

THE AMSTRAD USER

Issue No. 10

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November 1985



- AN EIGHT PAGE PULL-OUT BOOK SUPPLEMENT
- COMPETITION - WIN AN 'AMSTRAD LIBRARY'
- REVIEW of the CPC6128 and the GP-700
- USER GROUP INFORMATION

FOR THE NOVICE & EXPERIENCED USER

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For Tape Subscribers, the programs/routines can be found at these approximate counter readings:

Side 1 - PERCENTS:5, MUSLIST:2:26, MENU10:39, MENU13:61, HEADREAD:85
Side 2 - CLOCKPT:5

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THE AMSTRAD USER

G'day,

As the number of new subscribers to *The Amstrad User* continues to increase at a healthy rate, so too do the queries from the new users. Naturally, we do our best to answer the various questions but production of the magazine always takes priority. This means that answers to specific queries may be a bit tardy, although those with stamped and return-addressed envelopes are dealt with first. So please remember, write (don't ring), and if it concerns a piece of software published in this magazine that you can't get to work, send in your tape (or disc) with a return-addressed padded bag and we will have a look at it. I can tell you that 99.9% of the time the problem can be traced to a keying-in error, so do check carefully before adding to Australia Post's revenue.

If you hadn't already noticed, this month's magazine has gone to 40 pages which includes an eight page supplement covering 24 Amstrad titles, 14 of which are new. This is by no means a definitive list as new titles pop up from time to time and take a little while to reach these shores. However, it is the result of CRS's endeavours to bring Amstrad users as up to date as possible. Of course, we will continue to keep an eye open for other titles and provide reviews when possible.

I guess you need not be reminded that Christmas is closing fast on us. It seems to come around more quickly each year! But what you will need to be reminded of is the closing dates for submissions for both the December and January editions. Normal closing dates apply for December, namely 4th November so you are probably too late. Submissions for January 1986 should reach these offices by 18th November to be sure of a chance of getting published.

Finally, if you are looking for a review of the PCW8256 - you won't find it. We didn't get hold of one until the last minute and clearly a machine of this nature warrants more than a rushed and skimpy review. We shall give it our full attention next month.

See you next month,

Ed

A Different Approach to Program Design

from Alan Harris

If you decide to really examine this program you will find that unlike many other programs this one has been designed rather differently than is usual.

In most instances I find myself thinking in a procedural fashion because of the very strict structure of PASCAL source. I, like many others, originally thought that BASIC could never really amount to much, but I decided to 'bite the bullet' and see just how procedural or linear it could become. This clock is the result and if you decide to type (or tape) the rest of it in next month you will see that it is possible to write a program of around 26k length without a single OTO in it.

The program has been used to help novice programmers to better understand the principles of program design. I have used a similar program on other computers for the same purpose even though the language used was not BASIC. It is not a game or a business program or even a demonstration. It is an example of one way to write a program. The important point about it is that it provides a skeleton with which you can experiment. A number of rules have been applied that enhance the discipline needed to program successfully. There are as many ways to program as there are keys on the keyboard, but there are only a few ways to program well. If you examine the program carefully you will find that it is easier to read than most and even without EMTs it is self documented. Despite this I have added some comments on the way the program works. Feel free to do what you will.

Line 10: sets the colours so that they are suitable for a green screen or colour monitor.

Line 20: is a DEFINED FUNCTION that tests a date passed it in the form y,m,d (year, month, day) and checks that these parameters are legal.

Lines 30-80: take a date in a numeric form of year, month, and day, and then produce a string that contains a fully expanded date.

Lines 90-100: These two functions calculate the temporary origin for drawing or erasing a hand on the clock face. It simply moves the origin out from the centre by an amount sufficient to miss the digital display.

Lines 110-120: This function simply draws (or un-draws) the hands of the clock. p1, p2 are the function names, s is the angle and h is the size of the hand. I designed it this way so that less words would be needed in the time sensitive sub-routine that actually runs the clock.

Lines 130-140: Line 130 is a function type that I use quite frequently when I need to provide what I call 'pretty printing' with strings. If you examine it you will find that FN make\$(n) will take a number from 0 to 99 and convert it to its STRING form. Now unfortunately ARNOLD insists on adding a 'space' character in front of the number if it's greater than 0 and a '-' sign if it's negative. When you look at the clock you will see why this FN is used as I don't want the spaces, just the numbers. Let's look at this function in detail:

The rightmost part of this function is (RIGHT\$(STR\$(N), LEN(STR\$(N)-1),2)). If STR\$(n) has a length of 2 then we use the last byte only and if the length is 3 we use the last two bytes only (That's why we have the -1) and this removes the space that would normally be included. Now that we have a number without the leading space we need to add a leading '0' if it's only 1 byte long and that's all there is to it really. To use the function in a program we could use:

PRINT FN make\$(3) or maybe a\$=FN make\$(4) to assign the function to another variable. You'll see how it is used later on.

Line 140: is used to determine the MODULOUS of the counter used to adjust the clock during the Update mode. When Update is selected a digital type display in the centre of the clock can be set or adjusted in a similar fashion to that used to set a digital watch. When finished the hands are drawn at a corresponding position and then both the digital and normal clocks keep time.

The modulus function in line 140 is needed so that the update routine knows how many days to expect for the current month. As the UP/DOWN arrow keys are used, the day window will increment from 1 to the last day of the month and then go back to 1 and start again.

To examine how it works we look at the innermost set of parentheses first. '(month-1)*2+1' is used to point to a pair of characters in a table that contains the maximum number of days for each month. We then get the VALUE of these two

bytes and that is the number of days+1 in the month.

Lines 150-180: I have often referred to procedural program design when I help novice programmers and use as an example the language PASCAL. I have made references to using PASCAL-like procedures and now find that my sub-conscious has been thinking PASCAL while I have been writing BASIC. I have included in some of the REM lines a comment such as (* comment *). In fact the (* and *) are used in PASCAL to indicate REMarks or comments.

Here we are again thinking PASCAL, for the variable names contained in this line are in fact not variable at all. They are CONSTANTS, which means that the program does not alter the value of them at all. Once more this form of declaration is compulsory in PASCAL, and very useful in BASIC. The reason I include them at the start of a program is that when they are used a number of times elsewhere and I need to alter them, I only have to do it once at the start of the program where I have declared them, instead of going all through the list to find where they are used. When you write a program do the same. Each time you find the need for a new variable, go back to the earlier lines, decide whether it's a variable or constant and add it to the DECLARATION lines. Make it a habit and it'll pay rich rewards by saving boring and needless effort should you have to make major alterations at a later date.

Let's look at them in detail.

When I use the WHILE/WEND loops I often need to use flags to indicate whether a loop should be entered or not. Therefore I need to SET and RESET the flags at times. I could have used 'LET flag=0' or maybe 'LET flag=1', but I chose to use 'flag=set' and 'flag=reset' since when I read my own programs I prefer them to *sound* like instructions. So I SET a flag to enter a loop and RESET it once I'm finished to get out again. If you say this aloud it does in fact make sense.

'centre.x' and 'centre.y' are, as their names suggest, the co-ordinates for the centre of the clock.

'max.hour' can be set to 12 or 24, depending on whether you work with 12 or 24 hour days.

'color.1' and 'color.2' are used to switch paper/pen colours back and forth. Since I use a monochrome display, my colours are naturally black and white.

'trim' is used because contrary to popular belief the computer does not count 50 ticks to the second (well mine doesn't anyway). What I found was that approximately every 900 seconds the clock would be ahead by about 1 second. The idea of the trim value is that it can be compared with the time of the clock and used to skip 1 second every 900 or so seconds.

'second.hand', 'minute.hand', and 'hour.hand' are the lengths of the hands on the clock. They are used to draw the hands when necessary.

'zero', 'one', 'twelve', and 'sixty' are obvious and are included simply to make the listing more readable.

'colors' is used as a modulus to rotate the colours of paper and border.

Lines 200-210: Line 200 contains the string CHARACTER CONSTANTS. 'reset\$' is used to reset another string. What could be less ambiguous than using a line such as key.pressed\$=reset\$. If you read it without the '\$' it is obvious what the function is.

'setup\$' is a special list of functions I want to occur when the system is first set up. This will become clear next month when the SETUP routine has been added. When you examine the display once the clock is running you'll see the functions and switches are selected by the first letter of the function. 'setup\$' simulates the operator pressing a sequence of keys T C G A V P I B and U. These cause the program to turn on the switches for T(ick), C(hime), G(ong), A(larm), V(ideo), P(aper), I(nk), and B(order). Finally the U(pdate) function is selected to allow the clock to be set for the first time.

'prompts' are exactly that - prompts.

'finished\$' - think about that. What do you usually do when the computer when you've finished typing something? Answer is you press the [ENTER] key, which is precisely what CHR\$(13) is. You don't even have to think about it as a function as it's obviously to tell the program that you've 'finished' this section of the program.

'switch\$0' is simply a method used to indicate on the display whether a particular function is on or off.

Lines 230-240: For those of you fortunate enough to have a floppy disc a great deal of time can be saved with graphic programs if most of, (or in this case all) of the screen is saved on disc. The reason is that in BASIC drawing takes a long time.

The 'discfile' variable is used to inform if the clockface is stored on disc and if so it bypasses the drawing stage and loads the picture into memory. Later you will see how it is used but for now, remember that it's used to bypass the drawing section if a discfile called 'clockface.bin' is available.

'flag1' is a secondary flag that is used when 'flag' is already in use.

The 'angle' variable is used within the clockface drawing routine, and also when it's required that the clock hands be un-drawn and drawn. It is incremented by 6 degrees for every second/minute mark on the clock face.

'setup' is a variable that is used when the program is first run. It is used to select the characters that comprise setup\$ for the initialisation routine, by producing phantom keystrokes as if the operator had done so.

