*, which Damian's discovered, are that to gain items you can drop a minus quantity and you can also double your wealth by selling your coins for 1½ coins each.

Thanks

I'd like to thank all the readers who have written in with queries and offers of help, and apologise if I haven't featured your letter because space doesn't allow a mention of them all. One I would like to mention is from Gillian Keys of Bangor in Northern Ireland, who asks for some general help on vocabulary for beginners to adventure games. This is something I think we forget once we've played a few, but it's very important to get used to those abbreviated two-word commands. LOOK WINDOW,



VOODOO CASTLE

"with Superb Graphics"



GO DOOR etc are common commands which seem to baffle some players. You can't type GO THROUGH THE DOOR/ PASSAGE/TUNNEL or whatever, so simply GO DOOR. Likewise with looking at or through things, and the command LOOK often is a synonym for EXAMINE. That's something you must also learn to do, EXAMINE everything. This sometimes enables you to find concealed objects or secret passages, and some adventures even require you to EXAMINE some things twice, to produce two hidden objects. Always make a map, of course, and always read this column. More tips next month

Adventure Contact

To help puzzled adventurers further, we are instituting an Adventure Helpline — simply fill in the coupon below, stating the name of the adventure, your problem and your name and address, and send it to Dragon User Adventure Help-

line, 12/13 Little Newport Stret, London WC2H 7PP. As soon as enough entries have arrived, we will start printing them in the magazine.

Don't worry — you'll still have Adventure Trail to write to as well!

Adventure	***************************************
Problem	

Name	
Address	
	Doc 95

Adventure Contact

Adventure Return of the Ring Problem How do I get the red/blue passes; How to find use for the flask? Name Christian May Address 6 Swift Gardens, Woolston, Southampton, Hants, S02 9FO.

Adventure Franklins Tomb Problem How do you get into the Water Tomb? How do you give the rabbit the carrots? How do you open the Sarcophagus? Name J P Thorpe Adventure Black Sanctum Problem How to get through the boarded-up door (the saw doesn't help)? Name Stephen Wood Address 3 New Street, Stalybridge, Cheshire, SK15 2EZ.

Adventure El Diablo Problem I'm stuck in the cactus and all I did is going up on the Granite rock. Name Eyal bar svi

Address Eshel Street 8/5, Kiryat Bialik 27000, Israel. Adventure Return of the Ring Problem How do you get the moon walker in the inventory? Name Ian Griffin Address 69 The Serpentine, Aughton, Nr Ormskirk, Lancs L39 6RN.

Adventure Dragon Mountain Problem How do I get a drink of water? Name L Darnell Address 62 Riverview, Grays, Essex, RM16 4BD.

Adventure Calixto Island Problem How do you get past the natives on Calixto Island? Adventure Syzgy Problem How do you use the transporter co-ordinates on the transporter? Name Louise Bonfield

Address 7 Water End, Wresthingworth, Sandy, Beds, SG19 2HA.

Adventure El Diablo Problem
Where do I dip the stick, how
do I get to the cave in the cliff?
Name Fraser Chadburn
Address 47 lbbeth Close,
Kempston, Beds, MK43 9BU.

December 1985 Dragon User 37

Cat and mouse!

A game for four to six year olds from Steve Gathercole

THE IDEA of the game is to teach four to six year old children the alphabet and the position of the keys on the keyboard. When run, the game displays two little houses, one for a cat and one for the mouse. A letter is presented in the middle of the screen and the child must press that key; if the key is not pressed quickly enough or the wrong key is pressed the cat will start to catch the mouse. The idea is to get home before the cat gobbles you up! The alphabet is displayed in order and

there are three levels of difficulty. Mum or dad should try their hand at level one — but be careful, you could show yourself up!

