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ARCADES

LE MANS • ROAD TEST

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REVIEW AND COMPO

**REVIEWED: ARKANOID • INDOOR SPORTS
DELTA • GUNSHIP • C16 WAY OF THE TIGER
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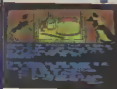
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Way of the Tiger

Cover Illustration
Alvin Fordham

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Letters

SNOOZE

● I own a Commodore 64 and to go with it I own a lot of Mastertronic games, so here is a top ten list of my M-tronic Mad games, and entertainment USA's.

- 1 L.A. Swat
- 2 Ninja
- 3 Hole in One
- 4 Speed King
- 5 Sreet Surfer
- 6 Kickstart
- 7 Action Biker
- 8 Formular One
- 9 Hunter Patrol
- 10 Fishers Keepers

And here is a list of some of my different games

- 1 Hot Wheels — Americana
 - 2 Jet Set Willy — Software Projects
 - 3 Go for Gold — Americana
 - 4 Hyper Sports — Imagine
 - 5 Booty — Firebird
 - 6 Warhawk — Firebird
 - 7 Fresh Factory — Firebird
 - 8 Adrian Male — Mosaic
 - 9 Pandora's Box — C64 Software
 - 10 Ninja Master — Firebird
- Nichols Wood,
Wimbome, Dorset

Hm, very interesting. CU is not a snooze-paper. Please, no more lists.

First reviews

● You won't have heard from me yet 'cos I'm a fairly new reader (I've been reading since January 1986) and have no complaints at all (I stress). Your reviews are fair and I agree with them totally. Play to Win a ace (I would love more Play to Win books) and very useful.

But I have one problem. You claimed to have the first review of *Starfighter* but C&VG beat you to it.

Anyway, enough about that. This is my perfect recipe for a session of gaming

- 1 x stereo
- 2 x good music tapes (Bon Jovi, INXS or Paul Simon)
- 3 (at least) good games, 1 use *Space Harrier*, *Terra Cresta* and *Saxxon*.

1 64 or 16

3 packets of crisps

Now put a tape in the stereo, press play and turn volume up for maximum effect. Turn on computer, turn sound down and play the game stopping at regular intervals for mouthfuls of crisps. Simon White,
Edgbaston, Birmingham

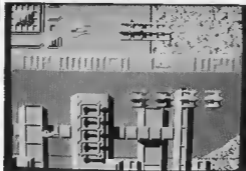
C&VG reviewed the Atari and Spectrum versions. When we say first review we mean it, and any other magazines that complain about it being meaningless are just annoyed because they didn't get it. So it is nyah, nyah, yah boo sucks to you. Oh, and the average packet of crisps contains 150 calories which is pretty unhealthy. Eat an apple instead, most doctors recommend it because they don't have to come out very often if you do.

review C&VG is an excellent magazine. But it has accepted that it isn't the best selling. You have not. So you slag ZZap off at any opportunity. Your letters slag ZZap off as well. Your star letter of November was slagging it off. So were four other letters.

I have only ever read one issue and that has proved to me that this magazine is one which I and all my friends shall be avoiding like the plague.

Andrew Henry,
Worral, Merseyside

Listen! In this magazine 7 is a good mark, hence our review of *Saxxon* was favourable. Our company owns C&VG (which sells more than ZZap — fact), so it's nothing to do with that either. But you won't get a chance to read this reply because you and all your



A plague on you

● I am writing to complain about your pitiful "comic", and most of all, your completely biased and pathetic review of *Saxxon* by Thalimus. To my knowledge, you are the only magazine that gave this game a bad review, and the only reason you gave it such a crap review is because it is Newfield's company. My God! You are just so pathetic. C&VG gave it a good

outraged mates are avoiding us like the plague.

Our letters bag is bulging with your comments, criticisms, queries and praise currently so we're expanding our letters page. Every letter printed gets a coveted Commodore User T-shirt, but we've added an extra incentive — the chance of winning a charity-topper game for the star letter of the month. So get your pen and paper out and write in to

Letters, Commodore User, Priory Court,
30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU.

Avast there!

● I am a software pirate but not a proud one. I am only a pirate (small one) because of the prices and also because I am lazy. Anyone can blame the prices!

I recently replied to an advert in a classified section of a magazine (I do not state which magazine because I would not like anyone to get into deep trouble), but to my horror the person's was a member of a large pirate ring. He boasted of getting the first copy of a game not yet released by Elite, which I find stupid. So I told him to f*** o'l.

Even if you ban adverts selling back-ups, pirates can still use double deck ghetto-blasters and reset switches.

I finish off by using a last sentence taken from a letter by a pirate in your magazine.

I feel very ashamed of the way the computer industry has ended up by people like me and others reading this letter.

Don't feel too sorry for this industry, a lot of people do very well out of you. Nevertheless, you are very naughty, so take 50 lines: I must not pirate software, it is bad and I don't own a parrot or have a wooden leg. Ark!

Ripped off!

● I'm sending this letter all the way from Sweden, just to thank you. Your mag is the best. I know that you must get loads of letters like this, but please don't throw this one on the fire. In Sweden we only have one good Commodore magazine, the '64/28 och Amigo Daormagazin', and even they read Commodore User! They have Screen Stars, Hot Shots and a group of reviewers called "G-Squad" (I've been there!) But otherwise they are quite good. But still, you're better. You rule!

PS Please include this letter in your mag. I'd like to show it to my

Letters

English teacher Peter Bengtsson, Sodra, Sandby, Sweden
This is disgraceful news, but nevertheless predictable. The Swedes are not the only people to rip us off. Check our competitors carefully. As for your English teacher — will you get a gold star?

Superstar omission

● Nine times out of ten your magazines are pretty good reading. But while looking through the supplement "CU Superstars", I read an article which made me scream with white-hot fury and spit my hot Oxo all over my Plus/4. Quote (in our snobbish voice): "Cliff and Plus/4 owners have been starved of the sophisticated type of game." Didn't Novagen bring out *Mercenary* on the Plus/4, *Phalanx* and *Euge*. Don't make anyone unforgettable insults thank you.

Keith Butt,
Bournemouth, Dorset
Well you have, haven't you? One game is hardly a glut is it? No criticism of *Mercenary* or the Plus/4 was intended.

Gauntlet hype

● I have a few things to write about, so I have just put them onto one letter. I have read *Commodore User* for a year now, and it is still the best magazine but I have one complaint. After reading the *Gauntlet* review, I rushed out to buy it. I ran back home and loaded it up. I thought it was good at first, look but I soon got my senses back. It was full of bugs. Even without bugs the game was still a load of hyped drivel. I was very disappointed. I took it back to get it replaced but I was not allowed my money back, instead I had to have a look at the other games and took *Paperboy*, hoping that it would be

of *Screen Star* rating, because *Gauntlet* certainly wasn't.

While I am writing this letter, I would like to congratulate Elite for their outstanding arcade conversions. Keep up the excellent work.
Richard Moffett,
Parsley, Scotland

Perhaps "Gauntlet" should be nominated for the "Most Bugged Game of the Year" award!!

Gareth J Johnson,
Linceln
It was and it won. US Gold do say they remastered it after problems with the early version.



Gauntlet bugs

● After reading your "Screen Star" review of "Gauntlet", from US Gold, I purchased the cassette version from the local W. H. Smith. It loaded and worked perfectly and my brother and I enjoyed playing it for several hours. However, the next day when I tried to load the game it "crashed" repeatedly. I returned the cassette to the shop and obtained a replacement which at first loaded and played with no problems. Subsequently I was only able to load and play this second cassette three times before it also "crashed". I have thoroughly checked my own equipment and have experienced no difficulty with any other software.

I am wondering if there could be something lacking in the actual tape quality as I know of another 64 owner who has experienced the same problem with this particular game.

Taste

● I've noticed that some chart topping games are not all that they are cracked up to be. Many times have I bought a supposedly good game and been disappointed, one of the best examples being *Uridium*.

Andrew Braybrook must've gained thousands of pounds out of all the unsuspecting little plonkers like me buying the game without looking at more than the *Boots*' video tape to get my own assessment of the game.

OK it was good for the first half-hour but after that I found it impossible to get anywhere and it was pretty boring, so how am I to know what a really good game is about if no one reviews it or shows it to me (you probably reviewed it but I missed it)?

Right now I don't agree with whoever is willing to give a tenner for *Gauntlet* so if someone said to me "get *Gauntlet* it's a chart topping game, it must be good" I'd have to tell them it's a matter of taste. So

perhaps you could think about saying what sort of people the games you review would suit best, eg. *Fit II* is more for people who like a quest rather than those who enjoy fighting and joystick skills.
Wayne Squibbs,
N. Marston

Of course we reviewed *Uridium* — It was a *Screen Star* and rightly so. Of course games are a matter of taste but you know what you like, don't you?

Brown tongue

● I have written to you as the lawyer of Mike Patenden. He doesn't know me but I'm his lawyer, alright and I'm also the head of his fan club, what fan club I hear you ask? I don't know, there has got to be one somewhere. I think he is an excellent writer. Take his review of *Ace of Aces*, utter genius. I think *Hothots* is superb, a real must, and anybody who dags him off ought to try and do better — and until they can, shut up. Hang on a minute while I change my disguise. I am now Mike. Why do people think I'm bad?

It really makes me awfully sad. I write reviews right through the day and all I hear is "Go away, go clean a floor or defect to Zzap 64".

I'll shout and bellow, hiss and roar and then I'll bury you in my 64. So go away, leave me in peace, or you'll be hearing from the police. Right Mike that's your tenner's worth, send me a cheque, no credit cards.

Seems it's the start of another year, here is my (yawn) list and Ouis (yawn):

Ins: CU, groveling for other people, Mike Patenden, MAD games, Beyond, shoot 'em ups, flight sims.

Ouis: Any and M Patenden club members (what!), US rip off, Zzap, a lot to learn, 64 specs, Plus 4s, C16
Keep up the good work.
Robert Bockholer
Wormley, Bristol

Adverse to verse

● Thank you for such a great mag (grovel, grovel). I have been reading it now from October's issue (heaven knows how I subscribed so late), but I won't bore you with all that tosh, there are a few snags though.



A one act play

Accors. Playboy (that's me), Pontus Lindberg, Mr Coconet (that's my friend), Mats Moeller.

Playboy Shock 'n' horror, death 'n' pain ghost 'n' gobble: Hell and beyond is here!

Mr Coconet, Calm down. Your issue was probably delayed but you got it yesterday, didn't you?

Playboy. One of the dearest things I ever will own is still missing. Do you think a rope or a gun is the easiest way?

Mr Coconet: I don't recommend the rope, I tried it after finding that CU was sold out in January. But tell me what can be worse than losing an issue of CU!

Playboy. Do you remember the CU issue with the Antrod poster?

Mr Coconet: Don't insult me. You know that I know the last 25 issues of CU by heart.

Playboy. Then can you please tell me what was written on page 6 of that issue.

Mr Coconet. Stop being so boastful, I know that a letter of yours appeared in that issue. You know I'm jealous and that I chred thinking of you having a CU shirt.

Playboy. This T-shirt hasn't arrived yet, but my new CU has.

Mr Coconet: Oh my God. Now understand what you have been through. How can you survive that?

Playboy. For two weeks I lay sleepless, thinking of what may have caused this.

Mr Coconet. The Australian and Irish writers would have explained. **Playboy!** thought of that too, but what else is possible?

Mr Coconet: I know They haven't got your address.

Playboy. How did they manage to write my name and address at the end of my letter then, I wrote it on the letter and the envelope.

Mr Coconet. Prepare yourself for a shock, maybe they have forgotten that you were one of those who won a T-shirt.

Playboy. (falls off a chair looking dizzy and at the same time dismayed) No one can be that cruel to me, please say that it's out of the question.

Mr Coconet: Perhaps some dishonest person at the post office has stolen it. They are highly prized.

Playboy: That must be it. I'll write my name and yours at the end of the letter and maybe we will be luckier this time.

THE END
Pontus Lindberg
Mats Moeller
Veborod, Sweden

Very good. Quite Chekhovian to begin with, but it's conclusion was more Brechtian with a tinge of Ionesco. You must be related to Ibsen. All that just for a T-shirt! This must be performed.



I have just finished reading the letter in January '87 issue entitled "Lies, Lies", and in the first two lines the word "CRAP" had been mentioned twice — though I do admire you for printing his opinions even if it did have some bad language in it.

2. And why do people write in with poems which (no offence) are rubbish, and after reading their drivel I automatically skip the letters pages for fear of being sent to sleep. So please CU readers **NO MORE POETRY!**

Christopher Jackson,
Ponsonold, Newcastle

Pop pap

● My dad thinks your mag is crap, but I don't think so, I still get it anyway.

I have also come up with a great idea, why don't you make up your own computer game? You've got the brains, so why don't you? You

could sell it in the shops too Benjamin Hope,
Canterbury, Kent
We don't think too well of your dad either, as for the game — do you think our name is Thalamus?

A tall story

● My tale begins at the beginning (a quite fascinating and logical conclusion, I trust you will agree), when 64s didn't need an extra C, when Miner Willy was still in his nappies, and when Shaolin's Road was still on an architect's drawing board. Journey with me if you will back . . . back . . . back to the days when all games were "100% pure machine code", before "Once upon a time" had been invented before Maxis and P. Even, yes, back to the time when the Chinese juggler was entertaining Lazy Jones and the two Hunchbacks at High Noon outside

Hampstead. If I remember correctly, the Outlaws were attacking the Beach-Head in their Moon Buggy, on their quest to capture the Crystal Castles.

Something had to be done. The planet was in dire jeopardy. The Enigma Force were sent off to recruit everyone possible from Monty Mole and Daisy Thompson to Dan Dare and the Sentinel. 4 Zzaps had been assembled, the Ikari Warriors were suzled, the PSI 5 Trading Co supplied the craft, Stargliders and Acro Jets, the Spy Hunter was despatched to seek the Saboteur and his Drellts that reigned over the Kingdom of Fairlight through terror. The Spy Hunter faced an almost impossible Mission, yet he took the Time Tunnel to 1942 and the Fairlight Kingdom.

Meanwhile, the Ikari Warriors despatched a Paradroid to act as an Infiltrator in the Outlaws camp Fort Apocalypse, in the heart of the Colossal Caves

and that is the end of part one, but do not worry, more chapters shall follow in future issues of this fabulous literary publication.

The second chapter of the above, or below (you can never tell how it will be printed) story is already under production. Bye.

Dauglas Sinclair,
Powmill Scotland
Anyone out there still awake?

Deliver the goods

● I wonder if you could tell me why companies are still making poor quality games and asking £9 or £10 for them.

Do companies not know that if a game has not got:

- (a) Good graphics
- (b) Good sound
- (c) A degree of toughness
- (d) Addictiveness
- (e) Good value

It would not be a hit or gain them any respect. I bring this up because I bought a lot of games recently i.e. Knight Rider and Space Harrier to

name two and they are both crap! (please excuse the language) I hope you can keep us informed of these developments of crap software so we won't waste our pennies! Martin P Scott, Belfast.

There is still a lot of bad software out there that doesn't really warrant attention. The standard is improving each year. I think you have to recognise, for example, that Space Harrier whilst not a brilliant game is another progression in programming.

US Mail

● I bet you don't see this too often. A letter from an American.

Let me tell you my story. I had just entered an infamous software shop when I saw a magazine I had never seen before perched on the shelf. I quickly thumbed through it and saw a lot of 'C' symbols so I decided that the magazine was from the UK. I was right, because there were games for the Commodore but I had never heard of it or seen before.



This magazine was CU. Your magazine is really new in the US because so far I have only seen it in one software shop!

Every month I wait for the next issue of CU to come out and then I rush down to that little software shop that carries CU. The only bad part is your magazine arrives here a month late always! In my opinion your magazine is better than any Commodore magazine published here in the US and probably better than any British magazine over there. As you guys are always saying over there, CU is Brill! Franz Gerszmbik, Redondo Beach, CA

Our letters bag is bulging with your comments, criticisms, queries and praise currently so we're expanding our letters page. Every letter printed gets a coveted Commodore User T-shirt, but we've added an extra incentive — the chance of winning a charity raffle game for the star letter of the month. So get your pen and paper out and write in to

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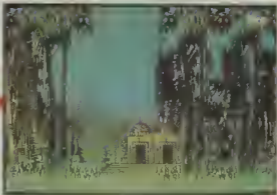
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BUZZ

THE EXPLORER

The Explorer crashes on to the Emerald Planet when his 'Inertial Stabilizers' blow. Should have checked 'em, the silly so and so. Now he is going to have to get down to some real exploring as the various fragments of the ship are scattered throughout innumerable locations. Strange swirling patches of colour will prove useful to the clever explorer — as will redio bascone, weapsans, a jet pech, some sturdy jungle boots end a compece.

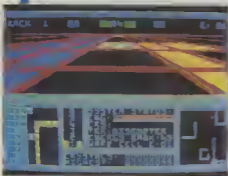


The rest is up to you in this arcade adventure — coded by the Rem Jem Corporation for Electric Dreams.



STAR RAIDERS 2

What about Star Raiders 1, I hear you say. Well, let me explain. Star Raiders 1 was a massive hit on the Atari 400/800 about four years ago. It was the game that Elite owes a huge debt of gratitude to — it had a galactic map, scanners, 3D graphics and sophisticated flight controls — all these things whilst Breben and Bell were still in short trousers. The odd thing is that the game was never converted to Commodore. Until now. It appears that the Aterian Federation is about to be wiped out by the evil Chut. (And a good thing too — that's what they get for boasting about the ST's graphics all the time). Anyway, you have to rescue the Celos IV Star system by piloting the Liberty Star into battle. Go for it.



SUN STAR

The latest release to come from CRL is Sun Star, a high-speed shoot and dodge game. You are heading towards a solar energy grid to collect valuable power resources. Your job is complicated by unstable energy impulses. Move your ship around a meze-like grid destroying the impulses and collecting the fast-moving energy crystals. We thought Jaff Minter had copyright on games of this type, but we will wait and see . . .



DOGFIGHT 2187

Well they couldn't call it Dogfight 2000, that would have been very predictable! This is Ariolasoft's first release on their Starlight label. Described as 'Split-screen simultaneous interactive combat' it is a two-player shoot 'em up with vector graphics. The plot goes something along the lines of alien invaders flooding into our universe through a hole in the space time continuum. Sounds perfectly feasible we're sure, but it can only mean one thing. Finger on the trigger for a blast!

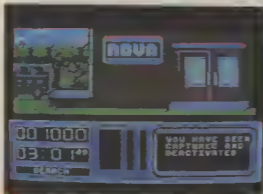
HADES NEBULA

This impressive crab-like mother ship is waiting for you at the end of tough attack in level in *Hades Nebula* — the new shoot 'em up under development at Nexus. It's another of the 'progressive' variety, ie, you build up your firepower as you fly. It is the first of three games under the Hades umbrella. Look out for it at the end of March. The others will follow at six monthly intervals.



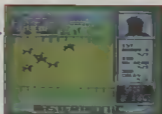
CHALLENGE OF THE GOBOTS

Tony Crowther is back! The king of the scroll has been using his skills on Ariolasoft's latest title based on the TV cartoon series. Some of the Gobots have turned nasty and imprisoned the humans. Drill into the planet floor and call to get the ammunition then set about blitzing the bad Gobots. Could be a goody — despite being a little Defenderish.



SHORT CIRCUIT

Something wonderful has happened! Ocean have got a game out on time. Just kidding lads, it's in fact the phrase from the end of the film on which this is based. During assembly droid No. 5 has his circuits blown and develops a brain with emotions and a conscience. As No. 5 you have to escape in this V style game and build a replica robot to fool your pursuers, the game begins in the factory where you must build your lesser and find the manual for building the decoy robot. Then it's escape across open countryside. Don't kill any wildlife though otherwise your circuits overload with grief. What a sweetie! Review and cover-mounted issue next month.



SPORT OF KINGS

As any top notch punter will tell you the Sport of Kings is horse racing, and Mastertronic's latest MAD game is just that, an Icon driven day at the races. Crafty punters among you will be able to check up on the nag's form and attack bets on any or all of the races in a season. If you are one of the few people out there with a Currah speech unit you will even get race commentary.

BUZZ

EREBUS

£8.95

COMMODORE 64/128

This smooth scrolling
blast 'em' game features
the very best in fast arcade
action by Steve Lee (author of the
Falcon Patrol series and 9th gun) with
stunning graphics by Martin Wheeler (art
for Spectrum's *Star Wars* and the original designer of
Sarcery). It is a multi-sectioned game with many varieties
of tough aliens to eliminate. You must fight through each level in
your high manoeuvrable spherical space fighter to save Earth from
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COMMODORE 64 CHART

CHART CHAT

3	Gauntlet	US Gold
2	Paperboy	Elite
3	BMX Simulator	Code Masters
4	Flash Gordon	Mastertronic
6	180	Mastertronic
6	Space Harrier	Elite
2	LA Swat	Mastertronic
4	Micro Rhythm	Firebird
6	Footballer of the Year	Gremlin Graphics
10	Konami's Coin-Op Hits	Imagine
10	World Games	Epyx-US Gold
18	Red Max	Code Masters
13	Ninja	Mastertronic
14	Trivial Pursuit	Domark
15	They Sold (3)	Hit Squad
15	Head Coach	Addictive
10	Go For Gold	Americana
18	American Football	Bugbyte
10	Panther	Mastertronic
20	Ace of Aces	US Gold

No major surprises this month, but Gauntlet's still fighting it out with Paperboy with the pair of them selling loads more than just about the rest of the chart put together.

There's the usual share of cheapos, but it's nice to see Firebird's Micro-Rhythm doing so well. The only other notable new entry is Bug Byte's American Football entering the charts at budget rate while Nexus' game bombs out.

The early season software seizure carries over to the C16 charts, where Winter Events refuses to move over and the rest of the new entries are all compilations.

By the next issue there's bound to be some changes, hopefully with the superior Brian Clough's Football Fortunes replacing Gremlin's game in everyone's favour. Expect also to see Gunship, Leviathan, Nemesis and Delta go zooming in.

GENERAL

C16

GALLUP
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

1	Gauntlet	US Gold
2	Paperboy	Elite
3	180	Mastertronic
4	Konami's Coin-Op Hits	Imagine
5	Footballer of the Year	Gremlin Graphics
5	Comp. Hits 10 Vol 3	Brau Jolly
2	Space Harrier	Elite
9	BMX Simulator	Code Masters
9	Olivia and Lisa	Firebird
10	Hit Pack	Elite

4	Winter Events	Anco
2	Hit Pack	Elite
3	Blockbusters	Macson
4	Comp. Hits 10 Vol 3	Brau Jolly
5	Bridgehead	Anco
5	European Games	Tynesoft
4	Yin Ar Kung Fu	Imagine
4	Torpedo Alley	Firebird
9	Kana	Mastertronic
10	Video Meenies	Mastertronic

BUZZ

Throne of Fire

A computer game unlike anything released before it, claim Melbourne House for their new *Throne of Fire* game. Written by Mike Singleton the Lord of Midnight himself, its main claim to fame is that you can play against no less than two computer opponents or just with three human players.

Throne of Fire is a strategy/combat game in the classic Singleton mould, featuring a three-sided power struggle between the unsavoury sons of

the late King Athenk, all eager to get to sit in the hotseat. Each player adopts the persona of one of the three rival princes, each doing their dastardly deeds against the dramatic backdrop of the Burning Citadel.

But there is a fourth force, the King's Guard which all three of the princely nasties must fight. *Throne of Fire* costs £9.95 on tape for the 64, and we'll be reviewing it next month. Just imagine it, Eugene, Mike and Bohdan all stabbing each other in the back. (So what's new? Ed)



▲ Take your turn in the hot seat with *Throne of Fire*

Nemesis the Warlock



▲ Judge Dredd makes way for yet another 2000AD superhero

His sword Excessus has killed many Terminators, his quest is to seek out Torquemada and finally destroy him. Who am I talking about? No, not Neil Kinnock (sorry, Ed) but *Nemesis the Warlock* that popular character (of many) from 2000 AD.

Wide-awake readers will know that a Judge Dredd game has already appeared from Melbourne House. But this time Maritech have signed up for the rights to produce a game about *Nemesis*, based on his attempts to zap the evil Terminators and finally, have a bash at Torquemada himself.

Apart from his sword, Maritech is equipping him with a gun and the ability to breathe fire at his opponents. The game should be out in early spring for the Commodore 64.

This also goes for another Maritech game, *Pulsator* which probably won't get your pulse racing when you find out it's a maze game. Apparently you have to rescue a 'pulsy' from a maze of 49 rooms whilst nasty aliens hover around persuading you not to. According to Maritech, there's more to it than that. We sincerely hope so. *Pulsator* costs £7.95 on tape for the 64.

Stan 'n' Ollie

Although Ollie was a big fat bully and Stanley was a silly little wimp, together they were about five million times funnier than Cannon and Ball or Little and Large. So why should Advance Software want to mess them around by turning them into a computer game?

In its favour, the game is written by Andy Wilson (responsible for the brilliant *Duo Duro*) and it will be completely black and white. Apart from that, the storyline sounds pretty pathetic. Apparently, Laurel and Hardy have to locate each other and try to throw a custard pie into each other's faces. 'Ollie, I

Big, Fat and Hairy



One hundred linnns for those of you who thought the ednnn was a descriptinn of the Ed (a million linnns, Ed). It is, in fact, Gerflind the cartoon cat that makes the back page of the Daily Express worth looking nt. Gerflind is the fnttest, greedinnst, lzinnst, nastiest felline lump ynn could ever meet. And meet him you will because The Edge has just signed up for the rights to do a series of games on him. The first game, called *Big, Fat, Hairy Deal*, should hit out by Easter. And, according to The Edge, it will feature ntounding animnntion. Since Gerflind mrrny manages to move, this could be tricky.



The Image System looks like being a pretty natty package. Not just a drawing program, CRL claims it lets you fold your pictures in 3D space (like the MFI advert on the telly), create your own text fonts and control the pictures you've produced from Basic. It works on the 64/128 and costs £19.95 on cassette and £24.95 on disk. We will be putting it through its paces in our Trind and Tested section next month.

don't want to be in this game' But Stenlee, just think of the royalties

Matters are complicated by a little dog that keeps biting their ankles, and the Keystone Cops (who never featured in any of their films). There are 250 different scenes and a radar that indicates when a character is in range. The screen is split into three with an organist in the middle playing suitable tunes — just like the good old days in the Fleap. Full review on the way.



Stenlee, you got me into this mess ... 'Blubbnr, blubbnr, blubbnr'

Gold Exec:

US Gold's Leader

Board polling him gets yet another taste of life with the Securure Edition. It's a completely new set of holes for those of you thinking of entering the pro circuit — more like PG Taps than PGA. It's available on tape for £9.99 and on disk for £14.95.

BMX

Compo: Code Mascars

are giving away a 20in Sony Trion on telly in a competition you can enter if you buy one of their games. Grab an entry form from your games shop and you will see a screenshot from their BMX Simulator. Simply mark the spot where you think the fallen rider is and send it all with the top left-hand corner of a Code Mascars game insert. The nearest guess wins. Pretty simple, eh, and you have got until 31st March to do it.



Deeper

Dungeons. US Gold is cashing in on the meagurness of Gaucnier by releasing a tape that gives you no less than 500 extra mazes. Called Deeper Dungeons some of its screens were designed by Gaucnier players who sent them in to US Gold. The tape costs just £4.99.

Mikro classic:

Supersol's Mikro cartridge is one of the top-selling assembler programs for the Commodore 64. Now they have made it available for the C16 and Plus4. It costs just £12.95 on tape and £14.95 on disk. Supersol reckon they have overdone the inventory problem by 'dynamically allocating the space for source code, object code and labels. Sounds pretty clever — if you know about these things. Supersol are on 01 861 1146.

GAC Twosome

Incentive Software have just released two little goodies that should help you make more of their *Graphic Adventure Creator*.

The first is called the GAC Writer's Handbook. It's a not very livish 50-page booklet that shows you good adventure writing technique, multiple loading techniques, markers and counters and use of conditions. Incentive reckon it's a snip at £1.25.

