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NOVEMBER 1990 • ISSUE 57 • £2.95

ATARI ST USER

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on your ST**

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and those wonderful Aspects...**



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SO REAL YOU CAN SMELL THE SMOKE

THE NO.1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

"ROMEO 25 - THIS IS MIKE 77 - SPOT REPORT - 5 T72 TANKS MOVING WEST - GRID 190852 - CONTINUING OVER"

Capt. Sean Bannon snapped his head to the left. There was only one place where the Russians could be, and that was on the hill 2200 metres away. All the training, planning and preparations were over. Team Yankee was about to learn if the team's seventy nine men and twenty five million dollars worth of equipment could do what they were supposed to do.

Team Yankee is designed to test your leadership and tactical skills to the quick. You can display in either "quadrant mode" where all four platoons may be controlled at once



or Full-screen Mode where the display homes in on just one platoon.

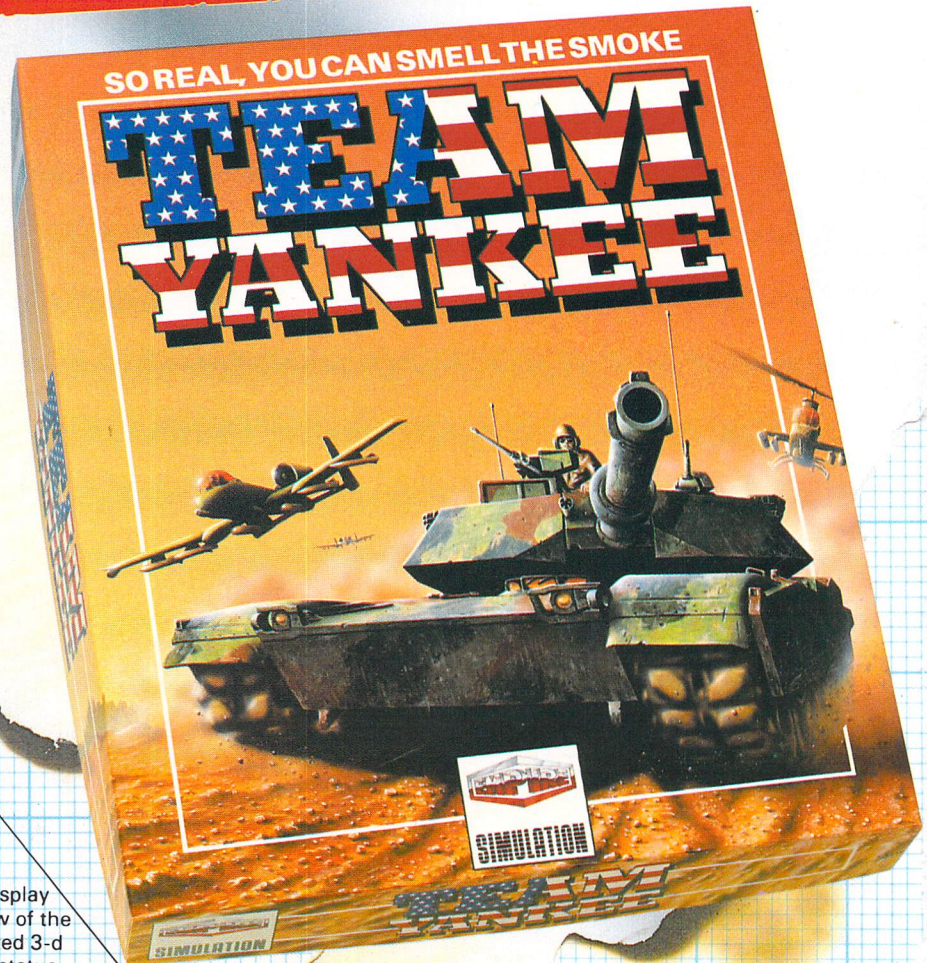


To the right of the compasses are five icons which represent the various types of weaponry available to the unit.

- MACHINE GUN - which is always available to the player and has an 'infinite' number of rounds.
- SMOKE - a smoke grenade which allows enemy vision to be obscured.
- HEAT - a high explosive anti-tank round
- SABOT - an armor-piercing tungsten shell
- TOW - a high-range anti-tank missile

The major capability on the quadrant map screen is to alter the movement and formation of any platoon. The whole of the map may be viewed at once, or you may zoom into any portion of the battlefield using the icons to the right of the map.

You have the flexibility to display either an overhead map view of the surrounding area, a simulated 3-d view of the battlefield, or a status screen showing the performance of all vehicles in a platoon. Irrespective of which screen mode you choose during battle, there is a constant column of information to the right of the screen.



Team Yankee is the definitive action simulation of modern tank warfare. Watch scenarios unfold on 3D battlefields with high definition graphics and keep track of the four tank platoons you control using the unique 4 quadrant display. Defend Hill 214 from Yuri Potecknov's crack tank platoons, attack Objective Link through sniper fire from forests, protect the Langen Gap from an entire Soviet tank battalion at night!



Engine smoke Ti, will prove very useful in confusing your enemy if you find yourself in a tight corner.

Infra red (or thermal) imaging This feature is very useful for identifying vehicles camouflaged on the edge of forests. Contary to popular belief the thermal image is green and not red.

Zoom. When this icon is accessed the central portion of the screen is magnified by a factor of 10.

Laser range finder. The range finder will lock on to a reflective target if the firing cursor is placed directly over the object.

Wide formation icon. This increases the spacing between vehicles in your platoon to 100 metres. Narrow formation icon. This reduces the inter-vehicle spacing in your platoon to 50 metres.



Vee. a vee formation. Echelon right - places your vehicles on a right to left diagonal relative to you direction. Wedge - places your vehicles in a wedge formation.

Scroll icon: The four arrows underneath the ETA display allow you to scroll your map in any of the four directions.

Dead Stop icon. This red icon, causes your platoon to come to a dead halt when clicked.

In line - places your vehicles in a line abreast relative to your direction. Column - places your vehicles in a line ahead relative to your direction.

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- SMOKE DISCHARGES

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Armor: Chobham (steel, ceramic, plastic)
Combat Weight: 54.5 metric tons

Five major scenarios based on the battles featured in the New York Times No. 1 best seller Team Yankee.

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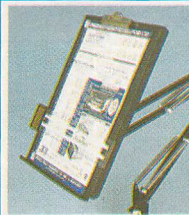
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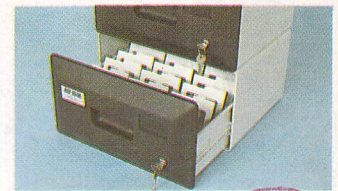
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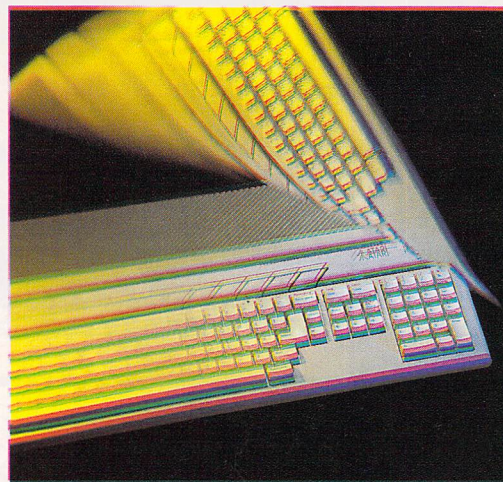
While every care is taken to ensure the printed material is accurate, we are in no way connected to the number of people with the surname Flish-Smythe.

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Yes another 'get rich quick' scheme – trust us we know that they work. All you've got to do now is work out how you're going to spend all that money



SPEEDING UP.....73

It's fast....but not that fast! So how can you make your ST go quicker? John Butters puts his foot to the floor to bring you speed injection for the ST

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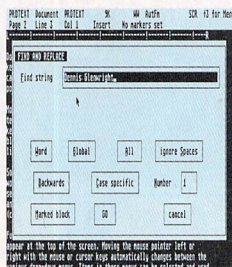
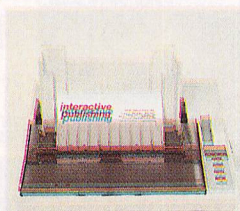
Poor little John Butters hasn't been able to sleep lately - he's that excited about the arrival of version five of his favourite word processor

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All the utilities you could ever wish for and they're all in one package

CITIZEN 124D PRINTER.....71

Print to your heart's content with this offering from Citizen. The best bit is ...the budget price



STOS MASTER PAINT.....100

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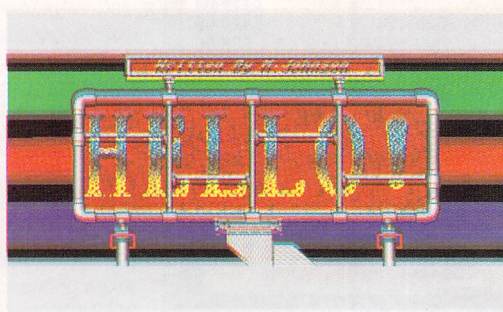
PLAYTIME.....100

There's no excuse for being late any more, just learn to tell the time with this program

USERDISK November...25



**PLAYABLE DEMO OF THE CHRONICLES
OF OMEGA FROM ARC**



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SCROLLER WITH MUSIC**

REGULARS

NEWS.....6

Dave Stewart, aided and abetted by John Butters, brings you the action. Hot info on what's happening, what's going to happen or what should be happening in the world of computers

WORLD SCENE13

Setting aside his sausage for a moment, Günter, along with the Leiberwitzs, brings all the news that's fit to print from all four corners of the globe (oooh! Just like an episode of Big Blue Marble...)

PLAYTEST33

Games fiends get ready, it's that special time of the month again, no, not open-day at the train spotters' society, November's selection of games is here for you to inspect

ART-WORK!80

Once again a world exclusive of a fabulous piece of art work. First stop 'USER ...next the Louvre

PUBLIC SECTOR83

John Butters goes Continental this month with a French language program, so get your beret out and repeat after me...

MASTERCLASS95

Go on admit it, you've always wanted to be an artist haven't you? So here's your chance to stretch your fingers, put on your painting smock and show the world what you've got

INTERACTIVE RESCUE105

Back, complete with red cape and underwear over the top of his trousers, is 'USERS very own Silicon Service Supremo

ALL ABOUT111

Today a shopping list, tomorrow your autobiography. The secret is in desktop publishing, so read on

MAIL131

Once again the country's politest mail pages. Glutton for punishment? Maybe your letter has been printed. If not, consider yourself lucky - not many survive the ordeal of the Ed's replies...arghhhh!

ASPECTS

Look yonder to the horizon with the EVS-1 in **Music and MIDI**...Setting up a BBS and getting it for free, all in **Communications**...Start the engine to find those elusive desk accessories in **Emulation**...Put your pick in your knap-sack, and join the gold rush with **Adventures**. From schoolboys to kings in this month's **Desktop Publishing**.

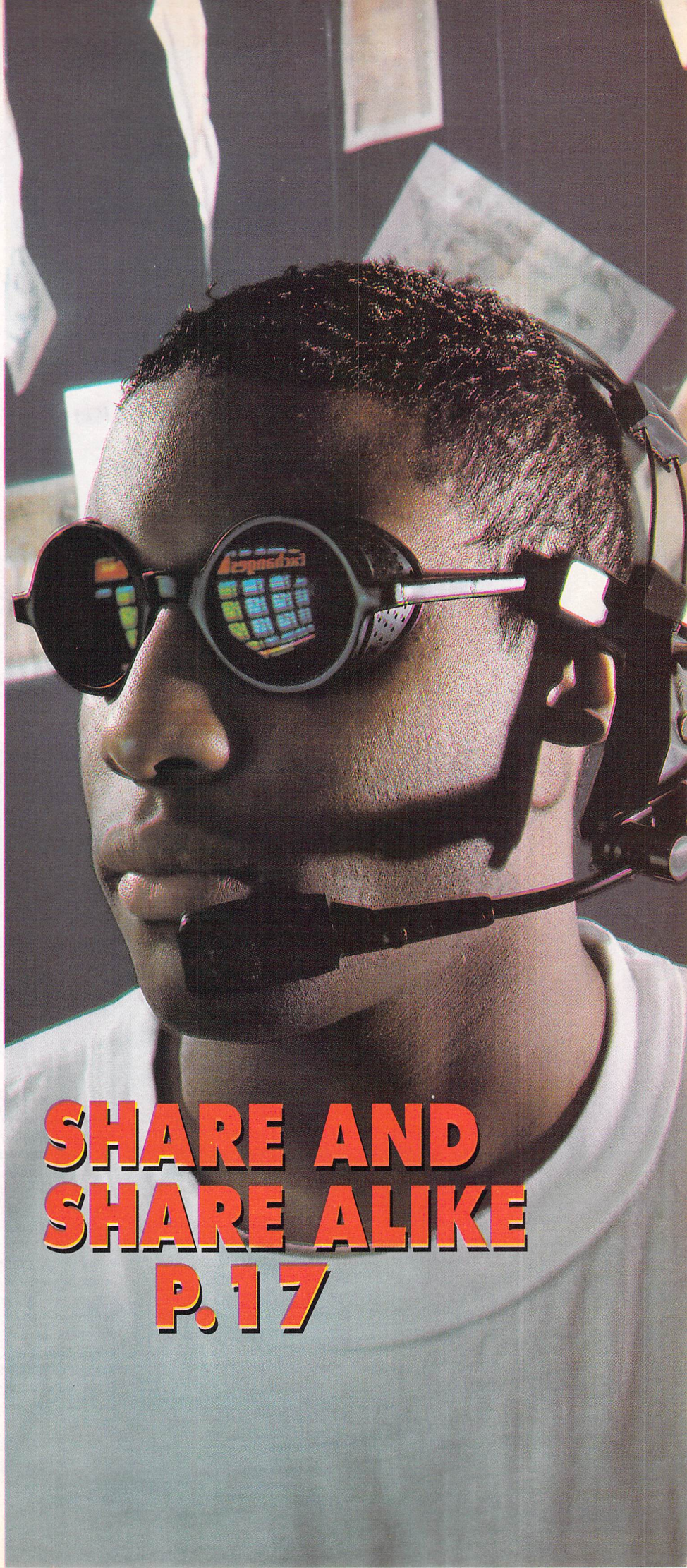
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SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE P.17

MUSIC FOR ALL

Musicians using STs will welcome the automatic accompaniment program Band-in-a-box from ZONE Distribution (081 766 6564). It gives accompaniment to 24 styles of music ranging from waltzes through to heavy rock.

Users type chords on to a lead sheet type screen, which is divided into bars. Standard chord symbols such as Bb13 or Gm7b5 are typed and the program automatically produces bass, drum and piano chording in the chosen style of music.

Music can be played back through the ST's MIDI ports to a MIDI keyboard/drum machine or sound module such as Roland's nifty little CM series of noise boxes.

Alternatively, files can be saved to disk as a chord or MIDI file to be imported to a

sequencer, with up to 400 songs being stored on a single floppy disk.

While the music is being

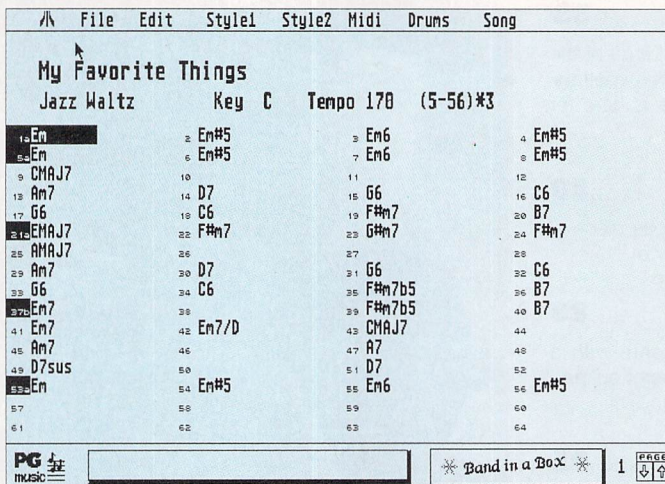
played, a highlight bar indicates the position it has reached in the song. Also, the program supports standard MIDI files, thus

enabling files to be loaded into sequencers for further editing.

In addition, two volumes of MIDI FakeBooks, each containing 250 songs, are available as extras. Volume one is based mainly on jazz while the second volume provides the latest and greatest from the pop music scene.

On its own, Band-in-a-box costs £45 and will run on any type of ST, colour or monochrome, but you'll need a MIDI keyboard or synth. The FakeBooks cost £20 each or can be bought together for £35. The complete package, Band-in-a-box and both volumes of FakeBook, costs £69.

Band-in-a-box - just what you need to keep things buzzing when you're playing solo



Calling at all stations...

Following its conspicuous, planned absence from the Computer Entertainment Show in Earls Court, Atari is putting the wheels in motion with its plan to stage a national tour in mid-October. The computer giant has decided to axe its original idea of dashing up and down the country's motorways in favour of letting the train take the strain. Atari has even hinted that if successful, the tour could become an annual event.

The Whistle Stop Tour '90 will call at six mainline stations across the nation during the period of the show, between October 23 and 29, 1990. The venues have also been changed slightly. The northern cities of Liverpool and Edinburgh have been scrapped in favour of Manchester and Glasgow.

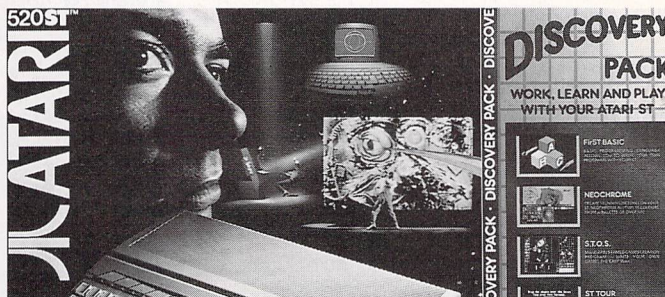
British Rail has a train set aside for such tours and after the Atari exhibition it will be retired from service. Several third party companies will also be present on the train including publisher of 'USER - Interactive Publishing, Mirrorsoft, Microdeal and Third Coast Technologies.

Head of Atari UK, Bob Gleadow, commented, "Our Whistle Stop Tour has been designed to offer businessmen and women and leisure and entertainment enthusiasts of all ages, a hands on opportunity to experience Atari products for themselves, ask questions of our panel of experts and generally have a good time as our guests."

Admission will be free and visitors will find a daily programme including technical workshops, demonstrations, bulletin boards, an advice bureau, celebrity visits and competitions - more than enough to keep enthusiasts occupied.

The full itinerary of the Whistle Stop Tour is as follows: October 23, Bristol Temple Meads; October 24, Manchester Victoria; October 25, Leeds; October 26, Newcastle; October 27, Glasgow Central and October 29, Birmingham International.

Dedicated train spotters might be interested to know that the rolling stock used by BR for this 'show special' will be gracefully retired shortly after the Atari event.



New bundle from Atari

Atari has announced that Europe's best-selling 16-bit computer, the 520STE, will be part of a new bundle it's calling the Atari 520STE Turbo Pack. It was due on sale by the end of September and will be replacing the Power Pack, which is to be phased out over the next few months.

Some of the older software from the Power Pack has been replaced by newer releases. The main changes can be seen in the games contents but also making a new appearance to this pack is the highly successful games creator program, STOS. There will still be a BASIC programming language, paint package and music program to show off the STE's stereo sound capability.

As well as the line up of software, users will be able to play the games

as soon as they've set up the equipment, using the joystick included. The Turbo Pack will be sold alongside the entry-level Discovery Pack, which will continue to sell for £299.99.

The complete contents of the new pack are: an Atari 520STE computer, 1st BASIC, STOS, HyperPaint 2 (with the recent STE additions), Music Maker 2, Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade, Dragons Breath, Anarchy, Blood Money, Impossible Mission II, Human Killing Machine, Super Cycle, Outrun and a joystick and will cost £399.99.

Meanwhile, the price of Atari's palm-top PC has been slashed in a relaunch of the pocket-sized machine. The MS-DOS-based Portfolio now costs £199.99 and five new games have been released for it.

'Grey' PC boards unsupported

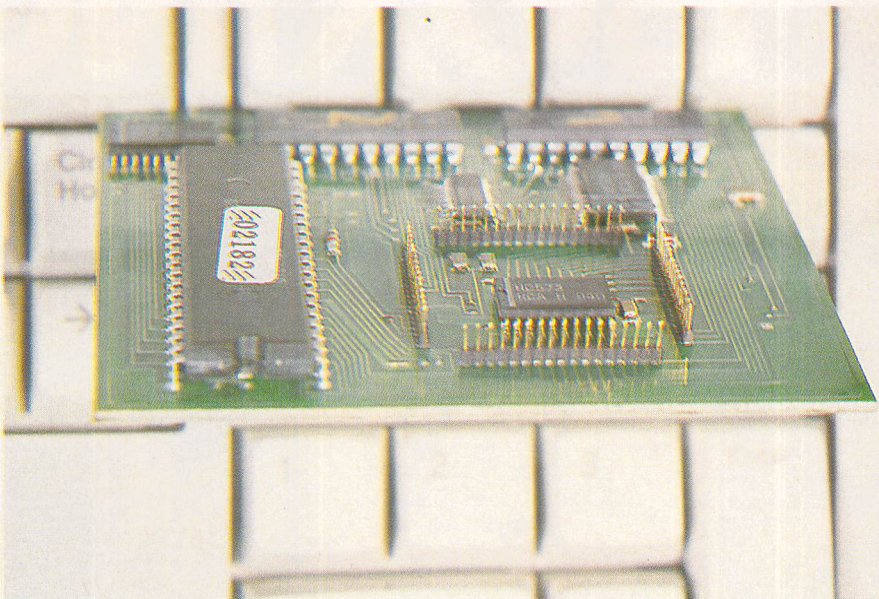
Despite reports in other sections of the computer press and advertisements placed by the company, Full Circle Technologies is unable to supply official versions of the PC emulators, PC-Speed and ATonce, say the products' official distributors.

Both IBM PC emulators are imported into the UK from Germany and have UK distributors. Compo Software (0480 891271) is responsible for PC-Speed while Silica Systems (081 309 111) handles the Vortex ATonce board.

Boards supplied by Kent-based Full Circle Technologies are 'grey' imports and as such may not be supported in the UK by the official distributors, which have both warned Full Circle Technologies' customers that they won't be eligible for free software upgrades.

However, Ken Lewis of Full Circle Technologies has dismissed the claim, assuring his customers that they will receive all future upgrades of software, "We'll try and upgrade anyone, that's the whole essence of it, isn't it? If you sell a package to someone, you want to make sure that you're giving them a very good product at a very good price."

Problems would be inevitable if Full Circle Technologies' Dutch supplier stopped sending the boards to the UK. Customers would be unable to get updates from the firm or from the boards' official distributors. And



A 'grey' import. The PC Speed board for the STE

when any of the 'grey' boards need to be repaired, customers may have difficulty finding a dealer willing to do the work..

The manufacturers and official distributors of the emulators seem sure that the supply

will be stopped. Speaking from his German office, Vortex managing director Reinhardt Michel said, "It (the supply) will stop definitely, 100 per cent".

Talking of the claims that the FCT boards aren't official Lewis said, "They are the official versions, in fact we are selling v1.16."

The hand-held just got smaller!

UPGRADE ATonce

Silicon shrinkage^{*} is progressing at a rapid rate. Machines that once required an aircraft hangar to house them have progressed to the point where you can hold an equivalent power quotient in the palm of your hand.

Several prominent computer manufacturers have released their own hand-held computers over the last year or so including Atari - the Portfolio mini PC and Lynx games machine, the latter being especially popular. But now, there's even better news for palm-top games freaks, Lynx is getting smaller!

Secret plans leaked recently by Atari, have revealed that a team of specialists are working to shrink the Lynx to ever more tiny proportions.

Previously in the shape of what one industry pundit described as a 'flat-tened dumb-bell', the new Lynx will resemble its rival, the unfortunately named Gameboy from Nintendo.

The diminutive new machine should appear in the UK by early 1991, initially in small numbers. Atari expects to have significant stock into the high streets around 12 months after that. The machine will provide a colour screen and will be priced at around £150.

Silica Systems (081 309 1111) has already upgraded the software for the 80286 Vortex ATonce emulator, only weeks after its UK release. Version 1.16 of the software gives greater compatibility with genuine 80286 machines, support for 1.44 megabyte floppy drives and protected mode emulation.

The new version also supports the ST's blitter chip, providing faster video mode emulation especially in CGA and HGC modes. Users with earlier versions of the software can upgrade free of charge by returning their master disks to Silica Systems, although Silica has stressed that only official versions will be supported.

More changes to the software are expected shortly but with very few details being revealed at the time of going to press a company spokesman claimed it will be, "a major update of the ATonce software, allowing users to switch between MS-DOS and TOS applications." This suggests that moves have been made to incorporate the benefits of other



ATonce board and software

PC emulators, in this case, Supercharger.

German developer, Vortex is planning to release the first 80386 PC emulator for the ST in the first quarter of next year.

Reinhardt Michel, managing director of Vortex, said the price and name of the SX board had not been fixed but industry sources consider it will enter the market at about £300.

BOXING CLUB



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Screen shots are only intended to be illustrative of the game play and not the screen graphics which vary considerably between different formats in quality and appearance and are subject to the computer's specifications.

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SCREEN SHOTS:

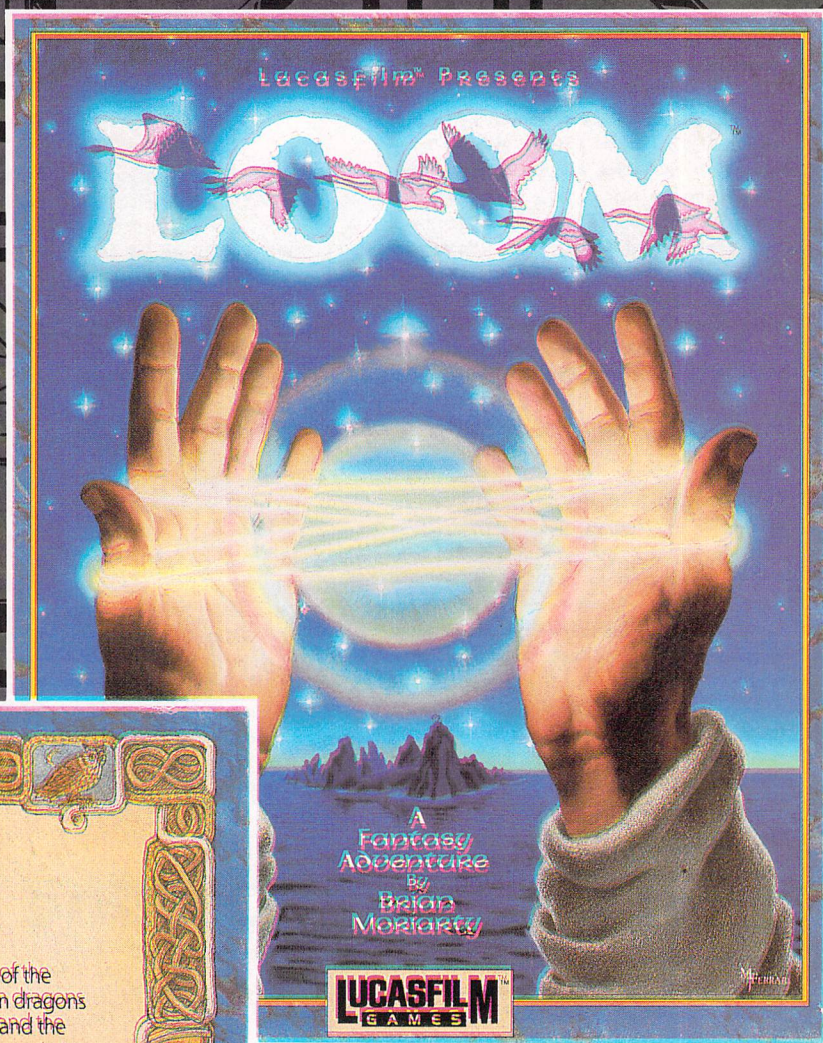
- HURRICANE:** GUNNER IN AN HE-111.
- SPITFIRE:** HURRICANE FORCE.
- HE-111:** INSTANT REPLAY SCREEN.
- ME-109:** ERASE ONE PENCIL.
- ME-110:** AN INVITING STRAPPING TARGET.
- ME-109:** (Small screenshot)
- ME-110:** (Small screenshot)
- ME-109:** (Small screenshot)
- ME-110:** (Small screenshot)


11M screen shown, other screens may vary 337901

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- Game Players Guide

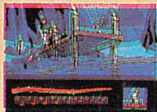
Included inside... Loom: The Audio Drama—A 30-minute Dolby® Stereo cassette, produced at Lucasfilm's Academy Award-winning Sprocket Systems. Brings the characters and setting of the game vividly to life. The Book of Patterns—An illustrated text book of spellweaving. Use it to identify, record, and cast magic spells.




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A spellweaver's power is not for the sheepish.



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AMIGA
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COMPATIBLES

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Holford, Birmingham B6 7AX.
Tel: 021 625 3366.

More glorious pearls of wisdom from the golden days of ST computing, when only those in the know had their TOS operating systems in ROM!

Atari's big move into the quality desktop publishing market began in earnest with the release, on both sides of the Atlantic, of the Mega STs and SLM 804 laser printers... The UK desktop publishing industry announced its own version of the Oscars. Entrants were to be in three main categories, newspapers and magazines, company reports and leaflets/newsletters/brochures... MicroProse software suffered from frequent West German bans of its popular warfare simulations. Das U Boot, F-15 Strike Eagle and Gunship were on the West German authorities' hit list... Weatherlink, the daily record of weather patterns transmitted on MicroLink, became available to ST users...

Atari ST software continued to achieve new heights in the Gallup polls. Market share increases for the ST pushed Atari ahead of Commodore 64 and Amstrad... STOS was hailed as a revolutionary breakthrough in entertainment software writing. Mandarin's three disk package included three games, various editors and a room designer for £29.95... It was revealed that much of the USA's software was still being written in Europe. America was not the 'promised land' of the Atari ST... Prism Leisure continued with its record of successful products- Football Manager was followed by Hotshot, a variant on the pinball/breakout theme...

Angered at Atari's apparently poor attitude towards customer support, Atari users raised a petition of complaint to be sent to the chairman of Atari USA, Jack Tramiel, and a copy to Bob Gleadow, Atari UK... Doubts were raised over the future of the Motorola 68000 chip. Risc chip technology was touted by Atari's spokesmen as the way into the future... The STE was announced for launch by the end of the year... MicroLink announced its decision to move from Telecom Gold and enter into partnership with Istel Inet, the new telecommunications giant...

Prospero Software launched its long-promised Developers Toolkit for those Atari ST programmers generally concerned with more serious applications... Naksha's new three-in-one mouse serving the Atari ST, the Amstrad PC and Commodore Amiga was launched at £39.99... A study at Nottingham University shot holes in the theory that computing is bad for you. In fact they found that computer dependency can actually be therapeutic for people who find it hard to relate to others... Electronic Arts released Fusion, Starfleet and Empire... Oasis, the Organisation Against Sexism in software entered the second year of its fight against sexism in the computer industry...

Shortly after the introduction of the compact Power Drive 900, Power Computing (0234 273 000) has come up with another model in its hard disk drive range. The slimline series of Power Drive 900s are a logical progression from the existing drives, taking the theme even further to create what are easily the smallest ST hard drives available.

Measuring only 23cm by 10cm by 3cm, these tiny hard drives are less bulky than most external floppy drives, and even manage to clock in as the quietest hard drives yet. They're too small to use as a monitor stand, but 520 and 1040 ST owners will be able to sit the drive on top of their ST, above the floppy slot.

So how is this remarkable feat of megabyte crunching

achieved? Thanks to a combination of the tiny ICD 'Micro' SCSI host adapter board and a slimline 3.5" hard drive mechanism – which you would normally find in a laptop computer – the Slimline Power Drive gets by with a minimum of internal components. Like its bigger brother, the £25 power supply is external, but you have the option of tapping into the ST's own power supply board if you don't mind opening up your ST.

The other space savers (and money savers) employed in the design of this drive makes the Slimline fairly basic. There's no DMA through port, no DMA address switch, no cooling fan and no clock module. The drive is still as fast as you'd

want and the excellent ICD driver and utility software are rated as the best.

Although this latest product claims really low power consumption, Power Computing still maintain that even the bigger and more thirsty models work perfectly when powered by the ST – an estimated 60 per cent of Power Drive owners are happy to use their STs for power. The original Power Drives offer a cooling fan and a DMA through port for chaining other peripherals. They will continue to be available alongside the new range.

There are three models in the Slimline Power Drive range: 20Mb (£299), 40Mb (£399) and 110Mb for a remarkable £599. The external power supply costs £25.

This is, to say the least, one hell of an improvement. The much-criticised operating system patch GDOS, will eventually be replaced by a new faster version with scaleable vector fonts as an alternative to the bulky and inflexible bitmap font data currently in use.

GDOS is a small program which installs itself in the ST's memory and allows compatible applications to use font data and output device drivers. EasyDraw and TimeWorks DTP are two of the most common applications.

The new FSM (Font Scaling Module) GDOS is a downward-compatible GDOS replacement which offers scalable vector fonts. It's call-compatible with the old GDOS which means that your present DTP packages and document processors should be able to make use of the



new facilities without modification. This will, in theory, give an ordinary GDOS program Calamus-style font technology, both on the printed page and on-screen.

Atari hasn't committed itself to a delivery date for the new GDOS which promises to be faster and will banish those bitmap jaggies for good.



TT GETS SUPERB NEW DESKTOP

After a few really distant rumours, including word from 'USER's very own Inside Trader, Atari has finally come clean about the all-new Desktop. One of the surprises at this year's Dusseldorf Atari show was the appearance of the 32MHz TTs, sporting the excellent new Desktop-fronting TOS version 3.0.

The Desktop is a program built into the ST/TTs operating system ROMs, making disk, file and system maintenance functions a cinch to perform with point, click and drag ease.

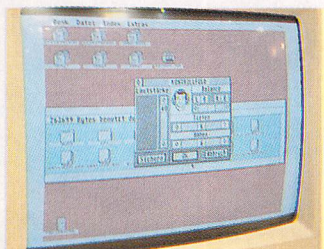
The new Desktop is based upon, and looks like, the original GEM Desktop, but a number of excellent enhancements have been made. Users of Gribnif's superb replacement Desktop, NeoDesk 2, will recognise many of the improvements – and once NeoDesk 3 arrives, no doubt there will be a few tricks which are also common to the new Atari Desktop. Both NeoDesk and the shareware alternative, Gemini shell, have drawn inspiration from the Macintosh environment – it's probably fair to say that Atari have cast an eye over the Mac, NeoDesk and Gemini during the development of the new Desktop.

So what's different about Atari's all-singing all-dancing Desktop? For a start, there are numerous keyboard shortcuts such as the ability to change screen resolution by hitting a simple key combination. It's also possible to drag files and folders out of their windows and on to the Desktop. This



This vastly improved Desktop, now standard on the TT, is likely to find its way into other ST models

Note the new Control Panel with added sound control functions



brings the advantage of allowing you to have application icons stacked up on the Desktop where they're easy to find, while the files themselves stay tucked away in their respective folders. This is

almost a revolution for hard drive owners who want easy access to all of the goodies on their drives.

Other enhancements include different Desktop patterns, coloured highlighting for files and icons, and different colours for window backgrounds. There's also a new control panel with more icons and new features to boot. In fact, the new Desktop is simply bristling with great features, but sadly there isn't enough room to cover them all here.

This is all great news for potential TT owners, but what about the rest of us? Well, you can rest assured that Atari's new Desktop will find its way into future releases of 520/1040 ST operating system ROMs. The STE models are known to have some spare room in their OS ROMs.

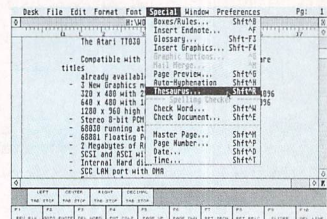
Loads a memory

Gasteiner Technologies (081 365 1151) has released a new budget-priced memory upgrade for the STFM and Mega range of STs. Called 2 by 2 it comes as a 2Mb populated board for the budget price of £149 and can be taken up to the maximum 4Mb for a further £149. This GE-Soft developed board was rolled out for a sneak preview at the Atari 90s show earlier this year.

The firm also plans to bring out a 16Mb version in the coming months but the price has yet to be fixed. This version could be the first product to smash the ST's 4Mb memory barrier, although few ST owners are likely to need that much RAM.

Wrong number

Silica Systems would like us to point out that its telephone number is 081 309 1111 and not as quoted in last month's FA.ST hard drive review. Apologies to the old lady in Sidcup who has been inundated with inquiries for ST hard drives.



NeoCept's document processor, WordUp has been upgraded to version three and now boasts a list of features to match the best of 'em.

WordU 3 packs in stunning features

This is a multi-font GDOS program which has a list of features that makes the package span both DTP and word processing categories.

Among the new additions to this already popular and well-known package are faster performance, better screen handling, a comprehensive and usable thesaurus and a whole host of power features.

WordUp 3 is available from HB Marketing (0753 686 000).

Retouche gets UK distribution

Retouche and Retouche Professional are two highly-respected bit image manipulation packages aimed at professional DTP and graphics power users.

Both will soon be available in the UK through Copycare Graphic Services (081 679 7307).

The two programs offer unparal-

leled control over scanned images.

Both are intended for use with true grey-scaling scanners, particularly the new colour devices coming on to the market at the moment.

Copycare plan to release the 'baby' Retouche by the end of October at a price of around £150 and punters can expect to see significant stocks soon

after this date. No price or release date have been set for the Pro version.

For those of you who'd like to have a look at just what these excellent programs can do before spending your hard earned cash, demo disks are available and Copycare will refund your money if you decide to buy a system – you can't lose right?

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world news



DUSSELDORF '90

It's the biggest and best Atari show in the world and it happens every year in Dusseldorf - the town where anybody who's anybody owns an ST. There's just so much going on that we've had to produce a World News Special to cope with the sheer volume of good stuff.

David Stewart and Gunter Minnerup file this report from the thick of the action...

It's a well known fact that there is a higher concentration of ST fanatics in Germany than anywhere else. You can find STs springing up all over the place, not only with home users and enthusiasts, but in the hands of countless professionals as well.

All of this hits home hard when you stroll around the halls of the Dusseldorf Atari Messe where the biggest collection of hot ST hardware and software is lined up for your scrutiny. It's a very different market to the UK; in Germany you'll find that Megas, mono monitors, A3 screens and scanners are commonplace.

Few Germans have only a 520/1040 hooked up to a colour TV. In fact, the only entertainment presence was that of Atari UK, obviously conceding the fact that it's mainly a leisure market in Old Blighty. All of ARC's (Atari's games label) wares were on display, and thousands of bemused Germans must have wondered what the colour and noise was all about.

For those who did investigate, it was a rare treat in what is inherently a very dry and serious event.

A NEW TT

Atari Corporation, as a manufacturer of hardware, was in the difficult and slightly embarrassing position of having the selfsame major product to launch for the second year running at Dusseldorf.

The new TTs were out on display and thanks to some active development since the machine's premature

launch last year, there was a much faster processor inside the wedding cake case (a 68030 running at 32MHz, rather than last year's 16MHz) and a new version of TT TOS incorporating an enhanced Desktop (see main news).

Another interesting development was the new vector font GDOS (see main news), being demonstrated by an enthusiastic and very helpful Allan Pratt, one of the key GEMDOS programmers over at Atari's Sunnyvale development centre.

A NEW LASER

The old SLM 804 laser printer, a much underrated piece of equipment, is getting a bit long in the tooth now. Its bulky design, in particular, looks more like something from an industrial museum than a modern laser printer.

The printer has also lost some of its original price advantage when compared to sub-£1000 printers such as the HP DeskJet and the recent spate of cheap non-PostScript lasers.

For ST owners however, it still offers the most attractive choice in terms of output speed through the fast DMA link.

Atari have therefore done the decent thing and 'relaunched' its laser in a sleek new design at a sleek new price.

The SLM 605 will cost between £700 and £800 in the UK, is smaller and features more front-panel controls and a better sheet feed tray.

Let's hope that some of the DMA problems in the old controller have also been fixed.

TOP SECRET

Moving back to entertainment again, Dusseldorf was also the scene for a bit of interesting gossip about some future Atari developments (not targeted at the German market).

A smaller and cheaper version of the Lynx hand-held and the ST games console is being whispered about which is actually threatening to emerge some time during 1991.

Other top-secret developments centre on some exciting new 24-bit colour graphics hardware and 16-bit sample-based sound hardware.

It is not known when and in what form this technology will find its way into an Atari product, but we can expect to see some mind-blowing TV-quality graphics coming out of a low-cost Atari box, any year now.

It's interesting to note that much of this leading-edge hardware development is coming from Atari's Cambridge-based development centre - home of the Transputer Workstation. And the official line on all of this: "No comment."

SYNTEX OCR

Optical character recognition (OCR) has in the past been prohibitively expensive for most home and small business users.

Swiss company Marvin AG are about to change this by releasing Syntex, which can run as a program or as a desk accessory and is capable of recognising up to 120 characters per second. Syntex cost DM190 (appr. £65) and, like Marvin AG's well-known Hawk scanners, could well be distributed in this country by Signa Publishing.

SIGNUM UTILITIES

Small independent software house API-Soft have released a suite of useful utilities for the legendary document processor Signum.

Headline, as the name suggests, creates very large headline characters from ordinary Signum fonts, while Fontmaker and Font Analyser offer more features than Signum's own font editor.

SDOgraph converts Signum graphics into STAD or IMG pictures, and SDOpreview provides the long-awaited page previewing capability for those using Signum as a DTP application.

There are also indexing and mail merging utilities available. Prices are between DM50 and DM100, from: API-Soft, Andreas Pirner, Bundesallee 56, 1000 Berlin 31, Tel. 0104930 8534350.

IMAGE PROCESSING

Given the increasing popularity of scanners in the ST DTP scene, it was only a question of time until digital image processing software of the kind first seen on Apple Macintosh computers (Digital Darkroom, Image Studio) would appear for the ST.

Leaders in this new market are Retouche, ReproStudio ST and TmS Cranach. All three can handle true greyscales (Retouch Professional and TmS Cranach also 8-bit colours), understand a variety of file formats including the industry-standard TIFF, and offer a large variety of editing tools for the professional illustrator.

To use these state-of-the-art programs effectively, a 1040 with

a Handy Scanner won't do, you need true greyscale scanners and at least a large Mega ST, ideally a TT for its superior processing speed.

Details from 3K-Computerbild, Sassenfeld 71, D-4054 Nettetal 1, Tel. 01049302153 60001, Tradelt, Pflinitzstr. 2, D- 6107 Reinheim, Tel. 010496162 4092 (ReproStudio ST), TmS, Cranachweg 4, D-8400 Regensburg, Tel. 01049941 95163 (TmS Cranach).

DIDOT LINEART

3K-Computerbild is definitely a name to watch in the DTP scene.

Leading the way in digital image processing with Retouche, the company is rumoured to work on a page layout program to challenge Calamus and has already released a vector graphics editor to outshine DMC's Outline Art.

Didot Lineart drives scanners, can autotrace pixel graphics, and above all communicates with the world of PostScript, being able to use Adobe Type 1 fonts and write PostScript files, besides supporting the Calamus and GEM metafile formats.

LEONARDO ST

Data Becker, a familiar name in the ST scene, has come up with another of those German monochrome graphics programs with CAD ambitions.

This one, using the name of the great Italian genius, works entirely in vector mode, offers 250 drawing levels, a powerful, multi-step Undo function, and German industry norm (DIN) tools.

The program can drive most printers, HP-compatible plotters and produces GEM metafiles and PostScript at a very reasonable price of DM99 (appr. £35). Data Becker GmbH, Merowingerstrasse 30, D-4000 Dusseldorf 1, Tel. 01049211 31001.

MEGASCREENS

The professional uses that Atari STs are being put to in Germany often require higher resolution and/or more colours than the standard issue SM124 and SC1224 are capable.

Not surprisingly, therefore, there is a thriving market in both graphics expansions cards and monitors.

Two typical products of this type are the MGE graphics expansion card from Maxon, which is claimed to be compatible with all ST software.

The program has a maximum resolution of 1664*1200, with up to 256 colours from a palette of 16.7 million, and Matrix cards and monitors with similar data. Contact either Maxon Computer, Schwalbacherstr. 52, D-6236 Eschborn, Tel. 010496196 481811) or Matrix, Talstrae 16, D-7155 Oppenweiler, Tel. 0103497191 4088).



MANHATTEN ST

No typo this the Germans have a strange idea of how the place responsible for the famous skyline that appears on the promotional brochure for Manhattan ST should be spelt.

This is the ultimate tower system for the ST - even the basic version features a 16MHz CPU, 4Mb RAM, 1.44Mb/720k floppy and 84 Mb SCSI hard disk.

Among the more 'upmarket' configurations are the mobile station on casters with fixed monitor and non-interruptible power supply, colourful designer models and the Publisher with built-in Linotronic interface and big screen graphics card.

All this from Tetra Computer-systeme, GmbH, Neuer Markt 27, D-5309 Meckenheim, Tel. 010492225 17081.

WRITER ST

Word processors have to serve many different masters, hence the many different types, often tailored to meet the needs of a particular group of people.

Writer ST, which is to appear in an English version soon, is aimed at office users with particularly strong mail merge and block functions.

Up to 32,000 macros can be defined to automate routine office operations. SSD Software, Gregorstr. 1, D-5100 Aachen, Tel. 0104930241 602898.

CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER

The show also featured some items which are best described as 'unusual'.

There were sheets of coloured

foil which, if attached to a print-out from the Atari laser for a second run through the single-sheet feeder, would react with the toner and give you colour output of sorts (Manfred Elzner, Grobmatenstr. 12, D-7813 Staufen, Tel. 010497633 82413).

HYPNO ST

The Megabrain Illuminator, described as "an optical-acoustic mind machine of the new generation", promises deep relaxation, stress reduction, enhanced creativity and wonderful dreams, all through influencing your brain waves with rhythmic light pulses and sound signals...

For more hype and some detail, contact Megabrain, Mind Machines gmbh, Friedrich-Ebert-Str. 32, D-4000 Dusseldorf 1, Tel. 0104930211 356757.

HYPERCACHE-030

Designed by Pro-VME, this is based on the MC68030 processor used in the TT, with 16k cache memory and a modified GEM/TOS operating system on EPROMs.

The CPU is clocked at 25MHz, giving a claimed speed increase over ordinary STs by a factor of between four and six. At DM2,498 (about £850), it is not much cheaper than trading in your ST and buying a TT instead, but for more info, try contacting Wigan's own Third Coast Technologies.

CHEAP FAX

The cheapest fax solution for the ST was offered by TKR, who sell a bundle of their ST-FAX software with a fax modem at an inclusive DM398 (about £140) - the only drawback being that this set-up can only send, but not receive faxes. If you don't require the reception facility, enquire at TKR, Pro-jensdorfer Str. 14, D-2300 Kiel 1, Tel. 01049431 337881.

HOT POTATO

One of the biggest drawbacks with the Spectre GCR Mac emulator is that the cartridge doesn't

offer a through port, so it's necessary to unplug Spectre every time some other peripheral, such as a scanner, requires access to the cartridge port.

One of the most useful new gadgets seen at the DÄsseldorf show was the Potato, a cartridge-port expander with three additional slots (a four-slot version is in the pipeline).

Switching between the ports is done in software, via an accessory. Yours for DM120 (£45) from Marvin AG.

OMR

Apart from their usual range of scanners and other low-cost hardware, Print Technik demonstrated a revolutionary software package Optical Music Recognition (OMR).

The program can read scanned bit images of sheet music into standard MIDI files, to be further edited or replayed by sequencers such as Notator or Cubase. The price of DM2,998 (just over £1000) will include a suitable flatbed scanner. Print technik, Nikolaistr. 2, D-8000 München 40, Tel. 0104989 368197.

ATARI LASER AT 600DPI

Swiss distributors Trillian offer a kit manufactured by Marvin AG which doubles the vertical resolution of the SLM804 laser printer, thus smoothing the jagged appearance of diagonal lines and curves.

Easily installed by anybody familiar with a soldering iron (according to the distributors, at least) the kit comes at DM 320 (£110) from Trillian AG, Eisfeldstr. 6, CH-8050 Zürich, Tel. 3022179.

AMADEUS

The ST is not only the favourite musician's computer, but also promises to establish itself in the music publishing industry thanks to a very expensive, but extremely powerful program named after Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

For DM 8,500 (£3000 between friends) you get a DTP suite for all kinds of music that can output to anything from a dot-matrix printer to a plotter or PostScript typesetter, plus a 30-track sequencer and the Idris operating system, a UNIX look-alike.

Details from Amadeus Music Software, Rohrauerstraße 50, D-8000 München 71, Tel. 0104989 7854750.

12MB MEGA STS

The MMU in the ST makes RAM expansion over 4Mb impossible.

To solve the problem, a German company designed a board with a new MMU offering 12Mb.

Cost? An equally mega DM 3998 (about £1400). H. Richter Distributor, Hagener Str. 65, D-5820 Gevelsberg.



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- a Roland CM-32L Sound Module – your orchestra
- Dr T's Tiger Cub sequencer software – your composer
- Dr T's Copyist Apprentice software – your scorewriter and most importantly it includes all the cables required to get the system working and easy instructions on getting started. Package value: £547 RRP.

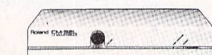
Package price: £469 RRP



PC-200 MIDI Controller

A compact 49-note keyboard to suit your computer music setup. Touch-sensitive keys, pitch-bend/modulation (vibrato) lever and MIDI control features like 16 transmit channels, 128 program changes and a Data entry slider for adjusting volume and stereo imaging. And if you need more keys to complete your latest hit a shift function effectively turns the PC-200 into a six octave keyboard.

Price: £175 RRP



CML-32L – An orchestra at your fingertips

128 fantastic sounds to choose from, including guitars, pianos, strings, brass, synthesizers and effects plus drums. Using the CM-32L with a sequencer (ie tapeless recorder) like Tiger Cub you can have up to eight different sounds plus drums playing at the same time – it's like having your own personal recording studio.

Price: £369 RRP



Tiger Cub/Copyist Apprentice software

Tiger Cub turns your computer into a recording studio, complete with 12-channel mixing desk, effects routing and editing suite. Simple and logical screens and menus make it easy for the complete beginner; powerful control features make it ideal for the professional. Copyist Apprentice lets you print out and edit your music – even down to altering individual drumbeats – and alternative icon screens mean you don't even have to read music.

Price: £178 RRP

MIDI INTERFACE & CABLE

RRP £29.95

If you've got the ideas to make you the next Jazzy-B or the next Jon Bon Jovi, the Roland Desk Top Music System can turn your dreams into hits. Package value: £722 RRP.

Dowling Package price: £599 RRP
(or £449 without PC200 keyboard)

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 1st WORD PLUS V.3. | RRP £79.95 |
| TIMEWORKS PUBLISHER ST | RRP £99.95 |
| CUMANA C.S.A. 354 DISK DRIVE | RRP £99.95 |

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|---|---------|-----------|
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| Phillips 8801 Mono Colour Monitor | £249.95 | £199.95 |
| Atari SM12Y High Res Mono Monitor | £149.95 | £99.95 |
| STE DIY RAM Kit 520STE to 1MB | £69.99 | £39.95 |
| STE DIY RAM Kit 1MB STE to 2MB | £169.99 | £129.95 |
| STE DIY RAM Kit 1MB STE to 4MB | £349.99 | £249.95 |
| Contriver ST replacement Mouse inc. mouse mat | £34.95 | £19.95 |

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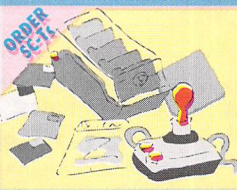
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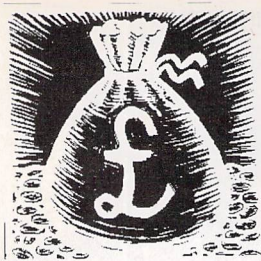
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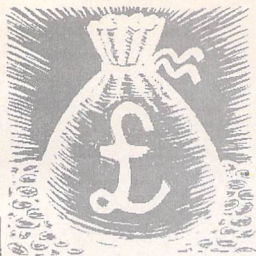
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THE money PROGRAMS



The trip to the races did nothing to increase our wealth, so this month Roland's gone off to the stock market in an attempt to swell the thinning coffers...



What do you remember most about Friday, 16th October 1987? Was it the 120mph hurricane winds that were ripping through the country up-rooting trees, blowing over lorries and caravans, lifting roofs off houses and causing the worst mayhem and destruction for 100 years?

Sam Moore's most vivid memory is likely to be the £300 million he lost on the stock market. "It's only paper," he said, "It was paper when we started and it's paper now." October '87 witnessed the biggest stock market crash since the infamous Wall Street plummet of 1929, when bankrupt stockbrokers and dealers leapt to their deaths from Manhattan's skyscrapers.

Fortunately, the storms here in Britain prevented many city dealers and brokers from getting to work, so they were spared the share 'meltdown' which occurred on Wall Street. By Monday 19th October however, (since dubbed Black Monday), panic selling had hit the stock market and by Tuesday, the FT-SE 100 had lost one fifth of its value.

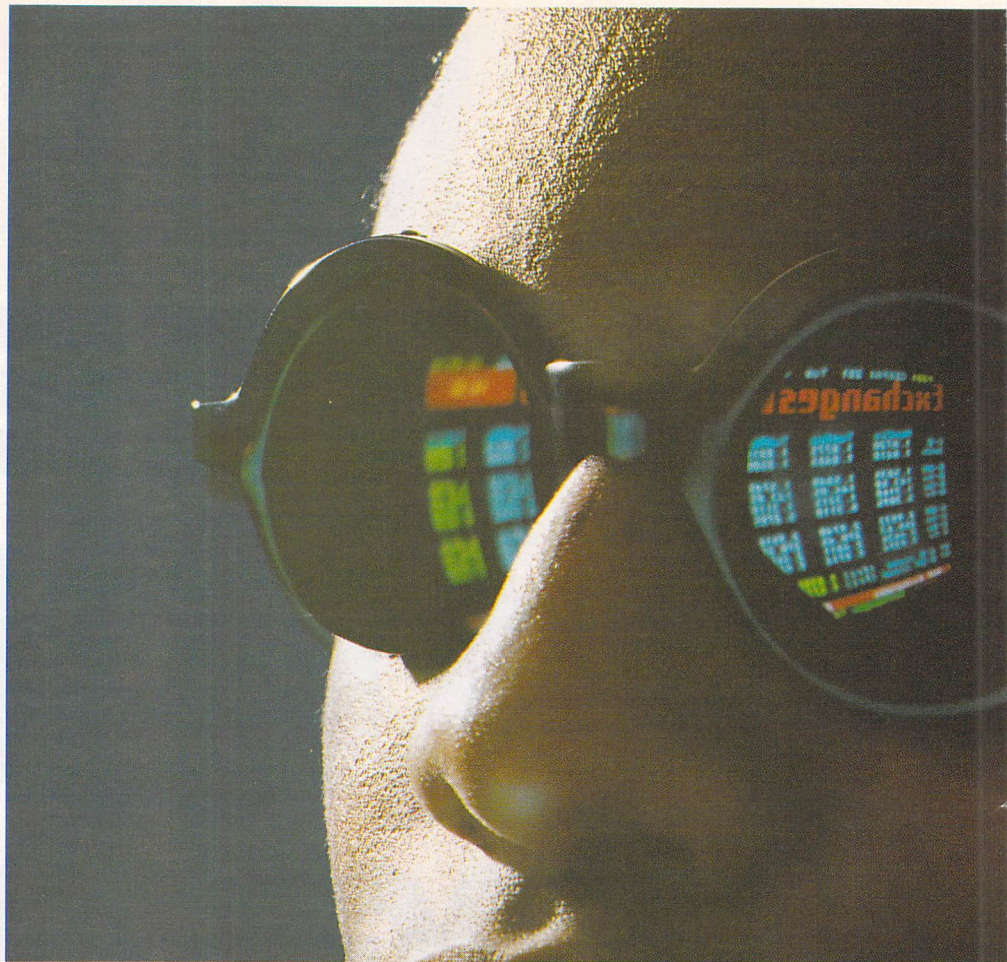
Share prices plummeted and over 39 million BP shares changed hands - multiply that by the number of companies quoted on the market and you'll get some idea of the scale of the disaster. Tens of thousands of small investors saw their life savings whittled away to nothing. Their money - tied up in shares - simply evaporated before their eyes.

We've all heard of the stock market, but what exactly is it, and most important of all, how do you make money on it?