ARRAYS — BL = blank, MD = mouse down, MU = mouse up, MR = mouse right, ML = mouse left, CR = cat right, CL = cat left, HO = house

VARIABLES — CY = cat 'y' position, CX = cat 'x' position, MY = mouse 'y' position, MX = mouse 'x' position LINES 90 — 340 pokes graphics to screen

and sets up arrays

LINES 350 — 460 data for the graphics LINES 460 — 620 data and routine for drawing letters on the high res screen LINES 630 — 880 sets up and displays

introduction screen

LINES 890 — 1060 main loop

LINES 1070 — **1630** subroutines for cat and mouse movement and check for end of screen positions

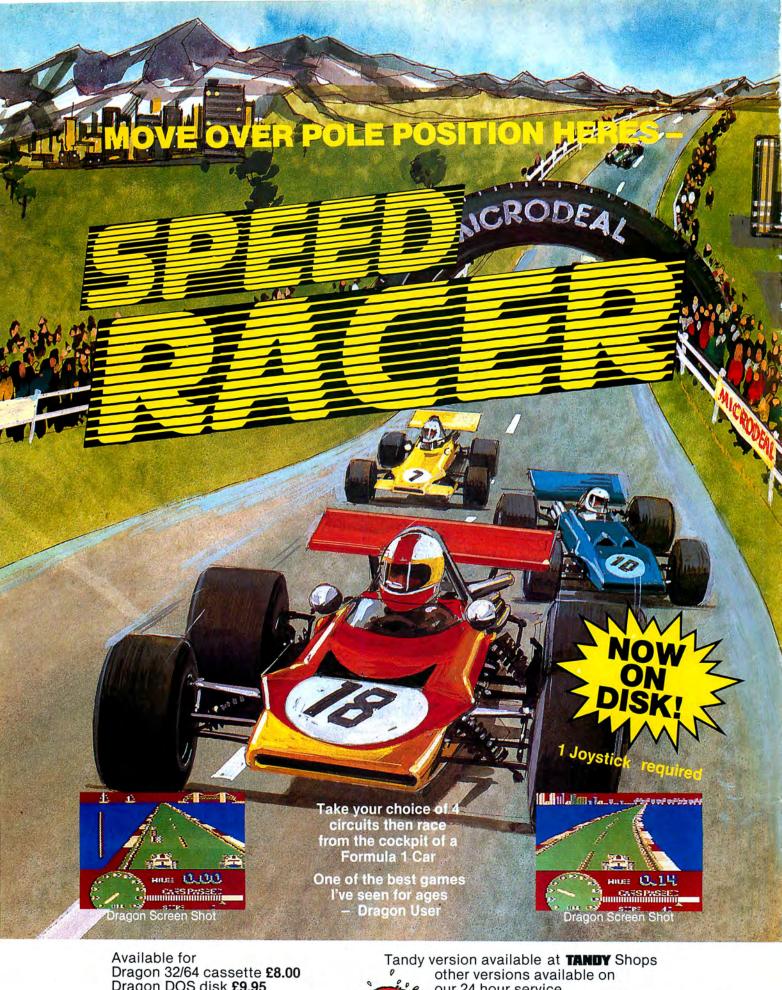
LINES 1550 — 1560 born free tune LINE 1590 death march

MOUSE

10 REM MOUSE 20 REM FOR 4 TO 6 YEAR OLDS 30 CLS:PRINTa8, "CAT AND MOUSE"; 40 PRINT:PRINT"************* ****** 50 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT" AN A LPHABET TEACHING GAME"; 60 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT" FOR THE VERY YOUNG..."; 70 PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT:P RINT: PRINT" HANG ON A MINUTE" 80 PMODE 3,1:PCLS 90 DIM BL (15) , MD (15) , MU (15) , MR (15) ,ML (15) ,CR (15) ,CL (15) ,HO (15) 100 DIM LE\$ (26) 110 GOTO 200 120 A=1536 130 FOR D=0 TO 2 140 FOR N=1 TO 24 150 READ S:POKE A+D,S 160 A=A+32 170 NEXT N 180 A=1536:NEXT D 190 RETURN 200 PCLS: GOSUB 120 210 GET (0,0) - (24,24), MD, G 220 PCLS:GET (0,0) - (24,24) ,BL,G:GOS **UB 120** 230 GET (0,0) - (24,24), MU, G 240 PCLS: GOSUB 120 250 GET (0,0) - (24,24), CR, G 260 PCLS: GOSUB 120 270 GET (0,0) - (24,24),HO,G 280 PCLS:GOSUB 120 290 GET (0,0) - (24,24),CL,G 300 PCLS:GOSUB 120 310 GET (0,0) - (24,24), MR, G 320 PCLS:GOSUB 120 330 GET (0,0) - (24,24) ,ML,G 340 PCLS 350 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,1,5,5,5,5,5,1

