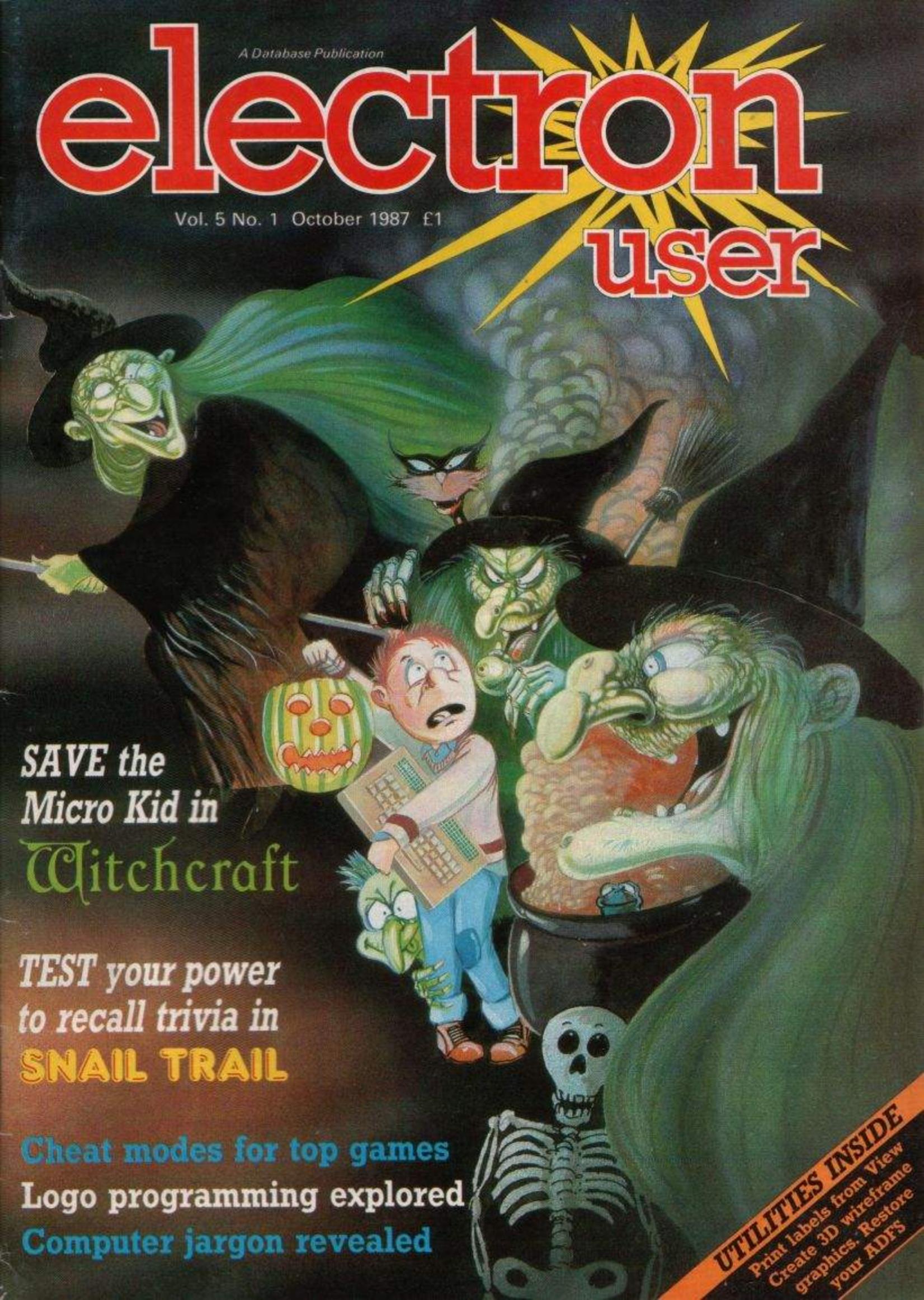


A Database Publication

electron

Vol. 5 No. 1 October 1987 £1

user



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Micro Kid in
Witchcraft**

**TEST your power
to recall trivia in
SNAIL TRAIL**

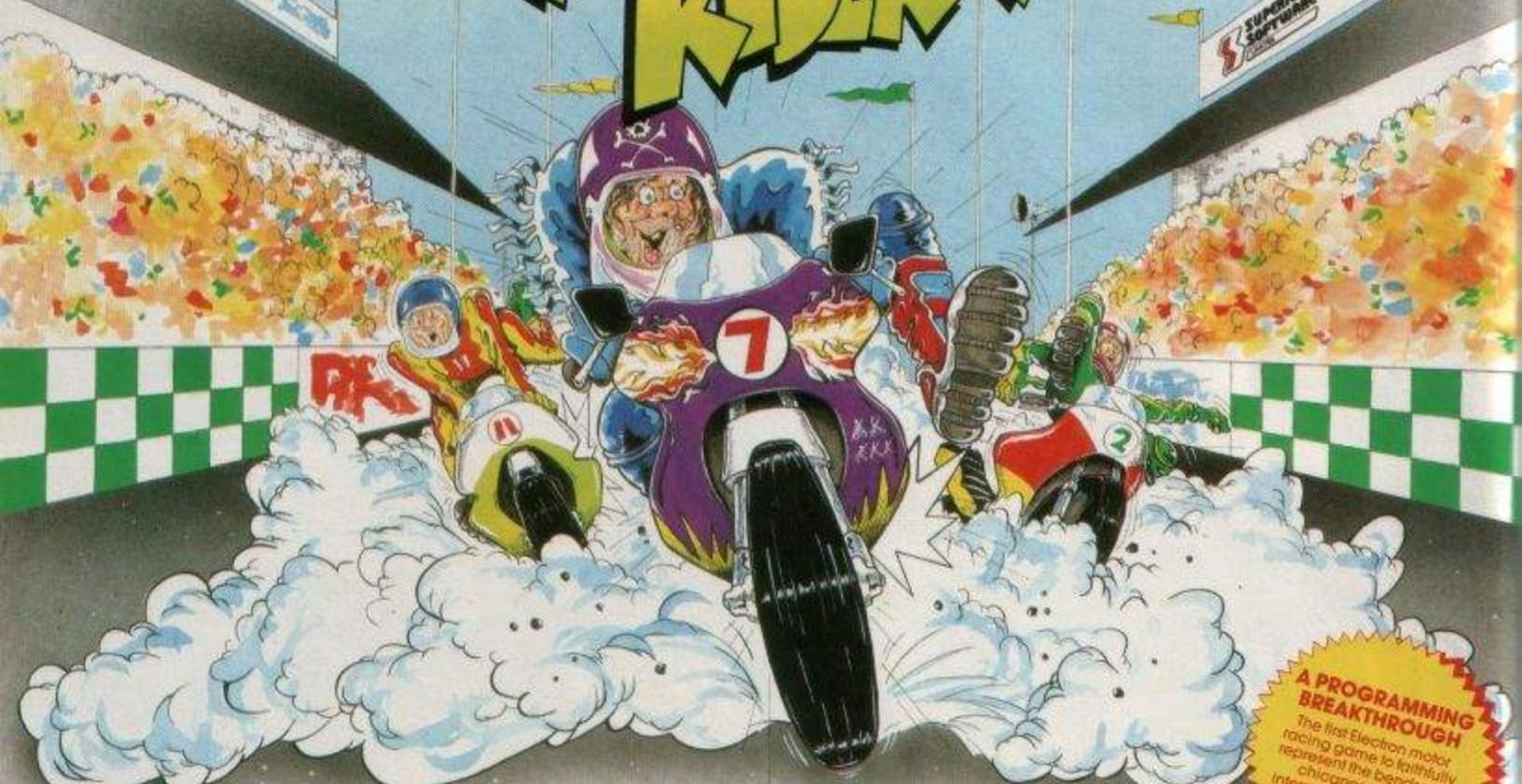
**Cheat modes for top games
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Computer jargon revealed**

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Going round the bend at Misano (BBC MICRO VERSION)



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Howling round the bends at Le Mans at 150 m.p.h. is a daunting experience. You'll need nerves of steel and slick reflexes to finish in the Top 6 and qualify for the next race. If, at first, you can't make the grade you can always let off steam (and gain bonus points) by bumping into the other riders and knocking them off their bikes, listen for the terrified wail as the rider is sent flying to the ground.

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- Paul Ricard (France)
- Brands Hatch (U.K.)
- Misano (Italy)
- Silverstone (U.K.)
- Nurburgring (W. Germany)

An enhanced version has been specially produced for owners of the BBC Master Series computers. Included free with all BBC Micro cassettes and discs, this version features several extra race circuits, a beautiful 6-minute musical soundtrack, and a host of extra game features — making full use of the Master's extra memory and capabilities.



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[Compatible with the BBC B, B+ and Master Series computers].

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All the latest developments in the ever-expanding world of the Electron.

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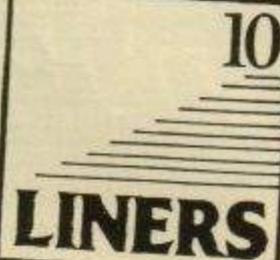
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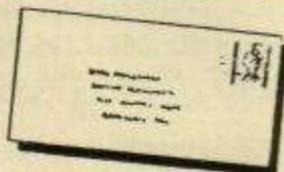
The start of a new series exploring the language of turtle graphics.

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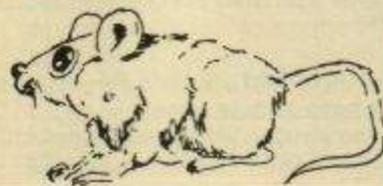
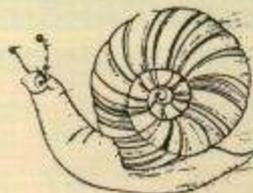
The pages you write yourselves. A selection from the hundreds of letters in our mailbag.

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Snail Trail

Pit your wits against your Electron in this incredible test of trivial knowledge. But you'll have to be quick.

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Jargon

At last, we can bring you the full unexpurgated translation of modern day computer-speak.

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Don't miss our special offers on Pages 50-53.

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John Snowden
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THE ADVANCED PLUS FOUR

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Plug the MOUSE into the user port, and the EPROM into your A.P.5. The latter contains fast machine code routines for creating on-screen windows, icons and pointers. And means that the MOUSE buttons can be programmed for use with commercial software such as Wordwise and View. There are two manuals included, explaining how to operate the MOUSE and the ROM routines, which are available in both basic and machine code programs.

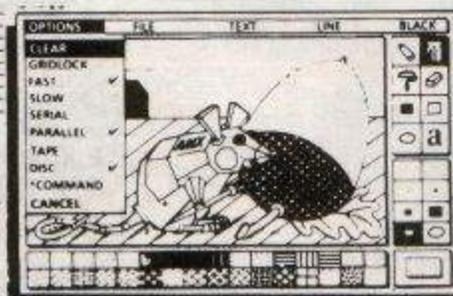
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electron user NEWS

New at the Show

MORE innovative hardware and software for the Electron is being developed for unveiling at the 17th Electron & BBC Micro User Show to be held in November.

A number of new products have been promised for the machine, from new disc deals to music applications and utilities, though full specifications are not being released until nearer the date.

Exhibitors have been clamouring for space at the show, which runs at Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London, from November 13 to 15, and almost all of the stands have now been taken.

A money-saving advance ticket order appears on page 53.

Electron gets Micro sound

A CARTRIDGE which enables the Electron to accept and play all the BBC Micro's sound commands will soon be on the market.

Project Expansions is putting the final touches to the cartridge - including giving it a name - which will sell for £39.95.

Project boss Chris Rudge said that Superior Software's Speech program had been made to work with the cartridge "after a small amount of modification".

Negotiations were now going on to see if an Electron version of the utility might be released.

The cartridge will come with demonstration music programs and spare ram.

Also on the cards from Project (0329 221109) is a utility rom which includes a very wide range of facilities, but which also has not yet reached the naming stage.

Rudge says that the rom has "a command for everybody".

It features defineable double-height characters which can be drawn on an 8x8 grid. Once complete the user is given a VDU command to call up the design. There is also a pattern and fill facility, which operates in similar fashion.

Other commands include *PLUS1 on/off; *LOCK on/off, and others for hex, binary and system specification.

It will cost £14.95.

Plus 3 upgrade

A DISC upgrade package for the Electron for less than £100 is being offered by PRES.

The distribution company has put a £99 price tag on the Advanced Plus 3, which will include a ready to roll disc system made up of an interface, filing system and 3.5in drive.

Boss John Huddleston of associated company ACP (0276 72046) described it as a major new product launch aimed at overcoming the price barrier for Electron users who wanted to upgrade to discs.

He said they had now finalised an agreement with Acorn to produce the Electron ADFS, which is run on the new product by a 1770 interface.

BEST OF BRITISH FOR THE US

A NEW transatlantic deal will see a British software house reverse recent trends by establishing a major presence in the United States.

Database Software has reached agreement on a joint venture with ShareData, pioneers of budget packages in the States and a public company valued at \$28 million.

The end result is the formation of Database Software Inc. in Phoenix, Arizona.

The new corporation aims to market the best British and

European titles through ShareData's 22,000 outlets in North America.

Database Software is part of the Database Group, the UK's leading publisher of computer magazines including Electron User.

As a software house, it first sprang to prominence in Britain in October, 1984, with the release of Mini Office - an Electron favourite.

Database Software is today recognised as one of the fastest growing companies in

its field in the UK. The last 12 months have seen its turnover increase more than five times.

Similarly, ShareData in the States has a track record second to none. It has become the pacesetter for the American industry, recording sales of more than 500,000 units in the last three months.

Michael Meakin, joint managing director of Database, flew to Arizona to complete the British-American deal.

"We have spent a long time

looking for a suitable partner in the States to make us a truly international company", he said, "and in ShareData we believe we have found the perfect answer.

"Now the search is on to find the hottest software properties in Europe and Britain to sell in America.

"It is a huge market with an insatiable thirst for good software. We intend to satisfy that demand with the help of the wealth of excellent software authors over here".

COMPETITION WENT LIKE A BOMB

A NATIONWIDE electronic mail competition offering a magnum of champagne as the star prize resulted in a giant hangover when the winner unwittingly caused the software in the central computer to crash.

When ex-San Francisco police officer Cameron (Cam) Lacey posted the 10,000th message on the MicroLink bulletin board from his office in Grimsby, all that should have happened was that he received a three litre bottle of Moët & Chandon to mark the milestone achievement.

Unfortunately what no one realised at that time was that the BBS system was only designed to cope with a data field of four characters – up to and including 9,999.

So when just one additional message was received, it was as if a giant fuse had blown.

When the crash came there was consternation at MicroLink headquarters. What made matters worse was that technical chief Tim Clarkson was on holiday and all attempts by his staff to revive Britain's biggest bulletin board were unsuccessful.

After two hours of frantic transatlantic telephone calls, the American authors of the bulletin board software finally traced the problem.

They were, however, unable to make the message numbering system accept a figure larger than 9,999. All



Cameron Lacey... ex-cop cops the big prize

they could do was make room by deleting the first 5,000 messages.

In fact, the only person left with a grin on his face was Cameron Lacey.

Mind you, according to MicroLink boss Derek Meakin it should have been a sheepish one. For it seems that Cam cheated a little bit.

"He'd obviously written a program that started sending identical messages just as the number of messages on the board was approaching the 10,000 mark".

All the messages said was: "Is this the one?"

"So he ended up with the drink while we got left with the hangover".

Translation online

BRITISH computer users can now have access to what is claimed to be the biggest – and most up-to-date – multi-lingual dictionary in the world.

And it is already being viewed as a major breakthrough for groups as diverse as businessmen faced with foreign correspondence through to schoolchildren struggling with homework.

It is all part of a new service being offered by MicroLink, the UK's fastest growing electronic mail service.

Sitting at their keyboards,

all subscribers have to do is type in a word or a complete phrase and the Great European Dictionary does the rest.

Housed in an EEC sponsored mainframe computer in Luxembourg, the electronic dictionary is the result of a massive collaboration between language experts throughout the community.

The Great European Dictionary consists of more than 380,000 words and phrases in English, German, Danish, Dutch, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

THE GALLUP CHART

TOP 10

ELECTRON SOFTWARE

| THIS MONTH | LAST MONTH | TITLE (Software House) | PRICE |
|------------|------------|---|-------|
| 1 | 1 | AROUND THE WORLD IN 40 SCREENS <i>Superior</i> | 6.95 |
| 2 | 2 | PAPERBOY <i>Elite</i> | 9.95 |
| 3 | 3 | FOUR GREAT GAMES <i>Micro Value</i> | 3.99 |
| 4 | 4 | SUPERIOR COLLECTION VOL 2 <i>Superior</i> | 9.95 |
| 5 | 9 | CODENAME DROID <i>Superior</i> | 9.95 |
| 6 | 6 | FIVE STAR GAMES 2 <i>Beau Jolly</i> | 9.95 |
| 7 | • | STRYKER'S RUN <i>Superior</i> | 9.95 |
| 8 | 5 | FOOTBALL MANAGER <i>Addictive</i> | 2.99 |
| 9 | 7 | OLYMPIC SPECTACULAR <i>Alternative</i> | 1.99 |
| 10 | 8 | MICROPOWER MAGIC 2 <i>Micropower</i> | 7.95 |

Compiled by Gallup/Microscope

Superior dominates the chart again this month holding first position with Around the World in 40 Screens in addition to the only new entry, Stryker's Run. Compilations are holding their own with three in the Top 10.

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~~£124.85~~

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*BBC Compatible

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Advanced User Guide ~~£9.95~~ **£2.95**

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A wheely good add-on

JOE PRITCHARD continues his construction of the Electron buggy

WE saw in last month's article the electronic details of the Electron buggy. Now it's time to dust off our soldering irons and begin construction.

Although we need to drive two motors on the buggy, the control circuit is quite simple. Figure 1 shows a stripboard layout for the main circuit board.

It's slightly more complicated than the simple switching circuit we built in the August 1987 issue of *Electron User*, but construction is still quite straightforward.

We'll need a piece of 0.1 inch matrix stripboard 35 rows high by at least 45

holes deep. We won't use all the rows available at the moment, but a piece of board this size will leave space to add more circuitry in future.

The first stage of the construction process is to use a spot face cutting tool or a drill bit to cut away the copper at the points marked in Figure 1.

The spot face cutter is a very useful tool, simply rest the point in a hole on the copper side of the track, and twist it a couple of times. The result is a round hole in the track.

At each point we need to totally sever the copper,

taking care not to break or go through the board. Laying the board copper side up on the workbench will help.

A cut track should look like Figure 2. Make sure there are no thin wisps of copper linking the two parts of the track. Double check each break, with a circuit tester if you have one, to ensure it's clean.

The next stage is to solder all the wire links into the board using insulated copper wire. It's a good idea to solder these in first to cut down the risk of heat damage to expensive components like the dar-

lington driver.

Take care to fit the links in the correct places, and check all of your soldered joints to make sure you don't bridge two or more tracks.

0.1 inch Veropins should be used where marked. These are metal pins that are inserted into the board and soldered in. Wires can then be twisted round the pin and soldered, as shown in Figure 3.

A pin insertion tool is quite useful for siting Veropins though they can be pushed into the board with a pair of pliers.

For all of the on board

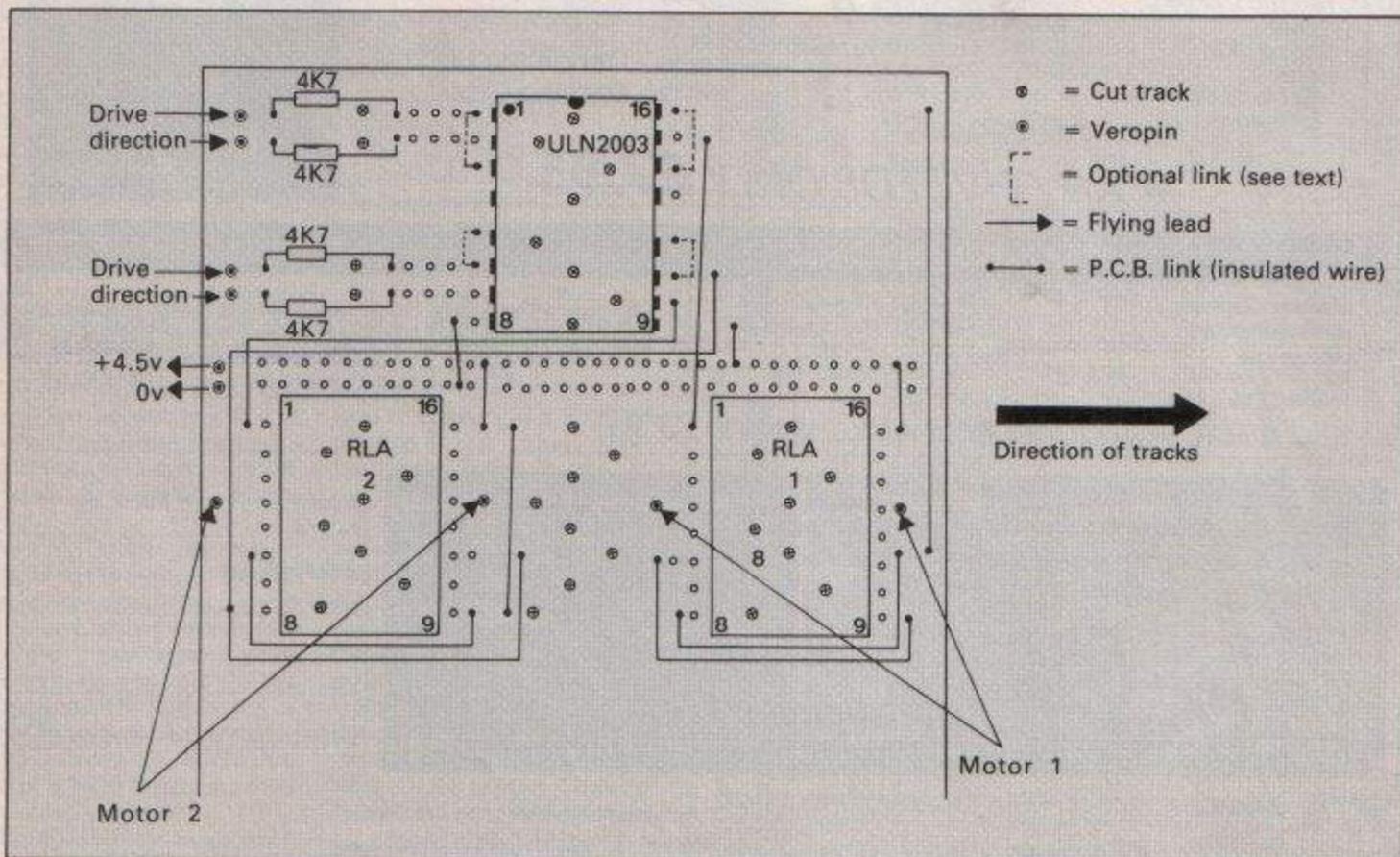


Figure 1: The stripboard layout

Hardware Projects

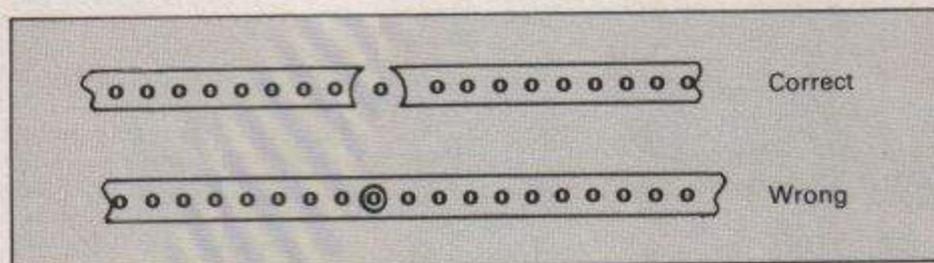


Figure II:
Making certain
that the tracks
are cut

connections, the wires can be soldered directly to the tracks, but the pins offer more strength. Eight core ribbon cable should be used for the connections to the user port and the power supply.

We now come to the first of the electronic components – the four resistors. These shouldn't cause any problems, but don't bend their leads too close to their bodies, as this can sometimes cause them to snap off. Whenever possible, bend them at right angles to the body of the component.

The relays and darlington driver chip are very delicate and should be treated with extreme care while

soldering as they can be damaged by heat.

It is, in fact, preferable to use sockets to hold these components. Three 16 pin dual in line (DIL) sockets are needed. One for the driver chip and one each for the relays which, although they only have 8 pins each will fit neatly into a 16 pin socket.

If you decide to solder the parts in direct, don't spend too long soldering the joints, and allow the component to cool down after making each one. Be especially careful not to splash solder between the pins of the darlington driver chip.

You should now have a board that's ready to connect up to the motors and

power supply for testing. However, before we do that it's a good idea to check your connections to make sure all is well.

As shown in Figure IV, connect up the motors to the relevant wires, and connect a 47nf ceramic capacitor across the terminals of each to suppress radio interference.

The 4.5V supply for the circuit can be derived from three 1.5V cells connected in series or a 4.5V torch battery.

Temporarily connect up the supply to the board. With no connections to the motor control lines, nothing should happen. Now put a finger on the darlington chip, it should be cool. If not,

check the wiring.

Next, take the direction input for motor one to 4.5V. You should hear a click as the relay closes. If not, check the wiring, especially to pins 1, 2, 15 and 16 of the darlington driver and to relay one.

If this works, connect the direction input of motor one to 0V and take the direction line of motor two to 4.5V and again listen for relay two to click.

You should be able to see the relay move. If this doesn't work, check pins 6, 7, 10 and 11 of the darlington driver chip and the connections to relay two.

Leave both direction lines connected to 0V and connect the drive lines of each motor to 4.5V. Both motors should run in the same direction. If one runs in reverse, exchange the connections to it.