'tick.on, chime.on, gong.on, alarm.on, video.on' are switches set by the operator to turn on/off the specific functions that are optional. The only one that may not be obvious is 'video.on'. This one is used because I believe that all electronic products suffer the most stress when turned on and off. Therefore when I go to sleep at night I turn off the

display, by setting all inks to 0, which means the clock can continue in operation throughout the night, without shining like a beacon.

'temp' is simply a temporary storage variable.

'update' is used to signal the fact that the update routine is selected, and since the operator is adjusting the clock by means of the digital display in the centre of the clock, the timing routine is prevented from updating the digital display until the operator has finished with the update routine.

'position' is used for identifying the horizontal position of the selected digital display during the update mode. When first selected the cursor is at the extreme left of the particular display.

'p.max' is set to 4 as a rule but is changed to 3 for updating the date, since only 3 positions are needed. This is to prevent the cursor from messing up the centre of the clock.

'modulus' is used within the update routine for each of the adjustable features, (clock, alarm, date) to ensure that when the arrow keys are used the characters only rotate through the correct sequence of digits for the particular value that is being set at the time.

'second', and 'minute' are obvious, but we'll discuss 'tock' in a little more detail. The 'tock' variable is used to adjust the hour hand. It moves the hand 6 degrees at a time to it's new position. Now the purist may think that a new position for the hour hand should be calculated every minute, but the graphics resolution of the 464 makes this a bit of a waste. In addition since the second and minute hands move at degree intervals, by making the hour hand do the same we can use the same block of code for all three. It simply means that the 'tock' increments every 5th of one hour or every 12 minutes.

'year', 'month' and 'day' are also obvious, except that the year is not 4 digits long, since we can assume that for now the year is between 1900 and 1999. We only need the last two digits so 'year' will vary between 0 and 99. The modulus for year therefore is 100.

'do.trim' is used to signal that the clock is a second ahead in time and causes a return from the timer routine without any increase. 'do.trim' counts in MODULUS (trim), therefore by adjusting the constant 'trim' we can miss a second at regular intervals when we need to correct the time.

'bright' is another ink setting this time it's really a constant of bright white or colour 26.

'paper.color' and 'pen.color' are used to provide highlighting of the display during update, in particular the function is to reverse the PEN/PAPER settings so the operator can easily see the current ACTION AREA. The secondary function of these two is that the operator can adjust the pen colour by using the 'I' key which will cause ink 1 colour to rotate from 0 to 26 and then back to 0. In addition the 'P' key causes a similar function to be carried out paper and border colours.

Now we come to string variables.

All data entered from the keyboard by the operator is by means of a WHILE/WEND INKEY\$ routine that I call WINKEY. 'key.pressed\$' is assigned a value from INKEY\$.

'work\$' is used as a temporary variable during the Update routine to hold either the 'clock\$', 'alarm\$', or 'date\$'. The contents of the string are displayed at the correct position in the centre of the clock, and once a particular feature of the clock has been completed, the contents of work\$ are copied to the correct feature string.

'alarm\$' and 'clock\$' are obviously used for display of the digital representation of the time and alarm settings. In addition they are compared every second so that the alarm can be sounded when they are similar.

'date\$' holds the current date in the form DD/MM/YY. At midnight the day is incremented and the string updated. In addition a feature is available for the user to have messages appear on certain important days. This could be implemented by an array of date\$(n). At midnight the array is scanned to see if there is a corresponding date\$ in it that agrees with the date just set. For example when DD=01 and MM=01 the computer will display a new year greeting. There is no reason why birthdays and public holidays cannot be added by the user.

'temp\$' and 'am.pm\$' are used to ensure the day/night condition is unambiguous.

Line 170: simply defines the attack/decay envelope for the chimes, gong and alarm sounds.

Well there we are that's all the variables defined and explained briefly. We shall now provide some general facts about the program. There are five principal blocks of code:

1. INIT (Declarations etc.) 10-999
2. Draw (The clock face). 1000-1400
3. Main (Key scan and control) 2000-3700
4. Update (Set and adjust) 4000-4690
5. Clock (Timing) 5000-6240

(Note, the block of code starting at 4000 has been intentionally removed because of space constraints and will be available at a later date.)

The draw routine uses a single WHILE/WEND routine which increments a counter 'x' from 0 to 360. While x is less than 360 degrees, the sections of the clockface that are to be filled in are drawn. the variable 'angle' is x degrees-90 degrees, because using x on its own would start the clock at the right hand side of the screen instead of the top. The minute marks on the outer edge of the clock occur every 6 degrees so within the main loop another WHILE/WEND loop is entered if x is evenly divisible by 6. There is a condition however where the operator may decide that a 24 hr clock is needed and this is allowed for by using function to calculate the angle depending on the setting of 'max.hour'. The marks for the hours are drawn in the loop which has the command TAG added, so that as the mark is drawn the number of the hour is also drawn beside it.

Summary of operation

Unfortunately we must now leave the descriptive text for this month, so I'll briefly describe the operation of the clock. By pressing the key that is associated with each function, that particular function can be turned 'On' or 'Off'. If the 'T' key is pressed, it will be found that the 'Tick' is turned 'on' or 'off' depending upon its condition when the key is pressed. The chime, gong and alarm will function similarly. I suggest that to examine all of the features that you set the clock up as follows:

Set the time to 11:59:30:am and the date to 31/12/85
Set the A(larm) for 12:01:00:am and make sure that A(larm), C(hime) and G(ong) are all ON.
Turn the volume control up!

As the time approaches midnight, all features will be used. The chime will sound 16 times and a New Year message will be displayed. Just after midnight, the gong will sound 12 times followed shortly after by the alarm.

Once you have checked all is working, you may decide to set the clock to REAL TIME and leave it on overnight, (remember that Arnold uses only a few watts of power, about one light globe's worth). Press the 'v' for video until the display is blanked out and then turn off the chime and gong functions. If you wish, you can press the 'v' again during the night to check the time. (*I think Alan is an insomniac - Ed*)

Next month we shall provide a function to UPDATE the clock/date while the clock is running and will describe the CLOCK and UPDATE routines in detail. Let me know if you have any problems, either when typing in and running the clock or in understanding how it works. For now, while I am in between jobs, I'll be glad to hear from you. If you wish, you can write to me:

Alan Harris, 28 Leslie Street, Sale, Vic 3850

It will be easier for me if you send a letter using your own word processor and a cassette tape rather than the old fashioned letter system, but make sure you label the cassette with your name and address and stick a couple of \$\$\$ in for my postage back to you.

```

10 EI: INK 0, 13: INK 1, 0: BORDER 13:
   PAPER 0: PEN 1: WIDTH 80
20 DEF FN date.good(y,m,d)=(y>18
   50 AND y<2000) AND (m>0 AND m<
   13) AND (d>0 AND d<VAL(MID$(
   322932313231323231323132", (m-1
   )*2+1,2))) OR (y/4=INT(y/4) A
   ND d=29 AND m=2))
21 DEF FN time.good(h,m,s,ts)=(h>
   -1 AND h<60) AND (m>-1 AND m<6
   0) AND (s>-1 AND s<60) AND (ts
   ="AM" OR ts="PM")
30 DEF FN dx(y,m,d)=y*365+INT((y-
   1)/4)+(m-1)*28+VAL(MID$( "00030
   3060811131619212426", (m-1)*2+1

```

```

,2))-(m>2) AND((y AND NOT-4)
0))d
40 d$="Friday "+CHR$(0)+CHR$(0)+
HR$(0)+"Saturday "+CHR$(0)+"S"
nday "+CHR$(0)+CHR$(0)+CHR$(0)+
+"Monday "+CHR$(0)+CHR$(0)+CHR$(0)+CH
$(0)+"Tuesday "+CHR$(0)+CHR$(0)+CHR$(0)
)+"Wednesday Thursday "+CHR$(0)
)
50 DEF FN dx(y,d$)=MID$(d$, (y-1
T(y/7)*7)*10+1,10)
60 DEF FN day$(d,y)=STR$(d)+MID$(
" thstndrdrththththth", (VAL
RIGHT$(STR$(d),1)+(1)*2+1,2)+1)
TR$(y)
70 m$="January"+STRINGS(2,0)+"Febr
uary"+CHR$(0)+"March"+STRINGS
(4,0)+"April"+STRINGS(4,0)+"Ma
y"+STRINGS(6,0)+"June"+STRINGS
(5,0)+"July"+STRINGS(5,0)+"Aug
ust"+STRINGS(3,0)+"September"
tober"+STRINGS(2,0)+"November"
+CHR$(0)+"December"+CHR$(0)
80 DEF FN date$(y,m,d,d$,m$)=FN
dx(FN dx(y,m,d),d$)+MID$(m$,
-1)*9+1,9)+FN day$(d,y)
90 DEF FN x(s)=308+54*COS(90-s*6)
100 DEF FN y(s)=208+54*SIN(90-s*6)
110 DEF FN p1(s,h)=h*COS(90-s*6)
120 DEF FN p2(s,h)=h*SIN(90-s*6)
130 DEF FN make$(n)=RIGHT$( "00")+RI
GHT$(STR$(n), LEN(STR$(n))-1), 2
)
140 DEF FN days.in.month(month, year)
r)=VAL(MID$("31283131313031313
0313031", (month-1)*2+1,2))
150 MODE 2
160 GLS: DEG
170 REM
   ant { INTEGER } *)
   (* CONST
150 reset=0: set=1: centre.x=308: cen
tre.y=208: max.hour=12: color.1=
1: color.2=0: black=0: white=1: tr
im=860: second.hand=60: minute.h
and=60: hour.hand=55: zero=0: one
=1: twelve=12: sixty=60: colors=2
7
190 REM
   ant { string Character *}
   (* CONST
200 reset$="": setup$="TCGAVPIBU": p
rompt$(1)="Select by first let
ter A(larm), T(ime), D(ate) or I
ENTERJ to exit": prompts(2)="Us
e "+CHR$(240)+CHR$(32)+CHR$(24
1)+" to adjust and "+CHR$(242)
+CHR$(32)+CHR$(243)+" to move