,1,5,5,5,13,1,1,0,0,0,0 360 DATA 80,16,16,16,64,64,0,64,64 ,64,64,64,0,0,64,64,64,192,0,0,0,0 ,0,0 370 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 ,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 380 DATA 0,0,0,0,1,1,9,5,5,5,5,1,1 ,5,5,5,5,5,1,0,0,0,1,5,0,0,0,0,0,0 ,128,64,64,64,64,0,0,64,64,64,64,6 4,0,64,64,64,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 ,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 390 DATA 0,0,0,64,80,16,4,4,4,4,4, 17,68,84,80,64,64,64,64,64,64,16,5 ,5,0,16,20,20,16,16,168,8,36,145,6 5,0,5,5,0,4,84,1,1,1,1,84,85,85,0, 16,80,80,16,16,168,128,96,8,0,0,64 ,64,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,64,64 400 DATA 0,0,0,1,4,16,85,16,16,16, 6,16,21,20,20,65,0,0,0,85,0,5,4,4, 5,0,0,0,0,0,85,65,65,65,65,65,85,0 ,0,0,64,16,4,85,4,68,68,68,68,4,4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 84 410 DATA 0,4,5,5,4,4,42,2,9,32,0,0 ,1,1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1,1,0,4,20,20 ,4,4,42,32,24,70,65,0,80,80,0,16,2 1,64,64,64,64,21,85,85,0,0,0,1,5,4 , 16, 16, 16, 16, 16, 68, 17, 21, 5, 1, 1, 1, 1 ,1,1,4,80,80 420 DATA 16,65,69,69,70,21,1,0,0,0 ,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 430 DATA 80,84,85,149,101,80,84,0, 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 440 DATA 64,80,88,85,85,64,80,0,0, 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 450 DATA 1,5,37,85,85,1,5,0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,5,21,85, 86,89,5,21,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 ,0,0,0,0,0,4,65,81,81,145,84,64,0, 0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0 460 FOR K=0 TO 26: READ LE\$ (K) : NEXT 470 FOR K=0 TO 9: READ NU\$ (K): NEXT