We're now ready to put the whole thing together. Assembly instructions are shown in Figure V. The base

Turn to Page 10 ►

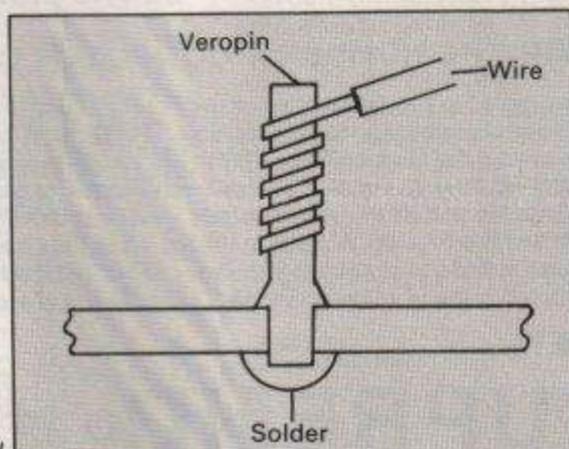


Figure III

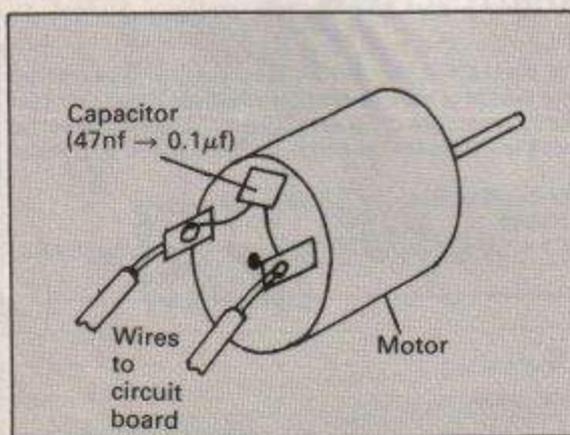


Figure IV

MOTOR PROBLEMS

I HAVE discovered that some low cost motors are not powerful enough to move the buggy. They simply don't have enough torque (turning force) to pull their own weight plus the buggy's across the floor.

To check your motors out, temporarily fix them in the correct position on the base plate and see if you can get the buggy to go forward and backward by connecting the drive inputs to 4.5V and 0V alternately.

If the buggy moves (and it might move quite quickly) your motors are fine. If it doesn't move, or judders, you may need motors with more pull. Two you can try are:

● **Technical Lego motors.** These are available in kits from toy shops and include wheels, although they can be expensive.

● **Rapid Electronics High Torque motors.** from Rapid Electronics, Hill Farm Industrial Estate, Boxted, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5RD.

Although both these motors can be used with great success, they take more current than a single darlington driver can handle. In order to protect the chip it is necessary to connect two drivers in parallel for each motor, thus halving the current that each has to cope with.

This is easily done, because in the package there are some spare drivers. On the darlington driver chip connect pin 1 to pin 3 and pin 5 to pin 6. Then, connect pin 14 to 16 and pin 11 to 12.

These connections are shown dotted in the stripboard layout diagram, Figure I.

Hardware Projects

◀ From Page 9

plate is 1mm thick plastic card, which is available in A4 sheets from most model shops.

The wheels came from a Technical Lego set and were glued to the motor shafts with epoxy resin, though any wheels from toys or models could be used as an alternative.

The tail wheel, preventing the buggy dragging its rear end on the ground can be made from a sawn up ball point pen cap and epoxied on to the base plate, the rounded end resting on the ground. The motors can also be epoxied onto the base plate.

Double sided adhesive pads fix the circuit board between the two motors. At a later date we'll be adding extra circuits to our buggy and we'll need to make connections to this board. The

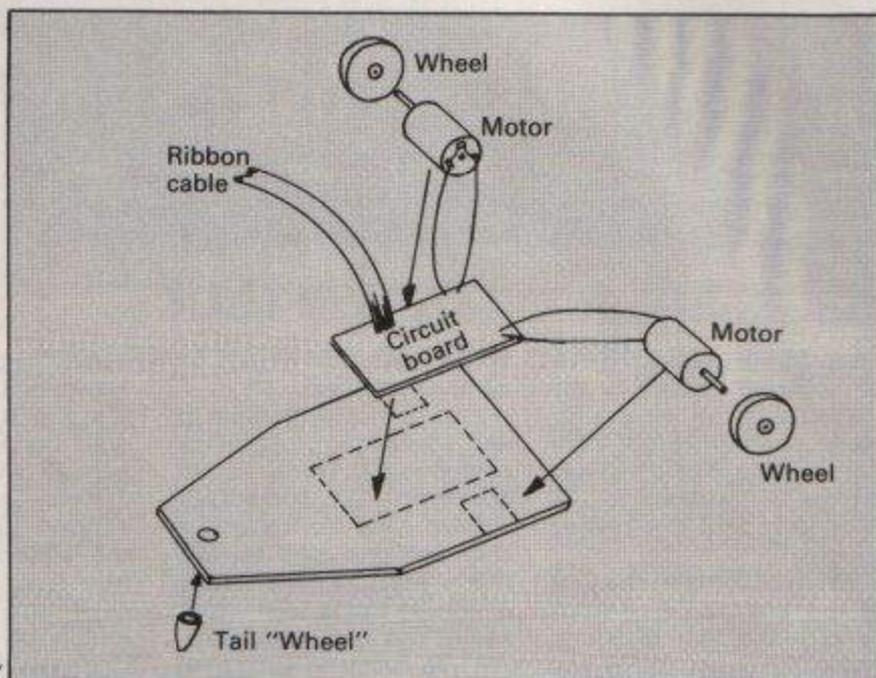


Figure V

pads will hold it firmly but will allow it to be removed when necessary.

That completes construction. We'll be running the

buggy using the VIA terminal box I described in the July 1987 issue of *Electron User* so you'd better prepare it for next time.

● Next month we'll complete the buggy with some programming and introduce the VIA's timer registers.

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The new SOCCER SUPREMO is supplied DIRECT from Qual-Soft on a same day basis. TAPE 1 + TAPE 2 + MANUAL, P&P and VAT still costs £9.95. Payment by cheque, PO or Access authorisation, made payable to Qualsoft.

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Please supply:
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for my Electron

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Address: _____
Access No. (if applicable) _____

Utility

◀ From Page 11

```

10 REM Label printer
20 REM by Ian M. Brown
30 REM (c) Electron User.
40 :
50 MODE 6
60 PROCinit
70 REPEAT
80 PROCmenu
90 UNTIL end=TRUE
100 PROCend
110 END
120 :
130 DEF PROCinit
140 end=FALSE
150 *OPT 1,1
160 n%=0
170 maxn%=50
180 DIM ad$(maxn%,10)
190 DIM adno$(maxn%)
200 ENDPROC
210 :
220 DEF PROCmenu
230 VDU 23,1,0;0;0;0;
240 CLS
250 PRINTTAB(13,2)"LABEL P

```

```

RINTER"
260 PRINTTAB(14);n%;" add
resses""
270 RESTORE 420
280 FOR c%=1 TO 3
290 READ c$
300 PRINT"c%"; "c$
310 NEXT
320 PRINT"; " Quit"
330 PRINTTAB(13,24)"Enter
choice:";
340 REPEAT key$=GET$
350 UNTIL INSTR("1230",key
$)
360 IF key$="1" AND n%<max
n% PROCload
370 IF key$="2" AND n%>0 P
ROclabel
380 IF key$="3" AND n%>0 P
ROcdisplay
390 IF key$="0" IF FNcheck
end=TRUE
400 ENDPROC
410 :
420 DATA Load addresses,Pr
int label,Display addresses
430 :
440 DEF FNcheck
450 VDU 23,1,1;0;0;0;
460 PRINTTAB(8,24)"Confirm
choice "key$" (Y/N): ";
470 =FNyn
480 :
490 DEF FNyn
500 REPEAT k$=GET$
510 UNTIL INSTR("YyNn",k$)
520 PRINT k$
530 =INSTR("Yy",k$)
540 :
550 DEF PROCdisplay
560 CLS
570 PRINTTAB(11,2)"display
addresses""
580 PRINT"To printer (Y/N)
?";
590 IF FNyn VDU 2
600 VDU 14
610 FOR k%=1 TO n%
620 PRINT"Address ";k%
630 FOR c%=1 TO adno$(k%)

```

```

640 PRINT ad$(k%,c%)
650 NEXT
660 NEXT
670 VDU 3
680 VDU 15
690 PRINT"TAB(14)"Press s
pace"
700 REPEAT UNTIL GET=32
710 ENDPROC
720 :
730 DEF PROClabel
740 CLS
750 PRINTTAB(14,2)"Print l
abel""
760 IF n%>1 PROCchoose ELS
E m%=1
770 PRINT
780 FOR k%=1 TO adno$(m%)
790 PRINT ad$(m%,k%)
800 NEXT
810 PRINT"Enter print opt
ions:"
820 VDU 2,1,27,1,ASC"@":RE
M Default all settings
830 VDU 1,27,1,ASC"R",1,3,
3:REM Set 'England I' chara
cter set
840 PRINT"NLQ (Y/N)? ";

```

This is one of hundreds of programs available FREE for downloading on **MicroLink**. In addition to these many BBC Micro programs in the MicroLink library will also run on the Electron.

```

850 IF FNyn VDU 2,1,27,1,A
SC"1",1,3,3:GOTO 940
860 PRINT"Condensed (Y/N)?
";
870 IF FNyn VDU 2,1,15,3
880 PRINT"Elite (Y/N)? ";
890 IF FNyn VDU 2,1,27,1,A
SC"3",3 ELSE VDU 2,1,27,1,AS
C"3",3
900 PRINT"Double-strike (Y
/N)? ";
910 IF FNyn VDU 2,1,27,1,A

```

```

SC"6",3
920 PRINT"Emphasized (Y/N)
? ";
930 IF FNyn VDU 2,1,27,1,A
SC"3",3
940 PRINT"Enlarged (Y/N)?
";
950 IF FNyn VDU 2,1,27,1,A
SC"3",1,1,3
960 PRINT"Margin (Y/N)? ";
970 tab=FNyn
980 PRINT"Press 'Y' to pr
int or 'N' to quit: ";
990 IF FNyn=0 ENDPROC
1000 PRINT"
1010 VDU 2
1020 PRINT
1030 FOR c%=1 TO adno$(m%)
1040 IF tab VDU 1,9
1050 PRINT ad$(m%,c%)
1060 NEXT
1070 PRINT"
1080 VDU 1,27,1,ASC"<"
1090 VDU 3
1100 PRINT"TAB(14)"Press s
pace"
1110 REPEAT UNTIL GET=32
1120 ENDPROC
1130 :
1140 DEF PROCchoose
1150 REPEAT
1160 INPUT"Which address? "
n$
1170 IF STR$(EVAL("0"+n$))=
n$ m%=EVAL(n$):GOTO 1210
1180 m%=0
1190 REPEAT m%=m%+1
1200 UNTIL INSTR(ad$(m%,1),
n$) OR m%>n%
1210 UNTIL m%>0 AND m%<=n%
1220 ENDPROC
1230 :
1240 DEF FNfound
1250 CX=BGET #A:IF CX<>800
=FALSE
1260 CX=BGET #A:IF CX<>843
=FALSE
1270 CX=BGET #A:IF CX<>84F

```

```

=FALSE
1280 CX=BGET #A:IF CX<>800
=FALSE
1290 =TRUE
1300 :
1310 DEF PROCload
1320 CLS
1330 VDU 23,1,1;0;0;0;
1340 PRINTTAB(15,2)"Load ff
le""
1350 INPUT"Name of file: "f
ile$
1360 IF file$="" file$="ADD
LIST":VDU 11,11:PRINT"Name o
f file: ADDLIST"
1370 A=OPENIN(file$)
1380 REPEAT
1390 REPEAT
1400 UNTIL FNfound OR EOF #
A
1410 IF EOF #A GOTO 1550
1420 n%=n%+1:line=0
1430 PRINTTAB(0,10)"Address
es found ";n%
1440 SOUND 1,-1,120,2
1450 CX=BGET #A
1460 REPEAT
1470 line=line+1
1480 ad$(n%,line)="
1490 REPEAT
1500 IF CX>31 AND CX<127 ad
$(n%,line)=ad$(n%,line)+CHRS
(CX)
1510 CX=BGET #A
1520 UNTIL CX=800
1530 UNTIL FNfound OR EOF #
A
1540 adno$(n%)=line
1550 UNTIL EOF #A OR n%=max
n%
1560 CLOSE #A
1570 ENDPROC

```

This listing is included in this month's cassette tape offer. See order form on Page 53.

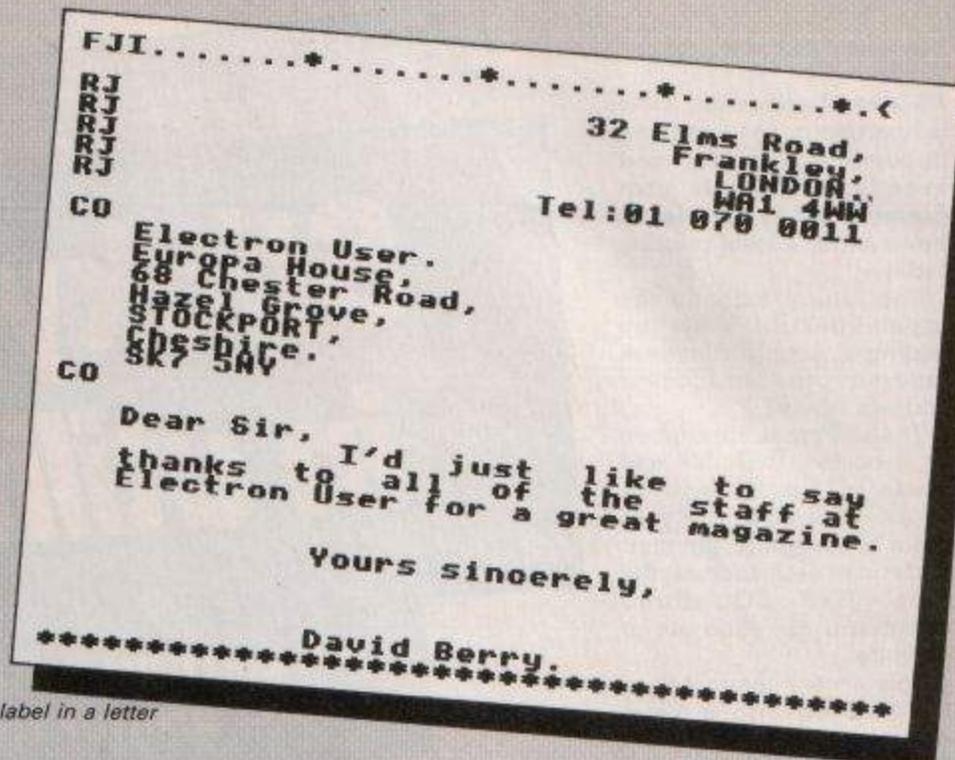


Figure 11: Including a label in a letter



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Commander Stryker under fire in the city



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An action close-up



Enemy equipment (Enhanced BBC Master version)



A camouflaged battle fortress (Enhanced BBC Master version)

STRYKER'S RUN for the BBC Micro B, B+, Master, Master Compact, and Acorn Electron

Stryker's Run features probably the best graphics ever seen on the BBC Micro or Acorn Electron; the action is intense and the animation is superlative.

The battlefield graphics include cities, edifices, wrecked buildings, trees, gravestones, bridges, despatch-posts, military bases, helicopters and jet ships, with hills and mountains in the background. The Master-enhanced version also includes statues, watch-towers, a neglected cafe, a deserted cinema, aircraft hangars, aeroplanes, trucks and tanks.

For many years, a war has ensued between the Allied Nations and the Volgans. The battle was reaching a stalemate position, but recently the Allies through good intelligence work and some luck have managed to obtain the plans of the Volgan's next offensive. If the Allied Forces can capitalise on these plans they can end the impasse and the war. You play

the role of Commander John Stryker commissioned to take this top-secret information to the Allies' HQ.

Your character in the game can jump, run, duck, fire his laser pistol and throw grenades. He can also board aircraft and fly them, making use of their more powerful weaponry.

Your opponents, the Volgans, have a variety of weapons at their disposal comprising rifles, pistols, grenades, machine-guns, mortars, mines, helicopter gunships, rocket launchers and SAM missiles.

Stryker's Run is one of our most successful releases ever. It has topped the BBC Micro software charts for six weeks and received several glowing reviews: "The graphics are stunning... This should be in every collection" enthused A & B Computing.

Enhanced Version for the BBC Master Series

Stryker's Run is the first release to include a specially enhanced version for the BBC Master making use of its 128K of RAM. An extra 40K of detailed graphics are provided together with additional game features and atmospheric music.

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|-----------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|
| BBC Micro Cassette | £9.95 | BBC Micro 5¼" Disc | £11.95 |
| BBC Master Compact 3½" Disc | £14.95 | Acorn Electron Cassette | £9.95 |

The screen pictures show the BBC Micro version of the game. The graphics of other versions may vary.



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Golden oldies

Program: 5 Computer Hits
 Price: £6.95
 Supplier: Beau-Jolly, 29a Bell Street,
 Reigate, Surrey RH2 7AD.
 Tel: 0737 222003

CROAKER heads this compilation tape of five golden oldies and is similar to Frogger, seen in the arcades many years ago.

Your aim is to dodge the traffic while crossing a busy road, then use floating logs and turtles as stepping stones to cross a river. Unfortunately for you, you're the only frog that can't swim.

Later, screens become more difficult as hungry crocodiles float past, and the turtles dive now and then. The graphics are well drawn, with smooth character movement. And although the sound may become a little monotonous it can be switched off.

The next game is Bigger, which is a variation on the platforms and ladders theme featuring a burglar called Roger the Dodger. With him you steal your way through 20 screens.

Most of the obstacles don't fit in with the scenario and are there simply to add spice: Conveyor belts and disappearing platforms are fine, but spaceships and railway engines are hard to explain, while giant mouths with gnashing teeth, although graphically effective, do not normally pursue even the most villainous criminal.

The sound effects are basic, with the movement not always realistic, resulting in Roger staying in the air for so long Rudolf Nuryev would be green with envy.

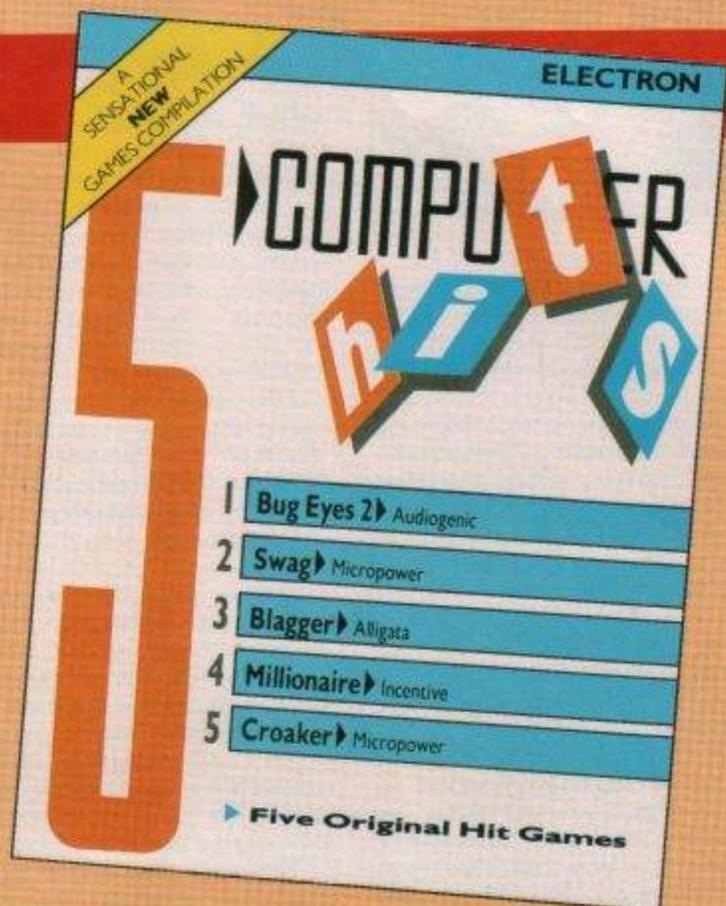
Swag is next, another game for budding burglars. You must collect £250,000 in diamonds before your opponent, all the while dodging bullets and killer droids.

The screen shows two houses where you and your opponent hide your ill-gotten gains, and also the bank where a deposit of gold will finance a further supply of bullets.

Police cars interfere with your progress, but can be stopped after a drink that refreshes parts others can't reach, and shooting at their car.

The graphics are excellent, the sound is good and the action is very fast. For my money this is the best game on the tape.

Millionaire is a simulation game where you are head of a software company and must make the necessary decisions on marketing policy, including whether to trade with Honest Harry.



The program is virtually all text, graphics being limited to a picture of the type of office you occupy, starting from a terraced house.

The questions posed are reasonably representative of the sort of decisions made in business, but too much depends on luck.

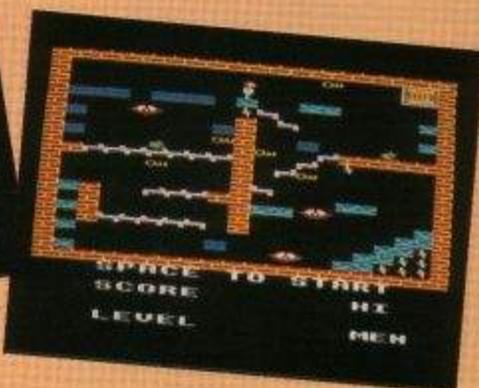
The last item is Bug Eyes 2, a multi-screen sequel to Space Agent Zelda Meets the Bug Eyes.

In the original game, Zelda took on the might of the Xxabaneans and was captured. Your job is to search their flagship and find the 25 keys to release her while avoiding the nasties ranged against you.

Sound quality is good with the graphics composed of smoothly moving chunky sprites. I especially liked the way that as you exit each screen, one of Sir Clive's C5s is waiting for you.

I rate Bug Eyes 2 and Swag as the best on this compilation and if you have neither of these it becomes excellent value. The other games tend to be a little dated and I would not buy it for them alone but they are worth having to build up your collection.

Beejay



| | |
|------------------|---|
| Sound..... | 6 |
| Graphics..... | 7 |
| Playability..... | 7 |
| Value..... | 8 |
| Overall..... | 7 |

No strings attached

Program: *The Puppet Man*
 Price: £3.95 (mail order only)
 Supplier: Larsoft, 4 Chantry Road,
 Clifton, Bristol BS8 2QD.

GEOFF Larsen is fast becoming one of the prime adventure writers for the Electron. With the release of this, his fifth adventure, he confirms his mastery of the genre.

The Puppet Man is one of the most original and engrossing adventures I have seen for a long while, and must be Geoff's finest offering yet.

At the end of the last century there lived a puppeteer whose puppet plays were the talk of the land. In fact his puppets were so lifelike it was rumoured they were little people, made up to look like puppets.

At the midsummer fair in the village of Owlsmore the Puppet Man is due to perform, but the day before, his star marionette was stolen or mislaid.

During a dream you are visited by Mnemosyne, mother of the Greek muses. She tells you that if you can help three of her daughters, the muses of dance, comedy and poetry, they in turn will assist you in a search for the marionette.

The adventure becomes a trilogy of

inter-related plots in which you first help a ballerina, then an auguste clown and finally Pierrot.

The backdrops incorporate 19th century theatre and circus giving the whole adventure the heady atmosphere of vaudeville. The puzzles are complex, but totally logical and require careful thinking and revisiting of different scenes.

The beginning reminds me of something of a cross between Level 9's *Worm in Paradise* and Robico's *Myorem*. To be compared even in part to those two masterpieces is sure testimony to the quality of this adventure.

Later on there is a beautiful scenario involving a butcher, a baker and a candlestick maker, and a wooden tub. Another scene involves trapping a bear, while on the stage is a struggling Covent Garden escapologist.

As suggested, the adventure involves dancing, comedy, poetry and sleight of hand, and like all Larsoft adventures is totally non-violent.

The multi-use of each location and the facility to talk to the characters you meet, means Geoff has used the Quill to its utmost. The mind boggles to think of what he might achieve given machine code programming and



better text compression.

This adventure really is superb and you will be hard pressed to find a better release for the price. Larsoft is going to be a name worth watching, over the next few years.

All I can say is, buy it, you won't be disappointed.

Pendragon

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Presentation | 9 |
| Atmosphere | 8 |
| Frustration Factor | 9 |
| Value for money | 10 |
| Overall | 9 |

Spritely character

Program: *Ziggy*
 Price: £7.95
 Supplier: Audiogenic, 12 Chiltern
 Enterprise Centre, Station Road,
 Theale, Berkshire RG7 4AA.
 Tel: 0734 303663

ZIGGY is the unlikely new star from Audiogenic, being a rather strange thing on a spring bouncing its way round the screen.

The game is, I suspect, the first in a run of 3D arcade adventures, which up until now have never been seen on the Electron.

The screen display is laid out in a style known as oblique projection, where horizontal lines are rotated 45 degrees to the horizontal. You can see a flat board with squares marked out and your viewpoint is from above and slightly behind, looking down at an angle.

Once you've got used to the unusual perspective you can start to guide Ziggy round the board.

It all starts off in fine style, with the thing on a spring bouncing merrily

around level zero collecting assorted crystals left lying around, one in each of the four rooms. At this early stage it takes little thought to collect all four jewels.

Now you bounce on to a special square which takes you up to the next level. Complete this and move to the next. Up to level four the game is straightforward enough, but after that things start to get hectic.

Patches of sticky glue and deadly skulls start to get in the way of the little guy and he has to increase his bounce speed and distance to leap over them.

All of this excess effort drains his life force at an alarming rate and if he keeps it up for too long, it's curtains.

Ziggy is not very spectacular graphically. Although the characters are nice and chunky, the playing area is in two colour Mode 4, and even though these vary from level to level, the effect is rather drab.

The animation is a bit jerky at times and the key response can be sluggish. This is a pity, because it detracts from



what essentially is a very enjoyable game – and original too.

One feature I was pleased to see was a screen designer, so even if you can't complete the 200 rooms supplied you can at least define your own.

And just for a change, there's a natty little tune that won't drive you round the bend because you can turn it off.

Ziggy is the type of game you'll either love or hate and has got to qualify as one of the trickiest yet. So I strongly recommend that you try it before you buy it.

Julia Forester

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sound | 7 |
| Graphics | 5 |
| Playability | 7 |
| Value for money | 6 |
| Overall | 6 |

Superb trilogy



Program: *Saga of a Spy (The Rick Hanson Trilogy)*
Price: £23.95 (cassette)
Supplier: Robico Software, 3 Fairland Close, Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan CF7 8QH.
Tel: 0443 227354

REGULAR readers will know I have long been an admirer of all Robico adventures and have played each of the Rick Hanson trilogy beyond exhaustion.