Somewhat more expensive is the GAC Designer Pad, a chunky 200 page A4 pad that lets you keep tabs on your rooms and locations. It costs £7.95 and you will need to add another £1.25 for postage since you can only get it through mail-order. Incentive Software are at: 2 Mmerva House, Calvea Park Aldermaston, Berks, RG7 4QW.

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The multicolour wall looks like one of those community art programmes



What you really need is a 'P' to get you to the next screen

ARKANOID

64/128
OCEAN

Price: £9.95/cass

Who would have thought that six years after the Breakout boom the same basic game idea would make a reappearance at the beginning of '87 as Ocean's latest coin-op clone?

The Taito coin-op is proving just as popular in pubs and clubs as its brick wall precursor. It's not just the Taito game either as Sega are launching their own update of the video game classic and Gracim Graphics are about to jump on the bandwagon with *Krackout*.

Of course all the lack of originality has to be covered up with a bit of blurb. In the case of Arkanoid it goes like this. An escape capsule, 'Rau', is jettisoned from the mother ship Arkanoid and is trapped in a time

waip with a series of brick like structures in 33 weird and wonderful play levels.

A capsule is just the right word to describe you: bat - u looks like one of those things you swallow when you have got 'flu.

As you break bricks out of the wall they drop down the screen - some with letters on. Then, when caught, change the game. For example, the ball splits at a certain point and the game becomes frantic. To make this happen you have to catch a 'D' capsule that is thrown at you when you knock out a certain tile.

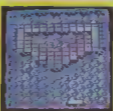
I loved the bit of the game. It reminded me of playing my favourite pinball that chucka two three balls at

famed 'six letter', 'P' is an extra life, 'B' opens up an escape tunnel so that you can go immediately to the next sheet without clearing off the tiles.

Probably the most useful brick is the 'L' capsule, this turns yours into a laser so that you can start wasting tiles really quickly instead of having to laboriously bounce the ball off them.

Sometimes in the game you are left with one or two capsules that are difficult to hit because of their position on the board. This is where the 'C' tile comes in handy - it enables you to catch the ball and then throw it back at the target with greater accuracy than a quick bounce would allow.

Your bat has just grown into an even larger capsule



You must hit the bricks inside the shape first

Even the four aliens who rotate around the screen's have been included.

The backgrounds are impressive too - like designer wallpaper patterns from Habitat. In fact designer pinball is not a bad description for this slick but simple game.

If you own a 64 and you like Arkanoid, you would be a fool to even put another 10p piece in the coin op. Why bother when you can play the same game at home? Full marks to the Ocean team for another smashing conversion.

Eugene Lacey

you at the same time if you amass enough points and light up the correct feature.

There are several other letter-capsules with different functions. 'S' slows you down to a maddening snail pace, 'E' enlarges your capsule to a huge size - a bit like Betham's

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

8
Overall



▲ Dodge and weave to deliver three direct hits on the core of the mothership



▲ Walkers scramble along the roof and floor of the planet

NEMESIS

64/128
KONAMI

Price:
£8.95/cass
£14.95/disk

It's happened! The moment you've all been waiting for! *Nemesis* has finally arrived from the arcade to our C64s. Credit for this conversion goes to programmer Simon Pick and graphics designer Bob Stephenson, artist of us less than The Prawn.

Your job is to kill off various aliens in three underground space stations and pick up the pods they leave behind to improve the all-round performance of your spacecraft. You also shoot an alien mothership at the end of

bottom of your screen you'll see an options panel reading speed, missile, double (doubles your fire power), laser, multi (multiplies your ship) and you ahead. All these come into use as soon as you start zapping away at the alien enemy approaching you.

Your first task is to pick up various pods which will turn your ship into a superfast blaster. When you hit a string of discs without letting one get away, you are left

do the job.

In the underground space station the upper and lower walls are covered with vicious firing capsules which should be disposed of quickly as they will shower your spacecraft in a hail of bullets as more alien ships confront you.

Onward through their deadly lair you're shot at by walking men (they look like cautious or legs) shooting from their lids. These can easily be

each level to move on to the next. So the game itself is as close to its original arcade version as it could possibly get.

Nemesis puts you in charge of a sophisticated spacecraft cruising slowly through outer space. At the

Nemesis — first of the 'progressive' shoot 'em ups



▲ Objects are picked up to improve fire power

with a pod that gives you the option to increase your speed.

Killing off the aliens will not always leave you with a yellow pod. Sometimes blue ones appear which act as smart bombs killing off everything on the screen when picked up. Often a pod does not even appear but that's not too bad because there are enough around to

get rid of if you managed to supply your ship with those nefarious along the ground missiles.

Capsules that open and let out fast-moving spacebots give you trigger finger a lot of work to do as you land them off. But if you blow up the capsules before the balls get out they'll be a cinch. Also watch out for the robots that bounce up

● Screen Scene

coming missiles from our cauldron-like friends.

Move on to the next screen where there are two volcanoes. One or two muffs will be handy at the steps as they will double your ship's firepower by giving you a glowing ball that closely follows your every move. It's a dodgy business getting past these volcanoes as they spurt up balls of flame at your ship.

After getting through all that you are met by the alien mother ship at the end of the level. Shooting at the centre of the ship will bring the mother ship down and fade you into the second stage.

The next stage is a little bit harder and takes good joystick control as you go through maze-like tunnels blasting bubble-like walls to make

way for your ship.

Each level gets more impressive and more challenging than the last one. The game ends with you in the heart of the alien fortress fighting off an enormous brain that seems to fire endlessly. You simply carry on bashing it until the game reverts from the beginning again.

Graphics are excellent, with impressive metallic-like sprites. And the flame at the back of the spacecraft flickers very realistically



▼ The flock flies as ace pilot Headley nears the 'clocking point'



▲ Shoot the alien bases to stop the nostrax before they can start

and stand your ship.

Just in case you thought the first level was easy, the aliens make a desperate last gasp attempt to get rid of you, a giant rock rains five rows of bullets towards you which keeps you plastered in one position at the top of the screen leaving you to dodge left and right from on-

as you thrust forward. Sound is great too, with the choice of hearing a delightful tone play or just sound effects with loud explosions.

With Jailbreak, this is the first coin-op conversion Konami have done for themselves. Jailbreak was awful, this restores credibility.

Eric Headley

Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

9
Overall

WIN UNDERGROUND

A NIGHT OUT IN LONDON WITH THE C.U. TEAM

The Ed thinks it's time we get to know you better. You've been reading our reviews and kits and books for the last couple of years and writing to us regularly — but we've never asked. Well now's your chance.

One lucky winner will receive as an expense paid trip to the Big Smoke to meet Commodore U's first team. It's a day out you'll never forget. Drop these plans for a weekend in the country, and come to London and see the sights, have some fun — you won't put your head in your pocket once. We'll pick you up from the station in the Ed's flesh car (What that Cavalier with the broken radio — Ed.) whisk you back to Priory Court where you'll meet the team. We'll take you to some of the top London game makers Activision, Firebird, and The Edge — where you will be presented with a pile of games from each of them. After that it's lunch at the Video Cafe with the Ed and a pile of personality. After lunch we have a trip to Soho planned. No, not to see blue movies. Soho is also the home of some of the UK's best arcades. Ferdie and Co will give you a guided tour of their favourite haunts. After that we have tickets for a show, a room booked at a peak hotel, and a photographer on hand to take some pics at every stage. Ok yes, and you can bring a friend. If that sounds like fun to you then get your entries in quick.

We also have thirty 'Nemesis' 'T' shirts for the runners up.

HOW TO WIN

Soho's arcades are packed full of excellent coin-ops — many of which have already been converted to the 64. We want you to tell us which coin-op you would like to see converted to your machine and why.

Many Konami coin-ops have already been converted to the 64 — Green Beret, Jell Breen and Nemesis to name but three.

You need not restrict your choice of game to Konami titles. Tell us about any coin op, old or new, that you would like to be able to play at home on your 64/C16.

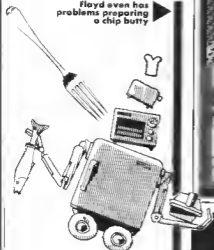
Next month we will process the results and publish an open letter to the software houses headed 'We Want These Games'.

The person who makes the best case for his/her chosen game wins the top prize. Thirty runners up will receive a copy of the Screen Star conversion — Nemesis.

Write to us on a post card preferably (A letter will do at a pinch) telling us which game you would choose and why, your name, address, age, and telephone number. Send to Commodore User, West The Tann Company, Priory Court, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU. Entries must be in by March 20th. Usual competition rules apply and the Ed's decision is final.

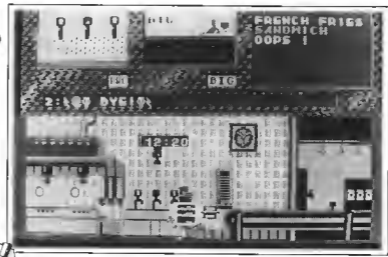


Floyd even has problems preparing a chip butty



**64/128
RADARSOFT/
ARIOLASOFT**

Price: £9.99/cass



THE BIG DEAL

You'll get cred points for putting *Space Harrier* or *Gunstar* on your screen. But what about something that describes itself as the first computer-assisted cookery game? Leave it to us, you say as your best Cockney 'Wet' foe, because *The Big Deal* is good fun — even if you can't boil an egg.

The Big Deal marks the return of Floyd the Droid, now employed as one of the BIG restaurants. He's more Floyd on food these days. His job is to prepare fast food faster. If the experiment succeeds, BIG will release all its 32,000 kitchens. UB40 owners stay well clear.

The game's idea is pretty simple.

Floyd starts the day in the kitchen ready to take orders. As soon as a customer comes in, the order scrolls across and you control Floyd as he gathers the ingredients, prepares them and finally puts the finished order on the conveyor belt.

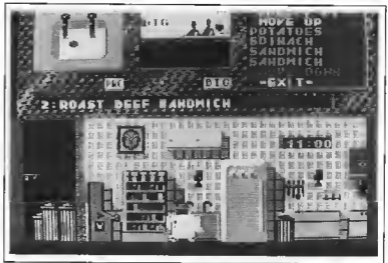
Of course, the difficult bit is doing it. You have to know where everything is, what the recipes for meals are and how to prepare them. The exact recipe can be called up but you must discover where all the ingredients are for yourself! There's a fridge, a cupboard, various cookers for frying, roasting and boiling, sauce and drinks dispensers, sink and garbage can. In all, a kitchen to make DeLa Smith go green.

To add to your headaches, there's a time limit for each order and they mount up as more customers arrive, up to five at any one time. Speech bubbles indicate when they are getting impatient and some of them resort to throwing chairs at you, just like our staff canteen.

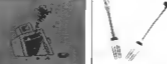
Sending up the wrong order results in the boss being thrown back at you. Wouldn't you like to do that in Macdoonalds?

Luckily, you can make things easier for yourself by programming Floyd to prepare an order automatically, say french fries and mayo or roast beef sandwich and chips (shouldn't that be cake?). When you're confident you can execute all the steps, you record

Floyd's looking into the cupboard for the roast beef. Silly fool, it's in the fridge



Looks like you'll be demoted to doing the dishes at this rate



Screen Scene



them and Floyd does it all unassisted or playback.

Up to three programs can be recorded in this way and you'll need them especially when you get orders like Eggs Sunny Side up, sausage, macaroni and white sauce. Your programs can also be saved to tape or disk for future use. If customers get really easy, Floyd

can pacify them with a freebie console TV dinner which he heats up in his built-in microwave. But these must be used sparingly because there's only three of them.

At the end of the day, you get a detailed breakdown of your performance. Do well and you move to a bigger restaurant with more complex dishes.

What makes *The Big Deal* such a good game is that it's an original idea that's been very well thought out and implemented. Graphically it's all very well done, the screen being split into four windows. So you can see customers walking in and out and you get a closeup of whatever food you're preparing.

Music is nice and cheerful too, with "Hes anybody see my girl" playing throughout. But I reckon there are still a few bugs around. Sometimes I finished up with pizzas when I got an egg out of the fridge. Dumping them in the garbage can

didn't get rid of them. What made it worse was that nobody actually ordered pizza.

Big Deal is a simple game, that's difficult to play. If you enjoy working under pressure, having to do a million things at once and in an organised way, this is the game for you (either that or apply for my job). But whether the idea is strong enough to keep you hooked is another matter. Personally, I got bored after a few hours. So here's my recipe for the Buick Live-See megaburger. (Go thank, Ed.)

Baháe Becek

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Speed	1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

7

Overall

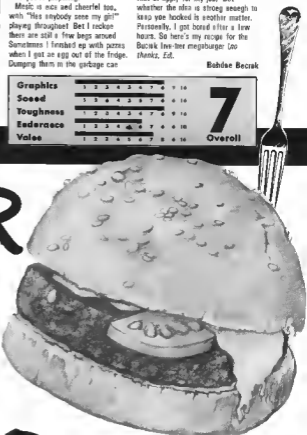
COMPETITION

BURGER

The Ed's a bit miffed about this compo. He's just started a diet and he is dead obvious that Arlosoff are offering you a fantastic winners prize of a year's supply of burgers. That's right, one McDonald's burger a week for a whole year. Just think of it, whilst he is sipping a low-calorie lettuce leaf, you will be gorging a juicy burger dripping with mayo, relish and ketchup (gasp, Ed).

We are also throwing in a copy of Redaroff's *The Big Deal*, together with 10 copies for the winners.

And it is all so simple. Just answer the three questions below. Cut out the coupon and prepare to get your gashers down to Macdoalds.



Bonanza

- (1) The world hamburger eating record is:
- a) 55 hamburgers in 20 mins 35 secs
 - b) 2 hamburgers in 9.55 secs
 - c) 21 hamburgers in 5 mins 42 secs

- (2) The record for eating hard boiled eggs is:
- a) 150 eggs in 25mins
 - b) 14 eggs in 55 secs
 - c) 1 egg in 0.57 secs

- (3) The fastest time for eating a whole roast ox is:
- a) 42 days
 - b) 3 weeks
 - c) 15 hours

Name

Address

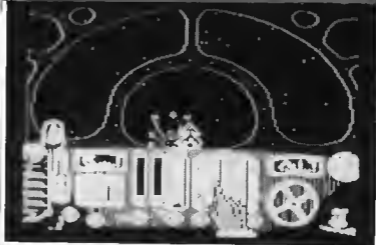
The answers are (ring one letter)

- Question 1: A B C
 Question 2: A B C
 Question 3: A B C

Don't eat this coupon, cut it out and send it to: Burger Bonanza, Commodore User, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU



You'll need five sets of hands to control all these levers



TERROR OF THE DEEP

64/128
MIRRORSOFT

Price: £9.95 cass/
£12.95 disk



Having virtually exhausted the potential that space has to offer the voracious appetite of games players, I suppose there was only one way for software to go down.

Terror of the Deep is described, quite accurately as 'an adventure simulation in the depths of Loch Ness'. The nearest thing I can think of in terms of serious software is Activision's *Endless*. Both are essentially arcade games which rely heavily on an adventure atmosphere created by a plot in the style of Jules Verne or H. G. Wells.

Terror of the Deep has a particularly quirky variation on the theme. One night, late in the nineteenth century, Loch Ness is the scene of a weird meteor shower, or some such wacky phenomena.

But worse is to come. Strange creatures have been reported using

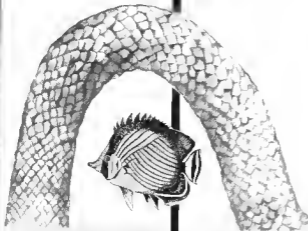
from the Loch, 'threatening the lives of the locals and even Nessie herself'. Quite why anyone should be concerned just because a bunch of monsters is beyond me. After all, it pulls in the tonists.

Anyway (you can see this coming, can't you?), an eccentric Scottish engineer had the foresight to build a 'ball like diving craft' in which to explore the Loch. The canny Scot also had the foresight to equip his sub with all the latest in nineteenth

century military hardware, including a harpoon gun, bombs and an electric force field.

Fortunately for you, the engineer is on his last legs and with his dying breath selects you for the task of eliminating the alien monsters and the threat they pose to the villagers and Nessie.

The game has pinched another idea from Activision, in that the success, or otherwise of your mission, is



Unlike *Paperboy*, you get newspaper reports all the way through



reported by a newspaper, in this case The Scottish Sentinel. To be fair, the idea has been expanded upon and, whatever the outcome, all reports are presented in this manner, rather than any final report when

No laser phasers here, you're armed with just a harpoon gun

you manage to successfully complete the game.

And so to what actually happens. The first Scottish Sentinel front page report alarms you. Now volunteer needed. Terror of the Deep. Can submerge best space crystal manna?



This is where the hype ends and the action begins. First, using a pointer on a map you must pinpoint the position at which you want to be dumped into the icy waters of the Loch by the captain of the surface ship. There's no easy get out here for cowards. Any attempt to ditch the sub on dry land and make a run for it is doomed to failure.

So you find yourself in command of an ancient looking Nautilus-like submarine. The instructions are pretty unhelpful in this respect. It's not that they don't tell which lever does what — they do — it's just

that I find a quicker method of familiarising yourself with the controls in the 1 wonder what will happen if I push this lever' approach.

And there are lots of levers. Probably the least important are those which control movement of the sub. Although you will need to familiarise yourself with them as spot on manoeuvring is essential to target the harpoon gun.

There are, however, several controls you need to keep an eye on and constantly adjust. A huge set of bellows on the left of the panel must be periodically pumped to maintain the air supply. The power wheel, deliberately situated inconveniently on the far right, must be rotated every now and then to maintain a steady supply of juice to the electrically powered systems.

Probably the most ignominious demise ever incorporated in a game is death by standing still. A stationary sub is a sitting target for deadly spores which attach themselves to the viewing ports. If you must stand still you'll have to fry the spores away few seconds with the electric field.

In practice it's only necessary to remain stationary when awaiting supplies from the surface ship. A blast on the klaxon lets you know you are in need of more harpoons and bombs, but picking them up with the electromagnet can be quite tricky. Bear in mind that while you are trying to accomplish this the air will run out, the power will run down and the spores will attack in frightening numbers. So there's plenty to do in the meantime.



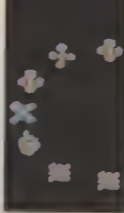
At times it's hard to remember that your main objective is to destroy the alien crystals. But once you get the hang of doing everything else on auto pilot things really start to hot up. Do be careful not to get carried away and start blasting the fish and other harmless marine creatures.

I liked *Terror of the Deep*, but terrifying isn't the word I would use to describe it. It's actually quite relaxing, if a little hectic at times. The feeling of being submerged in the murky depths of Loch Ness is brilliant and makes a change from dead boring space which always seems to look the same, no matter whose space it is.

Ken McMahon

Graphics	1	2	2	2	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	2	4	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8
Overall



DELTA

64/128
THALAMUS

Price: £9.99/cass
£14.99/disk

Hey! What's that small, oh no! It's the power pack, it's glowing! Still, I've been playing Delta for eight hours now, so wordsn't it's hot.

Programmer Steve Foscolos has a taste for shoot 'em ups and Delta goes much further than Sector. Let's get the plot out of the way first. Several space ships have gone missing in an uncharted part of the

solitude obvious, but do as you are told!

If you manage to destroy a whole wave, you will receive a credit. This credit is used for purchasing different weaponry for your ship. Of course, the more powerful the weapon, the higher the asking price. Once you have selected a weapon it will be displayed at the bottom of the screen in its appropriate box.

After the first wave, some icons will come floating your way. The ones coloured blue are those which you can afford, grey ones require more money.

To choose an extra weapon, just select it as it floats past. But, colliding with a grey icon means death, so don't go for what you cannot afford!

These icons appear after a set number of attack waves, but it's a

different number at every stage.

The extra weapons you can have consist of the following:

Extra Speed: This icon only costs one credit and its function is quite obvious. You may buy up to three extra speeds, after that your engine will overheat and you will revert back to normal speed.

Extra Bullets: Normal fire is fine for blasting the front line attack waves, but real heavy ships require their special touch. You can buy as many of them as you like, keeping you ready for anything. The asking price is a mere two credits.

Multiple Fire: For those credits you can defend your flank and sides with this handy gadget. If any fool Hostiles (that's what the aliens are called) come messing, they're dead!

Leaving Death Rocks guarantees a big surprise



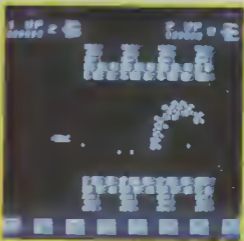
Flames shoot up and kill everything in sight, wow



galaxy known as Delta. Being amazingly brave and downright foolhardy, you have volunteered to find out why. And so begins the game.

You control your fighter using the joystick and must destroy on-coming alien attack waves. Delta features 163 different attack waves, spread over 32 different stages.

As soon as the first attack wave appears, blast it. Yes, I know it





For instance, if you know there is a motor shower ahead, grab a *Fish* laser, as it destroys rock quickly, but if you are heading for a space wheel, *Multiple Frog* might be best.

Which weapon will you choose to get rid of this lot?

If you fly straight past the icons, you lose all credits, but sometimes you don't need anything.

consists of pools of fire which shoot out llamas, killing anything within reach. Also look out for a level called "Leaving Ooth Rocks". I guarantee a big snore.

While all this action is going on, you can be listening to the word soundtrack, a Rob Hubbard classic. It's atmospheric electro music, which you may not like at first, but believe me it grows on you. It also helps you identify in your mind which attack wave is next.

Should you really hate the soundtrack, you can have sound effects instead, which are of the



Supa Shield: This is the ultimate in space weaponry. Once fitted, you have complete command of any situation, because no alien can kill you, simple. But the one will cost you a steep seven credits.

For those of you who are thinking that all they have to do is get a supa shield, forget it. None of the gadgets will last forever and could run out at any moment. The weapons icon will flash as it starts to fade. And, just to make things a bit different, some waves will subtract from your credits rather than add to them!

Once you have played the game a few times, you will figure out which weapon is the best to use on certain waves, and so forth. But, don't buy a high price weapon just because you can, think about what you choose.

Fish Weapon: Made on the planet Zlat, these lasers will deal with most aliens in a jiffy. A bargain at only four credits.

Protector: Laces with anything that comes into your immediate suspect with this little number. The Protector is a razor-sharp ball that whizzes around your ship, very deadly. To you John, five credits.

Animation is slicker than Chris Cain's jumper



C.U. Screen Star

As you fly from left to right across the screen, you cannot help noticing the fantastic graphics. Brilliant shading on your ship, lovely coloured aliens and this smooth scrolling

highest calibre. And if you ever fight your way through to the end, an outstanding tune awaits you among other things.

Another impressive aspect of Delta's sound is its new loading system, *Cyberload*, which allows you to alter the loading time and generally muck about with different bass, drums and lead instruments



If you hate the soundtrack you can juss go for the sound effects

make this game graphically very but indeed. Also look out for the animation on the alien worms. It's so slick.

The most impressive level is the one called "Son of Diavona" or something like that. The screen

while the game is still loading. Well, what more can I say? Brilliant graphics, outstanding animation and fantastic tones. This game is the business. Definitely my top G4, no, top home computer shoot 'em up.

Chris Cain

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

9 Overall

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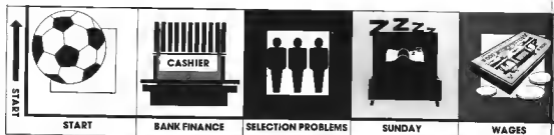


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Mikro GEN

AHEAD OF ITS TIME



BRIAN CLOUGH'S FOOTBALL

64/128
CDS

Price: £14.95/cass
£19.95/disk



Brian Clough's fortunes have been varied to say the least this season. He's out of the cup competition and desperately trying to hang on to the title challenge. After the kind of start he had to the season that's disappointing. Will he go elsewhere? Will he get sacked? Will he stay for one more year? Well, I haven't got a clue, but I do know that any football game I play has got to throw up these kind of uncertainties if it is to have any sense of what the game is all about at management level. This package sets out to do just that.

Brian Clough's Football Fortunes is not simply a piece of software you load up and play. There's a board, cards and counters as well. The aim, simply, is to win as many honours as possible and accrue more management points than anybody else. The software interacts with the board game which works along Monopoly lines, but don't go thinking that all it does is roll the dice for

you as a gimmick, it is an active and constant element.

Between two and five players can sit down and play this, but a season will last a good hour so don't plan on going out otherwise you'll be pretty unpopular with the other players. I said two could play but Football Fortunes is a game that improves with more players. The totally fun aspect is the underhand wheeling and dealing that goes on with rival factions. You just can't get that with two people.

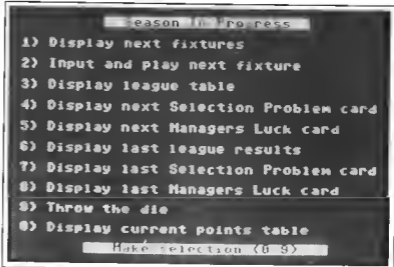
Once the game has loaded you type all the players' names in and from then on everything must be undertaken in that order, otherwise the program will get out of sync. Select yourself a team, a real or imaginary one. In my game the women were forced to play as Gate Utd - very funny we thought, tea time.

The computer then allocates you a set of players based on skill ratings in a set formation. Skill ratings number

between one and five and the formation is broken down into keepers, defenders, forwards and ability players who may play anywhere. A five star ability player carries a lot of transfer value and as the game progresses you'll find huge transfer records being set for players of this quality. All the players have contemporary names so you can fill your side with your favourite players. There's even some blank cards so you can write in the names of more obscure players - like Bryan Robson.



Options screen works simply and effectively





MANAGERS LUCK



AUCTION



SPONSORSHIP



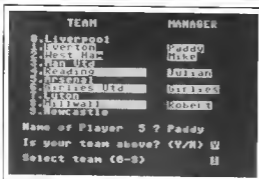
SELECTION PROBLEMS



50% AUCTION

50% AUCTION

FOOTBALL FORTUNES



▲ Choose your favourite team or overwrite one if there's nothing suitable

Once you are set up, the team is divided up into attack and defence and the star ratings of players in those sections added up, ready to be input into the computer before each match.

The game now reverts to the board and this is where the Manopoly style play comes in as you move counters around, landing on different squares. At the beginning of the season you're allocated some non-throwaway money to splash around, but you will not be spending it all on players. Many of the squares you land on involve expenses.

Each turn you'll come to land on the *Wages*, *Selection*

Problems and Costs squares. On the plus side though, there is sponsorship, bank interest and auction prizes, some of which are half price if you land on them. Other players will try and force you to pay as much as possible for the privilege of buying no marks like *Five Gates* in this situation.

Manager's Luck acts as a chance card and may be good — horribly good in one case when one of my opponents landed his team on the stock exchange for a quarter of a million; or horribly bad as the manager of Reading woke up one morning to find his side decimated by a car crash. Reading slipped from top

to bottom within the space of half-a-dozen games. Football's a funny old game. Downright hilarious sometimes, though I thought a helpful suggestion for a luck reboot "A plan crashes whilst carrying a team of your choice", was perhaps a poor taste.

After everyone has had their move you play a game, inputting the attack and defence statistics into the computer. Current form is taken into account with strength and, I assume, a certain random factor from some of the results. Final scores are printed out voluminously and gets money is paid out for attendances. It is possible to go bankrupt so any money coming in is all banal. Apart from the league fixtures you will find yourself playing in the FA Cup and in the second and successive seasons, Europa. Imagine the horror then to have to watch *Graves Utd* take the league title and win the FA and UEFA Cups in their second season. Well we're in 'em with...

Football Fortunes is great fun for any enthusiast of the game. We actually chose to carry on playing this rather than watch a live game on the box, that's how absorbing it gets. There are faults but none of them serious. It is possible to get so much money, for example, that you can buy every good player on the market and thus assemble a team of unassailable strength, which is not as easy as it sounds. There are also a few minor omissions in the rules but you can non those out for yourselves. Whether or not you could accurately describe this as a computer game is debatable but who



▲ Your formation with skill rating. Could do with strengthening — particularly at the back

cares? Last issue I put out a plan for a good football game and now I've got one. In fact, we got a result!