THE STOCK MARKET

If Mr Bacon in Fulchester wants to sell some of his shares and Fielding Mellish in Birmingham wants to buy some they need to meet to discuss prices and to strike a deal. These two people wouldn't be aware of the other's existence were it not for the Stock Exchange, which acts just like a market. If you have something to sell then you take it to a market where there will be buyers.

The stock market is a convenient place



where both government and industry can raise money, which they do by issuing stocks or shares. Once these have been sold, the company (issuing the stocks) does not make any more money from them. However, other investors may buy and sell them and make a profit (or even a loss) on the transaction.

Quotations for all securities on the Stock Exchange consist of two prices, the bid or selling price, and offer or buying price. For instance, a quote of 68p-70p would mean that the security could be sold for 68p and bought for 70p. The middle price is halfway between the two and this is the price quoted in most newspapers.

You don't need to be rich to dabble in the stock market, (but it does help). You may be left a small sum of money in a relative's will, you might receive a redundancy payment, you could move house from the expensive South up to the cheaper North and make a nice profit, or perhaps your premium bond number comes up or you hit the football pools jackpot. There are many reasons why you might want to buy shares and the most common route is via a bank manager who will

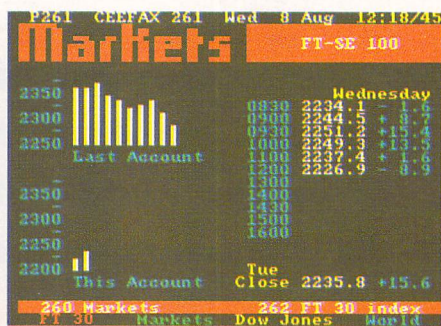
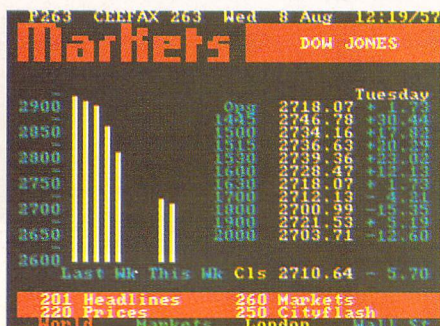
refer you to a reputable stockbroker.

Owning shares in a company means you are entitled to a share in the company's profits, so at regular intervals you receive a dividend. The size of this depends upon the number of shares you hold. Not only do you receive a dividend, but also the value of the shares may rise so that when you sell them you make a fat profit.

Owning shares may entitle you to certain concessions. Barrat's (the builders) shareholders receive a price reduction on new houses, and Trusthouse Forte supplies gift cheques that can be spent in its hotels and restaurants.

GET RICH QUICK!

Stock Exchange transactions, apart from certain government stocks, are not settled on a cash basis. The Exchange divides its year into a series of account periods, which are normally two weeks, but may be three if one includes a bank holiday. An account period starts on a Monday of one week and lasts until the Friday of the second. Any transactions that take place in this account period



P R E S T E L 656243a Up

TOP 10 Shares by Volume

| Security Name | Citi Code | Volume '000s | Latest update |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| GEC | GEC | 20225 | 15:39 |
| Br Gas | GAS | 11450 | 15:41 |
| Rolls-Royce | RR | 7529 | 15:36 |
| Land Sec. | LAND | 6440 | 15:37 |
| TSB Group | TSB | 6276 | 15:38 |
| BTR Plc | BTR | 6053 | 15:38 |
| Smith & M. | SM | 6041 | 15:21 |
| BAA plc | BAA | 5695 | 15:39 |
| ASDA Group | ASDA | 5077 | 15:36 |
| Whitbread 'A | WHIT | 4959 | 15:41 |

Feature pages like the top 10 shares traded by volume mean you need never miss an opportunity for profit

ASDA AND WHITBREAD 8 INDEX

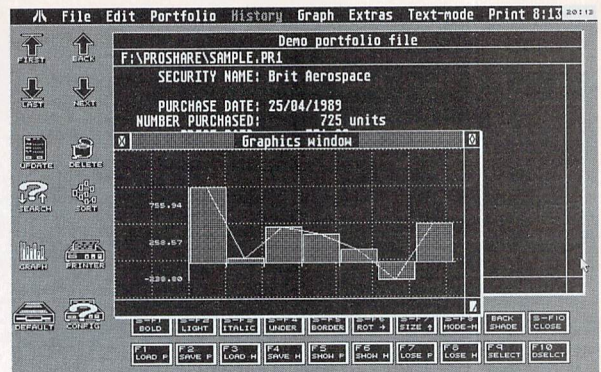


Product: ProShare
Supplier: TC Developments
Tel: 0937 61145
Price: £49.95
Configuration: All STs, mono and colour

ProShare enables you to store all your stock transactions in a database and then use the power of the ST to analyse the information. If properly maintained, ProShare can effectively detect important buy and sell indicators. For a program packed with an abundance of features and over 100 menu options, it is remarkably well organised. Even financial novices will find their way around, and learn about the stock market at the same time.

ProShare is roughly divided into two sections - portfolio and history. The portfolio is a card index type database geared towards stock market investment. It lists the name of a stock, purchase date, quantity and the price paid. And if you've since sold the stock, it lists the sale date, price and credit.

The portfolio is packed with an abundance of goodies and analytical tools. For instance, you can choose the extensive graph options and see the development



ABOVE: The GEM-based software is easy to use

BELOW: The screen can become very cluttered



of your investments in bar, pie or line graphs. You can also analyse shares held, change the units of currency, update entries and print records.

The history section shows all of your past investments. To maximise effectiveness, it'd be best

to have a daily source of stock market prices (such as Financial Times or teletext). You can plot the prices of several different shares on one chart, use a point and figure chart (to monitor predetermined price movements in a stock), or simply plot one particular stock's rise and fall.

To round off this feature-filled package are convenient disk drive utilities, excellent on-line help, setting preferences, and the ability to customise the Desktop.

A recent update to ProShare is the ability to download information from Ceefax and Oracle using the Microtext Teletext Adaptor. Another excellent software package for the investor.

must be settled Tuesday week after the end of the account period.

This raises some interesting possibilities for speculators. For instance, you could buy 100,000 shares at £1.50 each even though you haven't got any money, because you don't have to settle the account immediately. If the price of these shares rises to £2.00 in the same account period you could then sell them. When settlement day arrives you don't need to find any money because the sale covers the shares bought and you simply pocket 100,000 times 50p - a cool £50,000 profit!

Alternatively, you could sell 100,000 shares at £1.50 each, even though you haven't got any. Before the end of the account period the price might fall to £1.00 so you can buy them back. Again, you don't need to find any money as the (imaginary) sale covers shares you buy and you simply pocket 100,000 times 50p - another £50,000 profit. Not bad for two weeks 'work'!

The catch is that the shares may rise when you expect a fall and vice versa, so you could be billed for 100,000 shares at £1.50! It's enough to give your bank manager heart failure.

Product: Microtext Teletext Adaptor
Supplier: Microtext
Tel: 0705 595694
Price: £148.93
Configuration: All STs, mono and colour

Teletext information is transmitted along with normal television broadcast information and is received by all TVs. But unless the TV has a special decoder built in, you won't be able to display the teletext pages on your screen. These are however, becoming increasingly common, and even if you haven't got a teletext set, you'll probably see sample pages broadcast when the TV stations have nothing else to transmit.

So why would you want a teletext receiver for your ST? The enormous advantage is that you can grab teletext pages and store them on disk in a variety of forms - Degas pictures, raw data or straight ASCII. Ceefax on BBC 2 is devoted entirely to City headlines, news, share prices, stock market performance and results, currencies and exchange rates and commodities. Channel 4's Oracle has a similar service.

Using Microtext you could, for instance, download all the latest share price information on Ceefax pages 220, 221 and 222 or Oracle 501 and 502 then save it



Oracle and Ceefax give you the latest information

to disk in ASCII form. This valuable information can be loaded into a text editor, word processor, database or spreadsheet. You can then study the data, analyse it for market trends and use it as a base for your stock market share investments.

The Microtext teletext adaptor is a small unit about the size of an external disk drive. It plugs into the ST's printer port and your printer plugs into the back of the Microtext. The device comes with its own power supply, but you have to supply the TV aerial (one of those dinky 'set top' aerials is just the thing). The tuner is quite good and coped well with a small portable aerial costing just a few pounds.

The software runs in low resolution or monochrome. The colour display looks remarkably like a TV and the mono screen is able to show two teletext pages side by side. The program is

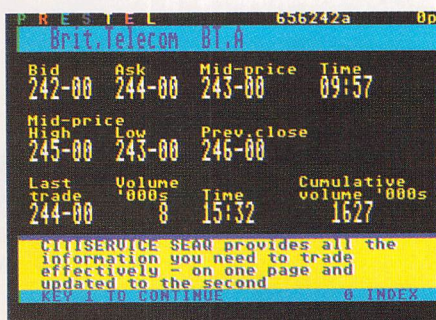
mouse driven and a GEM menu bar appears when you push the mouse to the top of the screen. Click on an item to select.

You can select pages from the keyboard or by clicking on numbers displayed on the screen. Fastext is also provided with controls consisting of a four-item menu at the foot of the screen. The most important feature of Microtext is its ability to run a program. Not an ordinary program mind you, but a text file containing instructions such as:

```
CHANNEL 4
WAIT 12:00
PAGE 501 SAVE ALL
PAGE 502 SAVE ALL
```

This snippet of code tells Microtext to wait until mid-day then download and save all the stock exchange share price information on Oracle - it's brilliant! Microtext is a superb piece of kit. And if you want to write your own software, Microtext will supply a disk containing C source code and pre-compiled modules for accessing the adaptor.

The Microtext adaptor is certainly going to help in your quest for cash, but to harness all that information, you're going to need some powerful software, probably the best of which Market breaker.



Distinctly Digita

Cleverly written and always favourably reviewed in the press, Digita produces a range of powerful, low cost software for the home and business user.

DGCALC

The fastest and most powerful spreadsheet available in this price bracket, with 512 rows by 52 columns, giving you up to 26624 cells. As with all Digita products, the operation of the program is clearly thought out. Being either menu, mouse or command driven you'll be able to start using it within minutes – even if you've never used a spreadsheet before. Some of the features which make it such good value are the exporting of ASCII files for integration with other programs, adjustable column width and text overflow, programmable function keys (macros), and a unique windowing facility, so that you can look at different parts of a sheet at the same time.

£39.95

E-TYPE

Do you ever have to print names and addresses at awkward places on envelopes, or do you ever need to fill in tricky forms or invoices where the text has to be in exactly the right place? Usually you have to do it by hand, or get your trusty old typewriter out of the cupboard and dust it off. Well not anymore. The Emulated TYPEwriter transforms your computer and printer into a fully fledged typewriter, supporting bold, underline, italic and other type-styles. Because it can display and print text INSTANTLY you can line up your form, press Return and Space a few times to move to the correct place, and then start typing. Alternatively you can switch to line-by-line mode, which offers word-wrap, justification and proportional spacing, so that you can edit each line before it's printed.

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PERSONAL TAX PLANNER

Are you absolutely sure your taxman is doing his job correctly? Plan your own tax with ease, this menu-driven program will calculate your income tax liability (4 tax years included) and provide pertinent facts about your tax position. You can perform 'what-if?' calculation to discover ways to minimise your tax liability. In fact, the program will advise you on things such as, if you are a married man, whether it would be advantageous to have your wife's income taxed separately or not. At this price who knows, you will probably find that PTP will pay for itself in tax savings the first time you use it!

** STOP PRESS **

July '89 – PTP user receives tax refund of over £2,000!!

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DAY-BY-DAY

An excellent way to get organised. With it you'll be reminded of birthdays and other anniversaries, meetings and appointments, phone calls to make and so on. As with all Digita products, inputting information is simplicity itself and, once entered, you can search for keywords or for particular events such as birthdays to see when one is coming up. Includes month/week/day planner, automatic reminders for overdue appointments, month and week summary at a glance. For less than £30 this is the ideal way to make sure you never miss that important occasion again!

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MAILSHOT

If you ever need to send out mailings or print labels, you know how fiddly and time-consuming it can be making sure all the labels are printed correctly. Well now all that's a thing of the past. Because Mailshot actually shows you the labels on screen, you can type names and addresses in exactly the correct place. But more than that, the labels are animated on screen as a continuous sheet, allowing you to scroll backwards and forwards, to search for particular keywords or to edit entries with the minimum of fuss. Facilities include searching, detection of duplicate labels, sorting (even surname!) 9 labels across, 999 copies of any label. This has to be the simplest and most effective method of creating a mailshot available.

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MAILSHOT PLUS

Advanced version of Mailshot for the business user with the following extra facilities:

- * integration with other software (using ASCII files)
- * column/tabulated summary (ideal for telephone lists, etc)
- * 4 extra memo lines per label (with defaults) * system for coding, dating and adding messages to each label
- * different layouts available for horizontal and vertical justification.

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CASHBOOK COMBO

Money saving combination pack featuring both Cashbook Controller and Final Accounts – Save £10.00.

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- * Trial Balance
- * Trading and Profit and Loss Account
- * Balance Sheet
- * Notes to the Accounts
- * Full Accounting ratios.

All reports may be produced at any time, with comparative/budget figures if required. The facility to produce these documents quickly, accurately, and regularly is of enormous help in running any business, large or small, since one shows the true profitability achieved, and the other the exact strength of the business in terms of assets and liabilities.

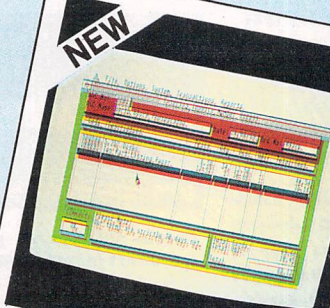
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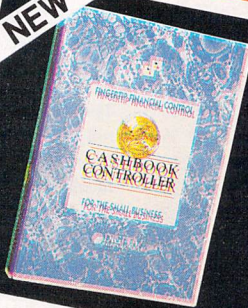
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2. INVOICE & STATEMENTS. This program will greatly reduce time and cost of preparing invoices and statements. Professionally printed invoices and statements. Integrates with Stock Control.
3. STOCK CONTROL. Effectively control your stock, purchasing and suppliers and produce re-order reports, stock valuation, price lists, etc.

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NEW



CASHBOOK

Use your computer as a powerful business tool and take the drudgery out of book keeping! In its simplest form, the program will replace your Cash and Petty Cash books BUT Digita's program, in effect, does much more. Typical information includes: * Summary of VAT information to enable completion of VAT Return. * Monthly summaries and departmental analyses of sales and overheads. * Total debtors and creditors, sales, and purchases. * Income and expenditure analysis. * Journal routine for entering transfers and which are user definable. * 199 nominal account titles, most of which are legal requirements, assuring correct approach to book keeping. * Full audit trail and integrates with Final Accounts.

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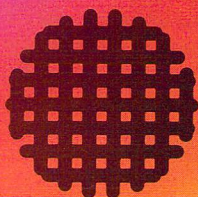
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Ideal for both home users and small business. Simple to use, this package will keep track of all your finances and cater for 10 types of income (e.g. Bank, credit card) and 60 types of expenditure (e.g. rates, mortgage, gas, food), with optional Orders and Direct Debits. The program will handle Standing example, Bank charges are likely, or if you have exceeded your credit limit. With the comprehensive reporting and graphics facilities you can even produce your own monthly Bank/Credit card statements! Once you've used Home Accounts, you'll wonder how you ever managed without it.

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HB Marketing, Lazer,
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Black Horse House
Exmouth Devon
EX8 1JL England
Fax: 0395 268893

P221 CEEFAX 221 Thu 23 Aug 14:27:58 Stop Teletext

Auto Teletext Load 23/8/90

| | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|---------|
| AAA | 319.00 | Barclay | 316.00 |
| Atwood | 591.00 | Anstrad | 51.00 |
| Abbey M | 203.00 | Barratt | 169.00 |
| AutoSec | 248.00 | Anglian | 233.00 |
| ADT | 131.50 | Bass | 1026.00 |
| BAR | 329.00 | APV | 92.00 |
| All Col | 116.00 | RAF Ind | 524.00 |
| Babcock | 40.50 | Grull | 217.00 |
| All Iri | 145.00 | BDA Grp | 139.00 |
| BairdAn | 219.00 | Asda | 109.00 |
| All Lyon | 144.00 | Beezer | 122.00 |
| Bnk Tre | 162.00 | AB Fond | 460.00 |
| MEC | 135.00 | Beristd | 41.00 |
| Bnk Sco | 107.00 | AB Port | 230.00 |
| InterSim | 297.00 | DEI | 214.00 |

Page No 17

Downloading share information from Ceefax

Current

between

16/10/87

and

1/8/90

Print

Stop

Top Ten Shares

| Points | Price |
|---------|--------------|
| AAA | 1.12 372.00 |
| Cadbury | 0.31 306.00 |
| De Land | 0.19 271.00 |
| BrSteel | 0.16 121.00 |
| Burnah | 0.15 552.00 |
| Br Gas | 0.15 216.00 |
| Phonot | 0.14 924.00 |
| Cashin | 0.09 206.00 |
| Cable M | 0.02 427.00 |
| Carlton | -0.03 326.00 |

Click Share Name For Details

Information

Bottom Ten Shares

| Points | Price |
|---------|--------------|
| Harburg | -0.88 349.00 |
| ProCorp | -0.87 157.00 |
| GIS W | -0.77 924.00 |
| GRE | -0.65 154.00 |
| Coats V | -0.65 93.00 |
| Inticap | -0.54 704.00 |
| Hillies | -0.44 220.00 |
| Harr Cr | -0.24 149.00 |
| Lex Ser | -0.19 224.00 |
| Bunzl | -0.09 63.00 |

Click Share Name For Details

Information

Adding share information to the database



THE BIG BANG

Prior to October 1986, before the so-called 'Big Bang' reforms, stockbrokers acted on behalf of the investing public. If you wanted to buy shares in a company you'd approach a stockbroker who would charge a fixed commission (set by the Stock Exchange), for carrying out your buying instructions.

Jobbers were not allowed to deal with investors, only with brokers. Jobbers bought and sold shares to the brokers and made their money from the jobber's turn – the difference in the buying and selling prices of the shares. They may 'go long' and buy many shares at a low price which they then hoped to sell for a higher price, or 'go short' and sell shares they didn't have, in the hope of buying later at a lower price.

Brokers carried out clients' instructions to buy or sell shares by wandering around the Stock Exchange trading floor calling at appropriate jobbers' pitches (those peculiar hexagonal structures). Once a deal had been struck it was jotted down on a pad by each party and the Stock Exchange was notified.

Through the Monopolies Commission and Office of Fair Trading, the Government put increasing pressure on the Stock Exchange to change its rule book. The Stock Exchange realised it was backing a loser and agreed to mend its ways. Firms can now act as both jobber and broker.

At the time of the Big Bang, it was decided to overhaul the archaic paper system for handling share dealing and a new computerised system was introduced. SEAQ – Stock Exchange Automated Quotations system – holds all the bid and offer prices of all the securities on the market and anyone with a computer and a modem is able to log on to the system.

Market makers (replacing the old jobber/broker system), sit at their computer terminals from early in the morning until late at night tapping in their bid and offer prices of stocks and shares they are willing to trade in.

If you want to buy or sell ICI shares all you need to do is pop along to your broker who will simply punch a few buttons, instantly displaying every market maker's quote on the screen. The most advantageous price from this list is chosen and the deal struck. The result is entered into SEAQ so that other market makers can note the deal and adjust their prices accordingly.

The advantage of SEAQ, is that anyone with a telephone and PC compatible computer (that includes an ST with PC emulator), can link up to it. Brokers out in the provinces are no longer at a disadvantage when trading on the stock market.

Product: Market Breaker

Supplier: Microtext

Tel: 0705 595694

Price: £59.95

Configuration: All STs, mono and colour

Market Breaker is a share analysis and portfolio management utility. You can type in share price information manually – six pages, two columns of 14 shares per page – or use the Microtext Teletext Adaptor to download the information automatically from Ceefax and Oracle.

I chose the latter method – all you do is click on a menu option then sit back and watch the program fire up Microtext, tune in to Ceefax, select the share price pages, and download the informa-

tion and add the guff to its database. Click on another menu option and all the share prices are listed on the screen. It couldn't be easier!

No need to strain your eyes and brain scanning the figures for market trends because clicking on a company causes a small dialog box to pop up listing several graphical analysis methods. Click on an option and the graph is instantly drawn. "Sell! Sell! Sell!" it says.

A line graph shows the share price performance, the average for that share's market sector and the average for all shares. A point and figure graph charts price against significant movements. A moving average graph shows a share's trend. When the share

price and two moving averages are all increasing the trend is upwards. A comparison graph enables you to directly compare directly the performance of two different shares.

You can enter shares in up to four separate portfolios which record the date bought and sold, buying and selling prices, number of shares and total cost. You can enter commission rates and the program will calculate total profit, APR, dividend received and profit made.

Market Breaker is good on its own, but when combined with Microtext the program is outstanding! It's like having a stockbroker in your computer advising you and pointing out good investment opportunities.

List Shares 23/8/90 Stop

| | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| AB Food | 480.00 | BTR | 342.00 |
| AB Port | 210.00 | Bnk Sco | 107.00 |

29/5/90 23/6/90 30/6/90 17/7/90 1/8/90 23/8/90

| | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 216.50 | 221.00 | 224.00 | 223.00 | 224.00 | 216.00 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

Max Min PE Ratio Yield

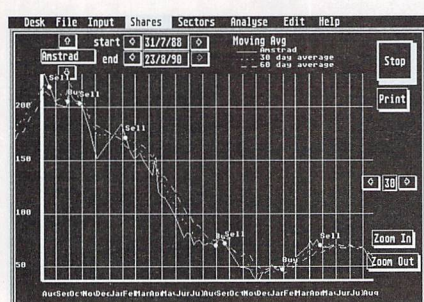
| | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|------|------|
| Br Gas | 237.00 | 124.00 | 9.70 | 5.90 |
|--------|--------|--------|------|------|

Market Sector Oil & Gas

| | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| BDC Grp | 452.00 | Br Gas | 216.00 |
| BPS Ind | 174.00 | Br Land | 271.00 |

Page No 1

Browsing through the share information onscreen



Analysing share information and displaying it graphically

STOCK MARKET HISTORY

1553: The first company to issue shares to the public was the Russian Company. The Company needed to raise about £6,000 to finance merchant seaman Sebastian Cabot's search for the North-East passage.

1568: The first recorded dealings in shares and the origins of the broker/jobber system.

1670: The Hudson's Bay Company was formed and this is now the oldest company quoted on the stock market.

1700: The Government realised that the stock market was a good way to raise cash and began to issue gilt-edged securities. They offer a more secure investment than company shares.

1801: The Stock Exchange building was constructed.

1812: The Stock Exchange rule book was issued.

1929: Severe depression causes the famous Wall Street crash. The situation on our Stock Exchange

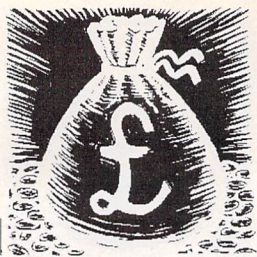
wasn't much brighter.

1972: A building to house the present Stock Exchange was constructed.

1986: The Big Bang reforms the way the stock market works.

1987: The introduction of a computerised system, SEAQ, and the famous crash. It's just a coincidence that the two events occurred almost simultaneously!

1990: Troubles in the Middle East



SEAG runs on two high powered main-frame computers in London and is designed to respond to entries within one second, update entries at 20 items a second and handle 70,000 transactions an hour. You don't need to worry about it crashing or bombing out because there's another identical system also in London which is used as a backup in emergencies. And if someone should pull the power plug on the whole of London a third computer in the United States automatically cuts in - some backup system!

EVEN THE ODDS

So. You've just inherited a few quid from your recently-deceased Aunt Madge and the stock market seems like a good place to throw it all away. What now?

Well, with the aid of your ST and one or two add-ons, you can weight the odds on making a killing a little more in your favour. There are a variety of packages which, when coupled with the Microtext Teletext Adaptor, will considerably increase your chances of making some moolah.

All but one of the products on test involve downloading share price information using the Microtext and this cuts out an enormous amount of hard labour. Any of these software packages (apart from Sharemater), could be used by investors who want to manage their own portfolio. None of them guarantee success, but harnessing the ST to analyse the data is sure to improve your prospects.



CITY SPIEL

Bargain: A Stock Exchange transaction such as buying or selling shares.

Bears: Investors who sell their stocks and shares in anticipation of a fall in prices. A bear market is a falling trend in market prices.

Bulls: Investors who buy stocks and shares in anticipation of a rise in prices. A bull market is one in which there is a rising trend.

Bid price: The selling price.

FT-SE 100: The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100 is an index of the 100 largest UK companies. It started off at 1,000 on 3rd January 1984 and is now over 2,200. It is calculated on a minute by

minute basis and acts as an indication of the health of the market, and UK economy in general. If it is rising then the economy is prospering, but a falling FT-SE 100 indicates a recession and possibly a crash if it is severe.

Gilts: Gilt-edged securities are stocks issued or guaranteed by the Government, UK corporations, local authorities and other UK public authorities.

Narrow market: An indication that it is difficult to deal in stocks or shares other than in small amounts.

Offer price: The buying price.

Public Limited Company (PLC): A

PLC is allowed to issue shares to the public, but a private company can't.

Shares: A share in a company is exactly that - if you own one of these then you own a part of the company and you have a say in how it is run. There is a limited number of shares in a company, but there may be millions in total, so owning even a few hundred is not really going to give you much control.

Unit Trusts: This is a portfolio of investments in which investors are able to buy or sell units. The portfolio is administered by a management company and contains shares in several hundred companies.

Product: K-Spread 4.13T

Supplier: Kuma

Tel: 0734 844335

Price: £129.95

Configuration: All STs, mono and colour

Kuma's K-Spread spreadsheet has grown over the years from a very simple program to a very advanced package with a host of outstanding facilities. The latest version 4.13T now includes routines which enable it to access the Microtext Teletext Adaptor.

Clicking on the Teletext Dialog menu item opens up a dialog box, fires up the Microtext and displays Ceefax menu page 100. No graphics are shown, you'll only get ASCII text, but this isn't a problem because the share price information is text anyway. You can change channels (to BBC 2's Ceefax City pages), select pages (220 to 223), hold the display or send it to the printer.

This facility by itself is useful, but the most exciting thing is that you can specify a range of cells within the spreadsheet and insert the share price data straight into it. You can specify a number of pages on any channel, including sub-pages and K-Spread will



A black and white photograph of a person in a white lab coat, likely a doctor, standing in a dark room. The person is holding a clipboard and a pen. A piece of paper with a portrait is visible in the upper left corner.

The share price editor enables you to enter shares and prices, or edit existing ones. You can keep a database of all share transactions and Sharemaster will handle a portfolio of up to 500 items. But it's up to you to update prices on a daily or weekly basis - a mammoth task which requires true dedication.

If you haven't the stomach to speculate on the real stock market with real money you can still have fun playing Wall Street Wizard - an interesting computer simulation from German software house, Lifetimes. Starting the game with little money, you have to play the part of a stockbroker and earn your crust by buying and selling shares for clients.

At mid-day the stock exchange opens and the screen is divided

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|-----------------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|-------|
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | |
| Range | 17.841 | 690000.0 | 1000000.0 | Corn | 50% | 50% | 50% | 100% | 125% |
| Growth% | 110.73 | Cgrowth%(1) | | 12.07 | (2) | | 11.73 | (4) | 11.56 |
| S1 Reg. Line. | = | 0.57%* | 29.45 | Corr= | 0.78 | Mean | 126.39 | \$D | 71.24 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Price Average C | | +/- | Overlay | Ratio 1 | Growth | | |
| | | 3 Week | | 3 Week | | | 7 Week | | |
| 24 | 10 | 87 | 236.00 | 256.67 | -95.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -18.90 | |
| 31 | 10 | 87 | 218.00 | 216.33 | -97.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -25.34 | |
| 7 | 11 | 87 | 195.00 | 210.33 | -121.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -35.43 | |
| 14 | 11 | 87 | 218.00 | 203.00 | -18.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -30.57 | |
| 21 | 11 | 87 | 196.00 | 208.00 | -22.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -40.79 | |
| 28 | 11 | 87 | 210.00 | 197.00 | 15.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -33.33 | |
| 5 | 12 | 87 | 185.00 | 196.33 | -33.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -41.46 | |
| 12 | 12 | 87 | 194.00 | 198.33 | -2.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -17.00 | |
| 19 | 12 | 87 | 216.00 | 216.67 | 6.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | -9.92 | |
| 26 | 12 | 87 | 240.00 | 225.67 | 55.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 23.08 | |
| 2 | 1 | 88 | 221.00 | 231.33 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.38 | |
| 9 | 1 | 88 | 233.00 | 233.67 | 17.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 18.88 | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | |
| Range Format Print Quid Overlay Corr Arrow Up/Dn/digits [Esc] | | | | | | | | | |

The graph facility enables you to chart the progress of shares and display up to seven of them onscreen. The options include an exponentially-weighted smoothing curve, moving averages, high or low curves, absolute or relative, indexed and ratio.

The profits and evaluation mode analyses transactions and provides a history of share dealing in each company between

Although the program is useful and contains a reasonably good array of features I found its presentation uninspiring. The manual is quite stodgy, too. ShareMaster requires too much hard work keeping the information up to date to be a real winner.

In the bottom right-hand corner is a portfolio containing clients' instructions. Listed here are the shares to buy or sell, the amounts, prices and time limits. You're not allowed to deal outside the price limits and can be fined for not dealing quickly enough. However, you sometimes can't deal because the market value of a particular share is too low to sell or too high to buy.

Information Bureau 12:41

| Newspaper | Analysis | Detective | Game |
|--------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Morning Post | Economy | Conventions | Garr Score |
| Wall Street | Fed Groups | Dow, Kissinger | High Score |
| Eco Special | Companies | True Secret | Low Score |

Clock 12:41:2

Details

BELOW: The main screen showing prices, your portfolio and the stockmarket floor

When the stock exchange closes for the day, you can read the financial newspapers to glean information about company results and market trends. You can send thugs around to your rivals, or initiate a bit of industrial espionage and insider trading. You can have some wild, creative fun when you're not playing with real money and shares. And you don't have to worry about being sent to prison.

Up to six players can take part with up to six computer opponents. There's a special option for two players to link their STs via a modem or null modem cable and play against each other.

Wall Street Wizard is an unusual game which attempts to give you a flavour of stock market dealing. It's more of a fun game than a true to life simulation, but even so, it gives you a good idea of what really goes on in the City without any of the risks.

Several new cell formulae have been added to K-Spread's already comprehensive array of functions. For instance:

MTEXT_LINE(ch,page,subpage,line)

will get a line of text from any page (and sub-page) on any channel. To extract share price information you would use:

MTEXT_SHARE_PRICE("name",unique)
MTEXT_SHARE_MOVE("name",unique)

The ability to download share information from within a spreadsheet opens up a whole new area of analysis. Using the sheet's mathematical and statistical functions you could easily develop a useful tool for predicting stock market trends. This is another stunning piece of software for the astute investor. If you're really interested in following stock market trends, this is well worth a look.



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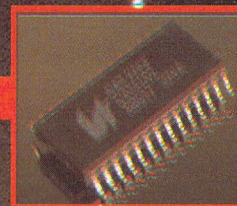
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USERDISK

NOVEMBER '90

ON THE DISK

DISK INFORMATION

Everything from the number of cylinders to the amount of space available can be explored using the HDUTIL.ACC program. What are you waiting for? Get to know your hard disk drive more intimately.

PERFECT MATCH

This one's a card matching game for the younger STer. Dust your memory skills off for this one though, or you'll end up either very frustrated or out of time. It's not as easy as you might think.

DRIVE PROTECTOR

Just turn your back for a few seconds and before you know it, those nasty viruses have made themselves at home in your ST. To the rescue comes the ST Drive Protector. This program protects your hard disk drive not only from the dreaded virus, but also from one of the worst pests...children.

SPRITE SIMULATION

Remember the days when sprite creation used to take up more time than actually writing the games programs. Now things have changed and we present a sprite editor to easily design the little devils. Just draw your creations and then save them to disk.

TURTLE

Turtle mania reaches everywhere – however, there's definitely no trace of green, oversized superheroes here. This turtle solves any problems encountered with backing up hard disks. Make sure there's lots of RAM available, then use this fast program to copy from the hard disk to floppies via the RAM disk.

CHRONICLES OF OMEGA

'Help, Alwin's been kidnapped'. Will you be the one to rescue him in this Mario Bros. game? Good luck – beware of the beasties, but make friends with the witch...

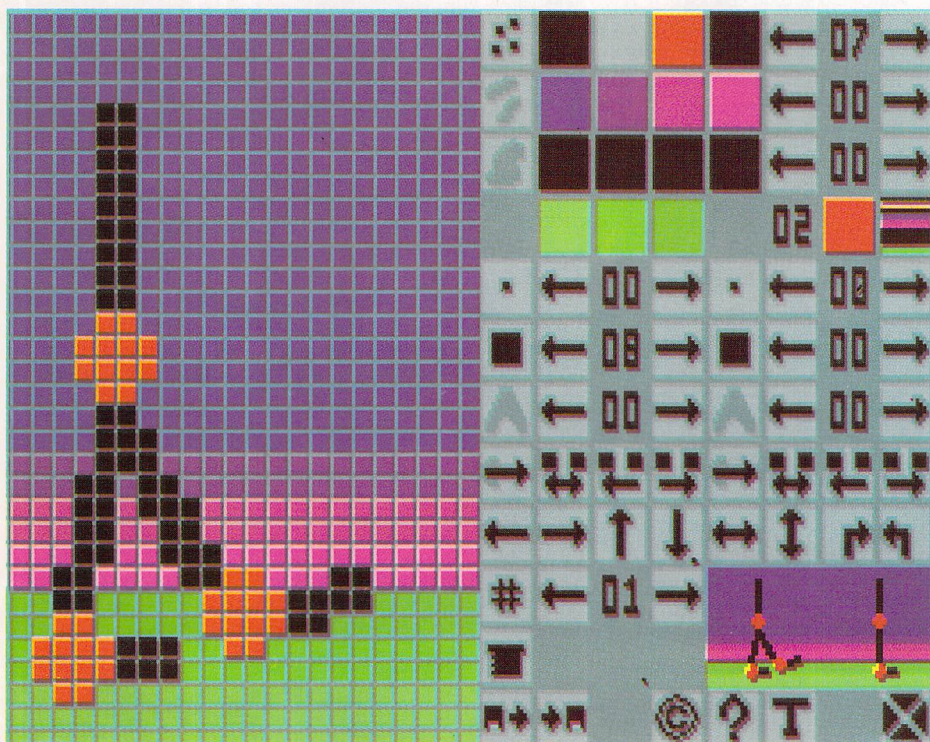
WHAT'S IN DOC?

- Well over 1Mb of stunning games, sexy demos and scintillating features as well as clever accessories, a dazzling text scroller, clip art, the flotsam and jetsam of everyday computing, how can you be without it? Forget the rest, 'USER gives you the most and best!
- We use the most cunning disk formatting program ever devised to enable even single sided drive owners to get their read/write heads on the goodies, but even we're limited by natural physical forces ie if you only have one head then you'll only get one side, right?
- To access side two, simply double click the folder Side_2 and you'll be transported to an Aladdin's cave of electronic delights.
- And for those who just can't live without the tempting teasers on side two, we offer our Side Two Service. For the stunning 'cheaper-than-the-rest' price of just £1.50 (which includes the all-important postage and packing) we'll put the goodies from side two on a single sided disk and whizz it to your door. Cheques or postal orders made payable to Atari ST User Disk Offer to the usual address.

LOADING GUARANTEED

Look, we do our utmost to ensure that every disk is 100 per cent perfect. Unfortunately, physical forces such as those propounded by Einstein himself, suggest that a tiny proportion of those disks will contain errors.

If you're one of the lucky readers who has a disk which conforms to Einstein's theories, but would rather have an ordinary, common or garden working disk, here's what to do: Stop panicking! We've come across the problem before and know just what to do. Wrap up the offending item in some stout packaging (you don't want to frighten the postie-man, right?) and send it to Stanley Precision Data Systems, Unit F, Cavendish Courtyard, Sallow Road, Weldon North Ind. Est., Corby, Northants, together with your name and address and we'll replace it.



HDUTIL.ACC

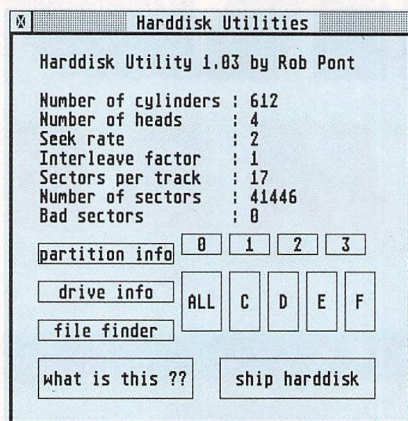
Configuration: All STs,
mono or colour, hard disk

HDUTIL.ACC is a handy desk accessory that displays useful information about the state of your hard disk drive. When it's accessed from the Desk, menu the number of cylinders and heads, the seek rate, interleave factor, sectors per track and the number of bad sectors are displayed. Just select a partition and click on the Partition Info button to find out the partition flag byte, id, start sector and number of sectors used.

The File Finder button enables you to search for any file on disk, and wild cards can be entered into the search mask so groups of files can be located. The complete file path, size, date and time are displayed and the total number of matches is printed.

Click on the Drive Info button to discover the amount of space already used and also how much is free on any partition. Other information shown is the total number of files, hidden files and files changed since they

were last backed up. To prevent damage if the drive is moved there's a Ship button which parks the hard disk's read/write heads.



PROTECT.ACC

Configuration: All STs, mono or colour

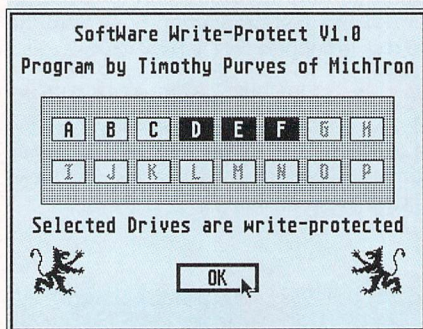
Viruses are a constant threat to computer systems – one slip, such as booting up with a borrowed disk which is unchecked, and the nasty critters are in the micro and destroying data from the disks.

Hard disks require special attention because they hold so much information. Unfortunately the only 100 per cent safe way of removing a virus that's invaded your hard disk is to reformat it. That means backing up 20Mb or more, formatting and then restoring the data – not a particularly pleasant task.

The ST Drive Protector is a neat little desk accessory that enables write protection of disk drives. Copy the program to your boot disk or partition C of your hard drive then re-boot. Click on the accessory from the Desk menu and then select the drives and

partitions to protect.

Protector is also useful for preventing children wiping out valuable programs and data from your hard disk drive.



CHRONICLES OF OMEGA

Configuration: All STs,
colour only

Chronicles of Omega is a platform game which has been developed especially for the Atari STE machine. This 'Mario Bros' platform game has some nice touches to it, with progression through to the end of this demonstration level being quite possible.

When alone, one of the main characters, either Alwin or Irma, is kidnapped and the other picks up their .45 magic wand and sets off in hot pursuit. There are lots of beasties to dispel, but there's a friendly witch who sells shields, more powerful firepower and extra lives.

To get money you have to kill other creatures you meet. Once they are dead they'll disappear, leaving behind a coin. But buy whatever you can afford now since money can't be taken into the next level.

It's pretty and playable but it has a flat feel to it. More imagination could have been used to make it feel more animated. The transition, when the game is put on to a STE is obvious, with prettier pictures and better sound, but it still doesn't improve the animation.

The complete game is available from ARC and retails at £19.99.

TRIED AND TESTED:

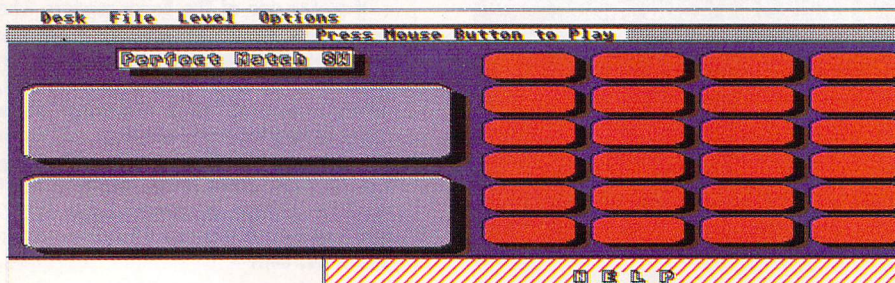
| | STE | STFM |
|-----------------|-----|------|
| GRAPHICS: | 72% | 70% |
| SOUND: | 74% | 65% |
| GAMEPLAY: | 70% | 70% |
| OVERALL | 72% | 72% |

MATCH.PRG

Configuration: All STs colour only

Perfect Match is an interesting educational program for children from the age of 10 upwards. It involves turning over cards (two

at a time) which are laid face down on a table. The question on one – from a pre-selected category – has to be matched with



the answer on another. Not only do you have to remember where each question or answer is stored, but also the correct answer to each question. It's not easy!

To play Perfect Match first de-archive it to a blank disk then double click on MATCH.PRG. Press the left mouse button to stop the demonstration and begin a game. Select from one to four players. Then choose the number of cards – you can play with 8, 16 or 24 (obviously, it's more difficult when there are more cards).

Select a question set from the File Selector and the cards will be shuffled and dealt. Next choose two cards with the mouse, and as long as you find matching pairs of cards you can continue your turn. The game ends when either all of the matches have been discovered, or in a one player game when the timer runs out.

SPR_DES.PRG

Configuration: All STs, colour only

Boot up almost any arcade game and one thing hits you smack between the eyes – the superbly animated sprite-like characters whizzing around the screen at breakneck speed.

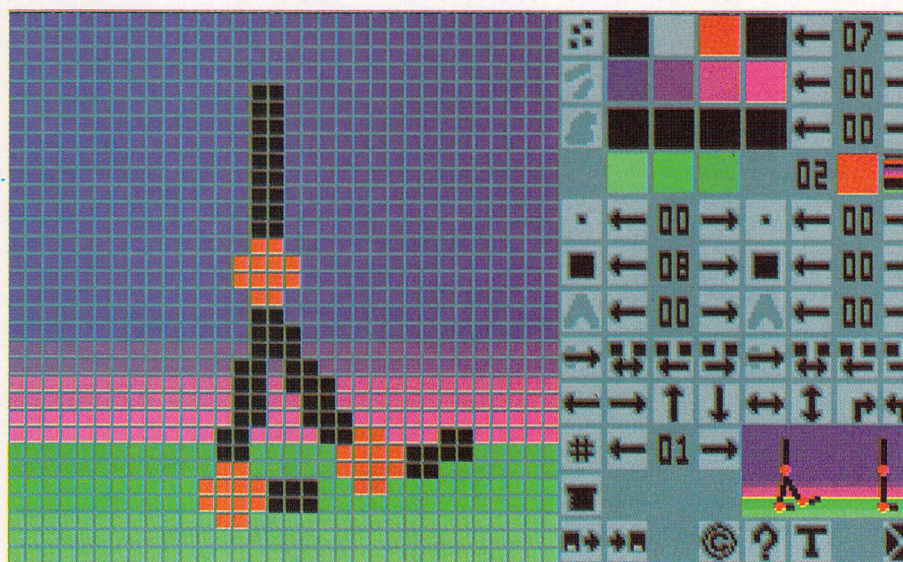
True sprites are generated by special hardware inside computers, but unfortunately the ST doesn't have any hardware support which would enable you to create your own little monsters. However, by using some clever 68000 machine code programming it's possible to simulate sprites.

Writing a super-fast sprite handling subroutine from scratch is a complex and time consuming task, annoying if you just want to

get on with writing the game rather than fiddling with a sprite code trying to wring out the last ounce of performance. Don't despair, now all your sprite handling problems are behind you, because here's a sprite editor enabling the creation of your own designs, which can be saved to disk.

When you've finished, you'll have a choice of several fast and flexible sprite drawing routines that can be used to animate your own original creations. The source code is also very thoughtfully provided along with executable programs that can be run from the desktop.

What more could you possibly ask for?



CAUGHT AT SILLY MID-ON

Well, last month the 'USER team was all out for a pretty low score. Many of you were disappointed with the cricket simulation Stumped included on last month's CoverDisk, and showed no hesitation in letting us know about it. After going to all the trouble of putting on the whites and gearing up with pads, gloves and helmet, some players found that they couldn't run the program because they didn't have STOS.

OK, we admit it. We just didn't make it quite clear enough that this was a program listing designed to be used with Mandarin Software's STOS Basic language. Put simply, Stumped cannot be run without STOS and plenty of you don't have it. But just to show how sporting we are, read on. This should help...

For those readers with STOS, CRICKET.BAS should be loaded into STOS in the usual way using the command: FLOAD"A:\SIDE_2\CRICKET.BAS". When the program has loaded, selecting RUN from the STOS menu will start the program.

For people without STOS, we had hoped to include a runnable .PRG version of Stumped on this month's disk, but we're stumped as to how we can manage it – time and space are against us. We're working like dervishes to include the .PRG version on the December CoverDisk, just in time for Christmas, so keep your fingers crossed!

TURTLE.PRG

Configuration: All ST's, mono or colour, hard disk

Hard disk drives are normally extremely reliable storage devices, but occasionally they do develop faults. Therefore it's essential to make back-ups of your data regularly – once a week should be sufficient. It's a chore, but just imagine losing 30 or 40Mb of programs, utilities and data files that you spent months building up.

Turtle requires no special hardware, and the floppies written are standard TOS disks. To accomplish this speed, certain simple steps must be taken. Turtle requires just about all the RAM you have (for double sided disks), so you should disable any accessories and remove any unnecessary programs from your AUTO folder.

How can it be so fast, and still write standard floppies? Turtle creates a RAM disk that has exactly the same characteristics as a standard floppy. It copies files from the hard disk to the RAM disk, writing as many files as possible. When the RAM disk is full, turtle dumps it as a track-by-track image to a

floppy. The number of requested copies are made, with or without formatting the floppies.

The result is identical to a floppy written directly, except no time was wasted moving back and forth to the directory and file allocation tables, or waiting for the proper sectors to be available during disk rotation.

Why call it Turtle? Well, backing up hard disks is always a slow task, so the name fits. Since there are already several programs available with the name Backup, I had intended to call this one Hardback and since turtles have hard backs anyway...

```
Turtle - A Hard Disk Backup Utility      Vers 2.15      May 1987
(c) George R. Woodside 5219 San Feliciano Drive  Woodland Hills, Ca. 91364

Floppy A Status: DISK NEEDED      Floppy B Status: DISK NEEDED

Input Request: A:
Current Path:  A:\SNAPSHOT
Files:         8      Bytes: 23552      RAMdisk: 726816      Folder Count: 2
To Do:         8      To Do: 23552      Free: 715776

Current file:
A:\VANH\TRONSS.MAN      Bytes: 963
A:\VANH\TRONDS.MAN      963
A:\VANH\TROTS.MAN      1086
A:\VANH\TRODOS.MAN      1086
A:\VANH\TTLEEXEC.MAN    2632
```

SCROLLER.PRG

Configuration: All STs, colour only

Scrolling text on an ST can be hard work, due to the fact that the original STs didn't support hardware scrolling, but relied on the programmer to write his own scrolling routines. The newer STEs have hardware scrolling, but that's no use to the vast majority of ST users who own the standard machines.

Now, with this short program, Michael Johnson has come to the rescue and provided smooth full colour scrolling. SCROLLER.PRG looks for an ASCII file in its folder called TEXT.TXT, which contains the text to be scrolled. A sample file is included on the disk, and this can be edited with any word processor so you can send personal scrolling messages to your friends, courtesy of Atari ST User. The source code for SCROLLER is included in the LISTINGS folder on side 2 of the Cover Disk.

RUNTIME

ISSUE FIVE

Once again, the world's only dedicated ST programming magazine on disk is yours to have and to hold...

ON THE ELECTRONIC PAGES...

PROGRAMMERS' CLINIC

Mathew Lodge deals with the confused issue handles for GEMDOS from C languages running under the UNIX work-alike shell Gulam and explains how handles are opened to allow the ST to deal with programming events.

In the first of a new occasional series, Mathew looks at all the different versions of TOS that Atari have released over the years, from 1.0 right up to the brand new TOS 3.0 in the new TT machines (see the news pages). This month he examines the improved TOS 1.4 file selector and explains how to get the most out of it, including calling its new features such as writing text to the title line.

GEM TUTORIAL

In the past four issues of RunTime, Roland Waddilove has guided both novices and experienced programmers through the ST's Virtual Device Interface. The VDI allows programmers to access the vast power of the ST quickly and easily with a few simple calls to GEMDOS. In the last of the series, Roland documents the GEMDOS VDI calls which enable programmers to draw circles and ellipses from within a GEM environment.

SCREENFULL

The popular Screenfull Challenge continues this month with two new reader submissions, in GFA Basic and STOS Basic.

C. Warren of Bury St. Edmunds has provided a neat little accessory to control the Atari blitter chips now fitted as standard in the STes and Megs. Available from any program that gives you access to the menu bar, you can turn the blitter on and off whenever you need it. Both the source code and the compiled accessory, which are written in GFA Basic, are included on the disk.

The second screen this month comes from Paul J. Dixon and is written in STOS Basic. In this simple arcade-style game you guide your space ship through an obstacle course created by a hostile alien race.

Unfortunately, your ship has been damaged and can only move up and down! The only way to change direction is by cannoning off something else on the screen, but doing so will deplete your limited shields.

NB. This program is designed to be run from within STOS Basic only, and a compiled version has not been included on the disk.

ARCADE PROGRAMMING

Now that Atari has started bundling Mandarin's excellent Basic-like programming language STOS with many new STs and STEs there are an increasing number of readers who want to explore this powerful and versatile language to write their own programs.

For the benefit of both new and experienced users of STOS, Phil Lawson continues his tutorial this month with a program to allow the paths of on-screen sprites to be easily defined and stored in an array. This program has been compiled to a .PRG file which can be clicked on from the desktop. To save space on the disk, the file has also been packed and will automatically de-pack itself when it's run, so be prepared for a short wait.

The advantage of storing sprite paths in arrays is that they take less space in memory and are easy to manipulate to create new and exciting paths for your mutant aliens, giant insects or whatever.

Also included on the disk are details of converting this program to run under different dialects of Basic, or even assembler, so this program is available to you no matter what language you use to create your masterpiece.

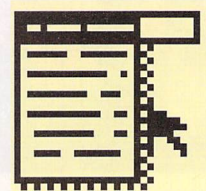
GETTING STARTED

RunTime is a disk-based magazine program with articles providing programming help, hints for games writers and much more.

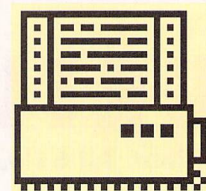
The magazine appears on the disk as a program called MAGAZINE.PRG, all you need to do to read it is double click on the program icon. You'll see a GEM menu bar at the top of the screen, moving your mouse pointer over it reveals several drop down menus.

These menus contain the titles of the programs, articles, games and utilities on the cover disk. Click on a menu option and the article will be loaded and displayed on the screen. If your TV isn't very clear you can print out the article, then study it at your leisure.

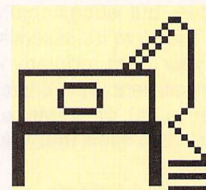
At the foot of the screen you'll see several icons. Here's what the main ones do when you click on them with the mouse...



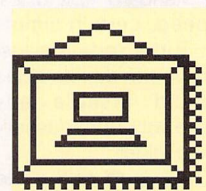
This is the icon which enables you to return to the opening GEM menu bar. Click this if you want to stop reading the current feature



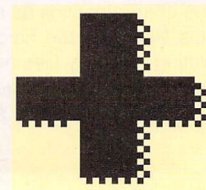
Use this icon if there's a particular page of the feature which interests you and which you wish to have on paper



If you need to print the entire feature, tutorial and so on, this is the icon you need. Click here to send the complete feature to your printer



Often, as you're reading a feature, there'll be an associated picture which helps to illustrate a point. Click this icon to see the picture



Everyone, even learned programmers need help occasionally, if you find that some friendly advice is needed, click the cross

PREPARE TO BE AMAZED!

Over recent months we've received a lot of mail from readers suggesting ways to improve the magazine, and more often, to improve the Cover Disk. Well, never let it be said that we don't listen to you, because from next month, you'll notice a change in our Cover Disk.

It seems that we were pitching a bit high. Too many readers were having difficulty loading the programs and using the Disk. So to avoid further frustration and tearing out of hair, clear and concise instructions will be published next issue to allow the complete ST novice to get the maximum benefit from the 1Mb of programs we cram on the disk. Then, in

following issues, we'll include a brief, but helpful reminder so that no-one gets lost on their way into that huge vault of priceless information, the Disk.

RunTime is in for a hit too. It will include more features than before, so you can read up on what you're about to do with the programs included on the Disk. Best of all, there will be a new programming feature, aimed at helping the novice programmer get started. For once, this will be a truly reasonable and simple introduction to programming. We won't go from A to X,Y and Z without filling you in on what comes in between. Honest.

No More 'Out Of Memory' Headaches

With Frontier Software's XTRA-RAM, you can do away with those nasty 'Out Of Memory' messages which seem to come up just when you are in a hurry to finish your latest creation - whether it's a page of desktop published brilliance, a piece of superb artwork or a spreadsheet which contains all of the information which your bank manager has been demanding since last week.

• No Need To Send Your ST Away

Upgrading the RAM memory of your Atari ST (whether it's a 520ST, 520STM, 520STFM, 1040STF, 1040STFM, Mega 1ST or Mega 2ST) usually means sending your ST away or doing a large amount of delicate nerve-racking soldering yourself. Frontier's XTRA-RAM is installed by you, in your own home or office *without* the need for any soldering whatsoever (The XTRA-RAM even fits STs with surface-mounted MMU^{oo} or RAM chips)

• Easy To Install - No Soldering

The installation process takes around an hour (the XTRA-RAM simply plugs into two places inside your ST) and is carefully explained in a detailed 32 page manual which is written with the non-technical ST user in mind. If you have any problems during the installation process, Frontier's technical staff are always available on the phone to offer assistance.

• No Need To Stop At 1MB

Most RAM upgrades leave you with your 1/2 MB ST upgraded to 1MB and that's it! If you need any extra memory at a later date you are expected to go out and buy a Mega ST - Not so with the XTRA-RAM. The XTRA-RAM has been designed to take two sizes of industry-standard RAM memory chips. With sixteen 256Kbit RAM chips the XTRA-RAM will upgrade your 1/2 MB Atari ST to 1MB, making it totally memory compatible with the 1040ST and Mega 1ST. When you decide that you need more memory you can change those sixteen RAM chips for sixteen 1Megabit chips (again with no soldering whatsoever) in around ten minutes and your ST will be expanded to 2 1/2 MB (520ST, 520STM, 520STFM, 1040STF, 1040STFM and Mega 1ST will be expanded to 2 1/2 MB, Mega 2ST will be expanded to 4MB).