Rick Hanson, Project Thesis and Myorem, which make up the trinity, have been released individually during the past two years.

This package not only bundles the three games together with other goodies like a Robico pen, hint sheets and an adventurer's notebook but also offers a £5 saving on buying the games separately.

The accompanying documentation reveals the development of the Robico parser and adventure writing system and sets the scene for each adventure for those who are uninitiated to this super spy.

This 600 location marathon begins logically enough, with Rick Hanson –

formerly titled The Assassin. As Rick Hanson, agent extraordinaire, you find yourself in a disused railway station at the start of another secret mission. What it entails, you don't know, but you soon find out, unless an enemy's bullet gets you first.

The red seat cover and bull scenario has now become a classic stumbling block for nearly all who have played this game.

In Project Thesis, you have been chosen to investigate enemy development in particle beam technology which threatens world security.

You begin your mission on a sandy beach, and your first task is to dry yourself and avoid the scrutiny of an enemy helicopter. I defy anyone to solve the Witherton village maze at the first attempt.

Myorem is the third and most highly developed of the adventures, and for sheer complexity is my favourite. Tied, gagged and bound to a post in a dusty arena with a firing squad about to send you to your maker, you have only your thoughts to secure your survival.

And of all the marvellous puzzles you will be hard pressed to find one more enjoyable than the wooden hut problem.

There are a number of mazes, but each is quite individual in style and require careful mapping, though the mountains in Myorem require different technique.

Layered atmosphere and humour make offerings from most other companies pale in comparison. There are also literally dozens of exquisite chaining puzzles to think out and solve.

At £23.95 this isn't cheap, but after all, you're getting three of the best adventures available for the Electron.

Pendragon

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| <i>Presentation</i> | 10 |
| <i>Atmosphere</i> | 10 |
| <i>Frustration factor</i> | 10 |
| <i>Value for money</i> | 8 |
| <i>Overall</i> | 10 |

Cheap and cheerful

Program: *Crazy Er*bert*
Price: £1.99
Supplier: Alternative Software, Units 3-6 Bailey Gate Industrial Estate, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF8 2LN.
Tel: 0977 797777

CRAZY Erbert is a cuddly looking little character who plays the hero in this 3D Pacman type game. Living in a world made up of interconnected cubes, his simple aim is to visit each one and paint its top surface a different colour.

He treats his cubes as stairways and travels diagonally up or down. Four keys are needed to steer him and these take a bit of getting used to.

At the start of the game you can select from 10 levels of difficulty and whether the movement should be fast or slow. I find the slow option is quite fast enough for me.

It's an old gripe, but what a pity there is no sound on/off option. The sound effects are nice, but many games players have a need for silence at times.

Erbert does not live alone and the

other occupants of his world are all enemies. He is persistently chased by two well-drawn large and colourful characters, Coily Snake and Boris Gorilla. If they catch him one of his three lives is lost.

He can escape from his pursuers by using the two elevators at the edge of the screen – these return him to the top block.

If Boris or Coily try to follow, they vanish for a few vital seconds. This not only gives a chance for safe movement, but also some bonus points.

Erbert can also collect a Rota Hat which allows him a limited flight. Two extra keys are required to manage the flying skills. Elevators and rota hats can only be used once.

To add to the problems, some unseen giant is rolling boulders down the cubes. If higher skill levels are chosen, some of the cubes convert themselves into vaporisers. These have a detrimental effect on Erbert's life expectancy, but they don't last too long themselves.

Also at the higher levels, Erbert can't paint the cubes in one go. He applies an undercoat on the first visit



and requires a second to apply the top coat. If you wish to score high points you can pick up Boris' banana. This causes him to loose his temper and chase you.

If you manage to recolour all the cubes you move to a new and more complex screen. There are four in all, which means that with 10 levels and two speeds, there are 80 possible combinations to choose from.

A few years ago this game would have rated as amazing value at only £1.99. Now, it is merely ordinary, though it will amuse the kids with its bright and cheerful graphics.

Rog Frost

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Sound</i> | 6 |
| <i>Graphics</i> | 8 |
| <i>Playability</i> | 5 |
| <i>Value for money</i> | 7 |
| <i>Overall</i> | 6 |

DEMONIC DATABASES

BILL TREVELYAN introduces the command parser in Part IV of his adventure writing series

YOU are in the middle of a text adventure game and on the screen you see:

The door flies open and a huge, ape-like figure shambles in, brandishing a chainsaw, which chatters menacingly into life! What now?

and rather desperately you type something.

The command you enter determines what the next step in the game will be, what appears next on the screen, and which of the variables held in the database are to be updated.

The routine which processes your input is called a command analyser, or parser. Parsing is a term in grammar meaning the resolution of a sentence into verbs, nouns, adjectives and so on.

You could devise a system which accepted not words but numbers. However, talking to a computer in English and getting it to reply has a compelling fascination which is half the fun of playing adventure games.

Normally a command entered into an adventure is made up of one or two words, which to the player are a verb in the imperative, followed by a noun which usually denotes an object which can be picked up, dropped and so on.

By convention, directions such as North, strictly speaking adverbs, are treated as verbs.

The computer knows nothing of verbs or objects, but searches a list held in the database for a word

identical to one in the command. The index number or rank order of the matching word determines which subroutine is to be called next.

Similarly, the position of the matching word in a list of objects allows the subroutine to examine whether an object is held by the player and to update variables associated with it.

A good parser makes playing a game enjoyable. Once the player has arrived at the right idea, he should be able to frame a command the program will accept without too much trouble.

It is frustrating to have to spend hours trying combinations of words before you discover what will work.

At one point in Myorem, the walls of a tunnel threaten to close in. Obviously the strong metal fire extinguisher is meant to keep the walls apart.

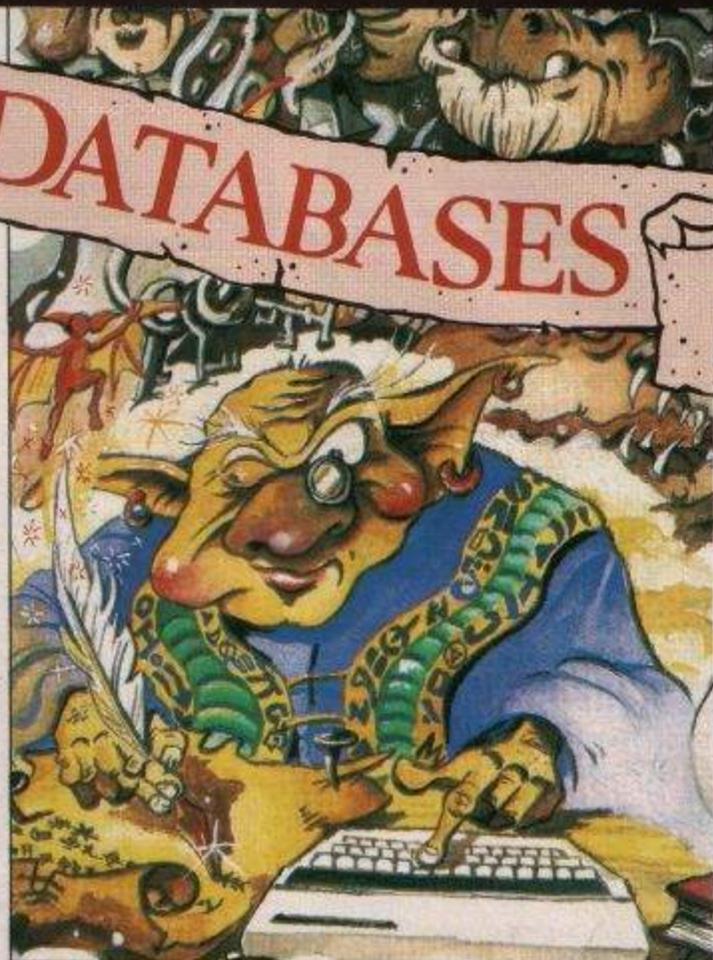
It took me ages before I hit on THROW EXTINGUISHER NORTH. North is treated here as an adverb, but elsewhere as a verb.

Advanced parsing routines can handle long sentences and multiple commands - Epic Software's Wheel of Fortune is a typical example.

Although such parsers are technically admirable, they may not be as welcome as a simple routine which offers a wealth of synonyms.

Features like the CONTINUE command in The Lost Crystal are a real boon, especially when there's a lot of to-ing and fro-ing to be done.

Let's now construct a



simple command parsing routine, which will process a command made up of two words - a verb and a noun.

The keyword INPUT, corresponding to the operating system subroutine osword with A equal to zero in assembly language programming, will let you enter a complete sentence in one go.

Alternatively GET, the Basic equivalent to osrdch accepts what the player types one character at a time.

In either case the first step is to convert the command to a standard form, in which characters are all upper case, or all lower case.

To convert lower to upper case, you need to bitwise AND the byte holding an Ascii code with &DF (binary 11011111), to clear bit 5. ORing a byte with &20 (binary 00100000) does the reverse - bit 5 is set and upper case is changed to lower case.

PROCc in Program I uses INPUT to accept a sentence entered at the keyboard and places the string at a pre-selected address in

memory, in this case &900.

This is preferable to relying on Basic string variables as our string is stored in one of the pages in memory which otherwise wouldn't be used by a Basic program. It is also easier to convert it into standard, lower case format.

We could now do what we did in our adventure game last month - compare the command with each of the commands understood by the program in turn, to find a match.

However, it is more usual to assign an index number to the two words of the command, which allows much faster operation.

For this we need a list of verbs and a separate list of nouns in the database vocabulary to compare with what the player has entered. This is provided in the form of data.

The verbs and nouns have been truncated to three characters at most. This is to save memory and more importantly, to save time as searching a long list in Basic can be slow.

Each verb is coupled with

an index number, so synonyms, that is, words which have the same meaning, have the same number. This is convenient, but not absolutely necessary.

In an adventure you usually aren't given a list of verbs in advance, so providing a good choice for the player is important. You are told however, what an object is called the first time it turns up, so synonyms aren't mandatory.

PROCv in Program I takes the three letter verbs in the vocabulary one at a time and uses INSTR to determine if the same string can be found at the beginning of the command - INSTR(command, verb) returns one.

If a match is found, the verb number is returned in V%. If this is zero, no match can be made.

With a noun we want to find if the string is the same as the second word of the command. As no noun in the vocabulary has less than three characters (unless you wish your player to fight an Ox) this means a match with the first three characters following a space.

A space character is tacked on to the noun string before the comparison is attempted in line 420. The rank occupied in the list by the noun is returned in O% if a match exists, if not, it returns zero.

Now you have a simple command parser which accepts a two word command and returns an index number for the verb and noun you have entered.

```

10 REM Program II
20 REM Puts vocabulary in
to database
30 :
40 vlist%=&2000
50 $vlist%="n *nor*s *s
ou*e *eas*w *wes*o *up*d
*dow*loo*inv*sav*loa*qui*e
nd*jum*lea*exa*sea*get*tak*d
ro*thr*ope*clo*cut*loc*unl*r
ea*wri*pus*pul*lig*"
60 olist%=&2100
70 $olist%="doo*key*box*l
an*boo*lev*rop*sw*bot*bot*"
    
```

Program II

```

10 REM Program I
20 :
30 MODE 6
40 CX=&800
50 PROCc
60 CLS:PRINT TAB(0,5) "Co
mmand is: ";$CX
70 IF G%=&0 THEN END
80 PROCv
90 PRINT TAB(10,10) "Verb
number is ";V%
100 PROCc
110 PRINT TAB(10,12) "Noun
number is ";O%
120 END
130 :
140 DEFPROCc
150 FOR IX=0 TO &7F:CX?IX=
0:NEXT
160 PRINT "What next?"
170 PRINT STRING$(9,"=")
180 INPUT " - "$CX
190 Len%=LEN($CX):IF Len%<
1 OR Len%>&3F THEN VDU7:GOTO
160
200 REM Convert to lower c
    
```

Program I

This works well, but it does have some snags. The program won't accept single letter commands such as N for north, which is something players of adventure games take for granted. It is therefore more usual to split the command into separate words, and match them with lists stored in the database.

In PROCc, the command is

```

10 REM Program III
20 REM Uses INPUT to isol
ate each word of command
30 :
40 MODE 6
50 CX=&800:vlist%=&2000:o
list%=vlist%+&100
60 :
70 PROCc
80 CLS
90 IX=0:REPEAT
100 a$=$(CX+&40+16*IX)
110 IF a$ <>"" PRINT TAB(1
3,5+2*IX) STR$(IX+1);". ";a$
120 IX=IX+1:UNTIL a$=""
130 x$=LEFT$(a$,3)
140 IF LENx$<3 x$=x$+" ":G
OTO 140
150 PROCv:PRINT TAB(5,20)"
Verb is <";x$> number ";V%
160 y$=LEFT$(a$,3)
170 PROCc:IF OX=&FF PRINT
TAB(5,21) "No noun/object" E
LSE PRINT TAB(5,21) "Noun is
<";y$> number ";O%
180 END
190 :
200 DEFPROCc
    
```

Program III

```

ase
210 FOR IX=0 TO Len%: IF C
X?IX>64 AND CX?IX<91 THEN CX
?IX=CX?IX OR &20
220 NEXT
230 ENDPROC
240 :
250 DEFPROCv
260 RESTORE 5000
270 READ n%
280 IX=0:REPEAT
290 IX=IX+1
300 READ V$,vb$
310 IF INSTR($CX,vb$)=1 UN
TIL TRUE:ENDPROC
320 UNTIL IX=n%
330 V%=0
340 ENDPROC
350 :
360 DEFPROCc
370 RESTORE 5100
380 READ n%
390 OX=0:REPEAT
400 OX=OX+1
410 READ ob$
420 ob$=" "+ob$
    
```

```

430 IF INSTR($CX,ob$)>0 UN
TIL TRUE:ENDPROC
440 UNTIL OX=n%
450 OX=0
460 ENDPROC
470 :
490 REM Vocabulary
5000 DATA 30:REM Total numb
er of verbs
5010 DATA 1,nor,2,sou,3,eas
,4,wes,5,up,6,dow
5020 DATA 7,loo,8,inv,9,sav
,10,loa,11,qui,11,end
5030 DATA 12,jum,12,lea,13,
exa,14,sea,15,get,15,tak
5040 DATA 16,dro,17,thr,18,
ope,19,clo,20,cut
5050 DATA 21,loc,22,unl,23,
rea,24,wri,25,pus,26,pul,27,
lig
5060 :
5100 DATA 10:REM Total numb
er of objects
5110 DATA doo,key,box,lam,b
oo,lev,rop,sw,bot,bot
    
```

converted, if necessary, to lower case, and stored in memory. The following steps assume a space character in the string occurs only between words.

The INPUT command strips off any surplus spaces at the beginning of the string, but the player may have entered a few accidentally at the end so these are stripped also.

If there isn't a space in the command, it's a single word so is stored at a predetermined location in memory. The procedure then ends.

If there is a space, the first word is made up of the characters between the start of the command string and the space. The word is stored and the part of the

Turn to Page 21 ▶

```

360 REM If there isn't a s
pace, then word = entire str
ing
370 IF IX=0 THEN SWX=$CX:G
OTO 420
380 REM Otherwise word = p
art of string to left of fir
st space
390 SWX=LEFT$(CX,IX-1):$C
X=RIGHT$(CX, LEN$CX-IX)
400 JX=JX+1
410 REM Isolate the rest o
f the string and repeat rou
tine
420 UNTIL IX=0
430 ENDPROC
440 :
450 DEFPROCv
460 V%=(INSTR($vlist%,x$)+
3) DIV 4
470 ENDPROC
480 :
490 DEFPROCc
500 IF y$="" THEN OX=&FF:E
NDPROC
510 OX=(INSTR($olist%,y$)+
3) DIV 4
520 ENDPROC
    
```



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string to the right of the space becomes the new command string. The routine is repeated until the truncated command is reduced to one word.

To test this procedure we need a vocabulary. This time the lists both consist of a single string consisting of a number of three letter groups followed by a separator, an asterisk in this case.

The triads are the first three letters of a word, nor for NORTH, for instance or shorter groups padded out with spaces "s " for SOUTH.

CHAIN Program II to put the verb and noun lists into memory, then CHAIN Program III. You can enter any number of words as long as you don't exceed 64 characters. These will be separated and printed one below the other.

The first word is taken as the verb and is given an index number, and the second as the noun or object. Note that synonyms do not have the same number. It is interesting to alter the vocabulary to four letters, or two and see the effect on the response time.

Instead of INPUT we can use GET as in Program IV. PROCc prompts the player with "What next?" and calls PROCa.

The characters entered are converted to upper case if necessary. Successive letters are joined together to make a word of pre-determined length, three in this case. If this is exceeded, what the player types still appears on the screen, but they don't add to the length of the string stored in memory.

As soon as a space or carriage return is entered, the procedure is terminated. If a space has been typed in, PROCa is again called and a second word isolated.

Lines 5000 onwards form a vocabulary constructed from data. In the verb matching procedure PROCv, a match occurs when the first, first two, or all three

```

10 REM Program IV
20 REM Uses Basic's GET
30 :
40 ZX=0 :REM Counts number
of turns
50 CLS
60 PROCc
70 :
80 PROCv
90 PRINT TAB(12,13)"1. ";
x$;
100 IF VX=0 PRINT " not on
list" ELSE PRINT " number ";V
%
110 :
120 PROCc
130 PRINT TAB(12,15)"2. ";
140 IF y$="" PRINT "nil":GOTO
TO 160
150 PRINT y$;:IF OX=0 PRINT
" not on list" ELSE PRINT "
number ";OX
160 END
170 :
180 DEFPROCc
190 ZX=ZX+1
200 PRINT "What next?"
210 PRINT STRING$(9, "=")
220 PRINT " - ";
230 :
240 PROCa
250 x$=y$:IF x$="" THEN 20
0
260 IF GX=13 THEN y$=":60
TO 290
270 PRINT " ";
280 PROCa
290 PRINT
300 ENDPROC
310 :
320 DEFPROCa
330 IX=0:y$=""
340 REPEAT
350 IX=IX+1
360 GX=GET
370 IF GX=13 OR GX=32 THEN
UNTIL TRUE:ENDPROC
380 :
390 PRINT CHR$(GX);
400 REM Convert lower to u
pper case
410 IF GX>96 AND GX<123 GX
=GX AND 8DF
420 REM Store only first 3
chars
430 IF IX>3 THEN 450
440 y$=y$+CHR$(GX)
450 UNTIL FALSE
460 ENDPROC
490 :
500 DEFPROCv
510 RESTORE 5000:READ nX
520 FOR IX=1 TO nX
530 READ vb$,VX
540 IF INSTR(vb$,x$)=1 THE
N IX=nX:GOTO 560
550 VX=0
560 NEXT
570 ENDPROC
580 :
590 DEFPROCc
600 IF y$="" THEN OX=&FF:E
NDPROC
610 RESTORE 5100:READ nX
620 FOR IX=1 TO nX
630 READ ob$, OX
640 IF ob$=y$ THEN IX=nX:G
OTO 660
650 OX=0
660 NEXT
670 ENDPROC
680 :
5000 DATA 30
5010 DATA NOR,1,SOU,2,EAS,3
,WES,4,UP,5,DOW,6
5020 DATA LOO,7,INV,8,SAV,9
,LOA,10,QUI,11,END,11
5030 DATA JUM,12,LEA,12,EXA
,13,SEA,14,GET,15,TAK,15
5040 DATA DRO,16,THR,17,OPE
,18,CLO,19,CUT,20
5050 DATA LOC,21,UNL,22,REA
,23,WRI,24,PUS,25,PUL,26,LIG
,27
5060 :
5100 DATA 10
5200 DATA DOO,1,KEY,2,BOX,3
,LAM,4,BOO,5,LEV,6,ROP,7,SWO
,8,BOT,9,BOT,10

```

Program IV

characters of the first word of the command are identical with those of an item in the list. So N, NO, NOR and even NORT and NORTH, all return with V% equal to one.

This allows single letter commands for the most common verbs, but note that the number returned is the first item to have the same initial letter, so D is taken as DOWN and not DROP.

In the case of nouns PROCc requires a three letter match so you can use G BOX but not GET B.

With a selection from these routines you should be able to construct a satisfactory two word command analyser, made user-friendly with comments like "Please try another verb", "You can't do that", and so on.

Now what do you do with the index numbers for verb and object your program has given you?

The object number O% is used by subroutines to extract the appropriate item

from say, a list of names of objects like "A short sword", a list of longer descriptions like "A sword with a jewel encrusted handle and an inscription carved on the blade", and especially a list giving the current location number of each object.

The verb number is generally the basis for selecting the subroutine which is going to execute the next step in the game.

Suppose verb one is N, verb two NORTH, verb three S, verb four SOUTH and so on, then after V% and O% have been found for the command which has been entered:

```

100 ON VX GOSUB 1100,1100,
1250,1250 ELSE GOSUB 1000

```

will direct control to a subroutine starting at line 1100 if the verb was N or NORTH, and to one at line 1250 if it was S or SOUTH.

The double entry isn't required if synonyms like N and NORTH have been allotted the same index number. At line 1000 would

be something like:

```

1000 PRINT "You can't do th
at!":RETURN

```

to deal with cases where no match can be found.

You may prefer to use procedures rather than subroutines. This can be done with:

```

500 AX=1000
510 GOSUB (AX+10+VX)

```

which will select from:

```

1000 PROCno_match:RETURN
1010 :
1020 PROCnorth:RETURN

```

the blank lines only being necessary if synonyms like N and NORTH don't have the same index number. If the program has to be renumbered during development, the value of A% may have to be adjusted.

A more unusual method of selecting subroutines is illustrated by Program V. You can't call procedures with a general statement like:

```

250 name$="north":PROCname$

```

Turn to Page 22 ▶

Programming

◀ From Page 21

but you can do this with functions:

```
250 name$="north":FX=EVAL(
'FN'+name$)
```

will call FNnorth which will result in F% being given a definite value. What's the point of that? you may ask. Suppose a function is defined as:

```
1000 DEF FNnorth
1010 PRINT "You go north,"
1100 =0
```

Then F%=FNnorth will make F% zero but the important point is that before doing so all the statements in lines 1010-1090 will be executed.

If these were a routine for drawing a circle, a circle would be drawn. Calling the function is only a subterfuge for getting the routine performed.

```

10 REM Program V
20 MODE 6
30 ON ERROR IF ERR=29 THE
N 50 ELSE CLS:END
40 GOTO 90
50 CLS:PRINT TAB(0,2);CHR
$7+"Verb not on list!"
60 :
90 REPEAT
100 PRINT TAB(0,4)"Enter
command (verb in lower case)
"
110 PRINT TAB(0,7);SPC(10)
120 INPUT TAB(0,7)" --> "x
$
130 x$=LEFT$(x$,3)
200 FX=EVAL("FN"+x$)
210 :
220 UNTIL FX=&FF
230 CLS:PRINT TAB(15,12)"
E N D"
480 END
490 :
500 DEF FNnor
510 PROCprint("North routi
ne")
520 =1
530 :
540 DEF FNqui
550 PROCprint("Do you real
ly want to quit (Y/N)?")
560 G$=GET$:IF G$<>"Y" AND
G$<>"y"=0
570 = &FF
580 :
1000 DEFPROCprint(a$)
1010 COLOUR0:COLOUR129
1020 xpos=(40-LENa$) DIV 2
1030 PRINT TAB(xpos,20);a$
1040 COLOUR1:COLOUR128
1050 ENDPROC
```

Program V

In Program V, as a demonstration of the power of this technique, you are asked to enter a verb. The program will only respond to nor(th) or quit(t) but you can insert as many functions as you like.

Line 200 directs control to the appropriate function, which returns the value of a flag variable F% which

serves as a move flag or to signal that the main loop is to be terminated.

In a sense this is a sophisticated version of our game in the September 1987 issue of *Electron User*, as all functions are interrogated in turn to see if a match with the command can be found.

Note that no index number has to be assigned

to the verb, but any object still has to be given one.

The error trap in line 30 stops No such FN/PROC from crashing the program when no function can be found to match the command verb. The method has a snag: You can't have synonyms without destroying its chief virtue simplicity.

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ONE of the bugbears of the otherwise excellent Advanced Disc Filing System (ADFS) in the Plus 3 is that it consumes a vast amount of memory.

On power-up or after Control+Break the ADFS grabs nearly 4k of free ram. This leaves just 4.5k of memory for your program if you want to use all eight colours in Mode 2 or high resolution Mode 0.

This is a serious problem for programmers developing software and is one of the reasons why there are so few games available on Plus 3 disc.

There are remedies though, but these create more problems. The standard solution to the lack of memory is to load the program in Mode 6, select the tape filing system and relocate the program by moving it down to &E00.

This recovers the lost memory and enables much longer programs to be run from disc. Many *Electron User* games use this method.

Problems occur, however, when you want to access the disc again. If you try moving the program back up to &1D00 and select the ADFS you'll just get error messages.

Once you've used the ADFS' workspace it won't initialise itself and steadfastly refuses to work. So,

Restore your ADFS workspace

ROLAND WADDILOVE shows how to access the ADFS after relocating a program

you can't access the disc once a program has been relocated.

The only solution is to clear the memory used by the ADFS either by switching the Electron off or pressing Break after entering *FX200,2.

This is a nuisance if you are developing software, or even simply typing in an *Electron User* listing, and makes menu driven programs which run from disc impossible - until now.

ADFS Restore, the utility presented here, will enable a program that has been relocated to access the disc system. It works by relocating the program again - moving it back up to &1D00 - before initialising the ADFS.

The program is written in machine code and occupies just one page of memory - 256 bytes. To create the

utility, first enter the listing, save it then run it. The machine code will be saved to disc with the name ADFS.

When you want to run a program which relocates down to &E00 first load the machine code with:

```
*LOAD ADFS
```

and then CHAIN your program as normal.

To access the disc, Escape from the program (don't press Break) and call Restore with:

```
CALL 8900
```

Your program will be moved back up to &1D00, the ADFS initialised and the disc in the drive *MOUNTed. You can now save the program or CHAIN another. The program stays intact throughout the operation - which takes just a fraction of a second.