```



```

window, or [ENTER] to exit"
2210 finished$=CHR$(13):blank$="Pre
ss the first letter of the fun
ction you wish to alter-rememb
er 'V' for video":switch$(0)="
OFF":switch$(1)=" ON"
2220 REM
les { INTEGER } *) (*VARIab

2230 discfile=reset:flag1=reset:ang
le=reset:max.hour=12:setup=set
:tick.on=reset:chime.on=reset:
gong.on=reset:alarm.on=reset:v
ideo.on=reset:update=reset:col
or.1=white:color.2=black:posit
ion=reset
2231 'discfile=set
2240 p.max=4:modulus=reset:second=r
eset:minute=reset:tock=reset:p
osition=reset:modulus=reset:ye
ar=reset:month=reset:day=reset
:temp=reset:do.trim=set:trim=9
00:bright=26:paper.color=black
:pen.color=25:border.color=0
(* VARIA
ble string CHAR *)
2250 REM
2260 key.pressed$="":work$="
":alarm$="00:00:00:..":cl
ock$=alarm$:date$="30/06/85":t
emp$="":temp$(0)="AM":temp$(1)
="PM":am.pm$(0)="PM":am.pm$(1)
="AM"
2270 ENV 1,127,-1,7
2280 INPUT "First please type the a
larm time (HH:MM:SS).
e this => 01:34:45:AM or 11:23
:45:PM":alarm$
2290 hour=VAL(LEFT$(alarm$,2)):minu
te=VAL(MID$(alarm$,4,2)):secon
d=VAL(MID$(alarm$,7,2)):am.pm$
=UPPER$(RIGHT$(alarm$,2)):IF F
N time.good(hour,minute,second
,am.pm$) THEN GOTO 300:ELSE PR
INT "Invalid time ":GOTO 280
2300 INPUT"Now please type the date
in the form DD/MM/YY. For exa
mple 01/11/85 indicates 1st
December 1985 (Remember to use
the '0' if needed)":date$
2310 day=VAL(LEFT$(date$,2)):month=
VAL(MID$(date$,4,2)):year=VAL(
RIGHT$(date$,2))
2320 IF FN date.good(year+1900,month,
day) THEN 330:ELSE PRINT "In
valid Date ":GOTO 300
2330 PRINT "Please remember before

```

```

typing the time that you will
be required to set it about 2 m
inutes ahead of time to allow
for the clock face to be drawn
.."
340 INPUT "Type the time in simila
r form to that for the alarm (
HH:MM:SS)":clock$
350 hour=VAL(LEFT$(clock$,2)):minu
te=VAL(MID$(clock$,4,2)):secon
d=VAL(MID$(clock$,7,2)):am.pm$
=UPPER$(RIGHT$(clock$,2)):IF F
N time.good(hour,minute,second
,am.pm$) THEN 360:ELSE PRINT "
Invalid Time":GOTO 340
360 CLS:PRINT "      When clock is
finished press <ENTER> when t
ime catches up to clock
"
370 tock=hour*5+INT(minute/12):hou
r=hour-1
380 IF t$="AM" THEN am.pm=1:ELSE a
m.pm=0
390 MODE 2
1000 REM ***** Dr
aw the clock face *****
*****
1010 IF discfile=reset THEN flag1=s
et
1020 WHILE flag1=set
1030   angle=90-x
1040   ORIGIN centre.x+50*SIN(ang
le),centre.y+50*COS(angle)
1050   DRAW -50*SIN(angle),0
1060   ORIGIN centre.x+160*SIN(an
gle),centre.y+160*COS(angle)
1070   DRAW -60*SIN(-angle),0
1080   IF x MOD 6=0 THEN flag=set
1090   WHILE flag=set
1100     ORIGIN centre.x,centre.y
1110     PLOT 120*COS(angle),120*
SIN(angle),1
1120     flag=reset
1130   WEND
1140   IF x MOD 15*24/max.hour=0
THEN flag=set
1150   WHILE flag=set
1160     TAG
1170     ORIGIN centre.x+120*COS(
angle),centre.y+120*SIN(angle)
1180     DRAW 10*COS(angle),10*S
IN(angle),1
1190     ORIGIN centre.x-13+145*C
OS(angle),centre.y+5+145*SIN(a
ngle)
1200     PRINT x/(15*24/max.hour)
;
1210     flag=reset

```



```

1220 TAGOFF
1230 WEND
1240 x=x+1
1250 IF x>360 THEN flag1=reset
1260 WEND
1270 ON ERROR GOTO 1280:GOTO 1290
1280 RESUME 1360
1290 :DISC
1300 WHILE discfile=reset
1310 SAVE"clockface",b,&C000,&4
    000,&C000
1320 CLS
1330 PRINT"Remove the (') from line
    231 then type 'SAVE ''CLOCK1'
    ' . Then RUN ''CLOCK1 to ensure
    the clock has been saved OK"
1340 STOP
1350 WEND
1360 ON ERROR GOTO 0
1370 IF discfile=set THEN MODE 2:LO
    AD"a:clockface.bin"
1380 ORIGIN FN x(second),FN y(second
    d):DRAW FN p1(second,second.ha
    nd),FN p2(second,second.hand),
    white
1390 ORIGIN FN x(minute),FN y(minut
    e):DRAW FN p1(minute,minute.ha
    nd),FN p2(minute,minute.hand),
    white
1400 ORIGIN FN x(tock),FN y(tock):D
    RAW FN p1(tock,hour.hand),FN p
    2(tock,hour.hand),white
1410 LOCATE 27,1:PRINT FN dates$(yea
    r+1900,month,day,d$,m$)
1420 LOCATE 34,12:PRINT alarm$:
1430 LOCATE 35,11:PRINT dates:
1440 LOCATE 34,13:PRINT clocks
1450 day=day-1:month=month-1
2000 REM *****key control
    an routine for feature control
    *****
2010 REM ++++++start ++++++ Sub
    routine 2000 start ++++++
    ++++++
2020 key.pressed$=reset$
2030 WHILE key.pressed$(>CHR$(255)
2040 key.pressed$=UPPER$(INKEY$)
2050 IF setup<10 THEN flag=set
2060 WHILE flag=set
2070 key.pressed$=MID$(setup$,set
    up,1)
2080 flag=reset
2090 setup=setup+1
2100 WEND
2110 WHILE key.pressed$="T"
2120 IF tick.on=reset THEN t1
    ck.on=set:
    " ; USING"##";
    en.color

```



```

2520 WEND
2530 WHILE key.pressed$="B"
2540   border.color=(border.color+1
) MOD colors
2550   BORDER border.color
2560   key.pressed$=reset$
2570   LOCATE 48,25
2580   PRINT"B(order) ";USING"##";b
order.color
2590 WEND
2600 IF key.pressed$="V" THEN flag=
set
2610 WHILE flag=set
2620   WHILE video.on=set
2630     INK 0,black
2640     INK 1,black
2650     BORDER black
2660     video.on=reset
2670     flag=reset
2680   WEND
2690   WHILE flag=set
2700     INK 0,paper.color
2710     INK 1,pen.color
2720     BORDER border.color
2730     flag=reset
2731     video.on=set
2740   WEND
2750   key.pressed$=reset$
2780 WEND
2540 IF key.pressed$=finished$ TH
EN flag=set
2550 WHILE flag=set:REM (* End of
update procedure *)
2560   DI:LOCATE 1,24
2570   PAPER black
2580   PEN white
2590   PRINT blanks$:EI
2600   flag=reset
2610 WEND
2620 IF key.pressed$=finished$ TH
EN key.pressed$=reset$:EVERY 5
0 GOSUB 5000
2630   key.pressed$=reset$
2640 WEND:REM (* End
of procedure Keyscan *)
2650 REM
2660 REM
2670 REM (* End of main procedure *)
2680 REM
2690 REM
2700 END
2990 REM
(* This is the adju
st procedure *)
2700 REM *****
Clock routine *****
*****

```

```

5000 IF do.trim=reset THEN do.trim=
set:RETURN:REM (* Adjust for f
reQUENCY *)
5010 do.trim=(do.trim+1) MOD trim
5020 ORIGIN FN x(second),FN y(second
d)
5030 DRAW FN p1(second,second.hand)
,FN p2(second,second.hand),bla
ck
5040 second=(second+one) MOD sixty
5050 IF tick.on=set AND chime=reset
AND gong=reset THEN SOUND 1,2
00,1
5060 ORIGIN FN x(second),FN y(second
d)
5070 DRAW FN p1(second,second.hand)
,FN p2(second,second.hand),whi
te
5080 MID$(clock$,7,2)=FN makes$(seco
nd)
5090 LOCATE 34,13
5100 PRINT clock$
5110 IF second=reset THEN flag=set
5120 WHILE flag=set:REM (* Incremen
t minute *)
5130   ORIGIN FN x(minute),FN y(min
ute)
5140   DRAW FN p1(minute,minute.han
d),FN p2(minute,minute.hand),b
lack
5150   minute=(minute+1) MOD sixty
5160   ORIGIN FN x(minute),FN y(min
ute)
5170   DRAW FN p1(minute,minute.han
d),FN p2(minute,minute.hand),w
hite
5180   MID$(clock$,4,2)=FN makes$(mi
nute)
5190   LOCATE 34,13
5200   PRINT clock$
5210   IF minute MOD 12>zero THEN f
lag=reset
5220   WHILE flag=set:REM (* Increm
ent tock.6 degrees [ 1/5 hour
] *)
5230     ORIGIN FN x(tock),FN y(toc
k)
5240     DRAW FN p1(tock,hour.hand)
,FN p2(tock,hour.hand),black
5250     tock=(tock+1) MOD sixty
5260     ORIGIN FN x(tock),FN y(toc
k)
5270     DRAW FN p1(tock,hour.hand)
,FN p2(tock,hour.hand),white
5280     flag=reset
5290   WEND
5300   IF minute=reset THEN flag=se
t