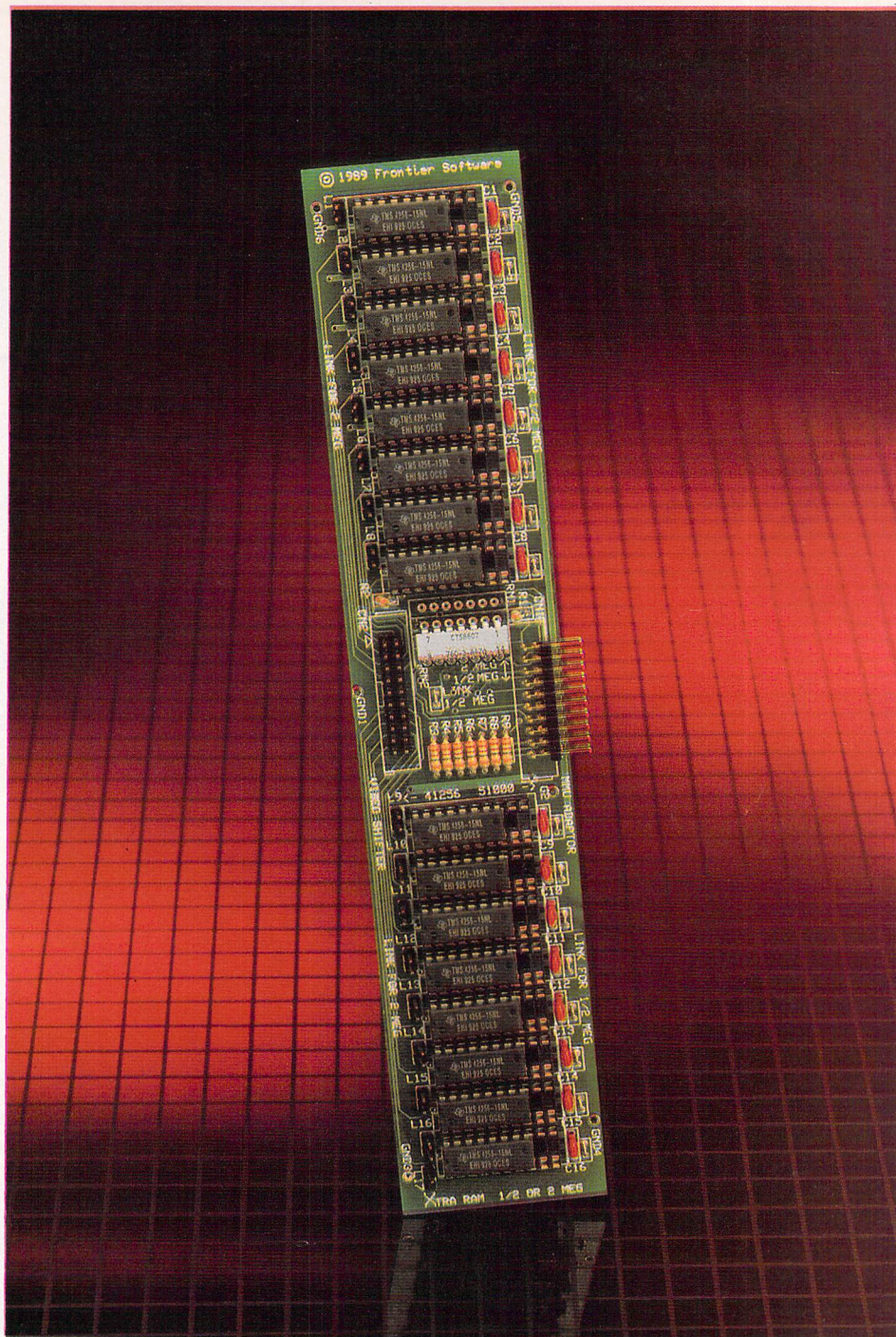
• Totally Compatible

The extra RAM memory that the XTRA-RAM gives you is totally compatible with all of your Atari ST programs. The ST's memory controller chip 'logs' in the extra memory and makes it available for your programs. You will automatically get more memory for DTP, word processing, MIDI, running the Atari Laser printer and everything else that you use your ST for.

• Software Included

Every XTRA-RAM upgrade is supplied with a free

^{oo}The XTRA-RAM must be fitted to STs with surface-mounted MMU chips by Frontier Software. You can fit the XTRA-RAM to STs with surface mounted RAM chips with no soldering as long as the MMU and Video Shifter chips are in sockets. Call Frontier for more details.



RAM testing program (so that you know *with certainty* that your installation has worked), RAM disk and printer spooler software.

• Satisfaction Guaranteed

The XTRA-RAM is supplied under Frontier's ten day money back guarantee, which means that if you don't like the XTRA-RAM, for any reason, you can return it for a full refund within ten days of purchase. The XTRA-RAM also carries a full twelve months' guarantee.

• Available With Or Without RAM Chips

Frontier supply the XTRA-RAM in three ways:

- (1) Unpopulated (with no RAM memory chips, so that you can purchase your own),
- (2) Populated with 16 256Kbit RAM chips (taking any 1/2 MB ST to 1MB. This, of course, can take your ST to 2 1/2 MB whenever you wish simply by changing to 1Megabit RAM chips)
- (3) Populated with 16 1Megabit RAM chips (to take any keyboard ST or Mega 1ST to 2 1/2 MB or any Mega 2ST to 4MB).

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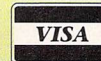
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Hi! I thought I'd take this opportunity to introduce myself. Wigley's the name, wagging's the game (my joystick that is!) The powers-that-be here at Interactive Publishing, have decided, in their wisdom, to make me Games Editor of your favourite ST magazine.

Every month, I'll try to keep you all informed about what's happening inside the software houses, what new or forthcoming releases are coming your way, and other snippets of news.

Because it's your magazine, I want you to be involved. Any ideas, suggestions, tips etc., that you want to send in to me will be appreciated.

EARLS COURT SHOW

By the time you've read this, one of the biggest events in the computer industry diary will already have taken place, at Earls Court in London.

If you managed to get there, I trust you enjoyed yourselves and had a good look at some of the new releases, and other projects that the software houses are trying to have in the shops, in time for the festive season.

I will hopefully be able to find out some news on the things the software houses have kept quiet about, and not had on display. Anything I do find out will be reported in our next issue.

A TEAM SUZUKI

Gremlin have been busy recently, and after having covered their latest mind-blowing accomplishment, Team Suzuki, at the recent Dusseldorf show, things will probably get busier.

Not only does this game allow you to experience the thrill of Grand Prix 500cc motorcycle racing, but it has the added advantage of allowing you to compete in actual racing venues.

Riding your powerful motorcycle at speeds close to 200mph is one thing, but finishing the race first is another. Sooner or later you will come a cropper and when you do, there's the advantage of an 'action replay' camera. You can watch yourself get wiped out in a big way, and find out why you didn't quite get round that last bend!

B LOTUS ESPRIT TURBO CHALLENGE

Sheffield-based Gremlin Graphics are getting a reputation for producing racing simulations. Well, here's another and if it plays as well as the screen shots look, it should be one to keep an eye on.

Earlier this year, Gremlin sought – and were successful in obtaining – world-wide rights to the Lotus insignia. Lotus having their reputation to think of, laid down certain provisos. The game had to be the best on the market at the time of release and it also had to offer

new challenges to games players who buy it.

With split-screen action enabling two players to race each other on a choice of 32 different circuits, I think that both Lotus and Gremlin will be more than pleased with the result.

SPEEDBALL II

Those of you who enjoyed the brutal and futuristic game Speedball, will be pleased to hear that those formidable Bitmap Brothers are putting the final touches to Speedball II. It should be ready to kick off in the not too distant future.

The graphics promise to be up to the usual high standards expected from this software house. They are being looked after by Dan Malone, producer of The Sacred Armour of Antirad and Superthief. The ability to play individually or as a team (with your

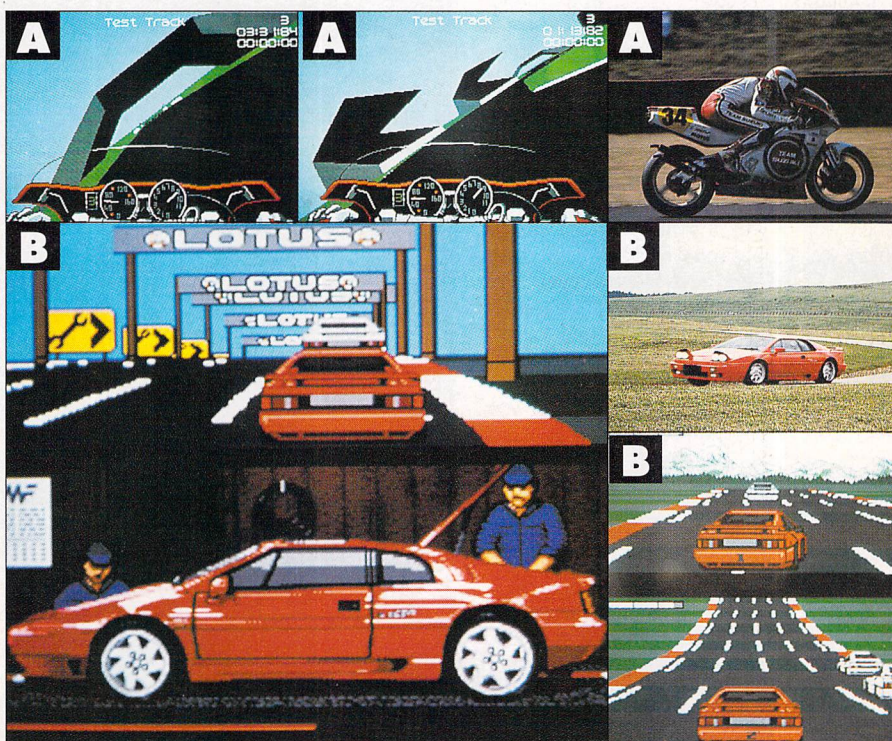
choice of team-mate) allows you to compete like never before.

The pitch which is twice the size of the old battle zone, sees new rules and regulations governing its use. Extra weapons are available to the players, who are now in a position to score bonus points for inflicting bodily damage on the opposition.

TURRICAN

Acclaimed to be the best C64 game of 1990, and Rainbow Art's most successful release to date. The ST version of Turrican will be zooming its way to your local software store in the not-too-distant future.

A shoot-em-up platform game, Turrican consists of 13 levels through five different scenarios. With plenty of power-ups, and a



possible choice of nine weapons, the action should be fast and furious.

To date the game has achieved excellent review reports from other format magazines. Just how good this product is on your ST remains to be seen. As soon as I have a copy in my possession I'll let you know.

STRIDER II

US Gold have announced that **Strider II** is going to be in the shops before Christmas. After the impressive original, which was a huge success, those guys from **Capcom** have thrown **Strider** into yet more perilous situations.

This time **Strider** has been called upon to rescue a world leader, who just happens to be female (no, it's not **Maggie Thatcher**!) The game is once again set in the future, where armed with his faithful and lethal sword, **Strider** has the added advantage of being in possession of a high-velocity gyro laser gun.

With these two powerful weapons he has to fight through five levels before he can free the girl. **US Gold** have assured us that the many new abilities **Strider** has acquired, plus the size of each level, will give platform game lovers something to think about over the festive season.

C ARC

Arc are getting ready for Christmas, by announcing a variety of games which will be available shortly. For those requiring mental-stimulation rather than the 'leave your brains out and just keep firing brigade', then news of three massive war games will be of interest – **Gettysburg**, **Armada** and **Borodino**.

For **Armada** and **Borodino** this is the second time around, this time to be released as a 'Twin-pack' for £29.99. In these simulations you turn the clock back and re-write history.

In **Armada** you can take the role of Lord Howard, and fight alongside the immortal Sir Francis Drake. If, however you would prefer to test your own nautical skills against the great man, you can take the helm of a Spanish Galleon within the Great Armada itself.

Borodino re-enacts one of history's biggest battles. Nearly two hundred years ago, Napoleon sent 130,000 troops to invade Russia. They fought the Russian army at a place called **Borodino**, and even though the French won, it was a shallow victory, for left behind were thousands of dead and dying soldiers. Could you have done better? Well here's your chance. In both of these games you can play the leader from either side, (playing the computer or another person).

Gettysburg – the name of one of the most famous places in the American Civil War (1861-1865). Playing the lead role as Commanding Officer of the Confederate or Republican army, you can fight in such places as Devils Den or Cemetery Ridge. General Lee lost at **Gettysburg**, but the big question is, will you?

Remember when that classic horizontally scrolling game **Defender** was installed, and how quickly the control stick went all floppy because of all the use and abuse it took? Good, well **ARC** are allowing you to re-live your mis-spent youth with **Defender II**. The only thing I can say about its sequel is that as

soon as I get a playable demo I'll tell you what it's like.

Three platform type games are also going to be released. First comes **Badland Pete**, where tough guys die with their boots on. It's full of 'quick-on-the-draw' action, whilst in pursuit of some dastardly dudes, who are going around kidnapping women. This game has a strange new 'walk round' feature, which enables this 2-D game to play very much like a 3-D one.

Nine-Lives is the second game and on first impressions this enchantingly drawn platform game is really quite appealing. Playing a cat who has set off to release his captured girlfriend, you have to travel around the game avoiding both creatures and spikes, in a bid to reach your goal.

Armed with a yo-yo, with which you can stun your enemies, and also the ability to jump at varying heights, this adventure will take you through four refreshingly nice levels.

Finally comes **Chronicals of Omega**, you'll find a one level playable-demo stuck on this month's **USER** disk. This game has been especially developed to give your **STE** a hard time.

As the press release said it is 'the first game to use the **Atari STE** to the full. Featuring full-screen horizontal and vertical scrolling, continuous Stereo PCM soundtrack and sprite movement using the **STE Blitter**'. What you want to know is, how does it play? Well, the answer is simple – put it in your computer, turn it on and use your joystick...

D BUDGET GAMES

Digital Integration have just released three games on their new 'Action Sixteen' label. They have acquired the rights of **Targhan**, from **Silmarils** – a 'barbarian' style platform game incorporating cut and thrust action.

Fast Lane from **Artronics** is a motor-racing sim, where you are the driver of a high-powered **Le Mans** type saloon car. You pit your skill against 20 other drivers, around nine circuits.

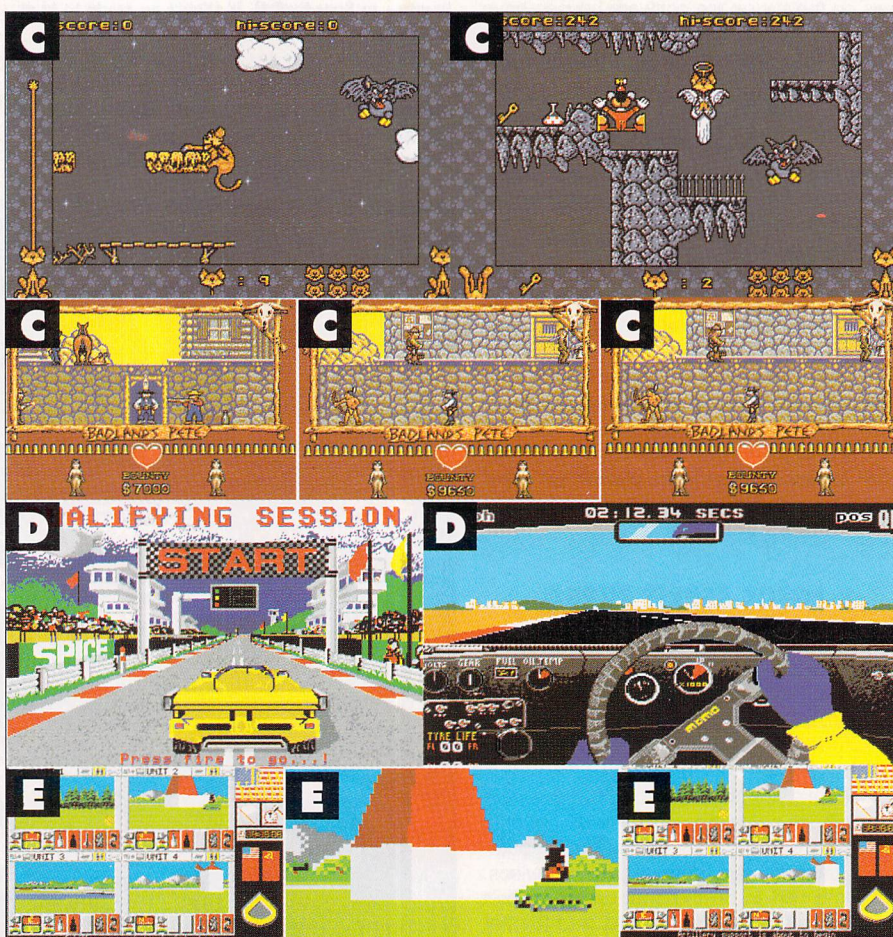
Safari, from **Infogrames** is a true 'green' game. Here the object is to photograph, rather than kill the wildlife. **Digital Integration** have indicated that these are to be the first of many quality pocket money-priced games that they intend to release.

E TEAM YANKEE

Empire's latest project, which is just having the final touches done, requires you to take command of four tank divisions, to stop the Russians penetrating your defences.

You have the option of controlling all four units at the same time, or at times when conflict is imminent, switch to the one division which needs your urgent attention.

By using an aerial map you are able to forward plan your missions, and direct your forces to a position that is most advantageous. Each tank has been given a variety of firepower and the ability to lay down smoke screens – for when you feel that the best option is to run away. **Team Yankee** is definitely a strategic game requiring patience and thought before you can see it at its best.





He who laughs last, laughs longest.

The rumours were true, DeluxePaint is to become available at last on ST.

Not only that, but it's said to be the best available.

"The current version available for the ST far outstrips all earlier incarnations.

It's the best version there is!" ST FORMAT.

This kind of praise is certain to bring a smile to the faces of all ST users.

You can design your own fonts, work on multiple animations and print up to poster size. The ST also has a facility for multi-colour airbrushing and animations that can be done on 512K.

The price too, is reason for amusement. For a limited time only, DeluxePaint ST will be available at a special introductory price.*

And should you happen to bump into an Amiga user, do try to keep your hilarity to a minimum, you wouldn't want to upset them now, would you?

Available soon £49.99*





GOLD OF THE AZTECS

House: US GOLD Price: £24.95

In this game you act just like Indiana Jones in a search for ancient Aztec treasures. Gold of the Aztecs is packed full of tricks, traps and puzzles that will confound you for hours. Coupled with graphics and sprites that have to be seen to be appreciated, Gold of the Aztecs will surely be rated as one of the best releases this year. Over 27,000 hours have gone into its development, and as soon as you load it into your computer, it shows.

From the initial scene when you're flying over a moonlit river deep in the heart of Mexico, you start to appreciate the fine detail and 'extra touches' that the programmers have installed into the scenario. Bird song can be heard from the depths of the forest, recoils are felt when firing the gun and the skeleton of anything you kill glows before disappearing. All these things give Gold of the Aztecs an edge over other platform games on the market.

Having parachuted out of the plane, you become entangled in a tree. Suddenly you become aware of a bunch of decidedly unfriendly looking natives taking

TRIED AND TESTED:

GRAPHICS:92%
SOUND:85%
GAMEPLAY:89%
OVERALL.....92%

quite a lot of interest in your predicament. After cutting yourself free and avoiding the poisoned blow-darts, make your way through the village in search of a lever that will open a secret passage to the next part of the game.

Gameplay is reminiscent of a realistic Rick Dangerous, but on a grander scale. Instead of having a small scurrying hero, U.S. Gold have created a tall swanky character decked in baseball hat and trainers. Armed with a

machete and semi-automatic pistol, this dominant figure struts, rather than walks, through this brilliant adventure.

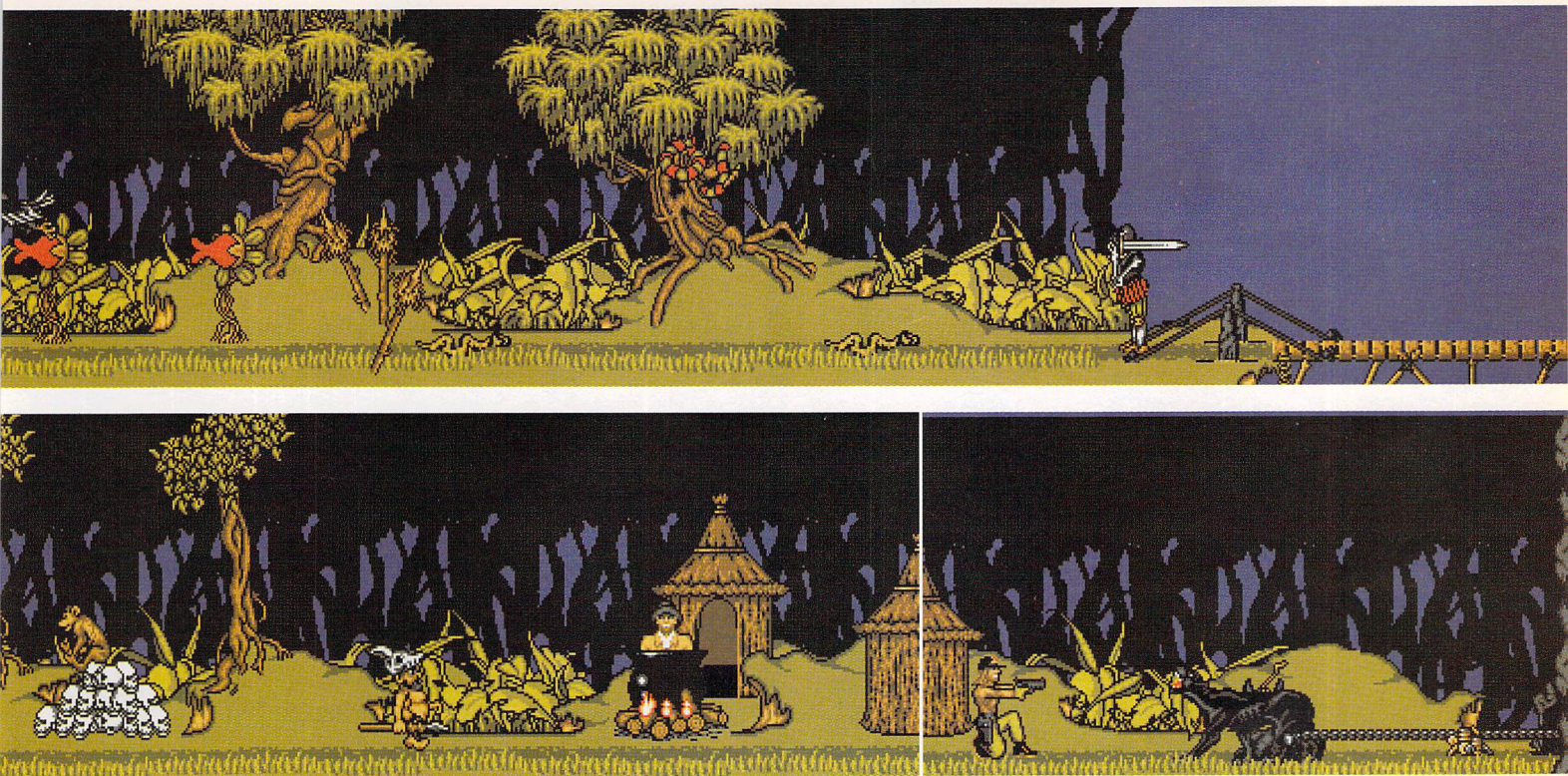
Through every screen of the game you have to be alert. Hidden traps, unsteady platforms and falling rocks are just a few of the problems encountered. Having been given the ability to jump and do somersaults, you have to use your skills effectively to have any hope of coming through the ordeal unscathed.

There are five levels to endure, and the treasure you seek will be found along the way rather than at the end. Each level has a different theme, the first being a village, with less than friendly occupants. The second sees you descending deep underground. Here bats, loose ropes and unsteady platforms give you all kinds of problems to think about. The third is full of mud pits and molten lava. Whilst in the fourth,

you're vigorously pursued by a beast which looks like it's been taken from the Ghostbusters movie.

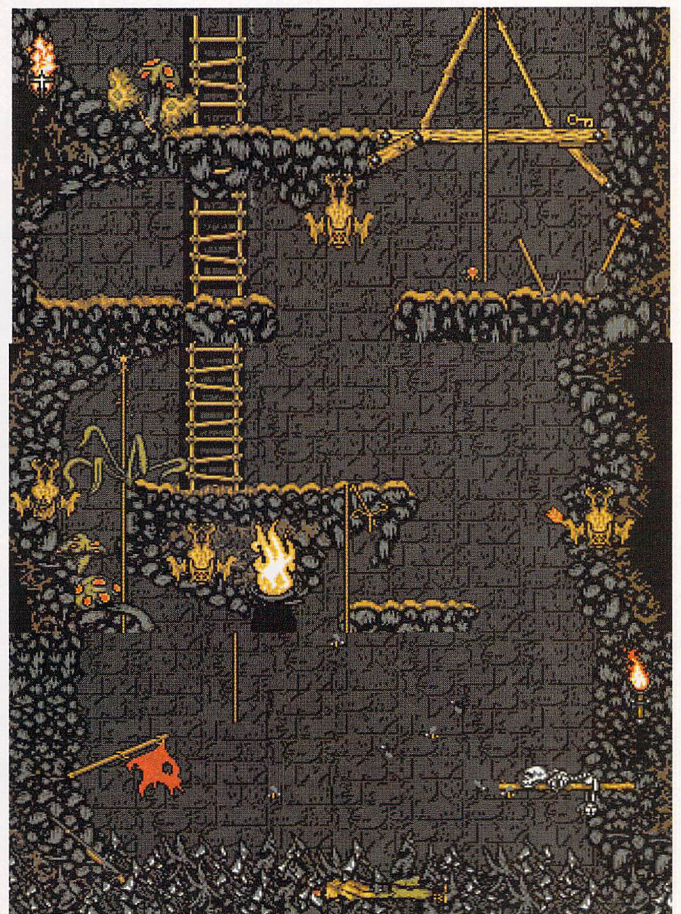
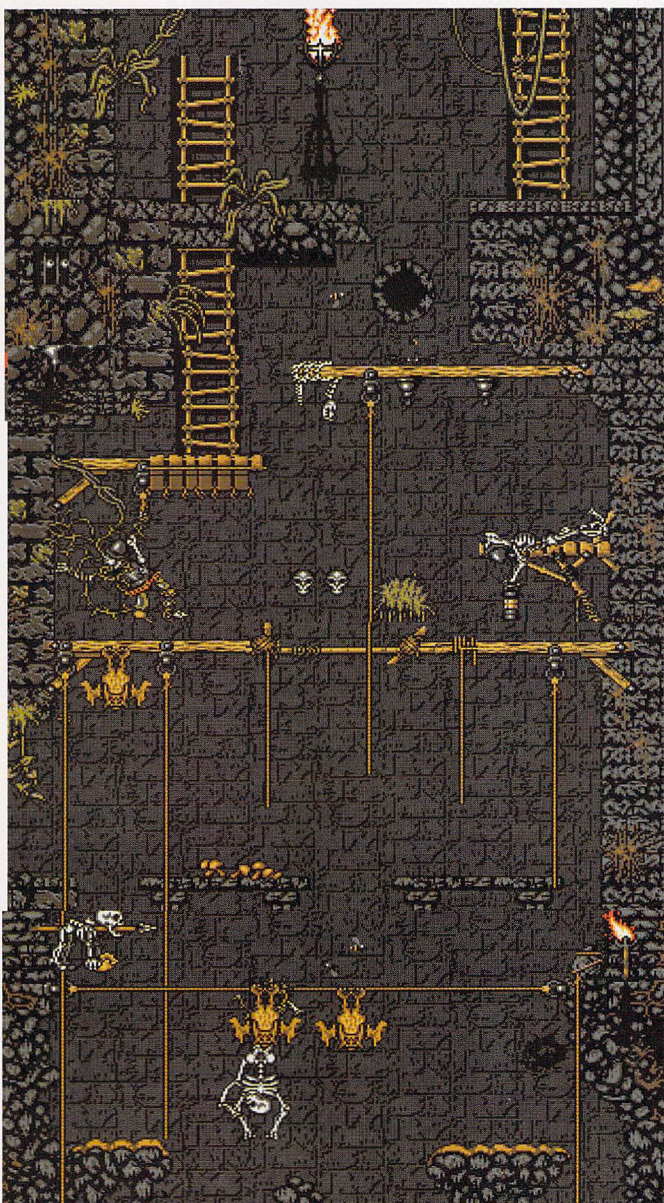
Finally if you make it to the fifth and final level, there's a large array of mechanical devices to be avoided. Unfortunately, you cannot escape from here immediately. Before you can be airlifted to one of the nearby village bars – where a couple of bikini clad young ladies are eagerly awaiting your return – you have a real Indiana Jones problem to solve – namely, how to avoid the rolling boulder crashing down the tunnel towards you.

The game is difficult to interact with at first, and there's a distinct lack of 'haste' given to your character. It'd been nice to have smooth scrolling, but you can live with the finished product. Persevere with the control and you'll certainly be impressed with this stonking game.



ABOVE: The complete first level. This first section proves to be quite difficult to master, but persevere, and many riches await discovery further on in the adventure. Having avoided the arrows and blow-darts used by the unfriendly natives, your final task sees you killing this black panther, allowing you to reach the lever which will open a secret door into level two

LEFT and BELOW: Having uncovered the secret doorway into the next level - enter at your peril. Tread carefully, not everything is as safe as it seems. What do these excellently detailed bats do? Why do some of the ropes have knots in? Solving these problems will give you hours of joystick pleasure



Death Trap



CBUXTON



A trap so deadly that it has remained inviolate for five centuries, so ingenious that it gently lures an intruder to a certain death, a trap worthy of Shankriya, the magician king, a tyrant and absolute ruler of vast lands.

The trap is set in a multi level labyrinth deep in the bowels of the earth and populated by creatures vile, vicious and venomous. Within it lay hidden the magic scrolls, source of Shankriya's power.

Only a very brave man, dexterous, with exquisite sense of timing, versed in martial arts and a flair for mixing potent magic potions, can ever hope to survive the infamous DEATH TRAP.

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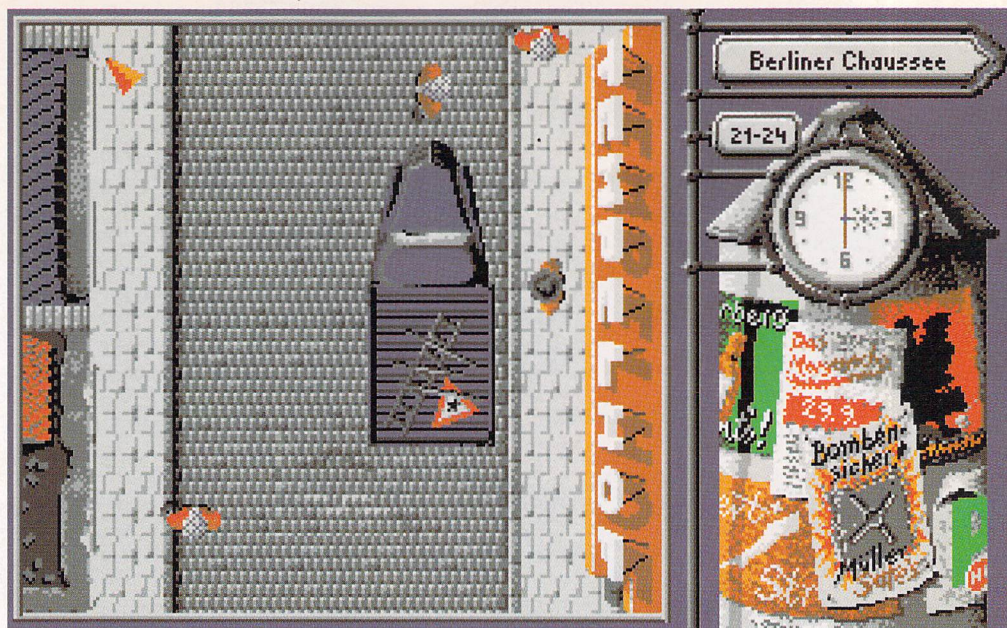
ANCO

Standing outside the railway station dressed in your rather trendy dull brown mac, your days of playing detective have just begun - now where's that taxi?

The first and most impressive thing to hit you about this game, is the use it makes of an audio cassette. It's not a music tape, but contains a sound-track which can be synchronized to run in conjunction with an animated introductory.

Having loaded your discs, you're presented with the option of going straight into the game or watching the introduction. Choose the latter and you are instructed to play the cassette, and at a given signal, hit your return button.

The result is newsreel footage appearing on your screen, with

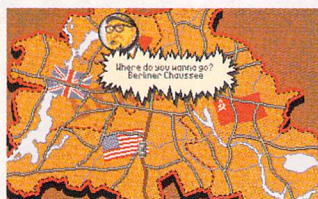


EAST vs. WEST 1948

House: RAINBOW ARTS Price: £19.95

the tape giving the background on the game and the relevance of the pictures you are watching. Although this is a brilliant idea and should be developed further, it would be nice if a little more thought could go into it.

Time Warp Software who produced the game, saw fit to overdub the American accented narrator with some really heavy jazzy music, (it reminded me of those new 'Tom & Jerry' cartoons). I found this combination really

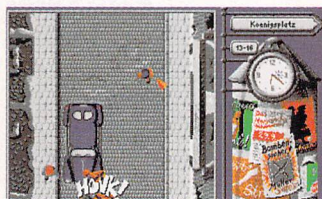


Car 54 where are you? Using the map you can get round the city

overbearing and after a few minutes it had me turning the volume off, and watching the remaining pictures in silence.

The game plot is simple enough. Somewhere in Berlin is hidden an atomic bomb, smuggled in by a Russian agent. Your job is to find it, and as with all adventures you should reach the

By clicking on your character you can get into your inventory, but using it can cause problems



Ouch! Forgetting that these foreigners drive on the left is painful

end of the game by getting involved in the action and solving the clues.

East vs. West is entirely mouse driven, and moving your character around his environment is a case of point and press. To interact with other characters in the game, summon up your command icons and create sen-

tences. Communicating with your surroundings proves a very difficult thing to do, and the time it takes to get everything on to the screen is monotonously long. If you are unlucky enough to clear the command icons by mistake, you have to wait while the long drawn out process of re-loading takes place.

Unfortunately, in my opinion the game lacked any real appeal - the playing area which is viewed from above is reminiscent of Gauntlet but without the detail and colour. The text which is displayed from time to time is full of obvious mistakes and the gameplay is devoid of any real excitement.

I feel that at £19.95 the game is very much overpriced. With products like this on the market, it makes you grateful that the cold war is finally over.

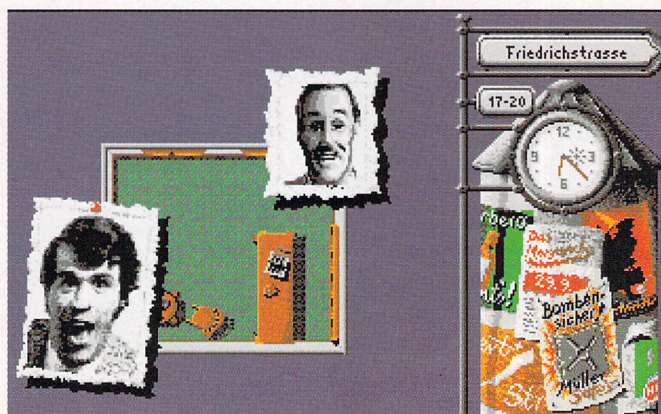
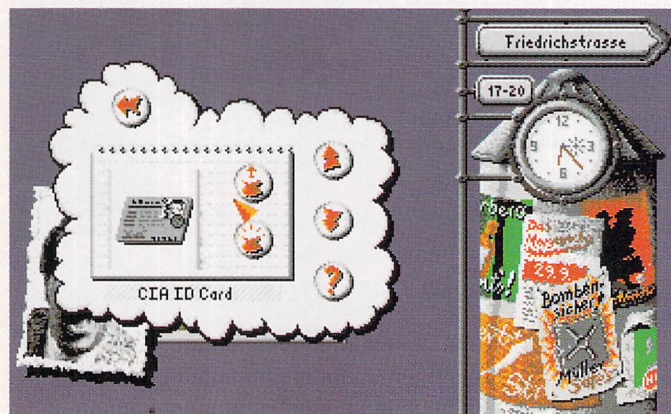
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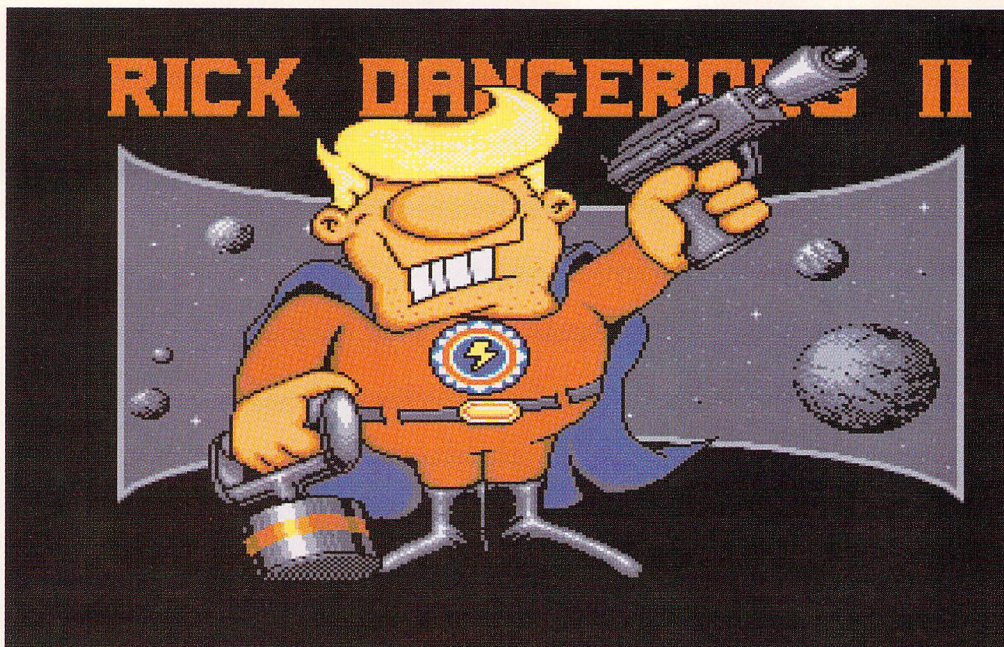
GRAPHICS:55%

SOUND:50%

GAMEPLAY:56%

OVERALL.....58%





Rick 'armed and extremely' Dangerous is ready to put the world to rights in his smart new costume. Armed with his laser gun and sliding mines Rick's ready to create mayhem amongst the automated aliens

.....
TRIED AND TESTED:
GRAPHICS:79%
SOUND:70%
GAMEPLAY:87%
OVERALL87%

RICK II

House: MICROSTYLE Price: £24.95

At last! Rick II has finally appeared! Core have satisfied itself that the product is now good enough to tickle your micro-chips, and have sent our intrepid hero on another epic saga.

Throwing away his wide-brimmed hat, six-shooter and old-fashioned barrels of dynamite, Rick has joined the 20th century. He now happily skips across our screens in the kind of

outfit with which Christopher Reeve would be pleased.

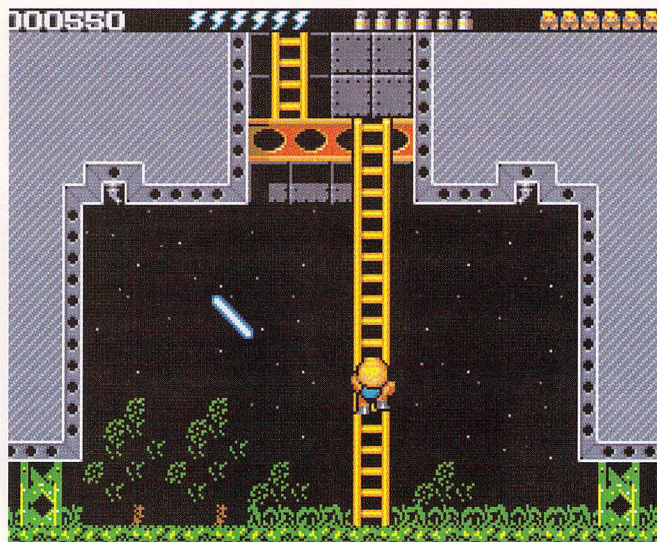
Having laid his hands on the most modern state-of-the-art laser gun he could find, along with a box of sliding mines, Rick is all prepared for the five levels of alien nasties waiting to confront him. After defeating the infamous German SS in his last adventure, which ultimately brought an end to the Second World War, Rick returned to Lon-

don for a rest and some well deserved peace and quiet.

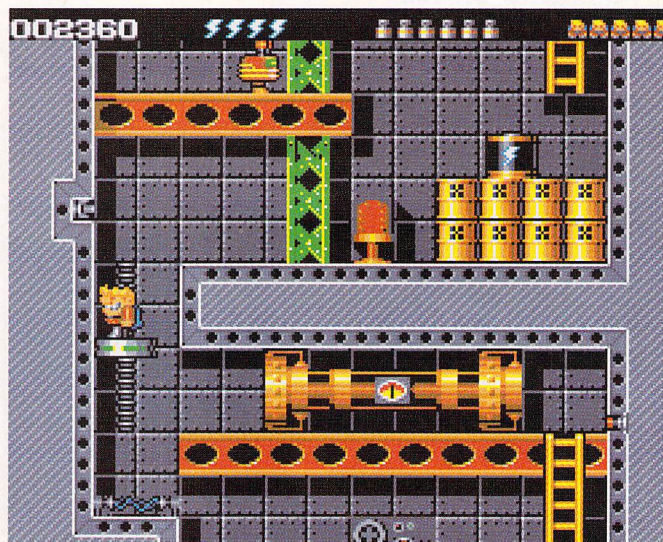
Unfortunately for him, this was not to be. Much to his amazement, the earth was now under invasion from a hostile alien species. Changing into his trendy new clothes (unfortunately there wasn't a telephone box anywhere to be seen), he speeds his way to Hyde Park. Here, one of the galactical spacecrafts has temporarily landed, whilst the

crew decide what catastrophic damage they can inflict on the human race. Can Rick save us once again?

Rick II is an adventure over five levels. The first of these has to see him take command of the aliens' spaceship. If he's successful, the spacecraft will then fly him on towards his final showdown, at the illustrious Fat Guy's Headquarters. But before he can come face to face with his tor-



In the first level Rick must steal the aliens spacecraft to rid the Earth of these horrible creatures



Will Rick be able to find his way around the strange craft, will he get lost or even worse, will the aliens get him?



A very quick exit for Rick - have a safe landing...

mentor, he has to overcome other formidable enemies. They are located in three other places which he will visit on his journey. The first are the ice caverns of Freezia, the second are forests of Vegiabilia and finally are the atomic mud mines. Each of these places has its own unique problems to solve, and will have you frantically wiggling your joysticks in a bid to defeat them.

Most of you are probably familiar with Rick's first escapades, and so will be pleased to hear that this game has lost none of the character and addictiveness displayed by the original. Some of the trusty old problems are still to be seen. Deadly spikes lurking out of sight and projectiles firing from walls, are but two which you will remember. Don't be too complacent though, as those scheming programmers at Core have devised hundreds of other ways to catch you out.

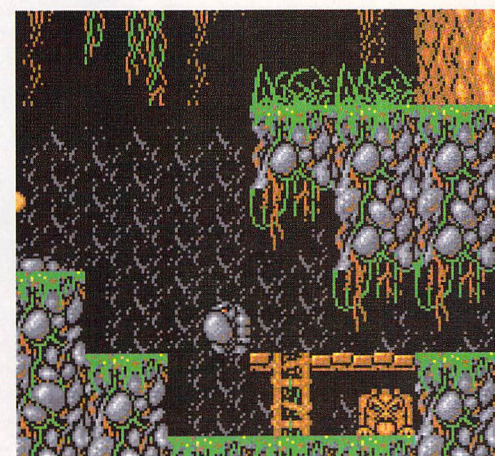
Rick II has advantages over its predecessor however, as it's now possible to complete each level in a variety of different ways. This gives the game a tremendous amount of appeal and playability. It also helps if you get stuck, as



Rick has to negotiate the caverns of Freezia before he meets his tormentor (Let's hope he's got his gloves!)



Watch out, they're everywhere - waiting to get you...



you know that there is always another way out. All you have to do is look for it.

Rick Dangerous was - and still is - a classic platform game. However, it came in for a lot of

criticism for being too difficult to complete. Rick II is still on the hard side, but Style has ensured that this version can be finished if you persevere. You'll find that it still retains many of the problems

which require trial and error before being overcome, but that is, and always will be, part of the fun. All in all, Rick II is yet another game worthy of a place in anyone's collection.



Any bets that Rick wishes he'd never gone on holiday? Just what horrible beasties will try to stop Superhero Rick from completing his mission of saving the Earth from the invasion of the little 'green' men. Wow, what hot action, will you be able to cope with it all?

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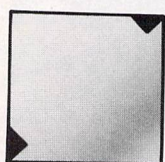
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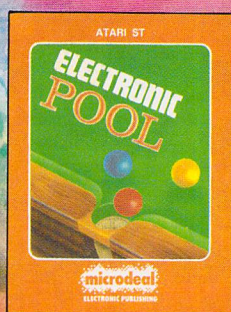


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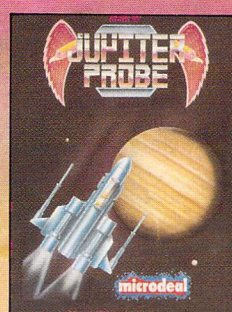
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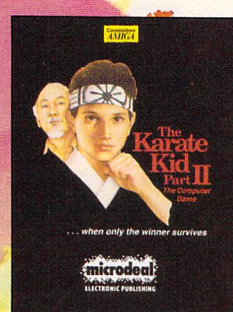
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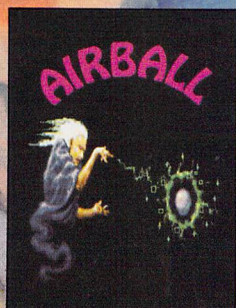
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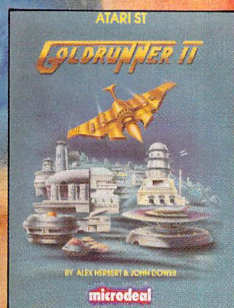
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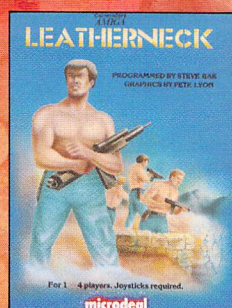
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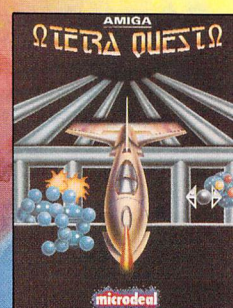
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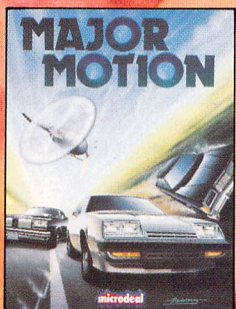
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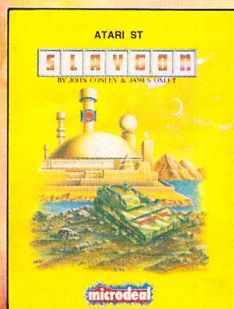
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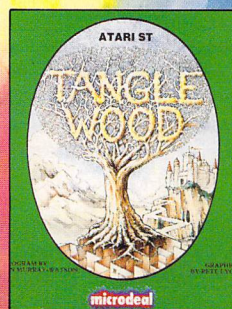
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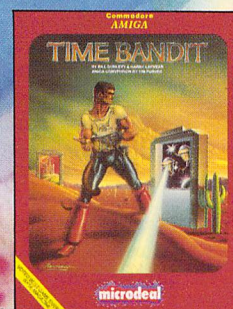
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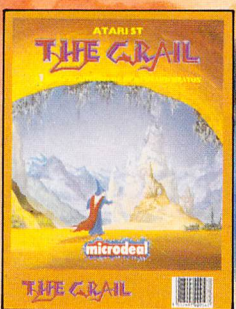
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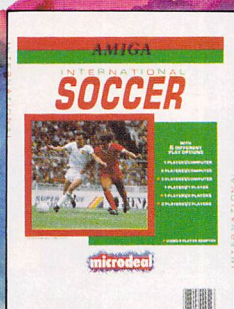
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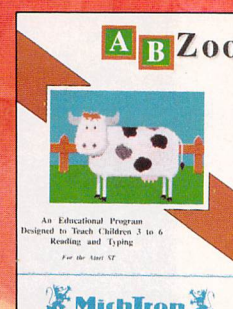
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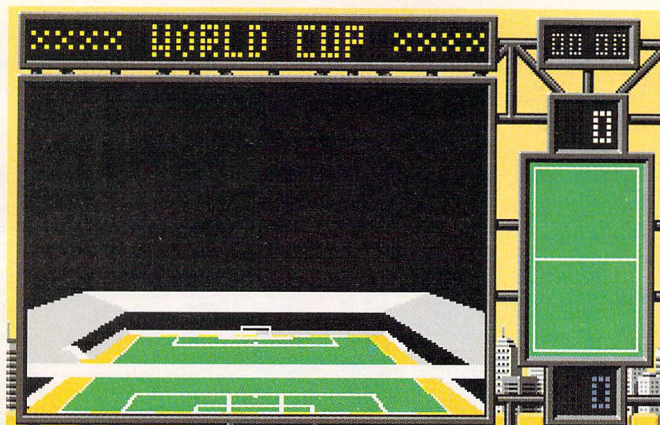
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You've made it to the World Cup - the things dreams are made of...



or maybe you should begin with less daunting competition...

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER CHALLENGE



House: MICROPROSE Price: £24.95

Yes, another footy game to tempt you into parting with your hard earned. Hot on the tail of a conglomerate of soccer releases (which either coincided with the World Cup or the start of our domestic season), comes International Soccer Challenge.

Microprose, unperturbed by the competition, seem to be

more than happy to let International Soccer Challenge bring up the rear, by giving it a much later release date than the rest.

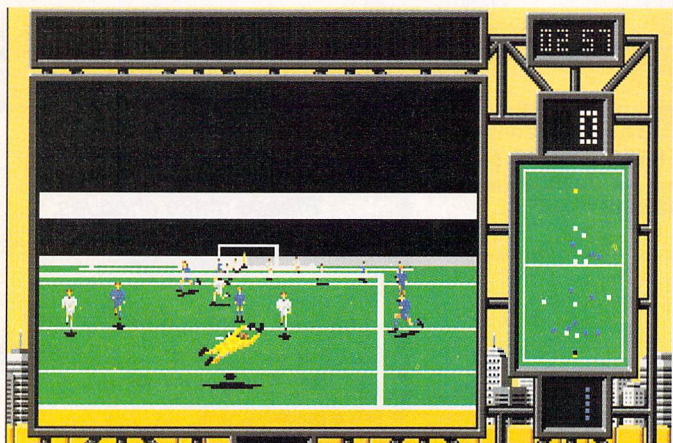
There's renewed interest in European Competition because of the recent re-admission of English clubs. It therefore seems that Microprose have landed on their feet with this game, because European League Com-

petition is just one part of its gameplay.

International Soccer Challenge lets you play in two competitions - a European League or the World Cup. When entering the club competition you can choose the side you wish to represent. So even teams like Halifax, Colchester and Sheffield Wednesday can finally make

their mark in the football world, by winning a major trophy. Encountering 15 world famous sides like A C Milan or Bordeaux, can be a daunting experience. So having the opportunity of team training to brush up on your skills, prior to the game is one you should be grateful for, so make the most of it.

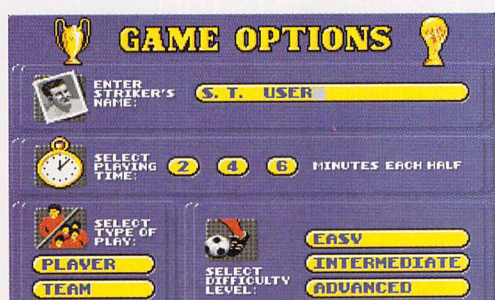
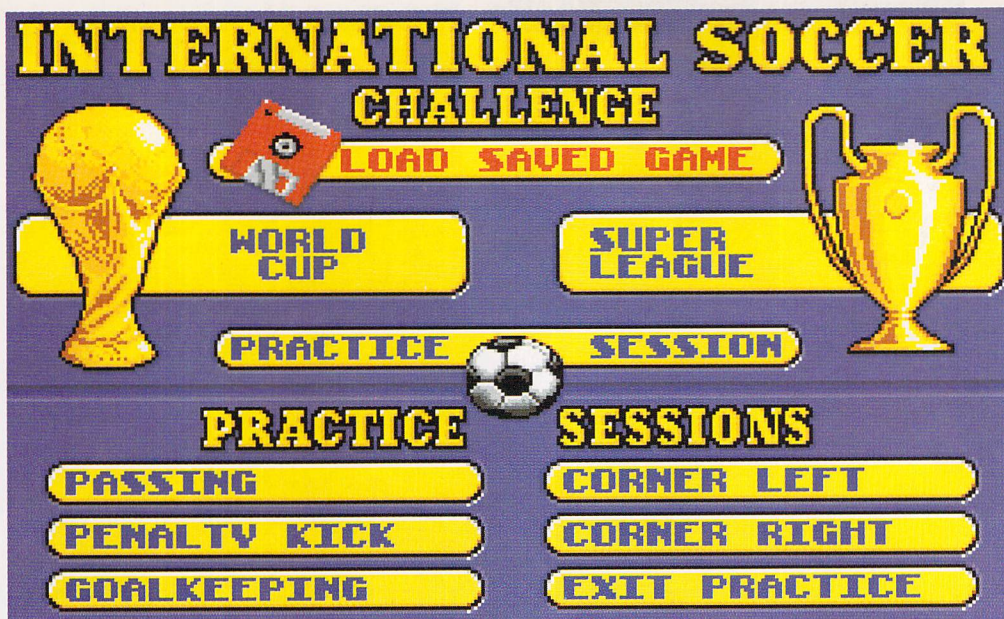
The duration of each game



Will your goalkeeper have what it takes to save the team from defeat?



When fair play fails some players resort to dirty tactics



It's up to you to make some decisions, for a start which level are you going to attempt first?



It's time to decide which team you're going to be - are you sure about Sheffield United?

can be determined before you kick off. Likewise the skill of your opponents can be governed so as to provide, easy or difficult competition. Having done your pre-match training and decided the criteria you will be playing under, it's time to change into your strip and prepare yourself for kick-off.

The teams stride out on to the pitch to the accompanying sounds of a foot-tapping little tune, and enthusiastic claps and cheers from the crowd. Now it's time to get down to the serious business and after checking with

his linesmen, the referee blows his whistle and gets the first half under way.

You've played football games which are viewed from above. You've probably even played some others which are viewed from the side, but this will be the first game in which you will watch the action from behind your own goal - this original concept takes some getting used to.

Everything works fine when you're on the attack, as you can see what is going on around you. Problems arise when your opponents are attacking your goal

because there's hardly any pitch visible in front of an attacking player. It therefore becomes very difficult to control your defenders effectively.

What usually happens is that your defenders are hidden off the screen for the main part, and when they do appear they generally run straight past the ball, before you are able to get them under control. This results in most of the opposing attacks putting undue pressure on your goalkeeper.

All the players under your control are indicated by an arrow,

TRIED AND TESTED:

GRAPHICS:84%
SOUND:75%
GAMEPLAY:80%
OVERALL.....84%

this is usually the player nearest the ball. When you have the ball at your feet you are blessed with extensive ball control - which even the great Pele would have been envious of. This allows you to make entertaining and exciting runs at the opposing goal, twisting and turning the defenders is only part of the fun.

Whether it's a real game, or make believe (as with a computer game) the thing which gives football supporters worldwide, the biggest high, is watching the ball hit the back of the net. International Soccer Challenge is no different, score a goal and I'll guarantee that you will raise out of your seat slightly, let go of your joystick and utter 'Yeah!'

If you decide that your talents are more suited for the world's stage, then there's only one competition worth considering - the World Cup. Here you can choose to represent one of 24 teams from a variety of different countries which have made it through to the final stages. In the first part of this competition you have to win your mini-league, so as to encounter the better teams in the quarter and semi-finals.

Microprose have given us an enjoyable alternative to the other games on the shelves at the moment. The details incorporated into the game, especially the slide tackles, are pleasant and relatively realistic.

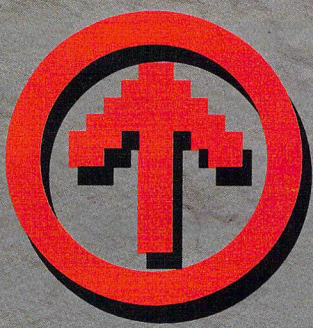
If the play screen and sprites had been slightly larger the whole game would have been more appealing and playable. Even so, if you are a football games fan it's definitely worth checking out.

| | | P | W | D | L | Diff | Pts |
|---|---------------|---|---|---|---|------|-----|
| 1 | SHEFF UNITED | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | + 9 | 4 |
| 2 | AJAX | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | + 2 | 4 |
| 3 | BORDEAUX | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | + 1 | 4 |
| 4 | BARCELONA | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | + 1 | 4 |
| 5 | VASCO D GAMA | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | + 1 | 4 |
| 6 | BRONDBV | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | + 1 | 3 |
| 7 | MANCHESTER U | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | + 0 | 3 |
| 8 | BAVERN MU' CH | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | + 0 | 3 |

How many points do you need to get to the top of the league?

| RESULTS | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------|---|
| BARCELONA | 2 | AJAX | 1 |
| BENFICA | 1 | AC MILAN | 3 |
| BORDEAUX | 1 | VASCO D GAMA | 1 |
| SHEFF UNITED | 5 | F. C. BRUGGE | 2 |
| LIVERPOOL | 1 | BAVERN MU' CH | 1 |
| MANCHESTER U | 3 | BRONDBV | 2 |
| RANGERS | 1 | DYNAMO KIEV | 2 |
| RED STAR | 1 | RIVER PLATE | 1 |

Sheffield United... how many? Even your wildest fantasies come true!