Mike Pattenden
(with thanks to the managers of Millwall, Sheffield Wednesday and Graves Utd)



Graphics	9
Sound	9
Toughness	9
Endurance	9
Value	9
Overall	9

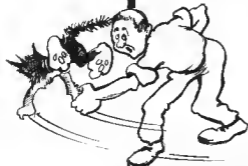


Not just arm wrestling but arm wrecking

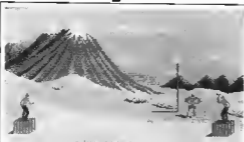
BLOOD 'N' GUTS

64/128
GREVE
GRAPHICS

Price: £9.95/cass



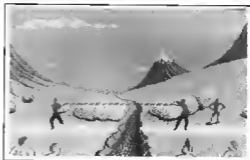
Chuck a rack in your opponent's teeth — but you don't win a coconut



Some of the more easily distracted of you out there may be getting bored being all fat and athletic by playing those testing sports simulations. Why throw yourself and bob sleigh when you can throw yourself headfirst off the top of a tower, or check cats. That's exactly what the foolishness of Orley Thompson did in the barbarian

equivalent of the Olympic Games.

On landing up, you are faced with the agonising choice of competing or picturing, which is very useful. After strategising, you are allowed to choose from a high tech identity parade of barbarian athletes, or willing to endure the mass of physical torture which makes the Japanese game show *Endurance* look like *Blackley Blank*. Be warned: these are you of a



Pull your opponent into the river

sight disposition, this game comes with a 15 setting. These Ayyee events include:

Tower Jumping: You, barbarian, is pitched into the highest tower the ogreous world feed, and there for the barbarian to prove his masculinity he has to jump off the top, check 22ft in a horizontal direction and land on his head.

Cat Throwing: It's a wonder that the Cats Protection League haven't fined out about this one! It involves you, Barbarian, springing need in a fashion reminiscent of a modern day darts thrower, but instead of a discus the athlete is holding a cat by two of its legs, trying to lob it over 50ft along a easily mown lawn. If you get bored with the game you can always try this event out on next don't moggie!

Alc Drinking: A speciality event of many members of this magazine. It's the old reggie drinker's favourite down in it, except being a bit of

a bawsh barbarian you choose to do it with a bevel of the staff. Don't split any, this is probably a crime.

Rock Rolling: You thought Decathlon pommel wagging was tough! In this event you find yourself at the base of a steep hill separating a rock with your bare hands. You then have to roll the rock up while on the other side your opponent is doing the same. If you let it wobble too slowly you will no longer be able to support the rock and it will roll back and crush you. If you opponent beats you to the top of the hill he will, without remorse, roll his rock down hill on your side which will also crush you. Naturally, if you get these first you get to flatten him. Sheesh, there can't have been many voluntary Decathletes in those days! Other events include the *Hamm*

Hit in which you see a fellow barbarian as the target for some hefty rocks, the comparatively gentlemanly *Pole Fight*, though this is fought with clubs rather than staves; *Mountain Walk*, reach the middle of a rope as fast as possible; *Arm Throwing* is done at your opponent and the *Arm Wrack* is an extreme version of arm wrestling.

Blood 'n' Guts is a considerable improvement on *Greve Graphics'* previous efforts. The graphics are a major step forward with their sharp pictorial background scenes and the precise immersion of the battle characters. The only problem is the player's major enemy the multi foot, and the dodgy loading of this article. This game has crashed on loading one section several times. Nevertheless, this comes recommended to anyone out there with a remotely sick sense of humour.

Mark Patterson

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

7
Overall

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You begin with an option screen, as you do with all events, which allows you to make adjustments to the style of game you want. Here you can select the weight of ball and alley slickness that suits your type of game. Don't ask me what that's

he's supposed to do. Your job is to position him in relation to the alley, then if you hold the fire button down an arrow appears, scrolling across the ball — you may only have a stride standing on the right hand side of the alley, for example — you hit go the fire button.

Be ready because he's an impatient so-and-so and he'll leg it straight down the alley and crash the ball before you know what's happening. If you feel to hit the fire button to make him throw it correctly, he will fall flat on his face or club his foot

◀ **No this isn't the bowling alley, it's a dartboard**

all about, you'll have to read the instructions for yourself to decide what suits you best. No, I just throw.

As you begin you get a side-on

● INDOOR SPORTS

**64/128
ADVANCE/
MINDSCAPE**

**Price: £9.95/cass
£14.95/disk**

**C.U.
Screen
Star**

Nice touch,
scoreboard shows
results in all events

I'm always game for a sports simulation, especially one which doesn't require you to wobble the joystick and break out in a sweat like a Turkish wrestler in a Soho stripjoint.

This American programmed collection of mildly physical events comes surprisingly, not from US Gold but a company called Advance. That's because Mindscape wanted more than US Gold were prepared to pay so instead they bought one event — obviously not included in the package — *Superstar Ping Pong*. Just keeping you informed.

What you are left with is still well worth having even with the problems of the dreaded multi-load. Chose from these possible games: *Tan Pin Bowling*, *Darts* and *Air Hockey*.

Tan Pin Bowling: This is the second version of this game on the market at the moment. Compared to the Access simulation, which is programmed with the typical painstaking accuracy of all Carval games this doesn't fare too badly. They are not, however, treated in the same way. The Mindscape version plays completely differently to the Access one. But it's no less enjoyable or fun that matter any more!



view of the alley and a nice large character who immediately snatches a bowling ball. So far so good, he seems to have some idea of what

◀ **Near-view perspective so that you can't see the beer belly**



**C.U.
Screen
Star**

with the ball.

The maze still involved with Tan Pin Bowling is in getting the ball on course for the pins. As the ball hits the alley it will start to curve and you have to control this with your placement of the ball and the degree you allow it to curve which is controlled by pushing the joystick at the best angle. As you move anticlockwise round the pins so the curve on the ball can be increased.

If that sounds easy it's not and it will take you some time to master anything like a degree of accuracy so that the ball doesn't curve into the gutter and miss the whole set of

has appeared before, and I have to say that it is not as good as Mastertronic's excellent cheapo There's no speech and it's a lot harder to play. Nevertheless it has some neat touches and is by no means bad. You simply line up your dart, first horizontally, then for the angle of elevation. Finally you select how hard you want to throw it.

Accuracy is not easy to attain, because there is no scale on the angle of elevation so you have to use your eye and experience to work out how to find the right spot. To make matters more difficult the treble zone is extremely small and

Get off, it's my turn. No, get off . . .



arcades. No fancy consoles, laser discs or state-of-the-art technology. Just a puck, two striking blocks and a smooth surface cushioned with air. Blast the ball round the table at high speed and score more goals to win. It's just as simple and as much fun to play on the computer and what's more you do not get your fingers trapped over the block so a puck travelling at about 50 mph takes you finger nail off!

comes into it's own. One of those familiar office queues formed to play this.

Even without the ping pong option Indoor Sports is still great value for money. The graphics throughout are of the highest quality and the sound effects are almost as good. Great fun and not too strenuous.

Mike Pattenden

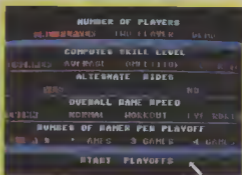


pins completely. The scores are all added up for you automatically and you even get a face registering the guy's reaction to his throw. In my case he tends to look like he's swallowed a glass of canal suck.

Darts: This is also a game that

difficult to pinpoint regularly. One of the game's nice, but frustrating touches, is the tendency for the dart to hit the wire and bounce on the floor. Well it happens to John Lewis.

Air Hockey: Still one of my favourite two player games in the



Two pins left — that must mean you knocked down eight

It's best to play Air Hockey in hyperdrive

The computer falls down a bit here in terms of skill, so I suggest you play at workrate or hyperdrive speed. This applies as well to the two player option where the game really

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8
Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	9
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8

8

Overall

TEMESIS

The Final Challenge

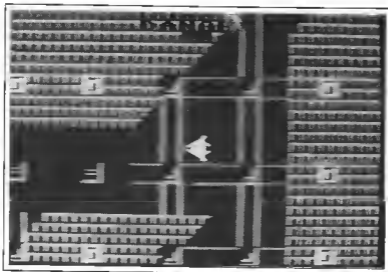


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you will notice a strong resemblance to the style of game, but play it and — well actually don't play it — but even the aliens are the same, even the way the belts move is identical. Although I try to find a way around using the term, *Raid 2000* is, sadly, a rip off.

The only difference to *Z*, is that you have an energy bar. This lets

◀ **Whichever region you choose to defend, they all look the same**

you take a few shots before you lose a Hypojet. This makes up for the enormous amount of times you have to shoot the Xanthids before they lock the becker. That's not to say it's easy, it isn't. The toughness in *Raid* though, is not in the ships, but in the fidgety controls.

Raid is a jolly game for about ten minutes or so. Any longer and you start to feel your eyelids getting heavy. The trouble is not in the graphics or sound, they are

● RAID 2000

64/128
MIRRORSOFT
Price: £9.95/cass

Raid 2000... it's not exactly what you would call an inspiring title, is it? Frankly the plot's not much better either. Aliens have decided that the earth could have some extremely valuable elements. A species once known as the Xanthids whose own lives are sustained by chlorophyll, descend at once to be found in plenty here on earth among the plants. You as the commander in chief of the Earth's defence have only set pilot skills and face top whack Hypojets to save the Earth's skin — or should that be leaves.

Before you launch each Hypojet, your ship's computer will show you a map of the world with your base and the areas where the Xanthids have overseen the Earth's defence, marked on it. You will also see your four Hypojets pictured next to your base in the corner. You can control these via the joystick, so that you may choose which city to defend first. (Dubbo obviously — Ed)

Once you've got that sorted out "You're going to die". The objective is simply to blast away at any red everything that moves. Your ship is viewed from above and can manoeuvre on any of the eight directions. The scrolling is notably excellent up to the standard of *Parallax*.

There are many different forms of aliens to shoot, but each takes more

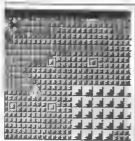


▲ World map shows you the regions occupied by the nasty Xanthids

than one shot to destroy. The aliens attack in waves but the odd, fearless pilot decides to kerfuffle into you. The ships are incredibly similar to those in *Rino's* golden oldie *Z*. I make specific reference to that, as the game owes its whole existence to it. Looking at the screen shots

acceptable. The gameplay lacks any grab factor, there is nothing to make you strive to kill the last alien. Mirrorsoft are, as should I say were, going places but after the marvelous *Strike Force Harrier* this is definitely a step in the wrong direction.

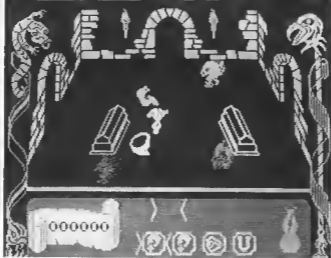
Ferdie Hamilton



Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4
Overall

Would you like it if your home was occupied by the Forces of Darkness?



Each one of these little creatures has only one desire and that is to drain your life force until death occurs.

Not yet satisfied with claiming your life, Demon Grell will condemn your soul to walk the halls of hell for all eternity, which sounds far more exciting than the game.

Naturally Oscar is not too pleased by his new home being occupied by the Forces of Darkness, and instead of complaining to the estate agent he sets out to rid the place of these squatters himself. Not surprisingly this is where you come in.

First of all you must find a weapon or two as certain creatures are only affected by certain weapons. You might also identify on your meandering a peculiar looking object that you'll soon recognise as a globe of invulnerability. This, needless to say, renders you invulnerable to the countless battles provided by the mirrors.

The globe does have its drawbacks, though, the more one uses you have to sort it to start services blasting. Another one is that it runs down batteries faster than a Walkman. Oscar is controlled by joystick and an extremely awkward arrangement of keys which are used to access rooms such as pick up and drop. The amount of time it takes to use them can often prove fatally long for poor Oscar who is left staiding like a dead meppet.

The graphics are not up to much

CON-QUEST

64/128
MASTERTRONIC
Price: £2.99/cass

At last, the joys of moving house! But when a small creature named Oscar tried, he had absolutely no idea what was in store for him. Fresh from the estate agent, clutching the keys with the green ID tag still attached, he entered his new abode, unaware of the insidious house guests he had acquired with the property.

At first all seemed to be in order until some mysterious blobs started

to form around him, taking on the appearance of the mirrors of none other than Demon Grell himself. Now these mirrors are really nasty pieces of work ranging from malleformed demons, killer pigs and worst of all snakes, whose bite will result in certain death after a short period of time.

There is, however, a patch of healing which may be used to negate their bites and regain lost energy.

WEST BANK

64/128
GREMLIN
GRAPHICS
Price: £5.95/cass

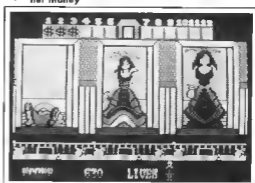
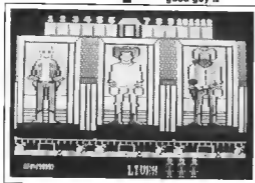
If you've ever fancied yourself as quick on the draw then Gremlin's new mid-price game might be the one for you. "Sold City smells of gunpowder", says the wily, but you

No prizes for guessing who the good guy is

would be the safe one if you didn't recognise this as a straight copy of the arcade game *Bank Rob*. Inside West Bank are untold riches, well, quite a lot anyway, and

You don't have to shoot Dolay to get her money

everyone's eager to get their mitts on some of it, including you. You don't have to rob it though, they will give it to you if you act as a sort of western security guard. Figures appear from behind any of the twelve safe deposit doors to hand



entire, consisting of a poorly executed 3D effect and badly animated one colour sprites. If you only have a few quid to spare, I

suggest going for one of the better budget releases about. **Mark Patterson**

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	3
Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Overall		

▼ Oscar looks glum at being in such a naff game



you the dash, but not all of them are friendly so you had better be fast and accurate on the draw

For example, you might come across genial old Green Jordan, the friendly lemming who comes to the bank to deposit his savings. Don't shoot him, his family won't like it. Or there is Daisy, the partiest thing you ever did see. Don't shoot her it's a hell of a waste — even if she does lie in a rather revealing position when you do.

Also waiting to jump out from behind the doors are various bruddas like Jack Vicious who you can gun down as soon as you see him appear. Disastrously he will shove Gnu as Daisy out of the way to try and catch you out. The really tasty customers are the boys who draw on you, if you shoot before they get their gun out of the holster they will

lose a life

One other awkward chap is Bowen the dwarf who spends his life walking around wearing several hats. Strange behaviour I know, but under the bottom one there's money — or a bomb, so be careful as you shoot them off

Also each day there is a shoot out with these villains, but again you can only draw after they have

West Bank looked pretty mediocre on my first viewing but I have to admit that despite it's straightforward five key gameplay, I just had to shoot them this vermin it has a certain undeniable addictiveness that compares well with the graphics and sound which, without being spectacular, are adequate for the price once the game falls into Go for your guns!

Mike Pattoudeu

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	7
Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Overall		



▲ Zub is probably at reluctant to play this game as you are

ZUB

64/128
MASTERTRONIC

Price: £2.99/cass

Zub is a third class private in the second glorious Army of Zub — although this reluctant trooper does not relish his military career one bit. His fellow soldiers are genetically engineered lightning machines with no fear or sympathy for anyone. But Zub is the exception. For 476 years he avoided active service but now he is called upon to do his bit.

It appears that someone nicked one of the crown jewels — 'The Green Eyeball of Zub' no less, but luckily it had been traced to a distant planet — Zub 10. The king was out altogether chafed with this state of affairs and wanted his ball back (his eyeball) and decreed that a similar ranking officer be despatched immediately to retrieve it.

A series of teleporters are used to convey our doubtful hero to Zub 10. In order to get to them he has to hop from a series of platforms suspended in mid air

Once safely on the platform he can move it from right to left. He moves it to underneath the next platform and hops again. By moving it upwards he can reach the next teleporter.

This standard platform romp is

made more difficult by the presence of nasties on some of the platforms — but your anti-alien plasma pistol is more than capable of dealing with these.

Power pills have to be collected as Zub explores the planets. The power pills have a variety of uses — and not all of them are that useful either

When you finally reach Zub 10, the game serves up a real stinker. It tells you that the green eyeball of Zub was in your pocket all the time, so your journey was wasted. But you still have to make your way back home — and get bored stuff climbing your way back to Zub 1.

What all this adds up to is a rather weak and repetitive game which has little or no appeal. Climbing ever upwards is no barrel of laughs. But you should play it just to see the multitude of different aliens. The graphics for these are pretty neat, especially the clockwork leech.

Sound is below average though, and there is a rather dull piece of music from David Whitaker

I can't really recommend this game. And you will already know that there are lots of better cheapos on the shelves

Richard Bradbury

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	3
Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Overall		

Passengers climb on top of the trucks to take pot shots at you

The diagonal rifle shots can be deadly

Watch out for vicious knife-wielding grannies at these windows



EXPRESS RAIDER

64/128
US GOLD

Price: £9.95/cass
£14.95/disk

What's the first thing you noticed about this spread. Go on, admit it, its taken you a good few seconds to get round to reading my review. You've been looking at those incredible screen shots haven't you?

Well we don't mind one bit because we are pretty proud of them ourselves. It just goes to show that you don't just get the big game reviews first in CU you get them treated in a way that most ordinary mags can only dream of.

So how did we do it? Honestly prevents me from stealing all the credit for the CU team, Paul Windes and his team of screen dump experts stand up and take a bow

So how is it done? They dump several scrolling screens with a full

colour laser picture, get their scraps out and paste them up onto a huge board, take a photograph of it and Bob's your uncle. Actually it's a lot trickier than that but the basic method is as described.

I think you will agree they leave ordinary screen shots far dead and you can look forward to seeing them cropping up in CU regularly.

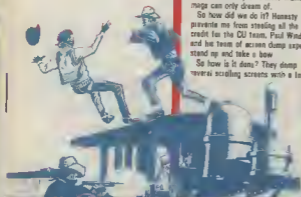
OK so what about this game?

▶ Ride that horse and take aim at the same time — shucks it's tough

Express Raider is a long-awaited coin-op conversion. Strolling wild west arcade games have been around for a couple of years now and it is fun to say that they never exactly set the world alight.

Despite this — there is still a neat game idea contained within Express Raider.

According to the blurb the game is "just like classic wild west films of



Steady the horse and
take aim at the same
time — not easy, boy

Almost there — bet
Coséy Jones is getting
nervous

Reach the engine and
go on to the next
train. Eight of them —
all told

Screen Scene



out by shooting it as it is thrown at you by the desperate travelers.

The most challenging part of the game is the big bruiser who you encounter on Train 3. He pushes a huge pile of packing cases at you that you have to punch out one by one. Once you have cleared the bricks the bearded brute charges you.

old, you will be in the thick of the action right from the start! Hold-ups, robberies and rooftop fights, *Express Rider* has them all!

It certainly looks pretty impressive when you first load it as well — the train starts to chug out of a western town.

Train 1

Immediately you find yourself fighting it out with a cowboy as the

train pulls out of the station.

Forget using your handgun here — this is a fight with fists and feet. The first thought is that this is a western-style beat 'em up, indeed that description is far enough.

An enemy carrier at the top of the screen records you direct hits on your opponent. When this reaches full your opponent dies and you can hop on to the train.

You encounter various nasties on top of the carriages. There is a drunken bottle-throwing hooligan, a rifle man and several hoodlums who attempt to stop you from reaching the engine and grabbing the bags of gold.

If that doesn't sound difficult enough there are also bombs that are about to go off on the links between the carriages.

Train 2

This time you are attacking the train on horseback, galloping alongside the hurtling train shooting it out with the passengers who are keen to protect their gold.

They appear from behind carriage windows and from the top of the carriages taking rifle pot shots at you.

This bit is tough. You need to keep the horse at just the right position up the screen to hit your targets.

The passengers are pretty accurate shots from some really acute angles. A stork flies over occasionally with a money bag in its beak. Shoot it for a bonus.

The object of the game is to get the gold. If you reach the engine you get two bonus bags — but these are also gold to be saved as you fight it

The graphics look interesting because no one has ever done a scrolling train before with such large sprites and incorporating the latest parallax techniques. Unfortunately they don't stand up to too close scrutiny. Very blocky, with the minimum of detail. It would have been nice to see some metallic effects included on the train.

Sound effects are OK but nothing to write home about. The train should have provided the inspiration for better use of rhythm. Hubbard could have gone to town on this one. On the plus side though, there is a nice whistle sound as the train jumps from carriage to carriage.

A fun game to play. It will certainly prove addictive although its lasting appeal has to be questioned. It may be one of those games that — once clicked — are never played again. Could have been, should have been, a Screen Sasi — the quality of the coin-op licence deserved a better conversion than was done.

Eugene Lacey

▼ Money at the end of the train — two bags of gold to be precise.



▼ They are harder to hit than they look.



Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10
Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10

6
Overall

GUNSLINGER COMPO

WIN



- A Complete
Levi 501 outfit**
- *Two pairs
501s — one
black, one
blue
 - *One denim
jacket
 - *Two Levi
sweatshirts
 - *A copy of
Express
Raider



Assembled above are four of the roughest and toughest gunslingers ever to hike up their gunbalks. Simply identify them (the varmints in the four pics and tell us the actors' names). And for the ho-branker, we want you to write a caption for the picture above. The one that makes us clap our thighs laughing (coast me out, Ed) gets the winner's prize.

Forget about Nick Kamen and Eddie Kidd. You can star in your own Levi 501s telly advert. It's simple, all you need is the Levi's gear and a million quid. So we've decided to help you out, or, eat with the duck, with the Levi's.

● **Competition expires 15th March**

Pic 1

Pic 2

Pic 3

Pic 4

My funny caption is

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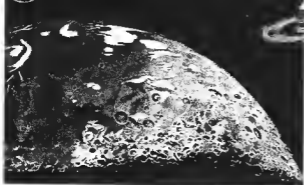
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Make your way through one hundred screens of alien ships and deadly ground placements to the safety of the mother-ship flying a small craft armed only with a dingy laser.

This is another in the fast growing class of vertically scrolling shoot 'em ups. The only difference with this one is that your biggest problem is on the ground. Blocks cover 50% of the screen and are deadly to the touch. These are thoughtfully not the only blocks on the ground, there are

also fuel bases. Your fuel runs out in a matter of seconds, so you can't afford to miss any bombs.

Some ground placements are there to help you. A bonus space is to be feared, for nothing else but the pleasure of whipping your mate's high score. Two blocks are also there to speed up and slow you down, these only last for a matter of seconds. Another brief help is the 'Invincibility Square' which protects you against the enemies from the sky.

TERRA COGNITA

**64/128
CODE MASTERS**
Price: £1.99/cass

Whist on a short stroll across your home planet of Kuzon you notice the disembodied head of a warrior robot lying on the ground. You kick the head and it starts to speak, telling you how mankind destroyed its planet and how its people yearn for revenge. You have to decide which action to take. Do you save the planet? No, you do what any straight minded coward would do, you get out as fast as possible.

Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

9
Overall



▲ A brilliant game to kick off the year

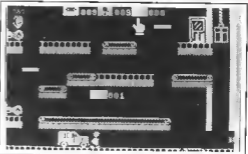
WIBSTARS

**64/128
A'n'F**
Price: £9.95/cass

If you think playing the games is difficult then you should try running a distributor company and driver tapes, disks and computers to a variety of shops. That's difficult. The problem is posed by A'n'F software (part of Argus Press) who challenge you to stay in business as the wretched distributor Wibstars. The question is what would Argus know about successful software distributors?

You begin the game in your warehouse and must guide your forklift truck to select the goods you would like to buy. Computers cost £100, tapes £5 and disks £10 each. Obviously you can't spend more than you've got (that's a good one - £5) so you have to go with what you think will make you most money.

Down in the loading bay you jump into your van and catch your order as it plummets through the free chutes. If you drop anything you lose



it and the money before you've even left the office!

The next screen takes you on the road but already you're behind schedule and your competitor is in

▲ A game on software distribution, what a crazy idea

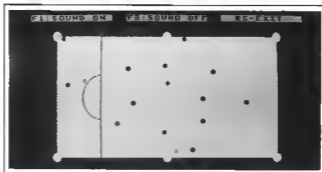
Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2
Overall



Terri Caprice's moustache is quite pathetic, they do nothing more than get in your way when you're trying to steer clear of a block. This is a great relief - if they were as deadly as the aliens in any other shoot 'em up, it would be quite a chase accumulating 10 points. The graphic blocks are quite a problem though for the messy three points they are worth.

Graphics are bright and excellently drawn. Sound, though, is almost worthy of a full price game. There's



Ferdy's latest nomination for non-game of the year

CLASSIC SNOOKER

**ANCO
64/128**

Price: £1.95/cass

Most of you who watched the Deva v. White clash recently will have come to the conclusion that snooker can be an exciting game, although rarely. The same can be said for snooker sims, the best one for the 64 was undoubtedly Steve Davis Snooker which sold backlogs. Anco's attempt is the first we've seen for quite some time, I think everyone else has given up.

Priced at a relatively cheap six quid, *Classic Snooker* will have to be moderately good if it wants to sell. Playing the game is easy; first you position the cueball with the joystick, select which way you wish to spin the white if any, then how much power you want, set back and watch. The first thing that strikes you about the game are the dull colours. The table is a very shabby grey green colour, and the colours of the balls are nondescript. The balls are also very small in comparison with the size of the pockets, clearly backing up Alex Higgins' complaints. What a shame.

That last statement may blind you into believing that the game is easy. It isn't. When even the easiest of shots is lined up, the ball can often go in an unbelievably inaccurate direction. The power of the shot is also a bit over the top; a full power shot will take the ball six times the length of the 12ft snooker table.

There are three player modes, player one vs. player two, player one vs. computer, player two can also battle with the seemingly uninteresting computer. There is also a practice mode, which will let you move, delete and shoot at balls as you please - quite clever.

This isn't particularly bad, but most definitely not outstanding. *Classic*

Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

3
Overall

Snooker remains one of those games that will not sell. Who wants it? Those who enjoy snooker sims can buy if they haven't already got it; the CDS version.

The graphics are self, you try

recognising the reds from the brown who after 10 minutes you'll find yourself suffering from acute colour blindness

Ferdy Hamilton

a great title turn although the effects are pretty nondescript.

Terri Caprice is the definition of value for money. This neat little shoot 'em up could well prove to be an early front-runner for the best budget market is a piece of cake for the likes of *Masturbation* and *Fandab*, but I really think that they have a serious rival in the form of *Cade Masters*.

A release of this calibre to kick off the year can't be bad and I hope they can keep it up. Watch out World.

Ferdy Hamilton

front of you. He's also left his back dead open and is scattering the road with his stock. Avoid the debris which damages your van and collect his stock is all you have to do in a simple steering game before you reach one of the shops.

Each shop offers a different price for each item so you should choose carefully what you take where (ya, there's strategy in this game!).

Unfortunately, you only get paid for what you carry up to the office which means pushing your goods up a series of lifts and along platforms, conveyor belts and avoiding punching fists and bombs designed to destroy your goods.

The whole game plays like an early Spectrum platform game and does nothing with the C64's superior graphics, colour or sound capabilities (not to mention sprites).

Tony Hetherington





SIGMA

7

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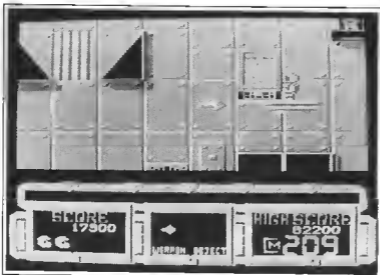


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screen shots taken from various computer formats

Konami
the name of the game



Rustbucket and onto the planet's surface. Then on through a jungle to Spaggett's castle and a dromedary duel with the formidable Hanzchiduid. Inside the SS Rustbucket the screens consist of platforms, ladders and slides set on an effective welded plate background. Your efforts to find a way out are constantly

◀ **The SS Rustbucket looks more like the sunken Titanic**

interrupted by incessant attack from the defence droids that appear in a ward and wonderful array of sheeps and sizes.

There are ghost-like ghouls, flying insects, bouncing balls and slithering slugs, as well as some imposing robots. But my favourites are the ambulating caterpillars that are almost indestructible to your dot laser.

FUTURE KNIGHT

**64/128
GREMLIN
GRAPHICS**

Cheerily it sails into and locking even in the 21st century! Cled in your Omabolt Mark IV attack suit body armor you rush to the aid of your beloved maiden in distress to

level arcade adventure. Your quest of gallantry and heroism will lead you through the battles with the Berserk Defence Droids and ragedly out of the crashed

The action is backed up by a background hum that does nothing for you and replaces the phrasing thwack! as you wipe out a droid with a metallic pang as your bolt impacts on the background.