```



```

5310 WHILE flag=set:REM
    ($ Increment hour a
    nd set GONG $)
5320 hour=(hour+1) MOD twelve
5330 MIDS(clocks,1,2)=FN make1(
    hour+1)
5340 LOCATE 34,13
5350 PRINT clocks
5360 IF gong.on=set THEN gong=
    cur+1
5370 IF hour<>11 THEN flag=rese
    t
5380 WHILE flag=set:REM
    ($ Set AM/PM $)
5390 am.pm=(am.pm+1) MOD 2
5400 MIDS(clocks,10,2)=am.pm$
    (am.pm)
5410 LOCATE 34,13
5420 PRINT clocks
5430 IF am.pm=reset THEN flag
    =reset
5440 WHILE flag=set:REM
    ($ Dawn
    of a new day $)
5450 day=(day+1) MOD (PM do
    ya.in.month(month+1,year))
5460 MIDS(dates,1,2)=FN mak
    es(day+1)
5470 LOCATE 35,11
5480 PRINT dates
5490 LOCATE 27,1
5500 PRINT "
    "
5510 LOCATE 27,1
5520 PRINT FN dates(year+19
    00,month+1,day+1,ds,ms)
5530 IF day<>0 THEN flag=
    reset
5540 WHILE flag=set:REM
    ($ Dawn of
    a new Month $)
5550 month=(month+1) MOD
    12
5560 MIDS(dates,4,2)=FN
    makes(month+1)
5570 LOCATE 35,11
5580 PRINT dates
5590 LOCATE 27,1
5600 PRINT "
    "
5610 LOCATE 27,1
5620 PRINT FN dates(year+
    1900,month,day,ds,ms)
5630 IF month<>0 THEN fla
    g=reset
5640 WHILE flag=set:REM
    ($ Dawn of Ne
    w Year's Day $)
5650 year=(year+1) MOD
    100
5660 MIDS(dates,7,2)=FN
    makes(year)
5670 LOCATE 35,11
5680 PRINT dates
5690 LOCATE 27,1
5700 PRINT "
    "
5710 LOCATE 27,1
5720 PRINT FN dates(yes
    r+1900,month+1,day+1,ds,ms)
5730 LOCATE 1,25
5740 PRINT "
    Happy New Year --
    Everyone !!
    "
5750 flag=reset
5760 VEND
5770 VEND
5780 VEND
5790 VEND
5800 VEND
5810 VEND
5820 IF second=locks3 THEN flag=set
5830 WHILE flag=set:REM ($ Redraw h

```



User Group Contact List

Please note that the following names are listed as contact points for new user groups and should NOT be viewed as a problem solving service.
See other list for established groups.

NSW

Chris Craven	Canowindra	(063)	44	1150
Bruce Jones	Coffs Harbour	(066)	52	8334
Trevor Farrell	Coolah/Mudgee area	(063)	77	1374
T.J. Webb	Glossodia	(045)	76	5291
David Higgins	Inverell	(067)	22	1867
John Patterson	Lismore	(066)	21	3345
Paul Wilson	Moruya	(044)	74	3160
Frank Humphreys	Mummulgum	(066)	64	7290
Martin Clift	Narrabri	(067)	92	3077
Bob Hall	Newcastle	(049)	52	6915
R. Vijayenthiran	Newtown	(02)	519	4106
Reuben Carlsen	North Sydney	(02)	937	2505
Stephen Gribben	Singleton	(065)	72	2732
Ken Needs	St. Ives	(02)	449	5416
Chas Fletcher	Toongabbie	(02)	631	5037
Nick Bruin Shr.	Tweed Valley	(066)	79	3280
Jim Owen	Urunga	(066)	55	6190
John Harwood	Windale	(049)	48	5337

Vic

David Carbone	Burwood	(03)	29	4135
Rod Anderson	Camperdown	(055)	93	2262
Paul Walker	Heathmont	(03)	729	8657
Terry Dovey	Horsham	(053)	82	3353
Andrew Portbury	Leongatha	(056)	62	3694
Ron Butterfield	Leopold	(052)	50	2251
Sue Kelly	Manangatang	(050)	35	1402
Keith McFadden	Numurkah	(058)	62	2069
Mrs. G. Chapman	South Clayton	(03)	551	4897
Lindsay Parker	Wandin North	(059)	64	4837

QLD

Steven Doyle	Caloundra	(071)	91	3147
Mick O'Regan	Gladstone	(079)	79	2548
Kylie Telford	Goondiwindi	Calingunee246		

D.F. Read	Ingham	(077)	77	8576
Tim Takken	Ipswich	(07)	202	4039
Michael Toussaint	Loganlea	(07)	200	5414
Alan Laird	Maryborough	(071)	22	1982
R.C. Watterton	Toowoomba	(076)	35	4305

SA

Lindsay Allen	Murray Bridge	(085)	32	2340
---------------	---------------	-------	----	------

WA

Dave Andersen	6 Klitchener Rd			
	Merredin, 6415			
Graeme Worth	Scarborough	(09)	341	5211
P.M. Nuyens	Waroona	(095)	33	1179

TAS

Andrew Banfield	Launceston	(003)	44	3181
Conal McClure	Scottsdale	(003)	52	2514

NT

G.P. Heron	Tiwi	(089)	27	8814
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News from around the States

Lack of space last month prohibited inclusion of correspondence received from a number of groups around Australia. This month the situation is redressed although a little belatedly.

AMSWEST - the user group north of the river in Perth - was invited to man a stall at the recent Electronics Exhibition (August to be exact).

They assisted AWA in running a competition to win an Amstrad, and took the opportunity to sell copies of their locally produced newsletter and distribute leaflets advertising The Amstrad User (*Thanks - Ed*)

The show itself was attended by over 85000 visitors, an increase of 20% on the previous year. Mrs. Thelma Ardron (Secretary of Amswest) reports that there was a bank of ten Amstrads available for visitors to try the many pieces of software on show, with a further three 464's to one side demonstrating printers and a modem.

"As you can imagine, we were very busy talking to people... but we had to do more talking at the next meeting night to deal with all the new enquiries".

Obviously there is a lot to be said to linking up with AWA or dealers at shows or exhibitions in terms of spreading the news about Amstrad User Groups.

Chris Sowden, President of Amstrad Computer Club Inc. in Adelaide, reports that the membership continues to grow and now exceeds 70 with some as far away as 500 kms.

The club has moved and now meets at the Unley High school. This makes it a little more central to the city and, as a point for other groups, they obtained these premises by offering free membership to the School's students.

In addition to normal activities, the club runs a successful BASIC programming course for beginners, hardware and software reviews and a tape to disc conversion service. Future activities may include a basic electronics course, a machine code programming course and information transfer by phone and radio.

The club is incorporated and runs under a professionally prepared legal constitution, copies of which are available to other groups at a nominal charge.

JUNIOR JOTTERS

A Column for Young
Amstrad Users

LETTERS

I am a Junior Jotter and I have a fairly short Lotto program, not just for JJ's but for adults too.

I am 12 years old and I am the eldest of 5 children. We all enjoy playing games on the Amstrad, and the ones we enjoy most are Moon Buggy, Defender and Harrier attack. I also like playing a spelling program because I am not a very good speller.

I write a lot of programs and at the moment I am writing a Haunted House program. What you do is go through a four storey house and pick up gold coins, fall through a trap door and a lot more.

Michael Spozetto, Medina, WA

When you have finished your Haunted House program, spirit me a copy and, if it is good enough, we may be able to publish it.

```

1      CLS
10     LOCATE 1,8:PRINT"What is your name?"
20     INPUT N$:CLS
30     LOCATE 1,6:PRINT"Well ";N$;" You and I"
40     LOCATE 1,10:PRINT"are about to get lucky."
50     FOR T=1 TO 2500: NEXT
60     CLS
70     A=INT(RND*45)
80     B=INT(RND*45)
90     IF A=B THEN 80
100    C=INT(RND*45)
110    IF C=A OR C=B THEN 100
120    D=INT(RND*45)
130    IF D=A OR D=B OR D=C THEN 120
140    E=INT(RND*45)
150    IF E=A OR E=B OR E=C OR E=D THEN 140
160    F=INT(RND*45)
170    IF F=A OR F=B OR F=C OR F=D OR F=E
      THEN 160
180    LOCATE 1,5:PRINT"Well ";N$;"Here are "
190    LOCATE 4,8:PRINT"your Lotto Numbers"
200    LOCATE 1,10:PRINT A; B; C; D; E; F
210    LOCATE 1,14:PRINT"Feeling lucky ";N$
220    LOCATE 1,14:PRINT"How about some more
      numbers?"
230    LOCATE 1,18:PRINT"Y/N"
240    INPUT A$
```

```

250    IF A$="Y" OR A$="y" THEN 60 ELSE 260
260    CLS:LOCATE 1,6:PRINT"Bye ";N$;" Good!"
270    LOCATE 1,20:PRINT"Don't forget my share"
      END
```

In issue No. 8, September of The Amstrad User, there was an article in the Junior Jotters section concerning Passwords for programs by R. Herbert of Warrambool, Victoria. The program is very useful but had to overcome a problem of the program being erased if the wrong password was entered.

My version is much shorter and easier.

```

10     CLS
20     INPUT "ENTER PASSWORD":P$
30     IF P$="Your own password" THEN GOTO 40
      ELSE END
40     The start of your program
```

As you can see, the good thing about this small program is that it will not be erased when the incorrect password has been entered. I place it at the beginning of my programs (mainly games) to stop my family and friends playing the game. I use my Amstrad very much and do everything on it. So soon as I get home from school, I quickly do my homework so I can use my magnificent Amstrad.

I am also another who would like to see a section of the magazine attributed to the achievements of people at the games on the Amstrad.

I am a complete Amstrad Addict, your publication is a great help with my understanding of the uses of my Amstrad.

