

dr. dobb's journal of

\$1.50

COMPUTER

Calisthenics & Orthodontia

Running Light Without Overbyte

June/July, 1976

Box 310, Menlo Park CA 94025

Volume 1, Number 6

A REFERENCE JOURNAL FOR USERS OF HOME COMPUTERS

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DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET!

Let us know what exciting new software and systems you are working on. We'll tell everyone else (if you wish). Maybe someone is also working on the same thing. You can work together and get results twice as fast. Or, maybe someone else has already done it; no reason for everyone to reinvent the wheel.

DR DOBB'S JOURNAL OF COMPUTER CALISTHENICS & ORTHODONTIA

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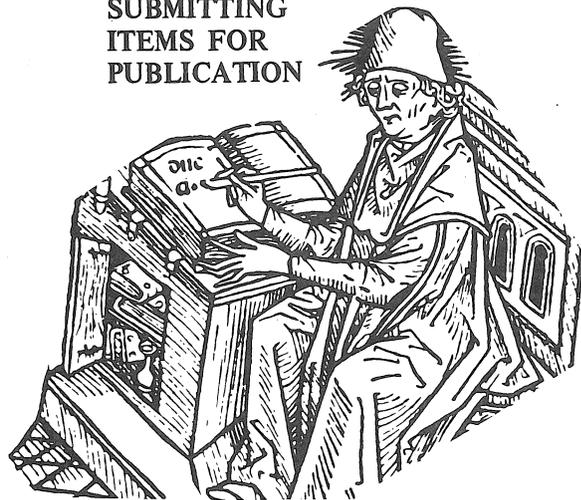
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SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION



DATE'M—Please include your name, address, and *date* on all tidbits you send to us.

TYPE'M—If at all possible, items should be typewritten, double-spaced, on standard, 8½ x 11 inch, white paper. If we can't read it; we can't publish it. Remember that we will be retyping all natural language (as opposed to computer languages) communications that we publish.

PROGRAM LISTINGS—We will accept hand-written programs *only as a very last resort*. Too often, they tend to say something that the computer would find indigestible. On the other hand, if the computer typed it, the computer would probably accept it—particularly if it is a listing pass from an assembler or other translator.

It is significantly helpful for program listings to be on continuous paper; either white, or very light blue, roll paper, or fan-folded paper. Since we reduce the copy in size, submitting it on individual pages forces us to do a significant amount of extra cutting and pasting. For the same reason, we prefer that you *exclude* pagination or page headings from any listings.

Please, please, please put a new ribbon on your printer before you run off a listing for publication.

In any natural language documentation accompanying a program listing, please refer to portions of code by their address or line number or label, rather than by page number.

DRAWINGS & SCHEMATICS—Please draw them significantly larger than the size you expect them to be when they are published. Take your time and make them as neat as possible. We do not have the staff to retouch or re-draw illustrations. Use a black-ink pen on white paper.

LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION—We are always interested in hearing your praise, complaints, opinions, daydreams, etc. In letters of opinion for publication, however, please back up any opinions that you present with as much factual information as possible.

We are quite interested in publishing well-founded, responsible evaluations and critiques of anything concerning hobbyist hardware or software, home computers, or computers and people.

We may withhold your name from a published letter if you so request. We will not publish correspondence, however, which is sent to us anonymously.

We reserve the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity and brevity.

ADVERTISING—Advertising from manufacturers and vendors may be accepted by us. However, we reserve the right to refuse any advertising from companies which we feel fall short of our rather picky standards for ethical behavior and responsiveness to consumers. Also, any such commercial advertiser is herewith informed that we will not hesitate to publish harsh criticisms of their products or services, if we feel such criticisms are valid.

DO YOU . . .

. . . LIKE WHAT WE ARE DOING?

- * Publishing significant systems software, *every* month
- * Reprinting materials from club newsletters
- * Proposing & detailing "realizable fantasies" . . . exciting projects, feasible for home computers
- * Actively pursuing a role of consumer advocate
- * Publishing useful references . . . indices to periodicals, bibliographies, lists, etc.
- * "All Meat" pages; we are not accepting commercial advertising
- * And more—

. . . KNOW THAT *MUCH* MORE MATERIAL IS BEING SUBMITTED THAN WE ARE FINANCIALLY ABLE TO PRINT?

- * Many more programs than we have room to print
- * Much more very useful material from *many* club newsletters
- * A *number* of projects that are practical & appropriate for home computer users
- * More consumer evaluations of products & services
- * Many, many more reference lists, indices, tables, etc.
- * Much more

. . . KNOW THAT YOU CAN HELP US TO BE ABLE TO PUBLISH ALL THE GOOD THINGS WE ARE RECEIVING?

- * Since we . . .
 - are supported entirely by subscriptions & sales through stores
 - want to keep it that way ("keeps us honest" when we indulge in consumer advocacy)
 - are serving *you*; not serving commercial advertisers
- * Then . . .
 - the only way we can get more income to pay our printers to print more pages, is to have more people and companies subscribe to and purchase the *Journal*
 - you* have already helped by purchasing this issue

. . . WISH TO HELP US HELP YOU?

- * Tear out the center-fold (not very sexy, but we hope it's attractive)
 - pass it along to a friend or professional associate
 - post it on the bulletin board at school or at work
 - give it to a manager of microprocessor software or design
 - reprint it in your club newsletter
- * Stand up and tell your next computer club meeting about the *Journal*

[and . . . if you *really* like what we are doing:]

- * Send *tax-deductible* contributions to People's Computer Company
 - do so as a company or an individual

[Oh . . . didn't you know? PCC, the publisher of *Dr. Dobb's Journal* is a legitimate, state and federally chartered, non-profit, educational organization. Contributions to it are tax-deductible.]



PRAISE FOR PITTMAN'S 6800 TINY BASIC
and

A Minor Complaint . . . With Tom's Response

Dear Bob, May 17, 1976

I bought Tom Pittman's 6800 TINY BASIC and think it's the best \$5 I've spent in a long time. I haven't tested it exhaustively, but it seems to work admirably, though slowly. The user's manual that came with it was simple and comprehensive, and gave enough info to make the program run on anyone's system with a minimum of fuss. Mine worked almost as soon as I got the paper tape read in. Tom Pittman is to be applauded not only for producing a good TINY BASIC that uses less than 2K, but for doing such a good job of explaining how to use it. If all hobbyist vendors conformed to Tom's standards, there would be far fewer complaints.

My only complaint about Tom is that he staunchly refuses to release the source listing of his program. I need to make some modifications to the program, for use with my cassette O/S, and I would like to be able to expand it. It is very frustrating to be kept so ignorant about his program, particularly since it seems to work so well. He seems concerned about his ability to retain control over the integrity of the program, and perhaps about the investment in time and potential money he expects to receive from it. I can't see how he'll ever make enough money (at \$5 a copy) to keep himself in business. But the price may serve to discourage people from circulating clandestine copies of the program. Anyone who uses Tom's program without paying Tom for the privilege, should be tarred and feathered.

Sincerely,
David M. Allen 1317 Central Ave.
Kansas City KS 66102

Dear Jim: 11 June '76

I have to agree with David's complaint—I would be very unhappy to find the tv I just bought did not have a schematic, but then a \$5 transistor radio is something else. Though he does not seem to realize it, David has actually touched on the reason why I have not made source listings available.

When I first started this venture, I too was not sure I could make enough money to stay in business; it was in fact a sort of experiment in economics. Therefore, as a hedge against possible losses, I sold copies of the source and maintenance documentation to a company for a lot more money than any hobbyist would be willing to pay, though it was still considerably less than I usually sell custom programs of comparable size for. While the sale was non-exclusive, I do not think it fair to devalue this company's investment when to some extent they helped make Tiny possible.

Aside from that one large sale, Tiny BASIC 6800 has not yet paid for itself, but the promise is there, so I expect to go ahead with other software for the hobbyist in the same price range, and I hope to make source listings available for the new packages. As for Tiny BASIC, I am presently preparing a comprehensive description of the IL (which is substantially the same as that originally published in PCC) including instructions for modifying it to add functional capability or change syntax, to be published in *DD* (if you will have it). I had hoped to include an assembler written in Tiny

4K STATIC RAM BOARD
(UNPOPULATED) FOR \$18.75

Dear Friend, May 10, 1976

I would appreciate your disseminating the spec sheet enclosed to your friends and club members. A discount of 5% will be given to clubs with an order of 50, and 10% on 100.

Several months ago I received several inputs on making an unpopulated 4K RAM board, hence I am producing the board for the hobbyist that does not want to get ripped off.

The board has been fully tested and is in use by many people here in Dallas. I might add that it is in use on 8080, 6502, and 6800 CPU's.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Garrett Box 2161
Micro Applications Garland TX 75041

4K STATIC MEMORY BOARD (unpopulated)

FEATURES

- 2102 and 91L02 compatible
- User selectable options
 - Protect/Unprotect switch
 - Battery backup
 - Selection of address by dip switch
- Fully compatible with MITS/ALTAIR and IMSAI 8080
- Can be used with other micro/homebrew computers
- Full buffering of address and data lines
- Bypass capacitors on all ICs for improved noise immunity

SPECIFICATIONS

- Double-sided MIL-spec board
- 100-pin (50x50) on 0.125-inch centers
- Standard dimensions
- Plated through holes
- Gold plated edge contacts

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This is an unpopulated 4,096 word (byte) Random Access Memory. *The cost to populated is less than any kit available (based on advertised prices).* Full instructions, schematics and parts list are included.

PLUSES

- 100% tested
- Instruction package
- Plated through holes and gold-plated edge contacts
- Uses 2102's or 91L02's

PRICES

- 1-3 @ \$18.75 each
- 4 or more @ \$16.25 each
- \$1 for instruction package (*one* is included with each order)
- Texas residents add 5% tax

DELIVERY

- 3-4 weeks

Coming Soon: "The Extender."

We are interested in receiving consumers' compliments and complaints concerning Micro Applications, and all other large and small marketeers to the hobbyist community. --JCW

(yes, I know it's slow), but already I am time-sharing my efforts between this, new software, and those expensive custom programs that keep the rent paid; the projects with non-zero financial return seem to get higher throughput.

Tom Pittman Box 23189
San Jose CA 95153

P.S. Your readers may appreciate being made aware of the fact that Tiny BASIC does run on a Sphere configuration, but they should mention which computer they have, since the code is slightly different for the different operating systems (e.g., Sphere vs. SWTP, etc.).

DENVER'S DIGITAL GROUP KIT DRAWS PRAISE

Dear Bob: April 26, 1976

I finally broke down and bought myself a system. I took out a bank loan, added some cash of my own and mailed my cashier's check to the Digital Group for their Three-board system.

Three days later I read in *PCC* that caution was needed in dealing with DG. I also read some mixed reports in *Micro-8 News*. I was really nervous, had bad dreams, and didn't sleep for nights.

2/10/76 Order placed with DG: 3-board system kit plus power supply. They promised 3-week delivery.
Order placed with Herbach & Rademan: Clare/Pender Keyboard.
2/21 The three boards arrived, missing 74121 and 22uF capacitor.
2/25 Keyboard arrived.
2/26 Power supply arrived.
3/3 Mother board arrived.

Total time: 3 weeks, one day. The missing parts took 4 weeks and two letters.

All parts are of good quality.

TV-Cassette and Mother boards are slightly warped.

5V 6A supply by Eentak Inc.; looks impressive.

Documentation fair; assumes a lot. Several minor errors.

Chassis, switches and connectors need to be ordered

from other distributors at present.

Time Spent

2.5 hours	I/O card
4.75	CPU card
3.25	TV-Cass. card
2.5	- 5, ± 12V power supply
.5	Mother board
6.5	TV modifications
17.5	Planning, cutting, mounting, wiring chassis
4.5	Checking things out

41.5 hours Total time

I took my time and spread it over about 40 days. I must say I savored every minute of it.

I had trouble with the TV characters being out of focus. It finally dawned on me, after scratching my head for several days, that the TV interface was overdriving the TV video. I solved the problem by turning the contrast and brightness to zero. Later I plan to add a pot on the interface output.

When I had gone through their checks, I turned the system on and sure enough there was a message on the TV screen: "Read 8080 Initialize Cassette."

After dancing around the room, I proceeded to read in the cassette. Numbers flashed across the screen. First 1's, then 2's, and finally 7's, then a bunch of dots. The dots weren't suppose to happen. More scratching of the head and several days later I decided it must be the cassette recorder.

I borrowed a recorder from the school to replace my El Cheapo and everything happened just like it was supposed to. However, it still misses a few bits now and then. The 1100 baud rate is too fast for my El Cheapo. It looks like it would be possible to set the cassette read and write constant at a lower baud rate, re-record the Operation Monitor, and then every time the system is turned on key in the new constant from the front panel, and then read in the cassette on an El Cheapo. However, the DG system does not come with a front panel, just plans for one.

I've been spending most of my time figuring out what makes the Monitor work. The DC documentation is not much help. I've also found out that machine language is a far cry from Fortran.

I will echo what some others have said about the DG system:

It does what they say it will do.

It worked the first time I turned it on, which says a lot considering how complex it is. It's definitely not a beginner's kit.

More documentation: flow charts for the Monitor (I'm working on a set), clearer instructions, spec sheets for the IC's and a better description of how it works would be nice. But that would mean more money and maybe in that case the documentation is OK.

Last week I got info about DG's Tiny BASIC. I plan to order that and another 8K of RAM from them.

Materials I'm finding helpful: *The Bugbook III*.

Hopefully my *Intel 8080A Users' Manual* will get here soon.

I want to get: *8080A Microcomputer System's Manual*, *Intellec 8/Mod 80 Microcomputer Development System Reference Manual*, *SCELBI software manuals*.

Keep up the good work.

Yours,

Ed C. Epp

Freeman Junior College
Freeman SD 57029

GOOD REPORTS ABOUT MOS TECHNOLOGY

We hear that MOS Technology has sold about 1000 KIM's. We also hear that they are very responsive to customer queries. If you have needs or interests, the "good guy" name we have been given is Don McLaughlin, Product Manager for KIM, (215) 666-7950.

PLAUDITS FOR MOS TECHNOLOGY

Dear Jim,

May 11, 1976

Just received my third issue of *Dr. Dobb's Journal* and I thought I'd drop you a note of thanks for putting in an article on a MOS 6502. From the lack of MOS Technology articles, I got the feeling that "Intel Valley" was banning MOS Technology products in California.

Last week I called Intel, to get a software manual, and received the biggest runaround I have ever gotten. Unlike Intel, I have found MOS Technology will answer any and all questions on their products and it only takes one call to them to produce results. Many times I have called Will Mathis and Don McLaughlin of MOS Technology with what I, today, would consider to be stupid questions and received the time and help of their technical staff in getting me on the straight and narrow.

MOS gets a number one in my book and should be given more space in your *Journal*.

Very truly yours,

Gerald D. Severson

RUMOR: 16-BIT, 3-MEGAHERTZ MICRO?

We hear that MOS Technology is planning to exhibit a 3-megahertz, 16-bit microprocessor at this Fall's Wescon convention in San Francisco. They also expect to have a "rotate right" instruction in their 6502 by the time this issue reaches your hands.

GOING TO SUBMIT A PROGRAM
TO A MANUFACTURER'S SOFTWARE LIBRARY?
WHY NOT SUBMIT A COPY
TO YOUR LIBRARY (THE JOURNAL)?

Dear Editor,

May 12, 1976

I've got a gripe. I ordered my Altair back when *Pop Tronics* first published the article (took four months to get it, though). Anyway, they automatically gave me a 1 year's subscription to their *Computer Notes*. With each copy they include at least one page of new programs available in their software library. These are programs that they keep asking people to send in, for which they receive a couple of programs in turn from the library. We are told these programs are all free simply for a small handling and copying fee. These "small fees" are almost all \$2 minimum—or more for the longer programs. The current offering consists of 29 programs totaling \$61 in fees if one ordered all 29 (28 are \$2 each, and 1 is \$5).

What I don't understand is why they don't publish them in their *Computer Notes*. As it stands, *Computer Notes* consists of 16 pages of virtually nothing but their own advertising. They say a subscription to non-Altair owners is \$30. Personally, I wouldn't give 30 cents for a year's subscription. I bet after the 12th issue goes out and they start selling subscriptions they are going to be in for a big surprise. Who will pay even \$10 for their advertising sheet? They also issue software with a \$500 price tag to the hobbyist and then lament the swapping, passing around, trading, of it. What do they expect? But that's another story.

The point is—why can't you publish these (or similar)? Just glancing at the latest list I see programs listed as being 60 lines, 83 bytes, 73 bytes, 21 lines, 46 lines, 121 bytes, 28/33 bytes, 56 bytes, 12 lines, 250 lines, 15 bytes, etc. You could get all eleven programs I listed on 3 or 4 pages, and that represents \$22 of handling and copying fees. Publishing some would save us a bundle.

This is what I hope *Dr. Dobb's Journal* is all about. Actually, a lot of people just aren't going to get many of the programs unless there is a lot of the lamented swapping, trading, and exchanging—or, unless you become the "library" for all of us.

So far, you are doing fine. Keep up the good work.
Durward Landers
2509 Lakeside Dr.
Garland TX 75042

We will publish as many programs as we can, if people will send them to us. Spread the word: Whenever someone decides to submit a program to a manufacturer's software library or users' group, encourage them to also submit it to the *Journal*. If it's systems software or assembler-level, we will probably publish it. If it's a program coded in BASIC or some other HLL (High Level Language), it will probably be published in *PCC Newspaper*.

We see nothing wrong with offering programs to manufacturers' libraries. But at the same time, why not offer them to your library: *Dr. Dobb's Journal*?

As far as reproduction and postage costs are concerned: there is a problem. The Community Computer Center (CCC) is maintaining a Program Repository and Duplication Facility (see the *Journal*, March, 1976, issue) for all programs submitted to it. We think their charges are reasonable: \$1/ounce for tapes plus 50 cents (orders under \$5) or \$1 (orders exceeding \$5) for postage and handling. Note that these are quite comparable to MITS' charges . . . and we know CCC

ACCENTUATE THE SYSTEMS SOFTWARE;
ELIMINATE THE GAMES

Dear Editor,

You can eliminate 90% of the games. Almost all other hobby publications specialize in them. Emphasize your uniqueness: a repository for systems software. It's a great idea, so far well executed; so don't drop the ball by trying to cover too many other things. I strongly recommend that you push APL as you did TBASIC

Robert C. Minnick

Box 306
Ouray CO 81427

To a large extent, we will leave the games for publication in *People's Computer Company*. We will reprint games from time to time, particularly when they are "games" systems, or are games written in assembly-level code. This might be considered to be, so to speak, systems software for home computer users. *Dr. Dobb's Journal* will definitely not be emphasizing games, however.

We would be delighted to "push" APL as we did Tiny BASIC. All we need is for someone to provide design criteria and details appropriate for hobbyist consumption. We are always on the lookout for competent individuals interested in providing the leadership for such projects. Incidentally, as soon as he can find the time, the Editor of *Dr. Dobb's Journal* is planning on initiating a SMALL PASCAL project, to be pursued in much the same manner as Dinnis Allison's Tiny BASIC project. This will be based on Niklaus Wirth's PASCAL, a cleanly designed, excellent, block structured, high-level language similar to ALGOL, but with much more powerful data description and manipulation facilities, and structured for single-pass compilation.

One final note: PCC is not a program repository. We publish all available information about interesting software, including information as to how it may be obtained. However, we do not distribute such software in machine-readable form (e.g., paper tapes, cassettes, etc.). --JCW

SHORT ON LENGTH
BUT LONG ON QUALITY

Dear Jim,

Having just read your February issue (Vol. 1, No. 2), I was sufficiently impressed to part with the money for a subscription. What your publication lacked in length was more than adequately offset by quality and subject matter. Your questionnaire scares me somewhat as you apparently are looking for some new directions. Additional coverage of other topics is fine and may tend to broaden your base of appeal. However, I for one, bought your publication for what it currently is—"a medium concerning the design, development and distribution of free and low-cost software." Should your enterprise maintain its stated goal of presenting "detailed information concerning low-cost systems software," I will have spent the subscription fee well.