24:MY=24:MX=24:GOTO 840 480 DATA BR2, ND4R3D2NL3ND2BE2, ND4R 830 GOTO 790 3DGNL2FDNL3BU4BR2, NR3D4R3BU4BR2, ND 840 PCLS:PUT (0,0) - (24,24) ,HO,PSET 4R2FD2GL2BE4BR, NR3D2NR2D2R3BU4BR2 850 PUT (180,0) - (204,24), HO, PSET 490 DATA NR3D2NR2D2BE4BR, NR3D4R3U2 860 LINE (106, 72) - (148, 107) , PSET, B LBE2BR, D4BR3U2NL3U2BR2, ND4BR2, BD4R 870 XC=10:YC=30 EU3L2R3BR2, D2ND2NF2E2BR2 880 XM=178: YM=30 500 DATA D4R3BU4BR2, ND4FREND4BR2, N 890 REM****MAIN LOOP D4F3DU4BR2, NR3D4R3U4BR2, ND4R3D2NL3 900 PUT (10,30) - (34,54), CR, PSET BE2, NR3D4R3NHU4BR2 910 PUT (178,30) - (202,54) ,MR,PSET 510 DATA ND4R3D2L2F2BU4BR2,BD4R3U2 920 FOR N=1 TO 26 L3U2R3BR2,RND4RBR2,D4R2U4BR2,D3FEU 930 B\$="ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ 3BR2, D4EFU4BR2 520 DATA DF2DBL2UE2UBR2, DFND2EUBR2 940 A\$=MID\$ (B\$, N, 1) ,R3G3DR3BU4BR2 950 XX=120:YY=82:DRAW"C3S16":GOSUB 530 DATA NR2D4R2U4BR2, BDEND4BR2, R2 550 D2L2D2R2BU4BR2, NR2BD2NR2BD2R2U4BR2 960 FOR Z=0 TO W ,D2R2D2U4BR2,NR2D2R2D2L2BE4,D4R2U2 970 Z\$=INKEY\$ L2BE2BR2, R2ND4BR2, NR2D4R2U2NL2U2BR 980 IF Z\$=A\$ THEN GOSUB 1290:GOTO 2,NR2D2R2D2U4BR2 540 GOTO 630 990 IF Z\$<>A\$ AND Z\$<>"" THEN GOSU 550 DRAW"BM"+STR\$ (XX) +", "+STR\$ (YY) B 1070 560 FOR K=1 TO LEN (A\$) 1000 NEXT Z 1010 GOSUB 1070 570 B\$=MID\$ (A\$,K,1) 580 IF B\$>="0" AND B\$<="9" THEN DR 1020 XX=120: YY=82: DRAW"C1S16": GOSU B 550 AW NU\$ (VAL (B\$)): GOTO 610 590 IF B\$=" " THEN N=0 ELSE N=ASC (1030 IF XM=XC AND YM=YC THEN 1580 B\$) -64 1040 IF XM<178 AND XM>130 AND YM<3 600 DRAW LE\$ (N) 5 THEN 1530 610 NEXT 1050 NEXT N 620 RETURN 1060 GOTO 920 630 PCLS3: SCREEN 1,0 1070 IF XM=XC AND YM=YC THEN 1580 640 XX=90:YY=30:A\$="CAT":DRAW"C2S1 1080 IF XC<=10 AND YC=30 THEN GOTO 6":GOSUB 550 1120 650 XX=100: YY=90: A\$="AND": DRAW"C2S 1090 IF XC>=180 AND YC>=30 AND YC< 8":GOSUB 550 140 THEN GOTO 1170 660 XX=75: YY=150: A\$="MOUSE": DRAW"C 1100 IF XC>=180 OR XC>=60 AND YC> 2916":GOSUB 550 =140 THEN GOTO 1210 670 FOR T=1 TO 4 1110 IF XC<=60 AND YC>=140 OR YC>= 680 PLAY"01":FOR N=1 TO 4:PLAY"T25 THEN GOTO 1250 5CDEFGABO+": NEXT N 1120 REM RIGHT 690 NEXT T 1130 PUT (XC, YC) - (XC+24, YC+24) , BL, P 700 FOR T=0 TO 200:NEXTT SET 710 PCLS3 1140 XC=XC+CX 720 XX=30:YY=30:A\$="LEVEL":DRAW"C2 1150 PUT (XC, YC) - (XC+24, YC+24) , CR, O \$16":GOSUB 550 R 730 SOUND 50,5:XX=30:YY=90:A\$="LEV 1160 RETURN EL": DRAW"C2S16": GOSUB 550 1170 REM DOWN 740 SOUND 100,5:XX=30:YY=150:A\$="L 1180 PUT (XC, YC) - (XC+24, YC+24) , BL, P EVEL": GOSUB 550 SET 750 SOUND 150,5 1190 YC=YC+CY: PUT (XC, YC) - (XC+24, YC 760 XX=200: YY=30: A\$="1": DRAW"C2S16 +24), CR, OR ":GOSUB 550:SOUND 100,2 1200 RETURN 770 XX=200:YY=90:A\$="2":DRAW"C2S16 1210 REM BACK LEFT ":GOSUB 550:SOUND 100,2 1220 PUT (XC, YC) - (XC+24, YC+24) ,BL,P 780 XX=200:YY=150:A\$="3":DRAW"C2S1 6": GOSUB 550: SOUND 100,2 1230 XC=XC-CX: PUT (XC, YC) - (XC+24, YC 790 B\$=INKEY\$ +24),CL,OR 800 IF B\$="1" THEN W=30:CY=12:CX=1 1240 RETURN 2:MY=12:MX=12:GOTO 840 1250 REM UP LEFT 810 IF B\$="2" THEN W=130:MY=12:MX= 1260 PUT (XC, YC) - (XC+24, YC+24) , BL, P 12:CY=12:CX=12:GOTO 840 SET 820 IF B\$="3" THEN W=200:CX=24:CY= 1270 YC=YC-CY: PUT (XC, YC) - (XC+24, YC