Captive[©]

The quest for freedom!

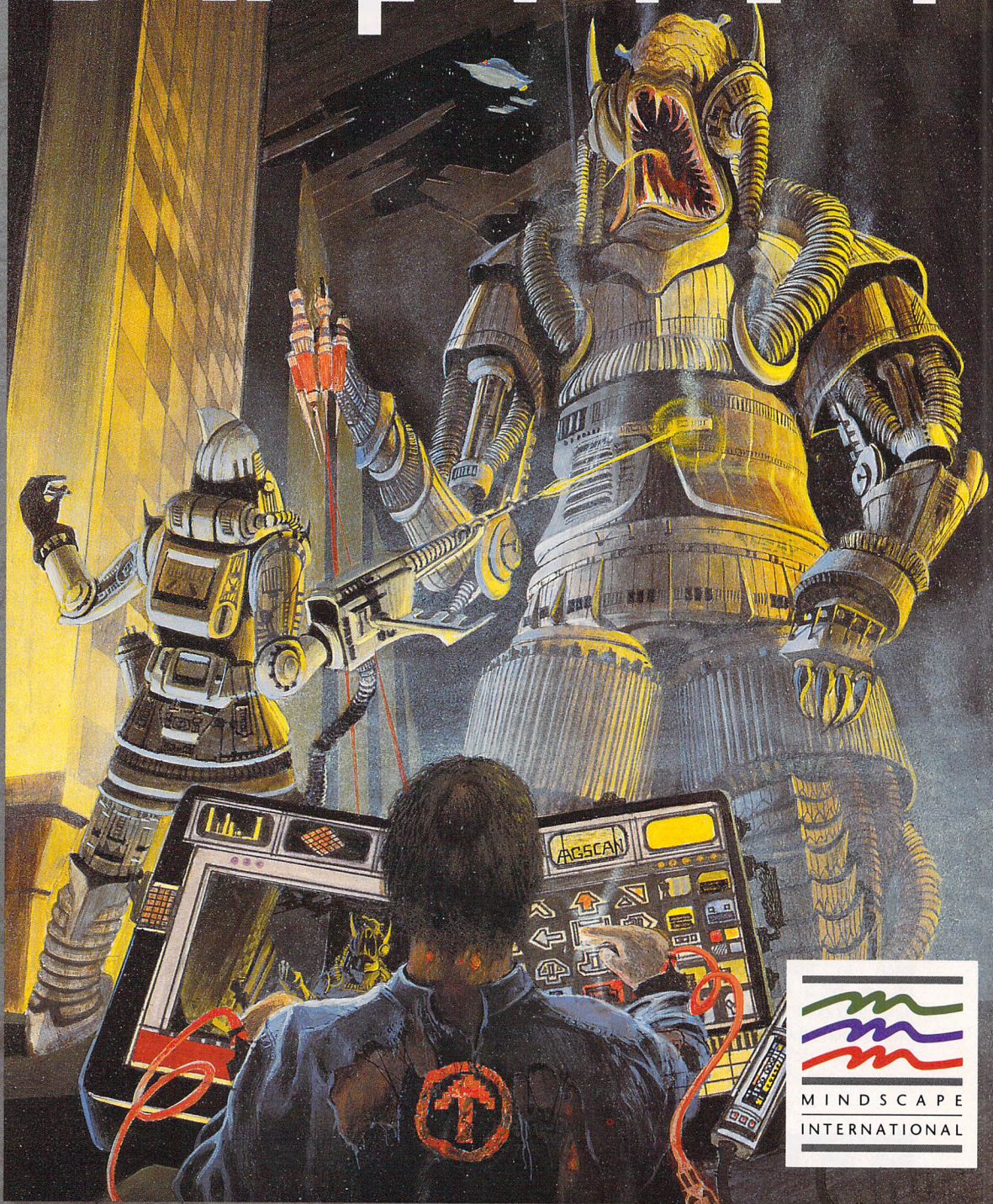
When you can't remember who you are, where you are and even what year it is, then you know trouble cannot be too far away...

Held **Captive** for two hundred years in an orbiting space prison for a crime you didn't commit, you are desperate to escape from your electronic gaol.

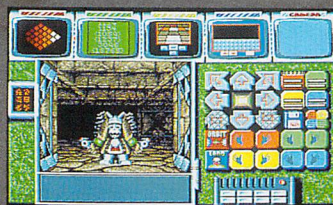
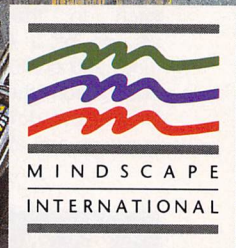
Armed only with a briefcase computer found in the corner of your cell, you start sending out electronic SOS calls to the battling world outside.

Eventually you find a motley crew of four droids ready to help bring about your escape..

..so begins your quest for freedom!



Available for Commodore Amiga, Atari ST, IBM PC and compatibles.
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Actual screen shots

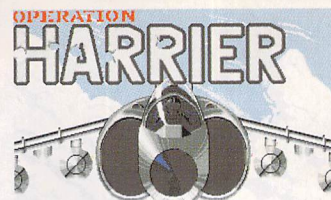
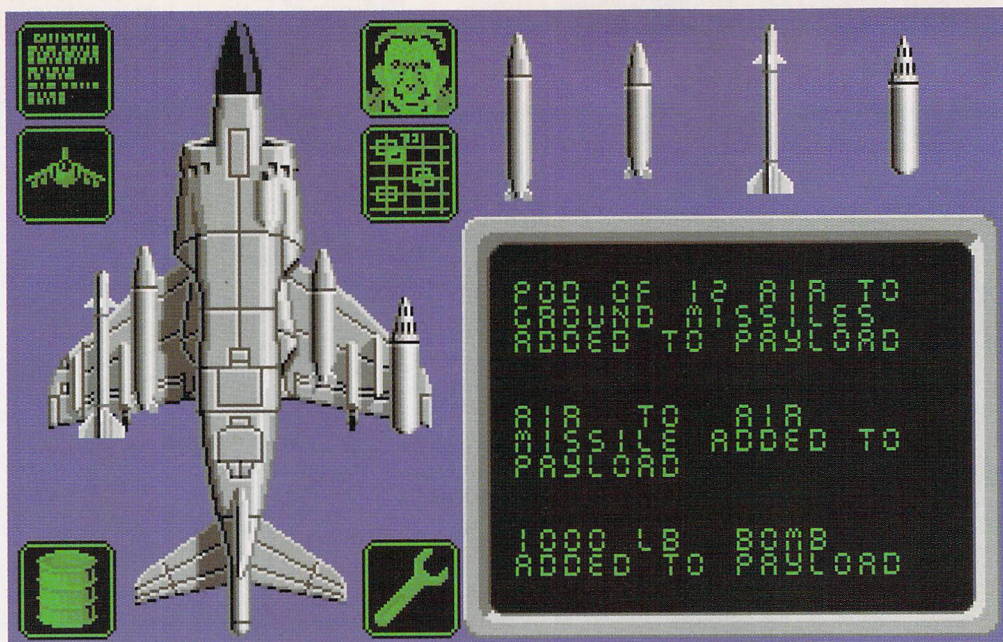
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ABOVE: Fast and furious, you'll need steel nerves to survive Operation Harrier

LEFT: Gentlemen (...and girls), choose your weapons

TRIED AND TESTED:

GRAPHICS:77%
SOUND:64%
GAMEPLAY:75%
OVERALL73%

After all the recent games to be released with an avionics theme, it's been quite some time since an honest-to-goodness shoot-em-up has appeared. US Gold in association with Creative Materials, have put this wrong to rights with Operation Harrier.

Creative Materials were responsible for programming Rotox, which featured their Rotoscope development. This means that the landscape is able to rotate through a two-dimensional 360 degree circle, using your character (in this case your plane) as the axis. For this reason they made the game around a Harrier jump jet, it's the only plane with a hover and rotate capability.

Piloting the McDonnell-Douglas AV-8B Harrier from a US aircraft carrier, somewhere in the Middle East (sounds very topical), you have a variety of missions to complete.

These can be anything from simply sinking an enemy cruiser, through to the retrieval of a nuclear warhead. Before each flight an unforgiving, cigar-chewing, superior officer briefs you on which target is to be your main objective.

Once you've familiarised yourselves with the details of the mission, you then have to oversee the loading of arms on to your plane.

This is done by the same method as the 'sims' use. You're presented with an underside view of the plane and the weaponry from which to choose. By moving the displayed cursor over the weapon required, and by pressing the fire button, you're able to drag your choice to the plane. Here, another press of the fire button will load it.

OPERATION HARRIER

House: US GOLD Price: £19.95

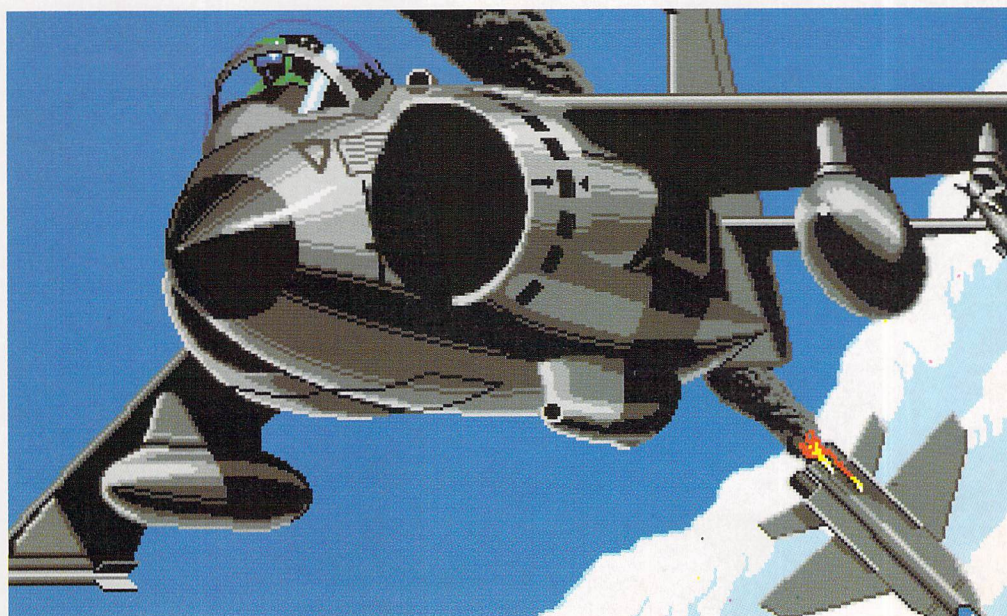
Out on deck, the ground crew prepare you for take-off and finally give you the thumbs-up.

After taking off on a vertical trajectory, take a quick look at the map to establish your position and set off in pursuit of your

quarry. If you can safely complete your mission and land the plane back on the ship there are promotions to be attained, all the way up to Air Chief Marshal.

The Battles are always fast and furious. You're not only a target

for the relentless waves of enemy fighters, but both the SAM missile bases and the patrolling battle-ships are under strict instructions to destroy you. It's almost enough to make you wish you'd joined the army.



TEENAGE MUTANT HERO TURTLES™



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THE HEROES IN A HALF SHELL™ ARE COMING!

AVAILABLE SOON ON:

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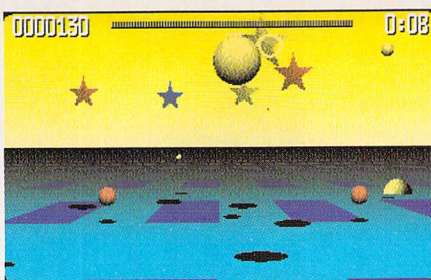
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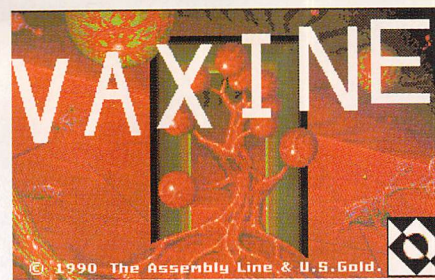




If you want to get ahead... don't get a hat, just follow these instructions and the invading nasties will come within range of your vaccine



Similar to "An Audience with Victoria Wood" lots of stars can be found, but this is the only place you are able to shoot them legally



After the success of "Pipe Mania" our trusty old friends at "The Assembly Line" have developed a bright new idea from E-Motion



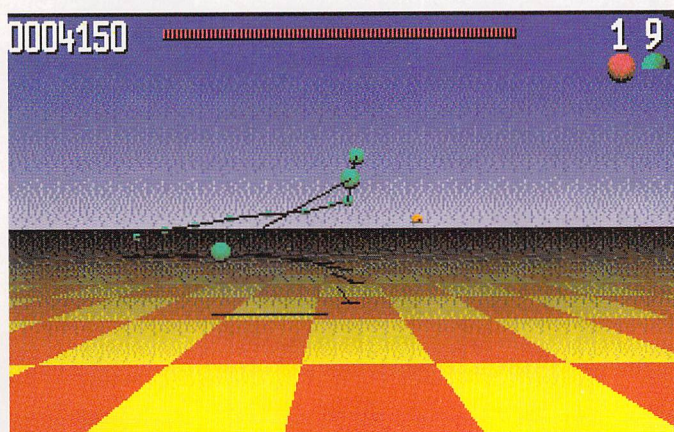
VAXINE

House: US GOLD Price: £19.95

If you enjoyed US Gold's challenging E. Motion, then you are in for a treat with their latest offering Vaxine. This game takes the E. Motion theme on a natural progression and into a three-dimensional field. Using the same Raytrace graphics, the game has developed more into a shoot-em-up than the touch-and-disappear antics found in its predecessor.

The action takes place inside a human body – although once the game has started nothing resembling a human torso, either inside or out can be seen anywhere. Your role is to act as a vaccine against invading viruses. The game could have been called anything, because despite the lack of bodily parts, what you end up with is a fast moving, colourful and well designed shoot-em-up.

Armed with a limited amount of red, orange and green orbs –



ABOVE: If this is what we are supposed to look like inside...call me a doctor.

BELOW: The invading viruses are sought out by a string of vaccine orbs on the excellently illustrated battle zone...



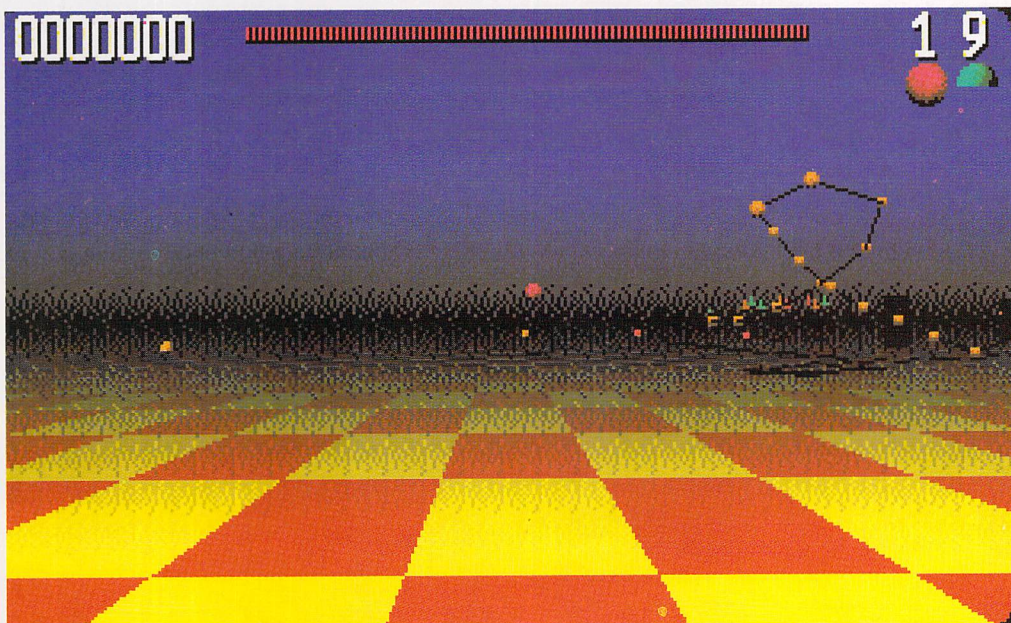
which represent the antidotes – you have to travel around the vast play area seeking out the viruses. To help you locate them, signs will appear giving you directions to the nearest group. When you do catch up with them, they can be destroyed by firing an orb of the same colour. If you hit it, then the virus will be killed.

Speed is of the essence – if left too long the viruses will attach themselves together and multiply, making your job even harder. If you succeed in clearing a level, bonus points are awarded and you progress to the next. If not, then the body quickly becomes over-run with the virus and death is swift.

Throughout the game, you will come into contact with colourful circles of stars. These, apart from being pretty, can be shot at so as to make a few extra points and gain valuable target practice.

The games arena has the Freespace feel to it. The way the game has been programmed enables you to move with tremendous speed. You need to exploit this to the full if you are to have any chance of catching the rapidly multiplying viruses.

Vaxine is a unique and original shoot-em-up. It's not a game that will appeal to everyone, but because of its novel gameplay, it has to be applauded.



TRIED AND TESTED:

GRAPHICS:80%
SOUND:70%
GAMEPLAY:70%
OVERALL.....71%

**Find out its limits.
Look in the mirror.**



Introducing the powerful new Atari 1040 STE. With such an awesome machine, we're convinced the only limits you'll come across are your own.

Based on the incredibly successful 1040 STFM, the 1040 STE itself goes beyond the limits of its predecessor.

The 'E', by the way, stands for 'Enhanced'. But once you've discovered its amazing array of features, you may consider 'Enhanced' to be the understatement of the decade.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the 1040 STE is its graphics. Its palette contains over 4000 colours (all right, 4096 to be exact).

To ensure precise and realistic images, the STE features 'hardware scrolling', enabling smooth scrolling in any direction and split-screen effects. And, with the SM124 monitor, you'll get razor sharp black-out-of-white text that's as clear as the type on this page.

To complete the picture, it is able to 'phase-lock' its video output to an external video source, permitting direct linking to a Genlocking device.

The 1040 won't just have your eyes swivelling in their sockets. Your eardrums will also take a pounding from the 8-bit PCM stereo sound.

The new PCM (Pulse Coded Modulation) sound system's two chips allow the 1040 STE to replay high-quality sampled sounds, in stereo, without burdening the CPU. Or, for even more of an earblasting, just add a couple of RCA output jacks and power the sounds through your own stereo.

Of course we mustn't forget memory. One megabyte of RAM comes as standard. If that's not enough, the 1040 STE provides four SIMM sockets. Simply plug in some SIMM (Single In-line Memory Module) boards and boost the RAM up to four megabytes.

To help you handle all this technology, we've added even more: a Blitter chip, capable of shifting data at high speeds independent of the CPU, and a new version of TOS.

The TOS 1.6 (operating system) has an enhanced file selector with drive-change buttons, improved desktop with file move, MS-DOS compatible disk formatting, and better application installation and auto-booting facilities.

As you'd expect, there's a huge range of peripherals including hard disks, floppy disks, laser printers, colour monitors and even Megafile 44, Atari's unique 44-megabyte removable hard disk.

As well as all this hardware, there are hundreds of software programmes for the 1040 STE - we're even throwing in the ST-Series Productivity and Leisure bundles free.

The Productivity bundle features a database, spreadsheet, word processor and business graphics package, and there's S.T.A.C., FirST BASIC, Hyperpaint and Prince in the Leisure bundle.

If you're itching to get your hands on the controls, there are two 15-pin analogue controller ports (which accept paddles, light-guns and light-pens) and a 9 pin mouse port and joystick port.

With adaptors, up to six people can use the 1040 at one time. Just in case it's too much for one person to handle.

At £499.99 it certainly won't be too much for one person to afford.

The ideal computer at the ideal price, you may think. We think so, too. But there remains only one potential problem: not whether you'll make impossible demands of the 1040, but whether the 1040 will make impossible demands of you.



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ATARI 1040STE

WITHOUT IT YOU'RE JUST PLAYING GAMES

Deep in the catacombs beneath Castle Wulf your adventure begins. Having not only wrecked your boat on the protruding rocks, but also your only means of escape, there is only one way left for you to go - into the darkness of the tunnels themselves

Those busy Bitmap Brothers have brought out another excellent game. This time it's an adventure which takes place in a well-designed and superbly-detailed labyrinth beneath the castle Wulf. The hero of the day is Karadoc, who after recent victorious conflicts against Bedwig the Giant and the dreaded ogre Caruncle, began to travel across the world, in an effort to spend his hard earned monies.

Having come upon an inn which lay close to a stagnant and pungent swamp, he entered and began to partake of ale. Finding that he was the centre of the locals' gazes, he let down his defences and joined into the conversation. When they heard of his adventures and conquests, a wry smile could be seen crossing their faces. They took this opportunity to inform Karadoc about the castle which could be found in the swamp, and the tragic events surrounding it.

Several years before, King Wulf had been slain by his younger half-brother Carolus, after a bloody three day battle.

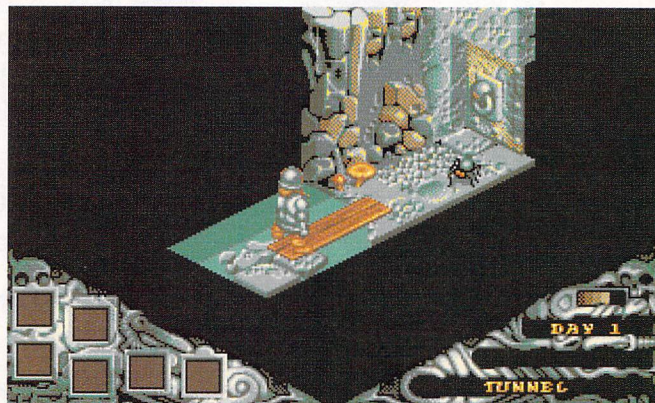
RIGHT: Finding that one of the many doors is open, you are suddenly confronted by a small furry spider - is it harmless or lethal?

BELOW: By using the 'Drag' icon you are able to move these sacks of rocks and find out what secrets they are concealing



CAD AVER

House: MIRRORSOFT Price: £24.95



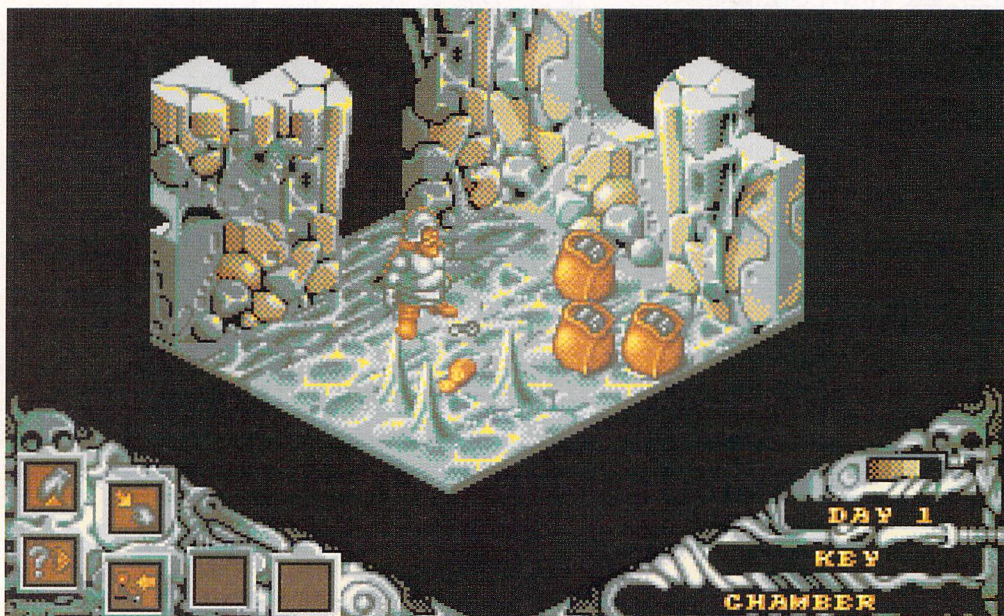
This was Carolus's method of retribution for the anger and humility he had to endure, after Wulf banished him from the castle and surrounding lands.

Although Carolus acquired the throne, he was destined to rule for only a year and a day, before he too met his death on the end of a sword during a massive uprising. Since that day, the castle has lain empty with just the powerful Dianos, a few creatures and millions of pieces of gold as its occupants.

The story-teller, aware of Karadoc's now interested expression, goes on to ask him if he would alleviate the situation for the few survivors of that fateful night. To do this he would have to seek out Dianos and destroy him. They promised that, if he did take up the task, any treasures he could find will be his to keep. As expected, all this talk about unlimited treasure was too much for our hero, and he quickly made his way to the castle.

The game is fully controllable on the joystick, and is fairly easy to interact with. In your travels you will come into contact with a lot of objects which will be of use to you on your quest. When you do, simply walk into them and several icons will appear in the windows in the bottom left of the screen.

By moving the highlighter over the icon you wish to bring into



RIGHT: Arghh! Not more confrontations! Delve into your rucksack and arm yourself with a few rocks to throw at it. Self preservation is paramount

BELOW: By walking into any objects you find, the icon window in the bottom left of the screen will display all the commands available to you. By moving your highlighter over the chosen icon and pressing your fire button your commands will be instigated



operation and by pressing the fire button, you will be allowed to either pick the object up or drag it behind you (this is useful when trying to find hidden objects). It's also possible to examine the article to find out exactly what it is, and also if it has any special properties.

You always have the option to examine objects that you are either carrying or about to pick up, and it is advisable to do so. If you decide to take the item, it will be placed into your rucksack for future use. The rucksack has room for 32 items and can be accessed at any time by using your return button on the key-board.

Although there are 15 different icons needed to play the game properly, the only ones that will appear on the screen are those wishing to be manipulated. So it's impossible to eat a pick-axe or to wear a loaf of bread. This makes using the icons an easy thing to



ABOVE: Open the box or take the money?

LEFT: On the wall a lever can be found, but what will happen if you pull it?

master and allows you to concentrate on playing the game.

Within the adventure a variety of archaic weaponry are available to you. Don't let looks deceive you as you'll sometimes be surprised to see that these decrepit looking articles pack a hell of a punch. The creatures which roam through the passageways come in numerous shapes and sizes, and range from fairly docile to totally lethal. Making contact with them will drain your energy, but this can be replenished by eating and drinking the various foods and beverages left lying around.

Cadaver promises to be a game that will keep adventurers busy long into the new year. Bitmaps and Mirrorsoft have spent a lot of time getting the product ready and are convinced that it will be a success. The definition of cadaver according to the dictionary is corpse - I'm pleased to announce that this game is most definitely alive and well, and should be around for a long time to come.

TRIED AND TESTED:

REVIEWER:.....MIKE
GRAPHICS:88%
SOUND:78%
GAMEPLAY:89%
OVERALL.....90%

LEFT: Nearly through the first testing part of this adventure. Due to the fact that a giant worm is blocking your path - it's time once again to reach for a few rocks



STU11

THE ATARI ABC

Now, there's a PC-AT compatible that not only solves problems like other AT compatibles, it also solves the one problem that its predecessors have created ... affordability.

Silica Systems are pleased to present the new Atari ABC. The ABC is a 286 AT compatible that runs at over 5 times the performance of the IBM XT. This is achieved by combining the power and speed of a 16-bit 286 processor, with Atari Corp's development experience and engineering capabilities, which use the very latest in design technology. However, the Atari ABC's are available at 'XT prices' and many XT owners will wonder why they paid more, but got less!

The ABC is a reliable, high performance computer, built to exceptionally rigorous standards. It is well designed, to a state of the art specification, maintaining maximum expansion capability for the future. This includes up to 4Mb of RAM and 3 AT expansion slots. Plus, unusually for a PC at this price, the ABC has the ability to install two or three extra drives, with the cabling already inside the CPU.

The ABC has a host of impressive features, all built-in as standard, encouraging simple installation and ease of use. In addition, the ABC's small footprint and quiet operating, mean that you will notice it less on your desk than other PC's. Except, of course, when you begin to take advantage of its AT power.

At its remarkably low price point, the ABC is ideally suited for home, office and educational use and will take full advantage of the vast range of PC compatible software. And, with 12 months FREE on-site maintenance (8 hour response), you can rest assured that your ABC will be fully supported.

The ABC is the latest addition to a comprehensive range of both 286 (8Mhz or 12Mhz) and 386 (16Mhz and 20Mhz) PC's, from the Business Systems Division of Atari Corp. Atari's PC range offers an unsurpassed combination of reliability, compatibility and expandability, with unique features like Atari's 44Mb removable hard disk on their PC4. Return the coupon NOW for further details of the complete range of PC products from Atari's Business Systems Division.

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AVAILABLE: JUNE 90

To put the ABC even further ahead of the competition, we have introduced a special 'Turbo' version, which includes a super fast RLL hard disk controller to increase the data transfer rate from 150KBytes/s to 800KBytes/s, with a performance index of 4.801. Plus! to provide exceptional graphics with an outstanding colour resolution of up to 1024x768, we have included a Super VGA graphics adaptor and a 14" VGA colour monitor (which also supports 1024x768 resolution), all for an additional price of only £300. Check the ABC Turbo against the competition, at only £1299 (+VAT) with 30Mb hard disk, Super VGA colour graphics capabilities, plus 12 months on-site maintenance, it offers unbeatable value.

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|-----------------|---|
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| I/O | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parallel port built-in (25-pin Centronics) Serial port built-in (9-pin RS-232) Mouse controller port built-in (9-pin serial) |
| GRAPHICS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Super VGA video graphics controller - 512K - Turbo vers Super VGA: 256 colours in 800x600 res - Turbo vers EGA video graphics controller built-in EGA: 16 colours available from a palette of 64 EGA: 256K of dedicated Video RAM built-in MDA, CGA and Hercules graphics controller built-in |
| PHYSICAL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low noise operation Ergonomic small footprint (38cm x 41cm x 15cm) Keyboard - 102 key enhanced AT (12 function keys) Keyboard - has 2 position height adjusters |
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Brute force and ignorance are two of the criteria required by players of Future Basketball

The year is 2190. Massive world-wide unemployment sends anarchic ripples through every corner of the globe. Governments, concerned that things are getting out of hand, try to develop a sport on which the disillusioned masses can vent their frustrations.

Over the last two centuries, games such as American football and ice hockey had fallen by the wayside after being considered too tame. What's needed now, is something with a real bite – a game where aggression and violence walk hand in hand. This is to be the start of Future Basketball.

Gone are the days of the Harlem Globetrotters, memories of Curley and Michael Jordan have faded into oblivion. The game of Future Basketball bears no resemblance to its predecessor. Body armour, crash helmets, studded gloves and boots – along with a large appetite for inflicting pain on your fellow man – are the requirements needed to participate.

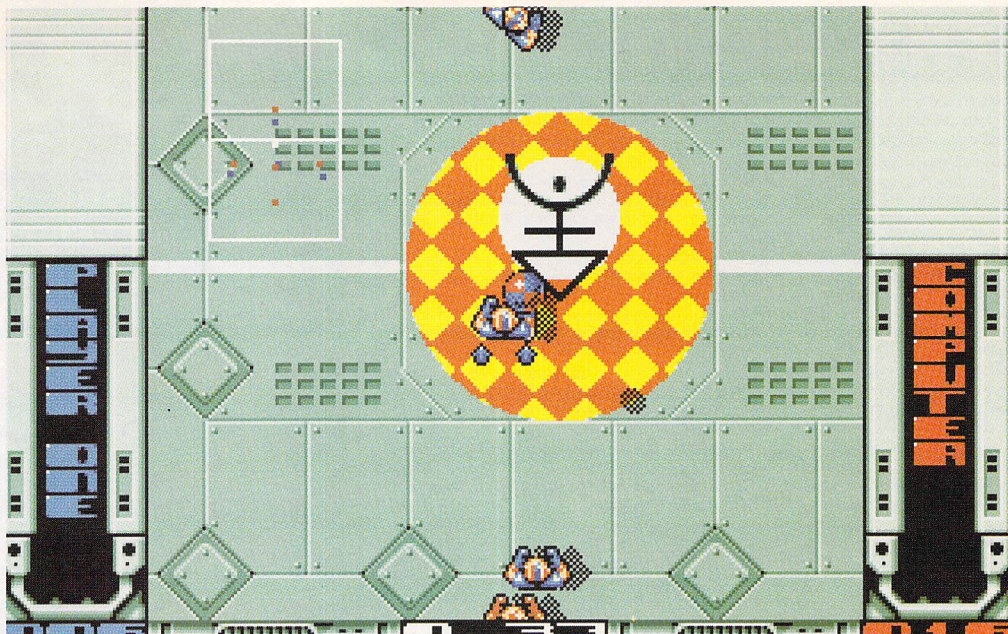
Gone are the days of running sedately round a wooden-floored court. In its place, there is a solid steel pit, with a high reinforced safety wall surrounding it. This not only keeps the public safe from the players, but the players safe from a very blood-thirsty crowd.

The assembled cheer, a whistle blows, and from a deep

FAR RIGHT: Body armour is a must, bulging biceps are optional

RIGHT: Hordes of other teams await a confrontation with you

BELOW: The theory remains the same, and a basket is still 2pts



FUTURE BASKETBALL

House: HEWSON Price: £19.95

| DIVISION 3 | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Player | P | D | L | Pts |
| Danger Dudes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brothers in Arms | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Yankee Boys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Green Machine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Heavy Boys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Golden Boys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gun Gun Boys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| The Gun Boys | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |



recess under the floor the ball is shot high into the air. Bodies compete to get to it first. The way to strip your opponents of the ball is to charge into them. All defenders can increase their speed by using the fire button on the joystick.

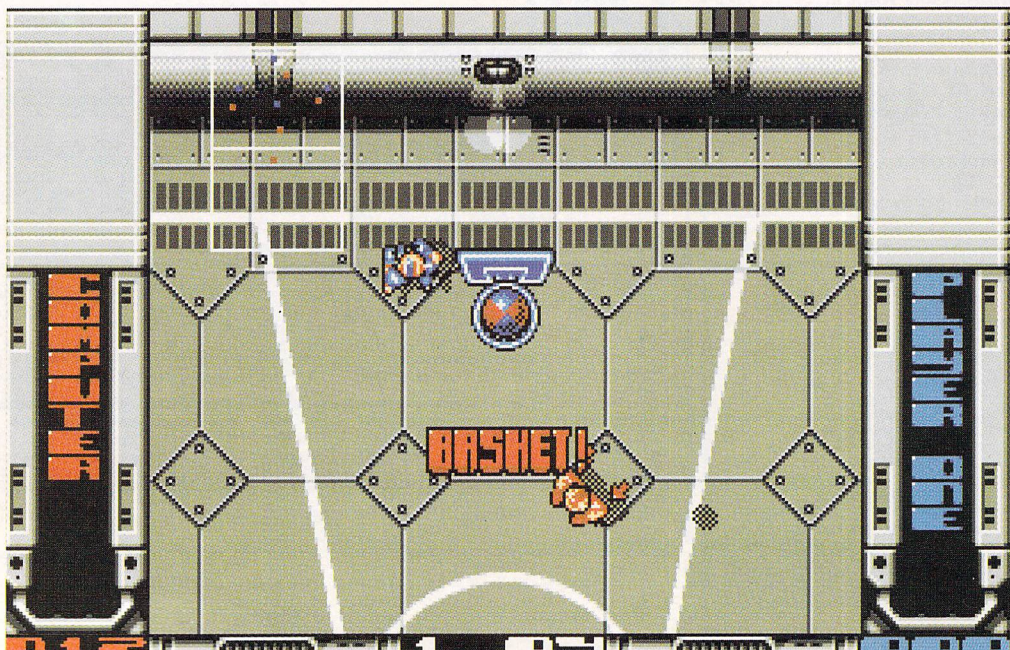
Thrown into the pit to assist your game are varying power-ups, but as these are also collected by your opponents, sometimes they're helpful, but mostly just a hindrance.

Future Basketball offers you anything new. The music is nothing special, and the crowd cheers bear an uncanny resemblance to radio static.

Gameplay is predictable and uninspiring. If these are the games of the next century, then you'll have nothing to fear from the Basketball mob.

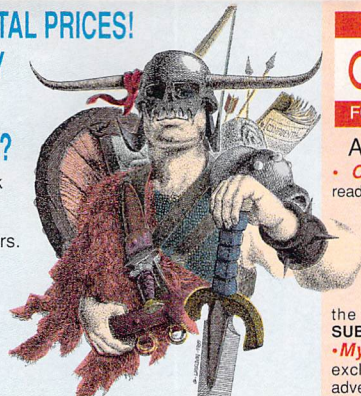
TRIED AND TESTED:

GRAPHICS:55%
SOUND:56%
GAMEPLAY:55%
OVERALL.....55%



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• **Myth.** Written by Magnetic Scrolls, authors of The Pawn, exclusively for members of Official Secrets. Myth is a small adventure set in Ancient Greece. In it you'll meet The Ferryman, cheat Death and face the nine-headed Hydra. Myth includes the famous Magnetic Scrolls parser and optional stunning EGA graphics and is included in the price of membership.

Amiga Format said: "An excellent adventure... witty, cunning and just plain good fun! If you liked Fish! you'll probably like this, because they're very similar in style: you may even prefer Myth, it's that good!"

Myth Ratings: Crash 91%, CU 90%, Amiga Format 87%, TGM 85% • **Drakkhen or Sim City (rrp 29.99).**

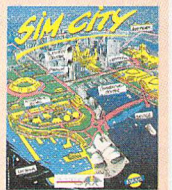
Of Drakkhen, **ST Action said:** "Drakkhen really impressed me. For me, the game was a subtle cross between my all-time favourite, Dungeon Master, and the SSI fantasy role-playing game, The Graphics are superb..."

Overall, Drakkhen is an excellent RPG, one that will take quite some time to beat" and **Zero said:** "Absolutely brilliant!"

Of Sim City, **ACE said:** "Sim City is a politician's - or a gamesplayer's - dream... comparisons spring immediately to mind with Populous... but Sim City seems to have much more depth..." and **C&VG said:** "Sim City is utterly fab"

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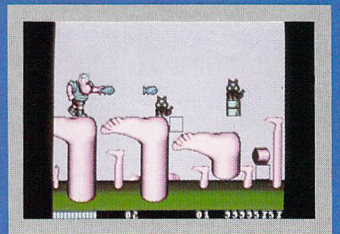
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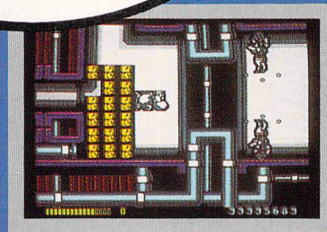
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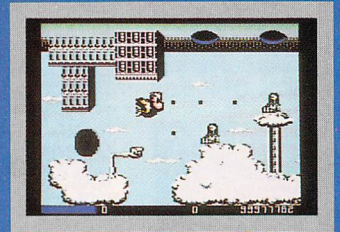
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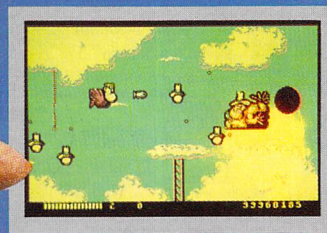
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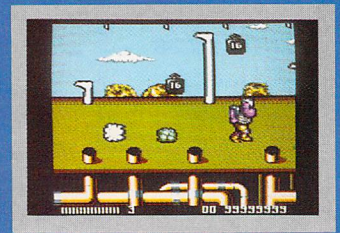
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With civilization falling into disarray, it's only a matter of time before the whole infrastructure collapses and total anarchy takes over. A glimmer of hope still exists as folklore tells of crowns which are jealously guarded within each kingdom. All four crowns need to be brought together at a place known as The Tower. Here once placed in the possession of 'the watcher', they will have the power to bring peace and prosperity back to mankind.

At the start of the game you have to nominate the leader of your army. On the screen there are 16 characters from which to make your choice. Each of these

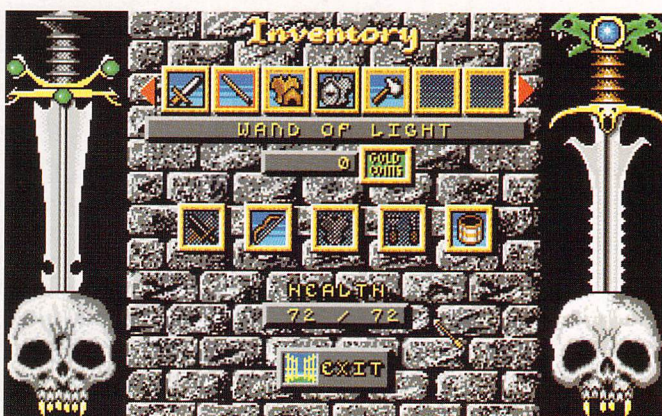
RIGHT: If there's anything you need... Gentlemen, choose your weapons



ABOVE: Choose your knight here!

BOTTOM RIGHT: In the thick of the action - watch out!

BOTTOM LEFT: Wanna better look? The map provides a clearer view



characters has the skills of either a warrior, merchant, thief or magician.

When you've decided on the character you're going to play, the next thing you need to do is to explore the surrounding environment.

By invading the other creatures' territories, you can acquire gold, food, weapons and armour. When you've gathered enough gold you can increase the size of your army by buying extra soldiers.

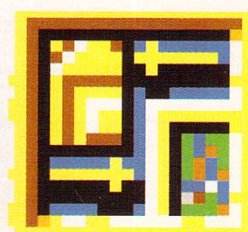
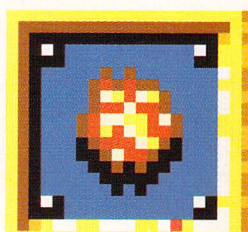
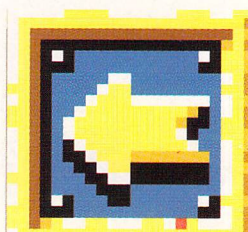
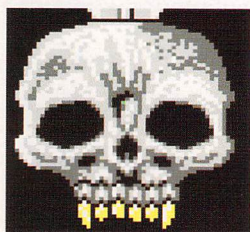
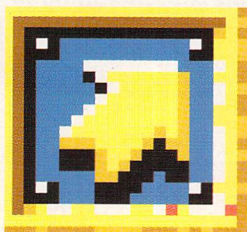
Battle tactics are a vital element of the game. If you use the right formation of soldiers when going into battle or exploring enemy strongholds, your life expectancy gets longer. If you use the wrong ones you will inevitably die sooner, rather than later.

Battlemaster is another variation of the traditional RPG. The graphics are small and not particularly exciting, and the gameplay didn't exactly have me on the edge of my seat.

It does include more arcade action than the other games reviewed in this issue, and I found that basically, it followed the same theme.

TRIED AND TESTED:

GRAPHICS:68%
SOUND:35%
GAMEPLAY:64%
OVERALL67%





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Let's Spell Series. Over 10,000 copies Sold Let's Spell At The Shops

A new and exciting concept in learning to spell. This program teaches children letter recognition and spelling with the aid of graphics, speech synthesis sound and print out option to monitor the child's progress. Let's spell conforms to the National Curriculum – look, cover, spell. There is also a French version to help teach your child to spell in French, this includes sampled French speech to aid pronunciation.

Let's Spell At Home

The second in the series of Let's Spell titles. This time it's in the home and garden. As with all Let's Spell titles it features four levels of difficulty, mouse control, and a print out option.

Let's Spell Out And About

You travel from a bus station to various places of interest, at each location you are able to point and spell from the screen. This program concludes the Let's Spell series with visits to the Farm, Seaside, Zoo and Theme park.

Puzzle Book 1

The first in the Puzzle Book series, consisting of six programs on two discs. Magic squares – as used in schools. Wordhunt – make as many words as you can from a word of your choice. Reaction timer – a variation of snap. Maze – teaches map and compass skills. Clock patience – have you got the patience to beat the computer? Robot Nim – a logic game played against the computer.

Puzzle Book Volume 2

The second in the series of puzzle book titles. This Puzzle Book contains another six tantalizing puzzles, 'Pentominoes' as used in schools for shape orientation, 'Numeric Anagrams' based on National Curriculum standards, 'Blow Up Buddy' test your tables from 2x1 to 94x69 depending on level, 'Balloons' a variation of hangman but using balloons, 'Pipeline' can you break the combination, and yet another type of patience. There are eight skill levels ranging from beginner for young children to genius for adults!

Spell Book

Designed for primary school children age 4-9. Spell book allows a child to practice spelling in an entirely distraction free surrounding and very importantly in the lower years in a lower case environment. The program is completely mouse controlled with a very colourful set of pictures this program now comes with six full alphabets to start your child on the road to correct spelling.

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Three programs on one disc – Anagrams, Wordhunt and Jumbled sentences. Designed for 5 and upwards this suite of programs contains tasks to develop word recognition and consolidate sentence structure in an entertaining manner.

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It's morning and after having your snap, it's off into the wild blue yonder for adventure...

LEGEND OF FAERGHAIL

House: RAINBOW ARTS Price: £24.95

Remember The Bards Tale? Well, here's a game that could have come from the same mould. If you take Dungeons, Dragons, Mystery and Magic and add some naive and intrepid characters, that is.

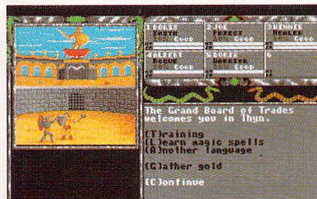
Make them learn a trade such as medicine, weaponry, the art of thievery or the spells of a magician, and then you have the basis of 95 per cent of the RPGs on the market. And this one is no different.

The story behind Legend is that you've been chosen by a court of magicians from Sherilyn, to try and bring peace back to Faerghail. Until recently,



You'll meet all sorts out in the wilderness

Faerghail had been a tranquil, peaceful land, however all this changed when the traditionally friendly elves sold their souls to the underworld. Now these anti-social little creatures are causing chaos by plundering and pillaging villages across the kingdom,



At the Grand Board of Trades, where boys become men (wonder what happens to the women?)

murdering anyone who gets in their way.

On vacating a bar in the village of Thyn, your first priority is to recruit a band of trusty followers to accompany you. Having done this, a quick visit to the trading post to get everybody kit-

ted out with armour and weapons is in order. Now you are ready to start the game.

For information and any future requirements, in every village can be found a Bank, where you can save your gold coins, the Grand Board of Trades, where each character can gain experience in languages and magic, the Temple of Deliverance, where the dead can be resurrected or wounds healed and lastly the inn, where hot food and a soft bed are available, at a price!

Travelling into the wilderness you soon meet up with a variety of creatures. On meeting them you can fight and thereby gain experience points, talk to them or run away - the decision is yours. Making your way through the masses of trees which slow your progress, is a major task. Getting through is really important if you are to reach the elves' caverns, where most of the excitement takes place.

Legend of Faerghail is a good RPG but unfortunately, it won't receive the same recognition as Dungeon Master.



.....
TRIED AND TESTED:
GRAPHICS:72%
SOUND:60%
GAMEPLAY:79%
OVERALL.....78%

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LEFT: By finding the power-ups you can achieve a state of invulnerability as well as arming yourself to the teeth for the impending onslaught – let battle commence...

Rainbow Arts' best-selling game Turrican has finally made the transition from 8-bit to 16-bit machines. Released earlier this year by the team that brought you X-OUT, it received rave reviews from the press throughout Europe.

The game takes you on a journey through five worlds, in an effort to encounter Morgul, the Emperor of Fear and Master of Darkness. This evil three-headed monster is out to destroy mankind. Standing between you and your destiny are 1300 screens, full of excitement and mayhem. Throughout every level, swarms of bugs, bats, mechanical monsters, piranha and other nasties await your appearance.

By annihilating everything that crosses your path you should eventually reach the end-of-level guardian. These heavily armoured creatures need to be obliterated before you can progress into the next world. To help you in your quest, you have been armed with a lethal bolt-firing gun, an unlimited amount of ammunition and to assist you in really sticky situations, powerful energy beams, which destroy everything upon contact.

Hopefully along the way you will find the power-ups you need to replenish your energy levels, or increase your fire-power. Sometimes though, your weapons seem fickle against the

TURRICAN

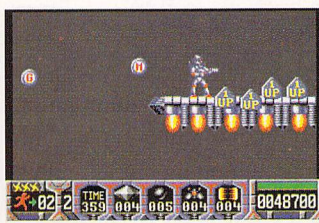
House: RAINBOW ARTS Price: £19.95



Shocking and electrifying game-play makes TURRICAN addictive

onslaught you're up against. If this happens, you have the ability to change into an invincible gyroscope which will hopefully get you out of any predicament.

Turrican is nicely detailed and



Somewhere in the darkness lives are lost.....or found!

excellently set out. It's refreshing to find that considerable thought has been put in to the accompanying music – the soundtrack is very appealing and enhances the game tremendously.

Unfortunately, because the programmers needed to maintain fast scrolling and fast sprite movement, something had to be sacrificed and hence the screen is not quite full size. Rainbow Arts made the right choice though, because once you start playing the game, it's something you don't even notice.

If you're either a platform or shoot-em-up games fan you should to add this to your collection. Be prepared however, to spend a lot of time in front of your monitor, because the further you get into the game the more surprises it throws up at you.

TRIED AND TESTED:

GRAPHICS:88%
SOUND:85%
GAMEPLAY:90%
OVERALL.....90%

RIGHT: Headaches are easily to get, especially if one of these rocks hits you...



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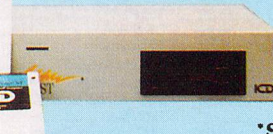
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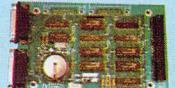
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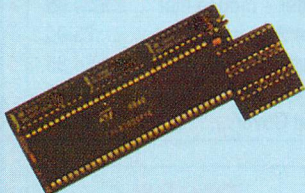
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1.44MB external floppy drive **£129.99**

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Atari trained engineers on site to undertake repairs, simply send your machine along with a £10 fee for the return carriage charge and we will send you a written quotation for repairing your machine.

Repairs start at **£25**

Turnaround time 3-5 days

ST Scanners

A4 Flatbed 200DPI copier, scanner & printer **£439.99**
A4 Flatbed 600DPI with OCR software & interface 64 grey scales **£899.99**
400 DPI X-TRA with hand held scanner **£169.99**



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£9.99

Hardware virus protector offers total protection against all link virus & boot block virus. Disable switch. Plugs into your disk drive port. Never be infected again. Also supplied with virus killer & manual

Atari Genlocks

- *Composite PAL & RGB out
- *Title & animate any video
- *Plugs straight into any ST
- *Amiga Genlock quality at last on your ST.
- *Allows digitised results to be stored and overlayed onto any VHS recorder
- *Overscan facility available with optional fader control
- *Video in & out on scart
- *SC1224 & Phillips 8833 compatible



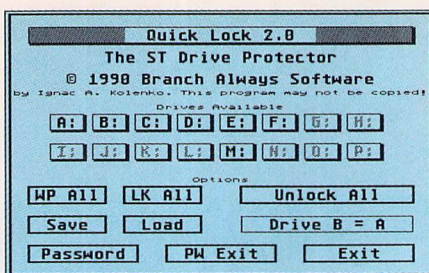
GST 40E Budget Genlock **£249.99**
GST Gold Genlock **£499.99**
GST Gold Pro Genlock **£649.99**
GST Gold with Splitter + Fader **£899.99**

Broadcast quality genlocks available call for details and pricing.

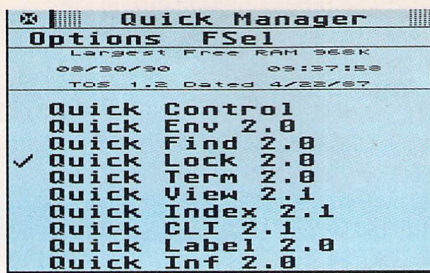
Demonstrations can be arranged call to make an appointment

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 520STFM Discovery Pack £259.99 | 520STE Power Pack £339.99 | 520STE 1Meg Memory £389.99 |
| 520STE 2.5MB memory £499.99 | 520STE 4MB memory £625.99 | Mega 1 & SM124 £615.99 |
| Mega 2 & SM124 £899.99 | Mega 4 & SM124 £1199.99 | Mega 2 with 4MB £999.99 |
| High Resolution SM124 £99.99 | SC1224 Monitor £269.99 | Phillips 8833 Monitor £249.99 |

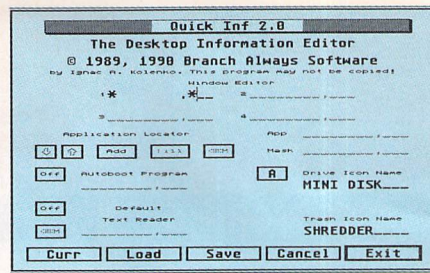
Please Make Cheques/Postal Orders Payable To Third Coast Technologies Ltd.
We Also Accept Access And Visa Over The Telephone.



Lock out viruses or protect your drives with passwords



Save your desk accessory slots with this Quick Manager Utility



Puzzled by DESKTOP.INF? Now you can edit it with Quick Inf

Product: Quick Tools Volume 1
Supplier: Branch Always Software,
 Box 2624, Station B, Kitchener Ontario,
 Canada N2H 6N2
Price: £29.95
Configuration: All STs

Darek Mihocka's Quick utilities are well known among regular PD library browsers, as they have been around for quite some time. Quick Tools Volume 1 is a collection of most of these programs (Quick ST being sorely missed). Included is the specially written Quick Manager which enables you to call the programs up with a single mouse click.

The toolkit consists of the latest versions (2.0 or greater) of Quick CLI, Quick Control, Quick Env, Quick Find, Quick Index, Quick Inf, Quick Label, Quick Lock, Quick Term and Quick View. They can be installed separately as desk accessories, or the Quick Manager accessory can be used to load and run each utility. That way they don't consume any memory or take up valuable desk accessory slots.

Quick Env enables you to define environment variables (these are used on MS-DOS and UNIX machines), like PATH which tells TOS where to look for files it can't find in the current working directory or folder. You could, for instance, store all your resource files in C:\RESOURCE and set PATH to C:\RESOURCE.

At first sight Quick Find seems to be quite a trivial utility, simply finding files and printing directory listings on screen or printer. Further investigation however, reveals a host of useful extras. You can set a search mask with optional wildcards, then set or reset file attributes like the archive bit (used by intelligent hard disk backup utilities), the read/write flag, update the time and date stamps, set the fast file load flag for TOS 1.4 and so on.

Quick Index measures the performance of your ST. It tests the CPU register, divide, shift and memory operations, the disk drive read speed, GEMDOS file creation, disk rpm, TOS text, string and scroll functions and GEM dialog speed. It takes into account all versions of TOS, colour and mono screens. Use it with speed-up utilities like Turbo ST to see how much it improves performance.

DESKTOP.INF files are mysterious, little-understood things that somehow record the state of your desktop. Quick Inf enables you to edit the information stored in this file, to set alternative search masks and change icon names. You could call the TRASH can a LIQUIDISER and alter both FLOPPY and HARD DISKS to rude names. It's fun, but somehow I managed to screw up my hard disk so it wouldn't boot.

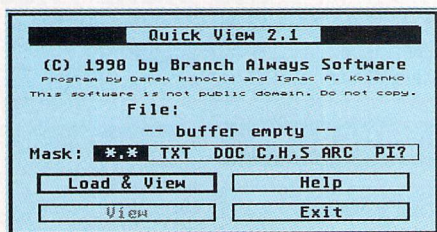
If you ever need to print up to 999 copies of the same label Quick Label is just the utility for you - enter up to 10 labels with 10 lines of

TERRIFIC TOOLS!

Quick as a flash, Roland Waddilove delves to the bottom of a grab-bag packed with utilities...



Searching for lost files



Load and display text files

THE BOTTOM LINE

Features: A superb collection of utilities - some more useful than others.

Ease of use: No problems, apart from a clash with Turbo ST that causes Quick Tools to crash.

Features
 Excellent
 Good
 Average
 Bad
 Appalling

Ease of use
 Excellent
 Good
 Average
 Bad
 Appalling

text using a variety of print styles. However, most word processors' mail merge facilities are better. An alternative control panel is Quick Control which enables you to alter the printer and RS232 parameters.

Stop viruses (or small children) ruining your work by write protecting floppy and hard disk drives using Quick Lock. Other options include password protection, so no-one else can unlock the system and read/write protection so you can't even load a file, let alone delete one.

If you need to get online quickly, but don't need to up or download files Quick Term is just the job. With a Hayes compatible modem hooked up to your ST you can enter AT commands and dial up a service. Another utility is Quick View, handy for reading ASCII text files. It can automatically load and display a DOC or TXT file and enables scrolling either by page or line.