I remain,
Dan Artman

1445 Adams Rd
Cincinnati OH 45231

is doing little more than breaking even. Unfortunately, there is a lower limit on the cost of maintaining paper-tape equipment + purchasing supplies + paying a paltry pittance to a slave to operate the equipment and verify tapes that are punched and . . . etc. (Note: *People's Computer Company* is a publishing operation. We provide programs in human-readable form. We do not provide programs in machine-readable form, e.g., paper-tapes.)

A novice constructs an IMSAI

An attorney builds his first computer

by S.A. Cochran, Jr.

I am a little out of my field messing about with computers—far more than some school teachers are whose interest is in propagating math instruction, etc. But even my life was not untouched by some of the manifestations of the computerized society—about four years ago, I made use of the IBM Mag-card Selectric typewriter during a period of heavy work. Ever since, I had been struck with the convenience—and high cost—of mechanized typing.

More recently, I heard that John Arnold and Dick Whipple were assembling a computer for what appeared to be peanuts, compared to the charge gaily levied by IBM for its typing units, much less its Mag-card units, and still less than its computers. Based on this information, I could hope to install a powerful typing system with greater capabilities than anything that I could expect to purchase from IBM with available resources, and at less cost.

Having decided to get into the microcomputing stream, with the help of John Arnold, I decided to get an IMSAI rather than Altair because the IMSAI unit *with* memory was the same price as the MITS unit *without* memory. Also, MITS' prices for memory were substantially above those charged by IMSAI.

I placed my order for the basic IMSAI unit on January 22nd. They received this order on the 25th, and the unit was actually shipped on February 2nd. I learned more about the units actually available from IMSAI on January 25th, and sent in an additional order on that date. It was not filled until March 1st, when some of the parts were shipped. The I/O ports that were included in the second order did not arrive until about March 25th.

The serial I/O board was delayed by a considerable re-design of the board, which must have started in January, and must have concluded at the very end of February. The documentation received with the original equipment showed the manner of assembling the SIO 2-2 board, Rev. 1. I received at least one set of errata with the documentation, and one after I had already got the equipment. Ultimately, IMSAI sent me their SIO 2-2 Rev. 3 board, with all of the changes built into the board.

I would like to point out that IMSAI was very prompt in providing the kit buyers with errata when they discovered something that needed to be fixed. In addition, on certain rather complicated modifications, they offered to make the modifications themselves if the kit-builder did not trust himself to fix the unit satisfactorily. They have also been quite helpful with software for units of the equipment. For instance, with the CRI board they supplied paper tape software and a hexadecimal listing.

In the revised order, I had requested the EXP-22 mother board. I recall that I could not proceed beyond the assembly of the several independent boards during February

while waiting for this unit to arrive.

I had a little confusion about the proper procedure for completing the power supply and collecting it. I had documentation for connection of the IMSAI power supply using two alternative transformers and they had shipped a *third* version of the main power supply. This was corrected quickly enough, and a minor problem with the 1K memory board was quickly corrected when someone pointed out that I had interchanged a .01 mfd capacitor and a 33 mfd one. Testing of the front panel board and the cpu board had to wait for arrival and assembly of the mother board and additional memory.

When the additional units arrived, everything tested out satisfactorily, except that there was a single bad LED on the front panel. I recall that there was an embarrassing pause after this LED was replaced—we thought that the entire equipment had gone berserk. However, I found that a piece of wire had worked its way behind the front panel, and was shorting the deposit switches. I have had no further problems with the computer, or with any of the parts supplied by IMSAI—except for the problems involved in learning to speak machine language like a native. (Apparently I don't do that yet.)

My remaining difficulties in getting the initial system into operation have revolved around input and output devices. I joined John Arnold and Dick Whipple in the acquisition of three Burroughs Model 9350-2 communicating typewriters from Herbach & Rademan of Philadelphia. These units were correctly advertised as receiving and transmitting a form of ASCII. They appear to be based on the Friden Model 2300 typewriter, a modernized version of the Flexowriter. They are not readily convertible to use as a computer input because there is a direct mechanical linkage between the keyboard and the keybars of this typewriter. Another thing that I found very hard to get used to was that this "typewriter" didn't have a backspace key! There was some additional major maintenance to be done on this equipment. Although it could be induced to type, thus far I have been unable to get the typewriter hooked up to the computer!

After making the decision to use a separate keyboard, I bought one of the keyboards originally built for RCA that have been advertised by Sargeant's in Los Angeles. This keyboard was advertised to be fully ASCII encoded, and it was, so far as it went. Unfortunately, this unit had provision for upper and lower case letters, numbers, and punctuation marks, but it did not have any provision for the non-printing control characters so common to computer work. In addition, upon applying power to the keyboard, we discovered that this keyboard carried a strobe that was valid as long as the key was pressed, and used negative logic. That is, the strobe output, and all the other outputs supposed to be made true when a key was pressed, went at that point from a voltage of 5.0 to 0.4 volts. It appeared that it would be necessary to add a

fair number of IC's to the interface between the keyboard and the computer in addition to installing an additional key on the keyboard for use as a control key. With all these matters before me I decided to keep the keyboard for future modification, and get another for my present use. But I did get a pretty keyboard enclosure from Sargeant!

[Later] . . . I am now in the process of putting that pretty keyboard enclosure and keyboard to good use. It's going to take a certain amount of skill and understanding but one of my purposes in getting into this hobby was to acquire that sort of skill. Thanks to Sargeant's, any way, for providing me with an occasion for that sort of acquisition—even if it wasn't what I exactly expected.

I feel that I should mention the question of IMSAI software before closing. In the advertisements that they began to distribute just after I ordered my IMSAI unit, they stated that they would ship an assembler, loader, and monitor with every unit, together with BASIC and other languages thereafter. This assembler, etc., turned out to be a re-write of the assembler originally distributed by Processor Technology Corp. It uses all of a 4K memory, and needs an additional 2K of RAM, if not more. A complete source listing and paper tape of this assembler were enclosed with the unit. IMSAI also provided a listing and paper tape of software for their Casette Recorder Interface board. On March 20th, IMSAI wrote all of their customers, stating that they were now ready to deliver their 4K BASIC, and expected to be ready to deliver the 8K and 12K BASIC languages on April 15, and May 15, respectively. The 4K BASIC was shipped at the end of March. I was ultimately charged \$4.00 for their cost of duplication of the paper tape, and an additional \$10.00 for a 70-page source code listing of the IMSAI BASIC. IMSAI had apparently enclosed it 'by mistake.'

IMSAI's price for its 4K BASIC thus amounts to \$14. In addition, IMSAI will sell the 8K and 12K BASICs for \$1 per kilobyte of memory required. The source code listing for these two extended BASICs will again be \$2.50 per kilobyte. Compared to the longwinded philosophical discussions one hears from MITS from time to time, this is probably a great bargain, notwithstanding that the IMSAI BASIC may not be quite as powerful as the MITS 4K BASIC.

After acknowledging the assistance of my friends in checking out the IMSAI 8080, I conclude that this equipment is a well-designed, sturdy unit easily capable of expansion to the full limits of addressable memory. IMSAI has acted in a very businesslike fashion, and has tried to be genuinely helpful within the limits that are proper to a business organization. IMSAI recently raised the price of the basic equipment, without memory, to \$599. Certain persons of my acquaintance griped very strongly at IMSAI's action. I consider that in view of the high quality of the merchandise, the IMSAI equipment is worth this premium price to the individual who has never attempted to build an electronics kit before. Anyone who considers the IMSAI not worth the price, should consider whether he or she could duplicate the system with available resources. If he could match the high quality provided by IMSAI, could he deliver the goods to others, at the price? If so, why isn't he in there competing?

Yours very truly,

S.A. Cochran, Jr.
Attorney at Law

Box 607
Tyler TX 75701

Bootstrap for 8080

by Lichen Wang

(reprinted with permission from *Homebrew Computer Club Newsletter*)

If your 8080 microprocessor system is not equipped with non-volatile memory, you probably have to reload the memory from time to time. To read the Intel hex-format paper tape, you need to key in a loader of some eighty-odd bytes long. This is rather tedious and often leads to error. Altair BASIC has a bootstrap loader of twenty or twenty-one bytes long. In principle, you can use this bootstrap to load in your own loader which will then load in your program. I coded one myself, and what comes out is a bootstrap sixteen bytes long. This is still too long—maybe our professional experts can make it shorter. For the time being, you are welcome to copy mine.

The part that you have to key in looks like this:

```
0000 DB00 READ IN 0 ;READ AND
0002 E620 ANI 20H ;MASK THE STATUS BIT
0004 CA0000 JZ READ ;NOT READY YET
0007 DB01 IN 1 ;READY, READ IN A
FRAME
0009 010900 HERE LXI B,HERE ;LATER BECOMES INX B,
STAX B, CPI
000C 02 STAXB ;LATER BECOMES FF
000D C30000 JMP READ ;LATER BECOMES JNZ
READ
```

And the paper tape should have the binary equivalent of the hex numbers shown below:

```
01 01 . . . 01 03 02 FE FF C2 00 00 XX XX . . . . XX XX FF
<- leader -> <- bootstrapping -> <- your loader -> marker
```

Where your loader is punched in binary format on the paper tape between the 00 and the FF is denoted by XX XX XX XX. Your loader cannot have any byte with the value FF. The marker FF tells the bootstrap to start your loader, starting at 10H. After the FF, the paper tape is read by your loader. Use whatever format you want.

If your loader cannot be loaded at 10H, then you will have to write another loader which can be loaded at 10H. Use it to load in your first loader to load in your program. This sounds very confusing, but that is how bootstrap works. Have you ever tried to get yourself off the ground by pulling your bootstrap?

Incidentally, the I/O ports at locations 1 and 8, the status bit mask at 3, and the jump condition at 4 may have to be changed for different I/O interface board. Your loader should copy them from the bootstrap rather than setting them up on their own. (Or, you can code your loader to change location 9 to RET, and use READ as your input routine.) This way the same paper tape can be used on different machines. To carry this one step further, your program should, in turn, copy them from your loader, so that it too can work on different machines.

HIGH SCHOOL CLUB IN CHICAGO

The University of Chicago Laboratory High School (1362 E. 59 St., Chicago IL 60637) has started a computer club.

BYTE SAVING PROGRAMMING TRICKS FOR THE 8080

by Tom Pittman
(reprinted with permission from
Homebrew Computer Club Newsletter)

These are some programming tricks I have accumulated over the years which can often save a byte or two in 8080 programs. Because of the peculiarities in the instruction sets, only a few of these also apply to 6800 programs and are so noted. Many of these tricks are widespread lore; some I have never seen elsewhere. I hope they can help you as well.

For 2's complement signed arithmetic, it is sometimes necessary to add a signed 1-byte number to a larger format. There are also other reasons for spreading a single bit (in the Carry FF) to a whole byte (in A). I found this one in the Scelbi book:

SBB A *Copy carry to all bits in A*

The 8080 does not have a proper shift instruction which fills the vacated bits with zeroes. Normally, a *CLC* must precede the *RAR* instruction. However, for left shifts:

ADD *Shift with zero insert*

To insert a single bit (in the Carry) into the left or right end of the A without altering the other seven bits:

RAL *Remove old left bit*
RRC *Insert new from Carry*

The right-end version is symmetrical. To divide a signed (2's complement) number in half, it is necessary to keep the sign bit (bit 7) unchanged while shifting A right. The 8080 does not have an instruction for this, but the *RAR* may be used if the Carry can be set up to match the sign bit:

RLC *Copy bit 7 to Carry*
RRC *Restore A*

The 6800 has a single instruction for signed right shifts, but no circular rotate. To copy a sign into the Carry:

ASR A *(6800) Duplicate bit 7*
ROL A *Restore A with bit 7 in Carry*

Some of these other tricks with the Carry become more useful if the Carry can be set on the basis of the other conditions. A zero in A may be converted into either a one or a zero in the Carry (so that non-zero is the reverse) by one of the following instructions (this also works in the 6800 with appropriate opcode sub-

stitutions):

ADI 0FFH *C=0 if and only if A=00*
SUI 1 *C=1 if and only if A=00*

It is easy to get the sign of A into the Carry (any left shift will do); to get the complement of the sign is a little trickier. This instruction leaves the contents of A unchanged, and also works for the 8080:

CPI 80H *Complement bit 7 to Carry*

Finally, how do you pack a byte with some bits from A and some bits from B? The Univac 1108 has a special instruction called *Masked Load Upper* which does this. The 8080 (and also the 6800—but only when the second byte is in memory) can do this in three instructions! Assume that the data in A and B (or any other register or memory location) are already in the correct bit positions. The mask represents a byte with the ones where the data in A is to be substituted; the non-data bits of A and B may contain garbage, as they are ignored:

XRA B *XOR B to A data bits*
ANI Mask *Delete A garbage*
XRA B *Insert B data*

The theory behind this trick lies in the fact that the *XOR* operation may be considered a "selective complement" instruction. In other words, where there are ones in B the bits in A are complemented, and where there are ones in B the bits in A are unchanged. The *AND* operation, on the other hand, may be thought of as selectively setting bits to zero in A, where the zeroes in the mask set bits in A to zero and ones in the mask leave the bits in A unchanged. Assume for the moment that the mask is all ones; the other two instructions exactly cancel each other, leaving A unchanged, since the ones in B complemented the corresponding bits in A the first time and recomplemented the same bits (back to their original states) the second time. Thus ones in the mask retain the original bits in A. Now consider zeroes in the mask: here the corresponding bits of A are cleared to zero by the *AND* operation so that the first *XOR* has no effect; the second *XOR* simply complements those zeroes in A which correspond to ones in B, which is to say that it copies the bits of B into A (remember A was cleared to zeroes by the *AND* operation). Thus zeroes in the mask copy in bits from B. Since each bit operates independently, there is no requirement that the selected bits of A or B be contiguous. Note also that no other registers or memory is required for this procedure, and that B is unchanged. I realize this operation looks suspicious, so I have included the following truth table:

FIGURE 1
Byte Packing Truth Table

A	B	MASK	1st XOR	AND	2nd XOR	
0	0	0	0	0	0	= B
0	0	1	0	0	0	= A
0	1	0	1	0	1	= B
0	1	1	1	1	0	= A
1	0	0	1	0	0	= B
1	0	1	1	1	1	= A
1	1	0	0	0	1	= B
1	1	1	0	0	1	= A

```

;
; PROCESSOR TECHNOLOGY REFORMATOR
;
; THIS PROGRAM TAKES 8080 ASSEMBLY
; SOURCE PROGRAMS WRITTEN ON INTEL'S
; INTELLEC 8 WHICH HAVE COLONS AFTER
; LABELS, CONTROL-I'S FOR TABS,
; AND SEMICOLONS TO DENOTE COMMENTS.
;
;
; IT CONVERTS THEM TO PROCESSOR
; TECHNOLOGY'S FORMAT WITH LINE
; NUMBERS, '*' TO DENOTE COMMENTS,
; AND NO SEMICOLONS AFTER LABELS.
;
;
; THE READER MUST BE UNDER PROGRAM CONTROL.
; THAT IS IT MUST BE STOPPED AFTER EACH
; CHARACTER IS READ IN.
;
;
; THIS RUNS ON THE INTELEC/8
; IT STARTS AT LOCATION 10H
; AND USES THE INTEL MONITOR
; FOR I/O
;
000D CR EQU 0DH
000A LF EQU 0AH
3806 RI EQU 3806H ;READER INPUT
3809 CO EQU 3809H ;CONSOLE OUTPUT
;
;
0000 ORG 10H
;
0010 310001 START: LXI SP,0100H ;INITILIZE STACK
0013 CD8100 CALL CRCHK ;INPUT A CHARACTER
;
; PRINT OUT 4 ASCII DECIMAL DIGITS
;
0016 F5 MDEC: PUSH PSW
0017 21A900 LXI H,DNUM+3
001A 7E MD1: MOV A,M
001B 3C INR A
001C FE3A CPI '9'+1 ;TOO BIG?
001E C22700 JNZ MD2
0021 3630 MVI M,'0'
0023 2B DCX H ;DO THE NEXT DIGIT
0024 C31A00 JMP MD1
0027 77 MD2: MOV M,A
0028 21A500 LXI H,DNUM-1
002B CDA000 CALL DPRT
002E CDA000 CALL DPRT
0031 CDA000 CALL DPRT
0034 CDA000 CALL DPRT
0037 0E20 MVI C,'
0039 CD0938 CALL CO
;
; FIRST COLUMN, CHECK FOR A LABEL
;
003C F1 FFCHK: POP PSW
003D FE3B CPI ';' ;COMMENT?
003F C24E00 JNZ LBCHK
0042 0E2A MVI C,'*'
0044 CD0938 FC1: CALL CO ;PROCESS A COMMENT
0047 CD8100 CALL CRCHK
004A 4F MOV C,A
004B C34400 JMP FC1
;
; CHECK FOR A LABEL\
;
004E FE20 LBCHK: CPI ';'
0050 CA6100 JZ POC ;NO LABEL
0053 4F LBC1: MOV C,A
0054 CD0938 CALL CO
0057 CD8100 CALL CRCHK
005A FE3A CPI ';' ;DELETE '*'
005C C25300 JNZ LBC1 ;LOOP TO PRINT
005F 3E20 MVI A,' ' ; SEPARTES LABEL AND OP-CODE

```

```

;
; DO THE OPCODE, OPPERAND, AND COMMENT
; MULTIPLE BLANKS BECOME SINGLE BLANKS
;
0061 4F POC: MOV C,A
0062 CD0938 CALL CO
0065 CD8100 POC1: CALL CRCHK
0068 FE20 CPI ';'
006A CA6500 JZ POC1
006D FE3B CPI ';'
006F CA4400 JZ FC1
0072 4F POC2: MOV C,A
0073 CD0938 CALL CO
0076 CD8100 CALL CRCHK
0079 FE20 CPI ';'
007B C27200 JNZ POC2
007E C36100 JMP POC
;
; READ A CHARACTER, MASK OFF PARITY.
; IF ITS A CARRIAGE RETURN, THEN
; DO THE END OF LINE THING
; CONVERT CONTROL-I'S TO BLANKS.
; REPRODUCE LEADER.
;
0081 CD0638 CRCHK: CALL RI ;GET THE CHARACTER
0084 E67F ANI 7FH ;MASK PARITY
0086 FE0D CPI CR
0088 CA9500 JZ CRC1 ;ITS THE END
008B B7 ORA A
008C CA9900 JZ CRC2 ;REPRODUCE LEADER!!
008F FE09 CPI 09H ;CONTROL-I IS A TAB
0091 C0 RNZ ;NOT CONTROL-I
0092 3E20 MVI A,' '
0094 C9 RET ;REPLACE WITH ' '
0095 E1 CRC1: POP H ;FORGET RETURN
0096 C3AA00 JMP NLINE ;GO TO END OF LINE
0099 4F CRC2: MOV C,A
009A CD0938 CALL CO ;OUTPUT LEADER
009D C38100 JMP CRCHK
;
; PRINT OUT ((H,L)) AS AN
; ASCII DECIMAL DIGIT.
;
00A0 23 DPRT: INX H
00A1 4E MOV C,M
00A2 CD0938 CALL CO
00A5 C9 RET
;
;
00A6 30303030 DNUM: DB '0000'
;
;
; TERMINATE A LINE WITH A
; CARRIAGE-RETURN, LINE-FEED
; AND GO PRINT THE NEXT LINE NUMBER.
;
00AA 0E0D NLINE: MVI C,CR
00AC CD0938 CALL CO
00AF 0E0A MVI C,LF
00B1 CD0938 CALL CO
00B4 CD8100 NL2: CALL CRCHK
00B7 FE0A CPI LF
00B9 CAB400 JZ NL2
00BC C31600 JMP MDEC
;
;
0000 END

```

P=

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TIME ON A PDP/11 AND PDP/8, AND WILL REPRODUCE PAPER TAPES.....

AN EXERCISE FOR NOVICE TRANSLATOR IMPLEMENTORS

An Arithmetic Expression Evaluator, Coded in BASIC

by Bill Thompson

Greetings:

April, 26, 1976

I have been studying compilers, interpreters and the like, and thought that some of the methods that I have used to gain a proper acquaintance with such a complicated subject might aid other uninitiated persons.