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```
+24),CL,OR
                                        SET
1280 RETURN
                                        1470 RETURN
1290 IF XM<=178 AND YM=30 THEN GOT
                                        1480 REM UP
0.1330
                                        1490 PUT (XM, YM) - (XM+24, YM+24), BL, P
1300 IF XM>=180 AND YM>=30 AND YM<
                                        SET
140 THEN GOTO 1380
                                        1500 YM=YM-MY
1310 IF XM>=180 OR XM>=60 AND YM>=
                                        1510 PUT (XM, YM) - (XM+24, YM+24), MU, P
140 THEN GOTO 1430
1320 IF XM<=60 AND YM>=140 OR YM>=
                                        1520 RETURN
35 THEN GOTO 1480
                                        1530 XX=80:YY=10:A$="YOU ARE HOME"
1330 REM RIGHT
                                        :DRAW"C3S8":GOSUB 550
1340 PUT (XM, YM) - (XM+24, YM+24) ,BL,P
                                        1540 PUT (XM, YM) - (XM+24, YM+24) , BL, P
SET
                                        SET
1350
                                        1550 PLAY"04V31T2L2C0-GL4GAL6GFL2E
1360 PUT (XM, YM) - (XM+24, YM+24), MR, P
                                       c"
SET
                                        1560 PLAY"L4GAL6GFL2BL4GEFFL6FEL4D
1370 RETURN
                                        1.20
1380 REM DOWN
                                        1570 GOTO 1600
1390 PUT (XM, YM) - (XM+24, YM+24), BL, P
                                        1580 XX=60:YY=10:A$="MUNCH MUNCH":
SET
                                        DRAW"C3S8":GOSUB 550
1400 YM=YM+MY
                                        1590 PLAY"01V31T2L4GGL8GGL4B-AAGGF
1410 PUT (XM, YM) - (XM+24, YM+24), MD, P
                                        +G"
SET
                                        1600 PCLS3:XX=40:YY=100:A$="PLAY A
1420 RETURN
                                        GAIN
                                             YES OR NO": DRAW"C2S8": GOSUB
1430 REM LEFT
                                        550
1440 PUT (XM, YM) - (XM+24, YM+24), BL, P
                                        1610 Q$=INKEY$: IF Q$="Y" THEN 710
                                        1620 IF Q$="N" THEN END
1450 XM=XM-MX
                                        1630 GOTO 1610
1460 PUT (XM, YM) - (XM+24, YM+24), ML, P
```



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The Dragon's Claw

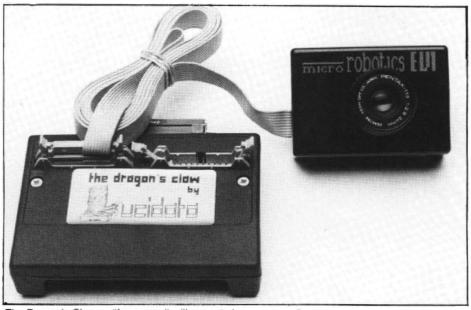
Roy Coates looks at an interesting new development in Dragon peripherals

THE DRAGON'S CLAW is one of the many hardware add-ons that should have appeared a couple of years ago. If it had then the Dragon may have enjoyed a far more interesting and widespread user base than it currently does.

The Claw is a standard sized cartridge which has three sockets protruding from it. There are two on the top of the cartridge, the first being an eight-bit Centronics I/O port, and the second being an emulation of the BBC computers "User Port". The third connector is something that should be found on a lot more of the add-ons on the market. It is simply an extension of the Dragon's cartridge port which allows another cartridge such as another Claw or a disk interface to remain connected to the Dragon whilst the Claw is in use. With this in mind, the Claw has been designed in such a way that it may be configured to reside in one of four different places within the Dragons address space. Although none of these addresses are known to conflict with those used by other cartridge add-ons, it does mean that up to four Claws may be connected together.

Heart

The heart of the Dragon's Claw is the tried and tested Rockwell 6522 Versatile Interface Adaptor (VIA). This is a very clever device which may be set up to handle just about any type of I/O that may be required. As mentioned in the Claw manual, it would take many reams of paper to illustrate all of the possible applications of the 6522 VIA and so a brief description of the device will have to



The Dragon's Claw — "I am sure it will prove to be a success."

suffice. The 6522 contains 16 eight-bit registers and these are individually addressable through four address lines on the chip. Address decoding is provided within the cartridge to allow the placing of the cartridge at the four different addresses as mentioned above.

The documentation that is supplied with the Claw consists of the now standard A5 sized booklet and contains a description of the Claw along with a programming example and the Data sheet for the VIA chip.

With the software to support it, the Claw may be used to drive all the wonderful peripherals that have appeared for the

BBC micro such as the Penman plotter, Robot arms and the Snap-Camera pictured here. Programming the Claw to interface to other devices does require a basic knowledge of interfacing, but an example is provided and would give a good starting point for someone interested in this often fascinating facet of computing.

The Snap-Camera is surprisingly small. fitting in a plastic case measuring only 3" × 2" × 1" and is fitted with a small 24mm Pentax lens. A tripod mounting bush has thoughtfully been provided although it will require a longer than average mounting bolt as the bush is recessed into the case. A length of ribbon cable about six feet long is used to connect the camera to the Dragon's Claw and the plug is a very tight fit against the side of the Dragon. Although Lucidata assure you that this is intentional, I must admit to being a little wary when moving the camera about in case the cable should snag on something and pull the cartridge out. It didn't and I was not prepared to see how hard you had to pull to find out!

The demonstration software provided with the camera is on cassette although instructions are given for saving this to disk. The program consists of a BASIC program and one machine code program. A source listing of the machine code is given in the manual with descriptions of all the routines and how to implement them in your own programs.

Having loaded the software, the camera worked straight away and I was a little surprised at seeing myself appear on the

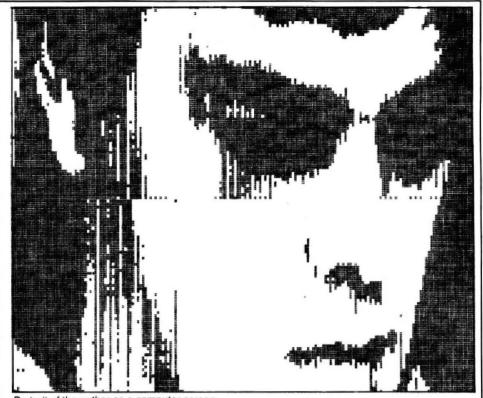


computer screen. (If you have seen "Tron" you will understand why!) The demo program is in three parts, the first part will display a picture as seen by the camera and will calculate an average exposure to build up the image on the screen. The second part of the program allows you to alter the exposure time manually which does give a lot more scope to the final picture quality, and the final part of the demo performs a colour enhancement of the last exposure as used in many scientific applications to enhance certain areas of the picture.

Having quickly experimented with varying objects, it was found that the camera has a particularly narrow field of vision and is best using objects no more than about four feet away. Strong lighting tends to "bleach" the image, thus losing a lot of the detail. The light from a normal 60 watt domestic bulb was found to be about the best source of light. The quality of the picture obtained varies enormously depending on the content. Items which have a great deal of contrast such as a newspaper or a cartoon appear far more clearly than would a coloured object. As mentioned in the camera manual, the Optical RAM is particularly sensitive to the colour red, and so anything that is red tends to come out as if it was pure white.

Beastie