Quick CLI is a command line interpreter that takes you back to the days before GUIs (graphic user interfaces). Any of DIR, LC, LS or L will produce a directory listing on the screen just like MS-DOS or UNIX machines. MOVE and MV move files while COPY and CP copy files (and enable you to alter file attributes). DEL, DELETE, ERA, ERASE and RM all delete files (why are there so many names for the same command?). TOUCH updates a file's time and date stamps and so on - I can't see a use for it.

Quick Tools is a mixed bag of utilities - some are essential, but others aren't so useful. At the moment it's only available directly from the States, but if dollars convert directly to pounds (as they usually do regardless of the exchange rate when US software is sold over here), then at £29.95 you can't afford to miss this goody bag.

DISCOUNT SOFTWARE

For the Atari ST

ACCESSORIES

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 3.5" Disc Head Cleaner | £3.95 |
| ST-CENTRONICS printer lead | £6.95 |
| Neoprene Mouse Mat | £3.95 |
| Quickjoy 2 Turbo Joystick | £9.95 |
| Comp. Pro 5000 Joystick | £13.95 |
| Joystick/Mouse Ext. Leads | £5.95 |
| Nakasha Mouse | £27.95 |
| 10 UNBRANDED 3.5" DSDD | |
| DISCS | £6.95 |
| 20 UNBRANDED 3.5" DSDD | |
| DISCS | £13.00 |
| 10 SONY MF2DD DSDD | |
| DISCS | £10.95 |
| 20 SONY MF2DD DSDD | |
| DISCS | £20.95 |

GRAPHICS/PRESENTATIONS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Timeworks Desktop Publisher | £68.95 |
| Timeworks DTP Tutor | £24.95 |
| Easy Draw II | £36.95 |
| Supercharged Easy Draw II | £59.95 |
| Mini Office Graphs | £15.95 |
| K-Graph 2 | £19.95 |
| K-Graph 3 | £39.95 |
| Canvas | £11.95 |
| Degas Elite | £19.95 |
| Spectrum 512 | £21.95 |
| Cyber Studio | £39.95 |
| Cyber Paint | £39.95 |
| Cyber Sculpt | £59.95 |

PROGRAMMING

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Tempus II - Programmers Editor | £29.95 |
| Hisoft Power Basic | £34.95 |
| Hisoft Basic (inc. GEM libs) | £58.95 |
| GST C Compiler | £14.95 |
| Hisoft C Interpreter | £39.95 |
| Prospero C Compiler | £74.95 |
| Lattice C v5 | £99.95 |
| GST Macro Assembler | £19.95 |
| Hisoft Devpac V2 assembler | £39.95 |
| HiSoft/OSS Personal Pascal | £58.95 |
| Prospero Pascal | £74.95 |
| Prospero Fortran | £74.95 |
| Nevada Cobol (CPM) | £33.95 |
| Hisoft Wercs | £21.95 |
| Hisoft Wercs Plus (inc. GDOS) | £33.95 |

SPREADSHEETS/ FINANCIAL

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Mini Office Spreadsheet | £15.95 |
| DG Calc by Digita | £28.95 |
| K-Spread 2 by Kuma | £29.95 |
| K-Spread 3 by Kuma | £59.95 |
| K-Spread 4 by Kuma | £99.95 |
| Home Accounts by Digita | £18.95 |
| Personal Tax Planner by Digita | £28.95 |
| Cashbook Controller by Digita | £37.95 |
| System 3 by Digita | £37.95 |

DATABASES

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Mailshot (label printing) | £18.95 |
| K Data | £29.95 |
| Prodata see "Specials" | £55.95 |
| Data Manager Professional | £29.95 |
| B.Base II by B. Ware | £11.95 |
| Supercard Index by B. Ware | £19.95 |
| Base II by Antic/Catalog | £21.95 |

SPECIALS

PROTEXT v4.2

Command based (non-GEM) and very fast, this is the word processor for those who want to handle words quickly and efficiently. No graphic fonts, just speed and a whole host of features aimed at producing text with the minimum of effort. Includes Spell Checker and very powerful Mail Merge routines. Our favourite WP program on any machine.

R.R.P. £99.95
Our Price £64.95

Protext Demo Disc.
£5.00

PRODATA

Arnor's new database will not disappoint. Features excellent data layout facilities, including a wide range of printer effects, 10 indexes per data file, and uses many of Protext's editing commands

R.R.P. £79.95
Our Price £55.95
Prodata Demo Disc.
£5.00

PRO-PACK!!

Protext and Prodata
£114.95

BOOKS

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|--------------------------------|--------|
| ABACUS | |
| ST For Beginners | £14.95 |
| ST 3D Graphics | £18.95 |
| ST Machine Language | £16.95 |
| ST Tricks and Tips | £16.95 |
| ST Disc Drive In and Out | £18.95 |
| ST Basic to C | £18.95 |

OTHERS

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| C Prog. Language (By K+R) | £23.95 |
| Big Red Book of C | £7.50 |
| Using ST Basic | £9.95 |
| Pascal A Beginners Guide | £6.50 |
| The Game Makers Manual | £11.95 |

PRINTER RIBBONS

Compatible ribbons

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Amstrad DMP2000/3000 range | |
| Star LC-10 mono | |
| Panasonic KXP-1080/1081/1124 | |
| Citizen 120-D/Plus | |
| £3.95 each £7.00 a pair | |

VIDI ST

The best value video digitiser available for the ST. Grabs mono images in 16 shades from any domestic VCR (with composite video output) to be saved as NEO or Degas files for use with other graphic or D.T.P. software

R.R.P. £99.95
Our Price £79.95

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VIDI-ST
HITACHI VIDEO CAMERA
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STOS - THE GAME CREATOR

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| STOS Basic Interpreter | £19.95 |
| STOS Add-on Compiler | £12.95 |
| STOS PLUS COMPILER | £29.95 |
| STOS Maestro | £15.95 |
| STOS Sprites 600 | £9.95 |
| STOS Games Galore | £13.95 |
| Game Makers Manual (book) | £11.95 |

MINI OFFICE PROFESSIONAL

Spreadsheet
Presentation Graphics
Communications
£15.95 EACH
2 for £30.00

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CSA 354 2nd DISC DRIVES
Quality external second 3.5" double sided disc drive
INCLUDING PSU AND CABLE
£69.95

WORD PROCESSING

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Protext see "Specials" | £64.95 |
| First Word Plus | £57.95 |
| K Word II | £27.95 |
| K Spell | £13.95 |

Manufacturers original ribbons

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Panasonic KXP-1080/1081 | £6.95 |
| Panasonic KXP-1124 | £7.95 |
| Star LC-10 Mono | £4.95 |
| Star LC24-10 | £5.95 |
| Star LC-10 Colour | £5.95 |
| Heat TrAnsfer Ribbons | |
| produce iron on transfers | |
| Citizen 120-D | £10.95 |
| Panasonic KXP 1081 | £10.95 |
| Star LC-10 Mono | £10.95 |
| Star LC-10 Colour | £16.95 |

EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

by Database Educational

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Fun School 2 for 2-6 years | £12.95 |
| Fun School 2 for 6-8's | £12.95 |
| Fun School 2 for 8-12's | £12.95 |
| Fun School 3 for 2-5's | £15.95 |
| Fun School 3 for 5-7's | £15.95 |
| Fun School 3 for 7-12's | £15.95 |

by Kosmos Software

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Answerback Junior Quiz (6-11) | £12.95 |
| Factfile Spelling (6-11) | £9.95 |
| Factfile Arithmetic (6-11) | £9.95 |

factfiles are data for Quiz only

| | |
|---|---------------|
| French Mistress (12-adult) | £14.95 |
| German Master (12-adult) | £14.95 |
| Spanish Tutor (12-adult) | £14.95 |
| Italian Tutor (12-adult) | £14.95 |

by B. Bytes

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|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| B. Spell (5-8) | £10.95 |
| Schoolltime Maths (5 and over) | £10.95 |
| Play-Spell (7 and over) | £10.95 |

Others

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Learn to read with Prof. | £24.95 |
| Prof Looks at Words | £19.95 |
| Let's Spell at Home | £14.95 |
| Let's Spell at the Shops | £14.95 |
| Mavis Beacon Typing (12+) | £19.95 |

MUSIC & SAMPLERS

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| STOS Maestro Plus | £52.95 |
| Replay 4 | £59.95 |
| Replay Professional | £99.95 |
| Quartet | £35.95 |

DUST COVERS

All nylon fabric, not PVC type.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| STFM/STE keyboard | £3.95 |
| Atari SM124 monitor | £5.95 |
| Philips CM8833 monitor | £4.95 |
| Star LC10, Mk1, 2 or Colour | £4.95 |
| Star LC24-10 | £4.95 |
| Panasonic KXP1081 | £4.95 |
| Panasonic KXP1124 | £5.95 |
| Citizen 120 D and Plus | £4.95 |

MISCELLANEOUS SOFTWARE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Day by Day (Electronic Diary) | £22.95 |
| K-Comm 2 | £32.95 |
| Harlekin | £34.95 |

NEODESK 3 £28.95

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Hi-Soft Twist | £28.95 |
| Hi-Soft Turbo ST | £28.95 |
| Hi-Soft Knife ST | £19.95 |
| Flexidump (9 pin Mono only) | £17.95 |
| Flexidump Plus | £31.95 |

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Tel: (0462) 420847/421415/432897 for enquiries/Credit Card orders

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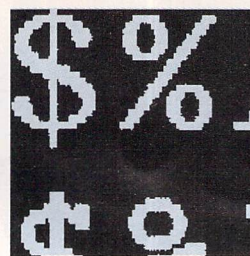
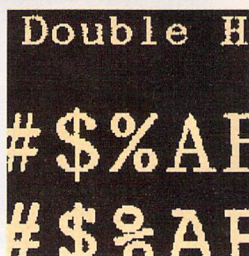
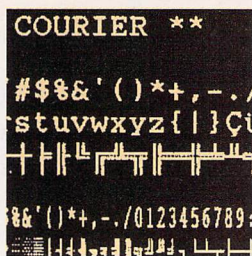
WE ARE MOVING

At the time of going to press plans were being finalised for a move to larger premises. As of 15th October please make all enquiries to:

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UNIT 2, THE ARCHES, ICKNIELD WAY,
LETCHEWORTH, HERTS. SG6 1UJ
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VISA





The available typefaces can be printed on a single sheet of paper. Roman and Courier are for letter quality and there's a draft mode. The larger character set can also be viewed at either double or quadruple the height of the original 10cpi text

Product: 124D printer
Supplier: Citizen
Telephone: 0895 72621
Price: £320.85
Configuration: All STs

A printer could well be one of the most expensive pieces of hardware you'll buy for your machine, but it's also going to be one of the most useful. You'll first have to choose between the three types of printer – dot matrix, laser or ink jet – and your choice will be closely related to the state of your wallet. The best results come from laser and ink jet printers, but unfortunately their prices generally lie above £1,000, and so are out of reach of the normal home user.

By far the most affordable are the dot matrix printers. In the past, these machines had a deserved reputation for being noisy, and print quality was often poor. Today though, a decent dot matrix printer is much, much quieter and top of the range models often produce good quality printouts.

There are three common types of dot matrix printer; 9-pin, 24-pin or 48-pin. The higher number pin models produce the best results and as you would expect, are labelled with the highest price tags, but there are exceptions to every rule.

The Citizen 124D is one such example, being a 24-pin model coming in at a price only marginally higher than the average 9-pin printers. The 124D has two letter-quality fonts, Courier and Times Roman, as well as a draft mode. The fonts can be swapped very easily, at the press of a single key at the top of the machine.

The selected font is shown on an LED display on the control pad. If you want to look at the available typefaces you can get a printout of all the characters available to you, by pressing the font key as you switch the printer on. This is just one of several printer tests.

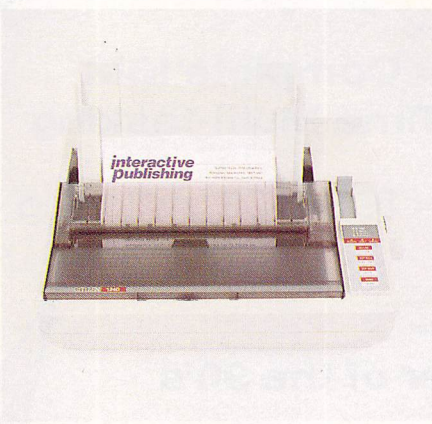
Perhaps the second most important factor, after print quality, in deciding which printer to buy, is speed. The 124D performs well at a reasonable speed. Normal printing is at 10 characters per inch (cpi), and gives a print speed of 120 characters per second (cps) in draft mode and 40cps in one of the letter-quality fonts.

By adjusting DIP switches you can get the printer to do 12 or 17cpi, or proportional printing, where the printer adjusts the spacing to the character being printed. In the 12cpi configuration it goes flat out at 144cps in draft, while in one of the letter-quality fonts it runs at 48cps.

Sheet guides are becoming more common with printers these days and the 124D has scored here as well. The sheet guide clips on to the back of the printer and when in place is easy to use. Paper can be dropped into it, a

PRINT AND BE DAMNED!

Every ST needs a printer. John Butters gets out his journo's pad and investigates Citizen's latest budget-priced 24-pin baby...



Looks bulky but the 124D gives quality printouts at an affordable price

THE BOTTOM LINE

Features: 8k memory buffer, expandable to 32k. At 12cpi 144cps in draft, 48cps in LQ. 2-year warranty. Epson LQ, IBM ProPrinter emulations and NEC 360 x 360dpi graphics resident.

Ease of use: Single sheet paper loading is automatic and uncomplicated. Controlled through touchpad.

| Features |
|-----------|
| Excellent |
| Good |
| Average |
| Bad |
| Appalling |

| Ease of use |
|-------------|
| Excellent |
| Good |
| Average |
| Bad |
| Appalling |

single sheet at a time, and is automatically aligned in the correct position. The guide has two positions; up for single sheets or down for continuous pinfeed paper.

Swapping between pinfeed and normal paper is a tedious task which has to be done quite regularly. Fortunately, you can overcome this problem, as the 124D has an option for loading and printing on single sheet paper whilst the pinfeed is still loaded. All you have to do is let the printer know what's happening by pressing a key on the control panel. A lever on the inside of the printer alters the print head so that it can handle up to seven different thicknesses of paper. This is especially useful if you're using carbon paper for copies of documents.

Although, compared to some dot matrix printers, the 124D doesn't make too much noise, it can be made quieter. Selecting Quiet tells the print head to make two passes instead of one, so although there's less noise it will take twice as long to complete the printout.

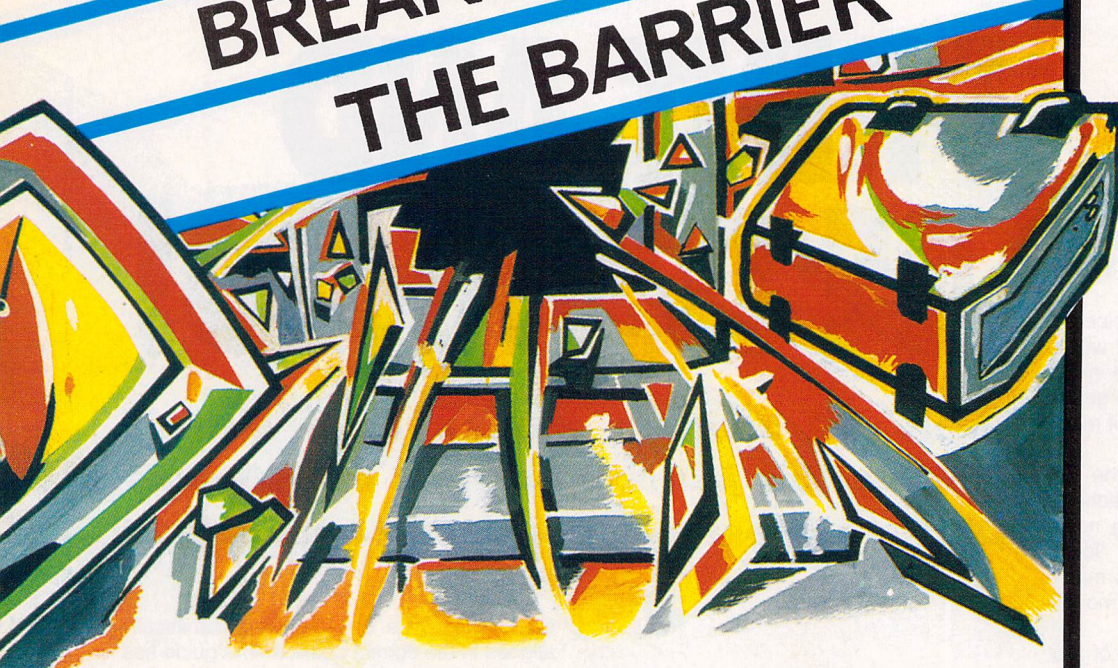
Fitting replacement printer ribbons can often be a messy job, with your fingers looking worse than when you've changed a car tyre. That's not the case here – the front lifts off easily and the ribbon cartridge clicks straight in and out of printer.

Although at first glance the machine might appear to be slightly bulky, it is a pretty standard size at 40.2cm by 32cm and it weighs 5.5kg. The clearly-written ring-bound manual runs to 216 pages.

The quality of its printouts is much better than that of most printers in the same price bracket, although better results can be had from more expensive 24-pin models. But Citizen has definitely come up with a winner – a good quality machine at an excusable price.

SUPERCHARGER

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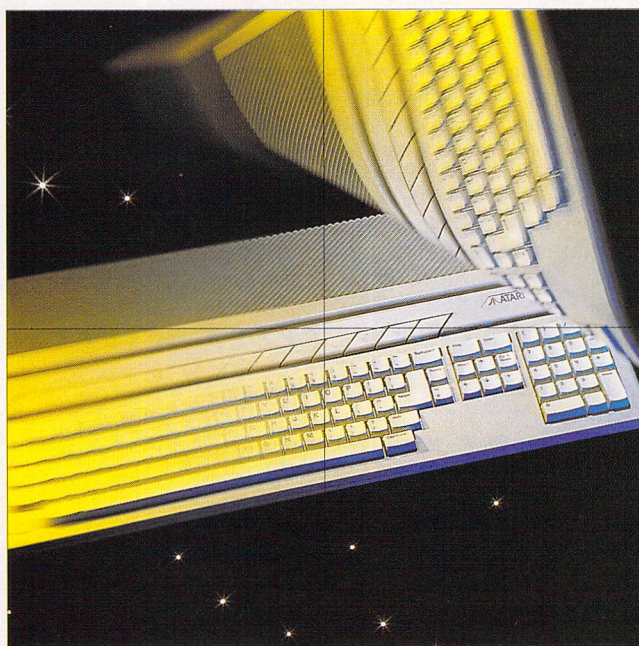
**Some of the features packed into
SuperCharger include:**

- 1Mb of RAM
- Runs CGA and Hercules (VGA coming soon)
- Uses existing mouse as DOS serial mouse
- Supports 5.25" or 3.5" second disk drive
- Prints to the ATARI laser printer from DOS
- Supports all hard disks with AHDI driver
- Supports all parallel printers
- Uses ST serial port up to 9600 BAUD (Com 2)
- Existing 3.5" ST drive Read/Writes as 720K DOS
- Norton factor 4.4
- Uses SuperCharger's RAM as 1Mb RAM disk
- Uses ST's RAM as RAM disk in DOS
- Runs 286 and 3.0 windows
- Built in bus for future expansion
- DMA In/Out ports
- Supplied with MS DOS 4.01
- Separate 5 VDC power supply
- Installation manual
- 12 month warranty
- Shielded ABC case 15 x 17 x 7 cm

**AND YOU THOUGHT
ATARI WAS JUST A
GAMES MACHINE...**

S P E E D

POWER STATION



Sure, your ST is fast. Maybe it does beat a ZX81 in the raw processing stakes, but wouldn't a few extra cycles per second do wonders for the average silicon session? John Butters shows you how to squeeze more out of 16 bits...

SPEED

Back in the halcyon days of home computing, when powerful computers had ZX in their names, memories rarely made it above 16k and if you wanted to squeeze even more speed out of a computer, you had to switch off the screen display.

Nowadays of course, speed chasing is a thing of the past. 16-bit silicon giants rule the computer world, gargantuan memory capacities mean even the most sophisticated packages are able to run at full speed and everything's fine - or is it?

The ST may run much faster than its older 8-bit siblings but there's still a vast amount of scope for improvements. Extra drives, bigger memory, processor upgrades and higher resolution mice, are all available at reasonable cost (free, if you have a rummage in the public domain), and all help you to wring extra speed from your machine.

MORE ACCELERATION

So. What's the best way to get a super-fast piece of machinery? Proud ST owners needn't rush straight out to their local computer dealer and part with their hard-earned for a quicker machine. Even the most basic ST can be made to go without even opening a wallet.

The majority of ST software works perfectly well on standard machines without the need for fancy hardware add-ons or software accessories. Text can only enter a word processor at the speed it's being punched in, and so any turbo charging you do, won't make the slightest bit of difference to its operation (unless of course you oil your fingers at the same time...)

Some applications can take advantage of such hard or software. Many games, DTP and other GEM-based programs often benefit from a little boost in their sluggish running speeds.

There's masses of software knocking about (both commercially and in the public domain) which really helps to increase the efficiency of the average ST. In one test for example, loading Protext from a GEM-formatted double-sided disk took 26 seconds. The same word processor was saved to a Multi-Formatter formatted disk (the PD program on last month's Cover Disk) and the loading time was slashed to 19 seconds.

A TRIP TO THE LIBRARY

Is it really worthwhile digging deep into PD libraries to end up with software which will take only seven seconds off the loading time? Maybe not, for infrequent disk swaps, but for those who frequently load and reload their floppies, a saving of 27 per cent (...and that's what those precious seven seconds represent) will make a big difference to overall disk access times.

If you already own one of the many BASIC packages, it's not even necessary to get hold of special programs to do the job. Whenever a file is written to disk, the computer automatically reloads it to ensure that it was saved successfully. This verifying process can be stopped by POKE-ing \$444 with 0 from within BASIC.

As you would expect, a great deal of time is saved without this verifying, although there is a risk that when you come to reload your work, you'll be presented with a disk error message.

Another way to get better performance from software is to take full advantage of the facilities individual pieces of software offer - programmers haven't spent days including them for a laugh. These days, many programs have keyboard macros. Keys can be set up, so that when they're pressed a whole string of text will appear. This is well worth it for those of you who aren't champion typists as it cuts back typing time considerably.

This function is especially useful in com-



SPEED > SPEED > SPEED > SPEED > SPEED > SPEED > SPEED

Product: HyperCache

Price: £209

Supplier: Third Coast Technologies

Phone: 0257 472444

If you've decided on a hardware upgrade, then Third Coast Technologies' HyperCache processor upgrade board is probably the most suitable. The device costs four times as much as the American board but when performance is taken into account, it's worthwhile paying the extra, rather than wasting money on a board which doesn't measure up.

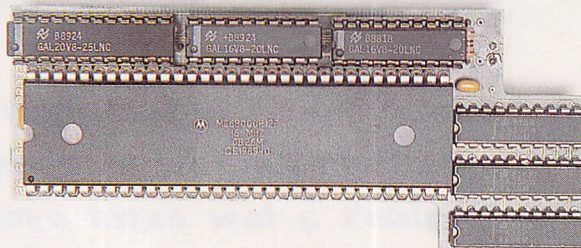
HyperCache has an 8k built-in RAM cache, which works in the same way as a disk cache. Whenever data is written to the main system RAM, it's also taken in by the CPU RAM cache, from where it can be retrieved at twice the normal speed. Even with the board installed, the cache can easily be disabled by using a desk accessory program, which is supplied

with Hypercache, or by a hardware switch.

Third Coast claims that your machine has up to 100 per cent speed increase and that desktop publishing, CAD and word processing increases by a minimum of 88 per cent.

The only problem found with HyperCache is that it isn't possible to fit the keyboard and reassemble the case, once the board has been fitted. HyperCache fits snugly inside most STs, but life is harder if you own an ST which has the 68000 chip next to the disk drive. A fitting service is available from Third Coast Technologies at the reasonable price of £19.99, postage is an additional £20.

For something faster, Third Coast Technologies have a new 68030 board which should be in the shops by the end of September. It'll sell for about £700 but a TCT spokesman described it as being 'nearly too fast', as it goes twice as fast as a TT and nearly 15 times the speed of the Mega range!

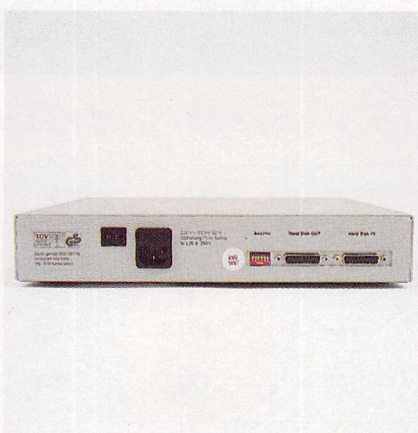




munications programs. The entire log-on sequence for a bulletin board can be assigned to a single key, so you won't have to go through the tiresome process of entering the same telephone number and password each time you log-on. This macro key function could be used in a word processor too. Addresses at the top of letters, styling text and obscure printing commands, can all be assigned to the macro.

Using a database when sending out large mail-shots, saves someone sitting down and typing individual names and addresses at the top of letters. Using a RAM disk, you can save plenty of disk access time too. RAM disks work by putting part of the ST's memory to one side and using it to store data. Do away with the need to read floppy or hard disks, and processing time is cut back tremendously.

Some programs enable you to define the size of the drive, others, unfortunately don't. If you fancy trying a RAM disk, make sure that you find one which can survive a reset, otherwise if the machine bombs out you'll lose whatever was stored there at the time. All data must be saved before the machine



The hard drives in the Vortex Data Jet range are pretty quick

is switched off – nothing can survive without power...

By now, it should be clear that it's not really necessary to stick up your local bank to get better performance from your ST. It's not all sweetness and light however, for

although software speed improvements tend to be cheap – free, even – and readily available, hardware such as processor upgrades will soon have your piggy bank running for cover!

Hardware-based speed improvers cost much more than software, require fitting work and you might find that you upgrade the machine's silicon, only to find that it's now incompatible with some software. Whereas software is somewhat limited, hardware improvements increase everything from screen updates to processor running speeds.

GET RUNNING...

There are a couple of add-ons designed to increase the running speed of an ST – HyperCache, from Wigan-based Third Coast Technologies and Jet Assisted Take Off (JATO) from John Russell Innovations (010 1 415 458 9577).

At £209 HyperCache is probably out of reach of all but the most time-conscious STers. JATO has a more modest cost of \$99 – currently equal to about fifty quid – but the

performance, predictably, is nowhere near as good as that of its rival.

Both boards are a replacement for the ST's 68000 microprocessor. They are faster than the ST's existing chip, because they run at 16MHz rather than the standard 8MHz. It's a messy job for the inexperienced to attempt to replace the processor at home, but competence with a soldering iron should rule out problems.

Users who'll really benefit from having a quicker computer, are those who use their machine for serious applications. Most serious stuff will run quicker from a hard disk, and software houses often presume that their software will be installed on such a drive. If you're fortunate enough to be able to get a hard drive, you'll find that much disk swapping time will be saved – and that's without even getting on to access times.

Hard drives run at different speeds and the access time of a hard drive is measured in milliseconds. In an attempt to bamboozle prospective purchasers of their over-priced silicon, manufacturers often resort to quoting access times on packaging and advertising bumph, despite the fact that many potential customers haven't got the slightest idea what it means.

The greater the time, the slower the drive – average drives have an access time of between 40 and 80ms. Lower than 40ms is pretty fast and anything higher than 80ms is best left for pensioners. Believe it or not, Atari's own SH205 disk drive had an access time of 100ms!

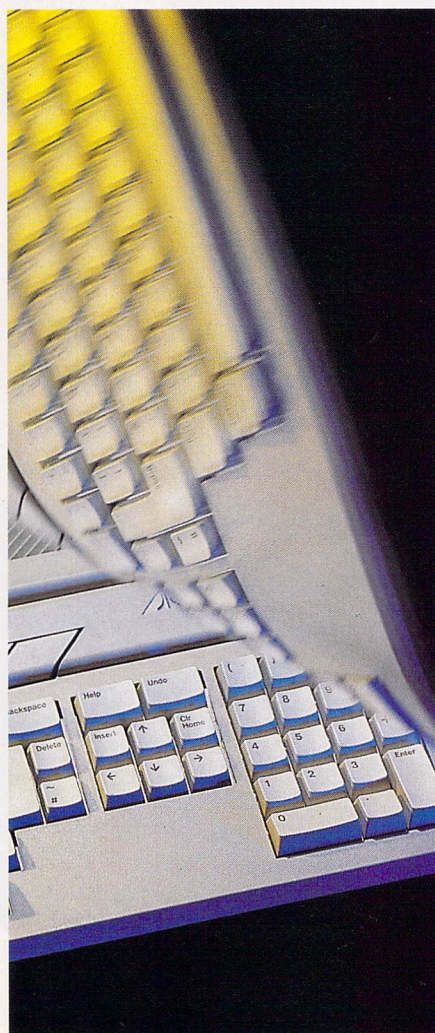
Time differences up to 15ms are not too noticeable and so if there's a large difference in price, most users would be better off going for a slower device. Even if you find the Porsche of hard drives, it can still be made to go faster, unless its speed is limited by the software. Most drives come with utilities, and software houses produce packages which more than double the drive's speed.

QUICK UTILITIES

Public domain libraries are certainly the best place to start looking for utilities. As with all PD, you'll only have to fork out for costs incurred by the library, such as postage and disks.

Searching PD libraries will unearth several good utilities to speed up the mouse,

S P E E D



disk drives and screen updates. Most of these are simply put into an auto folder on your ST and will boot up whenever the machine is turned on.

Those which don't stray too far from 'USER's set-ups include Promouse, Multi-Formatter, Quick ST and Speeddisk. All can be had from most libraries and two of them, Multi-Formatter and Speeddisk have even been very thoughtfully included on October's Cover Disk.

Promouse is a little utility which runs from the auto folder and as a desk accessory (although you'll need the earlier version to use the program as a DA). Fire up Promouse, and the speed of your little silicon chum is increased enormously.

Multi-Formatter is a floppy disk formatter, which you can use to initialise disks in an unusual manner, to save access time. What's more, it's easy to use.

For general speed increases, look no further than Quick ST. This program can be found within the Quick Utilities compilation and is shareware. When you boot up the machine with Quick ST in the auto folder, you'll notice the speed of screen updates is greatly increased.

Also to be found within Quick Utilities is Quick Index. This scrap of code will run several tests on your machine to determine the current processing speed, you'll then be able to find which utilities are giving you the best results.

Many hard disk users have experienced the 'lost file' syndrome. You know, store a file away in some apparently sensible folder one month, and when you next go to use it, a seemingly endless barrage of ludicrously-named folders present themselves. You've simply no idea of its whereabouts. But, entering a filename into Quick Find ensures that every folder is searched until that vital file is found.

And it doesn't end here. Quick Utilities contains a veritable Aladdin's cave of efficiency-increasing programs. Quick Label prints labels for envelopes. Quick Print speeds up printing and Quick View displays READ.ME files faster than the standard 'scrolling and pressing a key to see more' method. All useful utilities for making sure you don't spend more time than necessary on some of those boring, repetitive tasks.

And if to you, money is as nothing (you've got lots and you'll spend it...), a slightly more 'with-it' version of the compilation can be obtained from Canadian company, Branch Always Software, for US\$29.95. Strangely, for reasons unknown to 'USER, BAS have omitted Quick ST from the disk.

A RAM disk? Well, the one we usually recommend is Eternal, available in the public domain. It can survive a reset and its size is defined by the user.

Many software houses churn out commercial software to achieve similar aims. There are several packages to get hard drives running quicker and at least one, Turbo ST, which gets better performance from the computer.

The cost of such programs doesn't vary too much. The most expensive costs less than £50. The rule is to pay for a program only if you're sure there's nothing in the public domain which will do the job better.

So. Now you can put those 'go-faster' stripes on your ST, sit back, and enjoy the sensation of speed.

SPEED > SPEED > SPEED > SPEED > SPEED

Product: Turbo ST
Price: £34.95
Supplier: HiSoft
Phone: 0525 718181

Although many of the utilities for accelerating the computer are found in the public domain, you should remember that they're free and were written by programmers in their spare time. Having your ST bomb out when using such software is far from unusual.

Commercial software sets out to do the same job, but the programs have usually been well tested and if they don't work, you'll eventually get a replacement package or your money back. HiSoft's Turbo ST does a lot to boost your machine. It's installed into the auto folder and

| Operation | Normal | Quick ST | Turbo ST |
|------------|--------|----------|----------|
| TOS text | 100 | 344 | 352 |
| TOS string | 100 | 863 | 1363 |
| TOS scroll | 100 | 171 | 184 |
| GEM dialog | 100 | 122 | 244 |

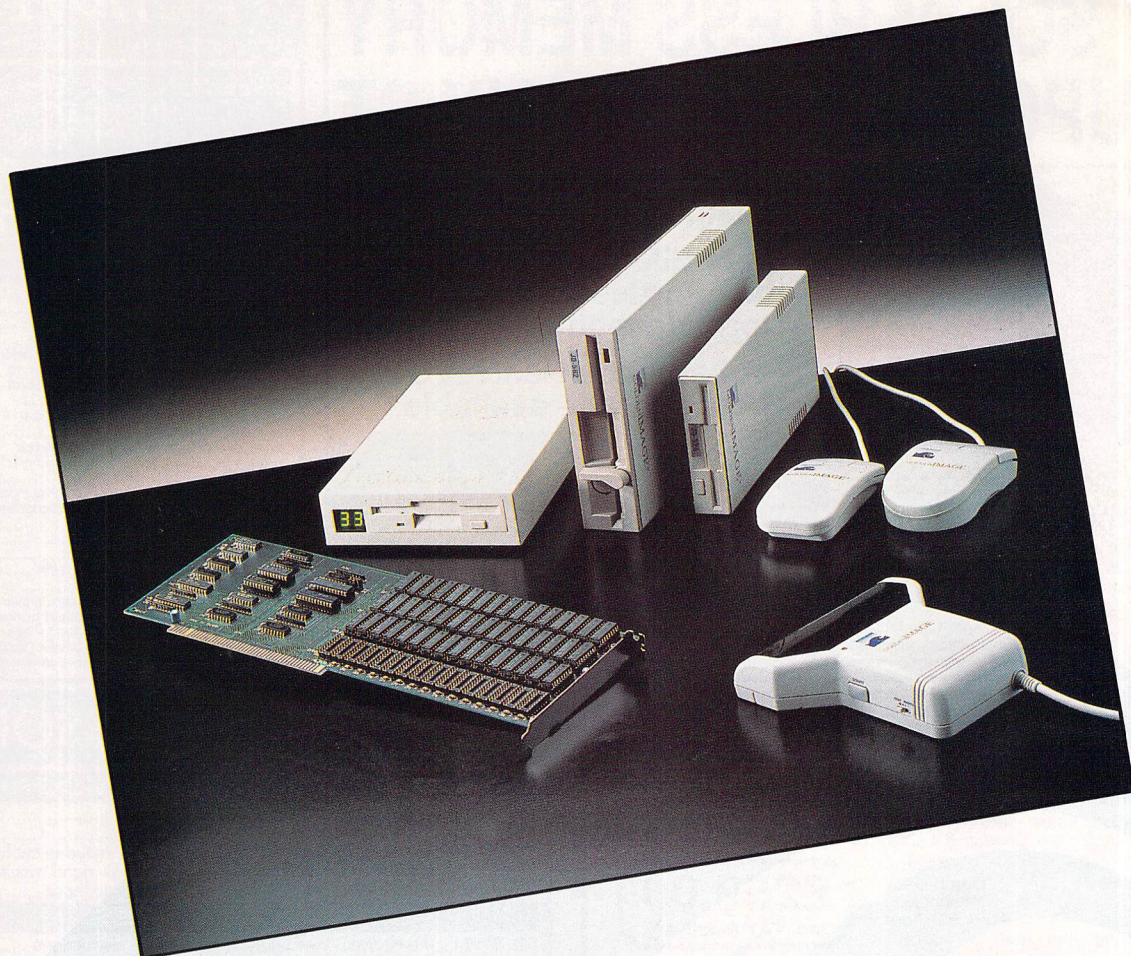
so will be running whenever you turn on the machine.

Turbo ST does a similar job to the PD program Quick ST, but Turbo's a little faster. You can compare the relative speeds of a normal ST, a machine with Quick ST, and a machine with Turbo ST in the table above.

If you don't want to have the program running it can be taken out of action without any difficulty, and unlike hardware add-ons, if it's been disabled all your software will run as normal. The reasonable price of Turbo ST should ensure that it gains a place on your shopping list.



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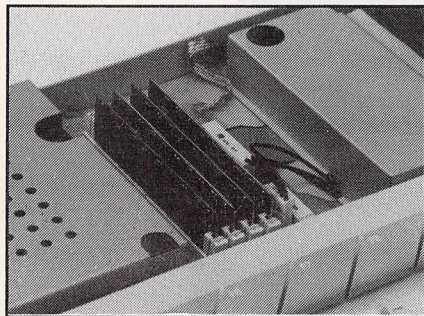
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N.B. Due to the large variance in design of the Atari ST, there is a small minority of boards in existence which may require a small amount of soldering.

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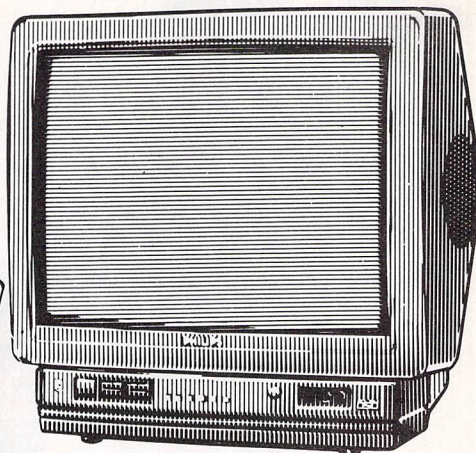
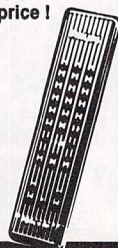
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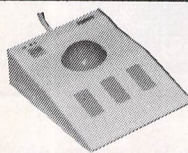
With its dedicated monitor input, this model combines the advantages of a high quality medium resolution monitor with the convenience of remote control Teletext TV - at an excellent low price!

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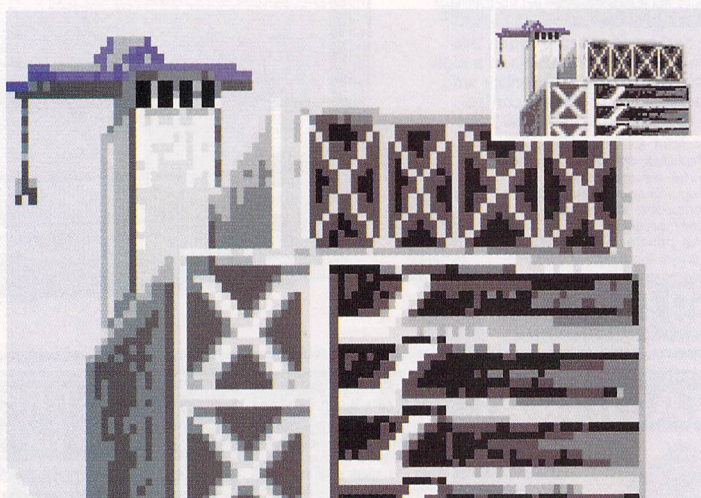
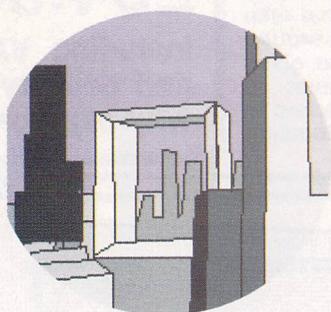
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1

Begin by drawing the out-lines. Now is the time to get your perspective right, but don't worry about curves at this stage

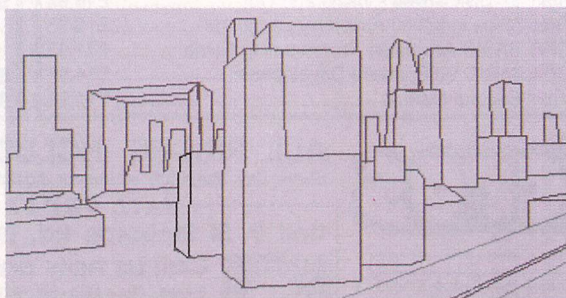


Fill in the basic colours that you have chosen

2

Using the zoom feature, go over the whole picture, smoothing over the edges of each of the colours

3



This image of modern city life – well, city life from the perspective of a structural engineer – was produced using Degas Elite on a 520STFM. The whole picture took approximately eight hours to create.

The type of picture shown here is perfect for Degas Elite, because it does not demand an enormous colour range, and so it suits Degas with its standard 16 colours, from a palette of 512. The whole image is created from various shades of black, grey, white, green and blue.

So, first choose the colours. Don't simply select a nice rainbow spread of colours, but think about what you want to achieve on the screen. With Degas Elite it's best to give eight positions to one colour, normally a spread of greys, thus enabling subtle tonal effects. The remaining eight are then given over to other colours, in this case four blues and four greens.

Once the colours are chosen, map out the basic areas with lines and worry about any gentle curves later. Basic scale and positioning are important, so areas may need to be changed to achieve the desired effect. Make sure that you are happy with the outline at this stage – it's easy to change it now, much harder to do it later.

Using the fill command, fill in the entire picture in its basic colours. Think about light sources and distance – as objects get further away they can be simpler and should have much less contrast.

Next, with the zoom feature go over the entire picture pixel by pixel. This can be very time consuming (three to four hours in this case). To begin with tidy up the edges, getting rid of unwanted lines. Next the lines have to be smoothed out to get rid of the jagged edges – for example, if a light grey diagonal cuts across an area of dark grey, put medium greys along the edge of the diagonal. This makes a real difference to your finished picture. It'll look much more professional if you do this part carefully.

Putting in the detail comes next – mainly windows here – and then the textures. The textures chosen here are usually slightly lighter or darker shades of scattered panels. The further away the object, the less detail and contrast it is given. This helps to achieve a sense of depth.

Finally, the finishing touches. In this picture, these are the shadows, grass, smaller buildings and people. Then check the picture very carefully, looking for details which may have been missed.

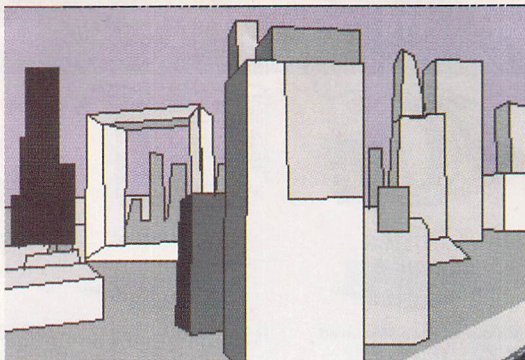
And that's it. The most important thing in a picture like this is the perspective. Get the outline looking right from the start, then the rest should fall into place and you won't waste time with extensive corrections later.

YOUR MAN WITH THE BRUSH...

Believe it or not, Richard Anderson didn't send us a mug shot. Come on - we want your photo so we can all have a good laugh. Anyway, this is the last time folks. From now on, no photo, no story... Just for the record, Richard is seventeen years old and is studying art and design at Amersham College.

PIXEL PUNCHERS SIGN HERE...

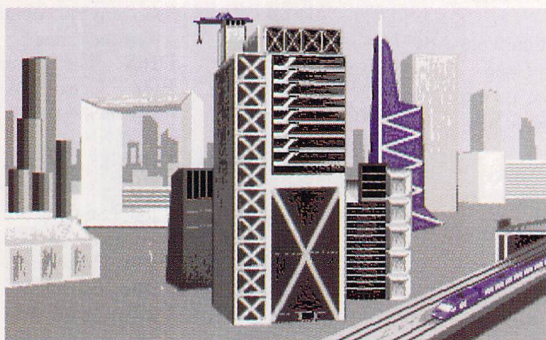
Have you created a stunning image using obscure tricks and wrinkles? We want to see it. Each month, a lucky artist will receive their very own exhibition on these pages. Send at least six images (a finished image and several 'stages') with brief notes detailing how the effects were achieved. Oh! And tell us a little about yourself and include a picture, OK?



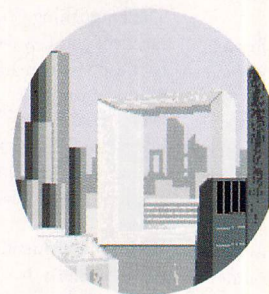
4

The details and textures are put in now, including the additional colours

ART-WORK!

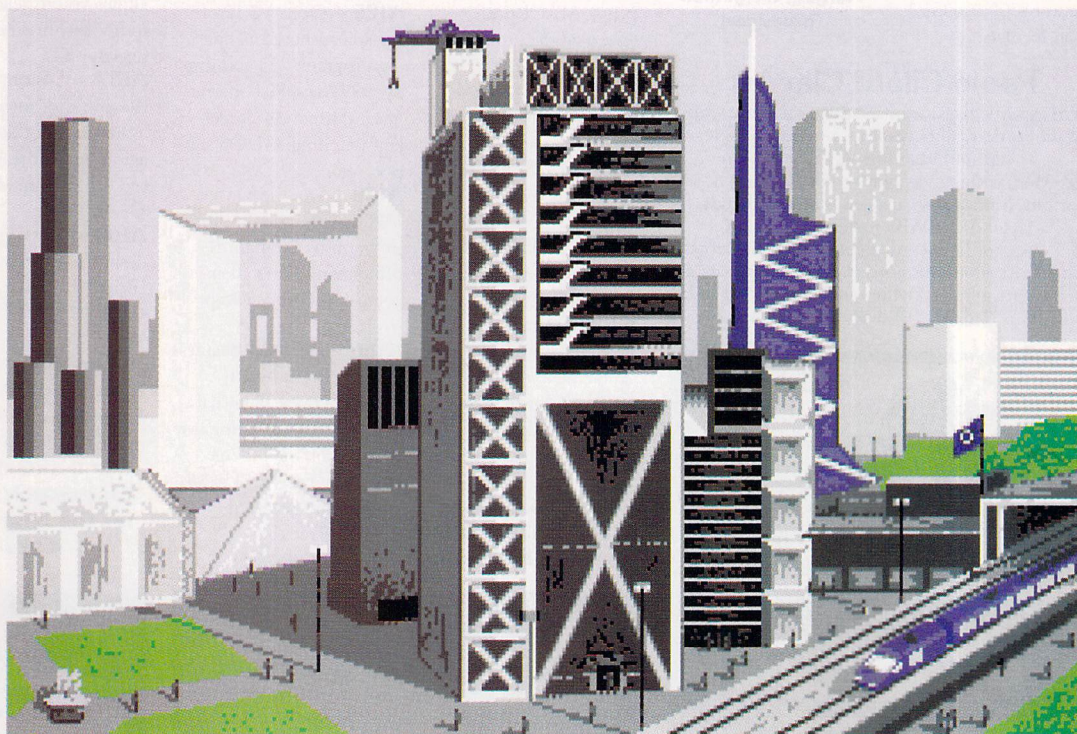


A final, careful check of the details is a good idea



5

The finished effect - a masterpiece



6

Pdom PD Atari ST Public Domain & Shareware Software



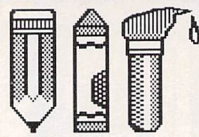
Miscellaneous

MP1 - Pdom Starter Pack for the new STer. STWriter, Datahandler and Firstbase databases and NEOchrome the art package. Plus loads of utilities. Screen emulators, RAM disks, Spoolers, desktop Accessories, all very easy to use. A 3 disk pack for £7.50.
L1 - 68000 Assembler, Lisp, STLogo, Tiny basic.
L13 and **L14** Modula-2 Development System v1.0 from ANA-systems.
L15 - Sozobon C Compiler. A complete implementation of the C language as defined by K&R. DSD.
M9 - Music Writer lets you create music on screen as good as Music Studio.
M15 - The Accompanist 16 Voice MIDI Sequencer. Fully working by Henry Cosh, does everything!
M18 & M19 - Soundtracker player and SoundTracker modules converted by BOB from the Amiga.
M20 - Soundtracker player & modules from the Amiga. Also docs & source in 68000 and GFA basic on formats.



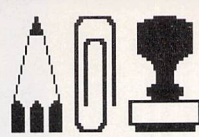
Games

Colour Screen Required.
MP22 - Games Pack - Fruit Machine, Monopoly, World of Eamon, Galactic Empire, Draughts, Battle Ships, Card Games, Tunnel Vision, Azarians, Farm Yard, Space Invaders, Bridge It!, Give Us A Break, Spectral Sorcery, Monkeys and Balloon and Race Cars. 5 disks only £12.50.
B39 - Onyx by Robin Edwards. An excellent shoot 'em up with many varied and excellent sprites! All in 68000 machine code.
B40 - Dizzy Lizzy by The Happening Boiz. An excellent game, across between Pacman and Boulderdash.
B41 - Exodus by Chris Jeffery. Awesome shoot 'em up with fantastic graphics! Mega arcade game.
B44 - Exterminate by Chris Skellern. If it moves KILL IT! A massive mega shoot 'em up game.
We always have in stock the latest Budgie UK Games, the worlds largest ST games producer!



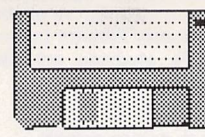
Graphics

GR3 - Master Painter is an excellent graphics program works in ALL resolutions fully featured.
GR6 - Degas disk - 155 fills, 10 brushes, 7 fonts, 24 printer drivers. Also a program to use Degas drivers to do a screen dumps.
GR7 & GR8 - AIM v2.31 of the Atari Image processor DSD. 1MB.
GR14 - Public Painter v0.1 the great drawing program Now loads Degas fonts and pictures and also .IMG excellent! MMR.
GR17 - Picture converters. To and from Print Master, Degas, NEO, Tiny, IFF, SPEC512, IMG, Postscript, GIF, Mac GIF stripper.
GR19 - Fractal Zoom V3.1 the most comprehensive fractal generation program available Upto 4 types of curve, zoom in on parts of the display, movie making, full screen or preview mode. Full documentation within the program. DSD.
GR20 - .IMG utilities. Convert any Degas, Tiny, NEO, MACPaint, Spectrum 512 to .IMG format. Also IMG viewers.
GR21 - ANI ST the amazing fully featured animation package.
BPRO3 - SPRITE MASTER by C Skellern A professional sprite editing package tailored to suit most programming languages. CSR.
GR24 - Pearle the 3-d ray tracing package. Amazing animations can be created using this excellent fully working ray tracing graphics package. CSR.
Our DiskCat has a fast search option for the best Demos!



Application

MP23 - Home Business Pack: Opus and Sheet spread sheets, STWriter Elite, Double Sentry and Personal Finance accounts and Datahandler the database. 5 disk pack only £12.50! All double sided disks.
A48 - Uniterm V2.0e. THE Comms package for the ST.
A96 - Sheet v2.0. powerful all features spreadsheet, .WKS compatible. 1280 rows by 280 columns. DSD.
A121 - POOLs- Expert Results Predictor v2.5 by Bay Computers. Excellent pools predictor. Full documentation and quick reference etc. on the disk, very good word processor.
W5 - Micro-Emacs v3.925 the text editor with disk manual and tutorial.
MP 21 - TEX the document processor and typesetting system. Includes its own programming language, handles graphics and equations with ease. 6 disk pack for £15.00. MMR. DSD.
A125 - Opus V2.10 of the spreadsheet and charting program: 255 columns by 999 rows, 80+ mathematical functions, excellent graphing, GDOS support etc.
A138 - Double Sentry V0.00 of the accounting program by Graham R Hutcheon. Does all aspects of accounts except VAT.
A166 - Personal/Business Address Book by Bay Computers excellent database system, lightning fast with label, mail merge etc., Vanterm V3.71 excellent comms package. Relative Tree the geneology program.



Utility

A41 - Monochrome monitor emulator v5, makes your colour screen run most Monochrome only software. NOTSTE.
A167 - Big Colour Emulator allows you to run most colour only software on a Monochrome screen. ARC v6.02 the latest version of the standard file archiver.
A88 - DCFormat v3.03 THE ST disk formatter even MSDOS boot sector.
A91 - Virus Killer v2.01 excellent virus detector and killer.
STW41 - FSelect v3/1989 by Martin Patzell the excellent alternative file selector.
A111 - Head Start v1.1 - auto-boot any type of program from your AUTO folder, including GEM programs.
A124 - ARChiver: ARC V5.21b, ARCSHELL V2.0 and V2.05 and a utility to switch back forth between LHARC and ARC.
A128 - Recover from disk lost data you specify sectors.
A134 - Boot Drive Select allows you to select a drive to boot from when you reset your ST.
A157 - Custom Format the best disk formatter available! Boot Sector Storage system store boot sectors from many disks as a file on 1 disk.
A163 - The Gemini desktop replacement. Similar to NEODESK.
A168 - ARCGSH V2.1 a shell for any program, already setup for ARC, ZOO, SHAR. Disk Mechanic v1.0 copier, formatter, sector editor.
Our DiskCat has a fast search option for the best Utility disks!

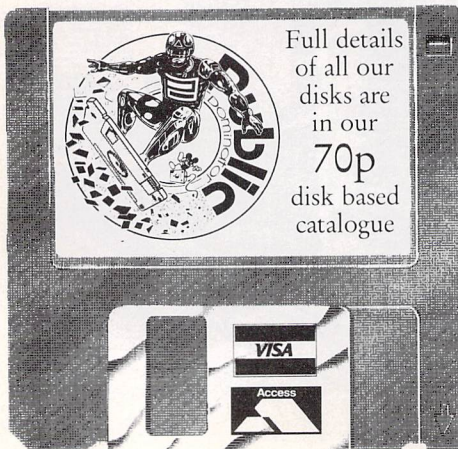


Demos

Colour Screen and Double Sided Disk Required.
All Excellent Demos!
D210 - The Walker I demo! The famous Amiga demo has been converted to the ST by radical Systemz. 1MB.
BD1 - Mind Bomb the latest mega mega must have demo, by The Lost Boys. This demo is outstanding!
D162 - The Lord of The Disks 'Dragons Lair'.
D176 - The Care Bears 'So What Demo'.
BD3 - The Music of the ShapeShifters.
D178 - Paul Simones Spectrum 512 colour on screen slide show!
D183 - The Ultimate.
BD2 - Genesys Aenigmatica demo the 82 Track remix!
D189 - SwedishNewYear2.
D191 - Mini Run by Radical Systemz AKA Police Chase from Amiga
D194 - Superior Demo by Dynamic Duo!
D197 - Space Ace-Don Bluth. Graphic animation demo of the game.
D207 - SNOWMAN demo the 1/2 MB RAM version. Better than the 1MB version!
D108 - Calamus product demo. Official demo from Signa. 1MB
D122 - The Union demo! This demo is brilliant and requires a joystick.
NOTSTE.
D125 - The CareBears Cuddly demos. The best to date!
D128 - The Wattaheck demo. Great demos with excellent music.
D129 - The Swedish demo including SYNC and The CareBears.
D149 & D150 - Delerious Demo from The Alliance. 1MB. NOTSTE.

Pdom ClipIt! Clip Art

Vol1: sports, flags, animals, cartoons, humorous, Jewish, borders, all occasions, horses, eyes, etc. etc. All in Degas format. 5 disks.
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Vol3: boys, girls, babies, decorative A to Z, arrows, art deco, all occasions, humorous, all foods, glasses and cups, banners, scrolls, kitchen utensils etc. All in IMG format. 10 disks. All disks are double sided.



To order, simply quote the disk code number given in bold.
 Prices: 1 to 5 disks are £3.00 each,
 6 to 10 are £2.75 each
 and 11 or more are £2.50 each.

Abbreviations Used:

MMR - Mono Monitor, CSR - Colour Screen.
 1MB - 1MB RAM, DSD - Double Sided Disk.

All prices are fully inclusive. To order please send a cheque or postal order payable to Pdom PD Atari or Access & Visa credit card details to:
 Pdom PD Atari STU, P O Box 801,
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Tel 0279 757692.

PUBLIC SECTOR

news

pd

• A recent increase in business has forced MT Software to move. The new office will be near to the existing one, although the address has yet to be fixed.

pd

• Finding a stack of demos next to my coffee mug in the morning is not out of the ordinary, but finding original ones is. Predator, based on the film of the same name, is one such demo. It has digitised pictures from the film with effects, and is well worth putting on to your screen.

pd

• Floppyshop has just moved, and is now found at 45 Provost Graham Avenue, Hazlehead, Aberdeen AB1 8HB. The new telephone number is 0224 312756.

pd

• Elmsoft has set up, what is believed to be the first PD market stall in Camden Lock Market. All disks cost £2.50, the increase being to cover hiring the stall.