Your problems aren't confined to the droids as the screens contain a number of traps including pools that seem to draw you towards this energy sapping bubbles.

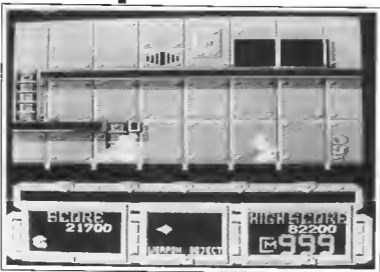
Luckily, help is at hand through the objects and weapons that you can find. But you will have to fight for them so it's just as well you brought along a few spare lives. These include more powerful and faster firing weapons, safe presses and second keys to open the ship's exits.

Finding a confuser can get through an awkward stretch since it stuns the droids. The most useful object is a bomb that clears the screen of droids and explains your enemy.

Unfortunately you can only carry one object and one weapon at a time so a certain amount of juggling is required to solve the game. This isn't going to be easy as each of the game's 20 levels consists of several screens of droid-infested action.

Future Knight is one of those games that defies description as it's a mixture of arcade adventure, exploring, shoot 'em up action and platform game planning, altogether a good mix.

Tony Heathington



Price: £7.95/cass

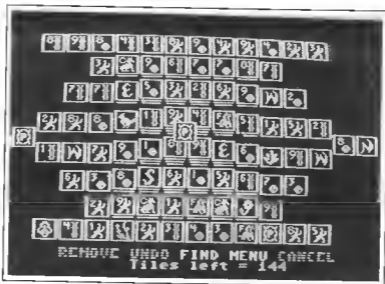
save the fair Amelia from the evil clutches of Spaggett the Terrible.

An inter-dimensional distress signal leads you to the genetic cruiser, SS Rustbucket, and the start of a 20

▲ **Zap the ghost-like ghouls with your laser dart**

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10
Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10

8
Overall



SHANGHAI

64/128
ACTIVISION

Price: £9.95/cass

When I first loaded *Shanghai* I must say I was disappointed but soon there started an addiction that I haven't yet cured. The game is based on the ancient Chinese game of Mah Jongg, a game I play and enjoy a lot! at least that's

what I told myself. I can only take pieces that you can slide from the towers easily. These include either those from the top or from the outer edges of the single height rows. These are known characteristically as the head and tail of the dragon.

Using a joystick you can select the pieces to match the pairs of bams, crabs, spots, dragons, winds and the various flowers and seasons that confuse even a seasoned Mah Jongg player.

The difficulty arises when you've got a choice of three identical pieces (in Mah Jongg suits there are four of each piece) and you can only remove a pair. Then you must decide which one is going to cause you the most damage. Your first priorities must be the tiles on the edges that block four rows and the top pieces to release the pieces that they're hiding.

If you make a mistake you can use the undo option (found at the bottom of the screen) to wind back as many moves as you like. There you'll also find options to peek at hidden pieces (forfeits the game) and a find option that shows you the pieces you've missed once you've thrown in the towel.

A menu of options can give you a change of pace in tournament and challenge games where you must set



high scores (best number of pieces left) and battles against the clock.

The test of a good computer strategy game is whether or not the computer is needed at all and if the game would actually be better if it was played on a board. (You'd be surprised how many games fail this test). The game features no artificial intelligence but still requires the mic to help you deal the 144 tiles into the required pattern and to keep the time in a tournament game.

Tony Netherington



what I thought. Load it in and delve into the instruction leaflet and you soon realise that it's based only on the Mah Jongg pieces!

All 144 tiles of pieces are arranged randomly in a set pattern that builds up to a tower four tiles high in the centre. The game then continues as a massive version of Solitaire: pieces in which you must remove all of the tiles by taking off matching pairs. Naturally it isn't that easy as you



Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

7
Overall



Just when you've parred the course...

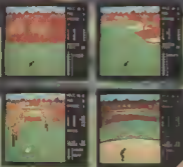
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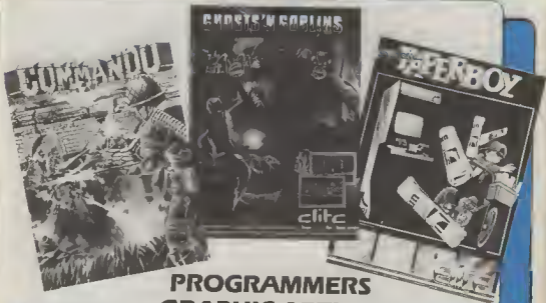
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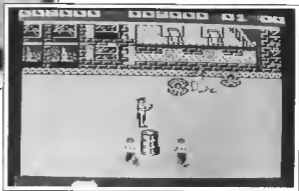
Steve Wilcox
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You can't fire diagonally as you could in the original game

shooting out of manholes; but these look like baked beans desperately trying to get out of the can. Every so often a civilian is to be found strolling amidst the chaos. You must reach these, whereupon you will be given a point bonus and a more powerful weapon. Despite this, the second gun you are given is no better than the first. The third is,

Watch out for convicts shooting out of the manholes



JAIL BREAK

64/128
KONAMI

Price: £9.95/cass

Doing time would be better than playing this game

Success wasn't on the cards when Konami decided to break loose from the chains of imitations and do their own arcade conversions. Konami have no track record in software, or more importantly in arcade conversions. Nevertheless I was overjoyed when I heard that *Jailbreak* and *Nemesis* (two of my all-time favourite coin ops) were to be converted.

You play a prison officer who has terrible difficulty in trying to capture escaped prison-inmates. The prison governors are pretty harsh for

lenient, depending on your political as they don't care how many you kill in the process. The problem is that the convicts too have guns and they will not hesitate to blow your intestines out. What this all boils down to is a horizontally scrolling shoot 'em up in which your trigger finger does all the thinking.

The first level is set along a city street. The prisoners come at you from the righthand side of the screen. The first thing I found myself noticing were not the breath-taking graphics or the brilliant sound as found on the arcade version. No, it was the fact that you couldn't move or fire diagonally as you could on the arcade version. It doesn't make the game any more playable, just downright irritating. Surely they could have bothered to include eight directional play, even the worst of programmers can manage that.

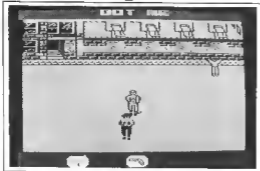
After managing to come to terms with the wacky controls, I found out that all the great trucks and other little perks on the coin-up were non-existent. The whole of the first level is just prisoners stopping to shoot at you, you wanting for them to stop and their dodging. Konami have surprisingly left in the convicts

but doesn't look any hotter from the first or second.

I don't know or care how many levels there are, but for safety's sake I persevered as far as level two, but that nearby looked no played better than the first. The biggest problem with this conversion is the boring gameplay. When you play a shoot 'em up, you like it to flow, you want to bother having to press the fire button. That's the problem, you don't even have to or need to shoot anything here, you just walk slowly along the street waiting until a convict stops firing, and then... hey presto! Next level.

Jailbreak is also graphically awful. Boring flat backgrounds. Awful, jerky, slow scrolling, and deformed sprites that look almost moogified. The sound is boring with an ear-ringing synthesised tune and boring effects. *Jailbreak* is a disaster, I'm currently in the first month of the year and I already have a contender for not outright winner) for my worst game of '87. If I sound harsh it's because I was expecting such great things from *Jailbreak*. Had someone not written the name on the box I wouldn't have recognised it at all.

Fredy Hamilton



Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Overall
1



You'll need the torch to start burning down the huts



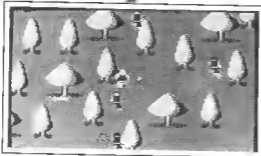
THE VIKINGS

**64/128
STATUS
SOFTWARE**

Price: £9.99/cass



Arrows flying around everywhere and you've only got a shield for protection



The Vikings, a great and noble race... men (and the odd woman or two) have come to the computer age in this all action release.

The aim of the game is to rescue your warrior queen from the thieving life savers who live on islands around the British coast. For a mere handful of Vikings this would be simple, but you are on your own! And as if this wasn't bad enough, you know that if you return home empty handed you will die of shame anyway! So being the amazingly brave and totally mad Viking that you are, you stock up your longboat and head for the islands.

There are two islands, one north and one south. The southern island, Krag, is known to be easier to attack than the appropriately named Death Island, which is to the north. Being a Viking, with some amount of woad, you decide to attack the easier island first. This is where you come in. You march about the island looking for a nice handy wattle to make holes in, when you

notice that you have no sword. Not only are you swordless, you also notice that your spear, catapult, war, and even your masts have all been taken and so this leaves you pretty mad. To end your swordlessness, you must run around the island and search for it. Once located you can start getting your own back.

A shield comes in handy too, and will decelerate the speed at which you are losing energy. Should you lose all your energy, you forfeit one of your five lives.

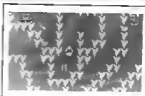
Collecting your weapons will require the use of several other objects which be around the floor. For instance, to get your masts you must first get a ladder, which is found in the bushes, that you use to get a flaming torch, which is in the tower, in order to burn down the lints, to find your masts.

Once you have the torch, you can gain more points by burning down lints just for fun, but be warned, you have to stand still to do it and spears are flying everywhere.

When you have collected all of your belongings, and maybe an extra life if you do something else, you must head for your boat and set sail (what no rope and pillow? *Fell!*).

This is where a nice but rather annoying touch comes in. Being a Viking you haven't had the benefit of a public school education, and because of that you still believe that the earth is flat. So, should you sail in the wrong direction you may let off!

Upon docking with the second island, you must rescue your queen from the various nasties programmed to stop you. One such nasty is a nasty skeleton, which you would



Better grab the ladder, its pretty useful

have seen earlier if you had watched the little cartoon at the beginning.

Whilst you look for your beloved queen you can't help noticing that you are limited to the amount of space in which you can move. This is due to there being a large brick wall surrounding you, well on the east and northern side anyway.

Being a Viking, it is no your nature to find places for treasure, wine and stuff, so you can do this while looking for the royal stronghold.

Collecting treasure is easier said than done as quicksand is everywhere and you must follow a safe passage to your booty. But remember, spears are still flying about in all directions.

The graphics and the gameplay bear a strong resemblance to Rambo. As for the sound, WE Music have composed a nice catchy little number which plays throughout the game. The sound effects must have been terrible because they have been taken out!

If Status had improved the graphics, added a low sound effects and made the game harder at the start, this game would have been a sure hit.

Chris Cain

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Sound	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

6
Overall



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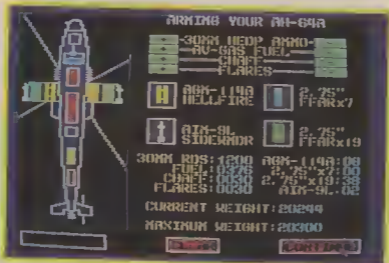


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levels of Duty Assignment from regular missions in volunteering for hazardous duties. Pretty keen ah?

As if that wasn't enough, you can choose between 'easy' and 'realistic' levels of handling qualities and weather conditions, both in day and night-time flying. And the range of options doesn't end there.

▶ **Huge range of weapons — you won't find these in Copt John's Corsairs**

The loading procedure has various 'petes' which require action before you actually get to fly. So you've to identify a vehicle correctly, select your duty assignment, style of flying and enemy and reality levels. That lot leads you to the Briefing which contains your mission objective, target co-ordinates, weather and

GUNSHIP



64/128
MICROPROSE

Price: £14.95/cass
£19.95/disk



I'm afraid I'm going to have to eat my words. In my last review I said Tomahawk was the best helicopter sim I'd seen. Well, Gunship is even better. The game is based upon the AH-64A Apache Gunship helicopter — quite a mouthful, quite a machine.

First impressions count for a lot and just picking up the very impressive manual inspires confidence — but more about that later. Like most good sims, you'll have to do some reading (not too much) before you can actually make for that bin horizon.

Gunship is a combination of flight and combat simulation. It involves a series of strike missions that increase in difficulty. To start with, you will have to do a few training flights to get the feel of the Apache and its weapons systems without



▶ **Bad moves, you've chosen the Sidewinder to blow up the tank**

the need for constant joystick input. Better still, it's limited to a 3D degree bank so you can't overbank and lose control.

Once you feel confident as a pilot, you should request reassignment on one of the four Operational Theatres. They are (in increasing order of difficulty): South East Asia, Central America, the Middle East and, most taxing of all, Western Europe.

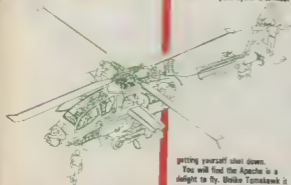
For each of these areas you can select three levels of quality of equipment used by the enemy. So First Line troops get brand new equipment whilst Third Line reservists are stuck with obsolete weaponry — rather like Dad's Army. You can also select three different

(most crucial of all) the password of the day.

You'd better have a pen and piece of paper handy for that lot because if you don't know the counter-sign to the password your friendly defence will assume you are the enemy and shoot you down.

Next you get the opportunity to access your weapons status. If you want to make any changes to the standard armament for the region you are in, now's your chance. This finally completes the loading sequence and a cockpit display is now shown.

The display is even clearer than the one in Tomahawk, giving all the instrumentation and a forward view



getting yourself shot down.

You will find the Apache is a delight to fly. Unlike Tomahawk it will maintain a desired turn without

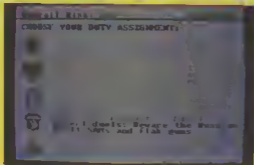
out of the cockpit window. Simply pressing buttons on the keyboard gives you side and rear views.

Instrumentation is comprehensive with Compass and Target guide information, engine, rotor and torque instruments, airspeed indicator and artificial horizon. There's radar, missile read warning, jammers as well as a

matter and you can always refer to the large sector map to review present position in relation to the target. En route, you may well get warning of a target in the vicinity. Select Target Information to assess whether it is hostile or friendly. It's definitely not good news to go around zapping your own side.



Nightflying — your CRT map proves particularly useful here



You have a choice of five missions and battle scenarios

Threat Display. The game comes complete with keyboard overlay which saves you thumbing through the manual for the right keys to press.

Domineering the centre of the screen is the CRT display, which has three modes of operation. Basically it's a map that shows a small detail of the larger sector map. You get this by pressing the 'Z' key. This shows the whole terrain, complete with friendly and enemy installations and your own target. It also gives target and radio messages. Below that there's a screen that shows you which weapons are selected.

Once airborne on a mission, the navigation to the target is a simple

It is hostile, select an appropriate weapon to deal with it. For instance, the Sidewinder air to air missile is useless against ground targets so don't waste it trying to blow up a tank.

Once you have got to the Primary Target, deal with it as quickly as you can before setting off for the Secondary Target. Watch out all the time for hostile missiles and ground fire and be prepared to use radar and infra red jammers if necessary. You can also drop chaff and flare decoys to confuse enemy radar and missiles.

And do not forget in all this that you are still flying a helicopter, so watch your height and speed as well as the surrounding terrain. Fly too



low and you will crash into mountains, stay too high and you are a sitting duck. Also, Mission Control may require you elsewhere, so keep an eye open for any radio messages.

One way or another there's a lot going on. Even when you get back to base for repairs and refuelling you are confronted with the password again. It really would run a good day if you got it wrong and your friends shot you down.

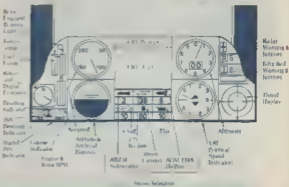
And now a few words about the BS-page manual. It's a beautifully presented piece of work that is very comprehensive and makes very interesting reading. It is also extremely well illustrated. The first half contains the operating

instructions for flying the helicopter and for selecting the different mission options.

The second half gives you a wealth of information about the Apache itself, followed by a selection of helicopter aerodynamics, weapons and tactics. There is even a section on modern military equipment.

To summarise, I thought this was an excellent simulation with very clear graphics. The instruments and map display were particularly easy to read. The sound effects were a little weak and that's about my only criticism. *Gunship* is a great fun and very informative. All in all, this is an outstanding battle simulator.

Capt John Hitchinson



Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

9
Overall



THALAMUS



By Stavros Fasoulas

THALAMUS LIMITED

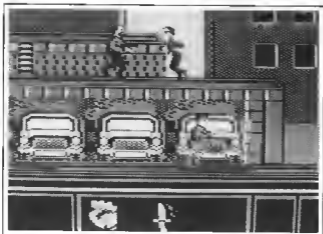
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CBM 64/128 Cassette £ 9.99
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Distributed by US GOLD LIMITED, Unit 23, Holford Way, Holford, Birmingham B6 7AX, Tel: 021-358 2380



● Screen Scene

After punching the guy in the solar plexus a few times he ceased his and flashed several different colours before finally giving up the ghost. Why, oh why, can't the villains just drop dead like real people?

Having lost a large part of my hamburger, I quickly raced to the right in order to find some replenishment.

You probably won't understand, so let me explain. As dull as it may seem, your energy level in this game is measured by a hamburger in the bottom right hand corner of the screen. Every time you get bashed a piece of burger disappears until you've no more left, then you lose a life.

Now having explained that, I'll get back to the game.

So far, you've only picked up a knife

COBRA

64/128
OCEAN

Price:
£9.95/
cass

Cobra is the disease, and apparently you're the cure. In yet another film tie-in game, you become the hero. This time it's Marion Cobretti, or Cobra.

Ignoring the silly paragraphs in the manual about Zombie squads and people who only believe themselves after 10 pm, I decided to lead the game up, and give it a go.

Having read the instructions, I hit the fire-button and was set for anything. Or so I thought. The aim of the game is to rescue a model, who has been kidnaped by a nasty character with a funny name. This plot is fairly standard and I thought the game would be as well. How wrong can a guy be?

As soon as I started the game, I

Progressing through the city, you will come across all kinds of weapons which help you in your quest. First there's the knife, which you can throw at anything that moves, well almost the 'almost' stands for the civilians who will undoubtedly get in your way, but messing with one means death.

The other weapons that can be collected include grenades (a little better), a pistol (quite handy), laser-sighted machine guns (deadly) and also a large picture of Des O'Connor (disastrous!) Once a new weapon has been found, it can be used instantly or saved for a more tricky part of the game.

If you get past all the sneaking maniacs, terrorists, and other general inhabitants of New York which attack you, you get to Ingrid and take her back to her car.

Once again the Slesher takes Ingrid and hides her in a desolate factory so you're off once more. Although you do get a change of background.

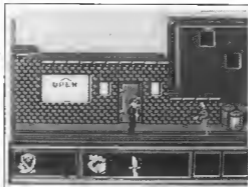
If you manage to complete the usual area, you did better than me, and maybe you should write to the Guinness Book of Records as it sure is hard.

As for the graphics, well the city is better than the real one, and that's bad enough, the scrolling is first class though, and cannot be moaned about.

The sound comes in the form of a tone which may be from the film — having never seen it I don't know — but it can be turned into weird sound effects by pushing run-stop.

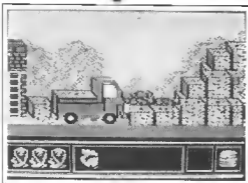
All in all, Cobra is pretty boring.

Chris Carr



▲ Sleazy city scenes for a sleazy game

▲ The hamburger on the right is what disappears bit by bit

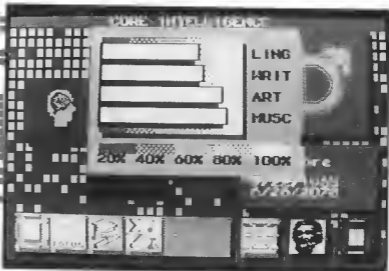


found myself in the middle of a city street. The next thing I know, I'm being made into a store by a psychopathic knife thrower

Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4
Overall

EDMOD dotospace
tells you that
Dittmore Godd is a
pretty clever bloke



PORTAL

64/128
ACTIVISION
Price: £19.99/
disk only

Maybe Antaretico is
where the Portal is



HISTORY dotospace — potted histories to fill you
in on the background



Rising after a grueling 100 year mission to 61 Cygn you discover that the Earth is not as you left it. Travelling across the unusually green and forested globe in your Gygn ship, you search vainly for traces of the civilization you left behind so long ago, not to mention somewhere to have a long overdue bath.

To cut a long story short (and long is too short a word for it) you realise you are the last human being left on Earth, a fate not unlike spending Sunday afternoon in Milton Keynes. Thankful you are not afflicted with the tetter, you travel to Chicago and find a few computer terminals. By its side you notice a world map and a set of instructions for operating the terminal.

Actually, you won't have to go to Chicago, you will find yours in the box. You will also find three disks

filled with no less than five sides of data. Because *Portal* is no mere game, it's an adventure, it's a complete soft novel on disk.

The challenge of *Portal* is that you must fathom out the mystery of this vanished civilisation in face an eternity of total solitude, as long as it takes to get over writing £19.99.

Anyway, back to the terminal. It gives you access to the twelve dotospaces in the world network. By continually interrogating them, you gradually put together the pieces of what amounts to a gigantic jigsaw. That's it really. There seem to be no puzzles to solve, no zapping or combat sequences, no taxing cryptic clues and no way for you to get involved in the action.

You just sit there and slog it out, a steady stream of information providing the driving force to

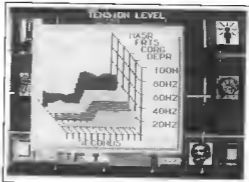
continue. You know that, if you stick

it, all will eventually be revealed. You will meet loads of characters but the most important one is Peter Devits, around whom the whole episode revolves. He's a bright 15 year-old who accidentally stumbles into a dotospace he shouldn't have been reading. Consequently, he discovers the Portal, the energy vortex that allows Migration to the Reelin. No evenings outside the chagge for Peter, he's into hypogogic sync.

Trouble is, the cops in the shape of Regent Sablé know about his unwholesome activities and are out to get him before he can get to Antaretico and to a certain Dittmore Senator Godd (Mentor to his friends) who will help Peter to do I don't know what — and even if I do I wouldn't tell you.

A few more interesting characters

Impressive graphics but do they really tell you
anything?





cha". All this info is gathered simply by using the joystick to plough your way through menus and rooms. The twelve dataspacs appear as a 3x4 matrix of squares. Having chosen a dataspace, it lists a set of files you can open and read. Files are marked when you've read them but you can

Want to know the weather in Springfield? Just coil up the dataspace

go back and browse through any file you like. Also, your position can be saved at any stage so you can easily resume when you get off.

Some dataspacs don't always allow immediate access and not only files that are appropriate to your position in the game. The whole thing is relative, you can't carry on until you have read the necessary files

have been thrown up so far (I'm just finishing the second side). There is Peter's gas Astoria Moray, who's referred to as "it" because she's had a unique operation.

Then there's Wanda Solove, who looks set to provide some romantic diversion. Get this: "yet she was beautiful, white of skin and pale gold of hair". She's already been doing hypnotic things with Peter — quite an achievement since she's in deep freeze on a spaceship to Vega (Steamy! Ed).

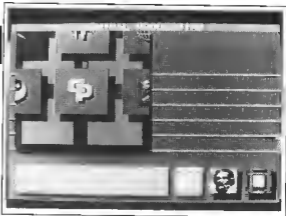
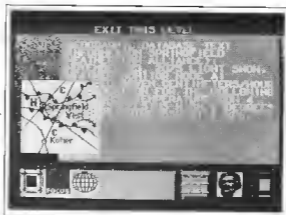
And let's not forget Jimmy Ratis, a 55-year-old veteran of the Burma War. He got zapped by neurophage weapons and thinks he's still 23. His disease is forgetfulness but there's plenty more genetic diseases knocking around just waiting to be caught. Jimmy's forgetfulness is fortunate because the cops have caught him. He won't snitch — he

The most important dataspace is Harris Homer, a recondite algorithm, a storytelling computer to you, that helps and guides you through the dataspacs. It pieces together new files for you, gets you into restricted areas and gives frequent helpful messages — if you ask it. But sometimes, it's just cryptic and profound. So when you

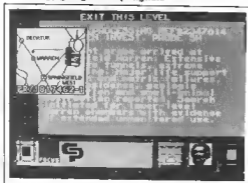
Use the joystick to scroll through the matrix of 12 dataspacs

are really stuck, messages like "The golden thread binds all consciousness" make you want to nip its bellows out.

A game that relies so heavily on text and involves you in so little action has no right to be interesting. But *Portal* dishes up some pretty



Satellite probe discovers there's something dodgy going on in Springfield



gripping stuff. Like all good sci-fi books, it tries to build a complete world and sprinkles it with the necessary jargon. It's crammed full of words that could only appear in Captain Kirk's log, and it makes a decent stab at trying to be literate.

Each dataspace contains specialised information. For example, Hsuey will give you short-potted histories of certain periods. Military gives info on wars and weapons and Sci-Tech deals with anything scientific.

To counter the boredom induced by reading too much text, the authors have thrown in three databases that give information on each of the characters in a graphic form. Stuff like physical, psychological and emotional statistics. This is confusing at first because you think it's all essential to your progress. It's not.

and is probably only there to provide some graphic relief.

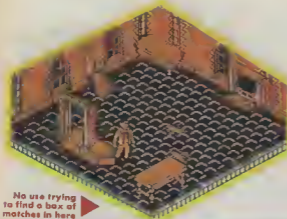
I've spent two long days on *Portal* now. I reckon I'm about a third of the way there and I've still got only a vague idea of what's going on. What keeps me going on is Homer's knack of coming up with some really meaty stuff just as I was ready to chuck it in. Come on Homer, tell me whether Peter's going to make it with Wanda.

Portal is not only an impressive piece of programming, it's shaping up to be a reasonably good sci-fi yarn too. And it is surprisingly good value for money, considering you get no less than three disks. Dip into it a couple of nights a week and you'll still be sat there when the daffodils bloom.

Bohdan Berek

Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

7
Overall



No use trying
to find a box of
matches in here

standing alone in an opulent bedroom on the first floor.

The perspective graphics, 3D and limited color are immediately familiar, but are nevertheless very impressive. An imposing stairway sweeps from the ministers' gallery above to the spacious hall below. The dining room is decked out in oak paneling, chandeliers and ancestral portraits, and in the library, lined with books and sliding step-ladders, the desks even have individual blotters. Everything combines to create a realistic, atmospheric setting.

Beneath this splendor, however, drifts the stench of decay. Rats swarm the kitchen, hunched spiders scuttle across the bathroom tiles, beta bet back and forth in the hall

As Jonathan descends to the cellar, the infestation increases, and he can barely move for vermin underfoot (actually, he can hardly move because of the number of animated sprites on the screen at one time, a common feature of games of this type).

Searching the castle, and dealing with the creatures which infest it, takes many moons, and the passage of night and day can be seen in a window icon at bottom right (this doesn't seem to be any time limit though). Every room is furnished with lifelike looking hiding places. Guns are found in drawers, lamps on tables, swords hang on walls, and there is even a pair of Doc Martens lying behind the bog.

While some morsels can be found

NOSFERATU THE VAMPIRE

64/128
DESIGN/PIRANHA

Price: £9.95/cass

Just as soon as this game is loaded you'll get a heady whiff of embalming fluid. Yes, the gang at Design Design has resurrected that old and busy servant Filmaker from the crypt, dusted off the cobwebs, and found him gainful employment in Piranha's latest offering, *Nosferatu the Vampire*. The question is, does the old ogger still have any life left in him? *Nosferatu the Vampire* is based on the film of the same name by Werner Herzog, a brilliant director but lousy speller. It follows the film as closely as a computer can — is, not very close at all — and breaks

Nice banqueting
hall, good job
you're not invited

the action down into three sections: Dracula's Castle, The Town of Wismar, and Lucy's House. Some measure of success is needed in each to enable you to load the code for the next.

Part one features Jonathan Harker, a Jewly rip in a firm of estate agents, who discovers that the would-be purchaser of a charming two-bed semi (with patio and cill) is no one other than Nosferatu, a.k.a. Count Dracula. If the sale goes ahead, the Count will transform the good citizens of Wismar into blood sucking parasites. Worse, he will cause house prices to tumble!

In an act uncharacteristic of estate agents Jonathan decides to forgo his agent's commission, and resolves to steal the deeds to the property from Nosferatu's castle, and this is where we find him at the beginning.