David Fennessy, Modbury North,

Unless you have already noticed, the first of our Amstrad Achievers to respond appear in the 'Hall of Fame' on another page in this month's magazine.

PERCENTAGES

Last month Brendan Piner gave us his version of a program to draw a Histogram. This month we include his program which calculates and displays a percentage from a fraction that you have entered then draws a pie chart showing the percentage.

```

10     REM *****
      *****
20     REM ** Percentages ** By ** Br
      endan Piner **
30     REM ***** Amstrad CPC464 ***
      * (1985) *****
40     REM *****
50     MODE 1:BORDER 0:INK 0,0:PAPER
```



```

0:INK 1,24:INK 2,0:INK 3,0:CLS
60 PEN 3:LOCATE 1,25:PRINT" Perce
ntages";
70 FOR x%=0 TO 312
80 FOR y%=0 TO 16 STEP 2
90 IF TEST(x%,y%) THEN PLOT 11+x%
*3,348+y%*3,3:PLOT 11+x%*3,350
+y%*3,1:PLOT 11+x%*3,352+y%*3,
1:PLOT 11+x%*3,354+y%*3,1
100 NEXT: NEXT
110 LOCATE 1,25:PRINT"Amstrad CPC
464 ";
120 LOCATE 17,6:PEN 1:PRINT" For t
he"
130 FOR x%=0 TO 304
140 FOR y%=0 TO 16 STEP 2
150 IF TEST(x%,y%) THEN PLOT 205+x
%,242+y%*2,2:PLOT 205+x%,244+y
%*2,2:PLOT 205+x%,246+y%*2,1
160 NEXT: NEXT
170 a=0:PEN 3
180 LOCATE 1,25:PRINT" Written By
":PEN 2
190 FOR x%=0 TO 220 STEP 2
200 FOR y%=0 TO 16 STEP 2
210 a=a+2
220 IF TEST(x%,y%) THEN PLOT (x%+a
)+105,172+y%*2,3:PLOT (x%+a)+1
05,174+y%*2,3
230 NEXT:a=a-16:NEXT
240 LOCATE 1,25:PEN 3:PRINT " Bren
dan Piner":PEN 3
250 FOR x%=0 TO 312
260 FOR y%=0 TO 16 STEP 2
270 IF TEST (x%,y%) THEN PLOT x%*2
.5+15,52+y%*3,3:PLOT x%*2.5+15
.54+y%*3,3:PLOT x%*2.5+15.56+y
%*3,3:PLOT x%*2.5+15.58+y%*3,1
280 NEXT:NEXT
290 LOCATE 1,25:PRINT SPC(30)
300 INK 3,5:PEN 1:INK 2,6:LOCATE 8
,24:PRINT "Press <SPACE> to co
ntinue"
310 js=INKEY$:IF (js<>" ") THEN 31
0
320 SOUND 1,500,20,7:GOTO 670
330 REM ** main part of program **
340 MODE 0:BORDER 0:INK 0,0:PAPER
0:CLS:INK 1,22:INK 2,15:INK 3,
14:PEN 1:PRINT "Percentages"
350 INK 11,12:PEN 11:PRINT:PRINT"G
ive Fraction "
360 PEN 2:PRINT:PRINT:INPUT "Nomin
ator";n
370 SOUND 1,500,20,7:PEN 3:PRINT:I
NPUT "Denominator";d
380 SOUND 1,500,20,7:INK 6,6:PEN 6
:PRINT:PRINT "That's";INT(n/d*
100);"%
390 FOR t=1 TO 5000:NEXT
400 MODE 0:INK 15,19:PEN 15:PRINT"
Pie Chart"
410 PRINT:INK 1,15:PEN 1:PRINT"
"
420 FOR a=1 TO 360
430 DEG
440 INK 2,5:PLOT 400,150,2
450 PLOT 400+144*COS(a),150+147*SI
N(a)
460 NEXT
470 FOR a=1 TO 360
480 DEG
490 INK 12,6:PLOT 400,150,12
500 DRAW 400+144*COS(a),150+144*SI
N(a)
510 NEXT
520 f=INT(n/d*100)
530 d=INT(f/100*360)
540 LOCATE 2,12:PEN 4:PRINT f;"%"
550 FOR a=1 TO d
560 DEG
570 INK 9,9:PLOT 400,150,9
580 DRAW 400+144*COS(a),150+144*SI
N(a)
590 NEXT
600 INK 8,21:PEN 8:LOCATE 2,21:PRI
NT"Press"
610 PRINT:INPUT"(ENTER)",h
620 SOUND 1,500,20,7:CLS:MODE 1:IN
K 1,26:PEN 1
630 PRINT "Would you like the comp
uter to work out another perce
ntage.<y or n>"
640 ks=UPPER$(INKEY$)
650 IF ks=" " OR (ks<>"Y" AND ks<>"
N") THEN 640
660 IF ks="Y" THEN GOTO 340 ELSE P
RINT:PRINT:PRINT"Bye bye !":E
ND
670 MODE 1:INK 0,0:PAPER 0:BORDER
12:INK 1,26:INK 2,23,17:INK 3,
6:PEN 2:LOCATE 14,1:PRINT "Per
centages"
680 PRINT:PRINT
690 PEN 3:PRINT:PRINT" By Br
endan Piner (1985)"
700 PRINT:PRINT
710 PEN 1:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT"Perce
ntages is a program which works
out a percentage from a fract
ion. It asks for a fraction.Y
ou enter the fraction by typ
ing the nominator, then press
'ENTER'. Then you enter th
e denominator Then press 'ENT
ER' again."

```


The Learning Centre

An Introduction to Music - Part Two

from Peter Campbell

Last month I gave a little of the background to electronic sound. Now let's tackle the problem of deciphering musical notation.

Staves

The sight of musical notation can be rather daunting for those unfamiliar with it. Don't let this put you off. It's not so hard as it might seem. There are parallels to ordinary writing which can help us to decipher it.

Just as handwriting is often written on ruled paper, music is written on sets of five lines. Often these staves, as they are called, are grouped in pairs. If you are totally unfamiliar with the notation, let your computer show you what staves look like. RUN last month's listing. (While I think of it - don't discard any of the listings as we shall be reusing much of each listing in a later program.)

The range of the staff is shown by adding a sign at the beginning. There are two which are commonly used. To denote the higher pitch, a treble clef like that on screen is used. This is placed on the top staff. To denote the lower pitch, a bass clef is used.

There is, however, another way in which musicians extend the range of notes which can be shown on a staff. These are ledger lines, indicating the position of notes which lie above or below the staff. These can be seen in Figure 3.



Notes

Returning to our handwriting analogy, let us now look at how notes are written. Just as differently shaped letters convey different meanings, differently shaped notes convey different durations. The pitch of the note is shown by placing it higher, or lower, on its staff. The notes are named with the letters A to G, which are then repeated, as shown in Figure 3.

If you look at a piano or organ keyboard, or merge the lines in Listing 2 to the earlier program, you will see that there are both white and black notes. What I have told you about the writing of notes applies only to the white ones. The black ones, you will notice, are 'squeezed' in between the white and the notation follows the same pattern. If the composer wishes to describe the 'black note' to the right of, say, D, a sign (#) is added to the staff. If every time the note D is encountered, it is to be played as D#, then the sign is placed at the beginning of the staff. However, if it is to be just that particular note that is effected, then the sign will appear just to the left of the note.

Similarly, the 'black note' to the left can be denoted by 'b', called a 'flat'. Sharps and flats can be cancelled by another sign, 'n', called a 'natural'.

Figure 4 shows the different value notes commonly used. A whole note is called a 'semibreve'. The 'breve' from which the term derives is now rarely used. If we add a vertical tail, the value is halved and the note is called a 'minim'. Shading in the note converts it to a 'crotchet' and again the duration is halved. Adding a tail to the tail converts a crotchet into a 'quaver'. More tails are added to give 'semiquaver' and 'demisemiquaver'. Guess how many tails it has! If a note has a dot after it, its duration is increased by half. The commonly used notes are also shown on screen when you RUN listing 1, or the combined listing.

Stop and Have a Rest!

When a composer requires the player to pause, he uses a sign called a 'rest'. Rests are given the same name as a note of the same duration. Figure 5 shows the signs used. If a rest is of very long duration, the composer places a number above it and the period is that rest multiplied by the number.

Tones, Semitones and Scales

There are twelve semitones in an octave, or scale. Looking


```

1430 FOR i=8 TO 632 STEP 48
1440 MOVE 1,40: DRAW i,173,0:PLOT 6
      41,401,0: MOVE p*48-72,64: TAG
1450 PRINT MID$(b$,p+1,1);: TAGOFF;
      p=p+1
1460 NEXT
1470 MOVE 630,20: DRAW 630,204: ORIG
      IN 0,0,14,22,98,174: CLG 0
1480 FOR i=0 TO 11
1490 IF i=1 OR i=4 OR i=8 OR i=11
      THEN 1510
1500 GOSUB 1560
1510 NEXT
1520 ORIGIN 0,0,616,624,98,174: CLG
      0: RETURN
1530 ,
1540 REM *** Black Keys ***
1550 ,
1560 ORIGIN 0,0,1*48+40,1*48+70,98
      ,174: CLG 0: PLOT 641,401,1: TAG
1570 MOVE 1*48+42,158: PRINT MID$(c
      $,i+1,1);: MOVER -1,0: PRINT CH
      R$(254);
1580 MOVE 1*48+42,130: PRINT MID$(d
      $,i+1,1);: MOVER -1,0: PRINT CH
      R$(255);: TAGOFF
1590 RETURN
2320 ,
2330 REM *** Keyboard Layout ***
2340 ,
2350 WINDOW 1,40,1,13: PEN 0: PAPER
      2: CLS: LOCATE 12,3: PRINT "KEYBO
      ARD LAYOUT"
2360 LOCATE 2,6: PRINT "The keyboard
      has white and black keys,"
2370 LOCATE 2,7: PRINT "adjacent ke
      ys being separated by a"
2380 LOCATE 2,8: PRINT "semitone.
      Notice that the black keys"
2390 LOCATE 2,9: PRINT "have two n
      ames. They are either the"
2400 LOCATE 2,10: PRINT "sharp (";CH
      R$(254);") to the right of a
      white note"
2410 LOCATE 2,11: PRINT "or the flat
      (";CHR$(255);") to the left
      and derive"
2420 LOCATE 2,12: PRINT "their names
      from that white note."
2430 t=TIME: WHILE TIME<t+4000: WEND
2440 RETURN
2450 ,

```

Competition Results - Final Lis

Well, we made it in the end, but not without a few problems.