The utility is quite straightforward and is in

two sections. The first part moves the program back up to &1D00 and the second initialises the ADFS.

You'll see two data statements at the end of the listing containing around 130 bytes of data. This is the whole of the ADFS' 3.75k (3,840 bytes) of workspace in a highly compacted form.

The second half of the utility simply expands this data, restoring the ADFS workspace so that it thinks you've either just switched on or pressed Control+Break. It then selects the ADFS with *ADFS and mounts the disc with *MOUNT.

This powerful utility opens up a whole new world and it's now possible to run long programs from disc, relocate them and still be able to access the disc afterwards - without pressing Break or switching off.

```

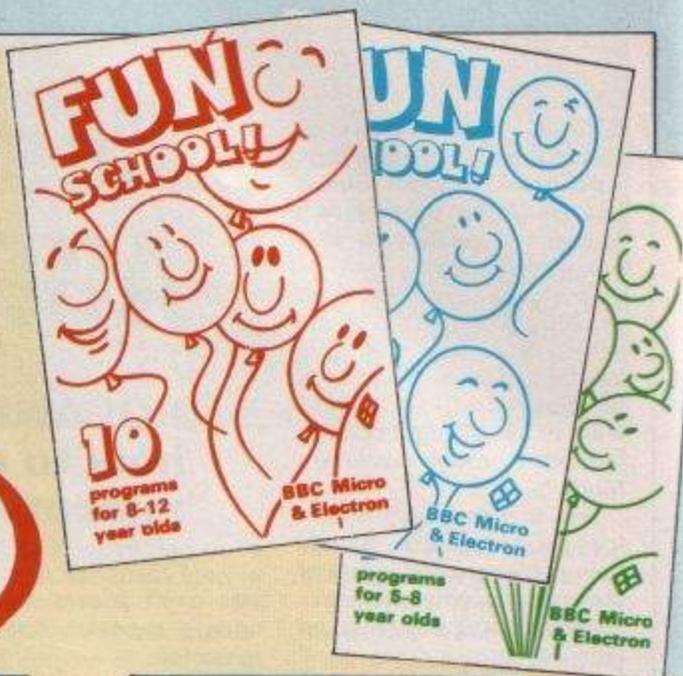
10 REM ADFS Restore
20 REM By R.A.Waddilove
30 REM (c) Electron User
40 workspace=&70
50 from=&72
60 to=&74
70 FOR pass=0 TO 2 STEP 2
80 PX=&900
90 COPT pass
100 \relocate program
110 LDY #0:STY workspace
120 STY from:STY to
130 CLC
140 LDA #&50:STA from+1
150 LDA #&5F:STA to+1
160 LDX #&43
170 .loop
180 LDA (from),Y
190 STA (to),Y
200 DEY:BNE loop
210 DEC from+1:DEC to+1
220 DEX:BNE loop
230 LDA #138
240 LDY #128
250 JSR &FFF4
260 LDX #key MOD256
270 LDY #key DIV256
280 JSR &FFF7
290 \restore ADFS
300 LDA #&E
310 STA workspace+1
320 LDX #0
330 .loop
340 LDA table,X
350 LDY table+1,X
360 .again
370 DEY
380 STA (workspace),Y
390 BNE again
400 CLC
410 LDA table+1,X
420 ADC workspace
430 STA workspace
440 BCC ok
450 INC workspace+1
460 .ok
470 INX:INX
480 CPX #&8A:BNE loop
490 RTS
500 .key
510 EQU$ "K.0PA.=&10001M0.
IM*ADFSIM*MOU.IM*CHRS13
520 .table
530 ]
540 NEXT
550 REPEAT
560 READ a$
570 !PX=EVAL("8"+a$)
580 PX=PX+4
590 UNTIL a$="1FF"
600 *SAVE ADFS 900 +100
610 DATA FF00FF00,1100200,
1010300,CFF2700,1788900,1FF2
200,1221800,16E0155,1650173,
1220174,1600100,12201F6,16E0
155,1650173,1220174
620 DATA 1600100,CFF01F6,F
F00FF00,FF00FF00,FF00FF00,FF
00FF00,FF00FF00,122E000,16E0
155,1650173,1220174,1600100,
12201F6,16E0155,1650173,1220
174,1600100,CFF01F6,171DE00,
1FF

```

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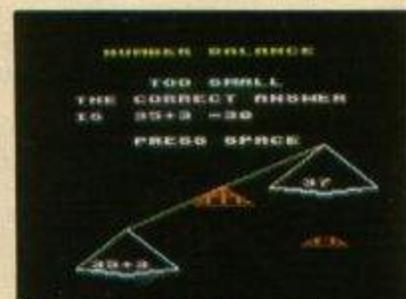
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TO ORDER TURN TO THE FORM ON PAGE 53

I INTRODUCED the concept of using the Electron as a prime means of supporting your child's school-based education last month. I also looked at the availability of educational software for the pre-school and infant age group.

Now I want to deal with the demanding and important junior school years.

My first experience of a micro as an instrument of learning was fairly disastrous. As a head of department in a thriving middle school, I was presented with what appeared to be a sparkling pocket calculator with a funny looking box attached to the back.

The calculator was in fact a Sinclair ZX81 and my headmaster was determined I should initiate my charges to computer-based learning.

None of the nine year olds in my group had ever seen a computer before and were as puzzled as I was in our efforts to make sense of the buttons and wires.

Eventually after dozens of attempts to stop the ram pack wobbling and some over-heating problems, I returned the miracle to my headmaster with the suggestion that somebody else might like a go.

It was an experience neither I, nor I suspect, my pupils will ever forget. Yet only six years later we, as teachers and parents, are coping with 7 to 11-year-olds who are, on the whole, computer literate.

This year is the first time I can say that children in all four years of my junior school have a full working knowledge of micros. While I, as their headteacher, write for a national computer magazine. How quickly time and knowledge changes.

Meanwhile at home, as parents we become disillusioned as little Johnny spends every waking hour bashing space-invaders, when our original intention



In Part II of his series NIC OUTTERSIDE examines educational software for junior school pupils

in buying a computer was to support his schooling.

Thankfully educational software is plentiful. Indeed the surfeit of software can make the choice very difficult.

On the reading and writing front, the range and scope is quite breathtaking. You won't go far wrong in buying any ASK (Acornsoft) release, particularly the Best Four Language Pack mentioned last month.

For the older child ABC, Talkback and Workshop provide some avant-garde ideas in language education, but are not a substitute for structured teaching of spelling and reading.

Highlight Software's Read Right Away and Reading Packs 1-4 are excellent value and provide a varied assortment of reading and spelling programs.

Magic E, Break-in, Sort out and Letter bug are particularly good programs which will probably be played ad-nauseam.

The Mr Men Magic Story Maker and Crack-It Towers from Mirrorsoft are two particularly relevant programs

to build on creativity and logical thinking respectively.

At £9.95 each they are good value, though they are available at knockdown prices from some mail order companies.

I also recommend Database Software's Fun School packages. Castle, Super Spell, Anagram, Codebreaker and Hangman, are addictive and excellent educational value. Both the 5-8 and 8-12 packages are available at only £4.95 each.

Golem Software is a company I have long admired and its Fun with Words, Education 1 and 2 packages are bargains at £6.50 each.

Particularly helpful are Suffix, There and Hangman which develop spelling and phonic structure in a most imaginative way.

Each of these programs can be introduced to the child with the minimum of explanation and he or she can be left to enjoy the software for its own sake. Obviously, back-up written work would be advantageous though not altogether essential.

For the BBC Micro,

4Mation has earned a reputation as producer of excellent text adventure-based learning programs.

Your child may well be familiar with Granny's Garden or Flowers of Crystal already. Although 4Mation do as not yet code its software for the Electron, there are some superb adventure based programs from other suppliers.

Comsoft's Serpent's Lair is currently selling at £3.95 and is an excellent introduction to this genre. Equally, LCL's Sir Francis Drake is an

Turn to Page 27 ►

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DATABASE PUBLICATIONS



To order please turn to the form on Page 53

◀ From Page 25

educational and exciting jaunt into the land of adventures.

Other good introductory adventures which come to mind include Usborne's *Island of Secrets*, Potter's *Adventure 4 Pack* and Acornsoft's *Sphinx Adventure*.

These can act as a medium to stimulate reading, improve spelling and increase powers of logical decision-making. They can become addictive, and provide stimulus for other creative work, such as model making or story writing.

Kosmos Software's *Answer Back* quizzes are upmarket educational rearrangements of the *Trivial Pursuit* concept and can act as stimuli for further learning and can provide hours of family fun.

At £8.95 with factfiles at only £4.95 each, they are sound educational investments.

On a more diverse track, BBC Soft's *Wordplay* is a marvellous introduction to word processing and at £9.95 may provide a springboard for your child's future creative writing.

Software to help numeracy development and general primary mathematics also abounds, though liaison between home and school is important here to avoid concept clashes.

Duckworth's *Competitive Maths* is a good buy at £5.95 and will help strengthen mental arithmetic and consolidation in the four rules of number.

Micro Power's *Junior Maths Pack* is also excellent value with *Number Spin* and *Coordinates* being computer adaptations of classroom teaching techniques.

Quick Thinking Plus by Mirrorsoft is a scintillating



package with two games to give practice with number skills.

Sum Vaders requires quick thinking in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to halt alien space-craft from landing.

Robot Tables gives a player the chance to create robots using number sequencing skills.

A program I have used to exhaustion is ASK's *Table Adventures*, which includes four games to improve tables knowledge. *Underground Escape* is my favourite. It involves mastery of factors in order to escape from a quickly flooding pothole.

Each stage progresses to a final self test. The whole package is exciting and graphically outstanding, and at £9.95 must represent a bargain.

Once again I recommend the *Fun School 5-8* and *8-12* packages. Denary Derrick,

Hilo, *Balance*, *Number signs*, *Maths Hike* and *Towers of Hanoi* are mind-stretching pieces of wonder which together with the aforementioned language offerings, are an essential purchase for any parent of a primary age child.

Other Database Software programs I have used extensively with youngsters include *Angler*, *Table Mountain*, *Mapping*, *Manipulation* and *Fun Factors*.

Angler is an original game which helps a child estimate the size of angles up to 45 degrees. *Mapping* involves careful use of mapping diagrams to display number bonds.

Fun Factors is a colourful ladders and levels game to consolidate factor knowledge.

Manipulation is an advanced calculation exercise which will stretch even adult minds, while *Table Mountain* is a fabulous pro-

gram to teach and practise multiplication tables.

Each of these programs has been featured in back issues of *Electron User* and in the *Educational Specials* published in 1985.

They have also been available on occasional tape offers such as *Educational Special Volume 2*, which at £3.95 is an absolute give-away.

All add a new dimension to a subject which for many children is difficult or even boring. Maths is fun, and computer based mathematics is truly exciting, even for the innumerate pupil.

So all in all, the software is available and will do much to change a games orientated computer into a vital learning aid.

You never know, your child may even end up preferring the educational software to the shoot-'em-up trivia to which he once was so addicted.

As I mentioned last month, most of the software mentioned can be ordered from the software mail order companies which advertise in this magazine. Notably, 21st Software, Rams Computer Centre, C&F Associates and Mithras offer many at sale prices. ■

Contacts

ABC
19 Crumstone Court, Killingworth, Tyne and Wear

Applied Systems Knowledge (ASK)
London House, 68 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 2RP
Tel: 01-874 6046

BBC Soft
35 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 4AA

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77 Qualitas, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 4QG
Tel: 0334 50720

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36 Sherbourne Close, Barry, South Glamorgan

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1 Pilgrims Way, Harlington, Dunstable, Bedfordshire

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ENTER THE THIRD

DIMENSION...

YOU'VE probably seen three dimensional representations of aircraft, machine parts, molecular structures and whatever else the human mind can think of created on powerful micros and mainframe computers.

They can be rotated enlarged and reduced, apparently without effort, by pieces of software that are without doubt very complex, running on computers much faster than our own, humble Electron.

Surprisingly, the basic idea is simpler than you may at first imagine.

In this article we're going to see how we can produce our own 3D images on the Electron.

To understand the workings of 3D graphics, it is first necessary to understand 2D or flat plane graphics.

The computer screen can be thought of as being a flat plane, somewhat akin to a sheet of paper. As such we can only move in four absolute directions - left and right in the X plane or up and down in the Y plane.

By drawing relative to both planes at the same time we produce diagonal lines, and by varying the

relative speeds we can vary the angle and curvature of a given line.

In 3D space however, we have to consider another physical plane, known as the Z plane. The position of any point on the Z axis is its distance from the observer.

This is not as strange as it may appear. Everything we do in life, from picking up your cup of tea to driving a

car, involves movement through 3D space.

Our brains calculate the distance an object is away from us (its position on the Z axis) using both eyes, so-called binocular vision.

Try closing one eye and then moving around, picking things up and so on. Because you now see everything in two dimensions, distance becomes

much more difficult to judge.

The position of an object in 3D space can be defined by specifying its X,Y,Z coordinates. Figure 1 shows the positions of the X,Y and Z axes and the coordinates of a cube, which is centered around 0,0,0.

For the moment let's forget the Z coordinates. This leaves us with the X,Y

ANDRÉ MOERENHOUT shows how to create 3D wireframe graphics on the Electron

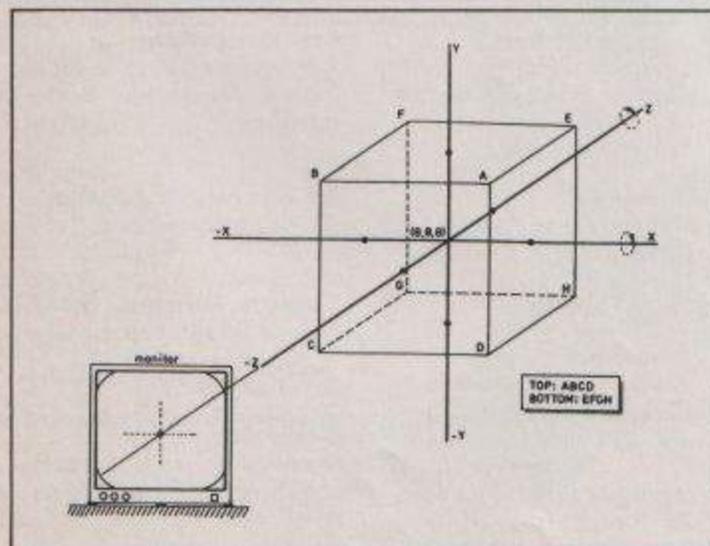


Figure 1: A 3D cube showing X,Y and Z coordinates

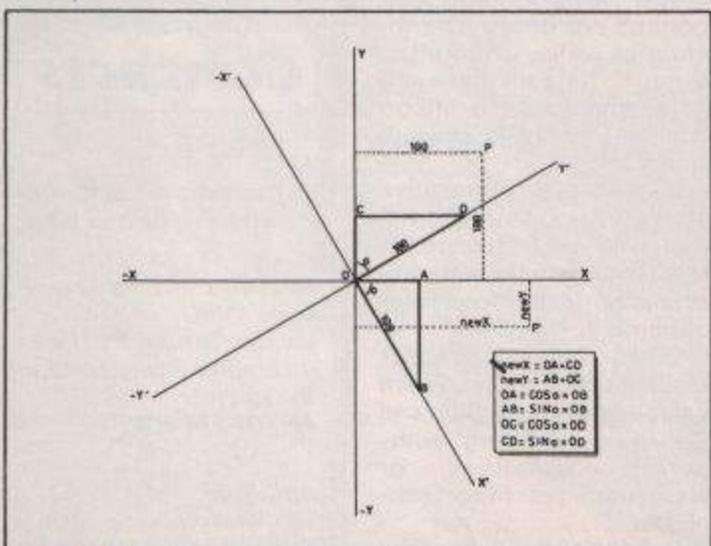


Figure 2: The effect of rotating Z with respect to X and Y

```

10 REM 3D Cube
20 REM By A.P.Moerenhout
30 REM (c) Electron User
40 :
50 MODE4
60 VDU23;8202;0;0;0;
70 PROCinit
80 REPEAT
90 PROCcalc
100 CLG
110 VDU28,32,31,39,1
120 PRINT"xturn"x"zturn"x
xstep"x"zstep"x"dist"x"scal
e"dstep"x"sstep
130 VDU28,27,31,39,21
140 FOR IX=0 TO 7
150 IF IX=4 PRINT
160 PRINTp%(IX,0),p%(IX,1)
170 NEXT
180 PROCplot
190 xturn%=xturn%+xstep%
MOD 360
200 zturn%=zturn%+zstep%
MOD 360
210 dist%=dist%+dstep%
220 scale=scale+sstep
230 UNTIL0
240 END
250 :
260 DEFPROCinit
270 DIM p%(7,1)
280 @X=800405
290 PROCvars
300 MOVE0,0:DRAW1279,0:DRA
W1279,1023:DRAW0,1023:DRAW0,
0
310 MOVE32,32:DRAW736,32:D
RAW736,991:DRAW32,991:DRAW32
,32
320 VDU19,0,4;0;
330 VDU23,1,0;0;0;0;
340 VDU24,48;48;720;975;
350 VDU29,380;512;
360 VDU28,25,31,39,1
370 PRINT"xturn: ""zturn
n: ""xstep: ""zstep: ""
380 PRINT"dist : ""scal
e: ""dstep: ""sstep: ""
390 PRINT TAB(4,18)"X's Y
's";
400 VDU28,25,31,39,21
410 FOR IX=0 TO 7
420 IF IX=4 PRINT
430 PRINTCHR$(IX+97);";"
440 NEXT
450 ENDPROC
460 :
470 DEFPROCvars
480 dist=1E6:dstep%=0
490 scale=1.5:sstep%=0
500 xturn%=0:xstep%=5
510 zturn%=0:zstep%=5
520 ENDPROC
530 :
540 DEFPROCcalc
550 LOCAL x%,y%,z%,xts,xtc
,zts,ztc,R
560 RESTORE 700
570 xts=SIN(RAD(xturn%))
580 xtc=COS(RAD(xturn%))
590 zts=SIN(RAD(zturn%))
600 ztc=COS(RAD(zturn%))
610 FOR IX=0 TO 7
620 READ x%,y%,z%
630 R =distX/(distX+xX+zts
*xts-yX*ztc*xts+zX*xtc)*scale
640 p%(IX,0)=(xX*ztc+yX*zt
s)*R
650 p%(IX,1)=(yX*ztc*xtc-x
X*zts*xtc+zX*xts)*R
660 NEXT
670 ENDPROC
680 :
690 REM Cube coordinates
700 REM Top plane (ABCD)
710 DATA 100, 100, -100
720 DATA -100, 100, -100
730 DATA -100, -100, -100
740 DATA 100, -100, -100
750 REM Bottom plane (DEF
G)
760 DATA 100, 100, 100
770 DATA -100, 100, 100
780 DATA -100, -100, 100
790 DATA 100, -100, 100
800 :
810 DEFPROCplot
820 PLOT4,p%(0,0),p%(0,1)
830 FOR IX=1 TO 3
840 PLOT 5,p%(IX,0),p%(IX,
1)
850 NEXT
860 PLOT5,p%(0,0),p%(0,1)
870 FOR IX=4 TO 7
880 PLOT5,p%(IX,0),p%(IX,1)
890 NEXT
900 PLOT5,p%(4,0),p%(4,1)
910 FOR IX=1 TO 3
920 PLOT4,p%(IX,0),p%(IX,1)
930 PLOT5,p%(IX+4,0),p%(IX
+4,1)
940 NEXT
950 PROCletters
960 ENDPROC
970 :
980 DEFPROCletters
990 VDU5
1000 FOR IX=0 TO 7
1010 MOVEp%(IX,0),p%(IX,1)
1020 IF p%(IX,0)>0 THEN PLO
T0,10,0 ELSE PLOT0,-42,0
1030 IF p%(IX,1)>0 THEN PLO
T0,0,30
1040 PRINTCHR$(IX+97);
1050 NEXT
1060 VDU4
1070 ENDPROC

```

Program 1

pair, which can be used directly as the familiar screen coordinate.

If the cube was drawn in just the X and Y planes, only one side would ever be visible. That of course, is not the correct way to represent a cube.

We want to be able to look at it from every conceivable angle, and above all, from different distances. This is

the point where the Z coordinate comes into play.

The following set of equations convert a 3D coordinate X,Y,Z into its 2D equivalent:

$$R = \text{dist} / (\text{dist} * X * \sin(z) * \sin(x) - Y * \cos(z) * \sin(x) + Z * \cos(x)) * \text{scale}$$

$$XP = (X * \cos(z) + Y * \sin(z)) * R$$

$$YP = (Y * \cos(z) * \cos(x) - X * \sin(z) * \cos(x) + Z * \sin(x)) * R$$

Unfortunately an explanation of how they work is beyond the scope of this article. The maths involved is advanced, and involves the multiplication and transformation of matrices.

When all the relevant points of a 3D shape are known, however complicated that shape may be, it can be manipulated any way you like by recalculating the coordinates.

To give a hint of how the recalculation works take a look at Figure 11, which shows how rotation around the Z axis effects the values

of X and Y.

By way of demonstration, Program 1 rotates a wire frame object through various different views. The program is short and fairly straightforward.

You can experiment with the variables in PROCvars and watch the effect on the object, but be careful not to alter them too much or you'll lose track of what is happening.

As you can see in lines 710-790, the cube is centered around 0,0,0. This

Turn to Page 30 ▶

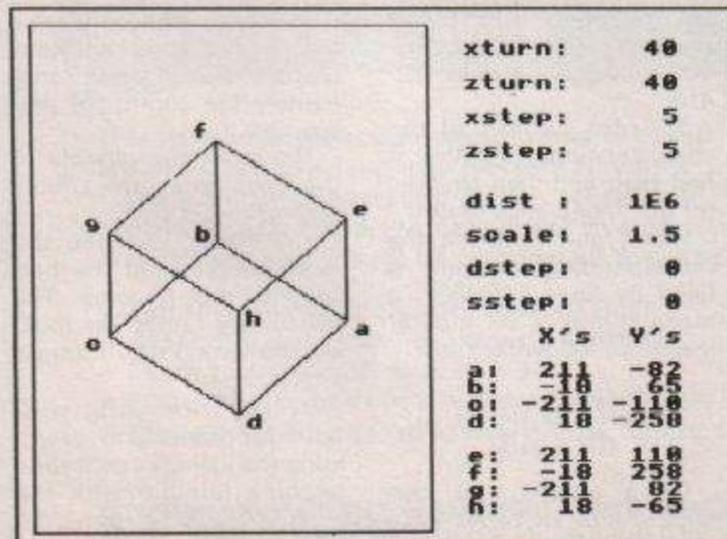


Figure 11: The spinning 3D cube drawn by Program 1

VARIABLES

- x%,y%,z% Original coordinates
- zturn% Degrees of rotation about Z
- xturn% Degrees of rotation about X
- dist% Distance from the object
- scale The apparent size
- p%(r%,c%,n) New coordinates
- R Coefficient of rotation

Programming

```

10 REM 3D-Text
20 REM by A.P.Moerenhout
30 REM (c) Electron User
40 :
50 MODE1
60 PROCinit
70 PROCstring("User",-200
,2)
80 PROCstring("Electron",
-50,3)
90 PROCstring("xturn%="+S
TR$(xturn%),150,1)
100 PROCstring("zturn%="+S
TR$(zturn%),400,1)
110 END
120 :
130 DEFPROCinit
140 DIM p%(8,8,1)
150 PROCvars
160 xts=SIN(RAD(xturn%))
170 xtc=COS(RAD(xturn%))
180 zts=SIN(RAD(zturn%))
190 ztc=COS(RAD(zturn%))
200 VDU23;8202;0;0;0;
210 VDU29;640;512;
220 VDU19;2,4;0;
230 ENDPROC
240 :
250 DEFPROCvars
260 dist%=100;scale=1
270 xsize%=16;xturn%=-10
280 ysize%=16;zturn%=0
290 ENDPROC
300 :
310 DEFPROCstring(AS,ypos%
,col%)
320 GCOLOR,col%
330 xpos%=4*xsize%-LENAS*4
*xsize%
340 FOR LX=1 TO LENAS
350 FOR c%=0 TO 8
360 SOUND1,-15,10,1
370 FOR r%=0 TO 8
380 PROCcalc(((r%-4)*xsize
%)+xpos%,((4-c%)*ysize%)+ypo
s%)
390 p%(r%,c%,0)=XPX:p%(r%,
c%,1)=YPX
400 NEXT
410 NEXT
420 AX=10:XX=880:YX=0
430 ?&&80=ASC(MID$(AS,LX)):
CALL&FFF1
440 FOR c%=0 TO 7
450 FOR r%=0 TO 7
460 IF c%?&81 AND 2^(7-r%)
PROCfilldot(r%,c%)
470 NEXT
480 NEXT
490 xpos%=xpos%+8*xsize%
500 NEXT
510 ENDPROC
520 :
530 DEFPROCfilldot(r%,c%)
540 PLOT 4,p%(r%,c%,0),p%(
r%,c%,1)
550 PLOT 4,p%(r%+1,c%,0),p
%(r%+1,c%,1)
560 PLOT85,p%(r%+1,c%+1,0)
,p%(r%+1,c%+1,1)
570 PLOT 4,p%(r%,c%+1,0),p
%(r%,c%+1,1)
580 PLOT85,p%(r%,c%,0),p%(
r%,c%,1)
590 ENDPROC
600 :
610 DEFPROCcalc(x%,y%)
620 R=dist%/(dist%+X*zts+
xts-y*ztc*xts)*scale
630 XPX=(x%*ztc+y%*zts)*R
640 YPX=(y%*ztc-x%*zts
*xtc)*R
650 ENDPROC

```

Program II

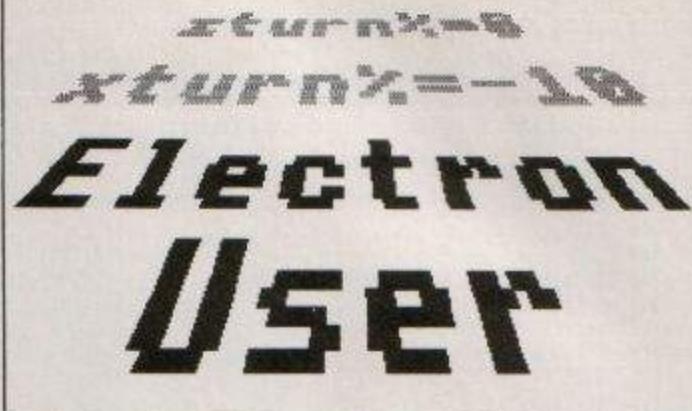


Figure IV: 3D text drawn on a grid

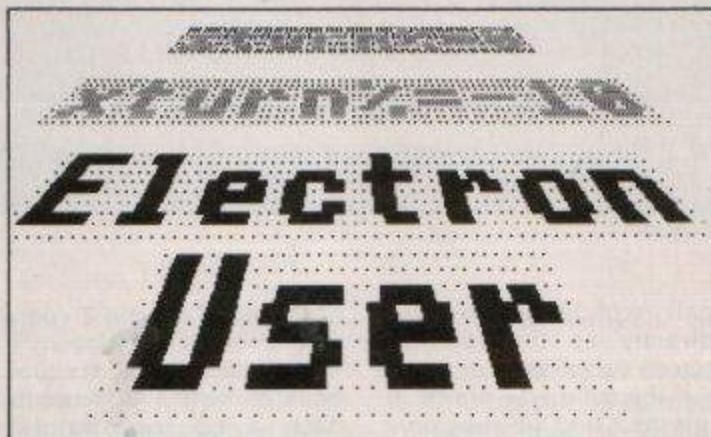


Figure V: 3D text showing the 81 point grid

◀ From Page 29

ensures that it stays at approximately the same position on the screen while it is being manipulated.