In the bedrooms and ante-rooms, most food is, not surprisingly, stored in the dining room and kitchen, where Jonathan will need it after a savage confrontation with the vampire bats in the hall.

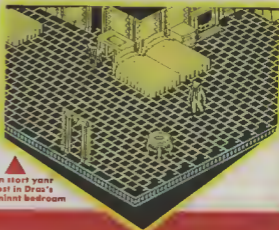
There's also at least one secret room to find, as well as a secret passage to the cellar. And even if Jonathan can find the latter, he won't get very far in the pitch darkness without a lit lamp. Locating the matches is almost as difficult as tracking down the deeds. All this would be practically impossible if it were not for the Save Game option on the menu, enabling you to avoid starting afresh every time Jonathan's energy runs out.

Sooner or later Jonathan will find and unlock the main door, with or

without the precious deeds, and we're into the second section. He descends the stairway to the street, smug at his escape, and is completely unprepared for the shock that follows.

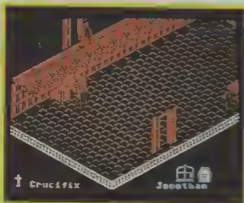
The entire male population of Wisnau consists of estate agents, all looking exactly like himself.

Not only that, but the woman who glides about the cobbles are all the ageing image of his wife, Lucy. Stricter though the may seem, it has, in fact, absolutely nothing to do with the plot, but is an economy forced upon the programmers by memory restrictions. Whatever the excuse, it makes the task of moving your character frustrating at times. Gameplay is in any case more complicated now. Instead of just



▲ You start your quest in Drax's opulent bedroom

PIRE



Warm townsfolk are gradually succumbing to Nosferatu's power. Joany and van Helsing must dash about scattering garlic in all directions, and carving up any furniture to hand to provide a plentiful supply of stakes. No picnic. Extremely difficult, strong on plot, and visually stunning — what more could you want? Well a few more puzzles for a start — puzzles which actually demand some kind of logical or lateral thinking. To find the secret passage Jonathan walks around a room banging his head against the wall until it lets him in. Where's the skill in that?

▲ Screen colour changes for day and night

The occasional slice of zoning wouldn't go amiss, either. Those bar attacks would be a damn sight more interesting if Jonathan was seen to be wildly waving his sword about, rather than standing there like a dummy.

Minor criticisms perhaps, but for a Filament type game to get to the top of the tree these days it's got to be just about perfect. Nosferatu doesn't quite make it.

Byll Sæviyg

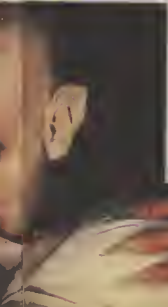
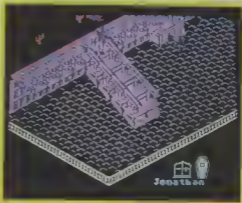


▼ Watch out for the rats in the cellar

Jonathan, you've also got Lucy and her admirer, Van Helsing, to control, switching between them by selecting keys 1, 2 or 3. The idea is to keep Lucy safe from the rats and vampire until she can lure Nosferatu to her house.

If the Count still has the deeds to his desirable bijou residence, then he has a safe base from which to operate. Otherwise he is forced to roam the streets and seek shelter at dawn, though he might attempt to recover the lost documents from Jonathan's ex boss, locked away in a mad-house.

And while all this is going on, the



Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8
Overall

Classic Snooker

CBM 64/128

C16/PLUS 4

THEOZI ARITY BRASH JACOZA

Classic Snooker is entertainment at its best and a tough challenge with facilities to practice and improve. Perhaps one day beat the computer at its own game!

Computer option. Play against the computer or a friend.

Three skill levels. Amateur, Novice and Professional.

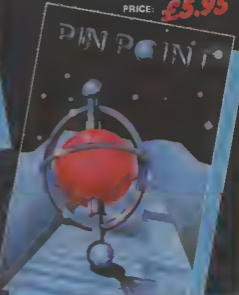
Vivid free graphics and smooth action.

Clear identification of the colours on a green table.

Facility to set the table and practice those difficult shots (CBM64 PLUS 4 and C16+64K expansion).

Fine control of the power of the shot and facility to impart TOP, BOTTOM or SIDE spin to the cue ball.

PRICE: **£5.95**



PIN POINT

PIN POINT

Guide the spinning top along a path of steep rises, falls, covers and jumps. You will need a steady hand and endless patience. Two increasingly challenging levels.

C16/PLUS 4



TERRA NOVA



WITH SPEECH

Four heavily defended sectors to destroy for possible landing site. Dock with the fuel tanker before starting the next sector. Smooth scrolling graphics with fast and furious action. Enhanced PLUS 4 version included. C16/PLUS 4 £7.95

TURBO PLUS

A unique utility cartridge. Saves your Basic programmes with Turbo for fast loading. Additional Basic commands like FIND, CHANGE, DUMP, OLD, KILL to make the BASIC Programming easy. Scroll your listings back and forth using cursor keys.

For the PLUS 4 owners, the built in software like word processor and data base can now be used with a CASSETTE player. It also corrects the bug in the file manager.

C16/PLUS 4 Cartridge £ 3.95

C16-PLUS 4 REFERENCE BOOK

The book lays special emphasis on the graphics, sound, music and machine code programming. The graphics cover standard, multi colour, high resolution, bit mapping, soft scrolling and raster interrupts. It's coverage of machine code is extensive and gives full information regarding KERNAL routines and how to use them in your own programmes. The book gives complete memory map, 7601 processor commands, C64-C16 comparison chart to enable conversions and all important KERNAL jump table. The subject under discussion is explained lucidly and illustrated by examples, often with the by line explanation.

64K RAM PACK

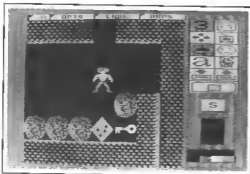
The Ram Pack expands the memory of C16 to full PLUS 4 memory capability. If you are using the computer as a word processor or data base, the extra memory is almost essential. Of course you will also be able to play PLUS 4 only games.

£29.95

ANCO

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Telephone: 0322 92513/92518. Mail Order: Payment by Cheque, P.O., Visa or Access.

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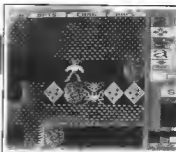
Actually though, *Repton 3* is pretty engaging. If you were to say that it was a refreshingly old concept reaching modern heights it probably wouldn't sound that inspiring, but it could be close to the truth.

A swift glance at the package will tell you this is a variant of BoulderDash. The game consists of 24 two dimensional scrolling maze screens largely populated by precariously balanced boulders. The other basic ingredients are diamonds,

There are other pitfalls. If you are incredibly stupid you might consider snatching a diamond from underneath a boulder and waiting for the consequences. It can be done, but only if you're quick. The only easy way to complete a screen is to use your brains — and the map.

Strange, unexpected things happen. On the first screen, if you collect the key from the top right of the maze a boulder in the bottom left topples and traps a diamond. The mouse is

◀ That diamond and key will come in handy



● REPTON 3

**64/128
SUPERIOR
SOFTWARE**

Price: £9.95/cass
£11.95/disk

At first sight *Repton 3* looks utterly ghastly. I was almost relieved when the disk started to play up and wouldn't load. Stuff like 'a refreshingly new concept... an astonishing game reaching new heights... Brilliant' and other 'torture over the top' magazine quotes on the cover are enough to turn anyone's stomach.

▶ *Repton 3* "beats the hell out of a lot of newer stuff"

a time bomb, a crown, a key, safes, spiders, creeping frogs and eggs from which monsters hatch.

The idea is to collect all the diamonds, the key and the crown, kill all the monsters and defuse the bomb before it explodes. You see what I mean? It sounds really boring, the odd thing is that it isn't.

For a start, there are a few complications. The temptations is to behave like one of those people

obviously to collect the threatened diamond before you pick up the key. Once you have the key, all the safes turn into diamonds which can then be collected.

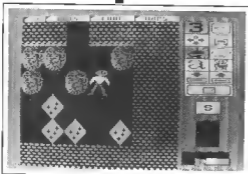
On the higher levels some more interesting elements are introduced, such as time capsules which reset the bomb's fuse and teleporters which, well, transport you to different parts of the maze.

If you get fed up with the sapped screens or characters, *Repton 3* has a sophisticated editor with which you can design your own. Whilst the designer is excellent, I can't help thinking that it's a bit pointless. If you despised a screen you would know it inside out and back to front. So when it came to playing it wouldn't provide much of a challenge.

You would have to get a friend to design one for you, or wait for years until you'd forgotten how it worked in any case, with 24 screens supplied you might never need to touch the editor.

Don't be put off by the fact that *Repton 3* is basically an old game with a few cosmetic alterations. It beats the hell out of a lot of newer stuff designed up in fancy graphics and sound but with a poor excuse for gameplay.

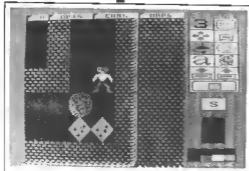
Ken Mc Mahon



▶ *Repton 3* allows you to design your own screens

who've won a free five minute shopping spree in a supermarket. But you can't just back around like a complete looney collecting everything of value in sight before your time runs out. If you do, you will come unstuck very quickly.

What happens is that, in your wild lust for diamonds, you desecrate a boulder that would best be left well alone. It goes crashing down a

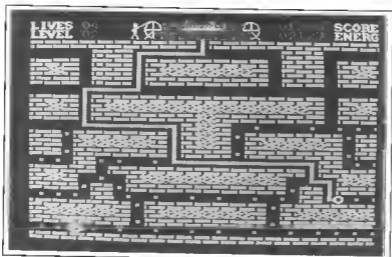


▶ Don't rush around grabbing diamonds

crevasse and other blocks your out, or cuts off access to a cache of diamonds. The only thing to do if this happens is hit the abort key and start again.

Graphics	1 3 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Sound	1 3 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Endurance	1 3 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Value	1 3 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

7
Overall



doesn't have artificial intelligence, so you have to control the robot arm and pick up the gems. This is done simply by moving the joystick in the appropriate direction and pressing fire to retract it. It picks up the gems

Pick up the diamonds with your industrial hoover

automatically. Retracting the arm is one of the major obstacles if you, like me, instinctively move the joystick in the reverse direction you will find yourself losing one of your munny three lives.

The other way to lose lives is to be simple enough to let a more creative touch the arm. The way to stop this happening is to just press

DIAMOND MINE 2

**C16 and Plus/4
BLUE RIBBON**
Price: £1.99/cass

Diamond Mine 2 is the sequel to an obscure little game by the name of you guessed it! Diamond Mine, with which I have never crossed paths.

The sequel puts you in a diamond mine which you have purchased with the wealth gained from the last game. Getting to your riches is the problem. The diamonds are beyond reach and even if you could get to them would you wish to ask it?

It's not that easy — this is a maze whose greed could most definitely be your downfall. It has nasty little unidentified inhabitants who don't look too friendly.

To overcome this problem you build a machine by the name of DIAMOND. This machine has a robotic arm that will pick up all the diamonds, so you can return to your Missus loaded with gems.

No you can't. Unfortunately DIAMOND

lives when they get a millimetre away from your arm. The good thing is that while you are retracting the arm the UMOs freeze. The only other way to die is to run out of time, but this had about as much chance of happening when I played as Bristol City winning the First Division (Happened often did it? Ed.)

Diamond Mine 2 is a simple but playable Pac-Man style game. It's appeal is not in its graphics or sound

FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

**C16/Plus/4
GREMLIN
GRAPHICS**

Price: £7.95/cass

You're 11th in the league but morale is only fair

And the applause rises as QPR's young centre forward Furdy Hamilton goes up to collect the accolade of Footballer of the Year, 1987. This is the goal that has to be achieved in Gremlin's football strategy game FOTY.

The game is run by an icon driven menu screen. There are seven icons altogether.

The **Globe**: This icon shows you

team's overall status, their morale and league position. It also shows how many goals you have scored and in which competition you scored them.

The **Footballer's Head**: This icon is your personal status, including all the details you might stick in your file box. Wages, status, player rating and bio-size (not really).

The **Scroll**: You are given the option if you wish to buy a transfer, if not advisable though as you usually find you have a 0.1 percent chance of moving. They are also very expensive, and when you do eventually move you find it is usually to a far lower club.

The **Disktapes**: Load or save your game, making sure that your promotion chances are not ruined by mum ordering you to run down to

the shop (Plus/4 version only).

The **Injured footballer**: Should you be lying comfortably at the bottom of the table you may wish to use this. The quit game icon.

The **Question mark**: The incident card icon. These are a sort of FOTY equivalent to the chance cards on a Monopoly board. They give you the option to gamble your money. You pay 200 sows and are given a message like 'You have lost your cheque book, how many cheques were stolen. One cheque, three cheques or five cheques'. You must then stop the cursor on the correct one.

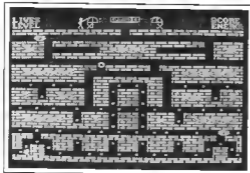
The **Football boot**: This is the play match icon. The last thing you are asked to do is buy any goalcads. Goalcads give you the chance to participate in the match. You are

STATE OF AFFAIRS		A	B
22ND		0	00
21ST		0	00
20TH	GOALS SCORED THIS SEASON	0	00
19TH	1. LEAGUE 15	0	00
18TH	2. LEAGUE CUP 00	0	00
17TH	3. FA CUP 01	0	00
16TH	TOTALS 24	0	00
15TH		0	00
14TH	P V D L F PPTS	0	00
13TH	11 00 01 00 00 00 00	0	00
12TH	TEAR 00 MORALE 25 FRAZ	0	00
11TH	PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE	0	00

Graphics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Sound	N/A
Toughness	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Endurance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Value	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Overall

C16 version:



▲ **Pac-man style graphics but a more original theme**

but in its playability I am in two minds as to whether to recommend it to all, as fans of state of the art graphics won't see it my way. But

as stupid as an autocrat in the French revolution, I'll stick my neck out

Faigy Hamilton

Graphics	1 3 3 4 3 3 3 3 2 10	6 Overall
Sound	1 3 3 4 3 3 7 8 3 13	
Toughness	1 3 3 4 3 2 8 3 4 10	
Endurance	1 3 3 3 3 2 7 8 3 10	
Value	1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 13	

YEAR

given ten to begin with and five grand in cash, you must use the money to buy as many goalcards as possible as the more matches you play in, the more matches your team is likely to win

The next step is to choose which matches to play and waste a goalcard on. How many shots you are allowed in a match depends on the indicator which varies between one and three every game. Once all this is done it's into the arcade section and on with the fun

Oh is it? Those of you who read Mike's review of the B4 version will have seen the great looking arcade section. I was seriously annoyed to find out that the C16 and Plus4 versions did not have this. All that was substituted was a posy choice whether to shoot left or right. How

awful! When you have thought hard on which direction to shoot in, you are given a spartan commentary on what happened like 'You tap the ball into the net'.

As you can see FDTY is not up to much for Plus4 owners, but for C16 owners things are even worse. My stomach chafes at the thought of playing a whole season through. It doesn't have the pretty icons of the other versions, just ugly text asking you to press a number to access the options

It is acceptable that the C16 has limitations but surely not this many, and if the case is so, what a nerve to attempt to sell it at eight quid!

Faigy Hamilton

Graphics	1 3 3 4 3 3 3 3 2 10	4 Overall
Sound	N/A	
Toughness	1 3 3 4 3 3 7 3 3 10	
Endurance	1 3 3 4 3 3 7 8 3 10	
Value	1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 10	

Plus4 version:



▲ **Blot enough aliens and you get to the next testing zone**

DANGER ZONE

C16 and Plus/4 CODE MASTERS

Price: £1.99/cass

I was really glad to get this Code Masters game. A quick inspection of the inlay brought back memories of Truxon, a game we reviewed not too long ago. But when the Ed also gave me a packet of aspirin, I got a suspicious feeling

The blurb tells you about the Galactic Patrol which is working on the XT/99 a new breed of lightness reconnaissance ship. 112 years later, it's possible for you to check out their hardware just by pressing the fire-button. Only those pro production models have been built and they all have shields and the ability to fire rapidly - so what's new?

The test has you out in space, shooting a load of wandering aliens, in the hope that if you blast enough you'll get on to the next testing zone. You shield gets worn out every time you come into contact with one of the aliens at (late) on in different zones some lumps of what look like alien doc daks

Those DD's scootch all over the place and the whole thing gets a bit absurd when you face this massive doc dakh attack on level 100

My problem is that I can't really tell you anything interesting about Danger Zone - except that it sounds

a bit like a game based on a recent song? The graphics are not too bad and the aliens were the only characters that didn't move smoothly. Still, they're quite nice to look at. The colours chosen were adequate but I would have liked to have seen more being used

The angles and sound effects were done by a certain David Whittaker and I thought there could have been more - there was some empty space in memory.

Now for some boasting, this is the quickest game I've managed to hack - about 30 seconds. So to celebrate I'm doing a CU. Just I'm going to give you a POKE that gets you to the last of the 20 zones

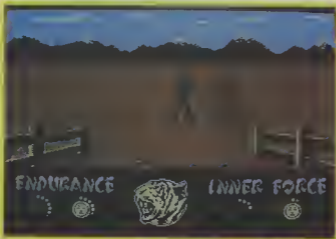
First load the game and reset the computer. Then type POKF 6033,255 and hit Return. Then type SYS 4112 and press Return. And now get rid of those aliens

Now for the bad news, when you make it to the end, nothing special happens - you just go back to the start. The only thing that seemed fun to me was when I had the easy on full, holding down the fire-button sends a continuous stream of bullets.

A disappearing game

Fiksat Citric

Graphics	1 3 3 3 1 1 7 3 3 10	4 Overall
Sound	1 3 3 4 3 3 3 3 3 10	
Toughness	1 3 3 4 3 3 7 8 9 10	
Endurance	1 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 9 10	
Value	1 3 3 4 3 3 7 8 3 10	



You'd be hard pushed to distinguish these graphics from the 64

three actually. Najishi (that's the head block), has set you three tests in which you must overcome some formidable adversaries.

The three tests consist of unarmed combat, pole fighting and samurai sword fighting. Each section leads from tape or disk once you've completed the previous one. Or at least it should do. My copy proved to be a little temperamental in this respect.

Unarmed combat is carried out in much the same way as in other martial arts games. You can attempt one of 14 moves by pushing the joystick in various positions either with or without the fire button depressed. For some reason there are no moves associated with the seven c'lock position, so you don't get the full 16. That's not the case with pole and sword fighting where you

WAY OF THE TIGER

**C16 and Plus/4
GREMLIN
GRAPHICS**

Price: £6.99/cass

The Way of the Tiger was first released by Gremlin for the C64 last year. I must admit to having a slight bias towards Gremlin for the simple reason that everything they do on the C16 is totally completely brilliant, well, most of it anyhow.

TWOT is no exception. It has the best graphics and combat of any of the martial arts games for the C16. Come to that it's better than a few I've seen on the 64. For a straight conversion it's extremely well done and the game is remarkably faithful to its 64 counterpart.

For those of you who like the background detail, the story is set in the magical world of Ok. The plot goes on a bit about People of

Manaroch, mystical islands of tranquil dreams, golden shores and emerald rice meadows. What a road of cobblestones as the great comic genius of our time, Barney Hill would put it.

Stripped of the purple pagodes and emerald paddy fields, the script goes something like this. When you were knee high to a grasshopper, you were dumped as the steps of the local temple by your (loyal?) servant who wasn't too sure where the hospital

Like the 64 version, you get to knock the block off the bridge

was. Incidentally, the servant was not and dying of a hideous curse. Serves her right if you ask me.

The monks who lived in this temple, being a fairly OK bunch of guys, took you in and led you on Farley's ruse for a few years. In no time at all you became an acolyte, which contrary to popular belief is not the stuff you put in car batteries, but a sort of glorified altar boy.

Now, because of this funny betwixt'n you have, the monks think you have some special significance. In that you wouldn't half be good at mauling people with your bare hands, or if it came to it, a large piece of wood, or even a sword. So they set to work at training you to become a monk.

With the preliminary training out of the way, there is only one obstacle to be overcome before attaining your full Ninja science. What there are



get 15 and 16 respectively.

Armsmen is pretty smooth, even if your men does look like a cross between a mummy and a soldier in full chemical warfare get up. The backdrop for unarmed combat is pretty impressive. Clouds pass over the mountains in the far distance, while in the foreground there is a smattering of vegetation.

As far as the combat itself goes, let's be honest. The basic idea is to beat the living daylights out of the other guy before he does it to you.

Unarmed combat gives you a choice of 14 different moves



over a river and the loser ends up in the drink. One big difference with the final two screens is that they are just that — single screens. When you reach the edge there is nowhere left to run, whereas unarmed combat gives you a scrolling panorama.

Of all the best 'em 'ups on the C16 the major criticism has been that the quality of combat has left a lot to be desired. You'll all remember my disappointment in *Way of the Exploding Fist*. The scenery was brilliant, the animation was brilliant but the competition was so weak you could have knocked them over with bad breath. In that respect alone *Way of the Tiger* comes out on top because, however good you are, you will eventually meet your match with one or other of the Ninja beshers.

The combination of Giamlin's skill

and attention to detail in other aspects of the game makes it a clear winner

Kee McManis



There are two ways of doing that. Either you kick him in the head until his eyes drop out, or you can go for the aesthetic approach and try out some fancy tricks.

You can do it either way but it's more fun the second. And for once the opponents are good enough to make a fight of it. They're not brilliant and you can get away with clubbing some of them to death, but there are the more skillful ones.

I expected pole fighting and Sumatra sword fighting to be

At last, a C16 combat game that gives you beefy opponents

unarmed combat with a stick in your hand, but there are significant differences. For one thing the backdrops are all different. Pole fighting has to be the best. The two of you fight it out on a log bridge



Nothing like a bit of practice to sharpen up the inner force

THE WAY OF THE TIGER
SWORD FIGHTING

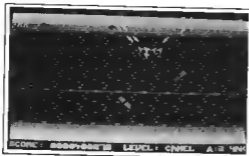
- 1 · PLAY THE WHOLE GAME
- 2 · PRACTICE UNARMED COMBAT
- 3 · PRACTICE POLE FIGHTING
- 4 · PRACTICE SWORD FIGHTING

C16 CONVERSION BY DEREK REYNOLDS



Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8
Overall



▲ Fikrat reckons Voidrunner is as colourful as Psychodelia

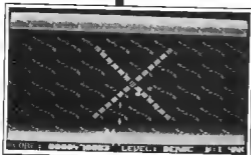


▲ There are at least seven different types of nasties to fire at

VOIDRUNNER and HELIGATE

**C16 and Plus/4
LLAMASOFT/
ARIOLASOFT**
Price: £6.95/cass

For nearly two years the best thing I liked doing with my computer was loading Psychodelia and messing about with a Jean-Michel Jarre LP giving my neurons a good workout. I suppose you are wondering why I've just gone and said that, eh? I'm not really sure myself, it's just that Voidrunner is so colourful that it reminded me of Psychodelia.



package, is the one to rave about. The story goes that there is intense activity on the planet Void, where all of your enemy (the clouds) live. They're planning to send out nuclear attacks on Earth and as with all about 'em nps you're the nrtlar out to prevent this from happening.

Fortunately three players have been supplied to help, they either move around the leader ship (you — which is green) in a cluster or in symmetrical patterns.

On the planet you will be attacked by various nasties, which include:

Dreidsags: These move around the screen in centipede type rows.

Cenheads: Similar to Dreidsags, but leave a pod when shot.

Pods: Just there to be blasted, some need more than one shot.

Leas: Looks like a god, but fires a leader ship if in line of fire.

Bombs: Fall up or down the

screen. The white ones must be avoided, but the others can be shot.

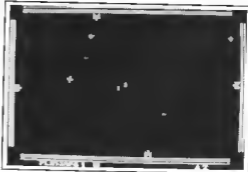
Verduas: Aliens that shift about the screen in a neat pattern, they drop bombs on to you when shot.

Carrels and Gasts: Can be used as smart bombs, turns into a laser once shot, but it's no ordinary laser.

If you thought this was bad then you wouldn't like to face up to the Zappers. The zipper is, in fact, a taste interangi line that moves down the screen leaving a pulse (one of death) for a second which if hit by you leading ship will kill off your current fleet. You have got five fleets and you gain one extra to a total of nine for clearing each level.

Oh yes, the levels. They are not your usual level 1, level 2, etc. They have all got their own names, their own attack waves and your own attack limitations changes. There are 30 levels and it's possible to check

▼ Heligate — not brilliant but a nice little bonus



▲ Nothing touches Voidrunner on the C16 for sheer speed

But both Voidrunner and Heligate are actually sequels to Matrix and Laserzorb, respectively. The last two were sold in a similar package (two for the price of one) and must have done quite well to convince Ariolasoft to release this sequel.

I didn't get to see much of the last two games, but it seems to have pleased a lot of people. I've seen enough to warn you about this game — nothing else touches its speed. Voidrunner, the star of this

Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

9
Overall

out the fast 16 from the title screen.

One thing I must not forget to mention about Voidrunner is the frilly bits, it's full of them. There is the introduction to the level you are about to enter and the curious like opening of the playing field all done with the slight shades of certain colours. But the highlight of the frilly bits must be the dots, these dots are just totally amazing. They make helix patterns, some weird swinging rows of dots and swirling clusters. The swirling dots were the best to look at and I actually sat and watched these on the title screen for about one hour — they're a bit hypnotic.



KNOW YOUR MINTER

HALLGATE

On the sound stakes Voidrunner is top notch, so music but plenty of echoed sound FX and blasting sound. OK I know I said there is no text, but there is that horrible ear-grating rendition of that five note tune played in Close Encounters of the Third Kind. The graphics wan't seem much in the screen shots and are not the kind that take your breath away, but they are colourful and each nasty is easily identifiable.

Hallgate is a conversion from the 64 and this was the first time I'd seen it and I didn't get much enjoyment out of it. It's like an extended version of Laserzone. The graphics are smaller, but you now control four ships along four axes and have multiple fire power.

I don't want to bore you with any details so I'll just say that this is a save the Earth play. The best thing I liked about this game was the zany bits, not surprising since both games were programmed by Jeff 'Yak' Minter and include many weird and wonderful aliens.

I got the idea that this game was rushed — the sound wasn't good either.

Voidrunner is the most incredible blaster I've played, it plays upside down, sideways and even symmetrically. I was going to give it a 10 but I experienced a crash, all the same its addictiveness will get hold of you and not let go for a very long time, it deserves the Screen Star.

Fikret Güllü

COMPLETION

You all know that Jeff Minter produces some of the classiest games around for the C16 and Plus/4. But how much do you know about the man himself, his inner personality, what makes him tick, his darkest secrets? Here's your chance to prove yourself a Minter Mastermind by answering five deeply probing questions. AND you can win some great prizes.

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 - a) Max Headroom
 - b) The Price is Right
 - c) Antiques Roadshow
- 2) What is Jeff's favourite food?
 - a) Lemme cheese
 - b) Grilled chicken
 - c) Lantil burgers
- 3) Jeff likes Heavy Metal. Who are his favourite band?
 - a) Europe
 - b) Iron Maiden
 - c) Saxon
- 4) What does Jeff think is his best C16 game so far?
 - a) Matrix
 - b) Laserzone
 - c) Voidrunner



The answers are: Question 1: A B C
 Question 2: A B C
 Question 3: A B C
 Question 4: A B C

Name.....

Address.....

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[These figures do not allow for searching]

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2. Only Freeze Frame can automatically reindex these and other programs. You don't need to be an "Experts" or need "O" levels to operate Freeze Frame.
3. At press date (11-287) our exhaustive tests were unable to find any memory resident programs that both Freeze Frame Mk IV and Laser were unable to both up, **completely automatically**.
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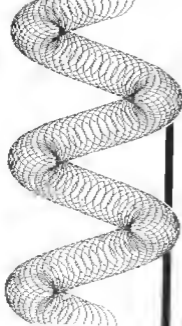
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TOP DRAWER

reviewed by
Chris Durham

Graphic Expander for the 128

So you bought a C128 thinking you'd be able to use all those new graphics commands? And you found out they'll work only in 40-column mode. But Horisoft have come up with an answer.