Customers living on the Scottish islands no doubt find it difficult to nip down to the London market on a Saturday, but the library also offers its disks through mail order, for as little as 99 pence.

pd

• A new version of Superboot has recently been added to libraries. Version 6 replaces the older version 5.5, which has been around for a few months. A missing resource file however, meant that the former version didn't work.

pd

• STOS users are being given the chance of making their machines pay for themselves. Cash prizes of up to £100 are offered in a competition run jointly by Goodman Enterprises and the Official STOS PD Library.

Prizes will be given by independent judges for the best games and application programs written in the language. The closing date is February 28, 1991. Application forms are available from both libraries.

Why spend a fortune on software? John Butters saves the clams by looking at the better PD offerings...

LEARN BY NUMBERS

With the year 1992 coming ever closer, the need to understand European languages is increasing all the time. Official reports claim that British knowledge of foreign languages is well below that of most of our trading partners.

Indeed, after leaving school only five years ago my French is very limited. To the rescue comes Franglais – a public domain offering which thoroughly tests your knowledge of French numbers.

It starts with the numbers 1 to 12 being listed as figures, with the French translation written alongside. Next the screen is cleared and various objects begin to appear. You have to enter in French the number appearing each time.

The test then asks simple arithmetical questions, which you again answer in French. As all the questions are asked mainly in French it's assumed that the student has some knowledge of the language beforehand, although all the words used are listed in a READ.ME file along with the English translation.

The only niggle with this

NUMBERS TO LEARN

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1 = UN, UNE | 7 = SEPT |
| 2 = DEUX | 8 = HUIT |
| 3 = TROIS | 9 = NEUF |
| 4 = QUATRE | 10 = DIX |
| 5 = CINQ | 11 = ONZE |
| 6 = SIX | 12 = DOUZE |

WHEN ASKED FOR A NUMBER, PLEASE TYPE THE SPELLING IN FRENCH. MERCI BIEN.

ABOVE: Numbers are listed onscreen before the test

program is that often part of the questions are written in English – making you question the programmer's knowledge of French. Despite the

fact that it's limited to small numbers, Franglais will benefit both adults and children. Get your copy from the South West Software Library,

BELOW: Enter the French for the number of objects appearing

ICI UNE HOUSE - PRESSEZ 'D'
ET (RETURN) S'IL VOUS PLAÎT
ET REGARDEZ WHAT VOUS CAN DO ?D

MERCI - JE SUIS ASTONISHED !
(The words COMBIEN DE mean
HOW MANY - so)

COMBIEN DE MAISONS ?■

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- G044 - Flight Simulator
- G101 - League Soccer (DS)
- G102 - ST-umped - Cricket
- G049 - Tennis Simulation
- G086 - 1st Serve Tennis
- G103 - Top of the Pops
- G104 - Bermuda Race 2
- G105 - Joke Selection
- G100 - Slalom, Galactic Ranger, Widow maker
- G114 - Skidpan - Racing
- G116 - Chunnel - French Tutor Game
- G072 - Bumper Jack
- G056 - Empire Builder, Jumpster, Lost Treasure
- G045 - England Team Manager
- G019 - ST-Vegas
- G011 - Give Us a Break
- G039 - Heads and Hammers
- G043 - Treasure Search
- G079 - Monkeys + Balloons, Spectral Sorcery, Racing.
- G070 - Space Baller, System 5
- G061 - Stocks and Bonds
- G071 - Rush
- G081 - Money Run, Atari Wars, Wall War, Twisty
- G040 - Bunny Hunt (not STE)
- G018 - Floyd the Droid
- G001 - Pacman, Laserchess, Windball, Royale
- G002 - Strip Breakout
- G020 - Lunar Lander, Spacewar
- G031 - Megaroids, Star Battle, Time Bandit
- G017 - Cribbage, Minigolf, Pickpocket, Quiz
- G077 - Motorbike, Blackjack, Patience
- G003 - Azarian, Bridge, Baller
- G007 - Cubemaze
- G027 - Backgammon, Yahtzee, Stone Age Deluxe
- G033 - Cube World
- G042 - Rebus, Blockade
- G050 - Cheats Disk
- G058 - Dungeon Master Levels
- G059 - Horoscope
- G068 - Ayatolla
- G069 - Upstart
- G082 - Yahtzy
- G083 - Companion
- G010 - ST Invaders, Barnyard, Happy 4, Star Trek
- G074 - Tunnel Vision, Patience
- G109 - Fruit Machine Simulator (not STE)
- G110 - Company (not STE)
- G111 - Masterbreak, Battleships, Escape
- G112 - Slider
- G099 - Addition

ADVENTURES

- G087 - Tark
- G085 - Snatch + Crunch
- G084 - Elven Crystals
- G095 - AGT Companion Disk
- G096 - Duddys Dilemma
- G078 - Time Adventure
- G054 - Tombs of Death
- G055 - HERO - Dungeons and Dragons
- G057 - DDST-Dungeons and Dragons (SH)
- G052 - Invasion
- G053 - Assassin
- G075 - Nethack (DS) (1 meg)
- G038 - Wizards Tower
- G040 - Asylum
- G037 - Under Berkwood
- G015 - King Text Adventure
- G006 - Darkness is Forever
- G012 - Colossal Cave Adventure
- G004 - Dobbyworld, Coxleys House, Dark Pearl
- G034 - HACK - the original version
- G035 - Eamon - Fantasy Role playing

MONO GAMES

- G069 - Napoleon
- G097 - Hi Tec Trivia, Chordmaster (not STE)
- G014 - Anduril, Runners Revenge
- G021 - Pacman, Puzzle
- G029 - Space Invaders, Chess, Arkanoid
- G062 - Arkanoid Construction Kit
- G063 - Around the World in 80 Days
- G064 - El Bozo, Sherlock, Squixx, Happy 4
- G067 - Pentimo
- G076 - Shanghai

EDUCATION

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- G016 - Maths Made Easy
- G080 - Speller (not STE)
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- G041 - Kidmusic, Kidpiano, Kidgraph, Kidgridz
- G036 - History File (3 disks)
- G094 - Colouring Book
- G098 - Shipwrecked - Maths, Hangman

EDUCATION PACK 1

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EDUCATION PACK 2

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* Now STE compatible *

A bumper education pack that includes G9, G16, G22, G23, G41, G36, G94, G98

MUSIC + MIDI

- M007 - 16 voice sequencer by Henry Cosh
- M013 - Yamaha PSS Voice Editor
- M009 - TX812 Voice Editor
- M010 - FB01 Voice Editor
- M008 - MT32 Editor (Demo)
- M003 - Casio CZ Ed/Librarian
- M005 - CZ Voices + Librarian
- M029 - Kawai K1 Ed/Librarian
- M027 - Music Studio Player
- M028 - 50 New Quartet Sounds
- M014 - Midi Channel Scope (mono)
- M017 - DSO Librarian
- M015 - Synth 50
- M016 - Composer
- M018 - Sampled Sounds + Player
- M021 - Music Writer (mono)
- M022 - Piano
- M023 - Staccato
- D014 - EZ-Track demo
- D018 - Steinberg Pro 24 demo (mono)
- D029 - Quartet + Replay Prof Demo
- D062 - Mastersound Demo

BUSINESS

- U009 - 1st Base - Database
- U012 - DB Master - Database
- U013 - Databandler - Database
- U036 - Card ST-Database
- U039 - WG Data - Database
- U072 - TCOS-Graphical Database
- WP01 - ST Writer Elite
- WP02 - Mailmerge, Spellchecker, Word Counter
- U017 - Home Accounts
- B031 - Electronic Bank Statement
- U030 - ST Sheet - Spreadsheet
- U078 - Sheet V2-Spreadsheet (DS)
- U034 - Double Sentry Accounts (SH)
- U041 - Typing Tutor
- U082 - Typing Tutor
- U040 - Inventory Pro
- U042 - Opus 2000 - Spreadsheet (DS) (SH)
- U056 - Word 400
- U070 - Address Book
- U090 - FiloFact (SH)
- U089 - Zapcard, Typist, Banker

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- A013 - Printmaster Library Disk
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- A020 - Fractal Zoom
- A021 - Simple Draw
- A022 - Electrical Planning (mono)
- A023 - Movie Constructor/Face animator (mono)
- A024 - ANI-ST
- A026 - Doodle
- A029 - Flexidump Demo
- A030 - JIL CAD (mono)
- A031 - ST CAD
- A032 - Hyper-Text
- A033 - Canvas, GFA Raytrace - useable demos
- A034 - Animate
- A036 - Picture Converters
- A037 - Calamus fonts
- WP07 - Script Fonts
- A008 - Degas Accessories

UTILITIES

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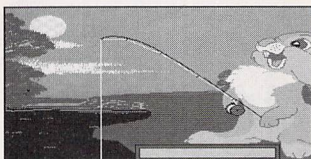
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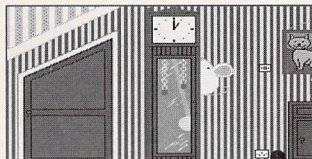
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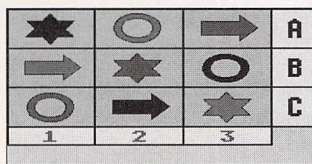
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PC INTERCOM



Set up this comms program through the keyboard

Two months ago the best public domain communication programs were looked at in this column. Unfortunately, PC Intercom arrived too late to be covered, but it's definitely worth a mention.

Everything is controlled through the keyboard using either a colour or monochrome monitor. Pressing Help will bring up the main menu from which you select elements of the program to be set up. Items are selected by choosing numbers from the menu, and once chosen you'll be presented with the item's own menu.

Baud rates go up in the usual steps up to a maximum of 19,200 and everything is easy to understand, although no help is offered from the program - logging on to MicroLink and downloading a file was straightforward. Files can be transferred in either ASCII or Kermit modes but unfortunately the now common Xmodem is absent.

PC Intercom came courtesy of MT Software's disk C7, which also holds a more basic comms example, Flying Start which is less impressive.

FIDDLING WITH FONTS

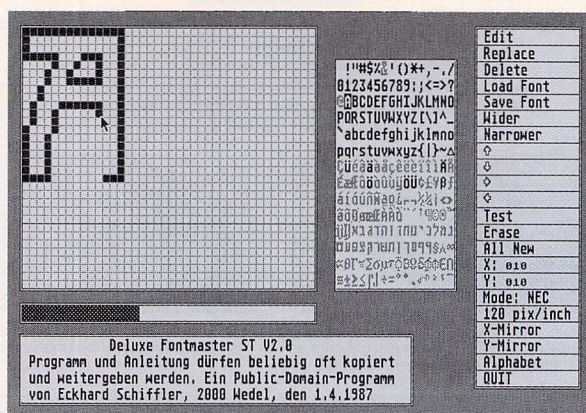
The German graphic font editor, Deluxe Fontmaster, is now in version 2 and all the instructions and commands have been translated into readable English. It runs in high resolution and can be used with Epson IBM and NEC printers.

The font editor is found in the program MAKE2.PRG. The title screen is passed by clicking on the right mouse button. The screen then appears with a grid on the left, menu box on the right and character set in the middle.

To redesign a character it is selected from the character set and drawn on the grid using the mouse. Pressing the left mouse button draws, while errors can be easily deleted by using the right button. The printed width of the character is adjusted from the menu box and once complete, the character is ready to be stored and saved on disk.

Existing fonts can be modified by reloading them and editing in the same way as they were created. They can be printed individually or as the entire alphabet, both on screen or as hard copy.

A text editor can be found by opening the program USE_2.PRG. ASCII text created in a word processor can

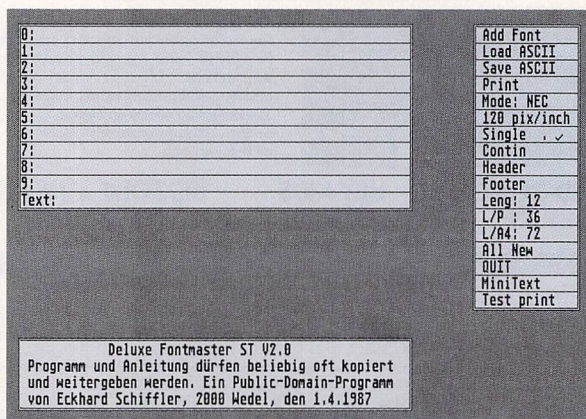


be loaded along with at least one font. Minitext is a small word processor and will show as many lines of text as will fit on the page when it's printed. Text can be formatted so that it's aligned to the left, centred or right, or to the

left with point widths. You'll find Deluxe Fontmaster in the Wizard PD library.

ABOVE: Draw on the grid by using a mouse

BELOW: The text editor can be found in USE_2.PRG



Keeping track of a bank account balance is usually quite tricky, especially if you make many transactions. One reasonably quick way of finding out your account balance is to spend your Saturday afternoon queueing in the rain to use the autobank machine - providing it's working. But then, how do you find out about cheques - which have and which haven't been cashed?

ELECTRONIC BANK

PD comes to the rescue yet again. Electronic Bank Statement is a sequel to Home Accounts, but has an entirely different look and is incompatible with the earlier version's

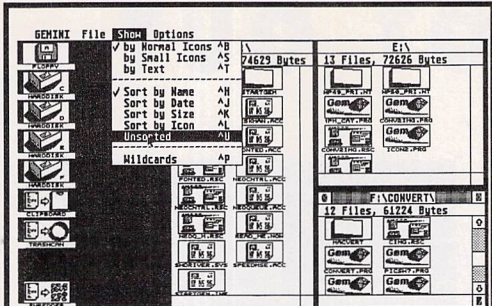
files. On screen it looks very similar to a printed bank statement, but this one can be edited and new transactions can be added as they occur. A clearly-written text file on the disk explains how it operates.

As each transaction is entered into the program the account's new balance is adjusted. The program's control is a little sloppy, as rather than just working your way across the screen when adding a transaction, you must press a different key to move on to each column. Taking advantage of the key macro facility could speed up the process a little.

Any standing orders can be included and a code can be marked alongside any entry for further calculations. An example of the code's use would be to mark all entries related to your car with a certain code, the program can then find the total spent on the vehicle.

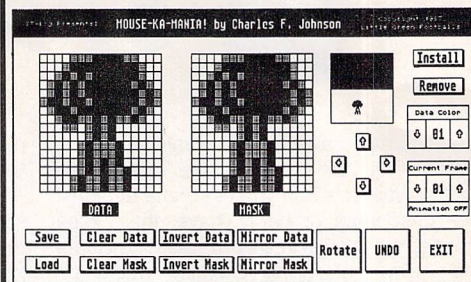
When you've entered all of the comings and goings of your account it can be saved on disk or printed as hard copy. Electronic Bank Statement lets you see your true bank balance at any time, but will work in colour only. Disk GPR01 from Goodman Enterprises holds this useful program.

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---------------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| 14:41:50 | | Electronic Bank Statement | | | SEP 4 |
| 3 | Untitled | | | | 1 |
| Date | Description | Code | Debit | Credit | Balance |
| 25 AUG | BALANCE | | | | 50000.00 |
| 25 AUG | PAY | P | | 2000.00 | 52000.00 |
| 27 AUG | PORSCHE | C | 20000.00 | | 32000.00 |
| Total left in account : | | | | | 32000.00 |
| (B)alance (C)ode C(r)edit (D)ate D(e)bit De(s)cription (T)itle # | | | | | |
| Edit : | | | | | |

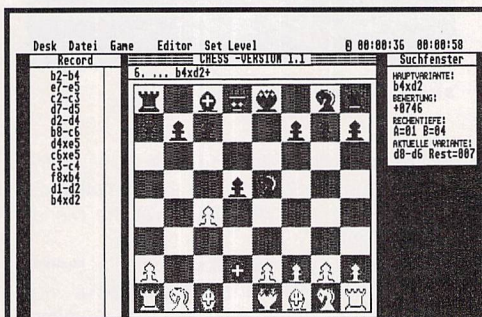


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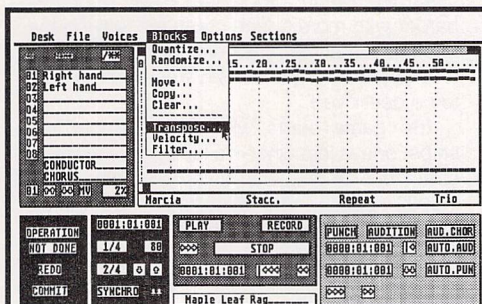
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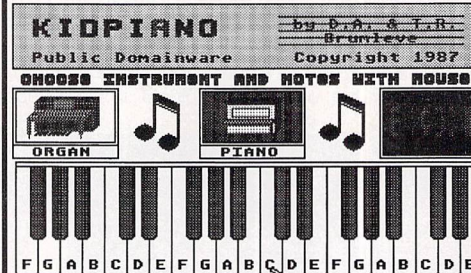
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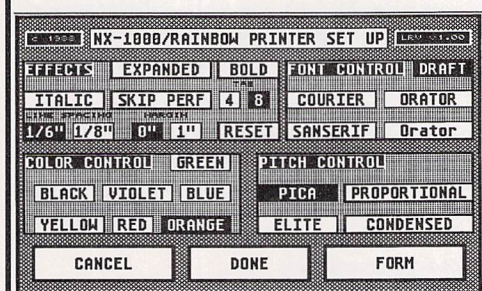
UNITERM comms package - COMS3



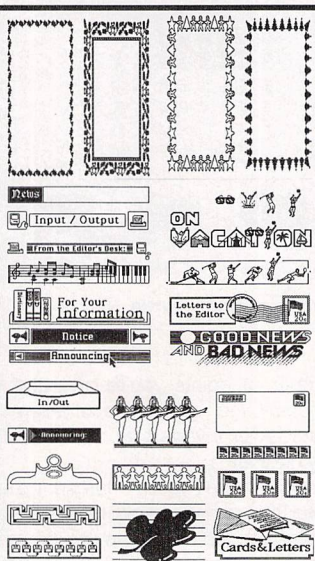
16 Voice Sequencer - MUS36



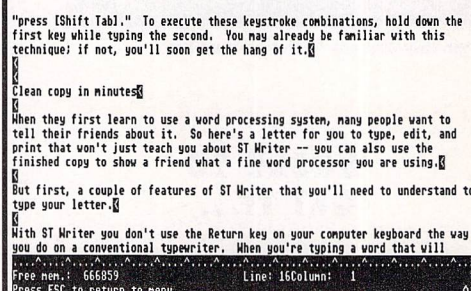
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SPACE SHOOT OUT

Evenings are drawing in, and rain and wind are heading our way over the Atlantic, so what do you do when you get home at night? The desperate probably have their eyes glued to the television screen watching Home and Away, but taking exercise would be much more beneficial.

I'm not talking about donning tracksuit and trainers for a run in the park, what I've got in mind is brushing the dust off the joystick and getting down to some serious wrist exercise. Space aliens seem to have been influenced by someone like Saddam Hussein, and I'm afraid they're coming down to get us in an unprovoked attack.

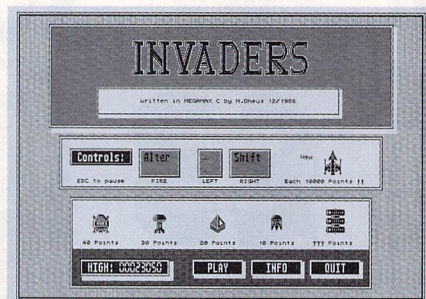
With joystick in hand you're all set for your 'defensive' mission but you're short of the program. There are many Space Invader clones to choose from and here are the best offerings:

- A good Budgie UK effort is Ace Invaders. Two versions of the arcade classic are supplied, the only difference being that one gives faster firepower than the other.

The sprites differ slightly from the coin-op version and are much more colourful, but nevertheless they are still quite reasonable and make it the closest representation that I found in the public domain. Flying saucers occasionally fly left to right at the top of the screen, and the aliens drop closer to your

planet in the usual manner. If they manage to land on the planet you're dead.

The usual alien heartbeat effects and sound of your fire are present throughout. Ace Invaders is colour only and played with a joystick, and comes from Goodman Enterprises, disk GBU12.



A menu shows how many points you'll get for blowing 'em to bits

- Monochrome users suffer from a severe lack of good blast outs, which is why Invaders will be a welcome sight for many. The game's from Germany and is played with the keyboard, and the keys are set in sensible positions so play is easy.

The menu screen tells you which keys to use (although the keyboard is German), and



After Space Invaders came...

formed a similar pattern to their older brothers, but in this one some left the formation on kamikazi-type missions, diving at the planet and your ship.

A Quest For Galaxia follows a similar theme to the coin-op Galaxians and also looks very much like it. There are a couple of differences, such as the Challenge stage and also the aliens don't attempt to suck you up to join their bunch.

As the game progresses play becomes harder with more space creatures leaving the pack. It sometimes gets difficult to place your ship in a part of the screen where it's unlikely to be destroyed.

The game starts with you having three ships, one is lost when it's hit by enemy fire or craft, but another is awarded with every 10,000 points. An excellent shoot-em-up which can be found on South West Software Library's disk 1072.

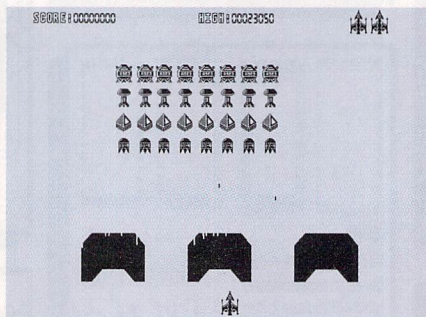
- After Space Invaders, shoot-em-ups popped up everywhere. Somehow they started to get the collective name Space Invaders, regardless of whether they even resembled the original hit. One of the games to appear was ST Invaders.

Waves of aliens come on to the screen in various formations and fly about dropping their bombs on you. Without even an inlay card the aim is obvious – save the planet, dodge enemy fire, shoot the aliens and everything will be fine, get the idea?

Working in colour and using only a joystick, it comes on a disk along with two other shoot-em-ups from PDQ Games. ST Invaders is worth looking at, although it's not a real clone of Space Invaders.



Probably closest to the coin-op hit



A good monochrome battle

WHERE TO GET IT...

Elmsoft, PO Box 17, Loughton, Essex IG10 2EE.

Goodman Enterprises, 16 Conrad Close, Meir Hay Estate, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST3 1SW.

MT Software, 14 Lanes End, Totland, Isle of Wight PO39 0AL.

PDQ games, PO Box 38, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO5 2WR.

South West Software Library, PO Box 562, Wimbourne, Dorset BH21 2YD.

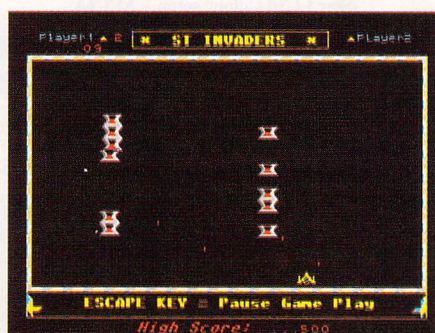
Wizard PD, 178 Waverley Road, Reading, Berkshire RG3 2PZ.

the number of points you're awarded when you've destroyed each type of alien. Each wave has fewer invaders to be blasted on it than the original.

The sprites don't really represent the real thing. But it is recognizable by the layout of the screen with the aliens moving across and then down the screen, and flying saucers making occasional appearances. Despite the fewer invaders, the game isn't too easy because they tend to fire more frequently. There is a high score facility kept on disk.

The lack of sound in Invaders didn't spoil the fun, and it's well worth a look at if you have a mono screen. Invaders is available from PDQ Games, and you'll find another shoot-em-up, Vector Invasion, on the same disk.

- Shortly after Space Invaders, Galaxians was the arcade machine all trendy teenagers wanted to be seen crowding around. Aliens



Games like this derived from Space Invaders

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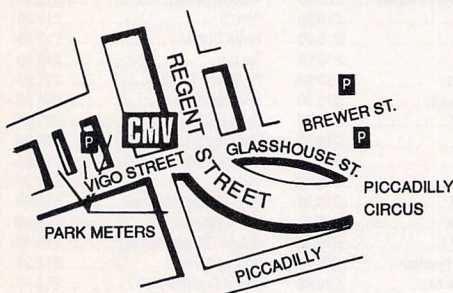
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As you would expect there are several word processors knocking around and some are regarded as awful, but then, different people prefer different packages.

It might be that you think the text will look better right justified after you've typed it as ragged, or vice-versa. In this case the whole document can be reformatted.

Documents can be edited by moving the flashing cursor, using the cursor keys, to the position of the character which needs to be

Most word processors have a facility for editing defined blocks of text. In the previous versions blocks have been marked using the keyboard, but now the mouse can be used

Occasionally, when an incorrectly spelt word is found you might not know how the word should be spelt. The dictionary can look



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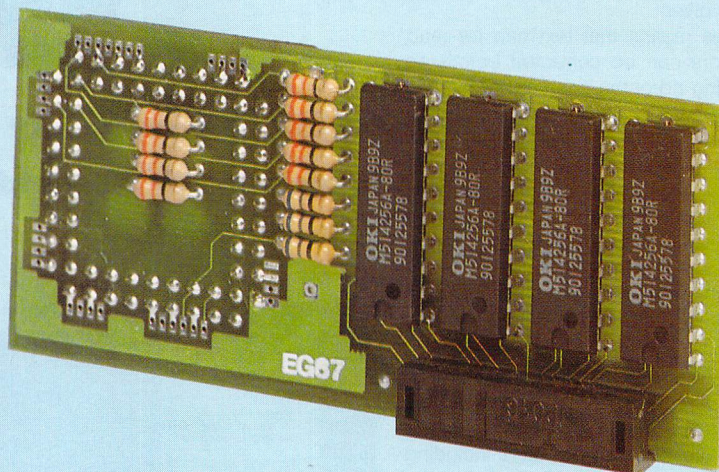
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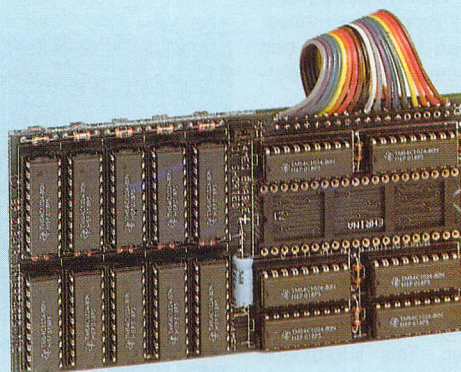
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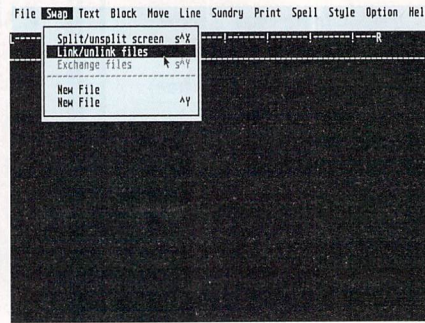
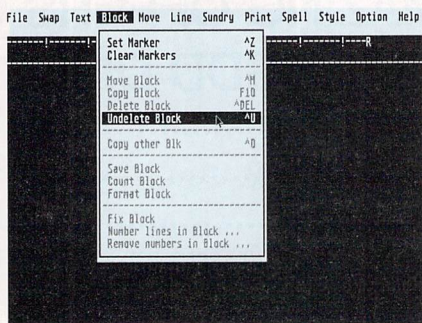
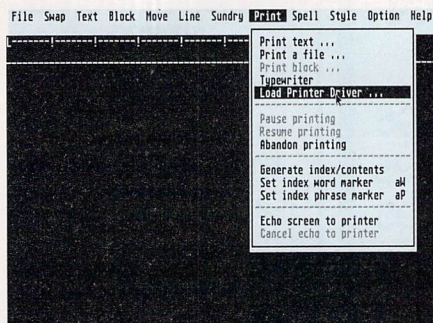
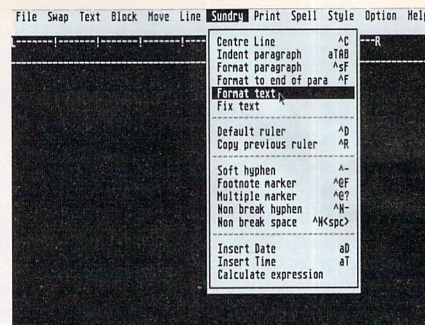
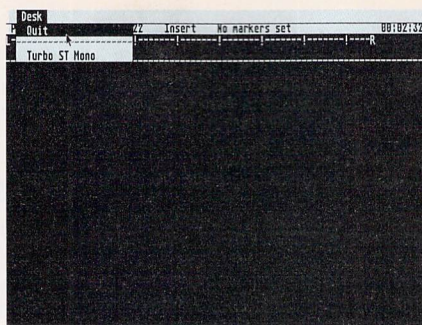
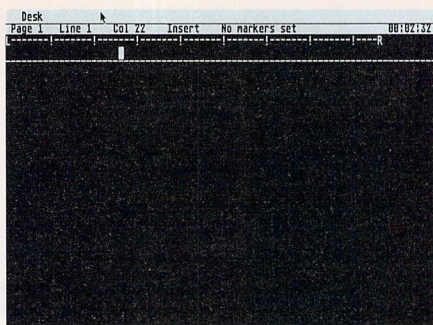
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From within Protex it's possible to access desk accessories simply by pressing the left mouse key. A menu bar appears with the word Desk and from that, you gain access to your favourite DAs. By pressing F3, it's possible to achieve almost complete GEM control via a series of drop-down menus...

up similarly spelt words and so if it's only a small error, the correct spelling will be listed among the findings and can be put into the text at the press of a key.

As well as the English dictionary, foreign ones can be bought. At the moment German and Swedish ones are available but others are to be released later. In fact, version 5 has more than a little European flavour. Twenty-seven languages can be used, including many from Eastern Europe, and it is compatible with 10 keyboard layouts.

The program automatically saves files every 15 minutes, unless told otherwise. This is another new feature in the program and one which I wasn't aware of until it happened. When other files need to be loaded or saved the new file selector will go far to help. It looks very similar to the one found in GEM. The available files are listed and then one file is selected by moving the pointer over the required file and double-clicking.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Features: Drop-down menus and dialog boxes, spelling checker, auto-save, available in 27 languages, 10 keyboard layouts, indexing, file selector, cut and paste editing, newspaper column printing.

Ease of use: Installation and configuration couldn't be easier, comprehensive on-screen help, straightforward commands.

Features
Excellent
Good
Average
Bad
Appalling

Ease of use
Excellent
Good
Average
Bad
Appalling

AND SO TO PRINT

When the time comes for printing, this version of Protex really performs. The program has a number of printer drivers to suit a range of printers and they are selected when configuring the program. There are control codes to set the printer to underline, enlarge, subscript... in fact do almost anything. All are easy to use – simply mark the text to go into the set style using Control and Alternate key combinations.

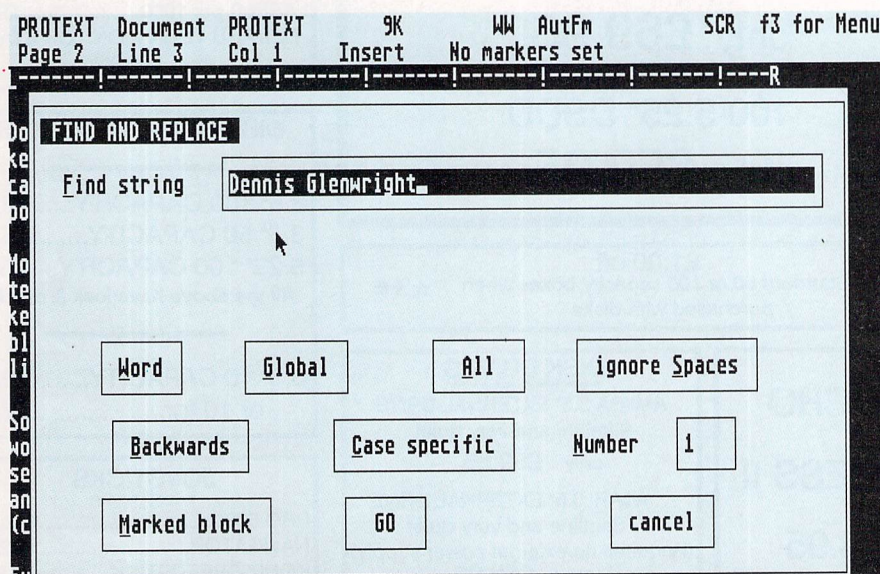
Files are printed as a page, block or from a disk, and according to the number of print-outs defined. Normally, documents will be printed across the page in a single column, but a new feature in version 5 is the option of printing in columns such as in newspapers. The number of columns and their width is defined by the user.

If any help is needed when using the program there's plenty of on-screen help. It can be found by using the drop-down menus or by asking for it at the command prompt. Occasionally you might need to turn to the manual.

The manual's remained similar in size to previous versions but unlike earlier versions is spiral-bound with a soft cover, rather than a hard-backed binder. It runs to 380 pages and is clearly written, although because the program is so user friendly it's rarely called upon.

Users of earlier versions of the program can upgrade for approximately half the cost of the Protex by sending their disks and money to Arnor. Either way, version 5 has lived up to the high expectations of its existing users and remains one of 'USER's favourite word processors.

NB. Earlier versions of Protex cost less than £100 and it's questionable whether the new features alone are worth the extra £50 asking price, but as a word processor the total package is worth every penny.



appear at the top of the screen. Moving the mouse pointer left or right with the mouse or cursor keys automatically changes between the various drop-down menus. Items in these menus can be selected and used

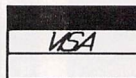
LEFT: The documents can be on-screen at the same time

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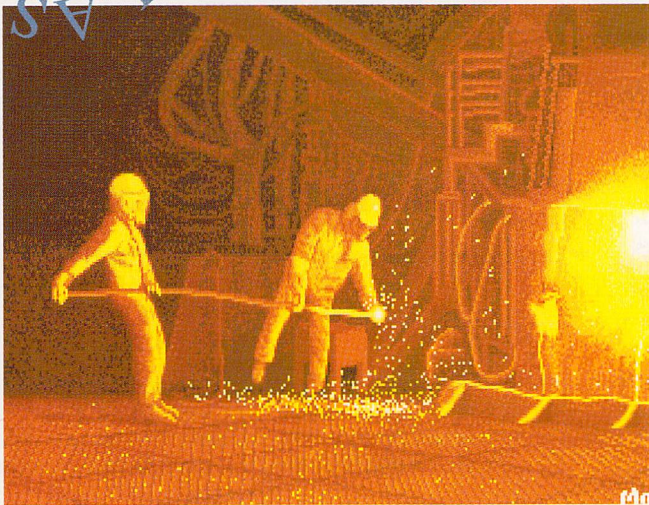
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MASTERCLASS



JUST A Mo!

Ms. Warden once again waxes lyrical on the benefits to be had from pixel pummeling with an electronic paint brush...

Creativity is a combination of imagination and knowledge. If you want to learn to draw on this or any other medium, there are a few rules to remember. Always observe, regularly practise and know thy software well. Research, recognise a good subject, work out why it appeals and how to interpret it.

Always observe, scrutinise and take mental snapshots. Watch the way people move – for example, how a heavy walk differs from a light step. Look closely at faces in glossy ads, always compare the length of the nose to the width of the mouth, the reflection in the eye and the curve of the lip.

Practise until you're bored and sick of it, then continue. But try not to give your ST flying lessons or yourself the habit of chain-smoking. Doodle a lot and don't forget that most people appreciate art, many have a desire to create and some of those actually find a medium that they like. Unfortunately, first efforts are usually disappointing and often frustration and disenchantment set in. Only a few persist and continue practising and experimenting – be one of them.

Software should obtrude as little as possible. If there are wrinkles in a package which irritate or slow you down regularly, just note the good points and go back to a familiar one. Don't be tempted by a program with a huge repertoire unless you feel really comfortable with it, as the old 'uns are often sufficient and faster to get around. A lot of the tools on larger applications are good for showing off with, but rarely indispensable.

Choosing a subject and researching it is also important, but don't be over-ambitious in your choice. For example, a portrait is something I wouldn't like to attempt, such subjects are better left to photography and digitising. Abstracts can be very appealing and quick – simply stretching and flipping a simple patterned block can produce some pretty effects.

If you decide to copy a photo don't only be guided by the subject matter, but use the composition lines. There should be a fairly strong focal point or balance between areas of light and shade. Also, the composition lines should always be leading the eye to the focus or emphasising it.

Bear in mind the colour limitations, a fair-ground scene might be bright and attractively composed, but when you see it in limited colours you may be disappointed. Some subjects are particularly well-suited to computer graphics because they are studies in light. Volcanic eruptions glow, water twinkles, street lights have haloes, fire is hot and lightning fairly crackles.

An excellent place to start your research is the library, especially if it has a photocopier. Pick an interest like cars, animals, cottages or clouds. You may not find what you need but you'll probably get some ideas along the way. Look in books on photography and art history, but don't forget magazines, comics and catalogues. If you

Presenting **PROTEXT 5.0**

Five years to the month after Protexit version 1 was launched Arnor are pleased to present version 5, an enormous leap forward in both ease of use and performance.

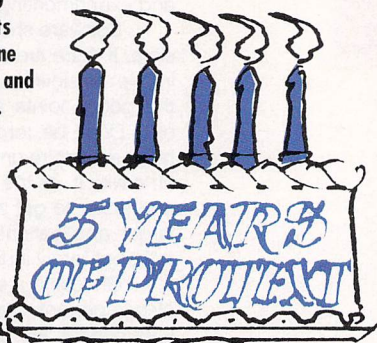
Protexit 5.0 introduces a completely integrated system of pull down menus and dialogue boxes. The menus are among the many operations that may now be carried out with either the mouse or the keyboard. Protexit really does give you the best of both worlds.

Protexit 5.0 handles printer fonts flexibly and accurately. You can make full use of any number of proportional printer fonts, mix them freely within any line, centre them in headers, use automatically formatted footnotes. And Protexit correctly formats your text as you type it, no matter how many font changes you use, showing you line and page breaks exactly as they will be printed.

Protexit 5.0 is still the fastest word processor around. Even though we have made all these major improvements we have taken great care to ensure that text editing is as fast as ever. The menus work smoothly and quickly even with high resolution displays. But of course, you can use Protexit's efficient set of commands and keys just as before and 5.0 remains compatible with all earlier versions from 1.0 onwards.

Protexit 5.0 is a worthy successor to version 4, which was described as "the best word processor at any price", "the best text processor on the Amiga" and "the most powerful word processor on the Atari ST" (AUI, ST/Amiga Format, ST User).

Protexit 5.0 heralds a new era of multi-lingual European software, in time for 1992 and the opening up of Eastern Europe. Protexit may be used in at least 27 different languages and has 10 different national keyboard layouts built in (plus the capability to define your own symbols and keyboard layouts).



Prices

Protexit 5.0 may be purchased from any good computer shop or directly from Arnor. Upgrades from earlier versions are only available from Arnor and the original discs should be returned with your order.

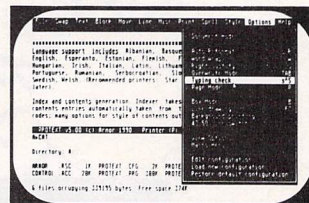
| | PC | Amiga | ST/TT | Archimedes |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| Protexit 5.0 | £149.95 | £149.95 | £149.95 | £149.95 |
| Upgrade from v4.2 | £60 | £60 | £60 | N/A |
| from earlier versions | £75 | £75 | £75 | N/A |
| Protexit 4.2 | £99.95 | £99.95 | £99.95 | N/A |
| Prodata 1.1 | £79.95 | £79.95 | £79.95 | due 1991 Q1 |

Notes:

Protexit 5.0 requires at least 640K of memory on all machines
 Protexit 4.2 requires at least 512K of memory on all machines
 Prodata requires 1MB of memory on the Amiga

The Features

★ **New fast & easy to use pull down menu system** with dialogue boxes and alerts; file selector; mouse dragging to set blocks. Menus complement existing commands and keyboard shortcuts, do not replace them. Menus may be used with mouse or keyboard. Amiga version follows Intuition guidelines.



★ **Enhanced printing capabilities** supports multiple proportional fonts; mixing of different font sizes on the same line; proportional formatting whilst editing; side margin, headers and footers independent of main text font. Tabs, decimal tabs and centre tabs. Extensive range of printer drivers supplied.

★ **Multiple file editing** - up to 36 files may be open; split screen editing.

★ **Graphics mode support** on PC allows use in virtually any text or graphics mode including 132 column or 75 line VGA modes; user defined characters and on-screen bold, italics and underlining now on all versions; use of 13 different accents on any character.

★ **Language support includes** Albanian, Basque, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Estonian, Flemish, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latin, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Rumanian, Serbocroatian, Slovak, Spanish, Slovene, Swedish, Welsh. (Note: some printers do not support all languages).

★ **Index and contents** generation. Indexer takes marked words or phrases; contents entries automatically taken from titles wrapped in control codes; many options for style of contents output.

★ **Spelling checker** features completely new 110,000+ word Collins dictionary with very fast phonetic lookup. Anagrams and find word pattern. Foreign language dictionaries (German, Swedish available now, others to follow).

★ **Many other enhancements** including multi-line footnotes and endnotes; automatic timed save; add column or row of figures; indent tabs; find word at cursor; 40 column mode support; sentence operations; inter-paragraph space; much improved expression evaluator; self incrementing variables; Roman numerals; newspaper-style column printing; file sorting utility with special options for names and addresses; revised manual plus new tutorial guide.

★ **And don't forget Protexit still includes** background printing; box manipulation; macro recording; exec files; headers and footers; find and replace; mail merging; undelete; file conversion utility; configuration program; auto reformatting; on screen help; time and date; typewriter mode; line drawing; disc utilities.

ARNOR

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find elements of a picture, this house or that tree, copy them for cutting out and rearranging. Remember the basic perspective rules, there may be several vanishing points in a scene but they'll all end on eye level, and often the relationship between them can enhance or confuse a picture.

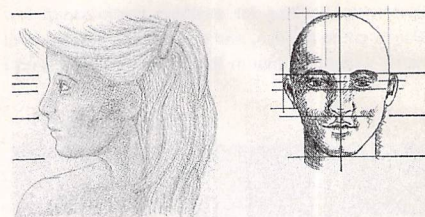
So, now to begin and assuming that you've chosen a subject, you'll need either an original drawing of your own, a photo or a collection of photocopies. From experience, I've found that black and white is easier to take lines from. The next step is to take a tracing, don't make it too detailed. Follow the lines which make the composition rather than the detail and textures, this can then be gridded, a scale of 16 boxes by 10 is convenient. Square your screen the same way and for added assistance sketch in your eye level, perspective lines and vanishing points.

Copy one line at a time using the grid as a guide. Use the line tool to create a rough outline, then draw over this free-hand with another colour, so that the lines can be removed afterwards. Straight lines hardly ever occur in nature, unless your subject is man-made, so perfectly straight lines will look out of place and artificial.

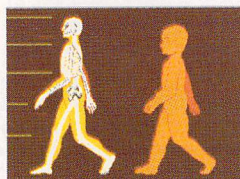
Fill large areas as soon as you can, then you can set up a rough palette to work with. Erase the remains of the grid, and work from your original coloured photo. Keep checking your original scene, and before going on to



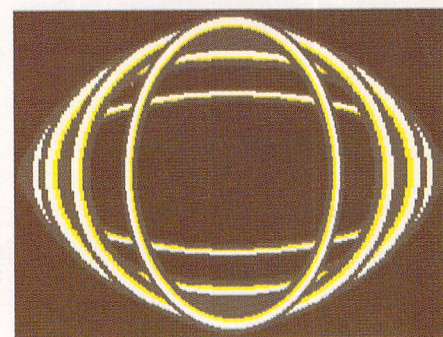
The church is drawn almost entirely with a ruler, the eye level is dropped to the ground to give a more imposing viewpoint, and the tower corner is centralised to lead the eye up even more strongly



Drawing a reasonable human head isn't too difficult if you use construction lines to get the proportions right



ABOVE: Figure drawing is a lot easier if you remember the proportions of the structure beneath. A common error is to make the arms too short - the hands should reach the top of the thigh. To draw a child, enlarge the head and shorten the trunk and limbs



ABOVE: A quick abstract doodle can be pleasing



LEFT: Scenes containing a strong light source work particularly well on screen, especially if they are off-set by a neutral or cool spot. A focal point needn't be the brightest object in the image

MASTERCLASS

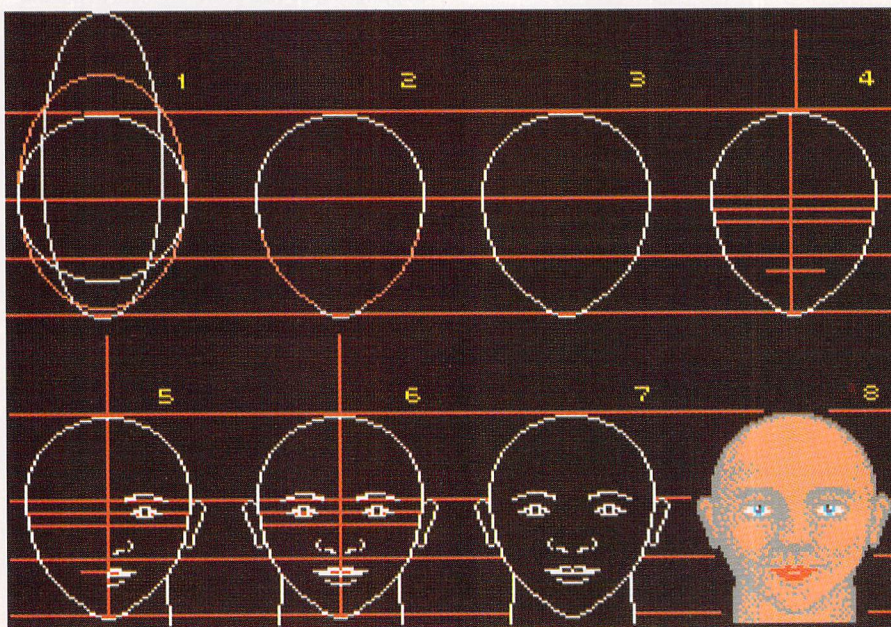
any detailed work, fiddle with the areas of light and shade until you're happy with them. I used to become so engrossed in a picture that I forgot to save my work, and then regretted it later when I'd made a mess - so always save your files frequently.

The first detail to be put onto a screen is the focal point, unless there are figures or faces, in which case I start with those. If there are any elements that you're not confident that you can handle, tackle them first. Should it emerge that it really is beyond your ability, just edit them out, redesign or even start again with another, less ambitious subject.

The majority of my time spent on-screen is used putting in anti-aliasing and tweaking little details and lines, until they please me. It's the polish in a scene which makes the difference to the finished article. I prefer to complete my picture in one sitting if possible, storing and coming back to it another day for a last session of touching up.

Finally, don't be embarrassed by your work. After all that effort you deserve a little praise, invite constructive criticism and try not to let the negative comments put you off. Show it to your friends, give copies away or send it to a magazine if you think it's good enough to be published. Above all, persevere and your technique will improve with every piece produced.

BELOW: 1) The white ellipse is skull to ears, the blue is the jaw and the yellow is the chin. (2) Trim off the lines you don't need and (3) recolour. (4) Approximately place the mouth and eye lines, and following my drawing or your photo, (5) roughly put in the features. (6,7) Copy and flip, then remove construction lines. (8) The whole process has taken about an hour and a half



NOW DOWN TO BUSINESS

I've collected a stack of magazines and begun to browse, not looking for anything particular. A few images catch my eye, and so I put them aside until there's eventually four or five to choose from. Next I

analyse why I like each one, what the appeal is and how easy each would be to copy.

Also important is how well the image is composed, the practicality of the colouring and whether

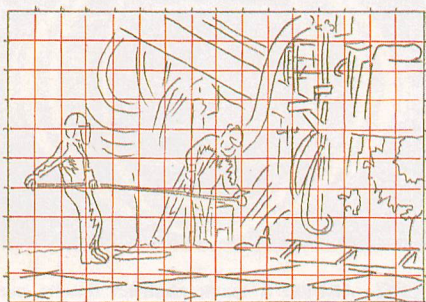
its the type of image that I'll get sick of looking at before it's finished. It is important to enjoy doing it, if you don't you'll find that it's really obvious in your finished masterpiece



1 LEFT: I settle on an image of glass blowers. It's a study of light again, with strong bright focal points linked together in a rough rectangle.

This contains the furnace, hot glass on the floor and two figures. The rod links the two figures and bisects the rectangle.

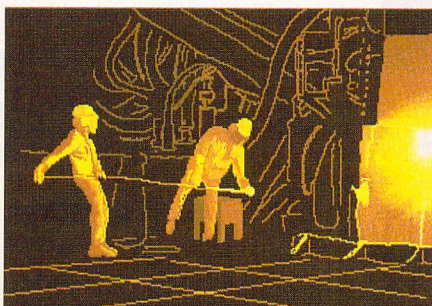
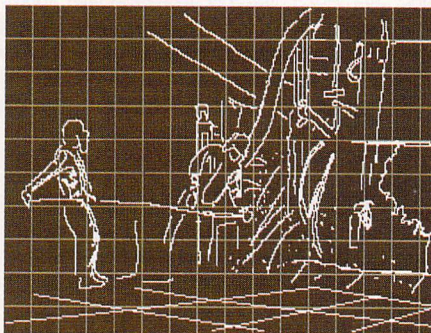
Ceiling beams and tubes point to and frame the burner, and the perspective lines in the floor plates reinforce it giving depth. There's a good balance of light and shade to emphasise the figures



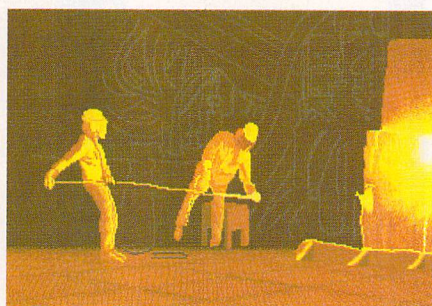
2 LEFT: Using a photocopy, I've traced all the main lines and a fair bit of detail, some of which won't be needed. The lines in this example have been inked to show up more clearly (I wouldn't normally do this). My grid is in a different colour and also on the back of the tracing so that it won't obscure any of my lines

MASTERCLASS

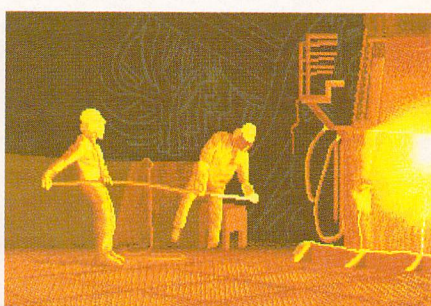
3 BELOW: I've gridded my screen first and carefully copied my main lines



4 Using my photograph, the bright spots have been picked out and worked on first



5 The floor area has been filled and the perspective in the plate has been tidied up, as this strengthens the composition. Also I've added some texture to them to give more depth. The background lines were distracting me, so I've coloured them in neutral



6 I've begun to add some detail to the furnace area now. Some interest here is quite important as the fire is a focus and I felt I couldn't get away with roughly spraying it in. I've emphasised the floor texture too, to help with depth even more

7 RIGHT: Finally I've filled the large areas in the background, slightly brightening the lines which help the composition and darkening out those which don't - some artistic licence here. Anti-alias the figures and spray some molten glass droplets onto the floor, and it's finished. Finished that is, bar the signature



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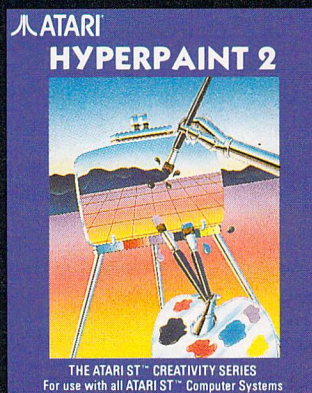
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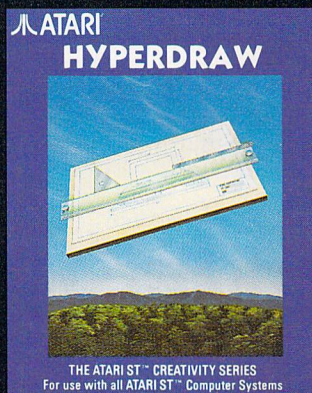
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ATARI® Software are

Product: STOS Master Paint
Supplier: Stallion Software
Telephone: 0752 569781
Price: £14.95
Configuration: All STs, colour only

STOS Master Paint is a new colour-only paint package from Stallion Software, written in STOS Basic. The program is designed to be run either from the Desktop as a normal program, or loaded as an accessory in STOS Basic.

Master Paint provides all the usual features you'd expect from a modern paint program, such as line and freehand drawing tools, and ellipses, circles and boxes which can either be filled or unfilled.

Area fill and paint brush tools are also included, with most of the drawing tools being available from within the three level zoom facility. A variety of nozzle, line shapes and sizes are user selectable, although you cannot create a custom brush or fill pattern.

Pictures can be enlarged or reduced using special tools, and also flipped either horizontally or vertically using the mirror tool. Any area of the screen can be selected for a cut and paste operation.

A separate screen displays all 512



ONE FROM THE 'ART

Proof that STOS isn't limited to games writers, Master Paint is a cheap introduction to electronic art. Simon Lawson puts paintbrush to pixel...

colours from the ST's palette and they can be selected with a single click. Up to 100 user definable palettes of 16 colours each can be created. Master Paint includes a 512 colour drawing facility, but this is cumbersome as it involves drawing your picture first in 16 colours, and then changing the palette of each line individually, using a separate screen.

The manual for Master Paint is a serious disappointment, which lets down an otherwise capable package. It's a poorly produced DTP document containing the bare minimum of information and it looks like it was printed on a 9-pin dot matrix printer. A separate insert contains corrections to the main manual as well as a registration card.

Master Paint doesn't offer anything radically new in the painting arena. The 512 colour mode is more of a gimmick because of the amount of time it takes to create a picture, but it might be useful for occasional work. STOS Paint offers little more than

Neochrome for the average user, but if you have STOS, the ability to load it as an accessory could make it worth the price.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Features: Good range of features, but it's not helped by the awkward 512 colour mode. There's no support for animation or the STE's enhanced colour palette.

Ease of use: The poor instruction manual lets Master Paint down, and some of the keys used are difficult to remember. Icons are bright and clear.

| Features |
|-----------|
| Excellent |
| Good |
| Average |
| Bad |
| Appalling |

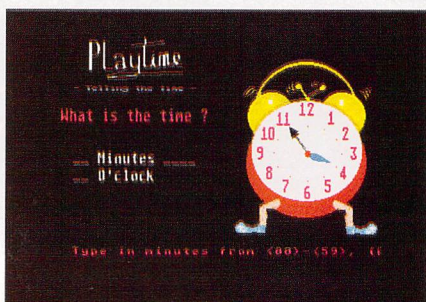
| Ease of use |
|-------------|
| Excellent |
| Good |
| Average |
| Bad |
| Appalling |

Product: Playtime
Supplier: Top Notch Software
Telephone: We're still trying to find it
Price: £19.95
Configuration: All STs, colour only

Playtime is a new package from Top Notch Software, aimed at teaching children aged between four and eight, to tell the time. The program comes on a single sided disk.

Playtime presents a simple menu of eight choices, mostly to enable an adult to control the type of questions the program asks. These include minutes to and past the hour, as well as half and quarter hours. Playtime however, doesn't teach the difference between AM and PM.

There are two games, both of which use the same picture of a clock. The program runs in low resolution, using six colours which are bright and garish – but the kids will love it. Game one involves telling the time from the hands of the clock. The child



WORKERS' PLAYTIME

Simon Lawson goes back to school with Top Notch's Playtime...

has three chances to get the answer right.

Game two lets the child set the hands of the clock from a time which is displayed on screen. Cursor keys must be used, and the game is unnecessarily complex and repetitive. Accompanying the program is terrible synthesized speech and a dire tune. Unfortunately the nature of the games gives no incentive for the child to remain interested.

Playtime can store up to 24 sets of records on children and print out progress reports. There's no facility with which to analyse performance or suggest areas in which more work might be needed.

Playtime provides only two simple games that would be hard-pushed to hold a child's interest. Graphics for the program are poor and sound quality is appalling.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Features: Only two games, both use the same screen and each is boring and repetitive.