Lucidata have already released the Snap-Dragon camera with software to drive the unit through the Dragon's Claw



Portrait of the author as a computer screen.

and now have a "Beasty" robot a

and now have a "Beasty" robot arm working happily. They will be demonstrating this at the forthcoming 6809 show. Future devices may include some of the turtles available for the BBC micro and possibly a home satellite weather station. Obviously this will depend on the market response to this product but the Claw is

the key that opens up so many doors as far as add-ons go that I am sure that it will prove to be a success.

Over the next few weeks I shall be trying the Claw with a commercial robot arm, and I shall also be trying some of the suggested applications for the camera in the camera manual. Watch this space!!



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DRAGON 32. 3 joysticks, light pen, books, 30 games including Buzzard Bait and Worlds of Flight plus 11 Microdeal games, alone utilities in-clude Tele-Tutor, Tele + Forth, etc. £150 ono. Tel: 0943 464771.

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SOFTWARE EXCHANGE SERVICE. Exchange your old software for other software on the market. Pegasoft probably has the largest Dragon exchange service in the world with well over 300 members. Send large sae for membership forms and details, also available Ultra Slim Credit Card Calculators, retail price £9.99, now only £3.49, payable to Pegasoft, 226 Darnall Road, Sheffield S9 3AN.

4164 DRAM, £1.75 each. 74LS783, £10.25. 6809E, £4. 2764, £2.50. 8255, £2. 4013B, 10p. 4116-150NS, new, 75p, used (working), 40p. Dragon 32 updates to 64k Dram, £35 plus p/p. Phone Nick 0892 44070 (evenings).

DRAGON 32 plus games, books, magazines and 2 joysticks for £130 or near offer. Phone 091-985 5785 between 5-8pm.

DRAGON 64. 115 games and utilities, also light pen, Quickshot II joystick, excellent condition. Bargain £200. Phone (0422) 45035.

PRESTEL FOR DRAGON 64, 1200/75 Viewdata program, 40 x 24 u/l case display and Prestel Graphics (uses P mode 4), save/review frame (Dragon DOS disk or tape), cassette £7, disk £9. Payable to E. Donagain, 107 Manchester Road, Tyldesley, Greater Manchester M29 8DL.

DRAGON 64 tape recorder, 2 joysticks, £100. Software £134 ono. (092684) 2325 Warks.

64K DRAGON TWIN, 40 TRACK DRIVES, £350 ONO, Leeds 860887.

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DRAGON 32, repair or exchange board as neccessary, £27 + VAT, includes return postage. Send to Computer Care Centre, Artillery House, Gunco Lane, Macclesfield. Tel. 0625 614967

DRAGON SOFTWARE LIBRARY. Life membership only £6.00. Two weeks hire £1.25. Stamp for details to DSL, 30 Waterside View, Leysdown, Sheerness, Kent ME12 4N.

DRAGON 64s, brand new, guaranteed with software, £140, also peripherals. Phone (0733) 64312 evenings.

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DRAGON 32, disk drive, disks, software, joysticks, books, edit +. £200. Tel: (05436) 73094.

CIA-COPY make personal back-ups of M/C programs, Autorun, Multipart, Block-loaders, all copied without offsets, peeks, pokes, etc. No technical knowledge required. Two versions on one cassette, 32 and 64 (mode). Simply load in and copy out. £5. CIA-Soft, 2 Carrickfern Gardens, Greenisland, Co Antrim, N Ireland.

"NAME'S BUICK ... SAM BUICK. Private detective. I figure ya gotta buy this adventure starrin' Yours Truly it's real swell . . . " £6.75. Stratosoft, 2 Main Street, Frodsham, Cheshire.

DRAGON 32, in box, tape recorder, £80. Software, joystick, carrycase, worth £240 + for £125. 0376 47680.

CUMMANA DISK DRIVE - Delta DOS + toolkit + cable, manual + scribe + tape, copy disk. £100. Telephone 0748 5392.

DRAGON GAMES, 39 originals plus others, £60. Phone 01-850 4795 for

WANTED, DELTA Disk System by Premier. Telephone Wolverhampton 69285

AMERICAN "Color Computer Magazine" bumper bundles of back copies. 10 back issues £9.95 inc. 6 for £6.95 inc. Loads of programs and information for Tandy Color and Dragon Users. Cheque/Visa/Access to Elkon Electronic, 11 Bury New Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 8JZ. 24-hour hotline 061-798 7613.

FOR SALE, DRAGON 64 with disk drive and 059 system with manuals, software, spare disks, £350 ono. Telephone 0604 414174 after 6pm.

DRAGON 64, Dragon DOS disk drive, Seikosha GP100A printer, telewriter, database, business accounts, Alldream games, joysticks, manuals, as new, £525. Tel: 0942 816995.

DRAGON 32. Cassette recorder, joysticks, software worth £150 +, good condition, with books, mags, etc. £100 ono. Phone (0287) 41091.

Competition Corner

Answers to Competition Corner, Dragon User, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2H 7PP.

THE GAME of Nim is one of the oldest games for two players, and certainly it or a variation is to be found in most countries and cultures. Nim is a game that can be played using the simplest of materials such as pebbles on the beach or coins on the table. It can also be adapted for playing by computer.

The rules of the game are simple. Several pebbles are laid out in a number of rows and players take it in turns to remove one or more pebbles. The only limitation is that at each go the pebbles must all come from the same row. The winner is the player to take the last pebble.

For example, in the game below a player could remove either one, two, three, or four pebbles from row 'A', or either one or both pebbles from row 'B', or he might elect to remove from one to all seven pebbles from row 'C'.

In fact, the only safe move would be to take just one pebble from row 'C'. Unfortunately space doesn't permit a full discussion as to why this should be so, but readers who are interested might get some clue from analysing the program given below and seeing how the computer decides on its best move. That this method is related to the binary method of counting might suggest why the game of Nim is suited to computer analysis. Indeed a machine called the 'Nimatron' was built by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation and exhibited in New York in 1940. This machine weighed a ton and was limited to playing with only four rows with a maximum of seven 'pebbles' in each. The version for the 'Dragon' given here adds variety to the game by generating a random number of rows with up to 30 'pebbles' in each row. You will find that as the computer prints out the 'pebbles', each block of five is in a different colour. This has no significance relating to the game and is done simply to make counting the pebbles in each row easier.

Have a happy Christmas!

For the Christmas Competition we are turning to the adventures of the well-known anthropologist and explorer, Ms Symphyta Offen-Knightly who has just returned from the remote East European country of Pandemonia.

This country is so remote that the conventional arabic system of numbers is still unknown. Instead of using the 10 digits which we recognise as zero to nine, the Pandemonians use 10 written symbols which bear a striking resemblance to our letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J

(though not necessarily in this order).

Not surprisingly books of mathematical tables are on sale in the local shops, and Ms O-K, mistaking one for an English/Pandemonian phrase book, caused a great deal of confusion by reciting from a page of square numbers. This is perhaps understandable if it is realised that amongst this table of squares in the notation of Pandemonia are the words HAD, CABBAGE, and DEFIED.

Can you determine which letter represent which digits?