As such, having access to an HP9830 (programmable calculator—programs in BASIC) I have constructed in BASIC, an expression evaluator—sort of an interpreter. Since it is in BASIC, instead of assembly, the flow is a bit more obvious.

Thanks and take care,

Bill Thompson

614 - 35 St
Evans CO 80620

Following is a program and sample run of a simple expression evaluator, written in BASIC. The program uses a transition table to "crunch" an expression. I have restrained myself from numerous embellishments which have occurred to me as I worked on the program—had I started on that route I would soon have succeeded in writing a BASIC interpreter in BASIC! Nevertheless, I do suggest that the beginner who wishes to learn enough to write a compiler or an interpreter will find it particularly helpful to write this routine in assembler code. If you have access to a version of BASIC with strings, add some of those embellishments I left out, such as program storage, exponential functions, and assigning an expression to a variable. All of these will get you into the program, and hopefully into your own language.

A TRANSITION TABLE EVALUATOR FOR ARITHMETIC EXPRESSIONS (IN BASIC)

This program illustrated the use of stack techniques and

	Current Symbol	⌀	(+	-	*	/)
t o p	⌀	7	1	1	1	1	1	6
o f	(	5	1	1	1	1	1	3
s t a c k	+	4	1	2	2	1	1	4
	-	4	1	2	2	1	1	4
	*	4	1	4	4	1	1	4
	/	4	1	4	4	1	1	4
T								

Transition Table

a transition table to evaluate an arithmetic expression. There are 2 stacks: a transition stack, T, and an execution stack, E (arrays "T" and "E"). The program reads the expression once from left to right and takes various actions as directed by reference to the Transition Table (array "D"). As the expression is read, if the new symbol is an identifier (name of a variable, its value is pushed on stack E. If the new symbol is an operator: ⌀ (+ - * /) then the program goes to the transition table for instructions. It does this by comparing the current symbol with the top one on the translator stack (T).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Push the current operator on translator stack T, and continue reading.
2. Perform an operation, push the current symbol on T, continue.
3. Pop Stack T, continue (deletes parenthesis).
4. Perform an operation. Pop T, then repeat the table look-up with the current symbol and the new top of T.
5. Error: missing right parenthesis.
6. Error: missing left parenthesis.
7. End—evaluation complete.

Notes:

- A "stack" is a last-in-first-out data vector.
- All operations are performed on the top two members of the expression Stack, E.
- All operations performed use the top of the T stack.
- All expressions must be followed by a blank.
- A blank is denoted in the table by "⌀".
- Values are assigned by expressions of the form: 'LET E=5'.

Reference: *Translation of Computer Languages* by Weingarten, 1973, Holden-Day, Inc., ISBN 0-8162-9423-2. (Warning: the reference though good, contains errors in diagrams, etc.)

```

10 DIM A$(80),B$(10),C$(26),C[26],T$(80),E$(80),D(6,7)
20 REM
30 REM SET UP THE TRANSITION TABLE
40 REM
50 FOR I=1 TO 6
60 FOR J=1 TO 7
70 READ D[I,J]
80 NEXT J
90 NEXT I
100 DATA 7,1,1,1,1,1,6
110 DATA 5,1,1,1,1,1,3
120 DATA 4,1,2,2,1,1,4
130 DATA 4,1,2,2,1,1,4
140 DATA 4,1,4,4,1,1,4
150 DATA 4,1,4,4,1,1,4
160 FOR I=1 TO 26
170 C[I]=0
180 NEXT I
190 FOR I=1 TO 80
200 T[I]=1
210 E[I]=0
220 NEXT I
230 B$="(+-*/)"
240 C$="ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ"
250 DISP "INPUT EXPRESSION";
260 INPUT A$
270 IF A$(1,3)#"LET" THEN 300
280 GOSUB 380
290 GOTO 250
300 K=1
310 L=POS(B$,A$(K,K))
320 IF L#0 THEN 350
330 GOSUB 430
340 GOTO 360

```

```

350 GOSUB 530
360 K=K+1
370 GOTO 310
380 M=POS(CS,AS[5,5])
390 N=POS(AS,"=")
400 C[M]=VAL(AS[N+1])
410 PRINT "*" "CS[M,M];" "=" "C[M];" "*"
420 RETURN
430 M=POS(CS,AS[K,K])
440 IF M=0 THEN 500
450 FOR I=80 TO 2 STEP -1
460 E[I]=E[I-1]
470 NEXT I
480 E[1]=C[M]
490 RETURN
500 GOSUB 1320
510 PRINT "INVALID SYMBOL"
520 GOTO 190
530 GOTO DIT[I,L] OF 540,590,650,710,770,830,890
540 REM
550 REM INSTRUCTION I
560 REM
570 GOSUB 990
580 RETURN
590 REM
600 REM INSTRUCTION II
610 REM
620 GOSUB 1050
630 GOSUB 990
640 RETURN
650 REM
660 REM INSTRUCTION III
670 REM
680 GOSUB 1220
690 RETURN
700 REM
710 REM INSTRUCTION IV
720 REM
730 GOSUB 1050
740 GOSUB 1220
750 GOSUB 530
760 RETURN
770 REM
780 REM INSTRUCTION V
790 REM
800 GOSUB 1320
810 PRINT "MISSING RIGHT PARENTHESIS"
820 GOTO 190
830 REM
840 REM INSTRUCTION VI
850 REM
860 GOSUB 1320
870 PRINT "MISSING LEFT PARENTHESIS"
880 GOTO 190
890 REM
900 REM INSTRUCTION VII
910 REM
920 PRINT AS;" ="
930 PRINT "*" "E[I];" "*"
940 PRINT
950 PRINT "*" STOP "*"
960 E[1]=0
970 GOTO 250
980 END
990 REM THIS ROUTINE ADDS A SYMBOL TO STACK T
1000 FOR I=80 TO 2 STEP -1
1010 T[I]=T[I-1]
1020 NEXT I
1030 T[1]=L
1040 RETURN
1050 REM THIS ROUTINE GENERATES AN OPERATION
1060 GOTO T[I] OF 1070,1070,1100,1130,1160,1190,1070
1070 GOSUB 1320
1080 PRINT "ERROR IN OPERATION GENERATOR"
1090 GOTO 190
1100 E[1]=E[2]+E[1]
1110 GOSUB 1270
1120 RETURN
1130 E[1]=E[2]-E[1]
1140 GOSUB 1270

```

```

1150 RETURN
1160 E[1]=E[2]*E[1]
1170 GOSUB 1270
1180 RETURN
1190 E[1]=E[2]/E[1]
1200 GOSUB 1270
1210 RETURN
1220 REM THIS ROUTINE POPS STACK T
1230 FOR I=1 TO 79
1240 T[I]=T[I+1]
1250 NEXT I
1260 RETURN
1270 REM THIS ROUTINE SHIFTS STACK E
1280 FOR I=2 TO 79
1290 E[I]=E[I+1]
1300 NEXT I
1310 RETURN
1320 PRINT AS
1330 PRINT TAB(K-1);"^"
1340 PRINT
1350 RETURN

```

RUN

INPUT EXPRESSION?LET A=5

* A= 5

INPUT EXPRESSION?LET Z=6

* Z= 6

INPUT EXPRESSION?LET D=4

* D= 4

INPUT EXPRESSION?LET X=3.25

* X= 3.25

INPUT EXPRESSION?LET P=3.14159

* P= 3.14159

INPUT EXPRESSION?A*A

A*A =

* 25 *

* STOP *

INPUT EXPRESSION?A/Z*P

A/Z*P

↑

INVALID SYMBOL (missing $\frac{1}{2}$, that is, missing terminating blank)

INPUT EXPRESSION?A/Z*P

A/Z*P =

* 0.265258463 *

* STOP *

INPUT EXPRESSION?(A*Z)+D*X

(A*Z)+D*X =

* 43 *

* STOP *

INPUT EXPRESSION?((A-Z)/(X*Z)+P

((A-Z)/(X*Z)+P

↑

MISSING RIGHT PARENTHESIS

INPUT EXPRESSION?((A-Z)/(X*Z)+P)

((A-Z)/(X*Z)+P) =

* 3.090307949 *

* STOP *

A Classy 8080 Text Editor

by F. J. Greeb
1915 S. Cape Way, Denver CO 80227
(303) 986-6651
May 6, 1976 [received at PCC June 21st]

Hello People,

May 12, 1976

Enclosed is a description and source listing of my text editor program, along with some comments on conversion of the program to other 8080 systems. This material is being submitted approximately simultaneously to both the Denver Amateur Computer Society Newsletter, and to Dr. Dobb's Journal for publication as either (or both) organization sees fit. As far as I know, all the bugs have been removed from the program. I have been using an earlier version, which is essentially the same except for the variable storage locations and teletype routines, for several months.

I am also including a current description of my system, which will probably be out of date by the time you receive this, since I keep changing it, and some other general comments.

Keep up the good work.

Fred J. Greeb

GENERAL COMMENTS

5-12-76

TEXT EDITOR SOURCE LISTING—The listing is not generated directly by the 8080 assembler. It is the result of playing the source tape generated by the assembler into a system which has a high speed printer. The playback timing is not perfect and some errors do occur. All known errors have been corrected, but consider this factor as a potential source of errors when implementing the program on another system.

TEXT EDITOR PROGRAM—The program has not been optimized for either memory utilization or speed. The original design goal was to use less than 4K, for compatibility with the assembler. The first version used about 2K, and therefore no size reduction was attempted.

Most commands execute with no noticeable delay. A long string search or deletion of many lines will cause a few seconds' pause.

DESIRABLE HIGH LEVEL LANGUAGE FEATURES

(personal preference)—Efficient utilization of memory, possibly by converting source code to opcode (binary) equivalents, rather than storing source code directly. This conversion could be accomplished at load time, or by a separate program (a compiler?).

User definable I/O handling, including multiple I/O ports. Considering the price of PROM's, I suspect most I/O routines will end up in PROM sooner or later, with everyone using different techniques and addresses.

External subroutine call capability, including variable transfer capability.

User definable integer and floating point variable capability.

Several others I can't think of off the top of my head, and will undoubtedly remember after I mail this.

SUPPLIERS—Excellent: James Electronics, Bill Godbout (2 week service on custom-programmed PROM's). Major supplier gripe: refund credit slips rather than cash refund on out-of-stock items. These have a habit of getting lost when returned for a cash refund. I don't know how the two mentioned suppliers handle this problem. Out of numerous orders for a variety of merchandise, they have never been out-of-stock on any item. Poor suppliers: why bother to mention them—most have already received an abundance of criticism.

WANT LIST—High level language. Floating point arithmetic and I/O routines. Floating point arithmetic hardware and/or schematics. Scope driver software using D/A converters. Games. Cheap paper tape reader.

DREAM LIST—Cassette tape controllers, hardware and software. High speed CRT terminal, 72 column line minimum.

Discs and controllers. A 16-bit system. High speed printer and controller. And on and on and on . . .

PLANNED APPLICATIONS—Indefinite. I designed and built the system to learn more about the hardware. That purpose was accomplished: I did learn a lot. As for what I do with it, only time will tell.

THE EDITOR

The text editor program is a strong/line oriented program written in 8080 assembly language. The program is designed for use in the development of source programs to be processed by an assembler or compiler, or for general purpose ASCII file generation. 29 separate commands are recognized by the program

The editor does not require line numbers to be present in the ASCII file. It has the capability to search for and locate any string of valid ASCII characters in the file, irrespective of their location within a line. Lines can be added, deleted, replaced, modified, or printed with simple input commands. Once initialized, the program contains self protection features so that it cannot overwrite itself.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS—The program occupies approximately 2.5K words of memory, plus memory space for the file being edited. An additional 128 words of memory are used for the 8080 stack. Peripherals supported are a TV-Type-writer, Baudot teletype (output only), and a cassette tape. Several of the driver routines for the peripherals are contained in the system monitor ROM, and must be supplied externally for conversion to other 8080 systems.

COMMAND FORMAT AND DESCRIPTION—All commands to the editor are input as ASCII data terminated by a carriage return. The only non-printing ASCII characters recognized by the program are carriage return (C/R, octal 15), end of file (EOF, octal 1), and Tab (Control T, octal 24). The program outputs a greater-than symbol, >, as a prompt indicating that it is waiting for a command to be input.

The commands recognized may be classified into three general categories: Initialization, Edit, and Utility. All commands must be followed by a space and/or terminated by a C/R. Additional parameters associated with a command (numerical or string data) must be separated from the command by one or more spaces.

Initialization Commands—The initialization commands set the file start address and define the end of file. All initialization commands request the file starting address, which must be input from the keyboard.

The initialization commands and their results are:

- NEWF** Defines a new file location starting at the input address, and enters the input mode.
- EDIT** Edit an existing file at the input address. Outputs the first line or page of the file, as specified by the output mode.
- LOAD** Loads a file from tape, beginning at the starting address. Loading begins with a C/R is input following the address input to allow time for manual tape setup.

Edit Commands—The edit commands are used to display and/or edit lines within the file. All edit commands operate on, or with respect to, the current line. In most cases, the current line is defined as the last line displayed on the TVT screen. The program utilizes a line pointer which always contains the starting address of the current line. This address changes as different lines within the file are accessed.

In the following descriptions, a string is defined as any sequence, of any length, of valid ASCII characters. Parameters

contained within parentheses are optional parameters which may be included in the command line. Only the parameters, and not the parentheses, are included if the optional parameters are used.

A String Append the string to the end of the current line and display the result.

BOTM Set the current line pointer to the end of file.

C %string1%string2 Find the first occurrence of string1 in the current line and change it to string2. The two string lengths need not be equal, and the second string can be null (i.e., a C/R following the second delimiter). The delimiters (%) may be any printing ASCII character.

D (M) Delete the current line (or M lines beginning with the current line) from the file. The file is moved in memory so that no empty space exists in the file. M is input as a decimal number, maximum value = 255.

F string Find and display the first line in the file which begins with the string. The search begins with the line following the current line and continues until a match is found or the EOF is reached. The found line becomes the current line.

I string Insert the string as a new line following the current line. The file is moved up in memory to make space for the new line. If no string is included, or if only a C/R is input as a command, the editor enters the continuous input mode. In this mode, multiple lines may be entered in the file by typing in each line followed by a C/R. Exit from the continuous input mode is accomplished by inputting a null line (C/R only). When the continuous input mode is entered, the message INPUT will be displayed. Upon exiting this mode, the message EDIT will be displayed. No prompt is issued between multiple input lines, which indicates that the editor is in the input mode.

INSM M Insert M lines from memory following the current line (M = 1 to 255). The file is moved in memory to accommodate the new lines. The location (starting address) of the new lines will be requested and must be input from the keyboard. This command is designed for merging together of two files, but may also be used to move lines within the same file if the destination is at a higher memory address than the source. If this is not the case, only one line at a time may be moved correctly within the file.

LIST List the entire file on the output device (TVT or TTY).

L string Locate and display the first line in the file which contains the string anywhere within the line. The search begins with the line following the current line and continues until a match is found or the EOF is reached. The located line becomes the current line.

N (M) Move the current line pointer to the next

line in the file (or move M lines) and display the new current line. M may be positive or negative (max. range = ± 255). Print the current line (or M lines). The last line printed becomes the new current lines.

P (M)

PAGE List one page (15 lines), beginning with the current line. The current line is unchanged.

R string Replace the current line with the input string and display the result.

T Set the current line pointer to the top of the file and display the first line or page of the file.

Utility Commands—The utility commands allow displaying of the various pointers used by the program; specifying parameters to the program; and outputting files to tape. All addresses output by these commands are displayed in split octal, low order address first, followed by the high order address. The utility commands interface with the TVT only, and do not putput to the TTY.

The utility commands recognized, and the functions they perform, are:

CLRS Clear TVT screen

DISP Displays current line pointer. This command is useful for the INSM command to determine the starting address of the lines to be inserted.

DEOF Display end of file address.

DISM Display current setting of maximum memory size.

SETM Set maximum memory address. This value is preset to 7.5K for use in an 8K system, leaving .5K free for later additions to a large file. This command requests an address input.

MODE L P Sets the output to the line (L) or page (P) mode. In the line mode, only the current line is displayed following a command. In the page mode, 15 lines are displayed. The first line displayed is the current line.

OUTM S T(C) Sets the output device to the TVT (S) or teletype (T). The T parameter initializes the TTY only (set to Baudot letters mode), and the TC parameter also outputs a carriage return/line feed.

RUBO X Sets the rubout character to X. X (initialized to ") may be any printing ASCII character. The rubout character erases the previous input character in a command line. Multiple rubouts may be used to erase (back up) multiple characters.

KILL X Sets the kill character to X. X (initialized to ?) may be any printing ASCII character. The kill character deletes the entire input line. If the kill and rubout are set to the same character, the kill function will take precedence.

Q Quit. Exit to monitor.

TAPE Transmits the entire file to cassette tape. Two subcommands are associated with this command and require responses to queries displayed on the TVT. The first TVT output is "REMOVE TABS?". An input of Y (yes) will cause tabs to be converted to spaces prior to transmission to the tape recorder. If N (no) is input, the file will be taped unmodified. The next output message is "FULL OR PARTIAL FILE?". If an F (full) is input, the file is terminated by a double end of file on the tape. If P (partial) is input, the file is terminated by a single end of file

followed by an end of record (octal 3). These two tape end formats are not used directly by the editor program but are for use in an associated assembler, where they signal the assembler either that more data is required or that the end of the source code has been reached. Transmission of data to tape begins when the C/R following the F or P response is input.

ERROR MESSAGES—The program will output the error message "WHAT?" in response to unrecognizable or improperly formatted commands. In addition to this general error message, several other error messages may be displayed.

On all commands which require an address input, the address is tested against the minimum useable file address. If the input address is less than the minimum, the error message "MIN ADDR (LH) = XXX YYY" will be displayed. This prevents overwriting of the editor program by the file being edited.

If a command is entered which increases the size of the file, the new end of file location is tested against the set maximum memory value. If the maximum would be exceeded by the command, the message "MEM OVERFLOW" is displayed and execution of the command is inhibited. During the LOAD command, the maximum is not tested until after the load from tape is complete, and can overwrite data stored above the maximum limit.

During execution of the INSM command, the data to be inserted is verified to be valid ASCII data. (Note: ASCII data, as defined in this program, is the 64 character upper case subset) If a non-ASCII character, other than a control character recognized by the program, is encountered, the message "BAD DATA XXX YYY" is displayed, where XXX YYY is the address of the invalid data. Execution of the INSM command is terminated if this error is displayed.

If execution of a command, such as Print M, causes the end of file to become the current line, the message "BOTTOM" will be displayed. This message will also be displayed if a Find or Locate command fails to match the input string, indicating that the string is not present in the portion of the file searched.

CONVERSION TO OTHER SYSTEMS—Conversion to other 8080 systems should not be exceedingly difficult. Several hardware dependent I/O routines, which are contained in ROM, are called by the program. These routines will have to be supplied by the user. The routines called, the functions they perform, and the registers which may be modified by these routines are:

CRLF	A register	Output a carriage return/line feed to the TVT
CLRS	A register	Clear TVT screen
TAPI	A, B, D, E registers	Single character input from tape. Data returned in A and D registers

NEW CLUB: TRACE, IN ONTARIO

There are about 50 members currently in TRACE (Toronto Region Association of Computer Enthusiasts). It covers the greater Toronto-Hamilton-Kitchener areas of Ontario, and usually holds meetings on the first or second Friday of each month. Address: TRACE, Box 545, Streetsville, Ontario, L5M 2C1 Canada.

TAPO	B, C registers	ters Single character output to tape. Data in A register output and returned unmodified
TMDL	A, B, C registers	Time delay (approximately 5 seconds) for tape output routine. Enter at TMDL+6 for 0.05xC-Register value delay
HL	All except D, E	Address input from keyboard to HL registers. Carry set for normal return. Carry clear if input error occurred.
MONT	—	System monitor
LTRS, FIGS, BEQV		ASCII/BAUDOT conversion tables. Numerical values of Baudot symbols listed in ASCII sequence. Bit 8 set for ASCII symbols which have no Baudot equivalence, with 5 LSB's containing the relative address of the double character equivalence in table BEQV.