It's called Graphic Expander, it gives you 13 new commands for 80-column mode and it costs a tenner.



After years of labouring with those insy POKEs in BASIC 2.0 in order to use the Commodore 64's hires graphics screen, it came as a welcome relief to use Basic 7.0 on the 128 with its built-in commands for graphics. Unfortunately, Commodore must labour under the idea that programmers like a challenge, since the commands only work on the 40 column screen and the 80 column screen is stored in 16K or RAM that doesn't even appear in the memory map of the computer!

If you want to use the 80 column screen and display graphics you have to either have two monitors, or one that can switch between the 40 and 80 column screen outputs. Or at least that was the case until Horisoft released their *Graphic Expander 128* program.

High Hi-res

At long last, 128 owners can have true 640 x 200 hires graphics, using the same monitor output as the 80 column text, with no more effort than writing a normal Basic program. There are one or two limitations, such as only having two colours on screen at a time, but this is a minor point compared with the extra facilities which this package offers. There are only 13 new commands (see panel), but as you can see they

Your drawing can be printed out easily to Commodore and most other printers

cover most of the standard drawing commands available on the 40 column screen. The syntax is virtually the same as the equivalent Commodore graphics commands, but prefixed with an H.

One of the most useful facilities is the ability to copy the 40 column screen onto the 80 column screen using HLOAD. This means that even if you have already written programs that use both screens, you can now modify them very quickly so that all the graphics appear on the 80-column screen. In fact it would not be too difficult to modify the commands themselves so that the graphics were produced directly onto the 80-column screen.

One advantage of using the Expander commands is that they are on average four times faster than the equivalent Basic 7.0 commands. Although the text on the disk sleeve claims a four times speed increase I tend to take these claims with a pinch of salt. However in this case they were dead right and if you use the SCALE command in Basic 7.0 to map points from 640 x 200 down to 320 x 200 then the speed increase is nearly seven times!

The second advantage is that if you don't need to activate the 40 column graphics screen, you save the 8K needed for it, the Expander program only using a total of 8K of the 128's memory, including variables.

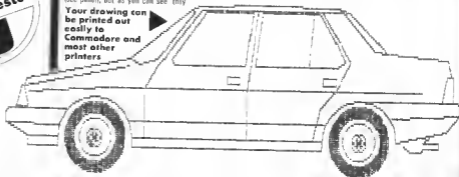
Hardcopy Prints

I am sure many people have tested excellent graphics designs on screen, but then not been able to obtain a printout of all their hard work. Most commercial drawing programs are able to print a copy of what's on screen, but if you are writing your own programs it isn't so easy. The HCOPI command is what you have all been waiting for!

Not only can you now do hires screen dumps from the 80 column screen but by combining HLOAD and HCOPI you can also dump any 40 column screen as well. The screen dump works with the MPS 801/803 or any graphics printer (such as an Epson) with a suitable interface.

Demo Programs

The disk sleeve is the manual, just giving the syntax of the commands. However there are a number of demo programs also contained on the disk. Some of the demos are a bit basic and



the ones that are just changing the screen color combinations for about two minutes or rather annoy you. Despite that, their main advantage is that you can list them and find out exactly how to use all the commands. The programs also show how to load graphics screens created by programs like Paint Shop or from Video Displays all of which can make a big

good value. The program is available through Commodore Dealers, or you could get it at the end Commodore show in April, possibly even cheaper, in which case I suggest you step it up at once.

HBOX Draws boxes
HCIRCLE Draws circles
HCOLOR Defines colors
HCOPY Screen Dump to printer
HDRAW Draws lines
HGRAPHIC Sets graphic mode
HLOAD Copies 40-col screens to 80 col screen

HPAINT Fills area with colour
HPEEK Examines byte in video RAM

HPOKE Changes byte in video RAM

HROT Rotates pixel status
HRGN Returns RGB chip register value

HSCNCR Clears Hi-res screen

◀ **The HBOX command makes effects like this nice 'n' easy**

difference to the speed of presentation. Time spent going through the two more listings (the rest are screen files) will pay dividends in your own programs.

Summary

This has to be one of the most useful programs I have used on the 128. Obviously you won't be able to distribute programs written using this, but then that has always been the problem with language additions. The graphics are fast for Basic and no longer do you have to keep putting up messages saying "now switch to 40-colour screen".

You might think that there is a high price to pay for all these goodies, but it costs only £10 which has to be

- **Graphic Expander**
- **C128**
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Starglider

Starglider

RIGHT. PAY ATTENTION if you were one of the many hundreds who entered our Starglider competition in January hoping to win that ace glider Rainbird were offering. Well the Dep. Ed.'s done a runner with it. Just kidding, of course he hasn't.

We asked you to identify the nine space ship games pictured in the issue. Most of you were on the ball, but for those of you who fluffed it here are the answers. Extra lessons will be mandatory for all those who scored under 80%. 1. Parallax; 2. Xevluis; 3. Uridium; 4. Terra Cresta; 5. Mercenary; 6. Warhawk; 7. Elite; 8. Paranoid; 9. Tau Ceti.

Well done to Space Cadet first class ALAN COOPER of Lymington in Hampshire, you spotted the lot and sneak out the bag first. A Vortex glider will indeed be winging its way to you.

Ten second class cadets will receive a copy of the game. Stay forward:

Stephan Martie, Palmara Bull, Sutton Coldfield, West
London N13; Iac Carile, Midlands; Fergal Curran, Co
Blackheath, Essex; Mathew Dublin, Ireland; Mathew
Capell, Oxford; Richard Driffie, James Kent, Wera, Herts; N. D.
Wallston, Nottingham; Rufus Mayar, Wightfield, Shropshire;
Branston, Bramley, Kent; Barry Markey, Saratow, Surrey.

Finally Rainbird generously chipped in with 50 balsa wood models to the runners-up, so get your magnifying glass out and try and find your name:

Mark Ferris, Gortea, Men-
chester; Francisca Costa Cab-
hal, Cascais, Portugal; Court-
ney Blackmae, Blatchley,
Bachs; Patar Suanell, Leaden
E7; Aedy Dusa, Northalt, Middx;

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Wear; Chris Payne, Aston-on-
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cell, Old Basford, Nottingham;
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Kent; Neil Baltitt, Notts; Brian

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Paenard, Swansea; J. J.
Mellawski, Marhat Hease,
Lincolnshire; Andrew Wood,
Church Ead, Essex

Darryl Webb, Diengarmy, Co
Antrim; Adriaa Henouf, Maat
Daa Vigaa, Jarow; Jonathan
Watsan, Primaraa, Jarow,
Tyne and Wear; S. N. Bolt,
Bateshead, Tyne and Wear; Ian
Dregg, Lishurn, Co Antrim;
Stephae Linksoo, Elleg, WS;
Bimal Rathad, Haden, London
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North Humberside; Duncaae
Satchfield, Geoaatra, Cambs;
Dutton Mason, South Norman-
ton, Derby; John Slae, Coombe
Dingle, Bristol; Neil F. Macaca,
Cherlay, Lunca; Allatair Thlan,
Buckla, Baeffahire; Vlasan
Pika, Swindaa, Wilts; John
Oreaa, Jarow, Tyne and Wear;

Edwin Hayward, Haard-
Brabant; Netherlands; Barry D.
Samara, Doncaster; S.
Yarshahira; Aniz Damaa,
Lalceatar; Ian Darrett,
Bridgwater, Somerset; Alan
Cooper, Lymington, Hants.

RESULTS

RESULTS

Murder off Miami

Our January adventure competition tested you on your knowledge of TV detectives, and most of you found the answers elementary. They were 1. Popeye Doyle, 2. Columbo, 3. Kojak.

We also asked you which detective you could think of would fit well in an adventure. We had some good suggestions including the Pink Panther and Inspector Clouseau, but our favourite was the admittedly rather impractical suggestion of Dennis Potter's 'The Singing Detective'. An idea which made us scratch our heads. Here is the winner CHRIS GARBUTT'S winning entry:

'A classic wisecracking detective with a plot containing spies, mysterious women and comical goons. An excellent soundtrack, sex, violence and mystery — perfect ingredients for an adventure — am I right or am I right? Chris, you are right, and that earns you a whodunnit day in a London hotel. Sounds murderous... Ten runners up were: Tim Seabrook of Norwich; John Considine of Swenland, N. Humberside; Stuart Mitchell of Horsham, W. Sussex; Carl Maxwell of London W10; Richard Walker of Sedgley, W. Midlands; William Pratt of Exmouth, Derby; Jan Connery of Holland; Andy Meadows of Sheffield; Daniel Bryant of Enfield, Middx and Colin Croft of Stockport.

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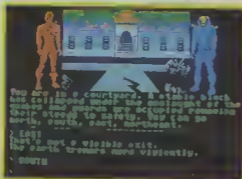
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INTO THE VALLEY



MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

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You've played with the toys, you've read the comic, you've watched the TV series — now solve the Adventure! Well that's what US Gold hope, anyway.



you see Evil-Lynn you know you're in trouble



by Keith
Campbell

but first you will have to find the Sword Of Power

As He-man, knowing how to get into Castle Graydull (if you don't, watch for the hunt on the way!) will bring you face to face with your benefactor the Sorcerer, who will

The earthquakes have started, so you'd better not crack up

give you a quest Skeletor (who else?) is the one behind the plot to run Eternia through earthquakes. Restore the time-links, and she will give you a weapon capable of defeating him.

Around the castle are some poten-

So how do you set about your task? A few moments reflection will show you the way, and soon you will be facing the boulder-crushing Rockhander, a nest of serpents, and Mantenna. Choose which form of death you prefer! Lucky there's a OSAVE and QLOAD feature — make sure you use it, then come back and try again.

The fun comes in deciding which weapon or object to use. A Moleculariser seems just the thing to deal with Rockhander, but how do you activate it? You'll also be puzzling your head over the advantages of owning a Minus Manacle, and a shaggy reproducing head, not to mention a Wyomard. You guessed it — the hand of Stefan Uthowais has been at work again here!

Although there is one picture for each location, unlike Kaylieth, none of them are animated. "There simply isn't any space left to do it!" explained Mike Woodroffe of Adventure Soft. With over 80 locations, this is not surprising.

This is so gimmick adventure riding on the popularity of Masters Of The Universe. It is a full-blown mind-bender, written by Mike Woodroffe, Stefan Uthowais, Teoman Irsak and Graham Lilley. As an enhancement to the 64 version, 128 owners will get the same game but with segmented text.

Adventure Soft has done it again! Mike Woodroffe has assembled a team that seems now to consistently come up with intriguing plots, devious puzzles, and quick, attractive graphics.

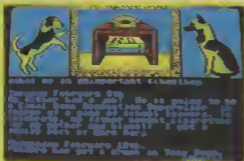


With roads like this I wouldn't mind being a road digger

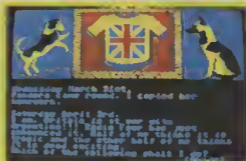
Playing the part of Prince Adam of Eternia, you are aided by King Randor to seek out He-man, for only he can save Eternia from a series of terrible earthquakes. Of course, if it is not so much a question of seeking He-man, as becoming He-man —

hally useful weapons, together with a number of mathematical and biological devices, including a Timegate. Because of the dangers of a time-continuum accident caused by the quakes, this has temporarily been out of service

Graphics	★★★★
Sound	n/a
Toughness	★★★★
Value/price	★★★
Game	★★★★



▲ Mars bars for Mole — his dad gets a job



▼ Male shows great political awareness

▲ Questions usually have three options

THE GROWING PAINS OF ADRIAN MOLE

Virgin/Mosaic/Level 9
GrA

Commodore 64/128
Price: £9.95/cass
£14.95/disk

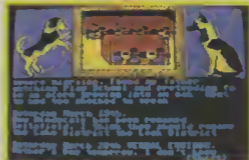
Adrian Mole is growing up! He's now almost 15, and determined to get Grade 'A' passes in his 'O' Levels and to stop worrying about the size of his thong.

Following on from the outstanding success of *The Secret Diary*, comes 'Growing Pains' Again writes by Level 9, it is published by Virgin rather than Mosaic, who produced it. The switch was rather sudden, just prior to release, and to avoid delays whilst Mosaic were in the midst of changing their distribution.

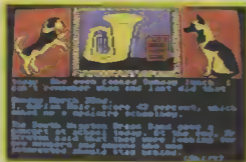
I have classified this piece (I hesitate to call it a game) GrF — Graphic Fiction rather than Adventure. So what is it doing appearing in *The Valley*? Adventure games are also known by the term 'Interactive



▼ Your progress is displayed as a percentage



▲ Random features mean each game will be different



announces that everyone's head writing will be tested. Shall Adrian (1) Take the test, (2) Write with his left hand; (3) Steep a protein?

There are random features in the program, so that each time you play any part through, it will vary. The object is for Adrian to impress people, and become as popular as possible with everyone. Your progress towards this goal is automatically displayed every now and again, together with a judgement on Adrian's current status, such as 'Hasby Pambly Schoolboy'.

The graphics are somewhat more

meaningful than those of the *Secret Diary*, which seemed to be more a series of montages of associated objects. Here they are well linked to the current topic under discussion.

Growing Pains is so full of text that it comes in four parts, all recorded on both sides of the tape. To play through the game, you simply leave the tape in the player, and when prompted, the next part will start loading.

If you are a Mole fan, you will not want to miss this. I found it much funnier than the original *Secret Diary*.

Graphics	★★
Sound	0A
Toughness	0A
Vocabulary	0A
Overall	★★★★

INTO
THE
VALLEY

BELIEVE ME...THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO BEAT THE

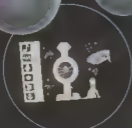
MUTANTS



KNOW YOUR ENEMY!

I took on the Mutants knowing I was armed to the teeth with missiles, mines, torpedoes and more... I could even choose where I wanted to fight! How could I loose? ...How DID I loose? I've never seen anything like it... they came at me in droves, in swirling

gases, in forms spinning a deadly gossamer and there were more to come. I know now that one form of Mutant will never escape a well planned pattern of mines, it's just the beginning... but I must build the ultimate weapon or I'll NEVER be rid of them all!



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Comment CAMPBELL'S

A plea about puzzles

In the beginning there was a Cave. Descending into this awesome complex of unlit underground chambers was a new experience for many a player, since the like of it had not been seen before. The very first players were those select few who had access to an IBM mainframe.

Cave was not an easy adventure, especially to those early players, who had no adventure 'experience'. But they, in the main, were programmers, whose stock in trade is logical thinking, and a great deal of patience.

Adventureland was the first adventure of a kind to be written for a micro, and now the game-form was about to hit a much wider public. So it was deliberately designed to wean the player into Adventure with plenty of clues and HELP messages scattered around.

With the development of cheap hardware, the presentation of adven-

ture games has evolved and become diverse. And so too has the degree of difficulty of the games. But an adventure can be difficult in more ways than one.

Firstly, there's the puzzles themselves. They are what the game is all about — but can they be solved by a reasonably intelligent player? Everyone has his blind spot somewhere, and there is nothing worse than an adventure with a brain-blower for an opponent that locks the player into the first location, unable to access any more of the game.

Unfortunately, there has been a definite tendency to move away from any form of unbuilt HELP messages of late. All too often one gets a WORK IT OUT FOR YOURSELF MATE, or words to that effect. Ah for those halcyon days of such cryptic gems as: READ THE SIGN IN THE MEADOW — which the player had already done. But of course he had either forgotten about the sign, or had not realised its full significance. Now it is positively pointing his way, but he has still got to think out the answer.

The second contributor to the dif-



ference of adventure is vocabulary — or lack of it. This is not what adventures are supposed to be about. An adequate range of recognised vocabulary, with few or no synonyms provided, can turn a solved problem into a frustrating battle. You know how to kill the Compsogly bird, but the words to achieve its demise seem to come from a different version of the

English language to the one you speak.

This problem can be compounded if a complex parser gets into the wrong hands. Thankfully, most software houses who have developed their own complex parser, have the good sense and intelligence to load it with (nearly) all the words likely to be used by the player. But take a lift with an open trapdoor in its ceiling,

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NEWERA

and a math word puzzle, and would you hit upon the required phrase to escape, in less than five attempts? (See solution at end.) This actually appears in a game called *Abschock*, happily not available for any Commodore machine.

And finally, back to the *Colossal Cave*. In it, there are two mazes, cunningly disguised so that the unobservant may even think they were one and the same. A hazy, hazy illusion that a maze of twisty passages all the same, and a maze of twisty passages all different. The results are the same whether the passages are different or not - it is impossible to distinguish one from another.

The author's motive in including these, one suspects, was to test the player's ability to discover that a

passage could be 'marked' by dropping an object in it, thus making it unique, and eventually enabling the maze to be mapped. That's fine first time around, but once you know the secret, a maze becomes a frustrating waste of time, with little reward in terms of problem solving.

So here are some thoughts for those given to writing adventures. By all means make the puzzles difficult, but do allow for players not quite on the same wavelength as yourself. Give a lot of help and encouragement. Use everyday words and phrases, provide plenty of alternatives, and do not insist on a six word command where two words will do. And PLEASE - no more mazes!

(The way out of the list, is "Climb out of list." All four words must be supplied.)

Comment CAMPBELL'S



SEE ONE IN THE LOBBY OF THE HOTEL. THE OTHER A PHONE BOOTH TO YOUR EAST. ->SOUTH

▲ Better make that call, but have you got a dime?

A CLOSER LOOK AT . . . JERUSALEM

M and Scott was recently reported as having trouble with a ruby coloured button. Thanks to Brian Woolley of Walton in Liverpool, here is the way out.

First you require the spectacles from the top of the western wall, reached by going up at the underpass. Go to the synagogue in the Jewish quarter, and wear the spectacles. This will reveal a hidden room. Enter the room, and move the table. Go down the hole underneath it, and unlock the door using the keys found in the street. Explore for further treasures, but do not go south at the shores of the Dead Sea, or you will be killed!

There is a ruby ring on the top of the mountain overlooking Jerusalem, and this is required to work the ruby

button. To return to Jerusalem, go back to the underground door and say "Amen."

At the golden gate, wear the ring and touch the button.

Thanks a million, Brian, for such a concise answer to this problem.

GET OUT OF THAT!

Since mazes are up for discussion this month (see Campbell's Comment) what is the best way to map one?

In an adventure maze, the location descriptions are identical, making it impossible for you to know whether you are revisiting a location, or moving into a new one. Moving in the opposite direction from which you're

VALLEY Rescue

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE:
Examine the people and the posts!

MINDSHADOW:
On the ship, drop the anchor and walk the plank.

TEN LITTLE INDIANS:
Don't try to leave the train at the wrong station.

QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL:
To get past the knight who says "Nie" you must GIVE KNIGHT SHRUBBERTY!

CASTLE OF TERROR:
Throw the rape to cross the pit.

THE BOGGIT:
Latin lights the way past the trolls.

THE PAWN:
If the key-shaped recess is empty, you got there too late!

HULK:
The noun and verb in a strange message, should be uttered before going underground.

LEATHER GODDESSES OF PHOBOS:
One wife is more equal than the others . . .

WISHBRINGER:
Have a picture to escape the tower.



just come (e.g. E, W) does not necessarily return you to the same location. You soon lose all track of where you are in relation to the exit.

The method of mapping a maze is simple when you know how. Carry a string with you, and each time you move to a new location, drop one. The location is then identifiable by the object within it. As you draw your map, instead of marking all the mazes 'twisty passages', you can now name them by the objects: WICKER CAGE, BLACK ROD, COINS, etc.

Your map can now be drawn, but

there are a couple of snags you may come up against. Mazes typically don't follow normal topology, that is to say, by moving east, you may well land in a room that was originally plotted to, say, the southwest.

Going east then west, will not necessarily take you back to where you started and so the map may eventually become a tangle of lines with arrow heads.

A more effective method to chart a maze, is not to draw a map at all, but to compile a table of exits and destinations. Assuming that there are 10 possible directions for move-

ment (N, S, E, W, NE, NW, SE, SW, U, D), set up 10 columns, one for the location description, and one for each possible direction.

Having moved into location 1 in the maze, drop an object (say WICKER CAGE) in the first row under location description. Now take any exit (say E), and drop another object, say COINS. Enter COINS alongside WICKER CAGE in the column under the direction in which you moved.

Continue in the same way, and on finding yourself in a previously

visited location, choose an exit whose entry for that location is blank. The result will be a tidy little reference table.

The second snag is that before you find an exit, you may hit more rooms than the number of objects you are able to carry. So make sure you have saved your position just prior to entering the maze, and reload that position. Oh, you go again, this time taking different routes so as to fill in the blanks in the table.

When fully charted, you are ready to start the game afresh, and race the maze with confidence!

MORE TROUBLES IN THE VALLEY



▲ Tricky problem from *St. Brides*, but not one that *Valley Rescue* can't handle

Every month, inevitably, The Valley receives letters from adventurers who are tearing their hair out over a problem, but who we are unable to help. I Jennings was one such, finding little treasure in *Treasure Hunters*. And every month, after reading such pleas for help, readers send in their solutions. Tracy Strange wrote to help Mr Jennings, with the following advice:

Get the bottle, go to the river and fill it, and then throw the bottle in the cave, where the flames are coming out of the pit. That should solve your problem.

Matthew Barland of Brighton is lost for words! He can't work out what he needs to type to get the key from the lock, in *The Secret Of St Brides*. This is the age old problem with the usual solution. In fact, it's been used before, and more elegant-

ly, in *Zork 2*, and *Asylum*, to name but two.

In *St Brides*, though, it is the wording required that spoils the problem, and makes it tricky, even if you know the basic method. The solution relies on the word USE, which is explained on the cassette inlay (you HAVE got it, haven't you Matthew?) The key is in the lock on the opposite side of the door, and to get it you must USE NEWSPAPER, UNDER DOOR, USE PENCIL, and then PUSH the KEY.

Henry Fong wrote from Liverpool with an almost complete solution of *Cattle Of Terror*. The clue in the Rescue Service box, should help Tim Phelan, who is still, presumably, carrying around the fair maiden, unable to cross the pit and cart her off, out of the castle.

Henry's letter raises, once again, the big problem in this game - killing Dracula. The general consensus is that the stake is made by breaking the spear, but who knows exactly how to do that, and why, sometimes, it doesn't seem to work?

If you are stuck in an adventure don't forget that The Valley Rescue Service is here to help YOU! Send your problems (and clues, if you can

help out another subscriber) to me at *Valley Rescue*, Commodore User, Priory Court, 30-33 Farrington Lane, London EC1R 3AU. At this end, we (that's Daniel Gilbert, Adrian Bell, Paul Coppins and myself) will come up with an answer if we can. Either way, we'll get back to you, even if it's only commiserations, or a Thank You! for helping with a problem.

NEWS

★ With the release of *Masters Of The Universe* behind them, Adventure Soft will be following up with the long-awaited *Temple Of Terror*, and *Sword Of The Samaras*, both from the Lighting Fantasy series of books.

★ The future does not look bright for *The Story Of The Amulet* adventure, based on the book by E. Neuhart. Planned for release this summer, Mosaic Publishing report that there is no sign of the game from The Ram Jan Corporation, commissioned to write the game.

ADVENTURE CHART

1	Dracula	CRL
6	Silicon Dreams	Rainbird
3	Vera Cruz Affair	Infogrames
1	Jewels of Darkness	Rainbird
6	Bards Tale	Anolasoft
6	Bugsy	CRL
6	Inheritance	Infogrames
6	Boggit	CRL
6	Price of Magic	Level 9
10	Pawa	Rainbird

Dan Gutman, our man on the Hotline phone, took a break last month and trekked down to Pennsylvania. Where? That's where Commodore International lives. And Thomas J Rattigan, Commodore's President and Chief Executive took time out from the Big Chair to answer a few questions.

One thing stands out when you walk into Tom Rattigan's office — no computers. The only sign that the office belongs to the president and chief executive officer of Commodore International is a preliminary sketch of the new Amiga laying casually on the couch. It's then you're reminded that nobody else in the world has the final word on the design of that machine except for Thomas Rattigan.

"I never got beyond the slide rule," admits Rattigan. "Calculators were the next generation, and computers were the next, so I'm sort of two generations behind."

He wasn't brought into Commodore in April of 1983 for his computer expertise. You don't become a hit-tech expert by spending eight years at General Foods and 14 years at Pepsi, even if you did get your MBA from Harvard. Rattigan was brought in for his business savvy. Commodore had lost over 200 million dollars in two years, and a pretty sharp businessman was needed to turn things around.

While other companies have evangelists boasting about how their computers are going to someday change society, Thomas Rattigan is most comfortable talking about the bottom line. When Rattigan talks, he ticks off his points one at a time, in order, almost as if it's a verbal outline. It almost doesn't matter if he's selling cases of Pepsi, boxes of cereal, or Commodore 64s. What's important is that he sells them. If they don't sell, something is wrong, and he's going to fix it.

hally less than that, about half.

D.G.: What about the "Big Amiga"?

T.R. Number one, it will be truly an expandable box. It will be a multi-slotted, multi-drive machine and it will have instant IBM compatibility if you so choose. The little Amiga is more a consumer machine. The other machines will be a high end machine for business and a work station. It will have that kind of potential.

D.G.: A lot of people think the Amiga would be a terrific home machine, but Commodore seems to position and price it as a business computer. Which is it, a home computer or a business computer?

T.R. I don't think we've positioned it as either.

We think Amiga is an economical alternative for somebody at home who casually wants to use IBM programs.

I think the price confused a lot of people. People sort of mentally walk around and think home systems are under a thousand dollars and business systems are over a thousand. There

THE

BOSS

Tom Rattigan, Commodore's President



D.G.: What are Commodore's plans for Europe this year?

T.R. Europe as a chunk is our biggest piece of business. We've been much more successful there. Europe is very, very important for us, and has to continue to be.

D.B.: What's the future for the C64 line in England?

T.R. It's alive and well in England there's been a real shakeout going on. Amibit has done a good job taking a slice of the market, particularly in the U.K. France and Spain. With over six million 64s out there, and a million 128s, it will continue to be the most important single entry we have in our mix, declining over time. But I think it's going to be a lot of years before it's less than 50% of our total sales. It's got too much going for it.

D.G.: How close was Commodore to going out of business last year?

T.R. I guess that depends on your perspective. Close is a funny word. If you're running along the edge of a cliff and it's a thousand feet down, I guess you would find that was close. I don't consider it close until you start falling off the edge. We didn't fall off the edge. We may have gotten close to the edge.

D.G.: How about an in-depth look at the new products Commodore has planned for the future?

T.R. What we are doing is the continuation of what we've done in the most recent 18 months. From March to December 1985, we introduced live new products: The 128, the 128D in Europe, the PC-10 and PC-20 IBM compatibles and the Amiga. This quarter we've got another new product we're launching, the PC-18 product in Europe, and two new Amiga products that we think really take advantage of the technology and are going to be hot machines for us.

D.G.: Are you talking about the "Little Amiga"?

T.R. That's one of them, yes. The machine will be based on existing Amiga technology. It will be totally software compatible, with 512K memory versus the existing 256, and it will be more competitively priced. We've got a library of 300 Amiga software titles now, and it's increasing on a weekly basis. We expect to do very well on that product.

D.G.: What does "more competitively priced" mean?

T.R. Well, the Amiga was introduced at \$1295. This one will be substan-

tially be a lot of bases and attitudes as to what a machine is. We still believe the potential of the machine is absolutely fantastic. I don't think we did as good a job as we could in selecting the consumer as to the specific benefits of the machine. But we'll make up for that.

D.G.: We all know about the computer industry Catch-22. A computer doesn't sell until there's a good range of software, and there's usually no software until the computer sells. Isn't it infuriating to you when software publishers say they're going to wait until the machine is successful?

T.R. Well, I don't know if it's infuriating. They have businesses to run too. It's not three guys in sweatshirts in a garage anymore. They've got obligations to themselves and their shareholders.

D.G.: What's the software community doing with the Commodore 128 and Amiga?

T.R. For the most part, the people who have written for the C64 are the same people who are writing for the 128. By the end of 1986 we had sold in the range of a million 128s, which probably makes it the fourth or fifth most

by Dan Gutman

popular computer in the world in the last fifteen months. A lot of that's because you've got three distinct operating systems — Commodore 64, 128 and CP/M. CP/M is not that important in America, but in Europe there is an advantage, particularly in education.