```
100 DIM L(7), B$(7), C$(7):MO=1:QQ=0
110 CLS:PRINT0128, "ENTER DIFFICULTY FACTOR (1 TO 9)"
120 PRINT 0200," (1=EASY 9=HARD)"
130 A$=IN\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPRO(9):IF A$="\"1\text{TheN } 130
140 ROWS=RND(5)\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPRO(9):IF A$="\"1\text{TheN } 130
140 ROWS=RND(5)\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPRO(30):X=L(F)
150 QQ=QQ+L(F):QOSUB470:B$(F)=X$:NEXT F
160 CLS0:FOR F=1 TO ROWS:FRINT 8(F+1)\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPRO(30):X=L(F)
170 IF L(F)\(\frac{1}{2}\)THEN B$(F)=P\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(CD=1)\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(D)
180 FOR D=1 TO L(F):SET(D\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(CD=1)\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(D)
190 NEXT F:IF QQXI THEN B$(F)=R\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EXPLINE(T)=\(\frac{1}{2}\)EX
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Prize

THIS MONTH we have a special prize, one of the latest, and perhaps best games for the Dragon. Microdeal have kindly agreed to donate 20 copies of *Trekboer*, their latest graphic adventure — and if you want to find out just how good it is, turn to the reviews pages where Mike Gerrard gives it the once over.