As mentioned last month, we had a number of obstacles put in our way to determine the winners of the four classes.

Now that the dust has settled, here are some observations about the entries.

1. In most cases, originality was sadly lacking.
2. A number of novice programmers entered the Competition and their efforts are to be applauded.
3. Many entries were downright user unfriendly and lost many points.
4. Program documentation was average.
5. Not all the programs had been fully tested before submitting.
6. In a number of cases much thought and work appeared to have gone into screen design.

With those major observations stated, we are pleased to announce the final result of the first Amstrad User Competition.

CLASS 1 - Best overall program

Name: J.F. Driver, Aspley, Qld
Entry: SALACC (Sales Accounting Package)
Wins: An AWA Video Recorder

CLASS 2 - Best Amusement/Adventure

Name: Geoff Camp, Burra, South Australia
Entry: Girder Guider
Wins: A DDI-1 Disc Drive

CLASS 3 - Best Educational Software

Name: Mark Snoxell, Upper Ferntree Gully, Vic
Entry: Science Tutor
Wins: A DDI-1 Disc Drive

CLASS 4 - Best Business Software

Name: Bernard Chapman, Valley Hls., NSW
Entry: Plotting
Wins: A DDI-1 Disc Drive

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE WINNERS
AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO
THE LOSERS**

THE TRIALS OF TONY BLAKEMORE

A column for the absolute beginner

to finalise the graphic part of our series we will this month look at producing multi coloured characters and larger characters. To enable construction of multi coloured

characters we will step into an area seldom explained.

control characters, the series of CHR\$ commands between 2, were always a mystery to me and it was many months before I got my Amstrad before I could fully understand them. Beyond the scope of this series of articles to go into a very detailed explanation, perhaps at a later date. Suffice it that to produce any combination of colours or characters have to use control characters. The main ones that interest us at this stage are:-

CURSOR MOVEMENT - Four CHR\$ commands move the cursor one place at a time.

CHR\$(8) Moves the cursor back one character.

CHR\$(9) Moves the cursor forwards one character.

CHR\$(10) Moves the cursor down one line.

CHR\$(11) Moves the cursor up one line.

using any combination of the above we can create any sort of string. Vertical, horizontal and diagonal. In fact any we like.

SET PEN INK - CHR\$(15) + CHR\$(n) where n is the number of pens available in a particular mode. Look at the 9, 2 of the 464 manual and you will find a list of commands. To set the pen use, the alphabetical equivalent of a numeral. i.e. for pen 1 which in mode 1 will produce a line, the command is CHR\$(15)+CHR\$(a), where a=1, 2, 3, etc.

SET TRANSPARENT MODE - To enable us to print one character on top of the other we need to make the character grid not containing any pixels transparent. We also need to switch it off when we have finished transposing the character. The command for transparent mode is CHR\$(22)+CHR\$(1). To switch off, the command is CHR\$(22)+CHR\$(0).

PRINT USING "&" - This is not a control character but is important to enable us to print a string combination at the right of the screen without being forced down onto the next line.

using a combination of the above we can create a string character independent of normal basic commands. Using the beetle program from last month, we will now alter a few lines to produce a multi coloured character. Load the program and alter the following lines:

80 SYMBOL 201,0,24,126,255,255,126,24,0

81 SYMBOL 202,195,66,0,0,0,66,195
83 SYMBOL 203,0,24,126,251,251,126,24,0
84 SYMBOL 204,102,66,0,4,4,0,66,102

The legs are now separate from the body and we will combine them all in a large string and change their colour.

85 b=1

86 b\$(1)=CHR\$(15)+CHR\$(1)+CHR\$(201)+CHR\$(8)+CHR\$(22)+CHR\$(1)+CHR\$(15)+CHR\$(3)+CHR\$(202)+CHR\$(22)+CHR\$(0)

87 b\$(2)=CHR\$(15)+CHR\$(1)+CHR\$(203)+CHR\$(8)+CHR\$(22)+CHR\$(1)+CHR\$(15)+CHR\$(3)+CHR\$(204)+CHR\$(22)+CHR\$(0)

340 PRINT USING "&,";" b\$(b);

390 IF b=1 THEN b=2 :GOTO 410

Now save the new program as "colrbtle". The combination of the four characters in the two strings gives the beetle (FROG!!) coloured legs and flashing eyes.

To illustrate a combination of characters in a string and not overlaid we will use the series from CHR\$(212) to CHR\$(215). By joining the four triangles we will produce a diamond shape. Using a random number for the pen selection we will then print a screen full of coloured diamonds.

10 DEFINT A-Z:CLS

20 a\$=CHR\$(214)+CHR\$(215)+CHR\$(8)+CHR\$(8)+CHR\$(10)+CHR\$(213)+CHR\$(212)

30 FOR B=2 TO 24 STEP 2

40 FOR A=2 TO 38 STEP 2:PEN INT(RND*3)+1:

LOCATE A,B:PRINT USING "&";a\$:NEXT:NEXT

50 CALL &BB18:GOTO 10

Line 10 defines the variables as intergers and makes the loops run faster.

Line 20 combines CHR\$(214) with CHR\$(215) to produce the top of the diamond. CHR\$(8) moves the cursor back one character. CHR\$(10) moves the cursor down a line and adds CHR\$(213)+CHR\$(214) to the bottom of the other characters and forms the bottom of the diamond.

Line 30 Sets a loop to move the cursor down two lines.

Line 40 Sets a loop to move the cursor over two spaces at a time. The pen colour is randomly set to 1,2 or 3. The print command then prints a screen full of diamonds.

Line 50 is a machine code call to wait for any key to be pressed.

By experimenting with combinations of the above many unusual effects can be produced.

Next month Tony Blakemore Goes Somewhere Else and we will start the first part of a more serious look at Basic programming. A mailing list will be the subject and over a period we will look at designing and setting up a data base. Each month a separate module will be designed and tested. The modules will then be combined to form a complete program called AMSFILE.

Review of the GP-700

by Simon Anthony

THE GP-700A is one of a number of dot matrix printers in the GP series from Seikosha. It features a four colour printing head using a special cassette ribbon to give "clear beautiful printing of characters and 8-bit graphic data in up to 7 colours" - a claim which I wanted to put to the test. But you can't test anything without setting it up so let me give you my first impressions from taking it out of the box.

The machine weighs about 6 kgs and measures 113mm (high) by 450mm (wide) by 320mm (deep) without the paper separator in position. There are four operation switches and three indicators on a panel on the right side of the upper case. Line feed and Form feed are self explanatory and only operate when the printer is in STOP mode. The STOP switch is essentially a pause button. The fourth switch is COPY which when pressed activates a screen copy to the printer. But before you all rush out to get the answer to your screen dump problems, the copy switch won't work without a screen copy interface board - an optional extra to the GP-700A.

I don't know whether I am naturally ham-fisted or just lack co-ordination in my fingers when it comes to loading paper in a printer, but the GP-700A didn't help my problem. Unlike the SP-1000 printer that I reviewed a month or so ago, the GP-700A does not appear to allow free movement of the paper to line-up the spocket holes with the paper-feed pins. Even if the paper is accurately fed from the rear, there is no guarantee of alignment to both the pins. However, after a little fiddling I managed to load the paper successfully. Whilst on the subject of

paper loading, I tried to load a single sheet just to see how near to the top I could print, and discovered that the 'Paper Empty' switch was located about 7cms away from the left ground plate and naturally enough the paper should cover this switch.

The next step was to load the ink ribbon cassette, which was simply achieved by moving the printhead away from the platen and clicking the cassette into place. The cassette itself has an inked ribbon in four coloured strips - black, magenta, cyan and yellow. There is a useful facility in that if a particular colour is not going to be used, the transfer of ink from that ink to the ribbon can be turned off. This avoids a build-up of of unused ink which could eventually streak on the paper. Individual inkers can be replaced.

The first test was a simple program listing in Black. Printing was left to write only (uni-directional) at about 50 characters per second. The result was a reasonably clear listing - there are no letter-quality facilities with this printer - but you have to accept that it is a high-quality graphics printer and not really built to churn out long listings. With the printer cover closed, the noise level was quite low. There were no problems with extra line-feeds which sometimes occur with new printers. The GP-700A has the relevant DIP switch (No.3) in the off position when shipped. In fact all the switches were off when I examined them.

The DIP switches are located on the PCB in the lower case of the unit and are accessed by removing six screws holding the upper and lower cases together. This is not what you could call convenient but it is unlikely that

you would want to change them unless you need to select different languages. The printer is already set for USA, with a choice of UK, GERMAN and SWEDISH characters.

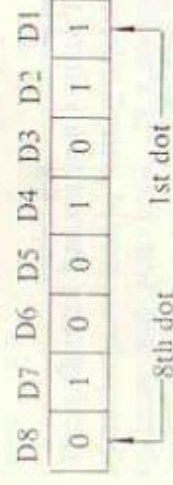
Function codes provide the following:
Double width printing
Buffer clear
Setting linefeed spacing
Specifying the print position
Setting the page length
Setting the character spacing
Repeated printing of character data
Graphics data input
Colour mode specification

The last two functions are of particular interest. Graphics data input is established with ESC K n2 n1 n0 GD1 GD2 to GDn. ESC K specifies the input of graphics data in the form of 8-dot vertical columns, n2, n1 and n0 are the ASCII codes for a decimal number representing the number of vertical columns that are to be input. Then follows exactly the same number of bytes of graphics data (GD) as was specified by n2, n1 and n0. The correspondence between graphics data and the dots printed is that the uppermost dot, dot1, is represented by the lowermost bit, D1, and the lowermost dot, dot8, is represented by the uppermost bit, D8.