In terms of the Amiga, the December quarter will be our third straight profitable quarter, and I think the software community is seeing that we're going to be around for the long haul. Initially there was reservation on the part of some people as to, "Is this company going to be around next year?"

D.G.: What do you think is the most exciting program for the Amiga?

T.R.: Probably the stuff that Electronic Arts has done. I really think Deluxe Paint is good, because it plays to the strength of the machine. Of course, you've got another group of people that go crazy over Marble Madness. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

D.G.: There's been some criticism that it was pointless to take the Commodore 64, wrap a new "skin" around it, and call it a Commodore 64C. Did you do it just for appearance?

T.R.: No, that's not the only reason. There was a fair amount of internal debate over the design. Some people felt it was the Volkswagen in the line, and look what happened to Volkswagen when they looked around with the Beetle. It was not a decision that was casually arrived at. There were some fairly heated discussions.

With the launch of the C128, where the configuration of the computer and colour is different and there is an overlap on peripherals, it made sense to go with something where the appearance was compatible. I think you've got to give people an opportunity so they don't have a black monitor, a green CPU, and a red disk drive.

D.G.: What's your response to people who say there's no such thing as a home computer market?



talks...

Interviewed

D.G.: Why do you think the Commodore 128 is a success and the Commodore Plus/4 was a failure?

T.R.: First, the industry was in the process of hitting a stone wall at the time the Plus/4 was released. Everybody and their brother was going out of business. Plus number two, it was not compatible with the Commodore 64, which looking back with the benefit of hindsight would indicate it was a mistake. Thirdly, it did not get the support of the software community to the extent it should have, given the strength of Commodore at that time.

So we launched the machine in that environment and really got cllobbered. Whoever made that decision I'm quite sure if they had it to make over again would make another one.

D.G.: Commodore sold about a million 128s in the first year. How about some worldwide total sales figures of your computers?

T.R.: In the last two years we have sold about two and half million machines on a fiscal year basis, so it's five million machines. In the most recent fiscal year we sold just a tad under two million C64s and 128s. The balance of the line made up the remaining 600,000 or so machines.

T.R.: I don't know. Based on the numbers I see, there were 2.7 million computers sold into the home in 1985. There were 3.5 million in 1984, a twenty five percent decline. My God, the world's ending!

Sure, the industry hit a plateau, but it was also going through a tremendous shakeout period in 1984 and 1985. I think the home market is alive and well.

D.G.: Why does the industry consider the home computer a dirty word?

T.R.: Because so many people got killed who went into business in it.

D.G.: Who's your biggest hero in the?

T.R.: Batman. No, no, I don't think there's any such thing as boggy. I think during your life you meet a whole series of people who, at various times, you admire and respect for different reasons. A lot of that's encrusted with your own development and maturity. The answer at 18 is different than the answer is today.

D.G.: So what's the answer today?

T.R.: Oh, I don't know, I guess my granddaughters.

D.G.: What would you do if your granddaughter brought home an

Atari ST one day?

T.R.: First of all, it would be pretty tough for her to carry, because she's only 14 months old. Plus number two, I think I'd probably send her off to have her I.Q. tested. Hopefully, we're smart enough so she wouldn't make that mistake in terms of what we have to say about our products.

D.G.: Where do you see Commodore in five years?

T.R.: I would love to meet the guy who could tell me. You're really talking about 50% of the life span of this industry, when you think about it. I think it's going to be as unpredictable as the last five years. It's going to go through tremendous emotional highs and lows. There are going to be a whole bunch of people who are going to be proven right and wrong.

The important thing is there's an underlying growth in the industry. There is a base of people new who have become computer literate. People are trading up to new systems, expanding, replacing, and buying more computers.

On the other hand, the industry still doesn't have it all together in terms of why people should use these things. You've got 15% household penetration

in the U.S. That means in the great unwashed masses out there, 85% have not been convinced of the benefits of owning a computer. So you've got this schizophrenia going on, and that will shake out over time.

What you're going to have in time is one generation graduating into the next. That is going to give the industry a hell of a boost in the 1990s, because kids are comfortable with the darn things. When it comes to teaching a language, teaching a kid to ski, or get Iraq involved with something mechanical, the younger they are the better they are. Because they're not afraid to make mistakes. As you get older, people want to avoid making mistakes. They don't want to mispronounce a foreign word. They don't want to fall down on the slope.

D.G.: What's your mental association to the words "Jack Trammell", who founded Commodore and now heads your biggest competitor?

T.R.: None. None whatsoever. If he was sitting here, it would be the first time I ever met him. No, I never met him. He smoke cigars, so he can't be all bad.

Play to Win

Howard THE Duck

You start at south west of the island. The first thing you must do is pack up the Jet-pack. Go west until you reach a patch of quicksand, jump over it (this is done by rapidly pressing fire). You will then see the Jet-pack at the top of the screen — pick it up. Then walk north and cross the water, go the way that the dotted line is marked on the map.

Once you're on the top island follow the line on the map. Be careful as you will encounter three mutant bases before you have to cross the river again. As soon as you are across you will pass another base and then further along another. Cross the river again and you will encounter another. Cross back and there will be two bases, kill these and then jump the quicksand, there is one more base before you reach the bridge. Cross the bridge but be careful as boulders will tumble toward you. There is one more base to kill before you are transported to the glider.

The glider is extremely tricky to control. The object is to fly over the volcano, where you will parachute in. The problem you have to face in the glider is the time it takes to master the controls.

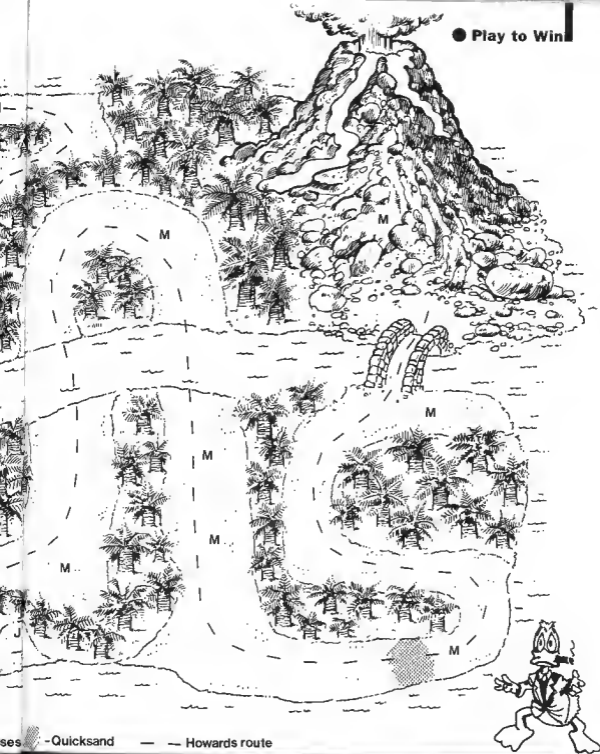
Once inside you will be given a missile launcher. The object of this part is to kill the Dark Overlord and deactivate the volcano. To get to the Dark Overlord you have to cross a bridge. At the end of the bridge you will meet the Dark Overlord, who gives you an extremely warm welcome in the form of lightning bolts. Kill him and switch off the volcano.



S - Start J - Jetpack M - Mutant Base

by Ferdy Hamilton and Kevin Davis

● Play to Win

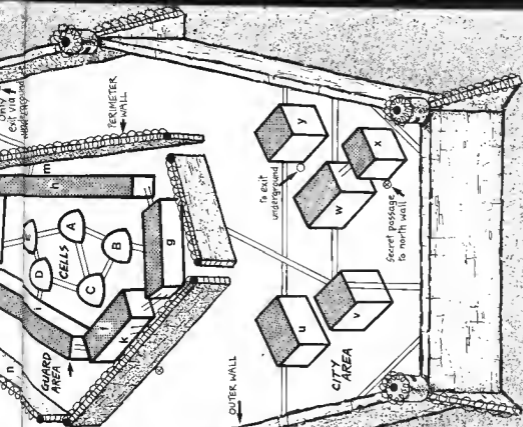


— Quicksand — — Howards route

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NUCKLEBUSTERS

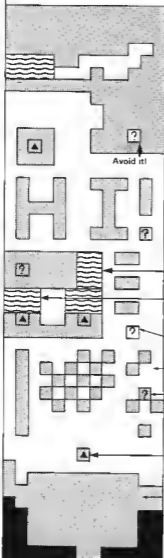


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Play to Win

BONUS LEVEL 1



Try working out a route with the following distances below, I'm not telling you everything!

Normal
 Sideways 4
 Forwards 3
 Backwards 1

Booster
 Sideways 7
 Forwards 5
 Backwards 2

These are max. distances that the ball can travel

Avoid it!

Mountains — cannot be passed over

Steer around mountain with aid of booster

Bad question mark (green always)

Empty space — Death

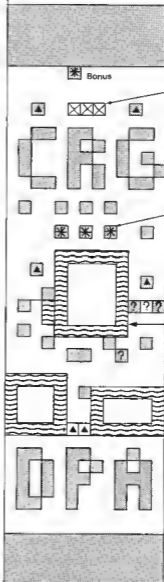
Good question mark (red always)

Booster (red always)

Land (red always)

Death
 * IMPORTANT
 NEVER GO OVER
 THE WORD
 'START'

BONUS LEVEL 2



Bonus

Dirty trick — death — avoid

Massive Bonus Points
 Don't miss 'em

A few missiles will pass on this level!

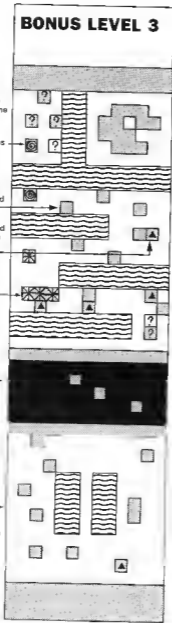
Try taking the left route around this big mountain. It's much easier, don't miss the Bonus squares

A missile will head down the screen on your lane. take evasive action, be careful between the two mountains

BY FIKRET CIFTCI

C16 BOUNDER MAP

BONUS LEVEL 3



Now hit the 3 Goo Z's and you're home and dry

Black holes

From this square head for the black hole, mind the third mountain

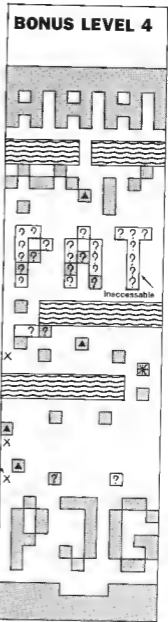
Get this booster and head for the square on the far left, the attack will stop

Over here Stay back until you smash into the second mountain

Dark area, but still death

Missile attack begins here, take the left route and stay lower down the screen

BONUS LEVEL 4



Attack lasts from PJG to PAT

Not much to say, but very heavy missile attack downwards, sideways and some stop in front of you. Most attack from left of screen, stay low down.

A few bugs or mistakes don't effect the game

Dark area Death

Inaccessible

Play to Win

Send your photos, tips, maps etc to Play to Win, Commodore User, Priority Centre, 30-32 Farnham Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 3AU

Play to Win

64 POKES

HAPPIEST DAYS

POKE 52949,234
POKE 52950,234
POKE 52951,234
SYS 52744 to restart game with infinite energy.

ELETRIC

POKE 22667,234
POKE 8192,80
SYS 24575 restarts game but you are now invincible

AURIGA

POKE 15369, 1 to 250 (lives)
POKE 15377, wave number 0 to 15
SYS 15280 restarts game.

JEEP COMMAND

POKE 32626,96
SYS 15384 to restart game with more energy

FIRELORO

Load the game, reset and
POKE 3740,99
POKE 5721,236
SYS 2304 restarts game with infinite lives.

SKATEROCK

Load game, reset and type
SYS 2305: RETURN then
reset again.
POKE 2513,250
SYS 2304 restarts game with 250 lives and you can start on any one of 10 levels

PHANTOMS OF THE ASTEROID

Load the game and reset.
The enter these pokes to stop all sprite collision yet still be able to collect the cubes.

POKE 30495,173
POKE 31266,173
POKE 24529,3
POKE 22783,96
Then enter SYS30210 to start the game.

BMX SIMULATOR

Load in the game and
RESET, then enter this poke to start on any track. Also when the poke has been entered in the game the computer's rider will become clumsy and crash a lot.
POKE 4503,(0-6)
(Choose tracks 0 to 6)
Enter SYS4096 to start the game again.

ORPHEUS AND THE UNDERWORLD

Load the game then RESET and enter these pokes to give infinite lives:

POKE 18870,234
POKE 18871,234
Then enter SYS9728 to start the game, or enter
POKE 10118, No of lives wanted (1-255)
Then enter SYS9728 to start the game.
Sean and Adrian Meads, Cotleigh, Hampshire

IRIDIS ALPHA

When the game begins, press F1 to get into another game. Use M and N keys to play. If you want to see something strange, try pressing '1'
Lars-Ruben Hirsch, Raholt, Norway.

C16

ANGERZONE C16

For 255 lives, load game, press RUN/STOP and RESET to get into the monitor.
Type M1791
Change 03 to FF
G16B8 to start game
Phillip Lawrence, Maidstone, Kent

G-MAN

For 20 lives. You must follow these instructions carefully. In Novalod games there is a five second pause when the border goes grey, before a game runs. When this is present (ie, when the game has loaded and border is grey) press RUN-STOP and RESET. This will get you into the monitor.
Type X to get into Basic, then POKE 10809,20 (RETURN).
20 lives is perfectly adequate, any more causes a mess.

For Turbo-Speed. POKE 11458,11
To disable the comets, POKE 11560,96
After this, to start the game, type SYS 10240.

SPLIT PERSONALITIES

To be able to get on to any screen, load the game and press RUN-STOP and RESET

Type A 420E LDA #500-99 (depending on which screen you want)
G 137E to start the game
Kevin Coyle, Strathclyde

DIRTY OEN

Enter monitor (run/stop/reset) then type X (return)
POKE 7694,255:SYS4112
When the helicopters are removed the task of clearing the 12 screens is very easy.

OROID ONE

Hold down RUN/STOP, RESET and type the following:
> 1A36 EA EA EA lor infinite lives
> 2075 EA EA EA for infinite smart bombs
Alternatively, enter Basic by typing X when in the monitor and type:
POKE 6417,(0255) for required number of lives
POKE 6453,(0255) for required number of smart bombs
POKE 6448,(099)
POKE6468,(099) for starting level

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- C**one is positive, good, familiar – our World; the other is negative, evil yet unnervingly familiar.
- T**heir interface – a time window through which objects and beings can pass; contact has resulted in the beginning of exchange.
- R**estore our World – stop the invasion, but do it now, for as the exchange accelerates, the time window grows larger – domination is a hand!

DOUBLE DOPPELGÄNGER TAKE

STARTLING ACTION · INNOVATIVE GAME PLAY · STATE OF THE ART GRAPHICS



Play to Win

TARZAN ▶ MAP

Aaaarrrroooooaaarrggghh!! Is Martech's *Tarzan* driving you wild? Here's a mini map supplied by SH Software and PG Crackshot of Rotterdam in Holland that should help you make a monkey out of this game.

1-12 You have to follow the numbers, which indicate a box you must collect, to finish the game.

s Starting point.

x Don't take this box, it will kill you!

i The idol, stand in front of it and press forward to enter.

w The woman (Jane), if you collect all the items then your quest ends here.

C16 POKES

(NOTE the numbers after the last two pokes must be the same.)

Type G16CE if in monitor, or RUN from BASIC to restart game.

slow (and sometimes boring), this might just make it *laxter*. Simply press reset, then to start type: SYS4112 (Note this disables joystick play).
*D. McCarthy,
Hebburn, Tyne and Wear*

POD

Hold down RUN/STOP, RESET and type the following.

>24FB EA EA EA for infinite lives
G29CE to start game
*Robert Reid
Fife, Scotland*

GUZZLER

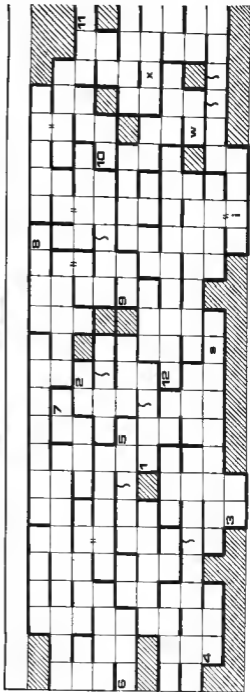
Here is something for the players game. If like me you find the gameplay rather

JET SET WILLY II

Load any level and press Run-Stop/Reset to get into the Monitor.

Type M2850 and change 38 to FF.

Type X and then SYS 4112. You will start the game with extra lives. On some levels, your man will keep getting killed without you being able to do anything. If this happens, wait for a while until the title screen appears and start the game.
*Jason Shergold,
Horncchurch, Essex.*



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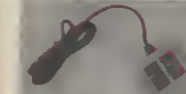
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```

500 T=1:60T0 580
510 RETURN
520 M=SR
530 SOUND 2,300,10:POKE MP,32
540 IPEEK(MA)=160:ANDPEEK(MA+40)=160:ANDMD=1 THEN MA=99-SB:RD=RD+1:MP=MP+1:60T0 590
550 IF PEEK(MA)=160 AND PEEK(MA+40)=160 THEN MA=MA+32:RD=RD+1:MP=MP+1:60T0 590
560 IF PEEK(MA)=160 THEN MA=MA+360:RD=RD+10:MP=MP+40:60T0 590
570 MA=99-360:RD=RD+10:MP=MP+40:60T0 590
580 SOUND 80:PR=1
590 IF MID$(RD*(RD),PR,1)="" THEN 630
600 WE=VAL(MID$(RD*(RD),PR,4)):MF=VAL(MID$(RD*(RD),PR+4,4))
610 WQ=VAL(MID$(RD*(RD),PR+8,2)):PR=PR+10
620 FOR A=WE TO WF STEP WQ:POKE A,91:INEXT:60T0 590
630 POKE PR,87:POKE MA+40,24
640 IF TR THEN T=0:60T0 510
650 IF KE(RD) THEN POKE KE(RQ),SB:POKE KE(RD)-1024,79
660 POKE MP,44
670 IF RD=4 AND SR=3389 THEN CHAR 1,13,13,"(BLK) (RVB)EXIT(OFF)"
680 SOUND 2,300,10
690 60T0 120
700 PRINT "(CLR)"
710 FOR A=1 TO 3:PRINT(NEXT
720 PRINT " (BLK) E Y P T I A N"
730 FOR A=1 TO 5:PRINT(NEXT:PRINT " (RED) "
740 PRINT "          XXXXX XXXXX X X XXXX"
750 PRINT "          X X X X X X X X X X"
760 PRINT "          X X X X X X X X XXXX"
770 PRINT "          X X X X X X X X X X"
780 PRINT "          XXXXX X X XXXX"
790 CHAR 1,7,22,"(BLU)BY JULIAN JONES SEP '88"
800 GET A$ IF A$="" THEN 800
810 60T0 40
820 PRINT "(HOME) (DOWN) (DOWN) (DOWN) (DOWN) (DOWN) (DOWN) (DOWN) (DOWN) (DOWN) (DO
AND) (DOWN) (DOWN) A=1 TO 10
830 PRINT "(RVB) (LSRN) (OFF) (BLK)
TURN
"NEXT:RE

```



```

1000 REM *****SCREEN DATA*****
1010 DATA 259339534035943630013638395840376337830138033563403823398340A
1020 DATA 259336300136033803403813393734037757790013813397584A
1030 DATA 259336300136403960403733770013662386260A
1040 DATA 2593363001364039840364139614038023808013848396840A
1080 DATA 259336300136403884034638481440388381440383970013660382040A
1090 DATA 25933630013641381144038337843013823823001A
1070 DATA 259336300136413961440382529884037853790013793380101A
1080 DATA 25933630013783376801380879684062673737403738375001A
1090 DATA 259336300136433984036333974037133725013765396540A
1100 DATA 2593363001367039964036373987403863398740379823001A
1110 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1120 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1130 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1140 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1150 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1160 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1170 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1180 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1190 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1200 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1210 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1220 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1230 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1240 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1250 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1260 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1270 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1280 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1290 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1300 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1310 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1320 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1330 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1340 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1350 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1360 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1370 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1380 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1390 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1400 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1410 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1420 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1430 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1440 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1450 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1460 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1470 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1480 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1490 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A
1500 DATA 2593398338938984036033916340363398740379823001A

```



by
Julian Jones

CONNECT 4

Sandy Munro is fast becoming our chief type-in programmer. He's produced a brilliant version of the brain-basing Connect Four game. Here's what you do (you mean you don't know?). Both players drop counters in turn onto the board. The aim is to try to get four of your own counters in a row, horizontally, vertically or diagonally — it's like a clever person's sought's 'a' crosses.

Better than the real thing, this program checks each move and tells you when you've won, just in case you didn't spot your winning row.

Simply type the program in as listed (using our Easy Enter system). Remember, you'll need two joysticks to play this one.

FOR THE 64 AND 128 by Sandy Munro