Rules

TO WIN a copy of *Trekboer*, you must first show the answer to the above problem, and, secondly, demonstrate how you solved it with the use of a Basic program written on your Dragon.

Please do not send in a cassette

containing your answer.

Make sure your name and address is printed clearly on your entry and mark the envelope December competition. Envelopes which do not say which month you are entering will be disqualified.

As a tie-breaker, complete the following sentence in 10 words or less: "I want to visit a Dark Star because

Entries must reach *Dragon User* by the last working day in December. The winners will be announced in the March 1986 issue. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

WINNERS

IT NEVER ceases to amaze us -

every month, people win prizes! And September was no different.

The following clever 15 have managed to get themselves copies of both Chuckie Egg and Screaming Abdabs from A'n'F Software. They are: Richard Byrne of Drumcondra, Eire, Peter Cutting of Putney, E Newman of Addlestone, D Medrow of Storrington, M Stonton of Stoke Bruerne, Karen Money of Hereford, R Lawson of Kettering, G Hunt of Bolton-le-Sands, C Jones of Llanerch, Luis Martinez of San Sebastian, Spain, R. Hart of Knutsford, Kevin Desmond of Cork, Eire, Olav Friis Nielsen of Rulkedalen, Norway, Rachel Edmunds of Sedgefield, and Keir Healey of Rugby.

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