For example:

1	●.....	1st dot
2	●.....	
4	○.....	
8	●.....	
16	○.....	
32	○.....	
64	●.....	
128	○.....	8th dot

Translating the above dot pattern into a byte of data gives the following:



So the graphics data for the above example is (4B)H=75

Colour mode specification is a little complex in view of the number of alternatives available, especially when you get down to specifying a colour for a particular dot, so I won't bore you with all the details. In simple terms, when the printer is first turned on, the selected colour is black. To change this the DC4 n function is input, where n is a hexadecimal number between 0 and 6 representing the seven possible colours.

For example, to print AB in red and CD in purple, the code would be DC4 (02)H A B DC4 (03)H C D LF.

All the colours are clear and quite easy to read with the exception of the yellow (I guess it would be clearer on black paper!), and may be used in any order. To specify a colour for each dot, a raster scan method (like the RGB method) is used, except that the colour code is a correspondence to each of the four nammers (and the colours they produce) that comprise the printhead.

It is worth noting here that the printer is designed so that lighter colours are printed first in a single pass. The order of colours on the ribbon also runs from light to dark i.e. yellow, magenta, cyan and black. So I found that printing lighter colours on top of darker ones tended to stain the lighter coloured part of the ribbon with the darker colour. This eventually led to the lighter colour becoming 'dirty'. However, it can be 'cleaned' by merely printing in the correct sequence for a while. If I had read the manual properly in the first place, I would not have made the mistake.

Talking about the manual, it is well presented, although I would like to have seen more examples, and I sometimes found snippets of information which would have been better placed

elsewhere.

So there it is - my first attempt at using a colour graphics printer. Unfortunately I didn't have the screen copy board to really put it through its paces with one of my multi-coloured screen creations, but the areas that I did try left me with the feeling of owning a colour television while all around still had a black and white set.

Soft Top

The Top 25 Software Titles Marketed by AWA

Title	This month	Last month	Soft Number
Flight Simulator	1	1	168
Advanced Amsword	2	11	164
Word Hang	3	3	101
Harrier Attack	4	2	112
Easi-Amsword	5	13	154
The Hobbit	6	15	018
Easi-Amscalc	7	NEW	153
Codename Mat	8	8	129
Pitmans Typing Tutor	9	9	924
Amsword (Advanced)	10	4	1164
Amsgolf	11	12	185
Hunter Killer	12	NEW	135
House of Usher	13	NEW	021
Secret of Bastow Manor	14	NEW	010
Exploding Fist	15	NEW	026
Sir Lancelot	16	NEW	023
Manic Miner	17	NEW	173
Concise Firmware Gd.	18	25	158
Centre Court	19	19	921
Grand Prix Rally 2	20	NEW	06012
Fantastic Voyage	21	NEW	984
The Scout Steps Out	22	NEW	988
Dragons	23	NEW	977
Guide to Basic Part 1	24	17	111
Classic Racing	25	NEW	928

London Amstrad User Show

A report from Andre Urankar

The old phrase about "being in the right place, at the right time" was in effect during my recent European business trip. Co-incidental with this trip was an "Amstrad User Show" to be held in London on the 5th and 6th October. As a dedicated user, I made it my business to attend and find out the latest in hardware and software.

The location of the show was first advertised as being at the Novotel Exhibition Centre. A later bulletin in another magazine advised of a change of venue; this time to the Tech West Centre. On arrival at the Tech West Centre, I was greeted by a sign advising that the location was changed back to the Novotel Exhibition Centre. Not a good start!! Taxies are not cheap and the T.W.C. is in an "out of the way" area not frequented by taxies. (Apparently the original organizers of the show pulled out, and it was later taken over by another group; thus the location confusion).

I eventually arrived at the show, to discover a queue of about 200 metres long and steadily lengthening. Due to the orderliness of the British queue-ee, a quick calculation suggested that at least 1000 people were still waiting to enter. Fortunately I was able to "acquire" a trade pass, and thus go straight in. First impression: WOW!!

The area was packed with rubber-neckers, standing 4-5 deep at just about every display. I had the discouraging feeling that I would not get the opportunity to talk to the various exhibitors to any great depth. How wrong! At each of the stands that I stopped, they were only too willing to go into detail about their product.

Most of the larger software houses

were there, displaying their current games (and making a fortune selling past games at special reduced "show" prices). The newer games stretch the Amstrad to greater limits, and produce graphics and sound that they (the software houses) describe with adjectives such as superb, brilliant, exciting, etc. Seriously though, they were of a high standard. Games in general followed the tried and tested paths of adventures, strategies, ladders and ramps, and shoot-em-ups formats. Very little in the way of anything new.

Ultimate have set a graphics standard in games such as Knightlore and Alien-8, and it was encouraging to see other software houses bringing up the level of their graphics to this standard. I was very impressed by "Highway Encounter" from Vortex and "The Covenant" from PSS. These should make the top 10 very quickly and should be added to your "must get" list.

Hardware enhancements for the Amstrad were also well represented. From RAM expansions for the 464 (up to a massive 256k) through modems, RS232 interfaces, light pens, printers, 5.25" disc drives, sideways ROMs, and even a "mouse".

Modems are still a very tricky subject. Some exhibitors were offering simply the modem, while others the necessary interfaces and software. Care was needed to establish what really was being offered.

"Let there be light (pens)"; and so it came to pass. From a very simple-to-use offering from Datapen Technology, through the dk'tronics pen, up to what in my opinion was the best; the fibre-optic pen from Dart Electronics. This particular pen, whilst

not the most easiest to use since required keyboard interaction nonetheless provided the most impressive capability; fast "clean" routine, clear pull-down menu, but even more impressive was its pixel accuracy and the ability to follow freehand drawings and writing at normal handwriting speed. All of this in modes 0, 1 and 2.

For the more serious user, "toolkit" packages were being demonstrated both tape and sideways ROM version. The range of ROMs appears at last to be increasing, and other functions (apart from assemblers and disassemblers) are now also available as ROMs.

In a lonely corner was the solitary PCW8256 of the show. It is sad to note that this big brother to Ami was being ignored by the masses. Equally lacking user interest were the few commercial exhibitors; offering their business packages.

All in all this was a bright, informative show, aimed at the Amstrad user, and more specifically at the games player. I came away with the confirmation that the Amstrad is being more and more exploited to its amazing capacity. Long live Ami!!



BOOK REVIEW

by Shane Kelly

Peter Gerrard has made his mark in microcomputer land by writing articles, features and this book, "Exploring adventures on the Amstrad CPC464". I say 'this book' (singular) because though Mr. Gerrard has many titles to his credit, they are all the same book - every time a new computer comes out that becomes popular Mr. Gerrard's word processor springs into life and obably replaces references to other computers with the currently "in vogue" computer.

This is not to say that the book has no value - it does as a guide to adventure playing and also a potted story of the evolution - but it generally means that the computer in the title is superficially served at best. alas, this is the case with this carnation of 'Exploring Adventures on the Amstrad'.

The book aims to teach adventure writing by presenting a number of fully written adventure listings, one of which

FOR THE LOVE OF ARNOLD

A soliloquy from Don Leith

I'm thinking of him ever
As I perform my daily grind
From clocking on to clocking off
He's forever on my mind.

I race on home to him
Dodging traffic in my stride
I fumble for the house key
And kick the dog aside.

Standing by the door
My wife gets just a peck
I have no time for romance
Or arms around the neck.

A door flung hastily open
My wife's prepared the way
The glowing screen does greet me
As Arnold's sign-on says G'day.

is dissected in great detail. This particular adventure is presented piecemeal as a series of listings that are followed by explanations. These explanations can be quite terse at times but usually manage to convey the 'meat' of the routine. The code is restricted to a subset of Locomotive Basic using mainly PRINT, GOSUB, GOTO and the occasional colour change with a pen command. What happened to all of our beloved screen formatting commands such as WINDOW#X, LOCATE#X, PRINT#X etc? Why, if the book is for the Amstrad, is there no concession to real time game playing so easily implemented with every and after? Why is there no use of the Amstrad's sound capabilities?

Enough griping. There is a positive side to this book. Unfortunately it is contained (in my opinion) in the first few chapters of the book which give the reader an abbreviated history of the development of adventure games from Crowther and Woods Colossal Caves (the classic adventure) to The Hobbit, a successful graphic real-time adventure from Melbourne House. Then follows a

chapter on how to solve adventures using examples from the Colossal Caves adventure and others.

Next follows a chapter on basic commands used in the writing of adventure games and then a chapter on writing your own adventures. We then get into the listings mentioned above. And that ends the positive side of the book.

I am ambivalent about books that are one of a series. They generally do not use all the features of the microcomputer for which they are titled and as such are not as applicable as they could be. But on the other hand, as in this example, they may contain a gem or two that would make the book worthwhile to someone who has a deep interest in the subject matter.

Summing up, I can say that this book will probably not teach you to write best selling adventures, but it may provide some insight into the workings of these intriguing and often overlooked games. Buy it if you have a deep interest in adventure-writing for fun(?) and if you have spare cash, otherwise give it a miss.

THE AMSTRAD USER HALL OF FAME

Game	Score	Time	Achiever
<i>Roland in Time</i>	72	18 mins	<i>Paul Azzopardi</i> Hint: Practice well on cards 1,6 and 4 to give a sound base for a good score. Don't try to do too much at the beginning.
<i>Codename Mat</i>	601	90 mins	<i>Rowland Hayes</i> Hint: Leave the cruisers alone until you have destroyed all the other ships.
<i>Roland in the Caves</i>	79884	4 mins	<i>Emma Poynton</i> Hint: Always jump right as your first move.
<i>Moonbuggy</i>	66500	23 mins	<i>Bob Brown</i> Hint: Wear a sweat band!