This is by no means necessary, and the cube could be positioned anywhere on screen, although it could soon vanish if not placed correctly.

Additionally, there's nothing to stop you from putting two or more shapes on the screen simultaneously.

Enter and run program II. It displays 3D text on the screen. The effects obtained can be best explained by holding a sheet of paper in front of your eyes, and turning it without folding or bending, any way you like.

Like Program I, you are rotating a 2D plane in a 3D environment. Anything written on the paper has no depth of its own.

This explains the absence of the Z coordinate in PROCcalc. The text is positioned in the plane Z=0.

PROCstring is the main procedure. Three parameters are passed to it – the string to be printed, the vertical screen coordinate ypos% and a colour.

The horizontal coordinate is calculated at line 330. This ensures the text is centered, but you could alter this by specifying xpos% when you call the procedure – add a fourth parameter and delete line 330.

Note that the graphics origin is in the middle of the

screen.

The procedure sets up an 81 point grid and moves this to the position specified xpos%, ypos%. All 81 points are then recalculated to new 3D equivalents – lines 350-410.

The dot pattern of the character under scrutiny is first read and then checked for the appearance of dots.

When one is found the corresponding rectangle is filled by lines 440-480. To make things a bit clearer insert the following lines:

```

385 GCOLOR 0,3
386 PLOT 69,XPX,YPX
387 GCOLOR 0,col%

```

Once again, you can experiment with the variables in PROCvars. If you hear a tick but can't see

anything happening, it probably means the program is plotting off the screen.

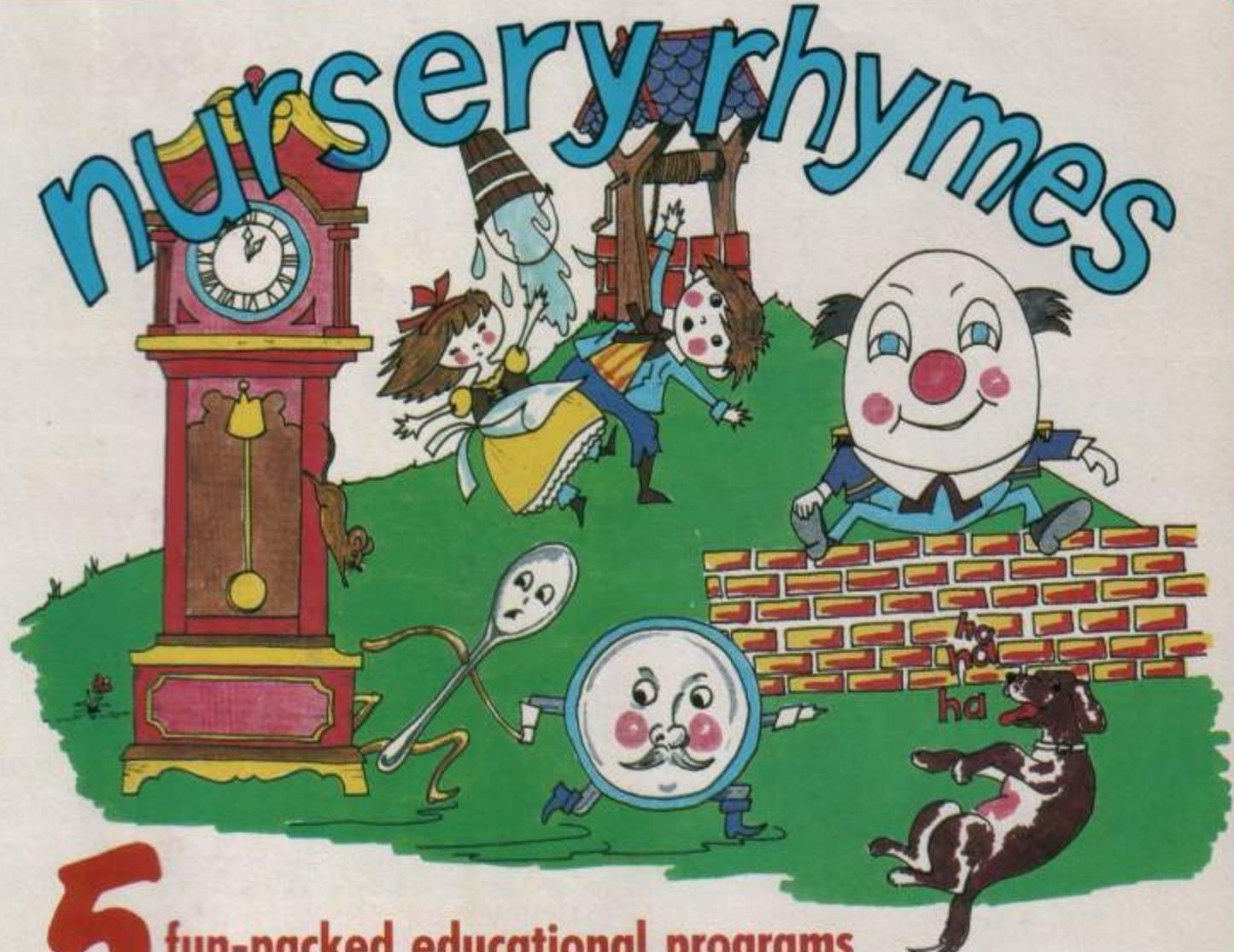
So far I've omitted to say a few words about another feature of the equations, namely the control of perspective.

The principle variable in the programs that affects perspective is dist%.

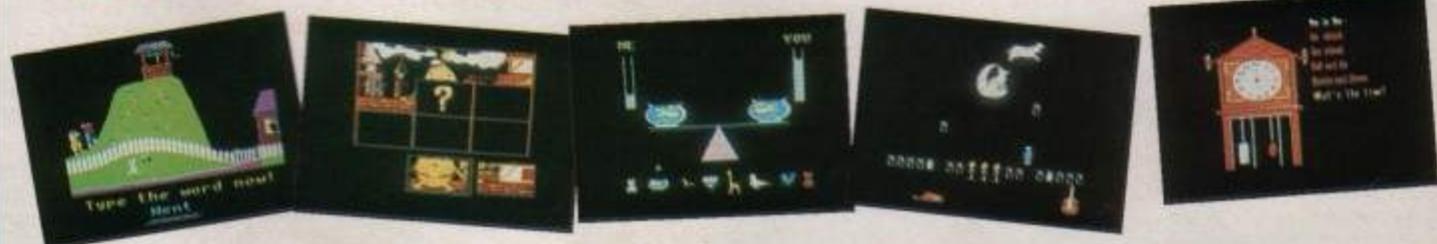
The closer you get, the more pronounced the perspective will become. The effects are rather like looking the wrong way through a telescope.

By experimenting with both programs and examining the listings you'll soon become familiar with the effects which can be produced and the methods involved. ■

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Witchcraft

Exercise your brain and solve JOANNE STEVENS' intriguing puzzle

WITCHCRAFT is a fascinating puzzle designed to stretch your powers of logic and reasoning to the limit. Slow down, take a break from zapping aliens, give your fingers a rest and exercise the old grey matter for a change.

This one player game is based on a three by three grid, shown in Figure 1. The Micro Kid is surrounded by the wicked witch Zelda, and your task is to reverse the situation so the Micro Kid surrounds the witch, as in the puzzle target on the right of Figure 1.

The control keys are shown underneath the puzzle and you can zap any of the witches in the grid by pressing the corresponding key below. You can't press a key with the Micro Kid on.

The effect of a key is to switch certain squares so a witch becomes a Micro Kid and a Kid becomes a witch.

The keys in the corners (Q, E, C and Z) reverse a block of four squares, the one in the middle (S) reverses the central cross while the ones in the middle of each side (W, D, X and A) reverse that side. Figure 2 summarises the effects of

the control keys.

Once you have solved this puzzle you'll be presented with the next – there are eight in all. You have 120 seconds (two minutes) to solve the first one, 110 seconds for the second, 100 for the third, then 90 and so on.

If you turn all the squares into the Micro Kid there won't be any witches left to zap and you'll have failed to solve the puzzle. Be careful, this is quite easy to do without realising it.



Turn to Page 35 ▶

Figure 1: The opening screen

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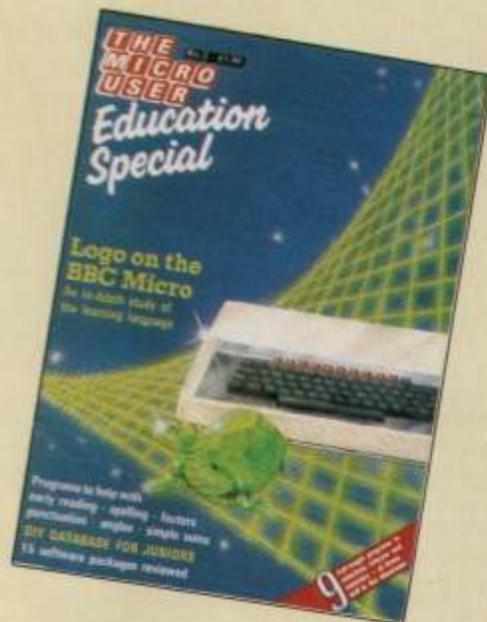
Punctuation: Test and
teach the rules of
punctuation.

Educational Computing on the Electron

Volume 2 of *The Micro User* Education Special contains nine full length programs written to the highest standards and each picked to combine educational worth with sheer enjoyment. The nine programs cover topics from early reading and simple sums to the rules of punctuation and angle estimation - and there's an excellent introductory database.

The programs on the tape and disc have been adapted for the Electron and the magazine contains all the original listings together with advice on how they can be adapted to cater for individual needs.

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**To order turn to the
form on Page 53**

◀ From Page 33

```

10 REM Witchcraft
20 REM By Joanne Stevens
30 REM (c) Electron User
40 MODE 1
50 PROCinitialise
60 PROCscreen
70 puzzle=0
80 boxX=16
90 TX=13000
100 REPEAT
110 PROCstart
120 REPEAT
130 PROCkey
140 PROCdisplay(boxX,5,10)
150 UNTIL boxX=targetX OR
TIME>TX OR boxX=511
160 COLOUR 131:COLOUR 0
170 IF boxX=511 OR TIME>TX
PRINT TAB(9,29) "You have f
ailed... ":boxX=511:VDU 7 EL
SE PRINT TAB(12,29) "Well do
ne..."
180 KX=INKEY$00
190 UNTIL puzzle=8 OR boxX
=511
200 PRINT TAB(6,29) "Do yo
u want to try again?"
210 IF INSTR("y",GET$) TH
EN RUN ELSE MODE 6
220 END
230
240 DEF PROCkey
250 PRINT TAB(27,25) "Time:
";(TX-TIME)DIV 100"
260 KX=INSTR(" QWEASDZXC",
INKEY$0)-2
270 IF KX>-1 IF KX<9 IF (b
oxX AND 2^(8-KX))=0 boxX=box
X EOR ruleX(KX):SOUND 0,-9,4
,1:*FX21
280 ENDPROC
290
300 DEF PROCstart
310 RESTORE 350
320 FOR IX=0 TO puzzle
330 READ targetX
340 NEXT
350 DATA 495,186,341,186,3
81,471,146,325
360 puzzle=puzzle+1
370 TX=TX+1000
380 PROCdisplay(targetX,24
,10)
390 PROCdisplay(boxX,5,10)
400 VDU 7:*FX178,255
410 COLOUR 131:COLOUR 0:PR
INT TAB(8,29) "Solve puzzle
number ";puzzle;"
420 KX=INKEY$00
430 COLOUR 129:COLOUR 3:PR
INT TAB(8,29)SPC(30)
440 TIME=0
450 ENDPROC
460
470 DEF PROCinitialise
480 VDU 23,1,0;0;0;0;
490 sdata=BA00:*FX16
500 RESTORE 1370
510 FOR i=0 TO 383 STEP 4
520 READ a$
530 i:sdata=EVAL("&"+a$)
540 NEXT
550 addr=650
560 sprite=652
570 FOR i=0 TO 2 STEP 2
580 PX=8000
590 OPT i

```

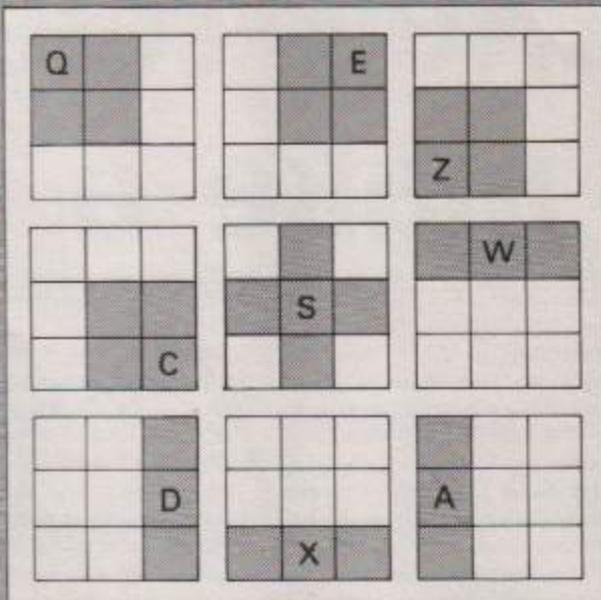


Figure 11:
The control
keys

PROCEDURES

screen Set up the screen display

display Print the puzzle

window Draw a window

big Print double height text

start Define the variables

VARIABLES

box% The puzzle

target% The target

puzzle Puzzle number

T% The time remaining

rule%() The rules

```

600 .display
610 LDX #3
620 .loop1
630 LDY #63
640 .loop2
650 LDA (sprite),Y
660 STA (addr),Y
670 DEY
680 BPL loop2
690 CLC
700 LDA addr:ADC #80:STA
addr:LDA addr+1:ADC #62:STA
addr+1
710 LDA sprite:ADC #64:STA
sprite:LDA sprite+1:ADC #0:
STA sprite+1
720 DEX
730 BNE loop1
740 RTS
750 J
760 NEXT
770 DIM ruleX(8)
780 RESTORE 800
790 FOR IX=0 TO 8:READ rul
eX(IX):NEXT
800 DATA 432,448,216,292,1
86,73,54,7,27
810 VDU 23,255,170,85,170,
85,170,85,170,85
820 ENDPROC
830
840 DEF PROCscreen
850 CLS:*FX178
860 GCOL 0,1
870 FOR IX=0 TO 1024 STEP
12
880 MOVE 0,IX:DRAW 1280,IX
890 NEXT
900 GCOLB,2:MOVE 0,0:DRAW
0,1023:DRAW 1278,1023:DRAW 1
278,0:DRAW 0,0
910 PROCwindow(9,4,30,1)
920 PRINT TAB(5,1);:PROCBi
g("WitchCraft")
930 PROCwindow(1,29,37,7)
940 PROCwindow(4,17,15,9)
950 PROCwindow(23,17,34,9)
960 PROCwindow(23,25,35,23
)
970 VDU 26
980 COLOUR 131:COLOUR 0
990 PRINT TAB(7,20) "PUZZL
E "TAB(26,20) "TARGET "
1000 COLOUR 129:COLOUR 2
1010 PRINT TAB(9,23) "W W E"
TAB(9,25) "A S D"TAB(9,27) "Z
X C"
1020 COLOUR 3:PRINT TAB(3,2
5) "Keys:"TAB(19,14) "=>"
1030 ENDPROC
1040
1050 DEF PROCwindow(LX,BX,R
X,TX)
1060 VDU 28,LX,BX,RX,TX
1070 COLOUR 128:CLS
1080 VDU 28,LX+1,BX+1,RX+1,
TX+1
1090 COLOUR 129:CLS
1100 GCOLB,2
1110 MOVE 30+LX*32,992-TX*3
2
1120 DRAW 64+RX*32,992-TX*3

```

```

2
1130 DRAW 64+RX*32,960-BX*3
2
1140 DRAW 30+LX*32,960-BX*3
2
1150 DRAW 30+LX*32,992-TX*3
2
1160 ENDPROC
1170
1180 DEF PROCdisplay(BX,IX,
J%)
1190 FOR X=0 TO 2
1200 FOR Y=0 TO 2
1210 !addr=63000+(IX+X*4)+
16+(JX+Y*3)*6280
1220 !sprite=sdata+192*((BX
/2)^(8-X-Y*3))AND 1)
1230 CALL display
1240 NEXT
1250 NEXT
1260 ENDPROC
1270
1280 DEF PROCbig(a$)
1290 FOR I=1 TO LEN a$
1300 ?870=ASC(MID$(a$,IX))
1310 AX=10:XX=870:YX=0:CALL
8FFF1
1320 VDU 23,225,?871,?871,?
872,?872,?873,?873,?874,?874
,225,10,8
1330 VDU 23,225,?875,?875,?
876,?876,?877,?877,?878,?878
,225,11
1340 NEXT
1350 ENDPROC
1360
1370 REM Witch
1380 DATA A000A0F0,A000A000
,A050A0F0,B150A050,B351A0F0,
FFFFFF73,FFFFFF50,FFFFFFF,F
FFEECF0,9FBFFF,FF,A050A0F0,FF
FFFFFFE,A050A0F0,A00A050,B05
B00F0,B050B050
1390 DATA A000A000,A000A000
,F773B151,CFFFFFFF,A09ECFFF,
F0F0690E,1EF00FFF,F0F03C12,C
3F0F069,F0E1C3C2,FC31FFF,78E
11F01,ECDCA0B8,20DCA0DC,B050
B050,B050B050
1400 DATA A000A000,F000A000
,A141A347,F050A050,78F0F078,
F050A134,A5F0F0F0,F00769C2,1
EF0C304,F00F3C03,F01ED204,F0
0FF01E,C2D2C294,F01CA494,B05
0B050,F050B050
1410 REM Micro Kid
1420 DATA 858285F0,85828582
,50A05F0,377F3710,FF1B05F0,F
FFFFFFF,FFFFFF770,FFFFFFF,FF
FFB0F0,EDFFFFFF,C0605F0,A55
EFDEE,50A05F0,850A050A,141A1
4F0,141A141A
1430 DATA 85828582,85828582
,FFFFFF77F,777FFFF,EDFF,A5CB
AC4A,60000FF,A5000026,2500A5
5A,A57A5572,1303000B,A55A800
0,1020102,C14A4906,141A141A,
141A141A
1440 DATA 85828582,F0028582
,51A1530,F00A050A,A55A55A,F
00A345A,A549A458,F078A55A,A5
00A55A,F0F0A55A,B45A255A,F00
A550,502C14A,F00A050A,141A1
41A,F01A141A

```

This listing is included in this month's cassette tape offer. See order form on Page 53.



By Pendragon

New releases make a splash

THIS month is the third Top Twenty I have compiled since I took over the cave nearly a year ago, and it is certainly the most interesting.

Only 27 per cent separates the top and bottom positions, and never has an adventure received as high a vote as that achieved by The Lost Crystal.

The marks are an average of all votes sent in since the

last chart in June, and it's good to see new releases making such an impression.

The mail I have received praising Dodgy Geezers, The Nine Dancers, Kayleth and Oxbridge has been phenomenal.

I am sure I am not alone in believing the quality of Electron adventures has increased manifold during the last year.

It is also pleasing that true classics such as Wheel of Fortune, Myorem and Woodbury End remain firmly in the top ten.

With new releases such as Village of Lost Souls, Suds and The Puppet Man yet to have time to make their presence felt, the next Top Twenty in February should be just as absorbing.

Last month I mentioned an excellent release by Riverdale Software called Suds. Dave Edwards, the author of this spoof on TV soaps, tells me that at one location, by careful examination, the word Pendragon can be found.

Further to this, he is willing to send the first five readers of this column who discover the location advance copies of Riverdale's next adventure, American Suds.

So come on, adventure buffs - the race is on.

This month I received an interesting booklet helping beginners with Gilsoft's Quill. Anyone interested should write enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to Alan Davidson, 32c Imperial Drive, Airdrie, Scotland, ML6 9EQ.

While on the subject of stamped addressed envelopes, I have been receiving mail without this necessary prerequisite. My pigeons will not carry replies unless you include one.

And if you are asking for maps or solutions, please make the envelope a large one.

I thank James Elson of Exeter for his fantastic array of maps and complete solution to Twin Kingdom Valley. They are too large and numerous to copy for distribution, but I promise to serialise them once Savage Island has been completed.

Many old adventures are currently available at knock-down bargain prices. For instance, all the old Adventure International and Digital Fantasia series can be bought for less than £3 each from a number of suppliers.

Now is the time to build your collection with classics such as Adventureland and

Savage Island before they are deleted, never to return.

One such bargain adventure is the old Melbourne House release, Denis Through the Drinking Glass. It costs as little as £1.50 from some sources.

However, it has come to my notice that there are three different versions, two of them bugged.

If yours crashes when you type I for Inventory or hangs up when you try to SAVE a position, you should return it to the supplier for an immediate replacement.

Last winter, while compiling the Electron Adventure database, I received a complete set of the old Acornsoft adventures.

It seems these are now like gold dust and virtually unobtainable. Many readers have written asking where they can pick up copies of these immortal goodies.

Maybe Superior Software could release an Acornsoft Hits volume containing Philosopher's Quest, Sphinx Adventure, Countdown to Doom and Castle of Riddles. If you think this is a good idea, why not write and let them know.

John Kerr, Jane Forbes and Gary Fisher among others have written claiming to be the first to complete Epic's stunner, The Lost Crystal.

The first full solution I received, however, arrived on April 24th from Robert Henderson of Liverpool. It is the solution I am currently serialising in Hall of Fame.

Congratulations must go to everyone who have completed it - and special thanks to Mark Allen for his set of maps.

Until the keys drop off your Electron, happy adventuring.

TOP TWENTY READERS' VOTES

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| 1 | The Lost Crystal | Epic | 98% |
| 2 | Myorem | Robico | 96% |
| 3 | Kayleth | Adventure Soft | 93% |
| 4 | Oxbridge | Tynesoft | 92% |
| 5 | Dodgy Geezers | Melbourne House | 91% |
| 6 | Wheel of Fortune | Epic | 90% |
| 7 | Woodbury End | Shards | 89% |
| 8 | Rick Hanson | Robico | 88% |
| 9 | Quest for the Holy Grail | Epic | 87% |
| 10 | The Ket Trilogy | Incentive | 86% |
| 11 | Philosopher's Quest | Acornsoft | 85% |
| 12 | Twin Kingdom Valley | Bug Byte | 84% |
| 13 | Project Thesis | Robico | 83% |
| 14 | The Nine Dancers | Larsoft | 82% |
| 15 | Operation Safras | Shards | 81% |
| 16 | Sphinx Adventure | Acornsoft | 79% |
| 17 | Terrormolinos | Melbourne House | 76% |
| 18 | Ferryman Awaits | Kansas City | 75% |
| 19 | Fantastic Four | Adventure Soft | 74% |
| 20 | Classic Adventure | Melbourne House | 71% |

| Location | Description | Objects | Exits | Result |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------|------------|--------|
| 11 | Too dark to see | - | - | - |
| 12 | Edge of hot, rocky cliff | Crevice | Go crevice | 10 |
| 13 | In a lake | None | Swim | 9 |
| | | | Swim West | 14 |
| | | | Swim down | 20 |
| 14 | West of lake on secluded ledge | Crevice | East | 13 |
| | | | Go crevice | 15 |
| 15 | Edge of cliff | None | East | 14 |
| 16/17 | As 11 - maze | - | - | - |
| 18/19 | of caves | - | - | - |
| 20 | Above lake bottom | Watch | Swim East | 21 |
| 21 | Above lake bottom | Block | Swim North | 22 |
| 22 | Above lake bottom | Knife | Swim up | 13 |



Readers Hall of Fame

Enthar Seven (continued from last month)

Equip yourself with the spanner, torch, boots, Decibox and Translator. Enter the transportation cubicle and press S1.

You are in familiar territory and can now make real progress. Trace your steps back along the ledge into the misty cavern. Here you should venture NW and S to the grotto, then UP into the alcove. Enter the Twisty maze taking care to LISTEN and follow the song.

Once you have descended to the regular passages, you will soon meet a little man who walks in an anti-clockwise direction. After a one-sided conversation he will exchange a spherical sweet for the pair of boots.

Now go back to the cavern and journey NORTH through the hall of bats, then EAST to discover the Supplies room. The goggles, shovel and mat can be taken and you will now discover a use for the spanner.

If you dig with the shovel in the bat guano you will unearth a diamond. Now go to the transportation cubicle west of the cavern and teleport back to the Command Centre. *(More next month.)*

- The Boss

The Lost Crystal (continued from last month)

The third part is the largest and most difficult. At the start you should blow your whistle to break the window of the mountain door and unbolt it. Now you can retrieve the hammer and monocle.