In addition to these routines and tables, a memory area for the 8080 stack is required. The program uses a 128 word memory dedicated to this purpose. The stack depth requirement has not been determined, but 20 or 30 words should be sufficient. The two TVT I/O routines (TVT1 and TVT0) may also have to be modified. These routines use hardware control of the 8080 ready line, rather than flag testing or software timing.

The most convenient location for these additional memory requirements is at the end of the present editor program. Only the value of MMIN (Minimum useable file address) would have to be changed, and this value is referenced only in the address input routine (HLIN).

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION—HARDWARE May 12, 1976

Custom design and construction. Based on 8080 microprocessor. 1.25 MHz clock. Full front panel control and display.

Memory

8K RAM, Address 000 000 to 040 000
128 word RAM, Address 347 000 to 247 2000 (normally used as stack)
512 word PROM, Address 340 000 to 342 000

Peripherals

TV Typewriter (Radio Electronics TVT-1). Multiplexed half duplex type parallel data interface with hardware control of the 8080 ready line. No "echo" required.
Cassette tape mass data storage. Sudioing type interface with software timing (inPROM) at approximately 660 baud.
Two channel D/A converter.
Baudot teletype with UART interface. Primarily used for hard copy output.

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION—SOFTWARE

Monitor (PROM)—Includes load from tape, dump to tape, keyboard input to memory, display memory contents, execute a program, and ASCII/BAUDOT conversion tables.

Assembler—Modified Processor Technology version. Modifications include four character (max.) symbols, octal output, multiple block data input from tape, unlimited ASCII string (data) length, object code output to tape (optional), and source listing to tape (optional).

Text Editor—General purpose ASCII data handling for source code generation and modification. Line/string oriented; no line numbers required.

Denver Tiny BASIC—Features integer arithmetic, 120 variables, single dimensioned variables, remarks, and a random number generator.

Other programs—File list; memory check; octal editor; LIFE (from PCC, Vol. 4, No. 2—September, 1975); hex memory dump to TTY; etc.


```

003 020 176 002 MOV A,M GET CHARACTER
003 021 376 002 CPI 2 TEST FOR EOF
003 023 330 RC RETURN IF EOF
003 024 043 INX H INCREMENT ADDRESS
003 025 376 024 CPI TAB TEST FOR TAB
003 027 302 040 003 JNZ LN01 JUMP IF NOT TAB
003 032 315 362 006 CALL TBST CONVERT TAB TO SPACES
003 035 303 020 003 JMP LN0T+2 LOOP
003 040 004 LN01 INR B INCREMENT COLUMN COUNT
003 041 315 052 003 CALL DTOT OUTPUT CHARACTER
003 044 376 015 CPI 13 TEST IF C/R
003 046 310 RZ RETURN IF C/R
003 047 303 020 003 JMP LN0T+2 LOOP
003 052 003 052 * DATA OUT ROUTINE. CHANGED BETWEEN
003 052 003 052 * TVT AND TTY OUTPUT DURING PROGRAM
003 052 003 052 * EXECUTION. ALL REGISTERS PRESERVED
003 052 003 052 *
003 052 003 052 DTOT PUSH H SAVE ALL REGISTERS
003 052 345 PUSH D
003 053 325 PUSH B
003 054 305 PUSH B
003 055 365 PUSH PSW
003 056 003 056 * FOLLOWING INSTRUCTION CHANGED
003 056 003 056 * BY OUTM COMMAND (TVT OR TTY OUT)
003 056 003 056 DTOT CALL TVTO OUTPUT
003 061 315 071 003 POP PSW RESTORE REGISTERS
003 062 361 POP B
003 063 321 POP D
003 064 341 POP H
003 065 311 RET
003 066 003 066 * TVT INPUT ROUTINE
003 066 003 066 *
003 066 333 000 TVTI IN TVT INPUT DATA
003 070 311 RET
003 071 003 071 * TVT OUTPUT ROUTINE
003 071 323 000 TVTO OUT TVT OUTPUT DATA
003 073 311 RET
003 074 003 074 * INPUT COMMAND ROUTINE
003 074 003 074 *
003 074 061 200 347 INMD LXI SP,STAK RESET STACK
003 077 041 003 010 LXI H,INMS MSG ADDR
003 102 315 102 002 CALL OUTR OUTPUT MESSAGE
003 105 315 045 004 CALL DTIN INPUT NEW LINE
003 110 041 072 011 LXI H,IBUF LOAD IBUF START ADDR
003 113 176 003 113 MOV A,M GET FIRST CHARACTER
003 116 376 015 CPI 13 TEST FOR C/R
003 116 312 132 000 JZ IDON DONE IF C/R
003 121 315 003 002 CALL NLST GET NEXT LINE ADDR
003 124 042 061 011 SHLD PNTR SET LINE POINTER
003 127 042 065 011 SHND MVAD SET MOVE LIMIT
003 132 315 140 003 CALL CENT INSERT LINE
003 135 303 105 003 JMP INLP LOOP FOR ANOTHER INPUT
003 140 003 140 * LINE INSERT ROUTINE
003 140 003 140 *
003 140 052 063 011 CENT LHLD EFPN LOAD EOF ADDR
003 143 014 INR C INCREMENT CHAR COUNT
003 144 006 000 MVI B,0 B = 0
003 146 011 DAD B EOF ADDR + CHAR COUNT
003 147 353 XCHG IS NEW EOF (TO DE)

003 150 052 051 011 LHLD MMAX LOAD MAX MEM VALUE
003 153 315 327 003 CALL OVTS TEST FOR OVERFLOW
003 156 322 173 004 JNC MOFL JUMP IF OVERFLOW
003 161 052 063 011 LHLD EFPN LOAD EOF ADDR
003 164 315 221 003 CALL RMOV MOVE FILE UP
003 167 052 063 011 LHLD EFPN LOAD EOF ADDR
003 172 041 DAD B ADD CHAR. COUNT
003 173 042 063 011 SHLD EFPN SET NEW EOF ADDR
003 176 052 055 011 LHLD IPNT NEW LINE ADDR (IBUF)
003 201 041 DCR C CHAR COUNT - 1
003 202 041 DCR B FORM LINE END ADDR
003 203 042 065 011 SHLD MVAD SET MOVE LIMIT
003 206 052 055 011 LHLD IPNT LINE START ADDR
003 211 353 XCHG TO DE REGISTERS
003 212 052 061 011 LHLD PNTR LOAD INSERT START ADDR
003 215 315 012 004 CALL LMOV MOVE IN NEW LINE
003 220 311 RET
003 221 003 221 * RMOV - RIGHT (UP) MOVE. MOVES DATA
003 221 003 221 * FROM HL ADDRESS TO DE ADDRESS UNTIL
003 221 003 221 * HL IS DECREMENTED TO MVAD
003 221 003 221 * ADDRESS (INCLUSIVE)
003 221 003 221 *
003 221 305 RMOV PUSH B SAVE B&C
003 221 104 MOV B,H SOURCE ADDR TO
003 222 115 MOV C,L BC REGISTERS
003 223 052 065 011 LHLD MVAD LOAD LIMIT ADDR
003 224 003 227 012 LDRX B GET DATA
003 230 022 STAX D STORE AT NEW ADDR
003 231 175 MOV A,L TEST IF AT
003 232 271 CMP C LOW LIMIT
003 233 302 243 003 JNZ RMCT JUMP IF NOT
003 236 174 MOV A,H TEST IF AT
003 240 312 250 003 JZ ROON JUMP IF AT LIMIT
003 243 013 RMCT DCX B DECREMENT
003 244 033 DCX D ADDRESSES
003 245 303 227 003 JMP NXR1 MOVE NEXT CHAR
003 250 301 ROON POP B RESTORE B&C
003 252 311 RET
003 252 003 252 * SINGLE LINE INPUT COMMAND
003 252 332 074 003 INSL JC INMD JUMP IF NO STRING
003 255 015 DCR C DECREMENT CHAR COUNT
003 257 041 074 011 LXI H,IBUF+2 LINE START ADDR
003 262 042 055 011 SHLD IPNT SET IBUF POINTER
003 265 315 003 002 CALL NLST GET NEXT LINE ADDR
003 270 042 065 011 SHLD MVAD SET MOVE LIMIT
003 273 042 061 011 SHLD PNTR SET LINE POINTER
003 276 315 140 003 CALL CENT INSERT LINE
003 301 311 RET
003 302 003 302 * EFFN ROUTINE - FINDS EOF AND
003 302 003 302 * TESTS FOR MEMORY OVERFLOW
003 302 003 302 *
003 302 052 051 011 EFFN LHLD MMAX LOAD MAX MEM VALUE
003 305 353 XCHG TO DE REGISTERS
003 306 052 061 011 LHLD PNTR LOAD CURRENT ADDR
003 311 315 327 003 CALL OVTS TEST FOR OVERFLOW
003 314 332 173 004 JNC MOFL JUMP IF OVERFLOW
003 317 176 001 MOV A,M GET CHARACTER
003 320 376 001 CPI 1 TEST FOR EOF
003 322 310 RZ RETURN IF EOF
003 323 043 INX H INCREMENT ADDRESS

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004 246      042 067 011      SHLD TEMP SET TEMP FOR CHANGE
004 251      041 073 011      LXI H,IBUF+1 STRING ADDR - 1
004 254      042 045 011      SHLD TEMP1 SET TEMP1 FOR CHANGE
004 257      005 000      MVI B,0
004 261      303 007 005      JMP CNGO JUMP TO CHANGE ROUTINE
* CHANGE COMMAND
*
004 264      332 020 002      CCRT JC WHAT ERROR IF NO STRING
004 264      052 055 011      LHLD IPNT DELIMITER ADDR
004 267      126 000 000      MOV D,M FIRST DELIMITER
004 272      005 000      MVI B,0 ZERO CHAR COUNTER
* COUNT CHARACTERS IN FIRST STRING
*
004 275      043      INX H CHAR ADDRESS
004 275      176      MOV A,M LOAD CHARACTER
004 275      376 015      CPI 13 TEST FOR C/R
004 301      312 020 002      JZ WHAT ERROR IF C/R
004 304      272 314 004      CMP D TEST FOR DELIMITER
004 305      312 314 004      JZ LSTR JUMP IF DELIMITER
004 310      004      INR B INCREMENT CHAR COUNT
004 311      303 275 004      JMP CCRI LOOP
004 314      042 045 011      LSTR SHLD TEMP1 SAVE DELIMITER ADDR
004 317      052 055 011      LHLD IPNT FIRST DELIMITER ADDR
004 322      043      INX H INCREMENT TO STRING
004 323      042 055 011      SHLD IPNT ADDR AND SAVE
004 326      052 061 011      LHLD PNTR LOAD CURRENT FILE ADDR
004 331      110      MOV C,B CHAR COUNT TO C
004 332      042 067 011      SHLD TEMP SAVE CURRENT ADDR
004 335      353      XCHG ADDR TO DE
004 336      052 055 011      LHLD IPNT STRING 1 ADDR
004 341      315 163 006      CALL SEAR SEARCH FOR STRING
004 344      312 367 004      JZ STMT JUMP IF FOUND
004 347      052 067 011      LHLD TEMP FILE ADDR
004 352      176      MOV A,M CHARACTER FROM LINE
004 353      376 015      CPI 13 TEST FOR C/R
004 355      312 165 005      JZ CCODN JUMP TO EXIT IF C/R
004 360      332 336 005      JC BOTM AT BOTTOM IF EOF
004 363      043      INX H INCREMENT ADDR TO NEXT
004 364      303 331 004      JMP STSH CHAR AND CONTINUE SEARCH
* COUNT CHARACTERS IN SECOND STRING
*
004 367      052 045 011      STMT LHLD TEMP1 DELIMITER ADDR
004 372      016 000      MVI C,0 ZERO CHAR COUNTER
004 374      043      INX H INCREMENT ADDR
004 376      176      MOV A,M LOAD STRING 2 CHAR
004 376      376 015      CPI 13 TEST FOR C/R
005 000      312 007 005      JZ CNGO END OF STRING 2 IF C/R
005 003      014      INR C INCREMENT CHAR COUNT
005 004      303 374 004      JMP STSH1 LOOP UNTIL C/R
* BEGIN CHANGE. B CONTAINS # OF CHAR
* IN STRING 1. C HAS # IN STRING 2
*
005 007      170      CNGO MOV A,B B TO A
005 010      271      CMP C COMPARE STRING 2 LENGTH
005 011      312 142 005      JZ EQU EQUAL
005 014      322 100 005      JNC LESS JUMP IF B > C
* HERE IF FILE LENGTH INCREASES
*
005 017      052 067 011      LHLD TEMP LOAD MATCH ADDR
005 022      205      ADD L ADD STRING 1 LENGTH
005 023      157      MOV L,A TO FORM ADDRESS
WHERE INSERT MODE STARTS
ADD CARRY
NUMBER TO ADD IS STRING 2
- STRING 1 (LENGTHS)
SET MOVE LIMIT
LOAD EOF ADDR
SAVE STRING LENGTHS
DIFFERENCE TO C
EOF PLUS DIFFERENCE
IS NEW EOF ADDR
NEW EOF ADDR TO DE
MAX MEM VALUE
TEST FOR OVERFLOW
JUMP IF OVERFLOW
LOAD EOF ADDR
MOVE FILE UP
LOAD EOF ADDR
FORM NEW EOF ADDR
SAVE NEW EOF ADDR
RESTORE STRING LENGTHS
INSERT NEW STRING
* HERE IF FILE SIZE DECREASES
*
LESS LHLD TEMP LOAD MATCH ADDR
MOV A,L LOW ADDR TO A
ADD C ADD STRING 2 LENGTH
MOV L,A TO FORM MOVE
MOV A,H DESTINATION ADDR
ACI 0 ADD CARRY
MOV H,A SAVE IN DE
XCHG LHLD EFPN LOAD EOF ADDR
SHLD MVAR SET MOVE LIMIT
LHLD TEMP LOAD MATCH ADDR
MOV A,L FORM MOVE START
ADD B AS MATCH ADDR PLUS
MOV A,H STRING 1 LENGTH
ACI 0 ADD CARRY TO HIGH ADDR
MOV H,A DE=SOURCE, HL=DEST
CALL LMOV MOVE FILE
SHLD EFPN SET NEW EOF ADDR
* HERE IF FILE SIZE UNCHANGED
*
EQU LHLD TEMP MATCH ADDR
XCHG TO DE
LHLD TEMP1 SECOND DELIMITER ADDR
INX H TO STRING 2 ADDR
EQLP DCR C DECREMENT STRING 2 COUNT
JM CCODN JUMP IF NEGATIVE
MOV A,M GET STRING 2 CHAR
STAX D PUT IN FILE
INX H INCREMENT ADDRESSES
INX D LOOP
JMP EQLP LINE START ADDR
LHLD PNTR OUTPUT MODE FLAG
LDR MODE SET 8080 FLAGS
ORA A LINE MODE OUTPUT
JZ LNOT PAGE MODE OUTPUT
JMP LIST JMP LIST
* LOC1 ROUTINE - FINDS LENGTH OF STRING

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- Tiny BASIC Status Letter - *Dennis Allison*
- 16-Bit Binary-to-Decimal Conversion Routine - *Dennis Allison*
- Build Your Own BASIC [reprinted from *PCC*, Vol. 3, No. 4] - *Dennis Allison & others*
- Build Your Own BASIC, Revived [reprinted from *PCC*, Vol. 4, No. 1] - *Dennis Allison & Michael Christoffer*
- Design Notes for Tiny BASIC [reprinted from *PCC*, Vol. 4, No. 2] - *Dennis Allison, Happy Lady, & friends*
- Tiny BASIC [reprinted from *PCC*, Vol. 4, No. 3] - *Dennis Allison, Bernard Greening, Happy Lady, & lots of friends*
- Extendable Tiny BASIC - *John Ribble*
- Corrected Tiny BASIC II - *Bernard Greening*
- Tiny BASIC, Extended Version (TBX), Part 1: Example, Command Set, Loading Instructions, Octal Listing - *Dick Whipple & John Arnold*
- Letter & Schematics: Using a calculator chip to add mathematical functions to Tiny BASIC - *Dr. Robert Suding*

February, 1976 * Volume 1, Number 2

- What? *Another Computer Hobbyist Magazine?* - *Editor*
- A Critical Look at BASIC - *Dennis Allison*
- Music of a Sort - *Steve Dompier*
- SCALBAL: a higher level language for 8008/8080 systems: descriptive information - *Mark Arnold & Nat Wadsworth*
- Tiny BASIC, Extended (TBX), Part 2: complete implementation documentation, annotated source listing, error corrections, & notes on two relocated versions - *Dick Whipple & John Arnold*
- Computers that Talk: unlimited English language voice synthesis equipment, available in kit form under \$1000 - *Jim Day & the Editor*
- Letters & Notes
 - TBX Mods for a SWTP-TVT-2 - *Adolph Stumpf*
 - Tiny BASIC Available for the 6800 - *Tom Pittman*
 - Byte Swap (classified ads)
- Database Questionnaire, and Subscription Blank

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- Denver Tiny BASIC, including 1-D arrays: user & implementation details, and source code
- A Breakpoint Routine for MOS Technology 6502's Keyboard Loader for Octal Code via the TVT-2
- Program Repository & Tape Duplication Facility Programming [letters]
 - Division remainder & Multiplication overflow APL's Appeal
 - Notes to Tiny BASIC Implementers 6800 Tiny BASIC for \$5
 - Parser Saves Pain & Another BASIC Bombout Signetics 2650 Tiny BASIC
 - Tiny BASIC Suggestions & Mark-8 Needs Proposed Functions for Tiny BASIC
- Music & Computers
 - Mods to Dompier's Music Program
 - Computer Process for Rapid Production of Musical Compositions (*big machine stuff*)
- Computer Speech & Computer Sensing
 - It Can Talk . . . But, Can It Sing? Touchless Sensing for Under \$100
- Bugs & Fixes [letters]
 - Altair Hardware Glitches & Fixes Grammar Glitch in TBX
 - Quik Bits SPHERE-ical Complaint
 - 16K BASIC for the 8008 (public domain) Diablo Printers
 - Seattle Computer Hobbyists United Monterey Computer Phreaques
 - New Jersey Computer Festival Microcomputer APL
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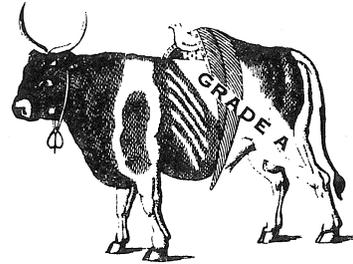
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- Reduced as in recent issues (more difficult to read, but more info included in each issue)

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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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_____ What else would you like to see us publish? Please use another page or ten, if you need them. _____