```
5 PRINT (CLR) "CHR# (B) : POKES32B0, 0: POKES32B1, 0: GOTO9000
10 GOSUB2500
15 GOSUB2000: GOSUB1000: GOSUB3000
30 GOSUB255: POKES3265, 27
100 POKE7B2, 25: POKE7B1, 16: SYS65520: PRINT# (P) + POKE7B2, 16: POKE7B1, 21: SYS65520
101 PRINT#8
108 IFF=1 THEN I20
110 IF X<13 AND (PEEK (56320) AND B) = 0 THEN GOSUB250: X=X+2: GOSUB255
115 IF X>1 AND (PEEK (56320) AND 4) = 0 THEN GOSUB250: X=X-2: GOSUB255
116 IF (PEEK (56320) AND 16) = 0 THEN GOSUB250: GOTO300
117 GOTO105
120 IF X<13 AND (PEEK (197) = 44 OR ( (PEEK (56321) AND B) = 0 ) ) THEN GOSUB250: X=X+2: GOSUB255
125 IF X>1 AND (PEEK (197) = 47 OR ( (PEEK (56321) AND 4) = 0 ) ) THEN GOSUB250: X=X-2: GOSUB255
130 IF PEEK (197) = 60 OR (PEEK (56321) AND 16) = 0 THEN GOSUB250: GOTO300
200 GOTO105
250 POKE7B2, X: POKE7B1, 23: SYS65520: PRINT " "; RETURN
255 POKE7B2, X: POKE7B1, 23: SYS65520: PRINT " (WHT) " : RETURN
300 REM *** COLUMN FULL ? ***
310 C = (X+1) / 2: SU=0: FOR I=1 TO 6: IFA (I, C) > 0 THEN SU=SU+1
315 NEXT I: IFSU<6 THEN S50
325 POKE7B2, 20: POKE7B1, 21: SYS65520: PRINT# (SRN) COLUMN FULL " " : FOR I=1 TO 600: NEXT
330 POKE7B2, 16: POKE7B1, 21: SYS65520: PRINT#8: GOSUB255: GOTO100
350 REM *** WHICH ROW ? ***
355 TU=TU+1: FOR I=1 TO 6: IFA (I, C) = 0 THEN RD=I
360 NEXT I: POKEV+39, C (P)
450 REM *** MOVE COUNTER ***
455 A=16: B=106: FOR I=ATO (C+1) * 16: POKEV, I: NEXT I: FOR I=BTQB+ (RD-1) * 16: POKEV+1, I
505 NEXT I: IFRD<CH THEN HCRD
550 REM *** PRINT UDG ***
555 POKE646, C (P) : POKE7B2, (PEEK (V) - 24) / 8: POKE7B1, (PEEK (V+1) - 50) / 8: SYS65520
560 PRINT " > " : POKEV, A: POKEV+1, B: A (RD, C) = P: POKE7B2, 21: POKE7B1, 21: SYS65520
570 PRINT " (WHT) CHECKING . . ."
595 IFTU<7 THEN GOSUB790: GOSUB255: GOTO100
604 W="VERTICAL"
605 SU=0: FOR J=1 TO 7: FOR I=6 TO 1 STEP -1: IFA (I, J) = P THEN SU=SU+1: IFSU=4 THEN B00
610 GOSUB795: NEXT I, J
652 W="HORIZONTAL"
655 FOR I=6 TO 1 STEP -1: SU=0: FOR J=1 TO 7: IFA (I, J) = P THEN SU=SU+1: IFSU=4 THEN B00
660 GOSUB795: NEXT J, I
705 W="DIAGONAL" : IFC<3 THEN GOSUB790: GOSUB255: GOTO100
710 FOR J=1 TO 4: K=J: SU=0: FOR I=6 TO 3 STEP -1: IFA (I, K) = P THEN SU=SU+1
711 K=K+1: NEXT I: IFSU=4 THEN J=4: W=1
712 NEXT J: IFW THEN B00
715 FOR J=4 TO 7: K=J: SU=0: FOR I=6 TO 3 STEP -1: IFA (I, K) = P THEN SU=SU+1
716 K=K-1: NEXT I: IFSU=4 THEN J=7: W=1
717 NEXT J: IFW THEN B00
```


NEXT

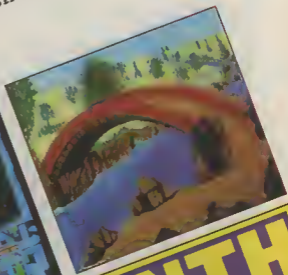
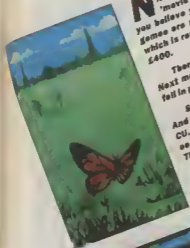
THE FUTURE THE FUTURE

Face

New buzz words are echoing into the CU office from America. Words like 'cinemawars', 'seismectles' and 'movie programs' — to describe games so brilliant that you believe you're actually watching a movie. Many of these games are now being leached on the Commodore Amiga — which is renowned to be tumbling in price to a more affordable £400.

There are also new Game machines on the way from Japan. Next month we investigate the new Amiga 'mega games', the fall in price, and what's coming from Japan. Don't miss it.

Screen Scape has its usual quota of red-hot exclusives. And look out for a brand new game joining the fall time team at CU. Be there or be square. Where? Your ownsgoats, of course, on the 26th March with a £1 coin to your fiat. Till then. The Ed.



MONTH

This month's trip to the arcade has a wheels flavour. We're taking a look at Atari's much favoured 720° skateboarding game and two high quality racing simulations. Sega's Out Run, a West Coast burn up and WEC Le Mans, Konami's hydraulic Porsche simulator. Plus there is all the latest conversation news and a report on Olympia's ATEL show.

● 720°
● Atari

Skateboarding may not be a craze anymore in this country but there is a hardcore dedicated bunch of boogieing fanatics out there freewheeling it around the parks and multi-storey car parks of the country. This game is a must for them, but it's not just for enthusiasts. Like the best arcade games anyone will want to play this.

The first thing you notice about this console is the huge ghettolester type unit on the top of it. They are not for show, when you have pumped your tens into this baby it cranks out a gnawing rock guitar sound that sets the streetwise scene for this futuristic skateboard simulation.

Skate City resembles something out of 2000 AD. A futuristic urban conurbation where all the buildings are low level, the people weirdos and the vehicles a trash mesh of old sports cars and new hover saloons.

You control the skateboarding kid kitted out in vest,

striped shorts and knapsack as he kicks his way round town hustling cash in competitions in the four parks dotted around the city. You score points by undertaking neat manoeuvres, and these allow you to compete in the park for cash prizes. If you win you can use the cash to buy better gear. A board lets you move quicker, new shoes allow you to jump higher (important for tricks) pads help you recover from tumbles more quickly, and a helmet lets you develop a more aggressive style.

These are all more than handy because as you skate round town you will have to be fast and supple to avoid the obstacles that confront you. There are bikers, phantom skateboarders, girls throwing frisbees and bodybuilders! If you hit one you will come off the board and lose valuable time as you skate round the city. Should that happen a swarm of bees appear and chase you. You can't outrun them for long, and the only way to escape is get to a park and earn some cash. "Skate or die!" the machine urges.

The parks all have different types of competition running in them. There's a possibility of a straight downhill speed

trial, or one with jumps, but the hardest is the slalom.

720° bears more than a passing resemblance to the Peperboy, but it doesn't quite have the depth of that game, it doesn't appear to be doing as well over here as it is in America but that's to be expected, skateboarding isn't as popular as it was. Nevertheless it's very entertaining in its own right and takes a fair degree of skill to play well. It's an obvious candidate for conversion, but if anyone's snapped it up they are keeping quite for the moment.

GRAPHICS:	8
SOUND:	8
TOUGHNESS:	7
ENDURANCE:	7
VALUE:	8
OVERALL:	8

game. It's a simulation based on the Le Mans 24-hour sports car race, pitting you as the driver of a Porsche competition car. Nothing amazing about that, but just step into the console and hit the starter motor!

Everything seems normal until you hit the first bend and the machine swings round under the power of centrifugal force. The car responds to it as well and you ride onto the kerb you are suddenly pitched up and down by the vibrations just as you would be in the real thing. Finally, should you make a bad mistake and hit an obstacle, be it a car or a tree, you will be spun round violently as you see the Porsche disintegrate.

The competition idea is simple, the same as all racing games so far, beat the time limit set for each of the circuit sections and complete as many laps as possible. But believe me many of you are going to struggle to complete

▼ You need points to get into the park, and what do points make?



● LE MANS
● Konami

Racing games are back in a big way and I for one am very pleased. But this is no ordinary racing

▲ A beautiful blood red sunset, or is it a sunrise?

more than a lap at this game, it's hard, incredibly hard, harder than driving a racing car.

Top sports car drivers like Hans Stuck and Derek Bell

Games

Porsche weaves all over the road.

You can hammer it through the first section, though watch out for the whiplash S-bend, and then make up your mind which fork you want at the end of the coastal road.

Out Run is broken up into sections of road until the end. Each time you complete a section you get a choice of two roads looking away from each other. They both lead to different sections of scenery.



Konami presumably get free course advertising



Take your baby for a spin

confirm this, but point out that the simulation is not inaccurate. Whatever limitations it has, I must admit I would like to see someone produce a simulator with some gears as opposed to high and low.

As you put your toe onto the accelerator the car — this isn't a cockpit view game — is shot down the track as if from a gun barrel. As you approach the first bend large direction arrows tell you to start turning. It's not as simple as having to steer round the course, though God knows that's hard enough.

Le Mans is destined to be a huge arcade smash. Where other games which used hydraulics like Space Harrier were only gimmicks, Konami's Porsche simulator uses them to devastating effect.

OUT RUN Sega

Competitive driving in the Le Mans 24-hour race sounds a bit exhausting, why don't you take your girlfriend for a burn around the freeways of California. Sounds a lot more relaxing, doesn't it?

Wrong. That Ferrari goes like a rocket and you are ambroiled in a race against the clock.

The coast road is pretty but keep your eyes on the road

The starter button flashes and as soon as you hit it the screen changes to a starting line. The driver in his shades flicks the wheel and spins the car onto the line and as soon as the fat man with the checkered flag drops it you pump the throttle to the floor. Pow! They shoot off down the multi-lane highway at a rate well in excess of US speed restrictions, zooming in and out of the heavy traffic.

Speeding articulated lorries, souped up VWs and a particularly irritating grey

You can surge on through Death Valley, Vineyards, Desolation Hill, an Autobahn or an idyllic lakeside scene. There are also Alps with nasty high banks, a wilderness road and Devil's Canyon, a section cut through huge stone walls with vicious blind beads.

When you hit something, as you most certainly will, the car is upended and flipped through the air tossing you and your girlfriend out. She will give you a damn good tickling off, but in my opinion she should be happy to be in one piece.

Out Run is a great game for driving enthusiasts and a classic case for conversion. My sources tell me that it's up for grabs even now and if it has not been signed up already, my advice to the big software houses is — buy it!

GRAPHICS:	8
SOUND:	7
TOUGHNESS:	9
ENDURANCE:	9
VALUE:	7
OVERALL:	8



GRAPHICS:	8
SOUND:	7
TOUGHNESS:	9
ENDURANCE:	8
VALUE:	8
OVERALL:	9

Arcades



ATEI races away

● Racing games were the big attractions of the 42nd ATEI show held at London's Olympia last month.

Games like *Out Run*, *Enduro Racer* and *Hang On* were popular, but it was Konami's new Porsche simulator *Le Mans* that attracted the most attention. There were four large consoles plus two upright units on Konami's plush stand, and another two over at Death Leisure. There were constant queues for them all even on the last trade day. The game, currently being produced under licence to Death, is only available in the country's arcades on test sites. So far Blackpool, Brighton and London have seen one, but the rest of you will have to wait until it is distributed around Britain in March. And at £6,000 not everyone's going to shell out for one. After all, you could get a secondhand sports car for that much!

● The biggest other single coin op company stand at the show was Atari's and on that most people were giving the *Red Line Racer* unit, an overhead diving game, a swerve in favour of the neat 720° console with its bludgeoning rock music pouring out of the speakers.

● Elsewhere other favourites were Tatsumi's futuristic flight combat game, *Lock On* which features a neat Heads-Up-Display giving life-saving information as to the whereabouts of enemy ships, and whether they have launched missiles at you. The two-handed joystick allows you to bank left and right and dive sharply.

● Also on show was *Rolling Thunder* from Namco, a comic strip style game in which you hunt for a captured female agent. It allows you to search the enemy stronghold taking out the guards and eventually their leader. There are speech bubbles but the version I saw was Japanese! One other impressive shooting game was *Danger Zone* from the American company Cinematronics. It puts you in control of an anti aircraft gun hinged on an extremely volatile border. Naturally you get to take out dozens of enemy aircraft, but the innovative aspect of this game is the cabinet, that allows you to sit in as if it were a mounted gun. It swivels left and right, up and down — the whole thing that is, not just the stick. We will be taking a closer look at these as soon as we

can.

Various software house bosses were seen in evidence floating around the stands, including US Gold's Tim Cheyney, although it's safe to assume that most of this year's licences have already been signed up at the big shows in Japan and America at the end of last year.

Domark strike back

● Domark have acquired the rights to convert the Atari Star Wars coin-op machines to the 64 and other home computers.

There's little information to be had from them at the moment since the licence has only just been signed up, but there will be three games from it, *Star Wars*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*.

The games will be produced out of house and are destined for a Christmas launch.



Licences

Activision have announced the acquisition of a string of arcade licences for 1987.

Biggest of the titles must be the Sega selection which includes the dirt bike machine coin-op *Enduro Racer*, the multi-player shoot out *Quartet* and *Wonder Boy* set in the jungle.

Rampage Breaks may be overlooked to hear that the *Bally Midway* game is also scheduled for conversion. You play a monster creating havoc in a large city à la King Kong.

There is also several Nichibutsu titles and one from Data East you may have seen called *Fire Trap* in which you have to scale a burning building. Over at Ocean the next conversion scheduled for release will be the old *Mario Brothers* platform favourite.

With all these questions to answer, Tommy's never going to find time to enter Mastermind. Still, he'd rather help solve your problems on the 64, 128, C16 and Plus/4 than sit in front of Magnus Magnusson (specialist subject — tech tips).

Tommy's the man to help you. Go on, write to him: Tommy's Tips, Commodore User, 30-32 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3AU.



Max Headroom

I know you only answer questions regarding the C16, C64/128, and the Plus/4 but I still hope you can answer my queries regarding the Commodore Amiga. Can I generate and animate objects on the Amiga such as Max Headroom or can I do video clips on the Amiga such as Kraftwerks, "Musique No Stop", or Dire Straits, "Money For Nothing"?

If so, are there any programs for the Amiga to do such things? Also, how does a computer generate and animate characters such as Max Headroom and computer video clips? Advice and help much needed and deeply appreciated!
Gerard P. Barney,
Australia.

Thought you'd catch Tommy out with a sneaky Amiga question did you? It takes more than that to beat Tommy! The answer is that creations like Max Headroom and most video graphics systems with considerable memory and computing power. The re-draw speed for the Max Headroom animation makes even the Amiga look like a ZX-80 (if anyone out there still remembers such a thing!).

However, all a not lost because you can certainly design a picture of Max Headroom on the Amiga and include limited animation. I say limited because if you just wanted to make his mouth move for example, it could do so very quickly, but the bigger the area you want to animate, the slower the overall animation will become.

An extremely good program to start you off is Aegis Animator (US price £120). This includes animation facilities as well as a superb graphics

program. Animator, whether of the Amiga's speed, or those of video clips, is really only a series of single drawings which replace one another fast enough to give the impression of motion. Sophisticated systems such as those used on TV have clever ways of doing that, but the basic principle is the same.

The really difficult bit is working out what the changes are in 3D graphical. This is where the big number crunching power comes in, calculating the new co-ordinates.

However, if you really want to impress your friends, then by using the "GENIOCK" video mixer you can actually mix signals from a video recorder or TV input with your own computer graphics. You can also record the output of the GENIOCK onto a video recorder. Now, instead of having to generate your own Max Headroom, you can display your own addition superimposed on the real one!

GENIOCK is available in both NTSC and PAL versions, but no prices available just yet. For any really good graphics though, you will need to expand the memory to at least 1 Mbyte to allow the graphics chips to use the whole 512 Kbytes they are capable of addressing on the current Amiga models.

Memory Man

I was reading through a magazine when I came across something that shows you how much memory you have: PRINTFREE(0) and RETURN, so I did and I got 12273 bytes which is virtually the same as when I switched on.

Then I reset and messed around with pokes. On Poke 44,0 the memory had risen to 16373 bytes which is 4076 more bytes. And Poke 43,253 makes it go down 254 bytes.

What I would like to know is, am I making the memory larger or is my computer fooling me?
Paul Green,
Scotia.

As the saying goes "You can't get something for nothing" and the same applies to your computer. Rather than the computer fooling you, it is a case of you fooling the computer. Addresses 43 and 44 are the pointers to the start of Basic text. Since Basic starts at address 4096 on the C16, by resetting it to start at address 0 you have appeared to gain 4096 bytes. However, if you tried to use or write a program with the pointers set to this, the computer would crash the minute you tried to do anything, because a whole heap of important things are stored from address 0 to address 4095, including the screen memory!

Likewise, addresses 45 and 46 are the pointers to the top of Basic text, so playing around with these will also fool the C16 into showing more or less memory than you actually have. On a cold there is no real way of gaining extra memory on the C16 other than to use the 16K odd-odd memory cartridge from Lynesoft or the internal 48K expansion from MCT, giving you 32K or 64K respectively.

Mean Machine

I own a Commodore 64, but there are a few problems that constantly puzzle me.

How on earth can you program in machine code? Is there a special tool needed for this? I come across programs which are sold to be written in machine code and consist of phrases like, ADC # 15 or STA(\$FD) etc. If I type this in it is of course correct as a syntax error to occur.
Nicholas Brown,
Birmingham.

A machine-code program works in a very different way to a Basic program. In Basic a built-in program called the "interpreter" looks at each line of Basic code and turns it into instructions which the processor chip (CPU) can understand. In machine

code, you have to write the instructions for the CPU directly. Because the CPU can only understand simple commands like **LOAD A NUMBER INTO THE ACCUMULATOR** and **ADD 1 TO THE ACCUMULATOR** etc, the commands for a machine code program are totally different to the commands you write in a 'high level' language, such as Basic.

Obviously, it would be extremely laborious if you had to write out all the commands in full as I have shown above, so what is used are 'mnemonics', shorthand commands such as **LD A** — Load Accumulator, **STA** — Store accumulator, and **ADC** — Add (contents of a memory location) to accumulator. After such command are one or more numbers relating to the value to be added as an address in memory.

Each mnemonic has an equivalent decimal value, so it is possible to program in machine-code by converting all the commands and their POKEing these into a suitable area of memory using a Basic program. Many of the programs you see in magazines use this method, but it is extremely laborious and error-prone.

A much better way is to use an Assembler program. This will allow you to write the machine-code program using the mnemonics and will then translate the program into the necessary values for you. However, you have got to learn how to write the program correctly first, before you can make use of it.

If you are interested in machine code, I suggest you try one of the machine code tutor books or programs such as Dr Watson's or Commodore's which can explain it in straightforward terms with lots of examples. Alternatively, a book like *Romio West's 'Programming the 64'* covers a lot of ground on using machine code on the 64.

16 to 128

● I am at present using a C16 with a 9-month old Ferguson TX 14" colour TV. I intend upgrading to a C128 but have several doubts in my mind.

At present, if I have the screen background at full intensity, I get a wavy effect on the screen with characters floating from left to right, the picture is often quite distorted; constantly retuning the TV produces a temporary solution, but I have found that by running the background at intensity 6 (colour 0, 2, 6) in my own programs, the problem is

solved. I have heard however, that the 128 only has 16 colours as opposed to the C16's 121. Will I still be able to avoid the problem in this manner, and if not what do you suggest?

Secondly if I manage to buy a suitable plug from Commodore will my existing 1531 cassette unit work with the 128. (I am fairly handy with a soldering iron?) I intend also buying a 1570 disk drive and don't really want to buy a new C2N for the occasional cassette program when I already have a cassette unit anyway. (Or do you know anyone selling suitable adaptors?)
Martin Francis, W. Midlands.

Some TVs do not like being driven in a 'colour saturated' mode, ie using discrete colours at high intensity with sharp borders between contrasting colours. You have been able to get round this with the C16 by reducing the intensity of the colour signals, but this is not possible using the 'Vic II' chip on the 64/128. It therefore seems likely that you will get the same problem with the 128.

This is not the first time I have heard of older Ferguson TVs suffering from this incompatibility with computers, so my suggestion would be to try to buy a monitor (the 1901) which, in addition to giving a better 40 column picture, will allow you to use the 80 column screen as well. If that is not possible, then try taking your TV to the dealer when you buy your 128 and ask to try it out.

However, even if it were to be satisfactory in 40 column mode I would not recommend you trying to use one of the available adaptors to give 80 columns on your Ferguson, since it would almost certainly be unreadable. As for your 1531, it is the same hardware as the C2N, so you can either rewire the cable onto a standard Commodore plug, or buy an adaptor. Both are available and your local Commodore dealer should have one in stock.

Old for New

● I am looking for a disc drive for my 64C and would like to know what's available. In particular could you please clarify the difference between the old 1541 disc drive and the new 1541C. Some users I have spoken to seem to think there may be a speed improvement, but all the

dealers I have contacted say that only the box has changed.
J. M. Barrett, Aldershot.

The dealers are correct in that the basic drive is exactly the same as the old 1541, but in a different box to match the new design of the 64C. What has changed is that the drive lock mechanism is now improved (and is preferred by many people to the old style). I have also heard a rumour that some of the 'bugs' in the ROM have been corrected, but I cannot confirm this one way or the other.

Since there is no speed improvement, you can use either the old 1541 or the new 1541C with either version of the 64; the former drives probably being available at discounted prices.

Quick Save

● I am the owner of a Plus4 and have a couple of problems I know your infinite wisdom will be able to solve for me.

My first problem is that during the game 'Fire Ant' I reset my machine holding down the RUN/STOP key and hence onto the monitor. Then I found I could not restart the game nor exit the monitor.

The second query I have is about Turbo's. Have there been any turbo load/save programs written for my machine?

J. R. Rabson, Hartlepool.

Your problem is that most games designers/writers will take precautions against users breaking into the program using the RUN/STOP key. You are not actually performing a reset by pressing this key, only causing an interrupt which makes the computer jump to a specific address. By making the computer jump to a different area of memory where the protection code is stored, the games writer can change registers etc, before passing on to the normal STOP routines.

If you want to do a proper 'reset' then you must use the reset button on the side; this will cause a hardware reset, but will not affect any machine-code programs. Provided you know the SYS call address, you can restart the game after making any changes you wish using either POKES at the monitor. See 'Play to Win' (page 99) of the Jan issue for further details.

As for a Turbo loader/saver, the only one I know of is the *Phoenix Load* from Wizard Software. This is

a cassette based system which claims to increase loading etc by up to ten times, but this may be limited to programs you load and save your self, rather than commercial programs. I suggest you check before buying if you want it for the latter. Wizard Software can be contacted at 20 Hadrian Drive, Redhills, Exeter, Devon, EX4 1SR. Alternatively, using the C16-Plus/4 Centre on 0322 522631, who may have it in stock.

Screen Scene

● Is it possible to save an 80 column screen to disc using the BSAVE command on the Commodore 128? Also I would be grateful if you could tell me how to obtain a hardcopy of the 80 column screen. I look forward to your reply.

D. Boothby, W. Sussex.

Unfortunately, the 16K Video RAM used by the 128 in 80-column mode is not part of the main system memory. Instead, the 80-column screen is generated by a totally different video chip, the 8563. This has a separate 16K of RAM which it uses for the screen, colour and character set memory. This is not possible to BSAVE an 80-column screen because it doesn't exist as a valid address area within the memory of the main computer, nor can it be 'swapped in' like a normal 16K bank of RAM.

How then is it accessed? There are only two registers, at SD600 and SD601 in Bank 15, through which all commands to the 80-column chip must be funnelled. This is an obvious bottleneck and one reason why Commodore chose not to include any graphics commands for the 80-column screen. However, it is a clever way of gaining an 'extra' 16K on top of the normal 64K address range.

One of the simplest ways to access the 80-column screen is to use the *Graphic Expander* unit from Hotsab. While not allowing the ability to BSAVE the screen, it does allow you to access the 16K video RAM using HPEEK and HPOKE as well as make hard-copy screen dumps. See review in this issue.



TASTY

A SENSATIONAL COLLECTION OF OUR BEST READERS PROGRAMS

Commodore User present for you, the finest collection of programs ever to appear, er, in a magazine. These stupendous examples of programming skill are now available on one cassette, for just £3.50 or on disk for £4. What does this amazing offer mean to you? It means you won't have to bother typing them in.

This classic collection gives you nine 64/128 programs on one side, and nine 16 and Plus/4 on the other. Did you struggle to type them in when they first appeared? Did you give up in abject despair? Your worries are over, just load them up and start playing.

So which great type-ins have we carefully selected for this classic collection?

ASTROBELTS

by *S Wilson and K Higgett*

Guide your ship through an increasing onslaught of asteroids. How far can you get?

PENALTY SHOOT-OUT

by *Stephen Rushin*

Two-player action. Send the goalie the wrong way? Will he punch your shot over the bar?

DEMON BREAKOUT

by *Bob Metcalf*

Stop the demons escaping from the fiery dungeon.

HUNCHBACK

by *Sandy Munro*

No less than seven action-packed screens for Quasi to get through and ring the bell. A type-in this good? Impossible.

▼ Play golf the C16 way



CASTLE QUEST

by *Sandy Munro*

Guide your ship through medieval dungeons, picking up fuel pods and avoiding ghouls and guards. No less than three screens of graphically brilliant action.

CHOPPER

by *A Smith*

Guide your chopper through labyrinthine mazes. And then they start to shake.

▼ Munch the berries in Strawberry Fields



FOR THE 64/128

▼ Penalty Shoot-out, don't dive the wrong way



MUSIC KEYBOARD

by *Malcolm Laurie*

Great synth program gives you full control over ADSR, filters, voices and octaves.

TORPEDO

by *Mel Cooper*

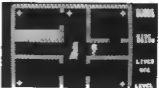
Your sub lies in wait, hidden under the waves, ready to blast the convoy.

CHRISTMAS EVE

by *Sandy Munro*

Help Santa by steering through the maze in your power-sleigh. Collect presents whilst zapping the demons.

▼ Castle Quest — one of our classics

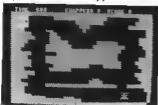


TYPE-



▲ Seven screens for Quasi to negotiate — dog

▼ Test your flying skills with Chopper



CRAZY MAKER

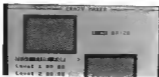
by David Goodfellow
Three crazy puzzles to drive you batty.

GOLF

by Michael Fitzmaurice
Get the tartan trousers out and make for the first tee.

BLDCKADE

by Stuart Perry
Original two-player fun. Steer your line away from your opponent's and the border.



▲ Three crazy puzzles to drive you barmy

MUSIC KEYBOARD

by Paul Tomas
Impress your friends, turn your computer into a clever little keyboard.

MISSILE

by T James
You have complete control over the missile, as it flies menacingly towards the enemy ship.

TUNNEL

by P Walker
Guide your ship down a cavernous obstacle-filled tunnel.

MINEFIELD

by G Vance
Grab the gold ingots but avoid the mines and fences.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS

by Frank Bingley
One of our classics. Munch strawberries whilst avoiding snake pills and the snake itself. Great graphics, great fun.

CHRISTMAS CRACKER

by Frank Bingley
Another megagame. Piece together the picture hidden under the grid. Just like doing a jigsaw without the box lid.

INS

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Kent TN4 6PG.

Hotshots

By
Mike Patenden

Gat your steel rimmed helmets on, take cover! I can hear racoming gossip! Time for the monthly bombardment of rumour...

● It's reached that time of year. The time when everyone on the great software marriage market decides whether they want to get off or stay on for another year. Companies are falling like nappies and changing hands faster than Guinness shares. First up are Melbourne House, the company that brought you *Fists I* and *II*, *Rock and Wrestle* and *Judge Dredd* have changed hands. After a pretty lean year they've been snapped up by those kings of cheap software, Mastertronic, and what's more they didn't pay £1.99 for it. My sources tell me it was closer and exactly approximate to £1,000,000. Ouch, that's big doh. Certain other software houses dropped out at half that, but Melbourne House asked for that price and they got it. You'd have thought a good Jewish businessman like Frank Hermann (Mastertronic's MD) would have tried to knock them down a bit, for cash maybe?

Apparently it's been like some of the gang warfare scenes of *Once Upon A Time In America* since the takeover. Heads have been rolling left right and centre with Melbourne House's administration and sales staff falling under the axe. Most ironic of all was the new position for Melbourne House's boss Martin Corall who was of late a junior role under Mastertronic's Geoff Heath, the man you may remember he replaced as Managing Director of Melbourne House. The

huckle wheel of Dame Noel Edmond's Fortune!

The question is have Mastertronic lashed out extravagantly? Let's look at the facts and figures. Melbourne House has been very successful in the past and they probably made a million alone on *Fist*, but that was two years ago and much of that was probably re-invested in new titles most of which flopped. So a mill sounds a lot, but it

does include one solid asset, the beautiful Melbourne House office in Hampton Wick which are worth upwards of £300,000 — however there is still a sizeable mortgage to pay on this.

The other interesting news though is that as I have to state this is so far unconfirmed, Mastertronic do not own the Australian programming and development branch who brought you the likes of *Fist*, called Beam Software. This company has instead received an offer from the American company Mindscape Double Ouch!

● I'm instantly reminded of the grossly inflated price that British Telecom paid for Beyond. Not that that mistake is likely to happen again. There's been yet another session of seat shuffling over at Telcosoft with super hard career woman Paula Byrnes taking over. Such a meteoric rise in fame for one who herself got out of Melbourne House while the going was good. Business Woman of the Year anyone?

● Further rumours of sales and purchases reach my ears. Battlesman the extremely wealthy and powerful owners of Arioloth, displeased at their own company's failure to take the software market by storm offered the US Gold/Centwest group a cool £10.1 million to take them over. The offer was politely turned down, thanks schon. This may have something to do with the rumours of an impending stock market flotation of US Gold later this year.

● Another sale — bored yet? All right I'll get it over with quickly. Marzotto

have bought PSI the wargaming company. Wow! Well, you know I like you to know where your money is going in this business.

● Games gossip: Gemlin are not the favourite of the month with Ocean since their impending release, *Crocifout* bears an uncanny resemblance to the Arkwood licence game which Ocean are just preparing to ship out. Arkwood as we all know bears an uncanny resemblance to...

● Finally a farewell note. Readers will be at first saddened by the news of a departure from the dearly loved staff of CU Bohdan Buciak our Dep Head and Ukrainian correspondent is leaving to become a self made man. BB has sold his Van Morrison albums and sprocket collection to raise the money for a desktop publishing venture. His partner in this noble example of British entrepreneurial initiative is none other than Ken McMahon, a man known for his doubtful percentage and singular lack of dependability. Anybody wishing to have their name and a suitable dedication inscribed on their desk in neat gold embossed letters in a typeface of their choice should contact BB through us. This is sad news indeed for you, readers, but don't take it to heart every cloud has a silver lining and this one is solid with a hallmark. The new Dep Ed's gonna be me! And boy there's going to be some changes round here. I'll put a stop to the shilly shallying that goes on, oh yes, I'm in charge now, where's my peaked cap

▼ **Naff publicity stunt No. 965: Some bright young spark at Micropross came up with the idea of delivering copies of *Gunship* by helicopter. Was it worth it for two copies?**



TRACKER



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Attack! Attack! A Cycloid rounds a bend. Blast it before it wipes you out



Don't shoot this one! A Skimmer cuts the cable that you're about to enter



Back to the scanner, to work out the location of the nearest communication centre



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Screenshots taken from Commodore 64 version

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Screen as seen on Arcade version

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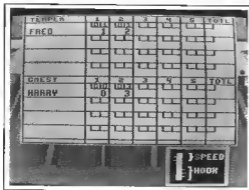
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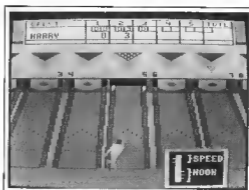
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10th FRAME

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£14.99/disk**



I'd played as many real games of bowling as I've played *10th Frame*, my bowling arm would now be 8ft long. And I didn't even have to hire a pair of sweetly bowing shoes and use a leaky ballpoint pen.

10th Frame is yet another brilliant simulation from the Caron brothers. You'll remember they wrote *Raid over Moscow*. So whether it's knocking down skittles or *Footless*, it's all the same to them.

But *10th Frame* resembles more their other recent success, *Leader Board*. It features the same kind of playing options, a huge scoreboard display and the now familiar joystick

controlled 'power meter' for executing your shots.

Before getting your fingers caught in the bowling ball, you must first select either the League or Open Bowling option, the difference being that in the League game, you get to organize yourselves into teams. In Open mode, you play for yourself, competing against a maximum of seven other bowlers.

Skill levels range from Kids (designed only for Junior) to Amateur (beginner level) for bowling novices (like you and me) and Professional (forget this one) you've graduated to your own bowling shot.

Actually playing the game is simplicity itself. Each player gets two turns to knock down all the pins, and there are 10 frames per game. Your arm is completely joystick controlled and there's a sequence of moves to executing the bowl.

First you set your 'mark', that's the point on the bowling lane you're aiming at. Then position your arm on the lane. Now comes the tricky bit, the bit your credibility depends on. The bowling process is controlled by the power meter which shows two zones, speed and hook. You set both of these by some pretty nifty joystick movements. Let go the button at the point you choose on both scales.

The speed and hook functions work together. So the faster you bowl, the less hook (or bend) you get. Go too fast in either direction and you enter the error zone, which usually means watching your bowl muddle up the gutter. Getting the hang of all this is not as easy as opening a tin of sardines without the key.

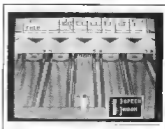
But perseverance pays off and you'll eventually get the feeling that the ball is doing just what you intended. This takes some time but, unless your opponents have been putting in some sneaky practice, they'll be just as keen.

And now for some words of praise. The animation and sound in *10th Frame* are very classy. No matter how clumsy your effort turns out to be, the style of execution is always impeccable. That swinging arm, the brimmed coach, the professional fellow though — very stylish. Then sit back and listen to the bowl rumbling up the alley — crash!

The pins fall down with a chunky crash and that whole mechanical process of picking up pins, sweeping away the ones you hit and getting down a new set is presented with remarkable realism. Better than the

Top Rank where one pin usually gets stuck. The only thing you don't see is the ball going back. You know, where you get your fingers brushed.

Now for the scoring. As in *Leader Board*, the Carons have placed great emphasis on some displays. Needless to say, all scores are tallied up automatically — no need to look like an idiot if you don't know what a strike or a spare is.



▲ Only one down in the first frame, doesn't bode well

By the way, if you've never bowled before, the manual gives a complete account of scoring and of the basic bowling strategies. It even gives a list of bowling jargon. So when somebody calls you a Turkey you won't drop a bowl on their feet because you'll know it means you got three strikes in a row.

Bowling nuts will love this game. Then again, stamp collectors will love it too. Get a few friends or the family round to join in — they won't need to make their shoes off.

Bobbin Bonick

Graphics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sound	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Toughness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Endurance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8
Overall