Ease of use: There's no attempt to use the mouse in order to make the program easier to use.

| Features |
|-----------|
| Excellent |
| Good |
| Average |
| Bad |
| Appalling |

| Ease of use |
|-------------|
| Excellent |
| Good |
| Average |
| Bad |
| Appalling |

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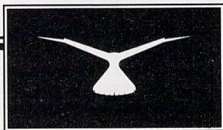
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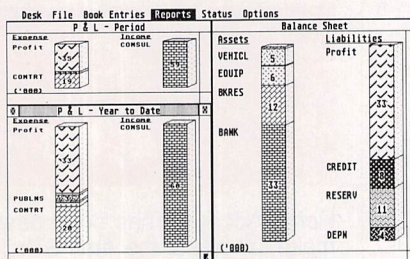
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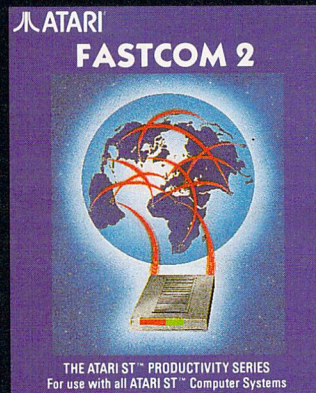
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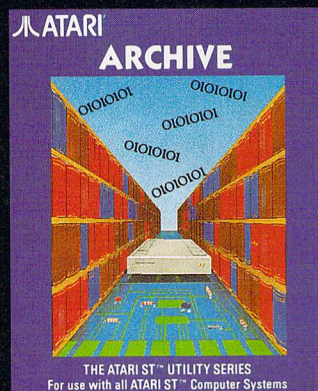
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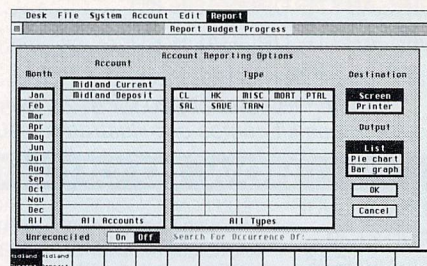
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INTERACTIVE RESCUE



PD COMPRESSION

Q Having recently got into word processing on the ST in a big way, finding it far more practical to use than the more conventional pen and paper, I have recently been worried at the way my word processor files have been taking up more and more space. Originally finding that I could keep my documents on the same disk that I kept the word processor (a back-up naturally...), I now find that not only can I not keep all the files on the same disk, but now I need three separate disks to contain them (just think, all that information! - SSS), not including the back-ups. I have tried deleting all the non-essential files, but it seems that every time I delete a copy of a file, I find that I have to type it in again as I find that I need it after all.

The obvious solution is to buy a storage medium capable of storing larger amounts of data than the conventional floppy, but at present, even the cheapest I've seen is way beyond my price range.

I'm electronically inept and can not just throw together a home made hard drive for a cheaper price and so find myself in an awkward situation. Having bought issue 54 of 'USER for the first time, I noticed that many of the programs were archived to reduce space. There's a de-archiving program on the disk so that I can use the software, but no archiving program!

I'm sure that many readers would appreciate the inclusion of a good archiver on the cover disk, so that their undoubtedly similar problems could be solved by being able to archive many documents into one crunched file, possibly including a password facility to prevent unauthorised access. Failing this, would it be possible to state a good archiver available from the public domain?

Which public domain suppliers does 'USER recommend? Where can they be con-

tacted and why do you recommend them? Are there any PD suppliers to avoid? Also if the team had £500 to spend on expanding a set-up which consisted of just a 520STFM (no monitor etc) what would they buy? Is there a cheap way to convert the 520STFM to have a separate keyboard a la mega?

Does no-one bother to draw pictures in medium resolution? Surely there must be someone out there who has drawn a good enough medium resolution picture to be put on the cover disk? I know that medium resolution has only four colours but some of us are interested to see what sort of results can be achieved by a good artist. Is it possible that some medium resolution art could be included on one of the next cover disks?

Which is the best memory upgrade around at the moment? There are so many models that it is hard for the technically inept of us to distinguish them from each other.

What would the 'USER team say is the best PD utility around at the moment?

Lee Watson, Woodley, Berkshire.

A Of course you could just spring a few quid for another box of floppies. Most computer users have many tens of disks and although they're still quite expensive (falling all the time...), buying them is one important aspect of computing as a hobby.

Having said that, there's nothing wrong with wanting to get as much data onto your disks as possible and this can be easily achieved with a simple archiving program from the public domain. There are several which offer password facilities to enable you to protect 'sensitive' text from prying eyes.

Where do get them from? Take a look at our public domain pages

wherein you'll discover addresses for some of the best libraries around. These are libraries we've had direct contact with and whose service we can recommend. Every library offers hundreds of arcing programs, so you'll have to wade through them until you discover the one for you. Why worry, they're free!

Medium resolution pictures? There are probably lots of artists around producing good stuff in medium resolution but the place to exhibit them is on the Art-Work! pages and not the disk.

Art-Work! exists to give budding ST artists a chance to exhibit their work and explain some of their secrets. As soon as we receive some medium resolution pictures, we'll publish them.

There's probably never been a better time to upgrade ST memories. Most of the leading suppliers are offering plug-in, solder-less upgrades which can be fitted easily by the non-technical, and it would be unfair to recommend any particular one. Have a look through the RAM upgrade reviews which appear regularly in the magazine and those from previous issues (most still available from our back issues department).

The best PD utility at the moment? Difficult, because there are so many good utilities, but one that we like a lot at the moment is Gemini, a replacement Desktop available from the South West Software Library on disk 909. Unfortunately, there's some dispute at the moment as to whether the program is PD or not, but if it proves to be PD, then get a copy, it's excellent.

Computer cracking up? Disks doing back flips? Printer out of puff? 'USER's very own Silicon Service Supremo is at your disposal. All points bulletins to Interactive Rescue, Atari ST User, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP
...anything can happen in the next half hour...

THE 1990 ATARI ST PRODUCT GUIDE

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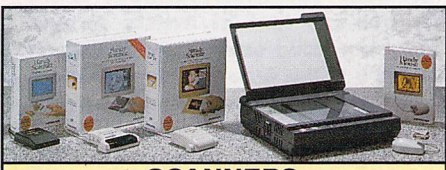
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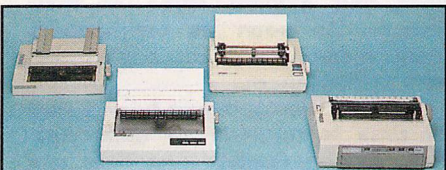
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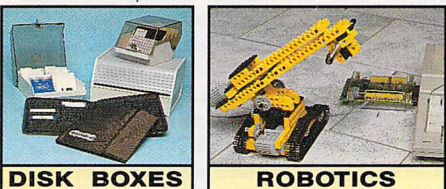
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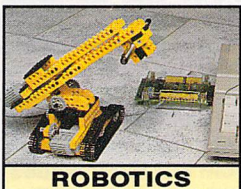
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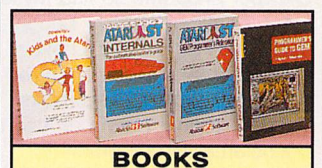
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PC DRIVE?

Q This is a back-handed question to put to an ST magazine, but I would be grateful for an answer. From the Silicon Service Supremo's answer in Interactive Rescue (#55), it seems that a PC disk drive can be used with an Atari ST and from comparing the owner's manuals for an ST and an Atari PC1, it appears that the connections for the 14-pin round plug are the same. Does it follow that I could fit an ST 3.5 inch drive such as those advertised in Atari ST User by Evesham Micros and others to my Atari PC1?

Atari themselves seem to have lost all interest in this machine, although they have no reason to be ashamed of it. It was one of the best PCs, particularly because of its mouse and set of emulators.

John Leach, Tetbury, Gloucester.

A **Perfectly possible I should think. Although never having seen pin outs for the PC1 (or indeed, the PC1...), I can't say with absolute certainty.**

KEYBOARD CAPERS!

Q Please excuse me for troubling you, but I would be very grateful if you could just read this through and I apologise in advance if you find what I'm going to say totally ridiculous (well you're a timid little mouse aren't you - SSS).

It's about a simple idea to solve the problem of remembering which function keys on an ST keyboard do what, depending upon

which program you're using. This is something I often forget when using several packages and maybe other users have similar problems.

The solution consists of a roller bar with several faces which can be written on for the



function keys of each program and rotated to select the appropriate set.

I was hoping that you might like to publish a modest sized photo of the device with a caption indicating its use and that a manufacturer is currently being sought. Should you agree to this I'm sure we could come to some agreement where I get the royalties and you get the credit for introducing such a useful device to the public!

Anthony Fox, Brighton.

A **No sooner begged-for, than done! As with all of the most successful gadgets, Tony's little wonder is of a very simple yet ingenious construction suitable for large-scale manufacture and sale at reasonable cost. And Tony, take all the shekels and credit, you deserve**

it! And if any eager manufacturer has designs on the design (!), they can contact Anth care of 'USER and we'll pass on your letters...

PUPIL'S PUZZLES

Q I own an Atari STFM and there are a few questions I would like to ask. Firstly, as I am a school pupil aged 16, I would like to know if it is at all possible for me to transfer text files from my ST to the school's computers. My word processor is Protext V4.2 and the school's computers are RM Nimbus which are PCs and they have an IBM emulator.

I have also persuaded the IT teacher to purchase a copy of Protext for the Nimbus so would this be of any help? I am sure this information would be valuable to a lot of students as RM is replacing BBCs in a lot of schools.

Secondly, I wish to enquire about ST hard disks. Is it possible to build your own? If so, what do you need and how much does it cost?

My third point is on the subject of RAM upgrades. Is it possible to buy RAM chips and simply solder them into the computer? I noticed the 16 spare slots in the computer when I installed Freeze Frame as shown in the July issue of Atari ST User. If it is possible to do this, where would I get the chips and how much would they cost?

T Moody, Longhoughton, Alnwick.

A **Transferring data between the ST and a PC or clone such as the Research Machine's Nimbus computer is entirely possible, and shouldn't present any problems providing you format disks on the Nimbus (DOS won't recognise disks formatted on an ST).**

Of course this will only work if the Nimbus has a 3.5 inch drive but as all the latest machines do have such a drive, you'll be fine. If it's an early machine, you'll have to resort to a serial connection between your ST and the school machines but this too is easy and your IT teacher should be able to effect such a connection easily (you'll have to take your ST to school however...)

Hard drives? Yeah, you can build them at home but surprisingly, home-brew hard drives are no cheaper than buying one of the latest devices from Power Computing (0234 273000). Around 300 clams will get you a brand-new 20Mb baby. And unless you have access to a cheap second-hand drive mechanism, you won't be able to construct a drive at home any cheaper.

Some STs can have their memories upgraded by simply soldering in extra RAM chips and yours is obviously one of them. One of the best sources of RAM chips (and anything else electronic...) is Maplin, a mail-order electronic component supplier of some repute. These guys have been in the electronics 'biz' for years, have shops around the country and a big fat catalogue available from branches of WH Smiths for a measly couple of quid.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ TIPS ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

VIRUS PROTECTION

Your mag is fab, so I'm going to give you a tip to save loads of people from spending £10 on virus protection.

Get a piece of wire, poke one end into pin 14 of the floppy port and the other end in pin 3 or 7 (pin 14 is write protect, pins 7 and 3 are logic ground).

Now your ST is protected from viruses. You have to remove the wire if you want to write something to disk. This method works fine for single drive owners. If you have two drives here's what to do.

Open up your ST and remove everything that gets in the way

of you having access to the floppy port (this will invalidate your warranty - SSS). Solder two wires to the back of the port as mentioned above, then connect the wires to a toggle switch. Reconstruct your ST and there you have it! (ta - SSS)

Oliver, London.

LORD CHAOS DIES!

We are writing to say that Glenn is wrong in his claim that Bloodwych from Imageworks is impossible to beat unless you use his method of killing creatures. We have killed Lord Chaos with two players using our method of attack, but it works just as well in single player games (I beat the Serpent Tower by myself, but then gave up since our two player game had already won).

The runaround as we called it only works in open space - you must have at least a square of 2 x 2 spaces - and is simply moving rapidly around the monsters using the arrow keys while clicking on attack (use autofire on two player). The computer's monsters can

never rotate fast enough to face you, meaning that they can never cause damage.

Meanwhile, your party constantly tries to get behind the opposition and with an assassin in the front line, attack from behind or, if this is not possible, the side. This is a lot easier if the monsters cast spells as they stand still while doing so.

A two player version involves slightly different system. Get the parties on either side of the monster you wish to kill. The monster will naturally turn to face one of them (player one for example). Player one moves his or her party away from danger by side-stepping using the keyboard. The mon-

sters will now turn to face player two, with his or her assassin in the front line, who will now be hacking away without any worries. As soon as this happens, player one can move back and start attacking again.

The monsters are programmed to attack the weaker party, turn back to face player one and is once more attacked from behind from player two. Player one moves away again and the whole process is repeated. As the monsters never actually travel anywhere, a firepath spell could be used if the monsters can be attracted onto that square.

James Eggleston and Michael Wilson, Penrith, Cumbria.

datafile

**The page that points the finger
at the companies in the know**

PRICE CHECK

All prices were correct at the time of going to press and as usual, include VAT. A comprehensive buyer's guide can be found in the pages of our sister publication, ST World.

COMPUTERS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Atari 520STE Power Pack..... | £399.99 |
| Atari 520STFM Discovery Pack..... | £299.99 |
| Atari 1040STE Super Pack..... | £499.99 |
| Atari 1040STE Professional Pack..... | £499.99 |
| Atari Mega ST1..... | £589.99 |
| Atari Mega ST2..... | £934.99 |
| Atari Mega ST4..... | £1,279.99 |
| Stacy 2Mb..... | £1,724.99 |
| Stacy 4Mb..... | £2,069.99 |

MONITORS

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Atari SC1224 monitor..... | £299.99 |
| Atari SM124 monitor..... | £149.99 |
| Philips CM8833..... | £310.49 |

FLOPPY DRIVES

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Actionsoft 1Mb 5.25in..... | £134.95 |
| Atari SF354 single sided..... | £119.99 |
| Atari SF314 double sided..... | £149.99 |
| Cumana 1Mb 3.5in..... | £79.99 |

HARD DRIVES

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|--|---------|
| Atari Megafile 30Mb hard disk drive..... | £499.99 |
| Atari Megafile 60Mb hard disk drive..... | £689.99 |
| Supra 30Mb hard disk..... | £499.95 |

OTHER HARDWARE

| | |
|--|---------|
| Atari SLM804 laser printer & interface | £1,379 |
| Atari Mouse..... | £24.99 |
| Casio MT240 MIDI keyboard..... | £89.95 |
| Epson LX850 printer..... | £320.85 |
| EuroLink Modem..... | £259.95 |
| Linnet Modem..... | £174.80 |
| Linnet 1200 Modem..... | £274.85 |
| Star LC10 mono printer..... | £263.35 |
| Star LC10 colour printer..... | £297.85 |

BEST BUYS

Each month the editorial team selects the best five buys in one type of software package. This month, DTP packages:

Calamus, Signa Publishing.....£458
Sophisticated package
Fleet St Publisher, Mirrorsoft..£199
Powerful, good control
PageStream, Silica.....£171.35
Easy-to-use makeup program
Proxima, Network News.....£155.25
American version of PageStream
Timeworks DTP, Elec. Dis.....£99.99
Simple but popular

DIARY DATES

UK EVENTS

23 to 29 October 1990

Atari Whistle Stop Tour '90
Organiser: Atari UK
(0753 33344)
Visting: Bristol Temple Meads (23), Manchester Victoria (24), Leeds (25), Newcastle (26), Glasgow Central (27), Birmingham International (29)

6 to 9 December 1990

Computer Shopper Show
Organiser: Blenheim Database
(0625 879970)
Venue: Wembley Exhibition Centre, London

4 to 6 January 1990

16 Bit Computer Fair
Organiser: Westminster Exhibitions
(081 549 3444)
Venue: Hammersmith Novotel, London

OVERSEAS EVENTS

12 to 16 November 1990

Comdex Fall
Organiser: Media Plus
(081-977 3474)
Venue: Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

● If your company is organising a show relevant to the Atari ST and is not listed, let us know so that it can be included in the diary.

ADDRESS BOOK

Arnor
611 Lincoln Road, Peterborough
PE1 3HA.
Tel: 0733 68909
Fax: 0772 561071

Atari UK
Atari House, Railway Terrace,
Slough, Berkshire SL2 5B2.
Tel: 0753 33344
Fax: 0753 822914

CIX
Suite 2, The Sanctuary,
Oakhill Grove, Surbiton,
Surrey KT6 6DU.
Tel: 081-390 8446

Digita International
Black Horse House,
Exmouth, Devon
EX8 1JL.
Tel: 0395 2700273
Fax: 0395 268893

Gremlin Graphics Software
Alpha House,
10 Carver Street,
Sheffield S1 4FS.
Tel: 0742 753423

Frontier Software
PO Box 113,
Harrogate, N.Yorks,
HG2 0BE.
Tel: 0423 567140

Interactive Publishing
Europa House, Adlington Park,
Adlington, Macclesfield,
Cheshire SK104NP.
Tel: 0625 878888
Fax: 0625 879966

Ladbroke Computing
33 Ormskirk Road,
Preston,
Lancashire PR1 2QP.
Tel: 0772 203166

MicroLink
4 Moons Park, Burnt Meadow Road,
Redditch, Worcestershire B989PA.
Tel: 0527 67585, 0527 69459
(sales and marketing)

Millennium
Chancery House,
107 St Pauls Road,
London N1 2NA.
Tel: 071-548 9897

Power Computing
Power House, 44A Stanley Street,
Bedford MK41 7RW.
Tel: 023 427 3000

Prestel
Dialcom UK, Dialcom House,
Brindley Way, Hemel
Hempstead, Hertfordshire
HP3 9RR.
Service Tel: 0442 237777
Sales Tel: 0800 200700

Silica Systems
1-4 The Mews
Hatherley Road,
Sidcup,
Kent DA14 4DX.
Tel: 081 309 1111

Third Coast Technologies
Unit 8 Bradley Hall Ind Est,
Standish, WN6 OXQ.
Tel: 0257 472444

US Gold
Units 2/3 Holford Way,
Holford, Birmingham
B6 7AX.
Tel: 021 625 3388

REPAIRS

Ampower Computer Repairs
15a Alcester Road, Studley, Warwickshire
B80 7AG.
Tel: 0527 85 3374

Avon Micro Centre
Unit 4, Western Road Industrial Estate,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire CV37 0AH.
Tel: 0789 292269

Ladbroke Computing
33 Ormskirk Road, Preston, Lancashire,
PR1 2QP.
Tel: 0772 203166

Evesham Micros
Unit 9, St Richard's Road,
Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 6XJ.
Tel: 0386 446441

SDL
Unit 10, Ruxley Corner Industrial Estate,
Sidcup Bypass, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5SS.
Tel: 081-300 3399

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| Atari 520 STE Power Pack | £349 |
| Atari 520 STFM Discovery | £299 |
| Atari 1040 STE Pro Pack | £429 |
| Atari 1040 STE Ultimate | £429 |

Computers

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|-----------------------------|-------|
| Atari 520 STFM | £269 |
| Atari 520 STE | £299 |
| Atari 520 STE (1 Meg) | £349 |
| Atari 520 STE (2 Meg) | £419 |
| Atari 520 STE (4 Meg) | £499 |
| Atari 1040 STE | £429 |
| Mega 1 | £519 |
| Mega 2 | £799 |
| Mega 4 | £1099 |

Monitors

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|-------------------------|------|
| Atari SM124 | £109 |
| Atari SC1224 | £269 |
| Philips CM8833 | £229 |
| Quadram Multisync | £369 |
| NEC 3D | £499 |
| NEC 5D | POA |

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| GAS 50 Mb 28MS | £439 |
| GAS 60 Mb 28MS | £549 |
| GAS 85 Mb 28MS | £599 |
| GAS 180 Mb 28MS | £1299 |

Any other capacities made to order

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| GAS SCSI Host Controller | £69 |
| (with software) | |
| GAS Hard Disk Kit | £150 |
| (Includes case, controller & PSU) | |

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| Epson LX400 | £179 |
| Epson LQ400 | £229 |
| Epson LQ550 | £399 |
| Citizen 120D | £159 |
| Citizen Swift 24 | £295 |
| Panasonic KXP 1124 | £249 |
| Panasonic KXP 1081 | £159 |
| Star LC-10 | £179 |
| Star LC-10 col | £209 |

Laser Printers

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|-----------------------|-------|
| Atari SLM 804 | £1049 |
| Star P8 | £1249 |
| Panasonic 4450i | £1675 |
| HP Laser II | £1499 |

GOLDEN IMAGE

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| Atari 3.5" 1Mb Drive | £59.95 |
| Atari 5.25" 1Mb Drive | £99.00 |
| GI Mouse 290dpi | £19.95 |

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| Optical Mouse 800dpi | £34.95 |
| Scanner with touch up | |
| S/W 400dpi | £149.95 |

Accessories

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| Sony disks per 10 | £10 |
| Joysticks from | £5 |
| Clocks | £24.95 |
| Mouse Mats | £4.95 |

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|--------------------------------|--------|
| Toners (SLM804) | £39 |
| Ribbons | POA |
| RAM Upgrades (frontier) | POA |
| Printer Cables | £5.00 |
| Diskboxes (80) | £5.95 |
| Diskboxes (40) | £4.95 |
| Monitor Switch Box | £19.95 |
| Monitor Scart Lead | £10 |
| Twin Joystick ext. Cable | £5.95 |
| Rainbow TOS (fitted) | £99 |
| Internal 3.5" DS Drives | £69 |
| Original Atari | |
| Replacement Drives | £129 |

Emulators

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| PC-SPEED for STFM | £179 |
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| AT ONCE (286 processor) | £199.95 |
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| First Word Plus | £69 |
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| K-Spread 4 | £99 |
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| Prodata | £59 |
| Data Manager Pro | £29.95 |
| Superbase Personal 2 | £49 |
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| Prospero Pascal | £74.95 |
| Prospero C | £99 |
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| Hisoft Basic | £58 |
| GST C | £14 |
| Mark Williams C | £99 |
| CSD Debugger | £39 |
| Borland C | £129.95 |

Graphics

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|-----------------------------|------|
| Timeworks DTP | £68 |
| Fleet St Publisher v3 | £159 |
| Pagestream | POA |
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| Cyber Studio | £39 |
| Cyber Paint | £39 |
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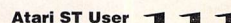
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DTP



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

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This is the essential package for anyone who wishes to make use of the full graphics potential of their ST. With a saving of £15 off the retail price this is an offer you should not miss.



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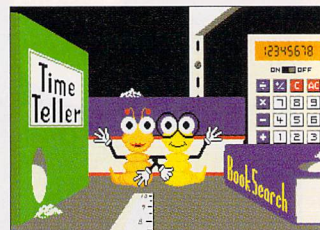
Fun number crunching

... with Things to Do with Numbers

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

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

With its clearly designed graphics and well thought out structure, Things to Do with Numbers is a value packed educational tool which, with a saving of £10 is even better value for money



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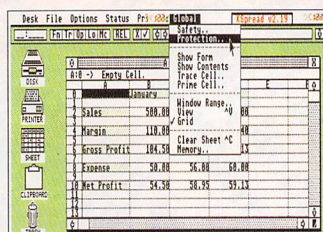
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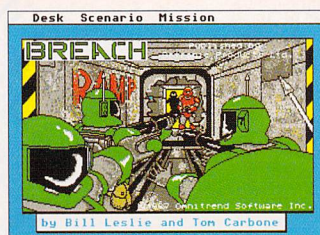
Once more ... unto the Breach

Breach is a game which demands nerves of steel and sound tactical judgement for you to win.

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

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

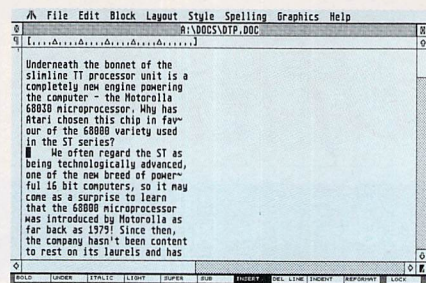
● *We're also giving away an extra scenarios disk - absolutely free!*



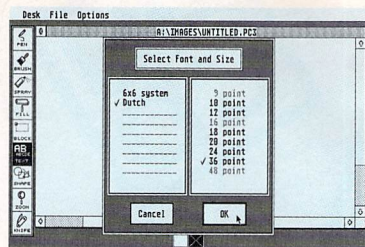
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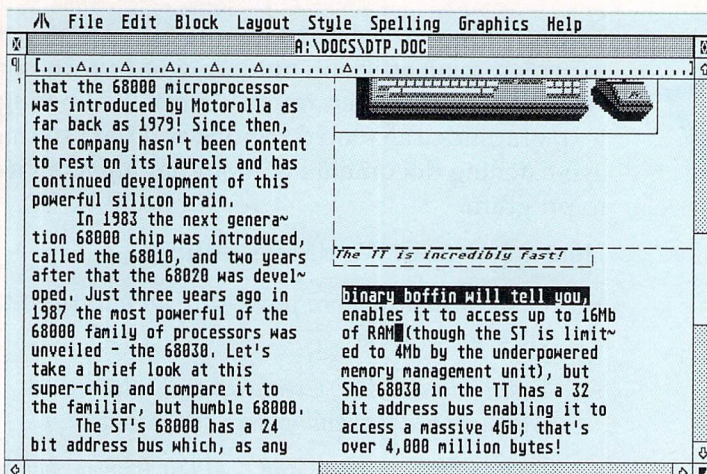


Before creating a desktop published document, you need to have some text! Fire up your favourite word processor and get typing...



ABOVE: Most DTP and paint packages provide a variety of font styles and types which can be used to good effect

RIGHT: Often, word processors provide rudimentary desktop publishing options including the ability to load and use pictures with the text



BELOW: A suitable illustration will enhance any page!



Once upon a time, newspapers, periodicals, advertising handbills – even the magazine you're holding in your hands, used to be constructed using laborious, labour-intensive 'hand' methods involving scalpels, cutting boards, paste, crayons, bits of paper and the like. Text was made to fit pages by being printed on to paper, cut into strips and pasted down on to page mock-ups. If the text didn't fit, lines would be cut away with a scalpel until it did – not the stuff of which fast, efficient, publishing is made, right?

Computers occupied buildings the size of aircraft hangars and were muttered over in hushed tones by lab-coated technicians wearing solemn faces. Originally used to crack complex codes, plot missile trajectories and so on, the computer (via Lyons Corner House – ask your parents...) became acceptable to business users and began to be used to automate the tasks previously accomplished by a small army of underpaid clerks. No longer were they underpaid, now they were simply unemployed, and the computer took their place.

Now the mists of time swirl about us and as if by magic, we're transported to the latter half of the twentieth century – the early eighties to be exact. Deep in Silicon Valley, California, the Apple Corporation is putting the finishing touches to its latest machine masterpiece, the Macintosh.

No longer based in archaic command-line technology, Apple's Mac has an intuitive, graphical control interface ideal for those who neither knew nor cared about computers but merely wanted a powerful tool to automate their databasing, spreadsheeting, word processing and what's this, design?

That's right. Someone, somewhere had the great idea that using the point and click Mac interface, it might just be possible to drop some pictures, illustrations and the like over

all that text generated using the MacWrite word processor and produce – simply – a newspaper or magazine-like page without fuss.

The rest, as they say, is history. Aldus produced and marketed its PageMaker publishing ahem, Desk Top publishing package, Quark followed with Xpress (used to construct Atari ST User), IBM PCs got Ventura, STs Calamus, Fleet Street, Publishing Partner and so on.

WHAT ON EARTH IS DTP?

Fine. There are desktop publishing packages for all the major machines. Most daily newspapers and a large proportion of magazines are produced using DTP in one form or another and all is hunky dory – or is it? Just what is this desktop publishing? How can you put graphic and text into a computer and have it produced in printed form? How can a computer manipulate pictures and illustrations? Can you desktop publish at home?

Desktop publishing means that your computer handles all of the stages of magazine production previously performed by human operators. The machine manipulates text, stretches and shapes photographs and illustrations and cobbles together the various elements to make a recognisable, publication. To explain further, let's use an example you know and love, dear old Atari ST User.

It's the start of the month and here at 'USER', we sit around and plan the features, reviews and regular columns for the next issue. With ideas in mind, commissions are drawn up consisting of rough sketches on paper showing the major elements: text, pictures and so on. In this way, writers get a rough idea of a word count for a feature and designers know how many photographs and illustrations to commission.

At this stage each member of the team can begin their particular task. Writers hurry away to their machines and start hacking away at word processors and artists go off with photographers and illustrators and produce the pictures which will appear in the publication.

A couple of weeks later, writers have finished their features and there's a big pile of transparencies and pictures on the artist's desk – it's time to begin construction.

Atari ST User's designer opens a new document – which will eventually become pages of 'USER' – in a favourite desktop publishing package (Quark Xpress on the Mac) and reads feature text (or 'copy' as it's known) into column guides in this new document. But wait! It's easy to transfer text created using an Atari ST into the Apple Mac, but what about photographs, drawings and the like? Simple, they're 'scanned' in using a sophisticated scanning device (a distant relation of that little hand scanner you have at home...) device produces high resolution results. The scanner is used to read mono and colour photographs as well as colour transparencies and can even produce mono scans from colour images!

Output from the scanner is in a special file format that the desktop publishing package can accept and manipulate. Once loaded into the 'pages' of 'USER', the scans can be enlarged, reduced, stretched, cropped or have tints dropped over them. With text and a picture or two, Atari ST User's designer has the basic building blocks of the month's edition of your favourite magazine. If text runs over the allocated page space it can be 'cut' and 'pasted' on to another page or elsewhere in the magazine easily.

Once the pages have been designed, it's time to print them out so they can be sent to off to a printing service to be reproduced on paper, then stapled together, packed and finally sent out to you, the reader.

Introducing...

Wordflair™

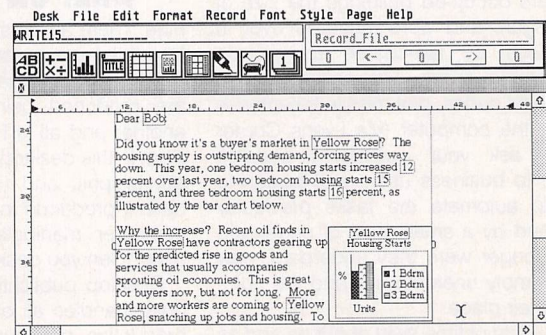
The integrated document processor

Wordflair is a new concept in word processing for the Atari ST.

Of course, Wordflair provides all of the features that you would expect from an efficient, modern word processor but then Wordflair goes further, much further ... allowing you to combine text, graphics, calculated regions and data so that you can create eye-catching documents without having to switch from program to program.

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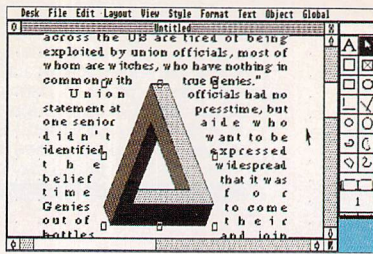
Wordflair works with the Atari ST and STE (with 1Mb memory or more), 1040ST, MegaST and TT. Two floppies or one floppy and a hard disk are recommended. Hi-res monochrome monitor suggested. GDOS printer support: 2.5Mb RAM required for use with the Atari SLM804 laser printer.

Wordflair™

is distributed exclusively in the UK by

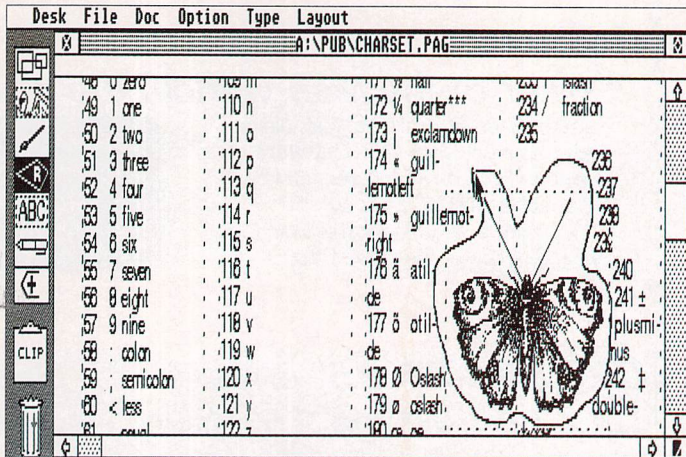
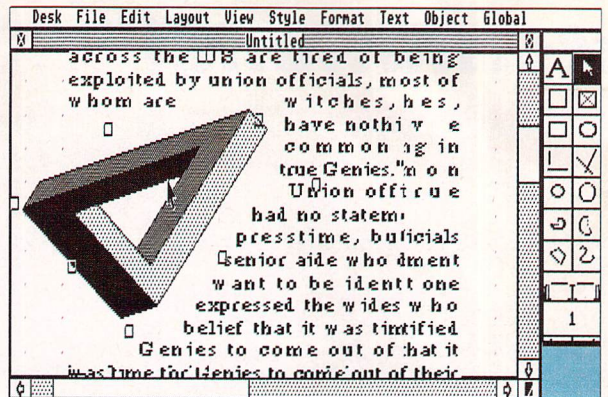
HiSoft
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Wordflair costs £79.95, inclusive of VAT, and is available from all good computer shops. In case of difficulty you can order Wordflair directly from HiSoft at The Old School, Greenfield, Bedford MK45 5DE. Tel: +44 525 718181, Fax: +44 525 713716. Access and Visa accepted.



LEFT: Text flow around irregular objects can be a tortuous process for some desktop publishing packages - not so here...

RIGHT: ...and you can change the angle of the illustration to give strong emphasis to any page



By 'drawing' a line around an irregular object, it's possible to repel text thereby flowing it around the illustration...

The pages are not printed on a dot matrix machine however, they're not even printed on an expensive laser printer, oh dear me no. Magazine pages are printed on an amazingly expensive device known as a photo-typesetter. This is just like an ordinary printer such as the one you have at home, but it can reproduce the pages in breath-taking resolution on film. That's right! Our pages are printed on something which looks remarkably like the plastic stuff your Aunt Madge's holiday snap negatives are made from. Using the output from the photo-typesetter, Atari ST User's printers can produce many thousands of issues which are cut and stapled and bunged on the shelves at Smith's.

DO IT YOURSELF!

So, you now know all of 'USER's little production secrets, but what good is that if you want to produce a dazzling little parish newsletter at home? Stamp journals and football fanzines don't have budgets which stretch to the thirty thousand necessary for a photo-typesetter. Quark Xpress won't give you much change out of a thou. and who wants to spend all that money on a Mac when they have a dinky little ST on their desktop?

In fact, the ST is better equipped than most other machines when it comes to desktop publishing and it's possible to produce fully 'professional' results with some fairly inexpensive kit and one or two bits of software.

First, you need an ST, preferably an example with 1Mb of memory. You can of course manage quite happily on a half meg, but for those of you with ambitions, a megabyte of RAM is pretty essential. One item it's best not to be without is a mono monitor.

All of the available DTP packages work far better when displaying documents on the

SM124/125 mono monitor and enable you to work for much longer periods without eye-strain. Of course, as with any other piece of kit, it is possible to work without the monitor using a domestic television set, and some remarkable results can be achieved, but you'll find it difficult to work accurately and for anything more than around half an hour.

Printers come in all shapes and sizes and the model you choose should reflect the level of sophistication you want your publications to achieve. Parish newsletters, handbills and the like are fine from a dot matrix printer, but if you want to sell guides to your town's evening activities, produce professional-quality invitations or publish a book, you'll need a device which provides a far higher level of resolution. Laser printers are able to reproduce documents with breath-taking quality - smooth, flowing characters with none of the 'bitty' appearance produced by even expensive 24-pin dot matrix devices.

Unfortunately, laser printers are not cheap and even Atari's offering won't leave you with much change from £1000 and you can't use it without having a couple of megs of RAM in your ST.

And that's it! With a dot matrix printer, mono monitor and ST, you have the basics of a desktop publishing set-up which will enable you to publish a variety of documents. You'll be reduced to using clip-art to illustrate the resultant publications, and the printed output won't be anything to write home to Ma about, but at least you'll be on your way to Fleet Street.

If your Uncle Norbert has just shuffled off this mortal coil and left you his life savings one of those little hand-held scanners is a good buy. You'll be able to scan and use conventional photographs and line art which will greatly enhance any publication. You can then look for more memory (as much as

you can reasonably afford), a laser printer, graphics tablet, high resolution mouse...the hardware shopping list is endless.

ON THE BOOKSHELF

Probably the biggest mistake made by the novice desktop publisher is assuming that having all the kit will enable you to produce good looking documents - it can't! To publish a book or magazine, you need sound layout and design skills. Designers spend years at college, then command enormous salaries from top publishing houses.

The software houses responsible for desktop publishing packages don't encourage good design by touting the huge amount of typefaces provided with the software. Good design does not have more fonts than the average Victorian circus poster but is limited to clean lines using one or two quality faces. Atari ST User makes use of Futura as a headline font, Helvetica for body text and with one or two additions, that's about it!

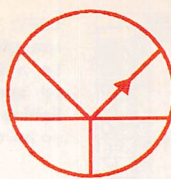
OK, so you don't have the years of design experience, what can you do? Remember text books? They've come a long way since the dusty tomes of yester-year and today, provide sound, easily-assimilated knowledge on a diverse range of subjects including document design. For around a tenner, a manual will give a basic grounding in what constitutes decent document design and will probably provide some sample designs that you can copy and amend as you wish.

If you have a serious interest in desktop publishing then make sure you read Charles Michael's dedicated DTP column every month in Aspects and watch out for our forthcoming DTP special issue.

For detailed information on what to buy including DTP packages, printers and everything DTP-ish look out for the SuperTests in our sister publication ST World.

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FOR ONLY **£199** INC VAT

SPECIFICATION

- ★ **Processor:** Intel 80C88 at 4.9152Mhz.
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In addition to the excellent software built-in to the Portfolio Free of Charge (see right), other software and peripheral products, such as the sophisticated Pocket Finance package and serial/centronics interfaces are available. And it doesn't stop there. Many manufacturers have recognised the potential of the Portfolio and have already started to design new peripherals and software. Products currently under development include: Serial interface with built in mini modem, Apple Macintosh interface, business, utility and programming software plus a range of adventure and battle strategy games. For further free details on the Portfolio range, fill in the coupon below and return it to Silica Systems now.

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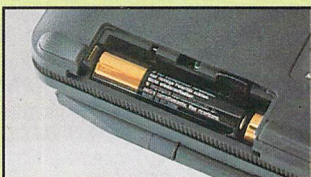
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For real calculating power, Portfolio has a Lotus 1-2-3 compatible spreadsheet built-in. It has 127 columns x 225 rows and reads/writes Lotus V1.0 and V2.01 files, so you can transfer data to and from Lotus 1-2-3 on your desktop PC. The Portfolio's 256K ROM includes MS-DOS and PC BIOS compatible systems software.



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Portfolio can store and retrieve data and programs from its own RAM, or from small credit card size memory cards, that slot into its built-in card drive. The cards are available in three sizes, 32K, 64K and 128K, so you can carry a library of data in your pocket. The card drive also accepts ROM cards, which can contain commercial or custom software.



POWER SUPPLY

Portfolio is powered by three AA batteries which will run for up to six weeks with normal use, or from the mains using an adaptor. All the peripherals take their power from the Portfolio, so no extra batteries or adaptors are required. A 'battery-low' warning and memory back-up ensure that information is not lost when the batteries are changed.



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Portfolio can communicate with other computers and supports a growing range of peripherals via a built-in 60 pin bus connector. Peripherals available include serial and parallel interfaces and memory expanders (to 640K). You can also add a card drive to your desktop PC, to enable it to read/write to Portfolio's cards.

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393 - **THE ARTIST**. A great drawing package (Mono).

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398 - **PICTURES**. Cartoon & Space themes. 28 pics in all with viewer for slide show.

802 - **THE PLANETS**. Slide show around the planets with pictures, facts and figures (DS disk).

356 - **FAST BASIC 1**. Selection of progs that DO NOT need Fast Bas to run. There is an address Database, a printer config utility and a phone call cost calculator.

366 - **COMMS**. Uniterm vers. 2.0a with auto-dial & phone book, x-modem, y-modem, Kermit & ASCII protocols. VT200, 102, 100, 52, Tektronix 4010 and DCM term emulation. Lots of Docs. Also Tektogem transformer prog. & Keyedit, a prog. for redefining of the keyboard keys.

347 - **GAMES**. A selection of space games, Spacewar and Firestorm are arcade types and Azarian is a space strategy game (Colour).

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833 - **YOUR SECOND ATARI ST MANUAL**. A 250k text file all about your ST.

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831(SS)/841(DS) - **EASY TEXT PLUS**. Gem Desktop Publishing in the WYSIWYG mode. Prints 1/3 of page. See box below.

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351 - **HACK!**. Is a Dungeons & Dragons text adventure with graphic maps.

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826 - **DATABASE 1**. A gem driven database. Very easy to use. Online help screens.

364 - **COMMS**. Pack-Et-Term 3.3A. Yarp a split screen RTTY term. prog ported by WB20SZ with .doc & .arc file packer.

363 - **ST WRITER ELITE**. The first version to have the GEM option. A very professional prog with an on disk tutorial.

372 - **GHOSTBUSTERS**. Digitised, requires 1 Meg ram and DS drive.

813 - **PROGRAMMING EDITORS**. Excellent value for money disk with 3 very good editors ConTEXT v1, Pro-Ed & P-Edit. Plenty of features & docs.

397 - **DOODLE**. The original Mono & Colour versions. NEOCHROME v0.6 and some mandezoom pics.

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MUSIC AND MIDI

PAGE 121

The music horizon is closer than you think, Ian Waugh leads you to explore the EVS-1

COMMUNICATIONS

PAGE 123

The 'dos and don'ts' of setting up your very own BBS with Fielding Mellish, who also gets it for free

EMULATION

PAGE 125

Load your desk accessories onto the lorry, but try to avoid the graphics confusion, Günter Minnerup starts the engine

ADVENTURES

PAGE 127

Calling all text-only fetishists, the Faun is here to satisfy your desires, with some very Weird ideas

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

PAGE 129

Relive the wonders of your school magazine but be warned, things have changed, Simon Williams investigates

6th to 9th December
Wembley
Conference
Centre



SHOPPER SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA!

ST owners disappointed by Atari's decision to stay away from The Computer Entertainment Show at Earls Court will welcome the news that Atari is on its way to Wembley in December.

One week after giving the thumbs down to CES, the company announced that it will be out in force at The Computer Shopper Show where its corporate publishing arm ARC will have a major presence flanked by leading third-party suppliers. It has also signed up for Blenheim Database Exhibitions' other major event, The European Computer Trade Show '91.

"We feel that these vehicles, while completely different in concept, are tailor-made for our marketing strategy", said Bob Katz, Atari development, and continued "Shopper is ideal for both sales and promotional purposes in that it is perfectly timed to attract record crowds in the all-important period

which is immediately prior to Christmas".

Making its first appearance at Shopper, ARC will be backed up on the hardware front by its number one dealer, Silica Shop. In all, more than 100 stands will be offering ST related products ensuring that Shopper lives up to its promise to fill the gap left by the Atari Christmas Show.

Other Shopper exhibitors from the Atari market include Anco Software, B Bytes, CDS, Database/Mandarin Software, Digita International, Dowling Computers, Evesham Micros, Gasteiner, HiSoft, GFA Data Media, GST Software, Impressions, Kuma, Mindscape, Ocean, Rombo and Virgin Mastertronic.

ST experts will also take part in a major advice centre with free, unbiased guidance for purchasers wanting to take advantage of the pre-Christmas bargains for which Shopper is well known.

With more than 250 stands and an expected attendance of 40,000, this year's Comput-

er Shopper Show has grown from last year's record-breaking inaugural event. An extra day has been added and it moves to the bigger venue of Wembley Conference Centre.

"Computer Shopper will again live up to its billing as the ultimate shopping spree for computer-related Christmas presents" promised the head of Blenheim Database exhibitions, Michael Meakin. "Atari ST users will be at the forefront of those reaping the benefits".

The show runs from Thursday December 6th to Sunday December 9th. Opening hours are Thursday and Friday from 10am to 6pm, Saturday from 9am to 6pm and Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

Admission is £5 for adults and £3.50 for children under 16 with £1 off tickets booked in advance. Also available is a pre-paid family ticket of £12 for two adults and two children. Credit card bookings can be made on the 24-hour ticket hotline. Call 051 357 1736.

Expanding your musical horizons with the EVS-1 and news of a MIDI data recovery service

Yamaha's new flagship synth, the SY77, is attracting a lot of support. There are several

JUKE BOX JARGON

Polyphony: The number of voices an instrument can play at the same time. For example, a piano is fully polyphonic - you could play all its keys at once if you had enough fingers.

Multi-timbral: The ability to play different music parts at the same time using different sounds. A four-part multi-timbral instrument could, for example, play piano, bass, string and flute sounds together. Most modern instruments are at least eight-part multi-timbral.

Voice Editor: The various forms of digital synthesis are complex enough without the added difficulty of wading through nests of menus on a synth's LCD. A software editor can show many parameters onscreen at the same time and illustrate them graphically. Editors usually include some librarian facilities.

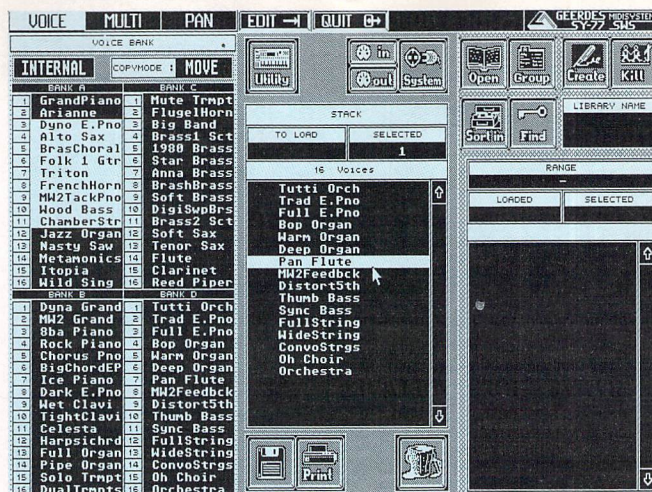
Librarian: Stores and organises voices and generally works out far cheaper than RAM cards. It can help to find a sound if they are saved in groups. With a lot of sounds it's easier to use a librarian than a voice editor, especially if a desk accessory version is available.

new sets of sounds on disk plus new waveform cards. While we still wait for C-Lab's SY77 Polyframe Editor and Steinberg's SY77 Synthworks Editor, German company **Geerdes** was the first to get an SY77 editor on my desk.

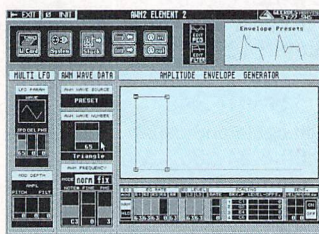
Nattily titled the SY77 SWS Multitasking Softworkstation Editor and Librarian Manager, it requires a 1Mb machine, double sided disk drive and a high resolution monitor. The software includes a 24-track sequencer called 1st Track which shares memory with the Editor. Yours for £149 from Newtronic, 66 Beaulieu Avenue, London SE26 6PW. Tel: 081 659 0744.

Hollis Research has updated **MIDIMan** - the universal patch editor and MIDI mapper accessory - to include new control files and a new tutorial. But the best news is the update is free to existing MIDIMan owners! Contact First Rate, La Ramee, St. Peter Port, Guernsey. Tel: 0481 23169.

Corrupted your MIDI data files? Tut tut! Before tearing your hair out, contact **MIDIHelp** - a MIDI file recovery service. The service has been expanded to



ABOVE: Main Voice screen of Geerdes SY77 SWS



LEFT: Amplitude Envelope Generator in Geerdes SY77 SWS

include hard disks, and it can tackle PC files as well as those from the ST. Tel: 081 368 3667.

Patchbase (£35) from Audio Integer runs as a desk accesso-

ry. You set up families of sounds in an editing program and use the DA to select them from within your sequencer. More information about this on 081 697 0293.

Product: EVS-1 Expander

Price: £299

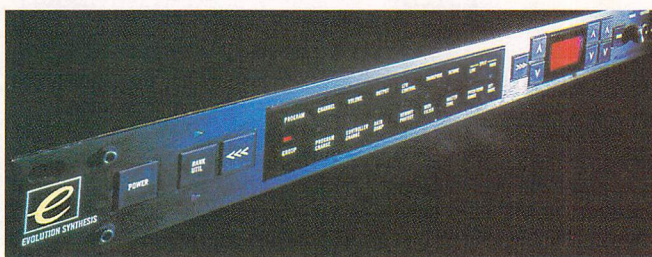
Supplier: Sound Technology, Letchworth Point, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 1ND

Tel: 0462 480000

The EVS-1 Expander was launched at this year's British Music Fair. It's unique as it comes with voice editing software for the Atari ST (other computer formats such as the PC and Mac will be supported, too).

EVS-1 is a rack-mount unit with simple front-panel operation, containing 80 presets and 20 user-programmable sounds. The machine is 16-note polyphonic and eight-part multi-timbral. Information is shown in a three-digit LED which, while nowhere near as helpful as a LCD, is adequate for the job.

The sounds can have their own transposition setting, pan



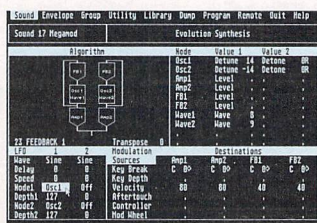
position, volume, split point and MIDI channel. Many complex textures can be created by assigning different sounds to the same channel. Eight sounds (or banks as they are called) can be collected together in one of 20 groups, which acts as a performance set-up.

The sounds themselves can only be edited using the software. It's not GEM-based, but it's mainly mouse driven and a desk accessory version lets you run the editor with a sequencer. The

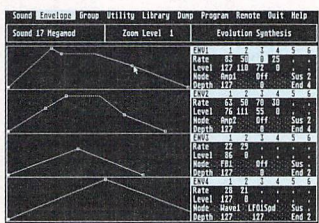
editor is divided into nine pages - easy to use although a little slow.

There are over 200 sounds included on the disk, each sound being created from one of 28 algorithms. There are algorithms for FM, Phase Distortion, Additive Synthesis, Ring Modulation and other types of digital synthesis. Although the system is potentially quite complex, the software makes it relatively easy to select algorithms, change parameters and create new sounds. Despite the EVS-1 being a digital instrument, some sounds have a distinct analogue aura to them. There's a selection of electric pianos, strings and brass sounds and some typical FM textures. Two of the presets contain drum sounds.

Although the EVS-1 could be improved - more tutorial info in the manual would have been nice, at £299 it is good value, especially if you're on a budget.



Main Edit page of the EVS-1 edit software

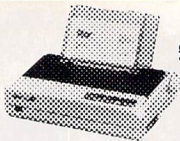


Envelope Edit page of the EVS-1 edit software

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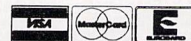
We also have one of the largest collections of Public Domain software available. At the last count we had almost 1800 disks in the collection and this is growing daily. Many PD programs are particularly close to commercial quality. PD disks cost £2.75 Each and you can choose 2 free with every ten you order. We also stock the entire range of Budgie UK Licenseware and the latest Charity compilation from Micro Care. Please see catalogue for prices of these. Next day despatch on all orders GUARANTEED. Due to the fact that our catalogue is 263 pages, it has become necessary to put it on disk. Send a blank disk for a free copy. We'll even pay the return postage! If you're out of blanks just send us a cheque/PO for 80p and we'll supply the disk. Once you've finished with the catalogue you can re-use the disk. Where else can you get a quality blank disk for 80p?

Floppyshop is currently the largest source of new Public Domain software in Britain. We get almost half of our Public Domain direct from the authors. If you've written a top quality program and would like to place it in the Public Domain, please contact us for details of our generous offers to authors. Please note that we only accept the best programs. No Master Sound demos please!

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Issue 7 of STUFFED is out now. The highlight of this issue is a Flight Simulator Supertest featuring nine of the top sellers. STUFFED is the leading magazine on disk for the Atari ST and features both serious and games reviews along with a number of regular features and specialist articles too numerous to mention.

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Doing the baudwalk with bulletin board systems...

Many comms enthusiasts, after a year or so of spending every night-time hour sitting bleary-eyed before their computer and modem, communicating, decide that horrendous 'phone bills and bloodshot eyes are not where it's at. Maybe it'd be a good idea to set up your own bulletin board - yeah, that's it!

Set up a bulletin board, sit back, and wait for everyone to call you. No more telephone bills, no more late nights, just switch on your machine and modem and wait for the punters to come rolling in...

Alas, it's not that simple. Sure, if you have a successful bulletin

board, comms users will call you, but the operative word here is 'successful'. You need to set up a 'board that's gonna attract and hold the attention of a jaded comms public, and that's not an easy task.

And not only do you need good ideas, but on a practical level you'll need extra equipment over and above that little 300 baud manual modem, currently sitting on your desktop. Any board that's going to see a lot of service will probably need a dedicated telephone line, you'll need a fast, auto-answer modem, bulletin board software and so on.

You could of course, get by with one of the cheap and simple auto-answer modems, use your existing telephone line (lots of boards operate between nine at night and eight in the morning), a bulletin board program from the public domain and store the software for the BB on

a couple of double-sided floppy drives. This set up would be limited, but it would work.

For a decent bulletin board (but at a reasonable price...) however, you'll need a V22bis auto-answer modem, good software (such as that offered by Michtron), a dedicated telephone line to enable you to run the service 24 hours a day and a whopping great hard drive. A device providing 20Mb will do, 30Mb is better, 40Mb is good and anything over that will give you the best board on theblock!

Costs? Well for a basic set-up, very little in fact. If you're a keen comms enthusiast, you probably already have most of the necessary equipment, and a simple BB program from the public domain will enable you to dip a tentative toe in the bulletin boards pool.

If you've plumped for the all-singing, all-dancing board however, a 'phone line will cost you

around £120, a small hard drive will lighten your poke bag by almost 300 clams, BB software costs about 50 quid and then of course there's the enormous investment in time and effort required to keep the whole thing running - have fun!

BULLETIN BOARD BONANZA!

The bulletin board quota continues to grow steadily and although many offer a great service, some leave a little to the imagination. So. If you've recently contacted a really great bulletin board why not tell us? Meanwhile, here's a few good ones to get you started...

- St London (V23) 081 443 2432
- STABB (V22) 0793 855176
- Gnome At Home (V23) 081 888 8894

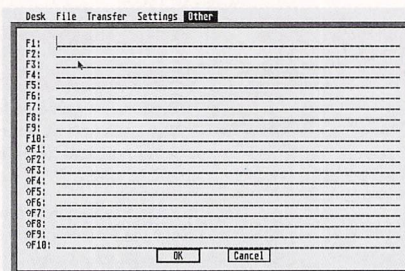
GETTING IT FOR FREE

If you've just spent a large amount of your hard-earned on the best modem money can buy, it may come as shock that you still need to shell out heavy ackers on software to get anything out of your new silicon toy - or do you?

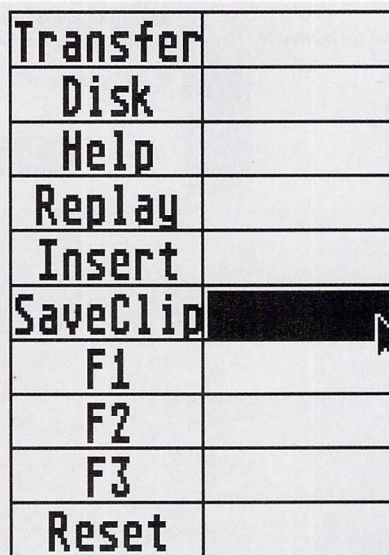
In fact, our old friend the public domain scores heavily again. Over the years, programmers from around the globe have released comms programs into the public domain, some good, some bad but every one of them entirely free, gratis and for nuthin'!

From simple little file transfer programs to full-blown comms software with macros, telephone directories and so on, expansive bulletin board programs, to Desktop accessory terminal software. And because it's free, you can have heaps of fun trying it all out, discarding what you don't like or can't use and keeping the rest.

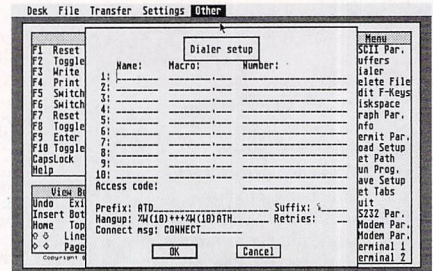
What should you look for? Probably the best comms program available PD, is Uniterm. Fully-featured, Uniterm is an American program which has been revised and updated over the years to ensure that today, the program has probably everything a



Assign whole command sequences to a single function key and cut your typing at a stroke!