```

005 153 300 RNZ DONE IF NOT BLANK
005 154 043 INX H
005 155 042 SHLD IPNT UPDATE POINTER
005 160 303 JMP SCNB+3 LOOP
* SEAR ROUTINE - STRING SEARCH
* AT ADDRESS HL & DE. LENGTH IN C
* ZERO FLAG SET IF MATCH
*
005 163 032 SEAR LDAX D GET CHAR
005 164 276 CMP M TEST FOR MATCH
005 165 300 RNZ RETURN IF NO MATCH
005 166 043 INX H INCREMENT ADDRESS
005 167 023 INX D
005 170 015 DCR C DECREMENT CHAR COUNT
005 171 302 JNZ SEAR LOOP IF NOT ZERO
005 174 311 RET
*
* INAD - INCREMENTS ADDRESS FOR CTSH
*
005 175 023 INAD INX D INCREMENT ADDRESS
005 176 015 DCR C DECREMENT CHAR COUNT
005 177 302 JNZ INAD LOOP UNTIL ZERO
005 202 014 INR C CLEAR ZERO FLAG
005 203 311 RET
*
* CTSH ROUTINE - COMMAND TABLE SEARCH
* TABLE ADDRESS IN DE. NUMBER OF
* COMMANDS IN B
*
005 204 052 CTSH LHLD ADOS LOAD COMMAND ADDR
005 204 072 LDR NCHR COMMAND LENGTH
005 207 117 MOV C,A TO C REGISTER
005 213 315 CALL SEAR SEARCH
005 216 304 CNZ INAD INCREMENT IF NO MATCH
005 221 032 LDAX D LOW ADDRESS
005 222 157 MOV L,A TO L REG
005 223 023 INX D INCREMENT ADDR
005 224 032 LDAX D HIGH ADDRESS
005 225 147 MOV H,A TO H REG
005 226 310 RZ RETURN IF MATCH
005 227 023 INX D INCREMENT ADDR
005 230 005 DCR B DECREMENT CMDO COUNT
005 231 302 JNZ CTSH LOOP IF NOT ZERO
005 234 004 INR B CLEAR ZERO FLAG
005 235 311 RET
*
* HLIN - ADDRESS INPUT WITH MIN TEST
*
005 236 315 HLIN CALL HL INPUT ADDRESS
005 241 322 JNC WHAT ERROR IF CARRY CLEAR
005 244 353 XCHG ADDR TO DE
005 245 041 LXI H,MIN MIN ADDR
005 250 315 CALL OVTS COMPARE
005 253 353 XCHG INPUT ADDR TO HL
005 254 320 RNC DONE IF MIN OK
005 255 001 LXI B,UFN5 MESSAGE ADDR
005 260 341 POP H POP WHATEVER'S ON STACK
005 261 041 LXI H,CHRT RETURN ADDR
005 264 345 PUSH H TO STACK
005 265 041 LXI H,UFULL STORAGE AREA
005 270 303 JMP EEOF DISPLAY MIN ADDR
005 273 015 UDMS DB 9FH
005 274 115 111 116 040
005 300 101 104 104 122
005 304 105 123 123 049

```


48 LINES OF 64 CHARACTERS ON A TV

Kit Price is \$499.95

by Video Terminal Technology staff
6108 Elmbridge Dr., San Jose CA 95129

I've seen this running on a small Sony teevee, and was very impressed. The characters were clear and sharp. They bypass the RF and amp, and go directly to the tube to avoid character smear and obtain higher bandwidth. Screen update was fast. The company is small, run by good people, and I believe they will be quite responsive to their customers. —Jim Warren

Video Terminal Technology announces a new video computer terminal with all the features of a professional terminal at a hobbyist price. The VT-4000 video terminal displays 48 lines of 64 characters in a 5x7 font. This provides the capability to display 3076 (3K) characters simultaneously—8 times the standard tv typewriter's 16 lines of 32 characters.

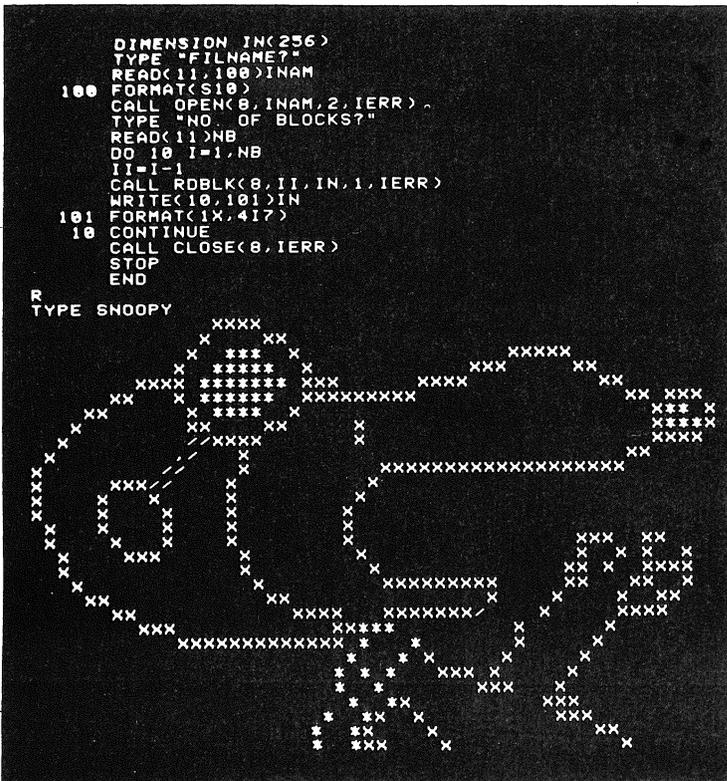
The VT-4000 gives the operator complete control over his or her display. The keyboard interface card decodes all 32 of the standard ASCII control functions. These control functions are user designated and can be strapped to match any software operating system. The selected controls can move the cursor up, down, right, left, and home. Direct cursor addressing uses two control characters to position the cursor anywhere on the CRT screen. Other control functions can be used to selectively clear the displayed page, clear the entire memory, or clear the character positions from the present cursor position to the end of the line. Two more control characters allow the operator to display individual characters either white

on black or black on white. This leaves 16 control characters available for the requirements of the particular software operating system.

The VT-4000 video terminal also offers other standard on/off features such as power-on clear, clear to end of line with line feed, scroll up, and scroll down. The scroll up/down feature allows up to 16K of RAM to be scrolled through before any data is lost. After all of the available RAM has been scrolled through, the VT-4000 then starts to overwrite the previous data. The VT-4000 basic configuration comes with 4K of RAM, expandable to 16K.

The VT-4000 has been designed to easily interface to any computer and any video monitor or slightly modified television receiver. The computer I/O available is either RS232, TTL serial, or TTL parallel at any of the standard BAUD rates from 110 to 9600. The video monitor input available is either composit video/sync, separate video and composit sync, or separate video, separate horizontal sync, and separate vertical sync. A television receiver may be used as a video monitor if the following modification is made. Break the signal path between the IF section and the video section, and insert the composit video/sync at this point. However, if a sharper display is desired, insert the composit sync at this point and apply the video directly to the cathode of the CRT. Any questions about this modification will be answered by Video Terminal Technology (VTT).

The VT-4000 is available from VTT primarily in kit form in any configuration from single boards to 100% complete kits. Assembled and tested boards or complete models can be purchased for a standard assembly fee. All such options carry a six-month parts and labor guarantee.



Larry Balch photo
2366 Mossdale Way, San Jose CA 95133

512 - CHARACTER VIDEO RAM

Matrox Electronic Systems [P.O. Box 56, Ahuntsic
Syn., Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3L 3N5, (514) 481-6838]
has announced a most interesting widgeit:

Their MTX-1632 is a single physical component. Its input pins can be directly connected to any M-P bus and appear to be input to a 512x8 RAM. The output, however, is a video signal that directly drives a TV monitor. It displays 16 lines of 32 characters each, interpreting the bytes in its RAM as ASCII character codes. It requires only a single 5-volt power supply, can drive up to 25 TV monitors, offers character-blink, and has an access time under 650 nanoseconds.

SONOMA COUNTY COMPUTERS HOLD MEETINGS

(reprinted with permission from *Homebrew Computer Club
Newsletter*)

The SONOMA COUNTY MICRO COMPUTER CLUB in Northern California is small but powerful. We are a group of several ALTAIR's, an IMSAI, a JOLT, two PDP-8's, an APPLE, and some others on order. We all have people up and running.

We meet the first Tuesday in each month at LO*OP CENTER in Cotati. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. Any interested systems are invited to attend with their operators.

BYE BYE BIRDIE
LO*OP CENTER CLASSIC PDP-8

LO*OP CENTER
8099 La Plaza
Cotati CA 94928

VARIABLE CHARACTER SPACING IN VIDEO DISPLAYS

by Jim Day
17042 Gunther St.
Granada Hills CA 91344

Figure 1 shows a typical dual-case TVT alphabet, each letter of which is generated via a 7 by 9 dot matrix. If two "undots" (using the terminology of Don Lancaster's *TV Typewriter Cookbook*) are appended following the seventh dot position of each line of each letter, each letter will require 9 dots of width on the tv screen. The alphabet could be stored in a ROM, the dot pattern of each letter being represented by 9 bytes. Figure 2 shows 9 bytes representing the letter "A". Figure 3 shows how the string "even spacing" would be displayed using this alphabet. Notice how much empty space appears on both sides of the letter "i". This is because each letter is centered left-to-right in the matrix which is 7 dots wide.

Wouldn't it be an improvement to move the dot pattern of each letter as far to the left as possible, within the matrix, and display each letter in a variable-width format? This could be done conveniently by preceding the first byte of the dot code for each letter (in the ROM) by an extra byte indicating the width of that character. (Or perhaps the unused low-order bits of each code group could be used instead.) Figure 4 shows the 10 bytes of ROM that would then represent the letter "A". The first byte indicates a width of 5 dots for that letter. Two undots are understood to follow the rightmost dot of each letter, but are not included in the width value. Figure 5 shows how the string "Variable spacing" would be displayed using this scheme.

It can be seen that about 50% more letters can be displayed on one line by use of variable spacing. This format is also easier to read. There are complications, though. Hardware would have to be added to the TVT to latch the width values and adjust the character-generation timing accordingly. Moreover, it would be necessary to keep track of cumulative width values in the current line, to control line format (e.g., if the Basic TAB function were to be used). But this would be a small price to pay for the benefits obtained.

Figure 1. Typical Dual-Case TVT Alphabet



00111000
01000100
01000100
01111100
01000100
01000100
01000100
00000000
00000000

00000101
01110000
10001000
10001000
11111000
10001000
10001000
10001000
00000000
00000000

Figure 2.
Nine bytes
representing
an "A".

Figure 4.
Ten bytes
including
width value.



Figure 3. Even spacing of display.

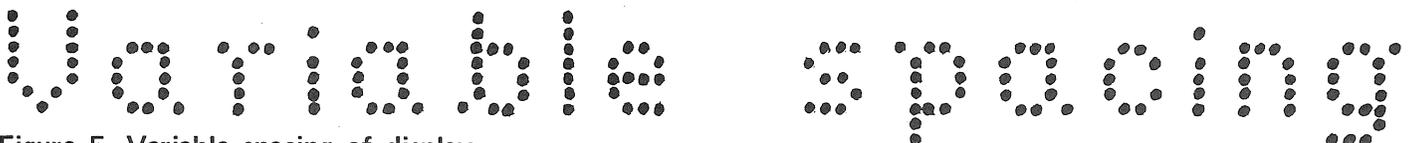


Figure 5. Variable spacing of display.

TVT-II Mods to get 64 characters per line

by David O. Valliere
Digital Designs
Box 4241
Victoria TX 77901

Dear Editor:

May 10, 1976

If you are using your TVT-II as a computer I/O you may have found the 32 character/line format somewhat limiting. By making minor modifications to the TVT-II board you can lengthen the 32 character line to 64 characters/line, and thereby expand your system's capabilities.

Here are installation instructions for my 32 to 64 character/line TVT-II modification board and 2K memory board. The modifications can be made easily by wire wrapping or a set of boards can be purchased. My TVT-II has been modified since early October, and I am using a very old tv with no bandpass problems.

My board manufacturer is tooled up for manufacturing the boards and can guarantee shipment within 3 weeks after receiving orders. I also have layouts completed for an upper-case/lowercase auxiliary board for the TVT-II, as well as the computer-controlled cursor interface. These boards will also be provided if there is enough interest.

Board prices are \$5 for the auxiliary board, \$12 for the 2K memory board, and \$16 for the set. Shipping is included in these prices. Texas residents add 5% tax. Please make checks payable to Digital Designs.

Sincerely yours,

David O. Valliere
Digital Designs

Box 4241
Victoria TX 77901

The TVT-II memory is continuously being addressed through nine address lines to generate the video data used by the television display. The tenth address line (A9) is used to switch from page one to page two. By using the A9 address line for continuous addressing, the TVT-II can be modified to display 64 characters/line. Since the additional 512 characters being displayed are what used to be page two, additional memory will have to be added to provide storage of a second page.

HOW IT WORKS

The basic design of the TVT-II make the modifications required to make it display 64 characters/line quite simple. IC21 and IC14 on the main TVT-II board normally count up 32 characters and upon reaching the 33rd count, pin 11, IC14 and address AO go high. This disables the "dot clock" until the next line is started. Being in the 33rd character position also enables the video blanking circuit through IC12C and IC5B. The line is blanked until a new line is started. By allowing the video generation and the "dot clock" to continue operating until the 65th character position is reached, 64 characters/line will be counted. This can be done by disconnecting pin 11, IC14 from the video blanking circuit and connecting it to address line A9, after having disconnected A9 from the page 1-2 flip-flop. Pin 11, IC14 is also tied to pin 14, the input of the unused counter is IC14 whose output (pin 12) is then tied to the video blanking circuit. Thus we have effectively added an additional 32 counts to the address lines through pin 12, IC14 and transferred the video blanking function to the 65th character position. Since the RC oscillator network of the "dot clock," IC18B, was originally tuned for 32 characters/line, capacitor C4 will have to be replaced

with an 18 pF unit to provide for 64 characters/line.

We are now addressing through ten lines/page. The cursor-compare circuitry must be modified to provide comparison of the A9 address bit. This modification will require providing an additional cursor-position count-bit and a comparator. The designer used a 74193 BCD counter to allow preloading the additional cursor bit through a computer cursor position interface. The additional 74193 is attached to the carry and borrow bits of the original cursor counter, IC35, after disconnecting them from the 5th-bit flip-flop, IC27A. Carry and borrow bits are generated by the new counter through NAND gates IC4A and IC4B, and are sent to the original 5th-bit flip-flop IC27A. The cursor bount bit is tied to pin 15, IC42, on the main board and compared with the A4 address bit. The output of the 5th-bit flip-flop IC27A which was originally compared with the A4 address is brought on to the new circuitry and compared with address A9 by the comparator. The cascaded "=" pulse from IC 42 on the main board is input to the comparator. The output "=" pulse is sent to IC41. This provides an additional cursor count bit which is compared with address A4. The new A9 address is compared to the old 5th-bit flip-flop whose output has become the 6th-bit count. IC42 and IC41 on the main board and the new comparator provide the pulse required to position the cursor on the 64 character line.

An additional six 2102's will be required to store a second page of data. By tying the CE pins of each group of memories to pins 8 and 9 of the page flip-flop, IC27B, the pages will roll over as originally designed.

[Editor's Note: We have omitted eight pages, containing instructions for assembly, memroy modifications, 2K memory, piggybacking, early TVT-II mods, start-up, and schematics. Those interested should write to Digital Designs for complete details.]

PARTS LIST

- 64 Character Board
 - one 74193
 - one 7485
 - one 7404
 - one 7400
 - one 0.10 mfd disc
 - one 18 pf
 - Wire, 26 Ga.
- 2K Memory Board
 - twelve 2102 memories
 - fourteen 0.10 mfd capacitors
 - two 2102 memories (optional)
 - two 15-pin Molex board connectors

The auxiliary board and 2K memory boards are available from Digital Design. Both boards are Milspec with tin/lead fused plating and silk-screen component placement. The auxiliary board is single-sided whereas the 2K board is double-sided with plated-through holes.

Shipment within 3 weeks is guaranteed.

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA COMPUTER GROUP

The Central Oklahoma Amateur Computing Association (CENO-ACA) organized in January. It now has about 30 members. It meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Oklahoma City Warr Acres Branch Library, NW 63d & MacArthur. It has programming seminars & workshops in addition to the monthly meetings. For details, contact: Lee Lilly, Box 2213, Norman OK 73069.

HOME BREW TV DISPLAY WITH GRAPHICS

by Glendon Smith

Gentlepersons:

May 20, 1976

This is a short description of a tv display circuit I use in my Altair 8800. Although I have made only limited use of the graphics capability, it should be useful, as is, for games requiring a playing board. With synchronization as discussed, fast games should be clearer.

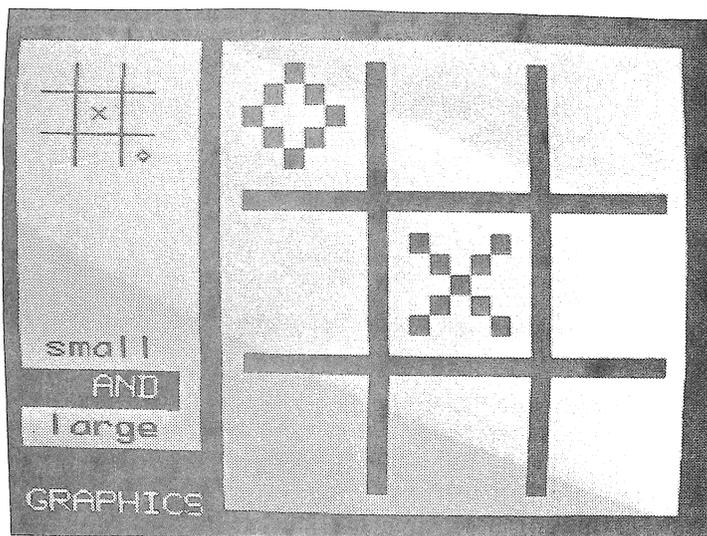
Others may wish to make changes in the logic design. It was sometimes the result of space limitations. If fast data selectors are used as specified, the memory probably can run without wait states.

Sincerely,
Glendon C. Smith

5822 Daffodil
Dayton OH 45449
513-435-0214

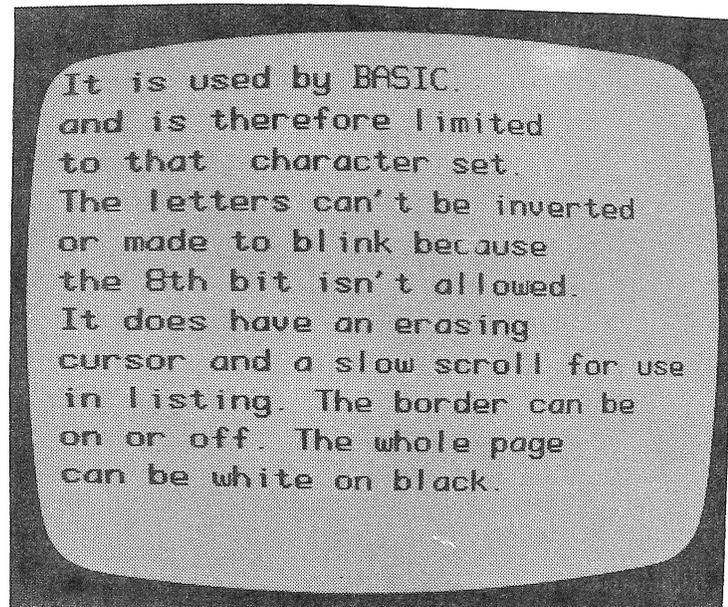
The tv display described in this report is intended for direct plug-in to the bus of an Altair 8800 or other similar microcomputer. The circuits could be adapted to CPU's other than the 8080.

This display differs from the tv typewriter circuit in three major areas. 1) The screen refresh memory is connected to the bus when it is being loaded or altered. 2) The display can produce 128 characters stored in a Motorola ROM (12 lines of up to 32 characters each) and/or up to 128 graphic shapes (8x8 picture elements) stored in RAM (24 lines of 32 shapes). 3) A crystal-controlled commercial sync generator IC is used to provide vertical interlace and a jitter-free display. Other features include the ability to have the 8th bit in the byte used to specify a character or a graphic shape, the



ability to cause that character or shape to blink or to reverse itself, the ability to reverse the entire display by software, the ability to display a boarder, and the capability of having software scrolls, an erasing cursor, or other custom features.

As presently implemented, switching from refresh opera-

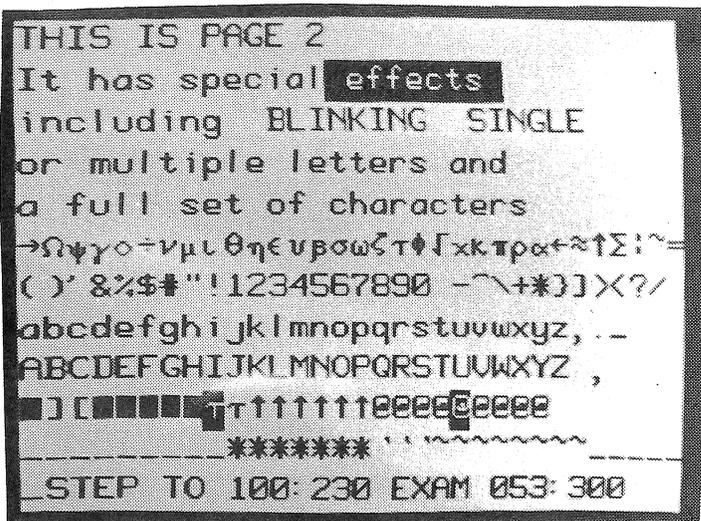


tion to the bus is not synchronized with the blanking for borders so that an insertion of a character causes the loss of about two sweep lines (a white or dark band about 1 mm wide provides notice that a letter was written). This is not annoying to those who have seen the display. For fast games it might be advisable to switch the memories back to the bus during FIELD, and delay the CPU if these memories are addressed during FIELD. This would slow the display slightly. Without synchronization, a software line feed or scroll up (moving 384 characters) takes about 10 milliseconds or about one-half of a vertical sweep of the tv screen.

The construction of the prototype of this display was eased by using two commercially available boards (and associated components) which were connected together by hinged bars the length of the connector spacing on my Altair mother board. The memory board (MB-2 from Solid State Music) has its copper traces connecting all 8 of the 2102's comprising a bank (1K x 8 bits) before connecting the next bank. Before mounting the sockets it is necessary to cut many copper traces between banks. The bank nearest the bus connector will become bank 0 (lowest address). It is not used by the tv display.