Go to the rockfall and a secret passage will be revealed. The Priestess is here and she will swap objects with you. Exchange your whistle for a brass key and use this to enter Barnacle Bill's hut where you can take the

canoe. Ensure you lock the door on the way out.

Hide the canoe and hammer, return to the Priestess and give her the key. Now go and get the canoe, paddle and hammer and make a sortie past Barnacle Bill's hut. Fill the bottle and drink, then row the boat across the water.

Find the red crystal and wear the cloak to get past the Hydra. The cloak will vanish as you enter the temple. Visit the white crystal room and take the necklace. Now go to the red crystal room and drop the crystal. You are transported back to the caves.

Return to the Priestess and give her your bottle. She will give you a green crystal. Find the mermaid and give her the necklace which she will exchange for a weapon to kill the Hydra.

Go to where you last rowed the canoe and GET BOAT with the sail pole. Row it again and kill the Hydra. Go to the grating, drop the hammer and return to the temple. Drop the green crystal in the green crystal room.

The next bit is quite complex. Go to the Priestess and exchange your arquebus for a white crystal which you must give to the mermaid.

Take the black crystal she gives you, to the Priestess, then give your monocle to the mermaid. You should have received a blue crystal and wooden key in return for your errands.

Get the canoe once again. Go to the temple and open the door with the wooden key. Finally drop the blue crystal in the blue crystal room. *(More next month.)*

- Robert Henderson

Overture & Beginners

The authors of text adventures such as *Wheel of Fortune*, *Classic Adventure* and *Sphinx* ensure the longevity of their masterpieces by inspirational writing and clever puzzle construction. They often add icing to their cakes by confronting you with cunning dead ends.

Only after perhaps, hours of exploration will you realise that a seemingly impossible exit is in fact a doorway to the next part of the game.

In *Sphinx Adventure* the dead ends are often clever and witty.

I remember getting stuck at the bottom of a rock slide, only to discover after numerous attempts to progress that I needed a magic ring to escape from traps such as this.

However, an even better stymie occurred when I was swallowed by a serpent while trying to cross a lake in a boat.

I imagined for a long time

this was a gruesome exit from the game, but later, by chance discovered that striking a match had startling effects.

Recently, while reviewing *Suds*, I was scratching my head for days on a road blocked by my relations from Emeroyd Farm. I imagined once again this was the author trying to tell me to travel in a different direction.

Only when I realised that progress elsewhere was completed did I try pouring a bucket of concrete to cement relations. Such is the wit of David Edwards, and I was able to finish part one of the adventure.

A more grotesque blockage appeared in *The Ket Trilogy*. When confronted by a door in mint condition, I tried every method I could find to proceed through the exit to finer riches.

The only clue was a mixed-up loop, which only



confused me further. Eventually a reader helped me out, and by saying **POLO** I created a hole to climb through!

The best dead end I have come across recently, was the wall in the *Bogle's* cave in *The Lost Crystal*.

I won't reveal the secret,

but maybe you shouldn't sit in the chair.

It just goes to prove we all have blind spots and lateral thinking is an essential skill in opening locked doors.

● Next month I will begin the *adventurer's encyclopedia*.

Problems Solved

Sphinx Adventure and **Twin Kingdom Valley** account for more than one third of my mail.

Such is the quality of these adventures that they still pose problems some four years after they were released.

Dominic Newman asks how to get to the bronze door in **TKV** and J.Parsons wants to know how to meet the princess in the same adventure.

You must proceed west from the Hall of the Forest King, ensuring you are wearing the amulet.

You will soon discover the bronze door, beyond which is the princess who awaits rescue.

Gareth Jones needs to say **Diaxos** to open the safe in *Sphinx Adventure*, while

John Pidgeon should travel S, S, N, E, W, S, D, D, U from the bear's cave to find the boat. In *Micropower's Adventure* the magic words are **Open Sesame**.

Rosemary Wooldridge should **DIG**, **DROP BEAN**, **DROP WATER** for some magical results in *Softtek's Eye of Zoltan*. Does anyone know where I can get a copy of this adventure?

Meanwhile Lee Hancock is stuck at the start of *Larsoft's Rising of Salandra*. You must **SHOUT** or **THROW STONE** to scare the jackdaw, then enter the cave and journey E, S, **GET KNIFE**, N, E, E.

Finally, in answer to Stuart Cooper's plea, the vicious dog in **Castle of the Skull Lord** should be hit with something it likes.



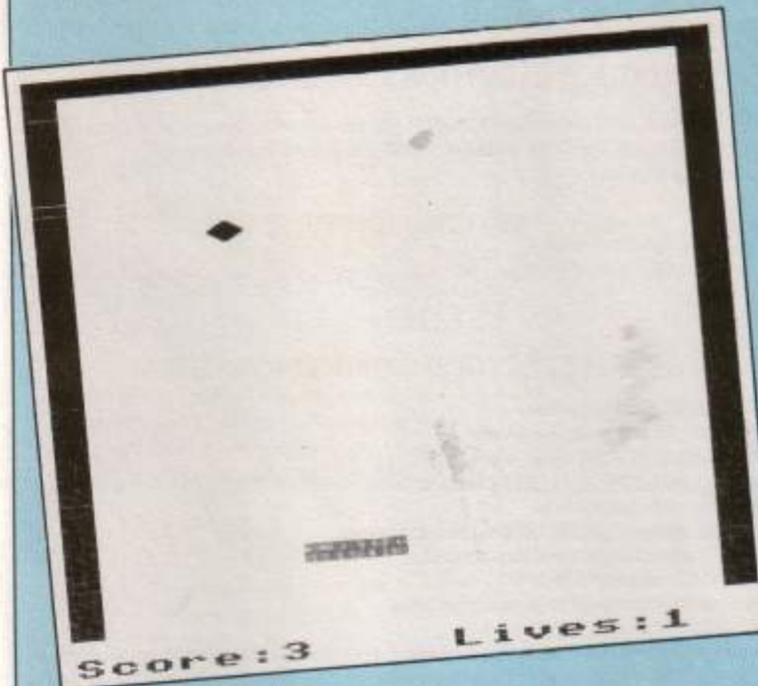
SQUASH

MICRO squash is a single player Electron version of the two player game of the same name and was written by David Harrington. The idea is to keep bashing a ball against a wall for as long as possible without

losing it. Each time you hit it you score a point and your bat moves up the screen. The more points you gain, the further the bat moves and the harder the game becomes.

In addition there are three difficulty levels to select from. These alter the speed of the ball and the size of the bat.

The controls are: Z to move left and X to move right.



```

1 MODE 5:VDU 23,255,24,6
0,126,255,255,126,60,24,23,1
,0;0;0;0::PRINT TAB(5,11)"So
lo Squash"" By David Harri
ngton":COLOUR 2:PRINT TAB(2,
16)"Select Difficulty"TAB(8,
17)"Level"TAB(3,19)"1(hard)-
3(easy)":REPEAT 0%=GET-48
2 UNTIL 0%>0 AND 0%<4:CL
S:COLOUR 130:PRINT STRINGS(1
9," "):FOR Y% = 1 TO 28:PRINT
TAB(19,Y%) " ":NEXT VDU 8,32
:COLOUR 128:PRINT "Score:0"
TAB(11)"Lives:3":batx%=10:ba
ty%=28:LX=3:SX=0:*FX16
3 bx%=10:by%=2:my%=1:mx%
=1:REPEAT batx%=batx%-(INKEY
-67 AND batx%<(19-0%))+ (INKE
Y-98 AND batx%>1):PRINT TAB(
1,baty%)SPC(18):COLOUR 129:P
RINT TAB(batx%,baty%)SPC(0%)
:COLOUR 128:PRINT TAB(bx%,by
%) " "
4 bx%=bx%+mx%:by%=by%+my
%:IF bx%<1bx%=1:mx%=1:SOUND
1,1,80,1 ELSE IF bx%>18 bx%=
18:mx%=-1:SOUND 1,1,80,1
5 IF by%=baty% GOTO 9
6 IF by%<2 by%=1:my%=1:
OUND 1,1,50,1:by%=2
7 COLOUR 3:PRINT TAB(bx%
,by%)CHR$255:UNTIL baty%=2
8 PRINT TAB(5,12)"Well d
one!"TAB(5,14)"You've won"TA
B(2,16)"Hit R to restart":RE
PEAT UNTIL INKEY-52:RUN
9 IF POINT(bx%+64,(31-by
%)*32)=1 SX=SX+(29-by%):COLO
UR 2:PRINT TAB(6,31)STR$(SX)
;:by%=baty%-1:my%=-1:PRINT T
AB(1,baty%)SPC(18):baty%=bat
y%-1:SOUND 1,1,100,1:GOTO 6
ELSE FOR note%=50 TO 10 STEP
-2:SOUND 1,1,note%,1:NEXT
10 LX=LX-1:batx%=10:COLOU
R 2:PRINT TAB(17,31)STR$(LX)
;:PRINT TAB(1,baty%)SPC(18):
baty%=28:IF LX>0 GOTO 3 ELSE
COLOUR 3:PRINT TAB(5,15)"Ga
me over"TAB(1,17)"Press R to
restart":REPEAT UNTIL INKEY
-52:RUN
    
```

10

LINERS

ANAGRAMS

THIS two player contest by David Taylor is a simple anagram guessing game.

When it is run you'll be prompted for a word. One player types it in while the other isn't looking, the Electron scrambles it and prints

the anagram. The other player must now guess the word.

Although the listing is fairly simple, there is a useful double height print routine which can be used in your own programs.

THE ANAGRAM IS

CLENOTER

ENTER GUESS :

= ELECTRON

CORRECT

```

1 MODE5:DIM WDS(20),NX(2
0):VDU19,1,5;0;19,3,6;0::COL
OUR1:PRINTTAB(6,0)::PROCbig(
"ANAGRAM"):COLOUR2:PRINTTAB(
0,4):"ENTER A WORD":COLOUR3:
INPUTTAB(0,10):": WS=LX=LEN
(WS):CLS:FOR AX=1 TO LX:WDS(
AX)=MIDS(WS,AX,1):NEXT
2 FOR BX=1TOLX
3 RX=RND(LX):IF NX(RX)=1
PROCCH:IF GX=1 THEN 3
    
```

```

4 NX(RX)=1:WRDS=WRDS+WDS
(RX):NEXT:IF WRDS=WS FORCX=1
TOLX:NX(CX)=0::NEXT:WRDS="":
GOTO2
5 COLOUR1:PRINTTAB(2,0):
:PROCbig("THE ANAGRAM IS :")
:COLOUR2:PRINTTAB((19-LX)/2,
8)::PROCbig(WRDS)
6 COLOUR3:PRINTTAB(0,18)
::PROCbig("ENTER GUESS :"):C
OLOUR2:INPUTTAB(0,21):": GS
    
```

```

:COLOUR1:IF GS=WS PRINTTAB(6
,27)::PROCbig("CORRECT") ELS
E PRINTTAB(6,27)::PROCbig("W
RONG"):COLOUR2:PRINTTAB((19-
LX)/2,8)::PROCbig(WS)
7 TS=INKEY$(200):CLS:PRI
NTTAB(1,10)::PROCbig("ANOTHE
R GO (Y/N) ?"):REPEAT:AS=GET
$:UNTILAS="Y"ORAS="N":IF AS=
"Y" THEN RUN ELSE MODE6:END
8 DEFPROCCH:GX=0:FORAX=1
    
```

```

TOLX:IF NX(AX)=0 AX=LEN(WS)
9 NEXT:GX=1:ENDPROC
10 DEFPROCbig(AS):FORIX=1
TOLEN AS:7890=ASC(MIDS(AS,IX
,1)):AX=10:XX=890:YX=0:CALL&
FFF1:FORJX=0T01:VDU23,255:FO
RKX=2T09:VDU?(890+4*JX+KX)DIV
2):NEXT:VDU255,10,8:NEXT:VDU
11,11,9:NEXT:ENDPROC
    
```

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LOGO is a fairly new language, less than 10 years old, developed by Seymour Papert, a mathematics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He investigated how children learn and how computers could help them. Logo was intended to provide the ideal learning environment.

It has been, and still is in widely used in schools, particularly in primary education where children are taught simple geometry through using a turtle or buggy combined with Logo's simple turtle graphics commands.

Unfortunately the educational history of Logo's development has had the effect of labelling the language a child's toy.

Most people are only aware of the turtle graphics side of the language, and this tends to strengthen the misapprehension.

It is far from being a toy and is in fact a powerful programming language which has many applications as we'll see in this short series.

With the exception of turtle graphics, Logo is far from easy to learn and is probably more difficult to get to grips with than Basic.

Some aspects of the language are similar to Lisp, so if you've been following this series you should recognise some of the list processing commands.

I'm going to start on familiar territory by first looking at turtle graphics. Once this is out of the way we can concentrate on the more unusual and little known aspects of Logo.

There is only one full implementation of Logo for the Electron - the Acornsoft rom cartridge. This is currently selling for less than £30 and comes complete with two thick manuals.

Alternatively, a cut down version comprising the turtle graphics commands is available from Acornsoft and is a good introduction to the language. It sells for under £3 and comes on cassette.

If you don't mind typing

Turtle graphics

ROLAND WADDILOVE introduces the programming language Logo

you'll find a Logo lookalike called Pogo in the December 1986 and January 1987 issues of *Electron User*.

For this article I'll assume you have Turtle Graphics up and running and are sitting at your Electron ready to type in the examples.

Like Basic, Logo uses a text window to display text output and a graphics window for graphics. The startup screen is a SPLITSCREEN with a graphics window at the top and text window at the bottom.

There's also a TEXTSCREEN for displaying text only and a FULLSCREEN for graphics only. To see these enter:

```
TEXTSCREEN  
FULLSCREEN
```

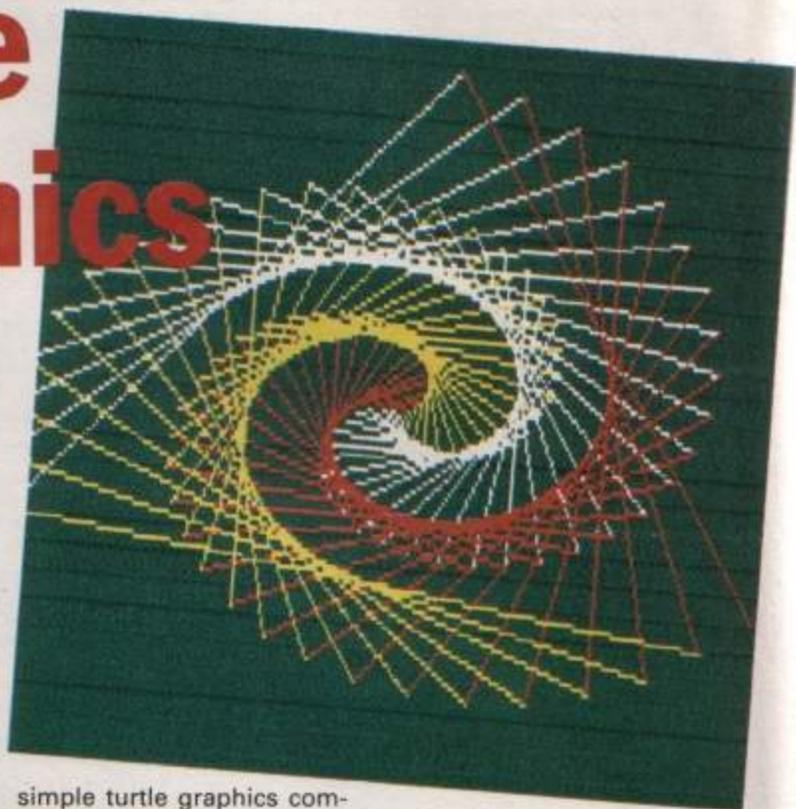
and finally, typing "blind":

```
SPLITSREEN
```

You can't see what you're typing after entering FULLSCREEN because it's designed for graphics only. SPLITSREEN however, restores everything to its initial state.

This screen is useful for entering direct commands and watching their effects as we'll see. Shortly, we'll use a TEXTSCREEN to enter and edit a procedure.

Let's try a few of Logo's



simple turtle graphics commands. Enter:

```
FORWARD 200
```

and you'll see the turtle (represented by the triangle in the centre of the screen) move forward 200 units leaving a trail behind it.

The turtle's units are the same size as the graphics units you're used to in Basic and the screen is 1280 units wide and 1024 high.

Now turn the turtle with:

```
LEFT 90
```

and follow it with another:

```
FORWARD 200
```

The 90 is the number of degrees to turn and the LEFT is which way - left or right. We can turn the turtle trail into a square with:

```
LEFT 90  
FORWARD 200  
LEFT 90  
FORWARD 200  
LEFT 90
```

We can just as easily draw a triangle. First clear the screen with CLEAR and then type:

```
FORWARD 200  
LEFT 120  
FORWARD 200  
LEFT 120  
FORWARD 200  
LEFT 120
```

Notice this time we turned through 120 degrees each time. There are 360 degrees in a circle so if we turn through a total of 360 degrees we'll end up facing the way we were at the start.

To draw a three sided polygon (a triangle) we turn through 360/3 or 120 degrees each time we draw a side. To draw a four sided polygon (a square) it's 360/4 or 90. A pentagon has five sides so we could draw one by entering:

```
FORWARD 200  
LEFT 72
```

five times (72 is 360/5). Try it and see - clear the screen with CLEAR first though.

You now know how to draw any polygon. Simply divide 360 degrees by the number of sides and turn that number of degrees each time you draw a side.

You must have noticed by now, how repetitive the commands are. What we've been doing is repeatedly telling the turtle to go forward 200 units and turn left a set number of degrees, many times.

Naturally, there is a REPEAT command in Logo which enables us to repeat a section of code. To use it

however, we'll need to define a procedure. This means using the built-in text editor.

We'll use the TEXTSCREEN to define the procedure so enter:

```
TEXTSCREEN
```

Now tell Logo we want to define a procedure with:

```
TO SQUARE
```

and the message "Type M for Menu or type an edit command" followed by "Add lines" appears. Forget the menu, Logo is waiting for you to enter the procedure definition. Here it is:

```
SPLITSCREEN
REPEAT 4
FORWARD 200
LEFT 90
ENDLOOP
```

We tell Logo we've finished by typing:

```
STOP
```

and the M for Menu message appears. Press M now to see the editor's commands.

Tap the L key and you'll see the procedure you've just defined listed on the screen, it should look like Figure 1. If there are any errors, use the replace line command to enter the offending line again.

Assuming all is well, press E to end the editing session. Now we can test our procedure. Type:

```
SQUARE
```

and you should see the turtle draw a square. Logo repeats the section of program between the REPEAT and ENDLOOP markers four times - the number immediately following the REPEAT command.

If we wanted to draw a hexagon - a six sided polygon we would repeat the loop six times and the angle to turn left each time would be 60 degrees (360/6).

If you have followed everything so far, try defining another procedure called BOX and in place of FORWARD enter BACK instead, and replace LEFT with RIGHT. After defining

it, enter BOX to run it.

What we've got is a procedure that draws a square of fixed size. It would be nice if we could draw it any size we want.

Change to the TEXTSCREEN and type LIST to see what procedures have been defined - there should be two, SQUARE and BOX. Delete them with:

```
ERASE SQUARE
ERASE BOX
```

or alternatively use NEW to clear the memory. Define a new procedure called rectangle:

```
TO RECTANGLE width,height
```

The two variables *width* and *height* are two parameters we are going to pass to the procedure. The main body of the definition is:

```
REPEAT 2
FORWARD width
LEFT 90
FORWARD height
LEFT 90
ENDLOOP
STOP
```

Remember the STOP ends the procedure definition and doesn't mean stop the program.

To test this enter:

```
SPLITSCREEN
RECTANGLE 100,500
```

If you have entered it correctly you should see a

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| BACK number | PENERASE |
| CLEAR | PENUP |
| COLOUR number | PRINT number/text |
| EDIT procedure | RAND variable |
| ERASE procedure | REPEAT |
| ENDIF | REPEAT number |
| ENDLOOP | RETRIEVE name |
| ENVELOPE n,n,n... | RIGHT number |
| FILL | SAVE name |
| FORWARD number | SETTURTLE n,n,n |
| FULLSCREEN | SHOWTURTLE |
| GET | SOUND n,n,n,n |
| HIDETURTLE | SPEED number |
| HOME | SPLITSCREEN |
| IF expression | TEXTSCREEN |
| LIST | TO name |
| LIST procedure | TURTLESTATE n,n,n |
| LEFT number | UNTIL expression |
| MODE number | VDU n,n,n... |
| NEW | WHILE expression |
| PENDOWN | |

Table 1: Turtle Graphics commands

```
Type:
A to Add lines
L to List procedure
D to Delete a line
I to Insert a line
R to Replace a line
C to Change the identifier list
E to End edit

List procedure
None
None
None

1 SPLITSCREEN
2 REPEAT 4
3 FORWARD 200
4 LEFT 90
5 ENDLOOP
6 STOP

Type M for Menu or type an edit command
```

Figure 1: The editing screen

large rectangle drawn on the screen. We'll embed this definition within another and use it to generate a pattern.

Change to the TEXTSCREEN and enter:

```
TO PATTERN steps
SPEED 255
SPLITSCREEN
REPEAT steps
RIGHT 360/steps
RECTANGLE 300,100
ENDLOOP
STOP
```

This defines a procedure called PATTERN which takes one parameter, *steps*. The first command, SPEED sets the speed of the turtle to fast - it ranges from 1, slow to 255, fast.

Notice the REPEAT loop is dependent on the parameter *steps*, and the angle to turn is an arithmetic expression.

RECTANGLE is called from within the REPEAT loop.

Test this new procedure with:

```
PATTERN 4
PATTERN 30
HIDETURTLE
PATTERN 60
```

and see what happens. Here is a spiral pattern using the rectangle procedure again, enter:

```
TO SPIRAL
SPLITSCREEN
HIDETURTLE
SPEED 255
x:=400
y:=300
REPEAT
WHILE y>10
RECTANGLE x,y
x:=x-10
y:=y-10
RIGHT 10
ENDLOOP
STOP
```

In this, two variables *x* and *y* are used. Note that := is used to assign a value to them and not = as in Basic.

The REPEAT loop is different in that it isn't repeated a set number of times, but loops WHILE *y* is greater than 10.

To see what procedures you've got in memory switch to the TEXTSCREEN and type LIST. To see a particular procedure definition follow LIST with its name. To change it type EDIT followed by the procedure name.

● *That's all for now. Next month we'll leave turtle graphics behind and look at the rest of the Logo programming language using the rom cartridge.*

electron user ARCADE CORNER

What can you say about computer games? Almost everyone has a particular favourite, whether as five minutes relaxation after a hard day's wordprocessing, or as a full-scale obsession. Hands up those of you still playing Elite!

Of course, no matter how good your favourite game may be, it is never configured precisely to your taste - it may be too easy or too hard. It is possible, however, to tailor it to your ideal requirements.

Compilations - without doubt the flavour of the year - give ample scope for tinkering. The Superior Collection is one of the best. It consists of seven favourite Superior Software oldies, together with a previously unreleased game.

This month we feature cheats and pokes for Smash and Grab, Deathstar, Mr Wiz and Overdrive - four of the games contained in this collection.

Share your hints, tips, peeks and pokes with fellow *Electron User* arcade addicts (but please ensure they are all your own work). Send them to

Arcade Corner
Electron User
68, Chester Road
Hazel Grove
Stockport
SK7 5NY

Deathstar - Superior Software

Deathstar is a conversion of the arcade game Sinistar where you are the pilot of a solitary mining spaceship in search of crystals.

Shoot the planetoids to release them, then scoop them up. Once collected they act as bombs.

Competing with you are the Worker ships which use the crystals to assemble, piece by piece, the dreaded Deathstar.

Defending these Workers are Warrior ships that shoot at you at the slightest provocation.

To make yourself invulnerable to the bullets of the Warrior ships, enter the following:

```
PAGE=83000  
LOAD'DEATH'  
155 END  
RUN
```

Put the tape in the tape recorder and press Play. Wait until the files DEATH1 and DEATH2

have loaded, then type:

```
LOAD'DEATH3'  
8 ?&1397=0:?&1A21=0  
RUN
```

You can give yourself a little more breathing time with:

```
8 ?&1386=0:?&1Bf3=0
```

This causes the Deathstar to be rebuilt from scratch every time it kills you.

The two sets of pokes can, of course, be combined as a single line.

Smash and Grab - Superior Software

Smash and Grab is a basic platforms and ladders game, and one that teaches very bad habits.

You are a bank robber out to get rich quick by collecting the bags of gold falling from a bank's broken window.

In your way stands the local bastion of the law, but beware, he's mean.

Not only can he run faster than you, but he also has a nasty habit of

jabbing you from below or bopping you on the head from above with his truncheon.

As attack is always the best form of defence, wait until a police box starts to flash, then kick it.

This gives you a limited period of invulnerability. You can then attack the policeman and knock him into the water.

I'm not sure it's altogether acceptable to go around assaulting policemen, but it's a fun game anyway.

It is however, somewhat marred by being extremely slow - none of the fast, smooth action you would expect from a fairly recent release.

As the game stands, you start on level zero with three lives. To start on level one with an extra life enter the following:

```
PAGE=85000  
LOAD'SMASH2'  
675 ?&14F3=1  
RUN
```

Overdrive – Superior Software

Overdrive is unfortunately a classic example of a game showing its age. You control a motor racing car driving through a series of stages, including desert and night drives.

Seemingly out to get you are a number of other competitors whose driving makes Parisian taxis seem tame.

Sadly, Overdrive falls short of what both Peter Johnson and the Electron are capable of, though in its time it was considered

to be an excellent game. For those struggling, you can make the game easier by entering the following:

```
PAGE=&2300  
LOAD"OVER2"  
210 IF ?BONUS>20 THEN ?STA  
GEX=?STAGEX+1:GOTO 150  
RUN
```

The sound envelopes will be lost, but you now need to pass only 20 cars to be promoted to the next stage.

By all means change line 210 – the qualifying limit can be anywhere between one and 50.

Psycastris – Audiogenic

To activate Psycastris's built-in cheat, wait until the second file, PSYCASTRIA, has almost finished loading and then hold down the Shift key.

After a few seconds, the computer will bleep at you and print the message "CHEAT PRIMED!". Release Shift and wait until the game has fin-

ished loading.