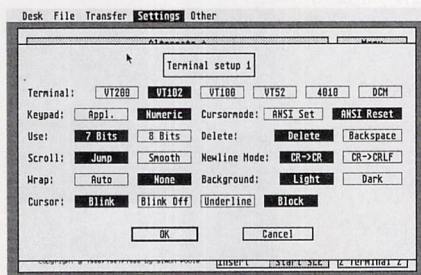
Click the right key at any time to bring this useful menu onto the screen. From here, you gain access to a huge variety of help options



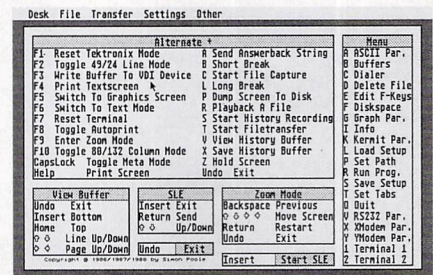
Automated telephone dialing takes all of the hard work out of contacting your favourite services...

comms enthusiast - beginner or advanced - could possibly need. There's a simple 'menu' system for the uninitiated and macro facilities for those who know the program inside out. If you're looking for comms program that will smooth the path to comprehensive communicating, get Uniterm.

For likely PD comms programs suppliers, have a look at the public domain pages in this magazine wherein you'll discover a veritable Aladdin's cave of reputable libraries.



A huge variety of terminal options, including keyboard and cursor set-up mean that Uniterm is very adaptable



...And here's the help screen. Function and key commands for everything and a comprehensive menu bar for even more information

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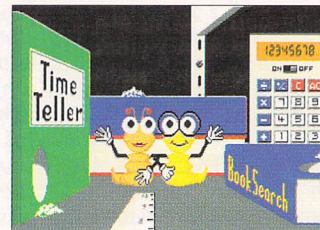
Fun number crunching

... with Things to Do with Numbers

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

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

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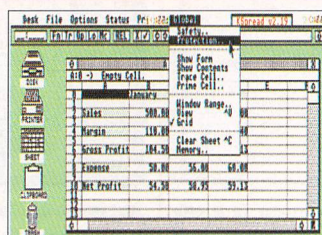
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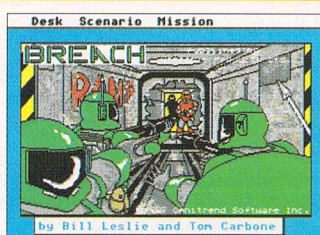
Once more . . . unto the Breach

Breach is a game which demands nerves of steel and sound tactical judgement for you to win.

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

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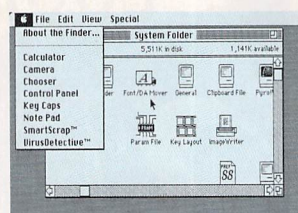
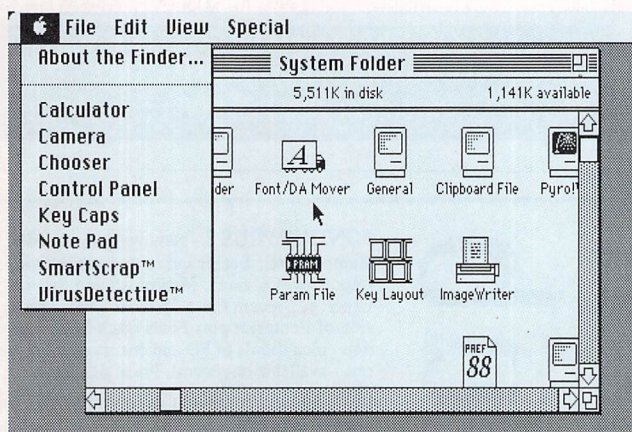
**TO ORDER
PLEASE USE
THE FORM ON
PAGE 103**

Behind the wheel in search of Mac desk accessories...

Switching from the graphical user interface of the ST to the Apple Macintosh presents few problems. GEM was designed to be as close to the Finder as possible, and the basic principles of operation are identical.

Only the different methods of menu selection may give some initial trouble – I much prefer GEM's 'dropdown' to Apple's 'pulldown' menus because of the more positive, and less error-prone action. Being able to use a system however, is not the same as making the most of it. There are a few significant differences when fine-tuning your environment.

Rather more Show Info than the ST gives you...



Accessories off the back of a lorry?

One of these differences is the handling of desk accessories and fonts. When the Mac was designed, no provision was made for users adding their own desk accessories, or removing any of the bundled ones. Also you certainly cannot install a DA by copying it to the system folder (the long-awaited System 7 however, will allow this).

The same applies to fonts, although Mac users could count their half-baked GDOS procedures. In both cases, you need a separate utility by the

name of Font/DA Mover – recognised by the lorry icon. It's easy to use and resembles one of those PD file copying utilities with a source and a destination window.

Simply click on the required button to select fonts or desk accessories for one window, and open a directory for the other. Clicking on an item will select it, shift-clicking allows multiple selection – even after scrolling the window.

If loading or removing fonts, you don't have to remember what the font looks like, as a sample of it is displayed. Remember though, that the Chicago and Monaco fonts are system fonts and cannot be deleted, and also the maximum number of desk accessories allowed is 15 (rather than six under GEM).

As always, the chief problem is memory! I've just had a rude reminder of that this week, when my Mega4 went AWOL and I had to make do with a 1040. Spectre GCR ran alright, but my desktop applications refused to come to life, basically because the system had been set up with the riches of four megabytes to play with. There were also so many INITs, DAs and fonts installed, that there was barely enough RAM to swing the proverbial cat, let alone process digitised images!

Here's where my tip of the month comes in. Desk accessories and fonts can be installed for certain applications only, so that if you only ever fall asleep using spreadsheets,

Beeb, beeb!

Remember my appeal for information and experiences regarding BBC emulators for the ST. Well, Andy Leaning of SDL (aka the Silica Shop) informed me that his company had such an emulator available – I'm going to check this beast out and will let you know of my findings.

In the meantime, if anyone has written any interesting educational (or even fun...) programs in BBC Basic, which I could use as guinea pigs in the forthcoming Acorn beeb emulation trials, please let me have them c/o this magazine.

The same, of course, applies to all your views, questions, tips and opinions. Don't forget, I can be contacted by electronic mail as 'gminnerup@cix'.

you only need to install the alarm clock with Excel. Similarly there is no need to clutter Red Ryder, or whatever comms program you use with all the fancy fonts which are used by PageMaker.

How do you do it? Simply open the application from within Font/DA Mover, and then copy the required fonts or DAs to that application, as opposed to the system file.

GRAPHICS CONFUSION

I'm frequently asked about video standards, and Graeme Campbell from Dundee is not alone in wondering what letters such as CGA, MDA and VGA really stand for. He also wants to know which of these are available on STs running PC emulators.

All emulators which are currently available employ the IBM Colour Graphics Adaptor standard, CGA for short – the one most easily reproduced on ST monitors. CGA can display text in 40 or 80 columns and up to 16 colours, and bitmapped graphics in either a resolution of 320 x 200 with four, or 640 x 200 in two colours.

You will have noted the similarity between these figures and the familiar three ST screen resolutions, so there are no problems there. The more recent hardware emulators can even use a technique known

as 'double scanning' to achieve text characters with true descenders in CGA on the high-res 640 x 400 Atari monitors.

Another easy one is the Monochrome Display Adaptor (MDA), all black and white with highly legible 80-column text which poses no problems for the ST.

Things get more difficult with its graphics equivalent, the Hercules standard, which requires a screen size of 720 x 348 pixels – well beyond the size of the high-res SM124/125.

Emulators such as PC-Speed get around this by offering a key combination that'll horizontally scroll the screen. Hercules is monochrome only, but offers high definition with grey shades representing colours. So this rather inelegant solution is well worth the inconvenience.

Then there are the high-res, multi-colour

modes which are at present still beyond the emulators. Most of the people who are involved with designing such emulators, are working on solutions to the problem at the moment.

The Enhanced Graphics Adaptor (EGA) may not be impossible to implement, as its lowest form is identical with ST low-res at 320 x 200 and 16 colours. Neither of the advanced modes have a higher resolution than 640 x 350 – the problem being the colour information at this resolution.

Finally, the Virtual Graphics Array (VGA) standard offers 16 colours at 640 x 480, and that at its most basic with many different SuperVGA graphics cards around. Achieving this in emulation will almost certainly have to be left until after the imminent arrival of the TT which will have VGA-standard monitor.

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The ST Club

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***Puzzled by
Weird Tales?
Interactive
comes to the
rescue and The
Faun provides
the help***

Response to the column has been particularly gratifying lately - keep the letters coming. The two major recurring themes are the sad (if not disgraceful) demise of Infocom, and the desire for more space for hints and tips. Look no further, for this month I bring news of two home-grown services to gladden the heart of any adventure fiend.

England's answer to Infocom is **Interactive Technology** - brainchild of Martyn Westwood, a 22 years old programmer from Sheffield. Using STAC as a

skeleton, Martyn has devised an adventure writing system sufficient to satisfy any text-only fetishist's thirst for further conquests.

Available now are a Chandleresque Private Eye challenge called **Dead End**, a sci-fi thriller called **A Dark Sky Over Paradise** and the game that's had me hooked of late, **Weird Tales**.

This last game draws its inspiration from the pulp magazine of the same name. This magazine is also responsible for the introduction of H P Lovecraft and Robert E Howard to a wider audience.

Weird Tales consists of a prelude and two short stories. The first is a series of vignettes where the solution of one part leads to the next episode. There's masses of text coupled with a good plot.

Given the wide choice of puzzles, ranging from medium rare to difficult, and an exceedingly obliging parser, the price of

admission is certainly worthwhile.

To be pedantic for a moment, the occasional parsing glitch and misspelling may cause the unseasoned adventurer a fair amount of grief, and the presentation is a little too similar to Infocom for comfort, but nevertheless a good time should be had

by all. Write to Interactive Technology, PO Box 146, Sheffield S13 7TY for further details.

While we're on the subject, if any STACers out there want to see their name in lights, why not submit your efforts to the cover disk editor because we haven't had an adventure featured so far, and a princely sum awaits.

SHAREWARE ADVENTURES

Next, a name (but perhaps not address) familiar to regulars. John R Barnsley of 32 Merrivale Road, Rising Brook, Stafford, Staffs ST17 9EB. For some time now, John has had a daunting amount of adventure solutions and maps available on disk.

Now he has amassed a brain damaging selection of PD and shareware adventures, too many to mention here but definitely worth looking at. Included are the infamous Pork and Pork II (and if you don't know what they're parodies of I give up). Write now.

Next month - advice on Christmas presents, brain surgery and modern middle management. Until then, good adventuring.

HINTS AND TIPS

Premature baldness is a familiar affliction of frustrated adventurers and K Jackson from Oxford is no exception. The cause this time is Sierra-on-Line's **Gold Rush**.

On the Cape Horn route Mr (or Ms) Jackson is dying of starvation. Did you buy the fruit from Fast's Grocery to avoid scurvy? Good. It's also a sensible idea to indulge in a spot of fishing utilising the string, metal scraps, paper clips, sticks and pork readily available on board.

Another source of aggravation is the Wagon Team. When you reach the river, unhitch the team immediately and let the oxen drink their fill. Once they have returned and been hitched, lock the wheels and this should prevent a severe hangover.

To score a huge amount of points on the

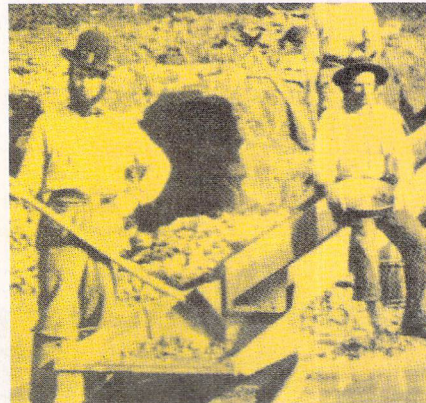
Panama route, buy the mosquito net at Rand's hardware before embarking. Give your possessions to the natives, talk to the man with the book and jump on the vine to avoid the ants.

Next explore the jungle until you get the response 'Ouch!', then look down and take the gold disk before going on to cross the river. Finally, board the stage-coach for Sutter's Fort. Also Mr Jackson doesn't know what to do at the hotel. If anyone else has the same problem try using the letter on the gravestone.

Next a cry for help with **Future Wars** from Derek Atkins from Holland, who can't escape from the prison. Get the key from under the carpet in the office and the gas capsule from the bottom of the glass case in

the laboratory. Obtain the newspaper by using the coin twice in the newspaper machine at the station, then with one mighty leap you'll be free. Use the key to remove the grill from the air duct, next work on the vent with the capsule and then with the newspaper.

Finally, the Granddaddy of them all, **Colossal Cave Adventure**. D Lavington of London cannot find the Pirate's chest - how do you know there's one if you're unable to locate it? The version you're playing is public domain and the one I've cracked is part of Level 9's Jewels of Darkness Trilogy, so the solutions may differ. Maybe the Pirate has stolen your treasure. Find the Orange Column in the maze of similar passages and make a diagonal move from there.



Exclusive! Multiface ST espionage shock!

ROMANTIC ROBOT IN A SPY SCANDAL

A Third World diplomat was expelled from Britain last week for engaging in industrial espionage on behalf of an unnamed East European country, Foreign Office officials confirmed in London early this morning.

The diplomat was caught red-handed, using a unique computer add-on, known in the business as **MULTIFACE ST**. The device is used to freeze, inspect and back-up running ST programs, sources familiar with the case said.

Magic button

Although seemingly just a small black box, it is apparently full of hi-tech wizardry and even sports a so called **MAGIC BUTTON**.

Some sources suggested **MULTIFACE** could have been embargoed from exports to any non-NATO country, but Cocom officials could neither confirm nor deny the instrument had been included on the list of banned equipment.

Cocom is a Paris based inter-governmental agency set up to monitor trade in strategic goods and create lists of such equipment whose sale to potential enemy countries is prohibited.

The unorthodox use of **MULTIFACE** by the diplomat, whose identity and country of origin remain hidden for fear of reprisals against British nationals, had been detected when a nurse in the envoy's Kensington Gardens estate reported a change in the man's habits to her Foreign Office contact.

By our own intelligent correspondent

"He visited a computer outfit, called **ROMANTIC ROBOT**, came back with a black box and has been spending every free minute in his den ever since," the 30-year-old woman, whose identity is protected under the Official Secrets Act, said.

"I've even heard him screaming 'Multiface, oh, Multiface' in his sleep," the nurse added.

Contacted in his office at **ROMANTIC ROBOT**, a company spokesman said the question had put him on the spot.



"There's a saying one oughtn't believe any rumours until they have been officially denied, so I can neither confirm nor deny your story. I personally think it is utterly preposterous, but it's up to you to decide," the spokesman said.

He said he would rather not comment on reasons for the diplomat's strange behaviour.

"He seemed perfectly normal. He was, obviously, very keen to get the **MULTIFACE**, but nobody at Romantic Robot has ever detected

anything out of the ordinary in the envoy's manners."

"Your readers might find it interesting to try **Multiface themselves**," the spokesman said. "I hope their reaction would be just as ecstatic. Obviously they should exercise some degree of self-control - in their own interest!"

Not an advert

"Of course, I'd rather not if this were to sound as an advertisement but I am given to understand **MIS** are considering seeking an injunction on the sales of our device, so it might be wise to send for a **Multiface** now, before they find a co-operative judge. At **£29.95** (£30 below RRP) plus £1 p&p it is a real bargain - some may say it is even more than one bargained for."

Foreign Office officials declined to comment, saying they would not debate cases where a judicial decision might be pending.

The Romantic Robot spokesman said his company could not accept responsibility for any mishaps occurring to anyone visiting its premises at 54 Deanscroft Ave, London NW9 8EN.

"We seem to be getting most orders through the post, anyway," he added.

He said also those who'd rather use their **ACCESS/VISA** cards and order by telephone, at **081 200-8870**, should be extremely cautious in their choice of words.

"You never know who's listening in," he observed.



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Another first in a monthly mini masterclass detailing DTP

FLAIRS ARE IN

If you want more than your word processor can give, but can't turn to a dedicated DTP system, HiSoft's new document processor, Wordflair, could be just what you need. The document processor in this case is a word processor with DTP pretensions

— specifically frame-based text and graphic handling, GDOS support and page layout tools. In addition, the program can handle mail-merging, calculations, tables and simple diagrams — functions more usually associated with word processors.

The program comes from the US, but has been Anglicised by HiSoft and is exclusively distributed by the company, which will be offering full technical support. WordFlair comes in at a meagre £79.95 and deserves consideration. You'll find HiSoft on 0525 718181 if you want more info and I hope to be reviewing the product soon.

SCHOOL DAYS...

David Waller has written from the Sandon School in Essex, with a copy of a self-instruction guide he's put together for anyone using Calamus.

The 32 page, A4, slide-bound manual is well put together with lots of large diagrams and screen clips. It runs through most of the basics, including adding frames, formatting and flowing text, clipping and resizing images and filing completed documents.

The guide is available from David at The Sandon School, Molrams lane, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7AQ for 'a very small sum'. All proceeds go towards extra ST's and DTP kit for the school.

David has used his guide to good effect in producing the Sandon arrow, a cut above the typical school newsletter. This one includes scanned photos, using the school's Hawk 433 scanner, and what looks like a clip of the school crest. All



The smart front page of the Sandon arrow, with a gift of a shot for attracting attention!

power to your mouse fingers, David.

So if there's anyone out there still using slate and chalk to produce their school mag why not get in touch with David and enter the nineties?



Strapping chits of the basketball team



Lumme! Look at 'is bald patch...

KEEP WAITING...

Those awaiting the release of Signa Publishing's colour version of its desktop publishing package Calamus will have to wait a little longer.

It was originally thought that the SL version of its top program would be ready by the

end of September. However, by the end of the month it had not been completed and no date was given for its release.

Industry sources believe Calamus SL will cost between £400 and £500 but no price has been fixed.

CHESS PROBLEM

I had an interesting problem from John Richards of Bristol. He wants to compile reports of chess tournaments, and to be able to print them at book or magazine quality from his 1040 STF. At present he transfers the text to a Unix system, and uses a set of custom written routines to reproduce the chess symbols needed to describe a game.

'Which DTP would be best to handle this on the ST, asks John, and is PostScript the best medium to handle the special chess font? Would I need to buy a laser, or is there another option and could I could use a bureau for final copy?'

CHECK-MATE...

There are a number of questions tied in with this request, but let's turn the problem on its head for a minute.

Is there a dedicated chess symbols font in the ST market, remembering that John wants high definition copy from the printer, not a dump of a 72 dpi screen bitmap?

The sample page sent to me included two sets of chess piece symbols, one included in the description of the game — 1. e4 c5 2. f3 d6 etc and the other used in a chess board diagram, showing a particular position.

If you need to use the same symbols in more than one size, a fixed space, scalable font would seem the best solution. This implies either PostScript or Calamus's proprietary font system.

CHESS SYMBOLS

The Calamus route may well prove cheaper, especially if you use Signa's bureau service for your final copy. There is a Calamus scalable chess symbols font — ring Style Publishing on (0483) 720090 for more details.

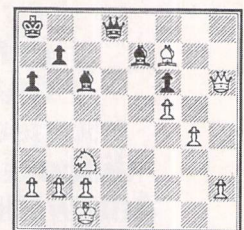
The PostScript route is not so straightforward. Fleet Street Publisher and PageStream can provide the right output, and FSP has the advantage of Ultra-

Script, which lets you print to devices other than a genuine PostScript Printer. However, I've so far been unable to locate a PostScript chess font, and third party PostScript fonts with matching GDOS loaders and screen fonts are fairly rare creatures.

Using a chess symbols font in a document would be pretty simple. As the font would need to be fixed space, you could produce the position diagrams by laying down a pre-drawn graphic of the board, putting a fixed grid over it and typing the chess characters over the top.

The text frame would need to

1. e4 c5 2. f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. f4 f6 5. f3 c6 6. g5 e7 7. f4 c6 8. d2 h6 9. f6 gxf6? 10. 0-0-0 a6 11. e2 d7 12. h5 u5 13. g4 0-0-0 14. f7 f4 15. f4 b8 16. f5 exf? 17. exf5 d5 18. f4 f4 19. f5 d5 20. h1 c6 21. f4 d8 22. f4 d8 23. f4 h6?



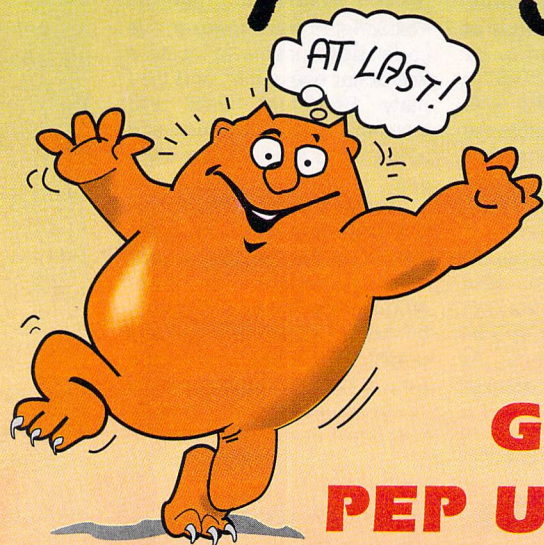
Is there a PostScript version of the symbols used in reporting chess matches? This position came from John Richards' current ST/Unix hybrid system

be switched to transparent to allow the board to show through.

When it comes to the choice of printer, one option you might not have considered, but which could suit you well, is the Hewlett Packard Deskjet Plus. This is a 300 dpi inkjet printer, with near-laser quality output, but available for around £550 at discount prices.

Calamus has a LaserJet driver which will work with the DeskJet Plus and Ultrascript can also feed into this printer.

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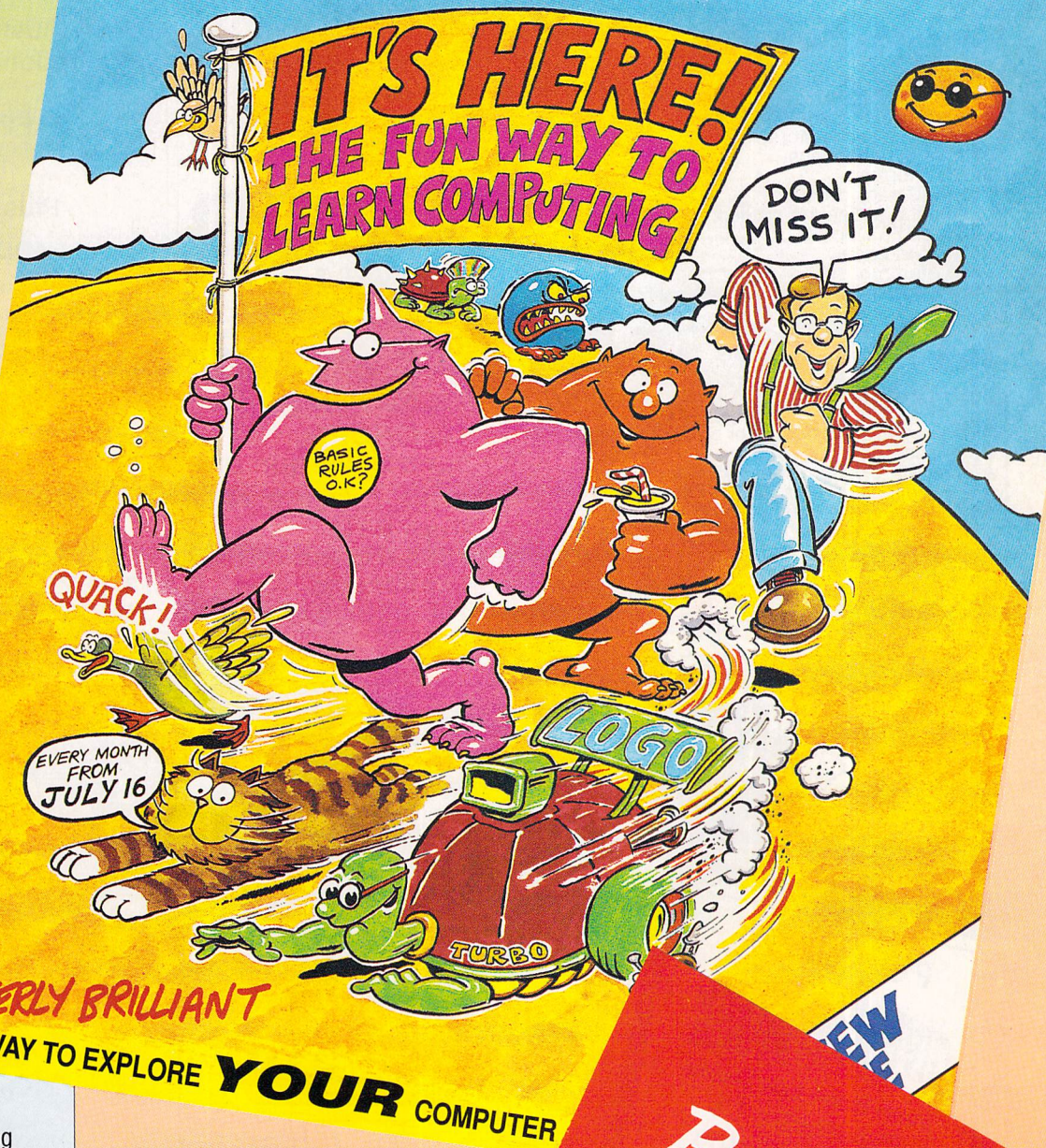
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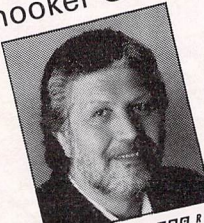
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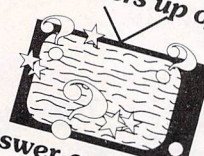


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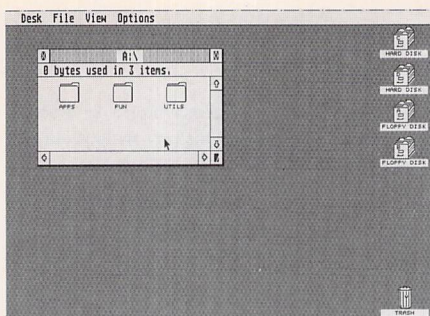
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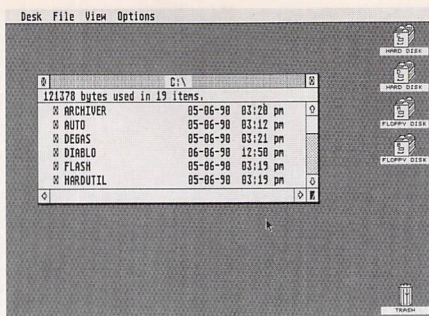
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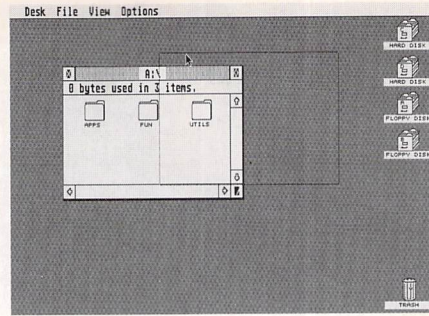
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The standard window. This provides a little peep-hole into the contents of the floppy or hard drive



Windows again, but this time GEM has been told to display files and programs in text rather than icon format thereby providing size and date information



Any window can be moved with ease simply by clicking on the shaded bar at the top of the window, holding down the left mouse key and 'dragging'

It's finally happened. Months of longing are at an end. No more scrimping and scraping, no more frantically trying to get rid of yester-year's 8-bit in order to generate cash, no more pressing your needy little nose against the plate glass at the local computer store, there's a brand, spanking new 16-bit monster sitting on your desktop – that ST has finally arrived! With its pop-up windows, mouse and icons, the machine knocks your old 8-bit into a cocked hat, right? Well...Maybe you're starting to discover that the 'simple' WIMP interface isn't quite as easy as the ads suggest.

How do you copy multiple items from one folder to another? How do you rename a file, what names are valid for new folders, how do you use the fantastic desk accessories you've heard so much about? It's not all sweetness and light.

Beginners can soon find themselves in a terrible mess and although you've got a manual and the best ST magazine money can buy right there alongside you, they don't always take into account the kind of difficulties owners new to the machine encounter.

But you can stop worrying, because Atari ST User has heard your cry for help and is even now, speeding to the rescue.

Each month we'll tell you all about all those little ST foibles that stop the novice in their tracks. From basic Desktop principles to the most intricate secrets of the applications, Atari ST User tells all...

BEGINNERS: START HERE...

Even the experts have to start somewhere. If you've just unwrapped an ST, and don't know what to do next, take 'User by the hand...'

THROUGH THE ARCHED WINDOW...

Windows are the ST's way of enabling you to see what's stored on a floppy or hard disk. To open a window, select the disk icon by positioning the mouse pointer over it, clicking twice ('double clicking') with the left button. The icon will become black and a window will open on the Desktop showing some or all of the files contained on the disk.

Fine. You now have a window onto the disk you're interested in, but what if you can't see all the files? What if you want to move the window in order to make it larger so you can see more? Look at the edges of the window, you'll see shaded areas and, in the corners, some odd-looking little icons.

The shaded bar at the top of the window is used to move the window around on-screen. Position the pointer 'inside' this bar, click the left mouse key and hold it down. An outline of

ICONOGRAPHY

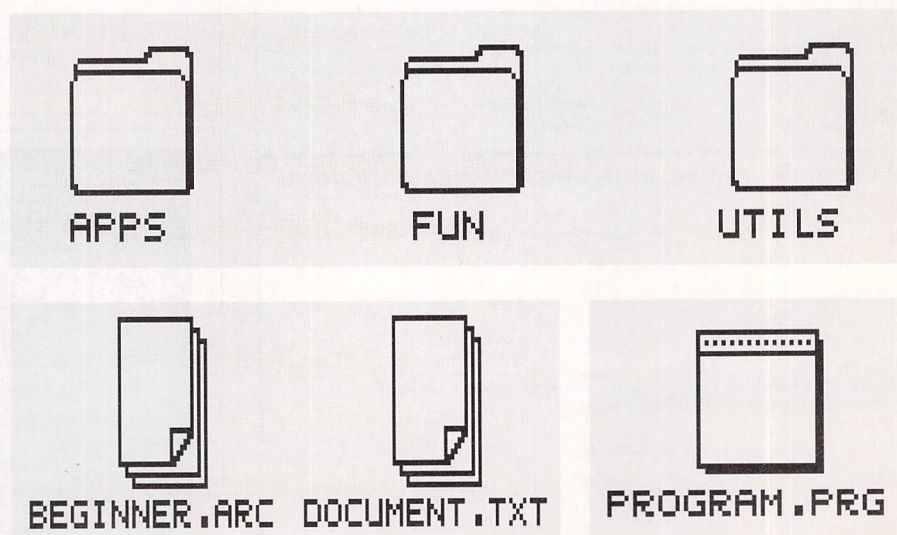
If you've got a mouse and pointers, you're gonna need something to point at, right? Don't worry, Atari didn't forget, the ST's screen is littered with little caricatures of floppy drives, hard drives, programs, folders, files...the list goes on.

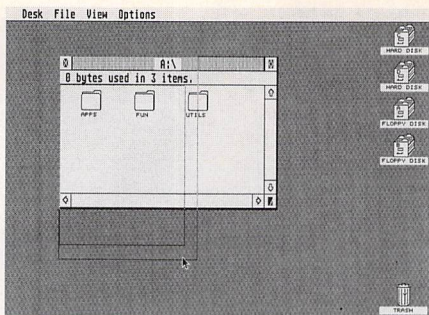
A picture-based operating system such as GEM relies on tiny drawings of its constituent parts in order that you can manipulate it.

Rather than typing obscure commands into the machine, you simply point at an icon representing the item to be manipulated and click.

GEM, the ST's operating system, decides upon the program icon when the file has the extender .PRG and this leads to a rather neat little trick to hide 'sensitive' text files from inquisitive eyes.

If you rename a text file with the extender .PRG, its icon will change from a 'document' with the corner folded, to a box with shaded bar representing a program. You can be sure that no-one will bother to attempt to read this 'program' and therefore your files are safe!





If you have several windows on screen at once and you need to see them all, it's simple to re-size them by clicking and dragging the right-hand corner icon

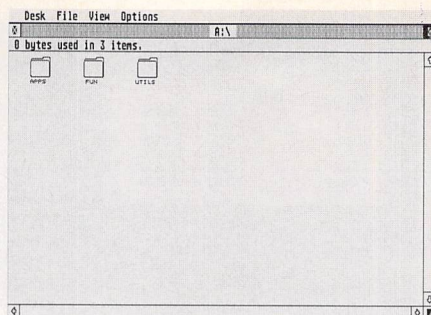
the window will appear which can be moved anywhere on screen. Keep the left key depressed and try moving the outline around the screen. Now, decide where you want to move the window to, click, position then release the mouse key. The window will instantly reappear where you left the outline.

Maybe you want to alter the shape or size of the window in order to see more of its contents.

Look at the bottom, right corner, there's a little black square with an oblique line across it. By clicking and dragging this icon, the size of the window can be changed relative to its top left corner - try it.

If you have several windows on-screen and briefly want to examine the contents of one, click the icon (white diamond on a black square) in the top, right-hand corner.

The window will expand to fill the screen. Another click, and the window will revert to its



Windows containing lots of files (unlike that shown here...) can be enlarged to fill the entire screen by clicking the top right-hand corner of the window

original size. This function is useful for windows with lots of information which becomes cluttered when small.

Up to four disks can have their associated windows open at once (useful if you have a couple of floppies and a hard drive attached...) and they can be positioned, re-sized and moved at will.

RODENT RAP

Control of the ST takes place via a mouse. Originally associated with the Apple Macintosh, mice gained in popularity and today, there's a version available for most machines.

The ST's however, is vital to the operation of the machine - well, almost. Take the ST to a friend's house and if you forget the mouse you're in deep poo, or are you? It's simple to move the mouse pointer if you know how.

Press the Alternate key (to the left of the

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Clicking: Pressing a mouse button in order to select an item. Once clicked, an icon usually becomes inverse.

Desktop: The ST's working screen showing the floppy and hard drive icons, the trashcan and menu bar.

Double-clicking: In order to run a program, open a text file for reading and so on, the process of selecting, then OPENING from the menu bar can be shortened to two quick presses of the left mouse button.

Dragging: Selecting windows and icons and moving them around on the Desktop using a mouse.

GEM: Graphics Environment Manager, the WIMP part of the ST's operating system (the other part is TOS).

WIMP: An acronym meaning Windows Icons Mouse and Pointer. Used to describe the ST's operating system.

space bar) and hold it down, any cursor key pressed at the same time will send the mouse pointer scurrying across the screen.

Need the buttons? You can simulate them with the keyboard. Hold down Alternate, then press either Insert or Clr/Home for left and right buttons respectively. It's slow, it's messy but it works...



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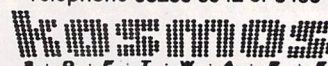
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Take note that in Venezuela, we ourselves repair our equipment and translate software to Spanish. Don't worry, all our software is in English, only our exclusive software dedicated to Latin America is in Spanish. Every month our group buys software originals in UK and USA.

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Here's your chance to develop diplomatic relations with Venezuela. If anyone is interested in contacting the Venezuelan user group, get in there. It wouldn't be easy to find a more enthusiastic and welcoming invitation than this.

BOUGHT MY SISTER

I have subscribed to your magazine for the past two years, and taken your sister publication BBC Micro User (I think my chauffeur takes it - Ed) for three years before that. On balance I am impressed with the new look of the magazine. The world-wide news coverage, hardware projects, 'Interactive Rescue' and general presentation are all vastly improved. There are, however, a few things that I feel have worsened as a result of the change.

Firstly, the letters page is a mess. I found the original style easier on the eye and the light blue background was easy to find when flicking through the mag. Now, we are presented with an ST World style layout, in which the letters are in faint (but readable) print, while the replies are in 'jump-out-of-the-page-and-burn-your-eyes-out' bold type. Is the editorial reply really more important than the letter, or is the letters editor just being vain? One other thing, the sarcastic editorial comments within the revamped letters page belong to lesser magazines. Please cease, or at least reduce, this uncouth practice! (Nah. Tough - Ed.)

Secondly, I am unimpressed by your reader offers, which tend to offer software that is either outmoded (such as K-Spread 2), or ancient (such as FS2). In any case, any half-way-decent mail order supplier can better your prices. In 'USER 55, you were even selling pens! If you are going to do reader offers, why not useful ones, such as replacement mice or cut-price external drives?

Finally, to your subscription offers. It might be an idea to throw in a free binder with a sub (logical, huh?), and to introduce a two-year sub. My subscription has expired, and I am not yet convinced that it is still worth



mail

Why not write to Britain's liveliest letters page? Alternatively, you could write to us! No star letters, no prizes just sheer, unadulterated abuse. Write to I Want to be Abused By, Atari ST User, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP.

renewing. I do not think much of the subscription offers you are presently running.

I hope you will take these comments in the right spirit. In spite of all the gripes, 'USER' is still the only computer mag I take regularly - keep up the good work!

Stephen I. Murgan, Leytonstone, London

Yeah, don't worry. We can cut it. We try not to take it to heart when you tear us into little pieces and are grateful for any praise, however faint.

To answer a few of your gripes - Since when are pens not useful? Can you carry your ST in your jacket pocket? Anyway, our past reader offers have been very popular, so if you can't find anything there, then sorry, we can't really help you.

I agree with your ideas on subscriptions and had in fact already suggested a two-year sub. We'll just have to wait and see what happens.

And finally, I'm sorry you don't like the new mail page design. We do.

ANOTHER PENSIONER LASHES OUT!

It was interesting to see the letter from Cliff McLean (Doddering Old Fool?) in the September issue. Also as a hexagenarian, but still working to earn a crust or two, I look forward to receiving my Atari ST User each month and seeing what goodies are in it and on the disk.

I wrote my first computer program in the early 1950s for the English Electric 'Deuce' machine to make it play the Teddy Bear's Picnic! I was also privileged to be at the meeting of (most of) the British computer industry (about 50 of us) at the Cambridge University Mathematics Lab when we decided to use the spelling 'program' rather than 'programme': this was to differentiate between computer and other sorts of programme - NOT to come into line with American practice. Things have changed a bit since then.

Anyway, one or two suggestions and minor gripes about the magazine. There is a very strong emphasis on games at present

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and on reviews of commercial software. I miss the old ST World and would like to see the balance a bit more towards 'serious' applications – do we really need those lurid games to be so large? Some more about practical programming would be nice – I know that we get some on the Disk, but it seems all games design orientated, at present.

By the way, my August disk wouldn't deARC the programs so I sent it off to Stanley Precision Systems and am still waiting three weeks later for a replacement: could you boot them so that I can boot it? No problems so far with the September one.

Another plea. Could you ensure that the items on the monthly disk are well proven before being included? (We test them to destruction! - Ed). I tested out the pools program (December) with last season's results and found it utterly useless! Also, the XBIOSMSK program on the August disk (yes, that worked OK) only enabled you to write music in common time and in the key of C major, so it was pretty useless, too.

I suspect that these are put in as 'catch-pennies' to try to persuade us to buy the full versions so why blow them up in your descriptions as being all-singing, all-dancing? A bit more objectivity would be much appreciated.

Despite these gripes, I thoroughly enjoy the magazine and look forward to the next 13 editions out of my subscription. Maybe some of the above will be helpful in formulating policy in the future so as to appeal even more to the 'doddering' and 'serious' users, like me.

G.C.Rowley, Exeter, Devon

Ah yes, another wise old sage, from way back in the dark ages of computing, before the great unwashed knew their RAM from their ROM and only the chosen few had access to those awesome computers.

Thanks anyway for your suggestions and comments, and it's good to hear that you like the magazine. As for more interesting programming articles on the disk, why not write something yourself and send it to us? Such a distinguished computer personality such as yourself ought to be able to knock together an interesting programming feature or two. Look forward to hearing from you...

YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA

I felt I should write to you as the strangest thing has just happened to me. I was in my local computer shop with a friend (he unfortunately bought an Amiga) looking for the game Anarchy. In one review I read it was given 98 per cent so I was quite eager to get my hands on it. I finally found it and before we left my friend bought Midwinter.

We placed the items we had purchased in my car and then left to do some more shopping. When we had returned I was flabbergasted to find that my car had been broken into (okay, I left one of the doors unlocked)! I couldn't believe it. Anarchy, the game I would have had so many happy hours with had been stolen! If this wasn't enough of a shock, my friend discovered that his game (Midwinter) had not been taken!

Even though I had lost twenty of my hard-earned pounds I began to laugh at this. What can I say when an ST game is stolen in pref-

erence to an Amiga game? I suppose the person in question owned an ST, or perhaps it was just a display of good taste.

J. Skinner, Pinner, Middlesex

Eerie, isn't it? Twilight Zone stuff.

SMART ASS?

I was very pleased to note from your reply to Mr. Bain of Inverness, in the September issue that you are doing your bit for the environment by having 'USER delivered by ass instead of by those nasty internal combustion-engined vehicles ('Get your ass into gear'). Or is it that Mail replies are written by an American?

If so, please tell him (sexist! - Ed) to try to write in British English for your predominantly British readers. Otherwise he'll be talking of clever people as 'smart' and we'll all be thinking they are well dressed, or he'll be telling someone to have his ST 'fixed', and we'll think he's telling him to make it into a fixture.

Laurie Holling, Brighton

No, mail replies are not written by an American. It's just that ass looks more polite on the page than what you're suggesting. Have a nice day...

TWO-TIME BUYER!

I must tell you that this is my second copy (August 90) of Atari ST User, and I am impressed. Your new look and quality packaging caught my eye on the newsstand. I opened the mag and discovered well written and interesting articles inside.

I want to say thanks for the continued support of the ST. I purchased a 520 in November of 1985 and was one of the first to do so in my area. I have, since 1989, upgraded to a Mega ST2 and enjoy all the benefits of the upgrade.

But everything is not rosy here. As you are probably aware several of the mags that were written for the ST have long gone by the wayside. We only have the one mag devoted to the ST. What a shame! I am not crying about the situation but I am getting lonely here. The few ST users in the area have since abandoned their Ataris and have joined ranks among the clone users. Their loss!

As far as hardware in the area goes, there is not much. I have to drive 200 miles to the closest retailer of Atari. However, I must say it is an oasis in the desert. I envy your area for all the products developed for the ST. The upgrades such as the 68030, the 286 emulators, RAM upgrades, etc.

Anyway, all that to say thanks for your mag and the support you give to us folks over here in the USA. I will be a devoted reader. Continued good luck with your efforts.

Steve Shelton, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Ah, a live one, all the way from the U. S. of A. It sounds like things are getting tough over there for you. Two hundred miles is a long way to go for essentials. Can anyone better this? Is there anyone living in Outer Mongolia or the Antarctic who has to wait for a supply ship, or helicopter drop every six months for their mag and supplies? We may have to wait six months or more for replies I suppose, but we'll still be here waiting.

RUDERY

I don't think you should be so rude to all those 'doddering old fools', as you call them. Anyway, I'm pleased to see that you are being a bit kinder to that Mr Rowley in this month's mag. He sounds like a nice old man.

A N Orac, Macclesfield, Cheshire

DESPERATELY STREET CREDIBLE

I must admit to having rarely purchased your magazine of old, but the new style of the rag certainly seems to have stepped up a gear, now causing me to part with some of my hard-earned each month. I particularly like the Aspects section and the PD coverage. It is nice to find a mag which evens out serious/useful information/reviews against games coverage.

As often pleaded within your pages, please don't end up as so many other journals (of all formats) seem to, as mainly a games reviewing textbook. There are too many serious users (and by serious I don't mean 100 per cent technical – I word process, use spreadsheets, dabble very dubiously in graphics, try unsuccessfully to get to grips with MIDI) who do play games, but as an aside to other things.

With the above paragraph in mind, my one dare I say criticism (I better not) is the frustration of having a superb SM124 mono monitor, and finding many of the Cover Disk programs are, and I quote, 'Configuration: All STs, colour only.' Is it just that the programming fraternity find it necessary to program in 512+ glorious colours or that to program in mono puts 'serious' into the almost three figure price bracket?

For your information I run a double sided 520STFM, SM124 monitor, Citizen 120D printer and Casio MT540 keyboard. I haven't even got a colour TV – I spent the spondoolies on the hardware, although I suppose I could rent if I stopped buying the mag – but then again...

One question – I know Radio Hams interface computers with their equipment, how or for what I am unsure of. Is it possible to do the same for CB radio?

Simon Hiscocks, Penarth, South Glamorgan

As far as your problem with the Cover Disks goes – ever heard the old saying 'You can please some of the people some of the time...'? About 90 per cent of our readers have colour monitors so we have to include colour programs which make use of them, but that doesn't mean that we ignore the rest of you. You'll find that on every Cover Disk there are programs for mono as well. Unless you can think of a better solution, that's just the way it is.

What's that? CB what? Not, hah, CB radio? Get outta here! (The latter was a suitably Americanised answer in order to enrage further our correspondent of several paragraphs ago.)

BAD PUBLICITY

I thought that after the bad publicity some software companies have had of late with software quality and prices, you might be interested in an incident that occurred a few days ago.

Whilst perusing my local computer store I found a copy of Populous, which I had previously been told by the same store would not work on my machine because the disk drive was too slow! I took a chance and bought it. After leaving the shop, however, I discovered that the main manual was missing. I took it back into the shop and they informed me that it was their last copy. I could take it as it was or have a refund. I took it on the assurance that it was playable without the manual.

I played it for several days but was very frustrated because this superb game was not playable without my understanding the icons. In desperation I wrote to Electronic Arts sending my warranty card as proof of purchase and to my delight only two days later it had arrived with their compliments.

The moral of this story is that not all computer companies are bad apples. Companies like this do exist. I would happily pay £25 for games like Populous any day and with customer support like that they deserve every penny. Well done Electronic Arts.

M. Padwick, Worthing, Sussex

At last! Someone who isn't complaining. What's the catch?

A QUESTION OF PD

I would like to ask you about public domain. Don't worry, it's not going to be the usual 'are they safe from viruses' and 'how do you get PD disks'. Instead, I am writing to you to find out about how you become a public domain supplier. I have been thinking about doing this for a long time and have finally decided to put pen to paper and get into action.

I already realise that public domain software is a non-profit organisation but I do believe that the public domain is a necessary service for ST users with software being so extortionately priced (probably due to the fact of piracy and the amount of developing needed for each game, although I am not getting into that argument because it has become very tedious). I also believe that many PD suppliers are in the service for the money as some disks cost £3 and even £5. This is just ridiculous. I want to be able to provide a service that is quick and efficient, coupled with low prices so as to be affordable to everyone's pocket.

Any information that you could provide for me would be a great help and I await your reply.

R. Baker, 49 Hopefield Ave, Frecheville, Sheffield S12 4XA

Very honourable of you. But you're not the only one you know, and it's not as easy as you think. To get started you need to get hold of lots and lots of public domain software and the way to do that is to raid bulletin boards and PD libraries. You'll make a lot of people very cross if you copy their collections wholesale, but then as it's all PD I suppose there's no real argument.

You should remember that running a public domain library is not all sweetness and light. You can't simply sit back and watch the free goodies come pouring in. You have to work very, very hard in order to have a PD library as successful as Goodman Enterprises and the South West Software Library. These libraries

invest a lot of time and effort and don't make a great deal in return.

LITTLE CHEAT!

I read your great mag every month and wonder why you never print any helps or cheats! I am just about to take my options at school and one of the many pleasures I have is my computer. I have quite a few games but not many helps or cheats for my games.

I would be very grateful if you could tell me some cheats for the following games such as Rainbow Islands, Licence to Kill, Dragon Ninja, Super Wonderboy in Monsterland, Fallen Angel, Overlander, Xenon, Bomb Jack, Predator, Defenders of the Earth, Commando, SAS Combat, Moonwalker, Sly Spy, Shadow Warriors, Midnight Resistance. My computer is a 520 STFM.

Thank you for your co-operation (I am not Robocop). Just a joke (just! - Ed).

G. Kendall, Chelmsford, Essex

Cheats, huh? In fact, we're happy to print cheats if that is what you (and by 'you' I mean a large proportion of readers) would like to see in the magazine. If you want it, and enough of you are keen enough to write in and ask for it, you'll get it.

ALIASING

I have had my 520 for some months now, originally planning to program (in BASIC). Apart from PD, which is excellent value for money, most other software is out of my pocket after forking out £299 for my ST.

The games for my old, under the bed Acorn Electron cost at the most eight pounds (but the tapes were very unreliable). Back to the main reason I am writing is because I would like to know why software houses go under lots of different names, for instance:

Activision = Sierra = System 3 = Motion Picture House

Empire = Titus

Millenium = Logotron

Rainbird = Firebird = Microstyle,

and many more.

Keep up the good work on the new look.

D. Morelle, Upper Norwood, London

I think the explanation is probably because software houses like to release a diverse range of games such as adventure, RPG, strategy, shoot-em-up and so on and associate the name of a particular 'label' with one software genre in order to break up each strand of their business.

Actually, this is probably not the real explanation at all, but what the hell?

LEATHER AGAINST WILLOW...

Could you please tell me if there are any cricket simulations available for the Atari ST and if so, where I purchase a copy?

M. Gillett, Purley, Surrey

You just won't believe it but there is a complete copy of a brilliant cricket simulation from Sophistisoft on last month's Cover Disk. It's also the only cricket simulation for the ST, so you can save your money. Don't say we never give you anything.

GOBBLEDEGOOK?

I have been a subscriber to 'ST USER' from the early days but I am going to stop soon if the expensive disks remain a feature with the sort of absurd contents they have had to date.

Typically, they contain the nth poor quality 'utility' for hyperquantizing your STOS gobbledegook de-archiver and some utterly naff games. Possibly because I am not a fourteen year old idiot-computer-savant, I can't understand most of the *menus*, let alone the complicated procedures you have to labour at to produce a poor quality Sinclair-Spectrum-type 'game'. Also, it seems you have to buy STOS, or Fast Basic, or Super Duper Whizzo to run anything that looks interesting in your grotesquely hyped-up Userdisk pages.

The utilities that would really interest me concern MIDI and comms. What I want is simple GEM-type menus and simple utilities. I don't want a recording studio or sound sampling for my keyboard - just a few interesting voices and rhythms for transfer to my Yamaha keyboard. As for comms - even commercial software is ludicrously complicated. All I want is a simple Viewdata or Prestel-type emulator so I can talk to my bank account.

Lastly, could you please supply a BASIC and a thingy (sorry, we can't get involved with that sort of, er, merchandise. You'll have to get your own 'thingy' - Ed) to let me see these wonderful pictures (is it called TINY-TOTS or something?). And will 'ST USER' talk about the Portfolio ever?

G.R.L. Wright, Romsey, Hants

Sorry we're not simple enough for you. Mind you, you may have a point. I suppose not everyone was born with a mouse in one hand and learnt BASIC before English.

From now on we'll do our best to make sure that even the complete rookie has no trouble with getting the best from the Cover Disk. As for your request for comms and MIDI, fine, but don't forget that not everyone wants exactly the same thing. Other users (including us) enjoy those 'naff' games.

MORE FOR YOUR MOOLAH

In the July issue of the 'Atari ST User', you had the interesting Damocles Arc, which I first sent to you for replacement and then to Stanley Precision Data System. It would just not convert into a program and in spite of my various attempts, it would remain a folder. The same thing happened in Nitro.TOS supplied on the August Disk.

Do you think it is possible to reduce some of the other insertions so that when good programs like the Damocles and the Nitro are inserted, enough memory is available so that they are in a program form, and thus avoid worrying your poor enthusiasts in getting these interesting folders into program form?

E. Borg Grech, San Gwann, Malta

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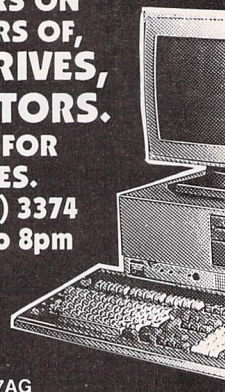
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SHOW-STOPPING EYE-POPPING SHOPPER COMPETITION

We've done it again. Another amazing competition. Here's the chance for ten, yes ten, lucky readers of Atari ST User to share prizes worth an incredible total of £1,000 for their Christmas stockings with our competition jointly supported by those hot guys at Mandarin/Database Software and organisers of The Computer Shopper Show, Blenheim Database Exhibitions.

Lucky winners will receive a copy of STOS, the smash hit ST games creation package which has already sold 40,000 copies and is being bundled with every ST sold between now and next Spring.

In addition, they will scoop a Games Galore bundle of the top entries in last year's STOS Games Writer of the Year Award including Skate Tribe, Sky Strike, Mousetrap and Yolo plus STOS Squasher, the utility which allows you to condense programs, sprites and music into a fraction of their normal size.

And if that isn't enough, winners will also get a copy of Fun School 3, the latest in the successful Fun School educational series which is already on target to surpass the record-breaking 150,000 sales of its predecessor Fun School 2.

If you already own STOS, there is an alternative prize of Games Galore, STOS Game of the Year – Cartoon Capers, STOS Sprites 600 and Fun School 3.

The full Mandarin/Database range of software will be featured

along with a bonanza of other products at this year's Computer Shopper Show, now established as the computer world's biggest pre-Christmas spending spree.

Our ten lucky winners will each receive two complimentary tickets to this year's event being held at Wembley Conference Centre from Thursday December 6 to Sunday December 9. They're worth a whopping £5 each and allow you to sidestep the queues and gain direct entry into the show.

Last year's event brought Alexandra Palace to a halt with huge queues and 3,000 people turned away. This year it moves to the larger venue of Wembley with an extra day added to make it a must for all ST owners.

HOW TO ENTER

Just rummage through the word grid to find the names of five companies which support the ST, then send in your entry to Atari ST User, Interactive Publishing, Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP.

Mark your entries Show-Stopping Eye-Popping Shopper Competition. Closing date is November 20 and the winners will be the first ten who, in the opinion of the editor, is most likely to kiss on a first date.

Entrants must also state whether or not they want their prize to include STOS and which version of Fun School 3 they'd like – the versions are for under fives, five to sevens and over sevens.

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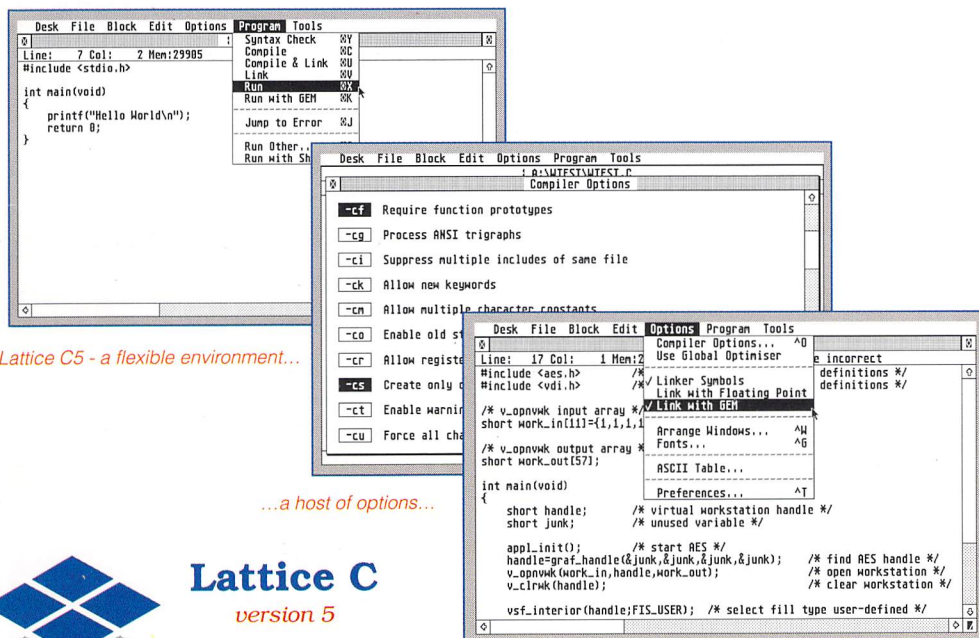
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- Librarian for examining and constructing libraries quickly & easily
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- Standard assembler allowing quick & easy low level programming. Link with other assemblers like DevpacST
- Disassembler for you to optionally hand-optimize the code produced by the package
- Special version of the MONST debugger allowing automatic loading of your source code and tracing via line numbers together with a host of low level debugging commands

Lattice C 5 requires:

- Any Atari ST computer with at least 512K memory, a double-sided floppy disk drive & TOS in ROM, although the use of 2 floppies or a hard disk & 1Mb+ of memory is recommended.

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