The next higher bank (bank 1) stores the 128 graphic shapes (8x8 bits each). Bank 2 stores the codes for the graphic shapes (24x32 bytes) and has some space which may be used for subroutines. If the graphic capabilities are not being used all three lower banks may be used as part of main memory. The highest, bank 3, stores up to 1024 characters which may be arranged as 32 lines (only 12 displayed) of 32 characters, or as two pages with enough space left over for routines which write on either page (page 1 has scrolling, cursor, etc.). The latter system is the one I have used thus far, but I can imagine applications such as text editing which might use several K of memory for character storage with more elaborate scrolling schemes.

The other board used is a Universal I/O Board (IO-1)



from Solid State Music. It just barely has space for all the circuits for the tv display plus one INPUT PORT for a keyboard (Clare-Pendar). Eight pieces of 8 or 10 conductor ribbon cable handle the interconnections between boards and help in keeping the bits in order.

One of the changes to the memory board which is not shown in the diagrams concerns chip enable and R/W inputs to the 2102's. Pin 3 of each bank of 2102's was disconnected from pin 11 of 7400 A and now receives its input from one of the address selectors as shown. Pin 12 on the 74L42A was ungrounded and connected to pin 11 of 7400 A. The outputs of the 74L42A then became R/W signals feeding the address selectors and the pin 13's of the 2102's formerly connected here are all connected to ground so the chip outputs are enabled.

Several other points will come up in preparing the Solid State Music boards for this use. The designer of the I/O Universal board ran +5 and gnd lines to many positions, expecting you to use 16 or 14 pin 1C's there. However, he did not leave a space between the ends of the 1C positions as their length requires, so many of these traces must be cut before sockets are installed. Because the output port (200 octal in my system) does not need an output connector, traces to this 14 pin pad are cut and a 1C is installed there. On the memory board MB-Z, all the data input lines are left intact as are all the address lines from the connector to the nearest 1K bank of memory (which will become bank 0). All the data outputs are isolated by cutting the traces at appropriate points, as are the address lines to banks 1, 2, and 3. The chip enable and R/W lines are discussed above.

Other arrangements of the 2K of memory used in the generation of the graphics portion might be useful. For example, a 128x96 display of individually addressable points (each point, however, is 4 times the area of a picture element of the current display and the blinking and reversing possibilities appear to be out). One might built only the character portion or only the graphic portion (and generate the needed characters). The display described here may stimulate club members to design a special display as a group project and to

produce p.c. boards to ease the labor for all concerned.

I use the Hitachi PO-3 12" B&W tv. It is easy to interface, is all solid state with instant on, and is available for about \$68. Interface information is available.

OUTPUT PORT - CONTROL BYTE FUNCTIONS

Port (200 octal in my system)

- Bit 0 High to display page 2 characters
- Bit 1 High to blink preselected characters
- Bit 2 High to blink preselected graphics
- Bit 3 High to invert (reverse) preselected characters or graphics
- Bit 4 High to invert (reverse) entire display
- Bit 5 High to display surround (border)
- Bit 6 Low to connect bank 3 (character storage) to bus
- Bit 7 Low to connect banks 1 and 2 to bus

The 8212 output port is cleared by the front panel switch so that the 3 banks of memory can be dumped (or loaded) without special instructions in existing programs.

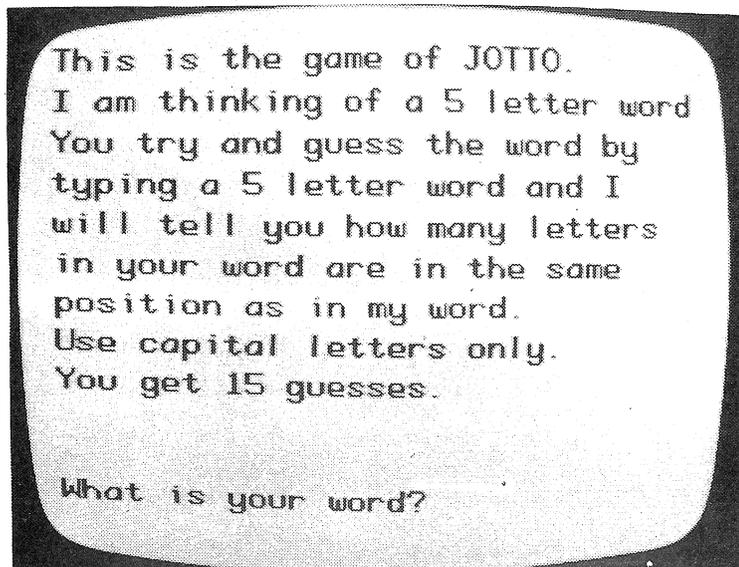
SUPPLIERS

MB-2, 10-1 boards and kits
 Solid State Music
 2102A Walsh Ave.
 Santa Clara CA 95050

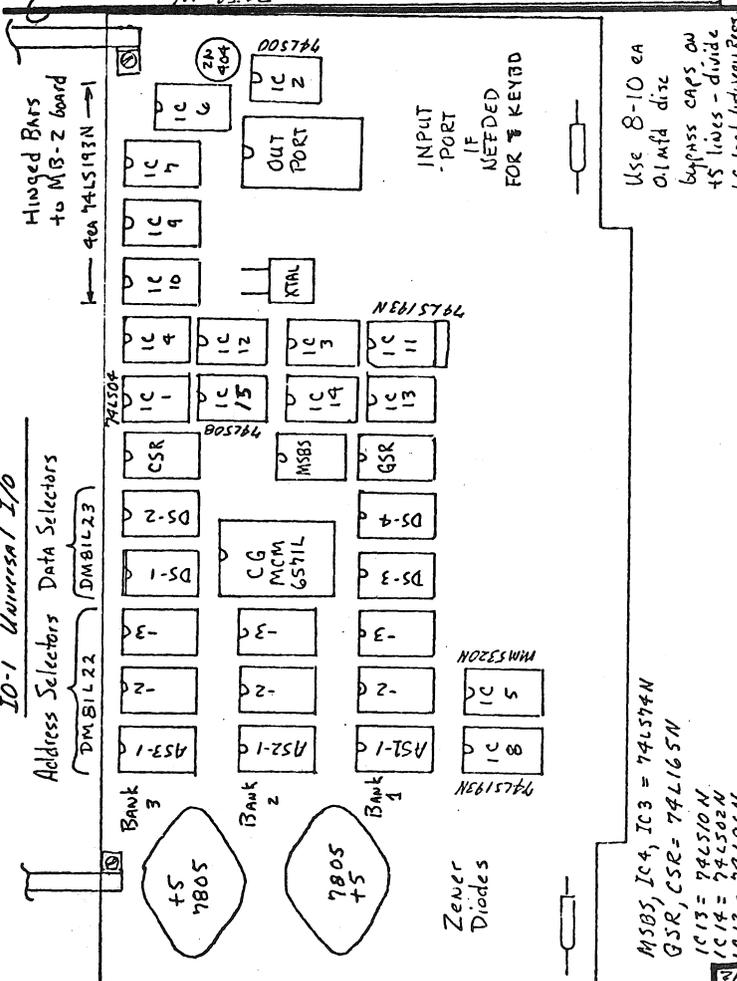
MIKOS
 419 Protolino Dr.
 San Carlos CA 94070

6.13635 MHz, 26C Series Crystal @ \$5.50 postpaid
 International Crystal Mfg.
 10 N. Lee
 Oklahoma City OK 73102

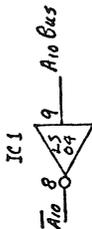
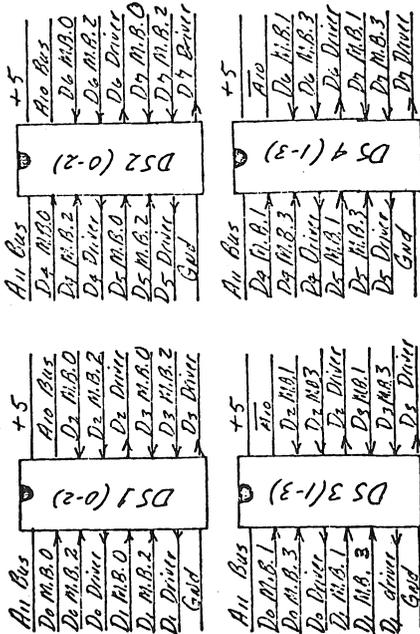
The MCM6571C character gen. came from the Digital Group but I understand that a new version only requires +5 volts. The 5320 (National) Sync Generator (\$4) came from Solid State Music, as did most of the I.C.'s.



IO-1 Universal I/O

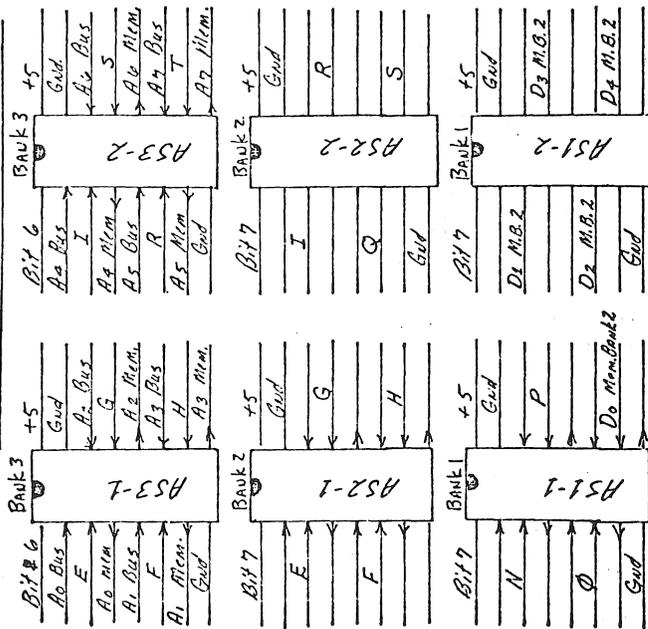


Data Selectors (Tri-state) 81L23's

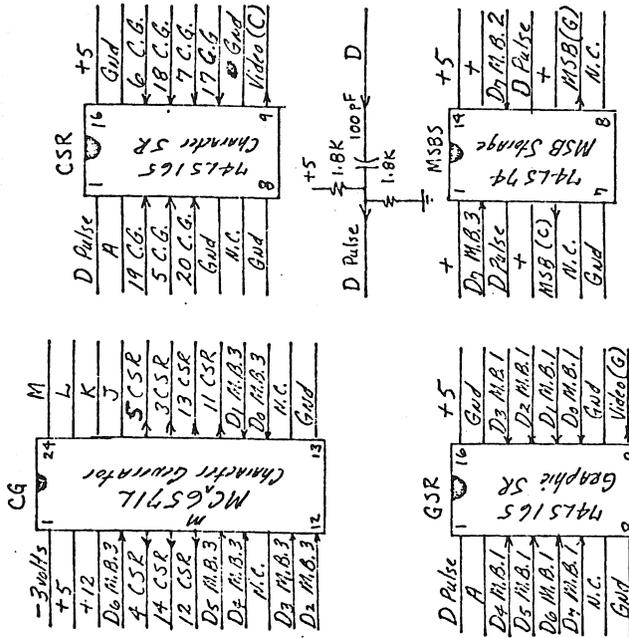


Note!
 M.B. = memory bank.
 Driver refers to input terminal of DS1097 driver of bus data line (on memory bank).
 M.B.3 is the highest 1K bank which stores ASCII codes for characters.
 M.B.2 stores codes for the graphics.
 M.B.1 stores up to 128 - 8x8 graphic shapes.

ADDRESS SELECTORS (DM 81L23's)



Data inputs not marked are connected to the corresponding bus address line as Bank 3 selectors. Memory address output lines go to the corresponding banks of memory.

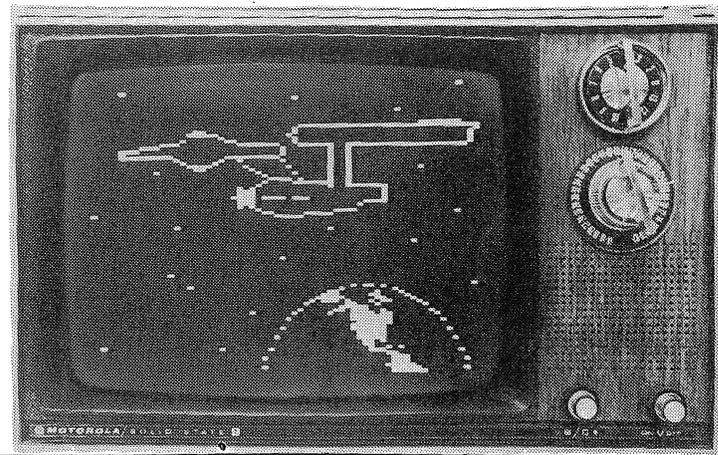


Notes:
 M.B. = memory bank - 1K x 8 bits
 C.G. = Character generator
 M.C. = no connection
 A = highest clock frequency
 D = A + 8

\$98.50 GRAPHICS TERMINAL KIT

By SWTPC 219 W. Rhapsody San Antonio, TX 78216

Southwest Technical's GT-61 Graphics Terminal is a low cost graphics unit designed for hobbyists or budget minded commercial applications. The 9 1/2" X 13" PC board contains all of the electronics necessary to display an array of cells 64 wide by 96 high on a standard video monitor or modified television set. The graphics terminal contains its own 6144 bit static memory and thus may be driven by any computer system having a TTL compatible 8 bit parallel interface. The unit is available in kit form only and is sold less power supply, chassis, and monitor for \$98.50 ppd. in the US. Delivery is 30 days.



ERRORS IN & IMPROVEMENTS FOR WHIPPLE'S & ARNOLD'S TINY BASIC EXTENDED (TBX)

Dear Sirs:

April 15, 1976

I have noted some errors and possible improvements in Arnold's and Whipple's Tiny BASIC Extended (TBX) [please see *Dr. Dobb's Journal* Vol. 1, Nos. 1 & 2].

A minor reduction could be made at the entry point of the main program by eliminating a jump. The end of the error routine duplicates the initialization, so it could be shortened. These two routines follow (in split octal):

INITIALIZATION:			ERROR:		
Address	Data	Comments	Address	Data	Comments
000000	061	LXI SP	026275	041	LXI H
	1	377 d1	026276	002	d1 Entry point of
	2	000 d2	026277	032	d2 IL program
	3	303 JMP	026300	061	LXI SP
	4	254 d1	026301	377	d1
	5	021 d2	026302	000	d2
021254	041	LXI H	026303	303	JMP
021255	002	d1 Entry point	026304	257	d1 to IL
021256	032	d2 of IL program	026305	021	d2 interpreter
021257	. . .	IL interpreter			

All of the items in the left column could be eliminated, and the entry point could be at the start of the right column, at address 026275. Or, the right column could be replaced by a JMP to address 000000. Or, the two segments could be rearranged as follows:

	. . . . .	(error routine)	
		
Entry point of main program	061	LXI SP	
	377	d1	
	000	d2	
This method would	041	LXI H	Entry point of
eliminate 12 bytes.	002	d1	IL Program
	032	d2	
	. . . . .	IL Interpreter	
		

Actually, a lot of extra JMPs and NOPs are to be expected when programming is done in machine language, like TBX was. A primitive assembler, like SPHERE's mini-assembler, which just assembles addresses and some data but not mnemonics, would be all that would be needed to produce a trimmer program.

I should say that I really appreciate the job Arnold and Whipple have done. I'm pointing out a lot of little things, but I think they did a great job.

At a number of places, the character counter advances past spaces. Many bytes could be eliminated by making all of these segments into a subroutine. Such segments are at: 021327, 022324, 023351, 022304, 024100, 027214, 030032, and probably other places.

Subroutine 022147 contains a divide routine. Perhaps this

subroutine could be shortened by calling on the other divide subroutine.

Some error jumps, which should be to message number 14 (memory depletion) go instead to error message number 15, which is not defined. This can be corrected by changing addresses 027121, 030350, 030372, and maybe others, from 360 to 355.

The IL Instruction at 033211 is: '266 355 "(".' This means that if the next character isn't "(", address 026355 will be considered the next Interpretive Language (IL) instruction. This will bomb out the program, since 026355 is to be treated as a machine language (ML?) instruction, not IL_x instruction. The instruction at 033211 could be:

'233335 "(".' Address 033335 contains a proper instruction, '326352,' which will properly execute the machine language instructions starting at 026352. Incidentally, the address should be 026352, which outputs error message number 13, parentheses error, rather than 026355, which outputs error message number 14, memory depletion. The same problem exists at 032127, 033223, 033241, 033254, 033266, and 033275.

The Random function (RN) should be altered slightly. The random number returned is 16 bits. However, the RN only shifts in 8 new bits each time it is called. Therefore, the upper 8 bits are what the lower 8 bits were the last time RN was used. If address 030210 is changed from 010 to 020, RN will shift in a full 8 bits each time it is called, hopefully making it more random.

When an instruction is being compared to the possibilities, the first word is 'GO,' but the second is not 'to' or 'sub,' the second is compared to '1st,' 'run,' etc., instead of the program immediately indicating unrecognizable statement. This could be fixed by changing the instruction starting at 032057 from '232275 "SUB" ' to '232330 "SUB".' Then 'GO' without 'To' or 'Sub' would go to 'unrecognizable statement' error message.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Charles Skeldon

2320 Co. Rd. I-3
New Brighton MN 55112

1980 CENSUS: HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS?

The Census Bureau is now actively working on plans for the 1980 census, and important decisions have to be made in the relatively near future.

Although there are many constraints on the census in terms of what and how much information can be collected and tabulated, the Bureau believes that it is very important to obtain and review the recommendations of as wide a range of users and potential users of decennial census data as possible. The Census Bureau is therefore anxious to have the ideas from leaders in mathematics education.

Send suggestions, questions, or comments on the 1980 census to Director, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington DC 20233.

Errata/additions to Palo Alto Tiny BASIC

by Lichen Wang

Dear Jim:

23 June 1976

I have a few miscellaneous items related to the "Palo Alto Tiny BASIC" published in Dr. Dobb's Journal, Vol. 1, No. 5. First of all, there are a few misprints (my fault). On page 13, right column, second line from the bottom, the minus sign "-" should have been a back arrow "←". The same misprint appeared on page 14, left column, lines 15 and 16.

Secondly, I forgot to mention that this interpreter actually takes 1.77K bytes. In the list published, I padded it up to 2K bytes, and it can be either in ROM or in RAM. There are 30K bytes unused at the end of the "command table" (Hex 0183-01A0), another 30 unused bytes at the end of the "function table" (Hex 01B3-01D0), and 177 bytes at the end of the I/O routines (Hex 074F-07FF). These unused bytes can be patched to add more commands, and/or more functions, and/or to modify the I/O routines without re-assembly of the whole interpreter. An example follows which

adds a video display (VDM by Processor Technology as an alternate output device. When the control-O key is used to turn off the TTY echo and output, the VDM becomes the echo and output device. When the control-O is typed again, echo and output goes back to the TTY, etc. Control-P key is used to clear the VDM screen and text always scrolls up from the bottom of the screen.

The interpreter also needs RAM to store variables, stack, and the Tiny BASIC program. In the published list, 6K of RAM is assumed. You can change this in increments of 256 bytes by changing 9 bytes in the interpreter. These 9 bytes are marked by "@@@@" in the listing.

Last and also least, I have a STAR TREK game program coded in Tiny BASIC. It will barely fit in this 6K of RAM. It is probably a very bad example for Tiny BASIC (or any language). In order to squeeze in as much salty stuff as possible, I have abbreviated every command and put as many commands as possible in each line. As a result, the code is almost unreadable. (But it is fun to play!)

Sincerely,

Lichen Wang

NOTE: Wang's StarTrek is being published in the July issue of People's Computer Company.

071A	C37107	ORG X'071A'	PATCH FOR VDM OUTPUT
0740	C25107	JMP VDM3	NOT CONTROL-C
0751	FE10	ORG X'0740'	CONTROL-C, RESTART
0753	C0	JMP NZ, VDM1	IS IT CONTROL-P?
0754	E1	RESTRT	NO, RETURN
0755	21	CMPI X'10'	YES, CLEAR VDM SCREEN
0756	3E	RET NZ	VDM MEMORY ADDRESS
0757	3E	PUSH HL, X'CC00'	HI OF ABOVE + 1K
0758	3E	LDDI HL, X'DC'	BLANK ONE BYTE
0759	3E	LDDI M, '	
075C	23	INC HL	VDM MEMORY END?
075D	DC	CMP H	NO, KEEP DOING IT
075E	C25A07	JMP NZ, VDM2	FINISHED
0761	21	LDDI HL, X'CF00'	SETUP POINTER
0764	22	ST HL, VDM2	AND VDM REG.
0767	AF	XOR A, VDM5	VDM PORT #
0768	32	ST A, CR	
0769	D3	OUT HL	GO BACK TO CHKIO
076D	E1	POP HL	OCSW ON, GO TO TTY
076E	C27207	JMP NZ, OC3	OCSW OFF, DO VDM
0771	C21F07	JMP AF	CHARACTER IN A
0774	F1	POP AF	VDM POINTER IN HL
0775	F5	PUSH HL	IS IT CR?
0776	F5	PUSH AF	YES, SET UP NEW LINE
0777	2A	LD HL, VDM2	CHECK OTHER CONTROL CH
077A	FE	CMPI @CR	YES, IGNORE
077C	C48907	JMP Z, VDM4	NO, PUT IN VDM MEMORY
077E	FE	CMPI X'20'	AND BUMP POINTER
0781	D4	JMP C, VDM7	
0784	77	JMP M, A	COME HERE FOR CR
0785	23	LDD M, A	GET VDM LINE #
0786	C39307	JMP HL	INCREASE BY 1 LINE
0789	7D	LDD A, L	CARRY INTO H
078A	E6	ANDI X'0C'	
078C	C6	ADDI X'40'	SAVE POINTER
078E	6E	LDD X, A	CHECK LINE OVERFLOW
078F	3E	LDD A, 0	NO, RETURN
0791	8C	ADC H	YES, CHECK END OF 1K
0792	22	ST HL, A	OK
0793	22	ST HL, VDM2	WRAP AROUND
0796	3E	LDDI HL, X'3F'	BLANK NEXT LINE
0798	A5	AND	
0799	C28C07	JMP NZ, VDM7	SCROLL UP
079C	7C	LDD A, H	VDM PORT #
079D	FE	CMPI X'DC'	
079F	C2A707	JMP NZ, VDM6	
07A2	26	LDDI HL, X'CC'	
07A4	22	ST HL, VDM2	
07A7	3E	LDDI M, 0	
07A9	23	INC HL	
07AA	F6	LDD A, L	
07AB	F6	ANDI X'3F'	
07AD	C2A707	JMP NZ, VDM6	
07B3	3A	LDD X, VDM5	
07B5	C6	ADDI X'01'	
07B7	E6	ANDI X'CF'	
07B8	32	ST A, VDM5	
07BC	D7	OUT X, CR	
07BD	E1	POP AF	
07BE	C9	POP HL	
07BF	C0	RET	
07C1	00	DW X'CF00'	

ADAPTER MAKES LSI-II's AND 11/03's INTO REAL PDP-11's

Able Computer Technology [1538-E East Chestnut St., Santa Ana, CA 92705, (714) 547-6236] is manufacturing a "10001 Univerter". It converts an LSI-11 bus into a DEC Univus, and permits full bidirectional communication between the two. It provides the user with control of all four interrupt levels. It also provides an extended memory map allowing addressing of up to 512K words. The Univerter is a standard quad-width board that can be installed in a PDP-11/03 or an LSI-11 card cage. It is available from stock.

\$450 DOT-MATRIX PRINTER FOR 6800's & 8080's 40 Characters/Line, 80 Characters/Second

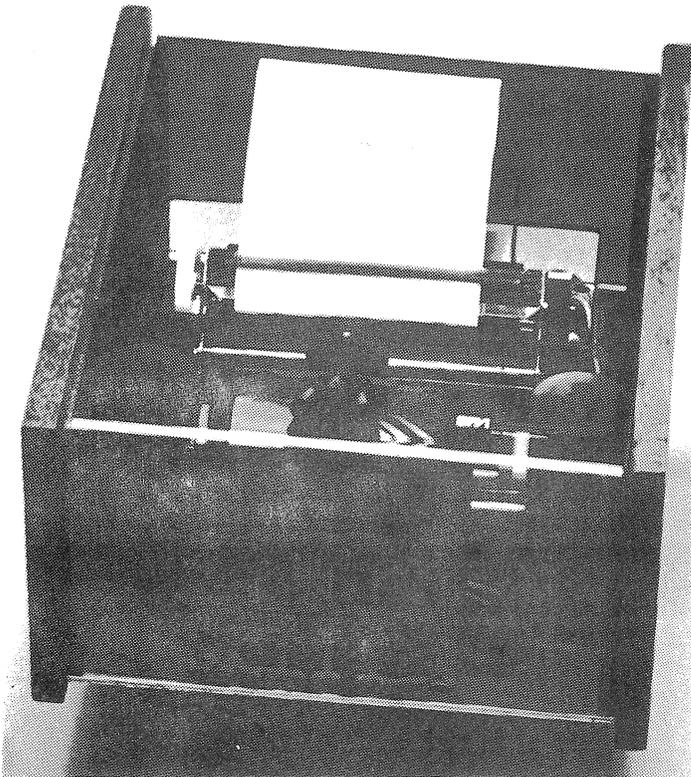
by Electronic Product Associates, Inc. staff

Electronic Product Associates, Inc., 1157 Vega Street, San Diego CA 92110; 714 276-8911, has announced the availability of a new, low-cost, 40-column, dot-matrix impact printer. The printer complete with drive electronics, character decoding and software driver prompts, power supply and attractive hardware and plastic cabinet interfaces directly with the 6800 and 8080 microprocessors. The printer is capable of printing a surprising 80 character per second *bi-directionally*. Single quantity pricing is \$450, delivered from stock.

The model 40C utilizes a serially-driven printing element consisting of 7 print solenoids and print wires. The print wires are arranged vertically; the printing element is driven from either direction at constant speed. A synchronous motor driving a spirally grooved drum accomplishes this motion.

Ribbon feed is a simple by-product of printing element motion. Ribbons are inexpensive and easily replaced.

All electronics for driving, decoding and program storage are powered by the self-contained D.C. power supply



MinErrata for MINOL plus Tiny TREK

by Erik Mueller

36 Homestead Lane, Roosevelt NJ 08555

June 13, 1976

Here are several errors in the listing of MINOL [please see Dr. Dobb's Journal, Vol. 1, No. 5] which should be corrected:

Locations:

001 350 should be 242

002 050 should be 273

004 060 should be 107 (omitted from listing)

Pressing C^c destroys the system (if held down long enough).

Fix this by changing the following locations:

002 375 303

002 376 111

002 377 hhh

003 000 000

hhh 111 321

hhh 111+1 321

hhh 111+2 321

hhh 111+3 321

hhh 111+4 317

(etc.) 021

112

003

303

001

003

hhh 111 is the first address of 11 free locations in user's system.

In my description of the I/O subroutines I meant that the parity bit (8th bit) must equal one. When I said X^c, I meant control c; X^s means S^c, X^L means L^c.

The following is an extremely simplified version of STAR TREK. (Text and storage fits in 1.5K.)

Open Reel IMSAI/HIT tapes of MINOL 2.1 (along with appropriate read software) are available for \$4 from me.

If I find any more errors, I will write.

Sincerely,

Erik Mueller

ICE-NINE IS ALIVE & WELL IN ILLINOIS

Dear Editor,

Why haven't you listed our club and monthly publication in your fine issues????? Probably because none of our 25 or so members bothered to tell you about us. We are called ICE-NINE INC. A not-for-profit organization formed a year or so ago for mutual computer oriented interests. We have pooled our resources and purchased a Sphere System 40 with floppy discs, line printers, etc. We have our own telephone number for time-share callers and have even set up a radio repeater station (licensed through our amateur radio members) to allow computer use from distances up to 60 miles through amateur transceivers and remote TTY units.

We are looking for prospective members in the Chicago area and have a huge amount of programs in BASIC and FORTRAN for exchange with other organizations.

C. Cassiouceous
ICE-NINE INC.

Box 291
Western Springs IL 60558