On the title page, press down the keys I, L, T, D and N together. The program will then ask you for a password: Type in SHOTOKAN. When you play the game you will have 123 lives instead of the usual three.

After each game the program reverts to normal, so enter the password again to cheat next time round.

Mr Wiz – Superior Software

Mr Wiz is a version of the arcade favourite, Mr Do, a game that has robbed me of more 10p pieces than I care to count. You are a wizard who must run around the garden collecting cherries.

The garden is also inhabited by a number of hungry creatures who like nothing better for lunch than a tasty bit of wizard.

By careful timing you can squash them under the numerous giant apples. Life isn't so easy though and they have a habit of avoiding your carefully laid traps, so it's a good job you remembered your trusty crystal ball which you can throw at them.

Unfortunately, Mr Wiz does not stand up too well beside Mr EE from Micro Power, but that title is sadly only available for the BBC Micro.

To start on a higher level in Mr Wiz (up to 99) or have extra lives (up to 41) enter the following:

```
PAGE=&2100  
LOAD"GAME"  
12 QX=5402:EX=5495:MX=5638:  
LX=6947:RX=5952  
125 !&1486=start level:?!&1  
48A=no of lives  
RUN
```

Unfortunately, the sound envelopes will be lost, but the extra versatility should make up for this.

Sphere of Destiny – Audiogenic

Gary Partis' games, Sphere of Destiny and Psycastris have built-in cheats. To activate Sphere of Destiny's, wait until the game has finished loading, and then press the 0 key.

In response to the computer's prompt, enter the password LAZON-NOMORE. The black holes will be filled in white making the game considerably easier. Pressing J will advance you to the next level.

After each game the program reverts to normal, so enter the password again to cheat next time round. Thanks to Justin Condon from County Dublin and Paul Sanderson from Chesterfield for this excellent tip.

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Micro Messages

The Electron's role in education

THANK you for Nic Outter-side's new series on the Electron in education. As the school's resident expert it has been my job to guide the school through the last three years, and this term, to replace our Electrons with the BBC Micro.

With all due respect to Nic, he has only stated half of the problem. True educational software stockists are few and far between (but what's wrong with buying direct anyway?).

The main problem, which we all know but are loath to admit, is the Electron's lack of memory.

From the very beginning, the usual gripe was "But it doesn't have Mode 7". As most companies wrote their programs in Mode 7, this cut the Electron user off from a vast source of quality software.

Knowing this, I recommend the Electron on the basis chiefly of cost to our parents.

Hitherto the teacher such as myself faced by this question had two choices. Option one is said at normal speed: "Well, you can buy an Electron for about £80 and a tape recorder for another £30, but you won't be able to buy some of the better BBC software". You then walk away.

Option two is said rather more quickly: "Well, you can get the BBC Micro and it'll cost you at least £300, that's without a tape recorder or disc drive or software".

Having delivered this well measured discourse you run like hell before the parents have worked out what this will all cost them.

With the recent addition of Mode 7 emulators the Electron has now come back into its own. It is now possible to run BBC software on a machine which has cost no more than £200.

This is surely where the

Electron's future lies. — Chris Price, Sidcup, Kent.

● We always emphasise that no matter what you add to an Electron it will never be a BBC Micro. The Electron is a totally different computer, and it is amazing that it runs any BBC software at all.

You can save programs on an Electron disc, put it in an Archimedes, load and run them. Try running Spectrum software on Sinclair's latest Z88, or Atari 800 software on a Mega ST or... the list could go on.

Techniques learnt on the humble Electron will stand you in good stead when moving on to a much more powerful micro such as a Master Compact or Archimedes. No other micro (or company) provides this degree of compatibility.

The lack of memory can be solved by adding Slogger's Master Ram Board (reviewed in the January 1987 issue of *Electron User*) or a PMS second processor (reviewed in the October 1986 issue).

The lack of Mode 7 can be

overcome with Jafa Systems' Mode 7 adapter (reviewed in the August 1987 issue).

As to the software problem, how about asking some of the older students to write educational software for the younger pupils lower down in the school?

It could easily become a useful project for A level students, and it will benefit the school and parents as well.

In shadow mode

IN the August 1987 issue of *Electron User* a letter by Adrian Trout highlighted the problems of accessing screen memory using Slogger's Master Ram Board in shadow mode.

The solution you printed is fine for saving screen memory to disc, but is rather slow — even when converted to machine code this is still the case.

Several of my programs use pull down menus that

require the screen memory to be accessed both directly and quickly. I thought I had the answer when I discovered that writing a one to location &FC7F paged out the shadow memory.

As well as doing this however, all memory below &3000 was paged out also, so the stack and zero page vanished.

It is possible to write a machine code program using this technique, but the resultant program is very inelegant and since all memory between 0 and &7FFF is paged out, the program must reside above &8000 that is, in sideways ram.

Hot on the heels of this discovery I noticed that changing from shadow to turbo modes paged out memory above &3000 and only this memory — just what was needed.

However, this meant my programs contained messages like "Switch to Turbo mode" and so on. If this method is used the program to do the saving must be in machine code and must reside below &3000 since the Basic stack is paged out.

In my quest for the ultimate solution I realised that automatic operation of the mode switch was called for. Of the three wires going to the mode switch the centre one carries +5V while the others are:

● Normal, shadow or turbo mode select: When this line is at +5V normal mode is selected. Disconnected, shadow or turbo mode is selected.

● Shadow or turbo mode

BUSY AS A BEE

Computing's my main aim in life,
Not being a chef with a carving knife,
Or down in the pits, mining for coal,
Or wandering around, 'cause I'm on the dole.

It's a busy life at the keyboard,
By the memory, where programs are stored,
So much to try, so much to do,
There's hardly time to nip to the loo!

When at last your fingers grow tired,
You pull out the plug, the Electron's unwired,
It's time to get a good night's rest,
Dreading tomorrow's computer test.

Neil Parrish, (age 12), Bessacarr, Doncaster.

Turn to Page 48 ▶

select: When this line is at +5V, Turbo mode is selected. Disconnected, shadow mode is selected. Note that "disconnected" is really 0V due to pulldown resistors on the board.

Therefore all that is required is an output port with one bit connected to shadow/turbo select. If bit one is used, writing one to the port will select turbo mode, writing zero will select shadow mode.

It has occurred to me however, that since most Master Ram Board users will also be disc users, at least when using shadow mode, then the cassette relay could be used instead.

This would have to take into account contact bounce - employ a short delay after switching before any memory is accessed, and also have a manual override to allow turbo mode to be selected for games when the cassette interface is being used.

Another alternative would be to use one of the outputs from port A of a 6522 VIA available on most user port addons. I think Slogger should have had this form of mode selection rather than the switch.

While on the subject of the Master Ram Board I have found a minor bug in its operating system. When an OSCI command string is in memory above &3000 and parameters are required, a Bad command error is produced. This only applies to inbuilt commands, not for instance, to DFS commands.

I have quite an early Master Ram Board, the os being version 2.00 so the bug may have been cured by now. Apart from this I consider the Master Ram Board to be the best add-on available for the Electron bar none. - **Brian Ross, Glasgow.**

● We have a Master Ram Board fitted with version 2.00 of the operating system, but were unable to reproduce the error messages you describe.

ALL programs printed in this issue are exact reproduction of listings taken from running programs which have been thoroughly tested.

However on the very rare occasions that mistakes may occur corrections will be published as a matter of urgency. Should you encounter error messages when you type in a program

they will almost certainly be the result of your own typing mistakes.

Unfortunately we can no longer answer personal programming queries concerning these mistakes. Of course letters about suggested errors will be investigated without delay, but any replies found necessary will only appear in the mail pages.

Literate leanings

I WELCOME the appearance of the new feature Arcade Corner, but at the same time the argument of your correspondent Tim Walter may not be as soundly based as all that.

The point is not how popular arcade games are in general as compared with adventures, but how they are ranked by readers of the magazine. This isn't the same thing.

My guess would be that the more literate a person is, the more he reads, the more likely he is to lean towards adventures. But I am willing to be proved wrong. - **Bill Trevelyan, Epsom, Surrey.**

● In our experience this simply isn't true. The editor, for instance, likes nothing better than a good shoot-'em-up and hasn't the patience to play an adventure.

All top programmers are extremely clever, literate people, yet they mostly write arcade games, not adventures.

Apostrophe catastrophe

I ENJOY typing in the listings and attempting to make them work (what a feeling when they do!). Unfortunately, I am now over 40 and my eyesight is not as good as it was and certain

aspects of your listings are beginning to cause difficulty.

I find it impossible to distinguish between inverted commas and apostrophes. As an example, take line 2580 in the Lemonade Stall listing in the September 1987 issue of Electron User. I cannot get the right combination to run the program.

Perhaps wide gaps between apostrophes might solve the problem. Whatever it is, please let me have the correct line for 2580. - **Peter Crawforth, Ferryhill, Co Durham.**

● This is quite a difficult line to understand because of the large numbers of quotes - there aren't any apostrophes.

You can print quotes in a string using the double quote "" like:

```
PRINT "Tom said "Hello"."
```

This will print:

```
Tom said 'Hello'.
```

on the screen. Note that Basic interprets the double quote with nothing in between as meaning a single quote within the text.

This is what line 2580 is doing and PROCmsg starts:

```
PROCmsg( "" + STR$, ...
```

This is a double quote inside two single quotes and will print as a single quote on the screen. The procedure also ends with the same single-double-single quote.

Not only is it confusing on

paper it is also confusing on screen as well. An alternative would have been to use:

```
PROCmsg(CHRS(34)+STR$, ...
```

where CHRS(34) is the quote character. We'll try to watch out for this in future and use the alternative form wherever possible.

It's all a plot

IN the March 1986 issue of The Micro User, the Body Building article made use of an assembly language routine that plotted lines directly to the screen.

However, I found the explanation a little sparse, and the March 1984 issue, where I understand the technique is fully explained, is unavailable.

Would it be possible for you to explain this undoubtedly useful technique in an article, maybe with some of the other common assembly language problems such as printing numbers and floating point variables? - **J. Rabone, Wirral, Merseyside.**

● You'll find a full explanation of floating point variables and machine code maths in the September 1987 issue of Electron User.

Printing hexadecimal numbers is quite easy:

```
10 REM Hex print routine
20 FOR i=0 TO 2 STEP 2
30 PX=&900
40 [ OPT i
50 .hexprint
60 PHA
70 LSR A
80 LSR A
90 LSR A
100 LSR A
110 JSR digit
120 PLA
130 .digit
140 AND #&0F
150 SED
160 CLC
170 ADC #&90
180 ADC #&40
190 CLD
200 JMP &FFEE
210 J
220 NEXT
230 INPUT "Number(0-255):"A%
240 CALL &900
250 RUN
```

Printing decimal numbers

is slightly more difficult:

```
10 REM Decimal print
20 number=&78
30 digits=&72
40 zero=&73
50 FOR i=0 TO 2 STEP 2
60 PX=&900
70 [ OPT i
80 LDY #0
90 STY zero
100 LDA #4
110 STA digits
120 .loop
130 JSR sub
140 INY:INY
150 DEC digits
160 BNE loop
170 .sub
180 LDX #ASC"0"-1
190 .loop
200 INX
210 SEC
220 LDA number
230 SBC table,Y
240 STA number
250 LDA number+1
260 SBC table+1,Y
270 STA number+1
280 BPL loop
290 CLC
300 LDA number
310 ADC table,Y
320 STA number
330 LDA number+1
340 ADC table+1,Y
350 STA number+1
360 CPX #ASC"0"
370 BNE here
380 LDA zero
390 BNE here
400 RTS
410 .here
420 TXA
430 INC zero
440 JMP &FFEE
450
460 .table
470 EQUW 10000
480 EQUW 1000
490 EQUW 100
500 EQUW 10
510 EQUW 1
520 ]
530 NEXT
540 INPUT "Number";NX
550 !number=NX
560 CALL &900
570 PRINT
```

Drawing lines and plotting points is more complex still and we haven't the space here to list a suitable routine. We have some articles planned on this topic for early next year.

Adventure writer

I HAVE had an Acorn Electron for three years and have noticed that the range and quality of software

Spelling checker required

IN the August 1987 issue of Electron User G.Crawford asked for ideas about differentiation on the Electron.

Acornsoft used to publish a package of four programs called Algebraic Manipulation. These included programs to differentiate and integrate algebraic expressions typed in.

I don't know if this is the type of thing Mr Crawford is looking for, but even if it isn't, the programs were written in Basic and it should be relatively easy to

available is rapidly improving.

As well as playing games, a lot of my time spent on the computer is devoted to programming, which I find extremely enjoyable.

I have, however, come across one very annoying aspect of writing adventure games – the long detailed text and complex graphical locations take up so much of the Electron's memory it is easy to run out.

I was pleased to see in the July 1987 issue of Electron User, that Mark Smiddy revealed a clever method which was able to cram up to 200 different Mode 2 screens on one disc.

I was very impressed indeed by this method, because I had always wondered how an adventure game I have, called Twin Kingdom Valley, had managed to include so many Mode 2 screens.

While programming, occasionally type:

```
PRINT TOP-PAGE
```

and a number will be printed indicating how many bytes of memory the program occupies.

I have found that approximately 8400 is about the time to stop and finish the adventure otherwise when you run it you'll get a Bad mode error message.

One way to cut down on the memory used is to leave out unnecessary spaces

adapt procedures from them and incorporate them into his own programs.

I would like to use the Acornsoft spelling checker, Viewspell, on my Electron. My major worry is getting a copy of the dictionary disc that is compatible with my Plus 3.

I know Acorn sell a version for the Master Compact on 3.5in ADFS disc. Can I load the rom image from this disc into sideways ram or second processor memory and run it from

there? If so, is the Compact version compatible with the Electron? – Neil Hoggarth, St. Cross, Winchester.

● Thank you for the help with our algebra. We weren't aware Acorn produced such a package for the Electron.

We haven't tried the Master Compact version of Viewspell on the Electron, but doubt whether it will work. The disc is quite likely to be double sided for starters.

between commands, or simply use short descriptions where possible. Can you suggest any other helpful methods? – S. J. Champion, Brentwood, Essex.

● Twin Kingdom Valley draws its pictures in Mode 5 and switches to Mode 6 for the text. This gains an extra 10k of memory over a Mode 2 program.

The extra colours used for painting shapes are generated by using a clever technique called dithering. If you plot adjacent pixels in different colours they merge and produce a new one.

Loads of problems

I HAVE found Micro Messages a very interesting and helpful part of Electron User. Can you explain something that is puzzling me?

I have not had much experience of disc usage, but recently bought a Watford Electronics drive and an ACP Plus 4.

If I load a program from disc with *LOAD and then run it I get the message "Syntax error at line 10" followed by "Bad program". Line 10 is a REM statement and is the first line.

If I *LOAD the program then list it on the screen however, I get the correct

listing. Then RUN will execute the program normally.

I have been unable to find any reference to this in the literature I have, and would be interested to hear an explanation. – J.D.Bower, Thorbumbald, Hull.

● You should treat the disc system just like a tape recorder. So to load a Basic program simply LOAD it – don't use *LOAD.

Alternatively, you can CHAIN it which loads then runs it automatically. You should not *LOAD a Basic program without either listing it or typing OLD as Basic gets very confused and reports an error.

Machine code and pure data files should be *LOADed. To find out whether a file is Basic or machine code use:

```
*INFO +.*
```

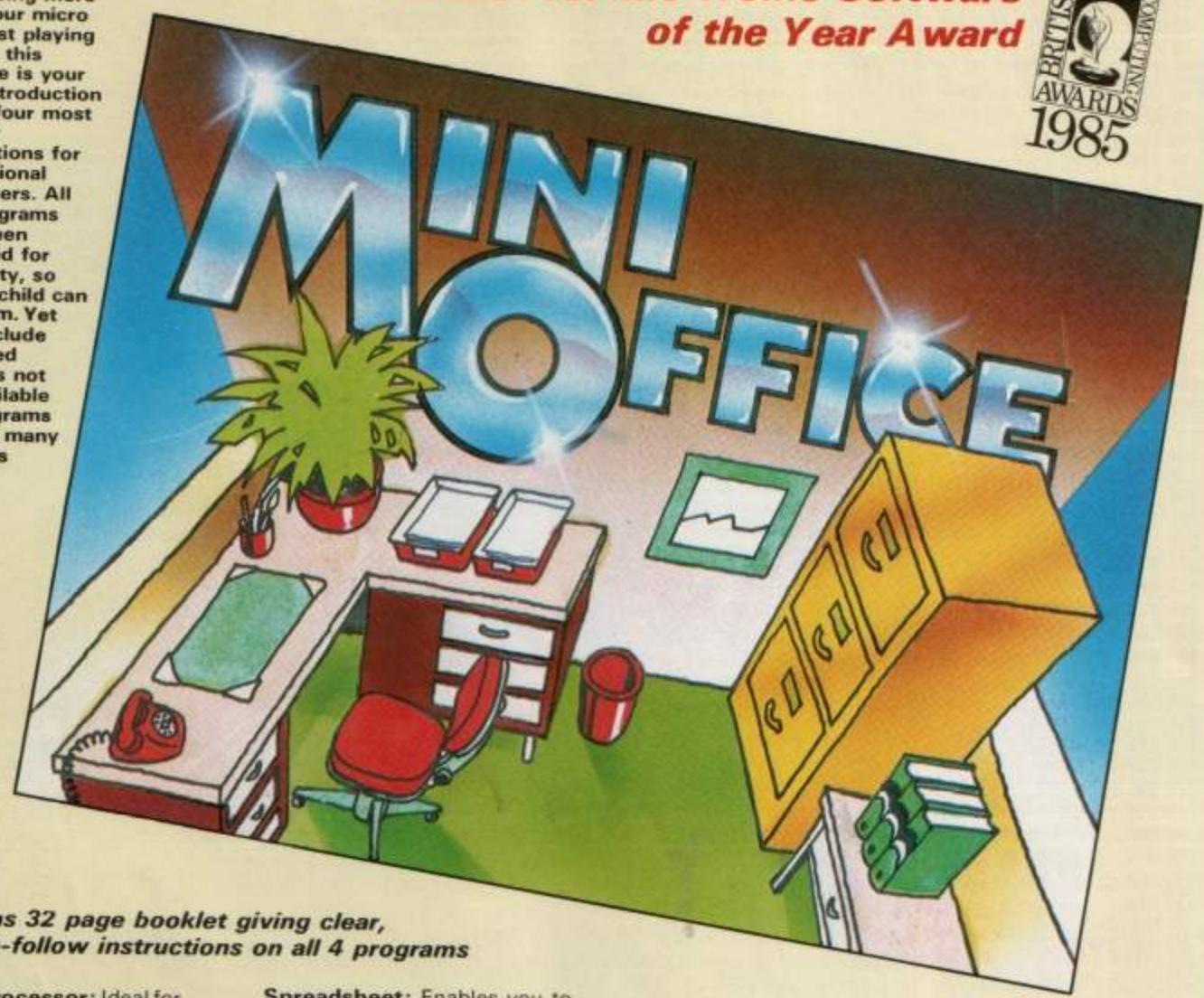
to print out the load, length and execution addresses. The name of each file is printed followed by four hexadecimal numbers.

The first is the load address – which should end E00 with a Plus 4. The second is the execution address – ending 8023 for Basic programs. The third is the length of the file and the fourth is the disc address.

An execution address ending 8023 indicates the file is Basic and you can either LOAD or CHAIN it.

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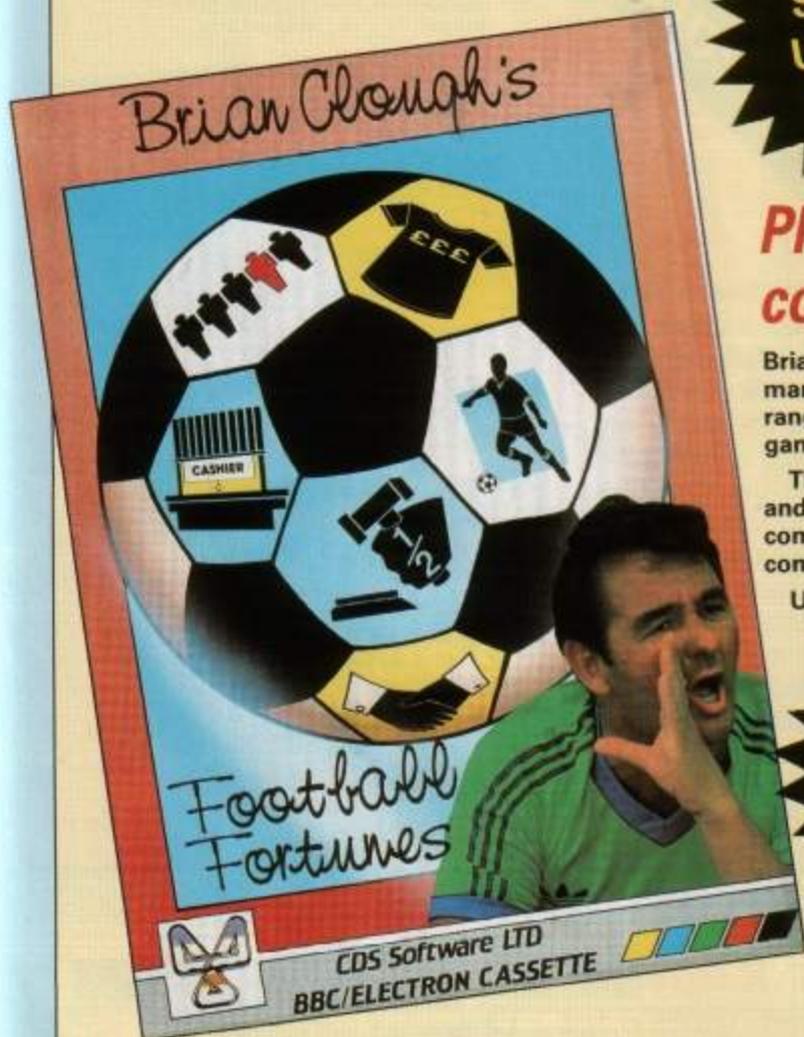
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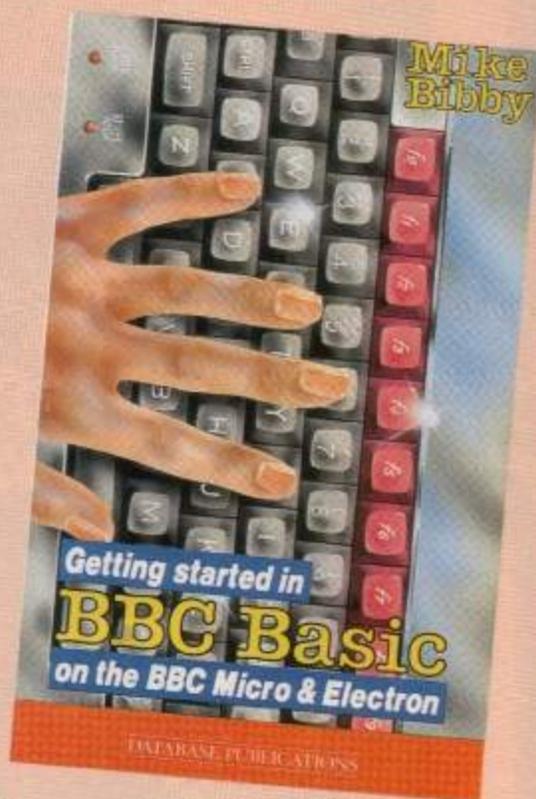
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The farmyard is in uproar as Willie, who is to be the first competitor, slithers up to the starting line.

Farmer Giles raises his gavel and taps three times on the rickety old gate. A hush descends over the expectant crowd as the old man explains the rules.

Five challengers take on Suzie in a test of her knowledge of animals. Each question is multiple choice and the fastest competitor will win the race. Let the contest begin.

Sadly, Suzie isn't very fast so you will have to help. When each question appears, tap the spacebar until the pointer is opposite the answer that you think is right. Press Return to confirm your selection.

If you answer correctly, you will receive a tick and

Suzie will move forward. An incorrect answer however, will result in a cross and Suzie's opponent racing ahead.

Don't spend too long on your answer either, because time, and animals, wait for no snail.

Included in the program is the facility to add your own questions. These should be constructed in the following format:

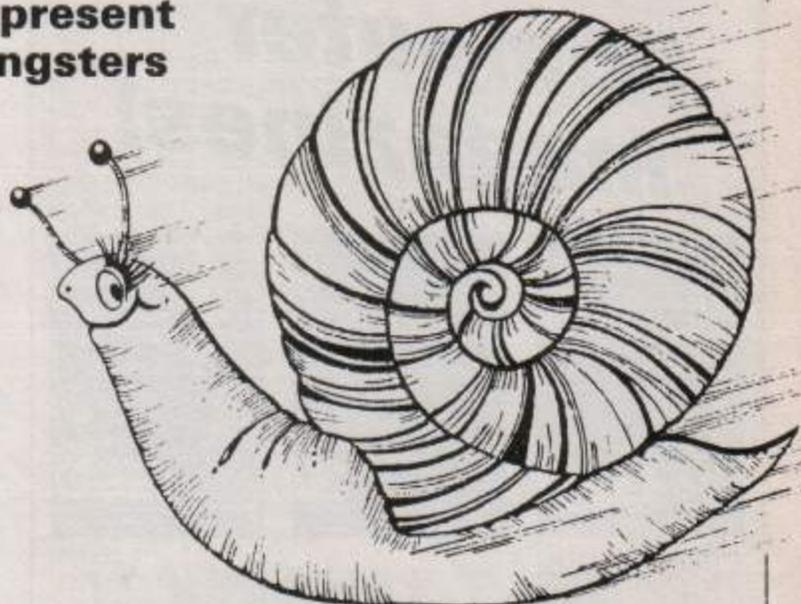
```
1401 DATA Question, Correct
answer, Up to four incorre
ct answers,**
```

For instance:

```
1401 DATA Which of these is
an omnivore?,A Human being,
A dog, A cat, A hedgehog, A
Lion,**
```

There is space for 10 lines of data between 1400 and 1409, although the program can be renumbered to recover more space if you wish.

The last line of data must be the word END, as this flags the end of the questions and answers.