```

1 PR"*TINY TREK*"
2 D=1/3;W=!/10+9;L=255
3 X=1;A=0
4 J=1
5 (12,X-1*8+J+200)=0
6 J=J+1;IF J<8;GOTO5
7 X=X+1;IF X<8;GOTO4;X=1
8 J=1

```

Tiny TREK

```

9 IF !<150;GOTO100:(12,X-1*8+J+200)=!/155+1;IF(12,X-1*8+J+200)=2;A=A+1
10 J=J+1;IFJ<8;GOTO9
11 X=X+1;IFX<8;GOTO8
12 E=!/38+1;F=!/38+1
13 (12,E-1*8+F+200)=3;IF 150<!;GOTO16
14 S=!/38+1;T=!/38+1
15 (12,S-1*8+T+200)=4
16 IF W<A;IF W<11;GOTO3
17 IF S<E;C=E-S;IF T<F;G=F-T;D=D+1
18 IF E<S;C=S-E;IF F<T;G=T-F
19 IF C<2;IF G<2;L=255
20 PR" 1234567"
21 X=1 : K=0
22 J=1
23 C=(12,X-1*8+J+200)
24 IF C=0;PR" ";
25 IF C=1;PR".";
26 IF C=2;PR"K";
27 IF C=3;PR"E";
28 IF C=4;PR"B";
29 IF C=2;K=K+1
30 J=J+1;IF J<8;GOTO23;PR" ";
31 IF X=2;PR"SECTOR ";E;F
32 IF X=3;PR"STARDATE ";D
33 IF X=4;PR"ENERGY ";L
34 IF X=5;PR"KLINGONS ";W
35 IF X=6;PR"CONDITION";
36 IF X=6;IF K=0;PR" GREEN"
37 IFX=6;IF 0<K;PR" *RED*"
38 IF X=1;PR:IFX=7;PR
39 X=X+1;IFX<8;GOTO22;PR
40 IF K=0;GOTO 42
41 H=!/25+1;L=L-H;PRH;"UNIT HIT FROM KLINGONS":GOTO 50
42 PR" " (Because I have a TVT)
50 IF W=0;GOTO 170
51 IF D=0;GOTO 180
52 IF L<60;GOTO 180
53 PR"COMMAND";IN A
60 IF A=3;GOTO 150
70 IF A=2;GOTO140
100 PR"WHAT SECTOR DO YOU WANT TO GO TO?"
101 R=104;GOTO 201
104 IF (12,H-1*8+N+200) # 0;GOTO120
105 (12,E-1*8+F+200)=0:(12,M-1*8+N+200)=3
106 E=M;F=N;G=G*3;L=L-G;GOTO 17
120 X=0 (Restores position on TVT when incorrect data is entered)
121 PR:X=X+1;IF X<13;GOTO121;GOTO 100
140 L=L-6;PR:PR:PR:GOTO 3
150 PR"WHAT SECTOR TO FIRE AT?"
151 R=155;GOTO 201
155 IF !<30;GOTO 160 (Random miss)
156 IF(12,M-1*8+N+200)=0;W=W-1
157 IF (12,M-1*8+N+200)=0
160 G=G*4;L=L-G;GOTO 17
170 PR"YOU WIN!!!"
180 PR"YOU LOSE!!!"
201 IN M,N;IF E<M;C=M-E;IF M<E;C=E-M
203 IF F<N;G=N-F;IF N<F;G=F-N
204 C=0*0;G=G*G;O=C+G;G=0
205 G=G+1;IF G<40;GOTO 205;G=G-1;GOTOR

```

- 1) This game is *not* perfect.
- 2) It is super-simple.
- 3) There are three commands:
 1. Move to different sector within quadrant.
 2. Move to different quadrant.
 3. Fire at a specified sector.
- 4) Energy is refuelled upon *diagonal* docking with a starbase.
- 5) E = Enterprise
K = Klingon
B = Starbase
. = Star
- 6) Yes, you can fire phasers and go through stars.
- 7) Don't get upset if the quadrant you're in doesn't have a starbase (there aren't starbases in every quadrant).
- 8) Don't get upset if your energy is refuelled even if you aren't docked with a starbase.
- 9) Don't get upset if anything weird happens.

Button, Button in 8080 machine code

by Ron Santore

Here's the game of BUTTON, BUTTON written in 8080 machine language for computer and terminal. (Altair & TVT or TTY, etc.)

NOTES:

1. Just load the programming instructions in locations 000,000 through 000,377.
2. Then load the text in locations 001,000 through 004,377. Be sure that after each paragraph of text, you type

the asterisk as I've shown because it's used as a return queue.

3. The program as is takes a little over 1K of memory but it will easily fit into 1K by just shortening the text. You might want to change the text anyway to fit your own (computers') personality.

4. If you have any questions, write or call me (person-to-person): Ron Santore
1957 Huasna Dr.
San Luis Obispo CA 93401
(805) 544-1956

000000	061	LXI SP	065	312	JZ	000151	021	LXI D/E
001	XXX	your highest memory	066	151	"neighbor has it"	152	240	"neighbor has it"
002	XXX		067	000		153	002	
003	021	LXI D/E	070	021	LXI D/E	154	315	CALL
004	000	instructions	071	360	"who me"	155	347	print
005	001		072	002		156	000	
006	315	CALL	073	315	CALL	157	315	CALL
007	347	print subr.	074	347	print	160	210	rnd subr.
010	000		075	000		161	000	
011	315	CALL	076	000	NOP	162	376	CPI
012	103	input subr.	077	000	NOP	163	003	"3" (Binary)
013	000		000100	303	JMP	164	372	JM
014	016	MVIC	101	030		165	200	pass higher
015	060	zero (ASCII)	102	000		166	000	
016	315	CALL	000103	333	IN	167	005	DCR B
017	210	rnd. subr.	104	000	status word	170	170	MOV B to A
020	000		105	017	RRC	171	346	ANI
021	107	MOV A to B	106	332	JC	172	007	
022	021	LXI D/E	107	103		173	107	MOV A to B
023	020	"whos got the button"	110	000		174	303	JMP
024	002		111	333	IN	175	030	
025	315	CALL	112	001		176	000	
026	347	print	113	376	CPI	177	000	NOP
027	000		114	107	"g" (ASCII)	000200	004	INR B
030	014	INR C	115	310	RZ	201	170	MOV B to A
031	171	MOV C to A	116	376	CPI	202	346	ANI
032	062	STA	117	131	"y" (ASCII)	203	007	
033	354	store turn # in text	120	312	JZ	204	107	MOV A to B
034	003		121	014		205	303	JMP
035	376	CPI A	122	000		206	030	
036	066	six (ASCII)	123	376	CPI	207	000	
037	312	JZ	124	116	"n" (ASCII)	210	041	LXI H/L
040	330	"you lost"	125	312	JZ	211	265	
041	000		126	367	end subr.	212	000	
042	315	CALL	127	000		213	026	MVID
043	103	input	130	376	CPI	214	010	"8" (Binary)
044	000		131	070	"8" (ASCII)	215	176	MOV M to A
045	270	CMP A to B	132	372	JM	216	007	RLC
046	312	JZ	133	146		217	007	RLC
047	300	"right you are"	134	000		220	007	RLC
050	000		135	021	LXI D/E	221	256	XRA M
051	074	INR A	136	072	"no such number"	222	027	RAL
052	346	ANI	137	003		223	027	RAL
053	007		140	315	CALL	224	055	DCR L
054	270	CMP A to B	141	347	print	225	055	DCR L
055	312	JZ	142	000		226	055	DCR L
056	151	"neighbor has it"	143	303	JMP	227	176	MOV M to A
057	000		144	103	input	230	027	RAL
060	075	DCR A	145	000		231	167	MOV A to M
061	075	DCR A	000146	346	ANI	232	054	INR L
062	346	ANI	147	007		233	176	MOV M to A
063	007		150	311	RET	234	027	RAL
064	270	CMP A to B						

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE BASIC

Dear Editor,

June 9, 1976

I think anyone who underestimates BASIC in its more sophisticated forms is making a mistake. It is powerful, it can be well organized, and yet a novice can get going very easily. Most important for micros—the time for an amateur or part-time programmer to get a working program is ½ that of other languages.

C.D. Johnson
Forest Products Engineering

2801 SW Patton Lane
Portland OR 97201

BASIC COMPLAINT & MACRO MESSAGE

Dear Sir,

5 May 1976

I am very curious about the motivation for including the article "A Critical Look at BASIC" by Dennis Allison in *Dr. Dobb's Journal* Vol. 1, No. 2. This article is the first one I have encountered in the computer hobbyist press that talks about modular and structured programming. This may be because, as your editorial says, that most other magazines are hardware oriented. In any event, Allison's article confirms what I have long suspected, namely, that BASIC is not the language of choice for state of the art programming. However, the inclusion of Allison's article in a magazine whose *raison d'être* is to promote a subset of BASIC does seem a bit odd, to say the least.

Allison's article raises some questions that neither *Dr. Dobb's Journal* nor *PCC* seem to answer, namely, if BASIC is bad for you, why encourage people to be BASIC junkies?

Let me note that I am *not* a rabid BASIC hater; just troubled by the difference between what we are supposed to do, and what we actually do.

Those who advocate structured programming seem also to advocate language with lots of control structures. Lots of control structures sounds like a big language to me. Big languages are OK if you have megabytes of core, but obviously aren't very good if you're a hobbyist with 2K. Structured programming seems precluded by the limitations of a minimal hobbyist system. Is the hobbyist with a modest system limited to assembler or a language with not much more than GOTO's and a conditional branch? Or, is there some kind of a happy compromise between Tiny BASIC and, say, PL/I? I would certainly like to see *DDJ* address some of these issues.

A final suggestion. The assembler I use at work doesn't have any macro facilities. The other day, I decided to see what I could do about this. The macro generator GPM described by Wegener in his book, *Programming Languages, Information Structures, and Machine Organization*, looked interesting. I looked up the original article on the language (Strachey, "A General Purpose Macrogenerator," *The Computer Journal*, Oct., 1965, Vol. 8, No. 3, pp. 225-241) and discovered a listing for a GPM processor written in CPL. Strachey says the original implementation of GPM was 250 "orders" long. This is one hell of a lot of macrogenerator per word of core. Thus GPM might be of interest to people with home brew assemblers. Sounds like the sort of thing *DDJ* might be interested in. My implementation was a "quick and dirty" FORTRAN job done on the sly. As you might expect, Strachey's program has bugs in it. Some are real boo-boos.

Yours,
Fred J. Dickey

3420 Granville Rd
Westerville OH 43081

There is a lot wrong with BASIC; it is not the language of choice when the program is going to be long or complex. Unfortunately, there is a substantial group of people who do not understand that; hence, the publication of my "Critical Look At BASIC." I had hoped that it would help our audience (many of whom have only recently encountered any programming language) attain a bit of perspective on what BASIC is and where it belongs in the spectrum of things.

There is a lot right with BASIC, too. For small programs its interactive capabilities outweigh the cumbersome control structures. Its "text editor" orientation makes it easy to implement interactively with an interpreter. Given the spectrum of available language models, it is difficult to see how any other language could have been a better model for a super-minimal implementation. Tiny BASIC is about right—and an one is going to write a giant tiny BASIC program (I hope!).

Macro processors are magnificent tools with frightening powers and capability. The problem is how to make sure that a macro, particularly one in Strachey's GPM, does what you think it does. I would hazard a guess that some of the "bugs" you have found in the published version are, in fact, simply unexpected macro expansions which

COMPUTERS FOR STUDENTS' HOME STUDIES

Dear Mr. Warren:

8 May 1976

We are organizing a research project whose aim is to investigate how small "Home Computers" might be used in education—helping students to study at home. To keep up informed about new developments related to home computers, please enter our subscription to *Dr. Dobb's Journal*.

Do you know of other publications related to home computers?

Sincerely,

Jerry Felson, Ph.D.

President

84-13 168 St

Cybernetic Decision Systems, Inc. Jamaica NY 11432

COMPUTERS-IN-EDUCATION BIBLIOGRAPHY

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) bibliography, *Computers in Education*, has replaced the old list, *Computers in the Mathematics Classroom*. This new listing is separated into seven sections, including one on mathematics texts series.

Single copies of this 41-page bibliography are available free on request from the NCTM Headquarters Office, 1906 Association Dr., Reston VA 22091.

SUMMER MEETING OF THE ASSN. FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER-BASED INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEMS

The 1976 Summer Meeting of the Association for the Development of Computer-Based Instructional Systems (ADCIS) will be sponsored by Control Data Corporation at Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 10-12, 1976. For further information about the conference, contact the General Program Chairperson: Dr. Karen Duncan, Director, Office of Computer Resources, College of Dental Medicine, 80 Barre Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29401, (803) 792-3211.

HAND-HELD CALCULATORS IN CLASSROOMS

The Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) has recently published the Monograph-1976, *The Hand-Held Calculator*. The ideas and activities included were suggested by ICTM members from their classroom experiences.

Copies of this monograph are available for \$1.50 (ICTM member), or \$2 (nonmember) from Ann Robinson, 509 W 20 St., Cedar Falls IA 50613. Make all checks payable to ICTM.

are performed according to the rules. I'd suggest that you look at another MACRO system—the TRAC system. There is a good description in Nelson's *Computer Lib*. The FORTH language and Logical Machine Corporation's ADAM are also macro-like systems, but they defer expansion to run-time. We'd be pleased to publish macro systems implementations should anyone be willing to prepare them.

Incidentally, macro systems can perform many of the same functions as compilers, but the underlying model is quite different. A compiler decomposes the input text into a phrase structure and then assigns meaning based upon that decomposition. A macro processor matches a template and then transforms the text accordingly. Macro systems are inherently more powerful than compilers modeled on context-free languages since they are (inherently) context-sensitive. A.S. Tenenbaum describes using such a system in *IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering*, SE-2,2, June, 1976, p. 121. --Dennis Allison

TINY TIME SHARING???

Dear Editor,

6/2/76

I would like to get readers to start thinking about the possibilities of constructing multiple-user or time-shared systems using table-top hardware.

The development which I think makes this possible is the Video Display Module VDM-1 from Processor Technology Corp. (6200 Hollis St., Emeryville CA 94608). I happen to have designed it, in part for the money, but also so that people more skilled in software than I (and that's almost anyone) could put together multi-user systems.

The VDM-1 is a memory module (1024 bytes) with a window (the video monitor screen). It has an upper/lower case character set which includes control characters (128 characters). There is a video inversion cursor which can be set at each character by setting the high-order bit of that character. This effectively doubles the character set to 256. Display format is 64 characters by 16 lines.

Since it is memory, the processor can read from the VDM as well as write to it. This means that information specific to a given user can be stored in that user's VDM, and pulled out for use when desired, modified, and put back in. This can happen in a memory area which is masked from the view of the user by the "window shade." As its name implies, this is a blanked area of the screen which can be "pulled down" from the top to blank a maximum of 15 text lines. The CPU determines the length of the shade through a status byte which it outputs to the VDM through an OUT instruction.

Suppose that Tiny BASIC (or Tiny ALGOL or Tiny FORTRAN or whatever) is set up in the CPU's main memory area. Several users with VDM's could be building programs, the object code of which is stored in the first few lines of their screens. (Here my ignorance of systems software will probably become laughably apparent. It's the vision that counts.) The CPU runs through a schedule in which it pulls out the object code and tables of parameters in a user's in a user's screen, runs the program until a convenient point is reached, stuffs the code and new parameters back under the window shade, and goes on to the next user. One of the parameters would obviously be the location on the screen of the cursor. If the total number of bytes used for this storage were 512 per user, that would still leave 8 lines of 64 characters. These could be configured as two columns of 32 characters, having a total length of 16 lines.

The more ambitious a user got, the lower the window shade would go as the hidden area filled up with stuff. This would provide a "negative feedback" effect which might serve to keep the user reminded of the limited nature of the machine resources. Users of *Incredible Big Monster* machines will throw tantrums at the thought of this, but they will have to be brought into the real world somehow, whether they like it or not.

I have been talking about a multi-user operation, in which several people use the same program. True time-sharing requires (I think) that each time the CPU steps to the next user, it be able to call up the program (meaning Tiny BASIC or Tiny ALGOL) that that user wants. Clearly these programs cannot be kept under the window shade, but, if they are tiny enough, there should be enough RAM available on a full-blown 65K system (providing the power supply holds out).

Incidentally, it might be a tickle to keep object code and parameters on the screen without pulling the window shade down over them. They would appear to flicker, sparkle and otherwise rearrange themselves in operation. This would

IVERSONS INITIATE APL NEWSLETTER

Dear Editor:

5/24/76

APL Press is a new publishing house devoted exclusively to APL. Its first book, to appear this summer, is a high school text on elementary analysis by Ken Iverson, the inventor or APL. Several other titles are planned for publication this year, and further manuscripts are being sought.

A newsletter is also planned, to present brief articles, problems, definitions of functions, reports on conferences, correspondence, and others items of interest to the APL community. The first issue, which is scheduled for July, will include a report by Professor Jenkins on a recent APL Implementors' Workshop, an article on magic cubes by Professor Mauldon, and material on a new form of function definition excerpted from a forthcoming book.

Readers interested in receiving the newsletter and information on other publications, or in submitting material for publication, should write to APL Press, Box 27, Swarthmore PA 19081.

Jean Iverson

[Jean Iverson is in charge of the APL Press. She is "closely associated" with Ken Iverson. -JCW]

A SOFTWARE EXCHANGE FOR 6800's

Dear Sirs:

5-15-76

I am sponsoring a SOFTWARE EXCHANGE for those interested. Anyone interested in receiving software for any of the microcomputers, send your name, address, and any software you have available. I have some software for the 6800 for immediate distribution. When I receive software from other individuals, I will distribute the material to those interested. Please include \$3 to cover the cost of mailing and photocopying. You need not submit software to benefit.

Very truly yours,

Howard Berenbon

2681 Peterboro
W. Bloomfield MI 48033
313 851-7966

We would be happy to save you the cost of photocopying listings and documentation by publishing your 6800 programs in *Dr. Dobb's Journal*. Also, if you don't want to spend the time and energy running your software exchange operation, you could submit your programs to Community Computer Center for their non-profit Program Repository & Tape Duplication Facility (please see *Dr. Dobb's Journal* Vol. 1, No. 3).

IMS ASSOCIATES, Inc. recently moved into new facilities which more than quadruple the company's manufacturing space. The company's new address in San Leandro, California, is 14860 Wicks Blvd, 94577; (415) 483-2093. The rapid growth of IMSAI has been attributed to the demand for the new IMSAI 8080 Microcomputer which was introduced earlier this year.

be a much better show than black screen, and might serve as a debugging aid, together with a chart of the binary equivalent of the character set.

That's about as much as I can offer, except for help in interpreting the VDM-1 manual, which is available for \$4 from PTCO. It's a pretty good manual, so I don't think there will be too much call on that score.

Do it!

Lee Felsenstein
LGC Engineering

1807 Delaware St.
Berkeley CA 94703
415 845-4736

FCC PETITION ON ANSII TRANSMISSIONS BY HAMS

by Bruce J. Brown, WB4YTU April 19, 1976
4801 Kenmore Ave., no. 1022
Alexandria VA 22304
703 370-1431, home; 202 697-9654, work

This is a petition for rulemaking in the matter of revisions of Federal Communications Commission Rules, Sections 97.69 and 97.117 to permit use of the American National Standard Code for Information Interchange (ANSII), formerly ASCII.

The American National Standard Code for Information Interchange (ANSII), formerly ASCII, was developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI, formerly American Standards Association 'ASI') as the standard code for information interchange in the United States.

The 7-bit-plus-parity ANSII code provides 128 possible characters (Figure 1) versus the 58 characters of the Baudot code. In addition to figures, numbers, and punctuation, the code set has provisions for special symbols and control characters which is vital to automated data exchange and computer control.

Its purpose is to establish uniformity and compatibility in the interchange of information among domestic and foreign manufacturers of data processing and communications systems.

In March 1968, President Johnson approved a recommendation by the Secretary of Commerce that ASCII be adopted as a federal standard.²

Sections 97.69 and 97.117 are ambiguous and contradictory with regards to codes presently allowed. 97.69(a) states "A single channel five-unit (start-stop) teleprinter code shall be used . . ."; however, Section 97.117 states "The transmission by radio of messages in codes or ciphers . . . is prohibited." These sections are in clear conflict. Furthermore, Section 97.69(a) also states "In general, this code shall conform as nearly as possible to the teleprinter code or codes in common commercial usage in the United States."—which is ANSII!

There are several arguments to support the use of ANSII by amateur radio operators.

a. Large quantities of surplus ASCII terminal equipment are available at very low cost on the surplus market. Inexpensive Baudot devices are becoming increasingly difficult to find.

b. Government and industry have only recently begun to explore the use of recently developed microprocessor circuits to solve complex teleprocessing problems. Hobbyists, many who are amateur radio experimenters, have also shown considerable interest in these devices as evidenced by the high-volume microprocessor sales to non-commercial buyers, and the emergence of numerous amateur computer journals. Hams, using microprocessors in concert with presently allocated communications channels, have the opportunity to make serious contributions to the infant teleprocessing field while greatly enhancing current amateur modus operandi. It is not unlikely that hams will some day use microprocessors in communications networks (e.g., packet switching) to permit faster and more reliable traffic handling for emergency and routine messages. Fruition of many of these concepts, however, is directly dependent upon the approval by the FCC of a coding scheme with a large-character set, such as ANSII, for compatibility

with microprocessors and automatic communications systems. Failure to approve such a code will greatly stifle the advancement of non-commercial communications and would be in direct conflict with the purpose from the amateur radio service as expressed in Section 97.1(b) and (c).

c. ANSII, by virtue of its diversified character set, is highly compatible with amateur telemetry systems; e.g., remotely monitoring the status of repeater control circuits.³

Using asynchronous ANSII transmission with one start, two stop, one parity, and seven data bits per character, speeds of 10, 30, and 60 characters per second will equate to rates of 110, 330, and 660 bits per second (bps), respectively.

Through simple Fourier analysis to the 5th harmonic, it can be shown that the signaling bandwidth for data at speeds of 110, 330, and 660 bps is 220, 660, and 1320 hertz, respectively. Furthermore, it can be shown that the AFSK bandwidth for a 660 bps signal is less than that required for SSTV transmission.

Based upon the technical and operational benefits that the use of ANSII could provide, and considering that no detrimental effect to the amateur community would result, it is requested that applicable sections to Part 97 be revised to permit the use of ANSII.

¹Data Communications Systems, Control Data Corporation, April, 1974, page 47.

²Introduction to Computer Data Communications, Honeywell Corporation, July, 1973, pages 2-19.

³QST, March 1976, page 73.

A CLUB SURVEY FOR A CLUB CLUB

Dear Editor,

I am doing a survey of hobbyist computer clubs. It should be interesting to find out how many hobbyist club members there are, what kinds of things they're doing, etc. Hopefully the tabulated results can be printed in *DDJ* after I've compiled them. One of the reasons for the survey is to evaluate interest in an organization of hobbyist clubs (tentatively called 'Your Club of Clubs' or 'The Metaclub'). Any club *not* on the following list should get in touch with me for more information.

Amateur Computer Club of N.J., Atlanta Area Micro-computer Hobbyist Club, Bay Area Microprocessor Users Group, Bit Users Association, Cache (Chicago area), Cleveland Digital Group, The Computer Hobbyist Group (N. Texas), Denver Amateur Computer Society, El Paso Computer Group, Homebrew Computer Club, LLLRA Hobbyist Computer Group, Long Island Computer Association, Miami Area Computer Club, CPU (Monterey), Northwest Computer Club (Seattle), Nashua Area Computer Club, New York City Micro Hobbyist Group, Pittsburgh Area Computer Club, Santa Barbara Nameless Computer Club, Southern California Computer Society, Tallahassee Amateur Computer Society.

I also invite comments and questions from anyone interested.

Sincerely,
Dave Caulkins

437 Mundel
Los Altos CA 94022
415 948-5753

WESTERN DATA'S 6502-BASED DATA HANDLER

Complete Kit for \$169.95,
Plug-Compatible to Altair Peripherals

by Western Data Systems staff

The Data Handler is Western Data Systems new product. It's a microcomputer using the MOS Technology 6502 microprocessor with the latest state of the art technology producing a high performance microcomputer at a low price.

The high speed operating capabilities of the Data Handler are enabled by the use of an easy-to-use full-function, hardware-controlled, front panel. A large ground plane area (to minimize noise at high operating speed) is on the P.C.B. and 2102-type RAMS.

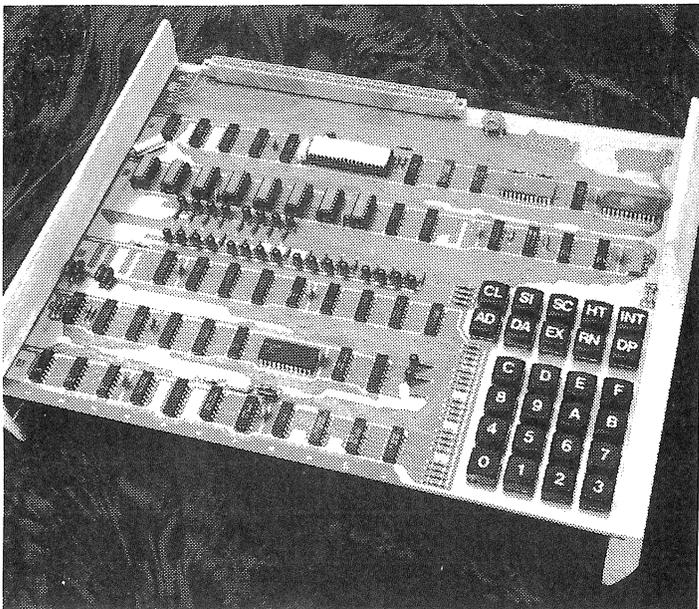
Slower accessing memories (EPROMS and ROMS) may be used, although this will reduce the cycle speed to within the limits of other microcomputer kits. The single 13.75" x 10.5" P.C.B. can directly address 65K of memory and contains 1K bytes of static RAM on the board with complete address decoding.

It also consists of all circuitry needed to be a stand-alone microcomputer for even such high-speed devices as disk peripherals.

The Data Handler is designed with identical drive capabilities around the 8800 Altair, 100-pin, tri-state bus. It's plug-in compatible with the long list of Altair peripherals. Expandability can be accomplished in a manner identical to the 8800 Altair by using the mother board.

The Data Handler also has dual interrupt lines (one maskable), slow-down circuitry for slow memories, DMA (direct memory access) circuitry, and DMA acknowledge control. One 8-bit parallel input port, one 8-bit parallel output port, separate IO address control, and memory control lines. Single voltage (+5 volts) and cycle times to 250ns. It has full front panel control with the use of keyboard switches to provide the following hardware:

Single-cycle operation.



Single-instruction operation.
Memory examine (left incremental).
Memory deposit (left incremental).
Initialization.
Halt.
Run.
Hex data and address entry.

For an introductory offer the Data Handler Bare Bones Kit is being offered for \$79.95, which includes the Data Handler P.C.B., 26 keyboard switches, P.C. B. stand, and complete documentation.

The complete kit costs \$169.95. This includes the Data Handler P.C.B., 26 keyboard switches, P.C.B. stand, complete set of I.C.'s, 1K static RAM, 500ns memory, resistors, capacitors, L.E.D.'s, 1 mhz 6502, and complete documentation. This microcomputer is ideal for the hobbyist and industrial user alike.

For complete information on ordering, write to:

Western Data Systems
3650 Charles St, No. Z
Santa Clara CA 95050
atn: Cindy & Mike Indihar

Office: 408-984-7804
Home: 408-378-3569

The Introductory Offer expires August 31, 1976.

RCA COSMAC & μ SCOPE

Dear Bob,

4/12/76

RCA has formally announced the 1802 chip for COSMAC, and it looks even better than the 1801. It seems strange that so few hobbyists are using COSMAC, since it was originally intended for the personal computer market (partly) and has a remarkably adaptable instruction set. Now that the new, improved version is available maybe some enterprising OEM will jump into the hobby market with a COSMAC-based machine. The RCA COSMAC Microkit (not to be confused with the RCA COSMAC Microtutor) is a beautifully engineered computer, but probably too expensive for most hobbyists. I don't know what the price tag is, but it doesn't look cheap (is it true that the jewels in the panel lamps are synthetic rubies?).

In the March-April, 1976 issue of *PCC* I predicted that the 1980 hobbyist would have a breadbox-size computer containing an integral ASCII keyboard, CRT display, tape cassette, hardcopy printer, and floppy disc. Well, it isn't quite 1980 but the newly-announced μ Scope 8000 (see the April 1 issue of *Electronics*) is a breadbox-size computer containing an integral ASCII keyboard, CRT display, tape cassette, hardcopy printer, and a price of \$6995. No floppy disc, but it does have a novel incremental assembler.

Tempus Digits,

Jim Day

LED REPLACEMENTS FOR BURN-OUTABLE PDP-8/E LAMPS

A conversion kit is available to enable replacement of standard incandescent lamps used in the PDP8/e minicomputer with light-emitting diodes, to eliminate the problem of burned-out bulbs. The kit is complete with a set of direct-replacement LED's and instructions for modification of the Front Panel Control Board circuitry. \$39.95. Delivery, stock to 30 days. Scientific Test Systems, Box 741, Wallingford CT 06492; 203 265-5028

DR DOBB'S JOURNAL OF
COMPUTER CALISTHENICS & ORTHODONTIA
PCC
Box 310
Menlo Park CA 94025



TV DAZZLER

SOFTWARE CONTEST

Sponsored by People's Computer Company
P.O. Box 310, Menlo Park, Ca. 94025

FIRST PRIZE: \$500 certificate for hardware
from CROMEMCO

SECOND PRIZE: \$250 certificate for hardware
from CROMEMCO

OBJECT: Develop a program resulting in a new and interesting display using the Cromemco TV Dazzler. (The Dazzler is an interface that permits a home color TV set to be a graphic terminal for certain microcomputers.)

RULES:

- All entries must use the Cromemco Dazzler display and must not require more than 20K of computer memory.
- All entries will be judged by People's Computer Company on
 - 1 — originality
 - 2 — general user appeal
 - 3 — clarity of documentation

- Entries should include source code and object code on punched paper tape. A listing of an appropriate bootstrap loader should also be provided.
- Software should be compatible with MITS REV 1 serial I/O port convention for I/O requirements (i.e., data transfer is on port 1, bit 7 [active low] of input port 0 is used to indicate receiver ready, and bit 0 [active low] of input port 0 is used to indicate transmitter empty).

Microcomputers can be incredibly versatile. The Dazzler adds the dimension of full-color graphic display to the microcomputer.

What can you develop? — games? — business? — education? — art? — others?

SEND ALL ENTRIES TO: PEOPLE'S COMPUTER CO
P.O. Box 310
Menlo Park, Ca. 94025

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPT. 30, 1976