PROCEDURES

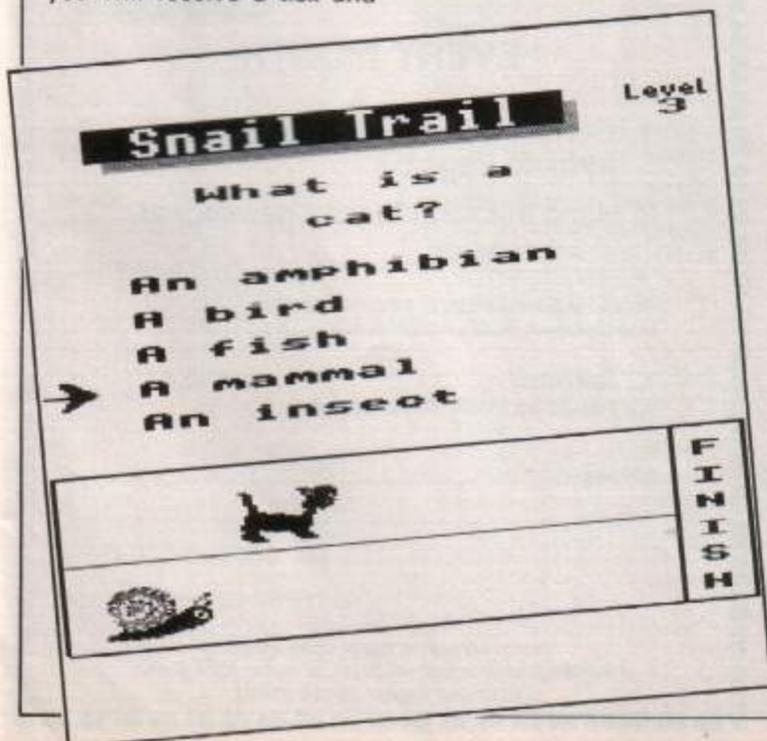
main The main loop.
assemble Assemble machine code.
big() Print large text.
sprite Print the sprites.
arrow Print the pointer.
bench Set up the screen.

CONTROLS

spacebar Moves pointer
Return Confirms answer
Q Turns the music off
S Turns music on

VARIABLES

creatures Number of animals
level% Current level of play
choice Number of answer given
answered True when a question answered
won True if the snail wins
name\$() The animals' names



```
10 REM Snail Trail
20 REM By Stephen Weir
30 REM and Andrew Weir
40 REM (c) Electron User
50 IF PAGE>=800 GOTO 1420
60 GOSUB 80
70 PROCmain
80 MODE6
90 in@:creatures=5
100 MODE5
110 code=&900:PROCassemble
120 *fx11,0
130 DIMcol$(creatures,2),c
140 choice$(6),name$(creatures):R
150 ESTORE150:FORIX=1TOcreatures
160 :READname$(IX),col$(IX,1),co
170 l$(IX,2):NEXT
180 RETURN
190 DATAWorm,1,3,Bird,2,3,
Cat,4,6,Penguin,6,3,Dog,1,3
160 REM Tune data
170 DATA52,3,48,1,52,4,72,
4,52,4,-1,52,4,44,4,68,8
180 DATA40,3,36,1,40,4,60,
4,40,4,-1,40,4,32,4,52,8,24,
4,40,4,32,4,44,4,40,4,60,4,5
2,4,-1,52,4,72,2,68,2,60,4,5
2,4,72,4,60,4,68,4,72,4,-9
190 DEF PROCsprite.data
200 DIM level 50,snail 146
,arrow 66,animals 146*creatu
res
210 RESTORE300:PROClocate(
level)
220 RESTORE320:PROClocate(
snail)
230 RESTORE360:PROClocate(
arrow)
```

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Snail Trail listing

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```

240 RESTORE390:FORsprites=
170creatures:PROCLocate(anim
als+146*(sprites-1)):NEXT
250 ENDPROC
260 DEF PROCLocate(loc) LO
CALbyte,data,count,offset,x,
y:READx,y?:Locx?:(loc+1):y:
Loc=loc+2:byte=0:REPEAT READ
data:IFdata=>0byte?loc=data
270 IFdata=-1READcount,dat
a:FORoffset=1TOcount:byte?lo
c=data:byte=byte+1:NEXT ELSE
byte=byte+1
280 UNTILdata=-9:ENDPROC
290 REM Level
300 DATA 6,8
310 DATA -1,8,0,-1,6,34,51
,0,0,0,17,34,51,34,153,0,0,0
,34,170,170,17,153,0,0,0,153
,170,187,34,17,0,34,34,17
0,170,34,187,0,-9
320 REM Snail
330 DATA 6,24
340 DATA 0,0,16,3,18,37,67
,5,37,67,5,37,3,1,33,1,16,0,
0,0,16,112,120,90,18,165,15,
15,14,12,41,3,66,7,2,22,66,0
,9,15,15,131,14,131,240,240
,240,180,74,45,13,30,7,3,129,
44,6,10,26,11,36,6,73,11,15,
15,13,52,240
350 DATA 240,240,90,0,0,12
8,4,74,40,72,30,13,30,5,37,2
8,45,15,26,60,52,240,240,240
,210,105,8,-1,11,0,16,48,112
,-1,5,240,210,120,133,-1,7,0
,18,18,6,12,24,26,194,224,48
,84,84,144,225,104,192,-1,4,
0,-9
360 REM Arrow
370 DATA4,16
380 DATA -1,8,0,51,48,-1,7
,0,16,16,-1,4,0,255,240,-
1,4,0,16,16,0,128,192,224,24
0,242,115,115,251,243,115,11
4,240,224,192,128,-1,5,0,128
,192,232,252,232,192,128,-1,
4,0,-9
390 REM Worm
400 DATA 6,24
410 DATA -1,15,0,16,48,48,
112,112,240,210,105,165,-1,7
,0,16,16,48,48,112,112,240,2
40,225,240,210,225,180,194 a
ca20,-1,6,0,112,-1,6,240,21
0,105,180,193,8,128,-1,12,0,
128,128,192,192,224,240,240
,240,180
420 DATA 120,165,240,37,82
,48,1,-1,14,0,128,192,194,22
5,180,210,180,210,120,180,12
0,48,-1,15,0,128,224,240,48,
116,176,240,224,192,-9
430 REM Bird
440 DATA 6,24
450 DATA -1,15,0,48,112,24
0,112,-1,15,0,16,48,97,195,1
35,195,225,240,180,180,64,64
,96,112,0,0,0,16,16,16,32,11
2,112,195,150,45,75,135,15,3
0,120,240,112,160,64,64,96,1
12,112,240,240,195,194,225,2
40,240,225
460 DATA 225,184,120,120,1
20,-1,4,240,224,-1,5,0,128,2
24,224,195,74,225,180,60,120
,112,52,22,150,240,224,192,1

```

```

92,128,-1,10,0,8,-1,6,128,-1
,13,0,-9
470 REM Cat
480 DATA6,24
490 DATA 204,-1,5,98,51,-1
,4,49,113,113,115,115,243,24
3,247,119,247,243,243,113,49
,-1,10,0,192,248,-1,4,252,24
8,248,112,16,0,136,136,204,-
1,11,0,192,-1,5,240,252,243,
240,16,0,0,0,112,33,33,16,16
,16,-1,4
500 DATA 48,16,48,49,241,2
41,243,243,247,238,238,230,2
47,243,115,112,240,123,107,2
41,240,244,229,244,245,162,1
36,136,-1,10,0,136,128,192,1
92,72,64,128,72,128,136,-1,1
5,0,-9
510 REM Penguin
520 DATA 6,24
530 DATA -1,67,0,1,1,3,0,0
,0,1,1,-1,5,3,1,1,3,3,7,7,7,
31,47,47,111,255,127,124,112
,48,12,14,47,127,93,93,127,6
2,30,31,-1,4,63,47,47,110,11
0,238,204,192,224,96,176,-1,
4,0,8,128,192,128,-1,4,0,-1,
5,8,-1,7
540 DATA 0,-9
550 REM Dog
560 DATA 6,24
570 DATA 82,164,74,132,72,
164,66,37,90,165,90,165,90,1
65,90,164,67,133,75,148,73,1
65,73,36,-1,7,0,240,240,240,
120,180,90,165,90,165,24,8,1
28,8,128,72,128,72,-1,7,0,22
5,240,225,210,165,90,165,90,
165,90,37
580 DATA 82,37,66,52,66,48
,37,82,33,48,48,48,33,222,16
9,186,221,213,110,183,74,134
,14,44,6,36,96,22,164,18,161
,82,224,230,170,186,165,90,1
65,90,165,74,188,18,-1,10,0,
128,0,0,0,51,123,150,120,180
,104,224
590 DATA 192,64,128,-1,10,
0,-9
600 DEF PROCassemble
610 oswrch=&FEE:osword=&F
FF1:new=870:rows=872:columns=
873:temp1=874:place=876
620 FORpass=0TO2STEP2:PX=c
ode:COPTpass
630 .d STAB:LDA#10:LDX#b A
ND255:LDY#b DIV256:JSRswrch:
LDA#0:STAJ:.d1 LDA#23:JSRsw
rchr:LDAj:ORA#224:JSRswrch:
LDAj:ASLA:ASLA:TAX:LDY#4:.d2
INX:LDAb,X:JSRswrch:JSRsw
rchr:DEY:BNE2:INCj:LDAj
640 CMP#2:BNE1:LDX#4:.d3
LDAs,X:JSRswrch:DEX:BPL3:R
TS
650 .sprite LDY#0:LDAplac
e:STANewdata+1:LDAplac+1:STA
newdata+2
660 .loop1:LDAnew+1:STATem
p1+1:LDAnew:STATemp1:LDXrows
:.loop2:.newdata LDA &3000,Y
:EOR(new),Y:STA(new),Y:INCne
wdata+1:BNEP3:INCnewdata+2:.
p3 LDANew:AND #7:CMPP#7:BEQbo
ttom2
670 INCnew:BNEP4:INCnew+1:
.p4 BNE next2
680 .bottom2 CLC:LDANew:AD

```

```

C#839:STANew:LDANew+1:ADC#1:
STANew+1:.next2:DEX:BNE loop
2:LDATemp1:ADC#0:STANew:LDAT
emp1+1:ADC#0:STANew+1:DECCol
umns:BNEloop1:RTS
690 .b:]:j=b+9:s=j+1:$s=CH
RS11+CHRS225+CHRS8+CHRS10+CH
RS224:NEXT:ENDPROC
700 ENDPROC
710 DEF PROCbig(AS) FORCHX
=1TOLENAS:AX=ASCIDS(AS,CHX,
1):CALLD:NEXT:ENDPROC
720 DEF PROClarge(AS) FORC
HX=1TOLENAS:BS=MIDS(AS,CHX):
?&70=ASC BS:AX=10:XX=&70:YX=
0:CALL &FFFF:VDU23,250,?&71,
?&71,?&71,?&71,?&72,?&72,?&7
2,?&72,23,251,?&73,?&73,?&73
,?&73,?&74,?&74,?&74,?&74
730 VDU23,252,?&75,?&75,?&7
5,?&75,?&76,?&76,?&76,?&76,
23,253,?&77,?&77,?&77,?&77,?
&78,?&78,?&78,?&78:FORIX=1TO
4:VDU249+IX:IFIX<4 VDU8,10
740 NEXT:VDU11,11,11:NEXT:
ENDPROC
750 DEF PROCmain
760 REPEAT PROCinstruction
s
770 PROCbench
780 levelX=0:REPEATlevelX=
levelX+1

```

```

0:FORIX=1TO35:PROCnote(1.5):
NEXT:PROCwait(6)
920 IFlost PROCclear:COLOU
R3:PRINTTAB(6,4):;PROClarge(
'Bad Luck!'):PRINTTAB((20-LE
Nname$(levelX))/DIV2,15):;PRO
Cbig(name$(levelX)):COLOUR2:
PRINTTAB(1,10):;PROCbig('You
have lost to a'):RESTORE170
:FORIX=1TO35:PROCnote(3):NEX
T:PROCwait(7)
930 PROCsprite(snail,snail
X):PROCcreature(levelX,creat
ureX)
940 answeredX=-1:UNTILleve
lX=creatures OR lost OR KEYX
=27
950 UNTIL0
960 DEF PROCbench VDU22,5,
5,23;8202;0;0;0:GCOLOR,1:PRO
Cbox(170,940,1010,1000,-1):G
COLB,2:PROCbox(140,960,990,1
030,-1):GCOLOR,0:MOVE220,1016
:PROCbig('Snail Trail')
970 GCOLOR,3:PROCbox(30,40,
1250,374,0):MOVE1120,374:DRA
W1120,40:MOVE30,207:DRAW1120
,207:AS='FINISH':GCOLOR,2:FOR
IX=1TO6:MOVE1152,(6-IX)*50+9
0:PRINTMIDS(AS,IX,1):NEXT
980 PROCsprite(level,&5908
):VDU4
990 levelX=1:answeredX=-1
1000 DEF PROCcross MOVE1000,
500:DRAW1190,650:MOVE1190,5
00:DRAW980,640:ENDPROC
1010 DEF PROCwait(t) FORIX=
1TOt+1000:NEXT:ENDPROC
1020 DEF PROCsprite(stored,
screen) !new=screen:!place=s
tored+2:?rows=?{stored+1}:?c
olumns=?stored:CALLsprite:EN
DPROC
1030 DEFPROCbox(x1,y1,x2,y2
,fill) MOVEx1,y1:IF fill MOV
Ex2,y1:PLOT85,x1,y2:PLOT85,x
2,y2 ELSE DRAWx1,y2:DRAWx2,y
2:DRAWx2,y1:DRAWx1,y1
1040 ENDPROC
1050 DEF PROCsetup VDU19,1,
colX(levelX,1);0;19,2,colX(l
evelX,2);0;snailX=&7900:cre
atureX=&7390:PROCsprite(snai
l,snailX):PROCcreature(level
X,creatureX):COLOUR2:PRINTTA
B(18,1);levelX:lost=0:won=0:
right=0:ENDPROC
1060 DEF PROCcreature(level
X,screen) PROCsprite(animals
+146*(levelX-1),screen):ENDP
ROC
1070 DEF PROCsnail PROCsprit
e(snail,snailX):snailX=snai
lX+8:PROCsprite(snail,snailX
):SOUND0,-5,7,2:IFsnailX=&7A
A8 THEN won=-1
1080 ENDPROC
1090 DEF PROCopponent PROCc
reature(levelX,creatureX):cr
eatureX=creatureX+8:PROCcrea
ture(levelX,creatureX):SOUND
0,-5,5,2:IFcreatureX=&7468 l
ost=-1
1100 ENDPROC
1110 DEF PROCclear VDU28,0,
18,19,4,12,26:ENDPROC
1120 DEF PROCprint PROClea

```

This is one of hundreds of programs now available FREE for downloading on

MicroLink

In addition to these many BBC Micro programs will also run on the Electron.

```

790 PROCsetup
800 REPEAT
810 IFansweredXPROCprint
820 KEYX=INKEY(1):IFKEYX=3
2 PROCarrow(selectX):selectX
=selectX+1:IFselectX>choices
X selectX=1
830 IFKEYX=32 SOUND1,-8,25
5,1:PROCarrow(selectX):*fx15
840 IFKEYX=13ANDselectX=co
rrectX:rightX=rightX+1:answer
edX=-1:GCOLOR,3:MOVE1000,500:
DRAW1100,460:DRAW1180,700:RE
STORE170:FORIX=1TO9:PROCnote
(1.5):NEXT:PROCwait(7)
850 IFKEYX=13ANDselectX<>c
orrectX:rightX=rightX-1:GCOL
,3:PROCcross:RESTORE100:FORI
X=1TO9:PROCnote(3):NEXT:PRO
cross:*fx21
860 IF INSTR("q",CHR$KEYX
) THEN *fx210,1
870 IF INSTR("s",CHR$KEYX
) THEN *fx210,0
880 IFRND(1000)<rightX*10
PROCsnail
890 IFRND(1000)<levelX*10
AND NOTwon PROCopponent
900 UNTIL lost OR won OR K
EYX=27
910 IFwon PROCclear:COLOU
R3:PRINTTAB(5,4):;PROClarge(
'Well done!'):PRINTTAB((20-LE
Nname$(levelX))/DIV2,15):;PRO
Cbig(name$(levelX)):COLOUR2:
PRINTTAB(0,10):;PROCbig('You
have beaten the'):RESTORE17

```

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Snail Trail listing

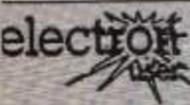
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```

r:RESTORE1320:LOCALcount:FOR
count=1TORND(50):PROCread:IF
endX RESTORE1320:count=count
t-1
1130 NEXT:correctX=1:FORIX=
1TORND(20):AX=RND(choicesX):
B=RND(choicesX):dS=choice$(
AX):choice$(AX)=choice$(BX):
choice$(BX)=dS:IFAX=correctX
correctX=B%ELSEIFBX=correct
X correctX=AX
1140 NEXT
1150 aX=21:REPEAT posX=INST
R(question$, " ",aX):IF posX<
=21ANDposX>0 chopX=posX ELSE
aX=aX-1
1160 UNTILposX<=21ANDposX>0
:q1$=+LEFT$(question$,chopX-
1):q2$=RIGHT$(question$,LENq
uestion$-chopX+1)
1170 COLOUR2:PROCcen(q1$,4)
:PROCcen(q2$,6):COLOUR3:FORI
X=1TOchoicesX:PRINTTAB(3,9+(
IX-1)*2):choice$(IX):NEXT:se
lectX=1:PROCarrow(selectX)
1180 answeredX=0:ENDPROC
1190 DEF PROCcen(AS,YX) PRI
NTTAB((20-LENAS)DIV2,YX):AS;
:ENDPROC
1200 DEF PROCarrow(xX) PROC
sprite(arrow,(xX*2+6)*8140&
5804):ENDPROC
1210 DEF PROCread READquest
ion$:IFquestion$="END"endX=-
1:ENDPROC ELSE endX=0:IX=0:R
EPEAT IX=IX+1:READchoice$(IX
):UNTILchoice$(IX)!="*:IX=IX
-1:choicesX=IX
1220 ENDPROC
1230 DEF PROCnote(tempo) RE
AdpX:IFpX=-1SOUND1,0,0,1 ELS
E IFpX=-9 RESTORE170:SOUND1,
0,0,4*tempo ELSE READd:SOUN
D1,-8,pX+46,dX*tempo
1240 ENDPROC
1250 DEF PROCinstructions V
DU22,4,23;8202;0;0;0;
1260 PRINTTAB(14,1):;PROCl
arge("SNAIL TRAIL")
1270 PRINTTAB(0,7):"Help Su
zie Snail race against her"
"farmyard friends by answer
ing questions""about anima
ls.""To answer a questio
n, move the arrow""until i
t sits beside the answer you
""think is best.""
1280 PRINT"to move the arro
w use the ";:COLOUR129:COLOU
R0:PRINT"spacebar";:COLOUR1:
COLOUR128:PRINT""When yo
u have done this, press";:C
OLOUR129:COLOUR0:PRINT"retur
n";:COLOUR128:COLOUR1:PRINT
"
1290 IF NOTin PROCsprite_da
ta:in=-1
1300 *fx21
1310 PRINTTAB(10,30):;PROCb
ig("Press the ");:COLOUR129:C
OLOUR0:PROCbig("spacebar");R
EPEATUNTILGET=32:ENDPROC
1320 DATA Who blew the hous
e in?,The Big Bad Wolf,Red R
iding Hood,Puff the Dragon,R
oland Waddilove,Wizard of Oz
,"*",How does a dolphin see
at night?,sonar,electric eye
s,400w bulbs,it can't,*
1330 DATA How many legs doe
s an insect have?,Six,Two,FO
ur,Eight,Thousands,*",Which
of these birds is flightles
s?,Penguin,Magpie,Pigeon,Bl
ackbird,*
1340 DATA How many legs doe
s an Octopus have?,Eight,Six
,Ten,Twelve,*",What is a ca
t?,A mammal,A fish,An amphib
ian,A bird,An insect,*
1350 DATA Where does a griz
ly bear sleep?,In a den,In
a house,On a nest,Up a tree,
"*",What does a seagull have
for breakfast?,Fish,Cornfla
kes,Fried eggs,Pork,Potatoes
,*
1360 DATA Where do alligato
rs hold their young?,In thei
r mouths,On their back,In a
pouch,*",Which animal can g
row a saddle?,A worm,A fish,
A bird,A horse,*
1370 DATA What does a drago
n fly breath?,Air,Fire,Water
,*",What country do Kiwis c
ome from?,New Zealand,Englan
d,Ireland,America,Spain,*
1380 DATA How do ants talk
to each other?,Using anten
nae,With their mouth,Sign la
nguage,A dance,*",How do be
es talk to each other?,A dan
ce,Using antennae,With their
mouth,Hearing aids,*
1390 DATA Which of these is
not a type of ant?,Navigati
on ant,Soldier ant,Nurse ant
,Worker ant,Queen ant,*",Wh
en will a dead frog kick its
leg?,Electrical shock,Gets
a fright,During cremation,At
the funeral,*
1400 REM add extra question
s here
1410 DATA END
1420 *KEY 0 *T:IMD%=PAGE-8E
00:FOR IX=PAGE TO TOP STEP4:
!(IX-DX)=!IX:NEXT:MPAGE=8E00
IMOLDIMRUNIM
1430 *FX 138,0,128

```

This listing is included in this month's cassette tape offer. See order form on Page 53.



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TO ORDER TURN TO THE FORM ON PAGE 53

COMPUTERSPEAK EXPLAINED

MANY newcomers to microcomputing are puzzled by the multitude of technical terms and jargon used by the so called computer experts and sales representatives.

It is strange how straightforward words and phrases take on a completely different meaning when used in a computing context. So we have compiled this easy-to-read guide to computer jargon for the novice:



NOVICE ELECTRON OWNER

● **"Compatible with all Electron add-ons"** - Will not work with your computer unless you know more about interfacing than we do.

● **"Standard"** - We don't know enough about other interfaces to know why it won't work with yours.

● **"Universal standard"** - We have tried it out on a BBC Micro.

● **"Industry standard"** - We copied the design from someone else, and they say it works.

● **"Guaranteed delivery within 21 days"** - A universal constant, as whenever you ask the question, delivery will always be within 21 days.

● **"Delivery will be at the end of the month"** - Another way of stating the universal constant, for the innumerate.

● **"In stock"** - We have ordered it from the manufacturers.

● **"Now in stock"** - When the closing date for the advertisement was reached three weeks ago, we were promised delivery inside a fortnight.

● **"Tomorrow's technology, today"** - It arrived here a day early.

● **"Obsolete"** - We've had it in stock for more than a week.

● **"Will be available shortly"** - We haven't actually made one yet, but can foresee no problems.

● **"Will be available later in the year"** - We discovered a few problems.

● **"Will be available sometime next year"** - We lost the blueprints.



● **"Easily expandable"** - There are a lot of sockets on it, but we don't know what to do with them.



● **"Uses your own TV as a display"** - Sometimes you may actually be able to read what is on the display as well.

● **"Operating system"** - Something we sell you every six months or whenever you find the bugs in the last one we sold you.

● **"The applications are only limited by your own imagination"** - We can't think of anything useful it can do.

● **"The program can easily be modified to run on other versions of the Electron or BBC Micro"** - Sometimes seen at the end of articles and is a disclaimer for any intelligence the author might have falsely indicated to the reader.

● **"Programs can be saved on to any domestic tape recorder"** - This is any recorder except the one you actually own at the moment.

● **"User friendly"** - You are asked for every little option and parameter to see if it

needs to be included. This will take at least 10 minutes and you will have to go through the whole lot again if you want to change something.

● **"A must for every Electron user"** - It's nothing new and we couldn't think of anything original to say about it.

● **"Buy now at specially discounted prices"** - The product is about to be discontinued.



● **"Powerful"** - It's so good, even we can't understand it.

● **"Advanced"** - So complex, even the programmer can't understand it.



● **"Easy to use"** - The average postgraduate of computer science should experience no difficulty.

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Feature

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● **"Comprehensive documentation"** - Roughly photocopied bundle of misspelt typescript masquerading as a manual.

● **"Extensive documentation"** - Large, poetically written tome of no technical use whatsoever.

● **"Bug"** - A feature not included in the documentation.

● **"Feature"** - A documented bug.

● **"Ram"** - Unintelligent, male herbivorous quadrupedal mammal.

● **"Massive ram"** - Mean looking beast, approach with extreme care.



● **"Rom"** - An illiterate ram.

● **"WYSIWYG"** - What you see is what you get. We don't supply the plug, the cassette lead, the instructions...

● **"WIMP"** - Any computer literate person of non-Electron persuasion.



● **"Mouse"** - Small, incredibly cute, but odiferous rodent.

● **"Disclaimer"** - We do not accept there are any bugs in this software preventing it from doing its job.

● **"Software"** - A jumper produced from the output of Database Software's Knitwear Designer program.

● **"Hardware"** - Software made from steel wool.

● **"Firmware"** - Another name for hardware.

● **"Shadow ram"** - memory chips that work in the dark.

● **"Second processor"** - The first one we sold you doesn't actually enable you to do anything useful, for that you'll need a new one.

● **"Fred, Jim and Sheila"** - The three people who designed the Electron.



● **"Plus 1"** - Contains all the bits they forgot to include in the Electron.

● **"Plus 3"** - Contains all the bits they forgot to include in the Plus 1.

● **"Turbo driver"** - An Electron user with go-faster stripes on his micro.

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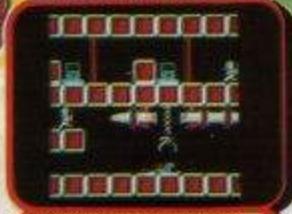
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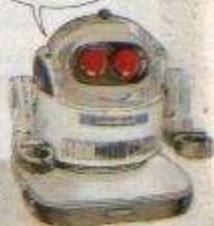
His task is to locate and seize the Volgans' latest weapon: a new spacecraft (codenamed the Z11) which is equipped with the revolutionary matter/anti-matter warp drive facility. Stryker must land on the mysterious planet Volga, penetrate the Volgans' underground defence systems, find the spacecraft and requisition it.

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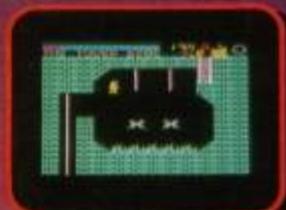
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