File Header Reader Utility

by Ian Jardine

This useful program allows the user to display information contained in the File Header of Tape or Disc files. The information includes the File Name, File Type, number of blocks in the File, Load Address, File Length, End Address, and the Execute Address of a Binary File if included. The program is particularly useful where the parameters of a binary file have been forgotten or mislaid. Also provided is a hard copy listing of the Basic program and an Assembler listing of the M/Code Subroutine used by the Basic program.

The machine code routine is poked into protected high memory. It loads the header block of the file to be analysed and returns the location of the file header in memory to Basic, along with a flag to tell Basic if the read was successful or not. The routine is relocatable and will load below the existing HIMEM value and protect itself by lowering HIMEM by 2103 Bytes, which includes a 2K buffer for use by the operating system call CAS IN OPEN.

The Basic program is heavily REMarked and should be self explanatory. When typing in the listing, you should double check the lines 50 to 160, which contain the machine code loader routine. The call to the machine code routine is at line 420 and uses the standard method of passing parameters to and fro. The location of the string descriptor for filename\$ is passed to the routine, and the location of the file header is returned in the variable header%. If the read was successful the value of the variable flag% will remain 0, but if the read failed or ESC was pressed then flag% will be returned as -1.

Variables used are:-

- oldmem - original HIMEM value.
- headread - address of M/Code entry point.
- addr - pointer for loading M/Code
- byte\$ - holds string versions of M/Code bytes.
- byte - hold value of M/Code bytes.
- disc - contains -1 if disc system, 0 otherwise.
- tape - contains -1 if tape selected, 0 otherwise.
- rev\$ - chr\$(24) = inverse video.
- match\$ - characters to be checked by INSTR routine.
- select\$ - user input to INSTR routine.
- select - points to selected character in match\$.
- x - horizontal screen co-ordinate.
- delay - loop control for delay routine.
- filename\$ - filename of file to be read.
- header% - holds location of file header after read.

- flag% - holds 0 if read OK, -1 if read failed.
- file\$ - holds file name as read from header.
- loop - loop control for reading file\$.
- type - holds file type code value.
- loadaddr - load address of file.
- filelen - length of file.
- execaddr - autostart address of M/Code file.
- endaddr - last memory location occupied by file.
- blocks - number of blocks in file.

To use the program, you should load and run it and insert the required tape or disc. Disc users will be asked select either Tape or Disc input, and will then be prompted for the filename. Tape users will go direct to the filename prompt and may press [ENTER] alone to read the next file from the tape. After the header block has been read, the program will display the information about the file on the screen. You will then be asked if you wish to analyse another program or not. If you press [N] the program ends.

```

10 REM ** HEADREAD.BAS ** CASSETTE
   E OR DISC PROGRAM HEADER READER
   R **

20 REM Version 1.3, by Ian Jardine. September 1985

30 IF PEEK(HIMEM+1) = &DD AND PEEK(HIMEM+2) = &E5 THEN 190: Ignore
   if Loaded

40 CALL &BB48: Disable *Break*
50 SYMBOL AFTER 256: Delete Symbol Table

60 oldmem = HIMEM: Get Old Memsize
70 MEMORY HIMEM - &837: Set New Memsize

80 headread = HIMEM + 1: addr = headread
: READ bytes: Set Pointers & Read 1st Byte

90 WHILE bytes < "END": Read M/Code
   e into Protected Memory
: byte = VAL("&" + bytes): POKE addr
, byte: addr = addr + 1: READ bytes
110 WEND: Loop Here Until Done
120 REM ** Hex Bytes for M/Code Header
   adread Routine **
130 DATA DD, E5, DD, 6E, 04, DD, 66, 05, 4
  
```



```

6,23,5E,23,56,21,00,00,EB,CD,7
7,BC,DD,E1
140 DATA 30,0F,28,0D,E5,DD,6E,02,D
D,66,03,D1,73,23,72,18,0C,DD,6
E,00,DD,66
150 DATA 01,11,FF,FF,73,23,72,CD,7
D,BC,C9,END
160 POKE headread+E,UNT(headread+
&37)AND &FF' Adjust Non-Absolu
te Address
170 POKE headread+F,INT((headread
+&37)/256)' for Relocation
180 REM ** Check if a Disc System
**
190 disc=(1=1):ON ERROR GOTO 200:
DISC:GOTO 210
200 IF ERR=28 THEN disc=(1=0):RESU
ME NEXT
210 ON ERROR GOTO 0
220 IF NOT disc THEN tape=(1=1)' I
t's a Tape System
230 MODE 1:INK 0,13:INK 1,0:INK 2,
0,13:PEN 1:BORDER 13:rev$=CHR$
(24)
240 IF tape THEN 320 ELSE LOCATE 1
2,1:PRINT"Read File from?"
250 PRINT:PRINT TAB(5)"[T] --> TAP
E or [D] --> DISC"
260 match$="TD":GOSUB 810' Select
Disc or Tape
270 IF select=1 THEN tape=(1=1):T
APE.IN' Set up for Read from T
ape
280 LOCATE 5-(select=2)*18,3:PEN 2
:PRINT rev$["select$"]rev$
290 PEN 1:PRINT:PRINT:PRINT TAB(2)
"[ENTER] to Confirm - [DEL] to
Change"
300 match$=CHR$(13)+CHR$(127):GOSU
B 810' Make Sure Customer is S
atisfied
310 CLS:IF select=2 THEN tape=(1=0
):GOTO 240' Changed Mind!
320 LOCATE 5,2:PRINT rev$[ENTER]"
rev$" Filename of ";
330 IF tape THEN PRINT"TAPE";ELSE
PRINT"DISC";
340 PRINT" Program":PRINT:PRINT TA
B(5)"to be Analysed?";:x=POS(#
0)
350 KEY DEF 66,0,0,0,0' Disable [E
SC] Key During Input
360 INPUT" ",filenames$:filenames=U
PPER$(filenames)' Get Filename
370 IF NOT tape AND(filenames$=""OR
LEN(filenames$)>12)THEN LOCATE

```

```

x+1,4:PEN 3:PRINT CHR$(7)"*ER
ROR*"CHR$(18):FOR delay=0 TO 1
500:NEXT:LOCATE x,4:PEN 1:PRIN
T CHR$(18)CHR$(7);:GOTO 360
380 KEY DEF 66,0,252,252,252' Re-e
nable [ESC] after Input
390 CALL &BB48' Disable *Break*
400 WINDOW#1,5,40,13,13-(NOT tape)
*2:WINDOW SWAP 0,1:PEN 3
410 IF NOT tape THEN PRINT TAB(7)"
Loading "filenames$
420 header%=0:flag%=0' Declare Var
iables for M/Code Routine
430 CALL headread,@filenames$,@head
er%,@flag%' Call Headread Rout
ine
440 REM ** Header% = Header Address
S **
450 REM ** Flag% = 0 if Load ok, -
1 if Read Fail or [ESC] Presse
d **
460 IF flag% THEN PRINT rev$" READ
ERROR "rev$" OPERATION ABORT
ED"
470 WINDOW SWAP 0,1:PEN 1:IF flag%
THEN 750
480 CLS:PRINT:PRINT TAB(4)rev$" ";
:IF tape THEN PRINT"TAPE";ELSE
PRINT"DISC";
490 PRINT" FILE HEADER -- ANALYS
IS "rev$
500 files$=""
510 FOR lp=0 TO 11-(tape)*4' Read
the Filename
520 files$=files$+CHR$(PEEK(lp+head
er%))
530 IF NOT tape AND lp=8 THEN fil
e$=files$+"." Put in a . if Di
sc Used
540 NEXT
550 type=PEEK(header%+18)' Get Fil
e Type
560 loadaddr=PEEK(header%+22)*256+
PEEK(header%+21)' Get Load Add
ress
570 filelen=PEEK(header%+25)*256+P
EEK(header%+24)' Get File Leng
th
580 execaddr=PEEK(header%+27)*256+
PEEK(header%+26)' Get Execute
Address
590 endaddr=loadaddr+filelen-1' Ca
lculate End Address
600 blocks=INT(filelen/2048)-(file
len/2048<)INT(filelen/2048))'
Calc. No. Of Blocks In File

```



```

610 REM * DISPLAY INFORMATION *
620 LOCATE 1,6:PRINT rev$ " PROGRAM
NAME"SPC(9)rev$ " file$
630 PRINT:PRINT rev$ " PROGRAM TYPE
"SPC(9)rev$ " ;
640 IF type=0 THEN PRINT"STANDARD
BASIC"
650 IF type=1 THEN PRINT"PROTECTED
BASIC"
660 IF type>1 AND type<6 THEN PRIN
T"MACHINE CODE"
670 IF type=22 THEN PRINT"ASCII TE
XT";GOTO 730' ASCII so ignore
the Rest
680 PRINT:PRINT rev$ " NUMBER OF BL
OCKS "rev$ " "blocks
690 PRINT:PRINT rev$ " PROGRAM LOAD
ADDRESS "rev$ " loadaddr;TAB(
32)"(&"HEX$(loadaddr,4))"
700 PRINT:PRINT rev$ " PROGRAM END
ADDRESS "rev$ " endaddr;TAB(3
2)"(&"HEX$(endaddr,4))"
710 PRINT:PRINT rev$ " PROGRAM LENG
TH "rev$ " filelen;TAB(3
2)"(&"HEX$(filelen,4))"
720 IF type>1 AND type<6 THEN PRIN
T:PRINT rev$ " EXECUTE ADDRESS

```

```

"rev$" ";:IF execaddr=(
HEN PRINT" NOT SPECIFIED"ELS
PRINT execaddr;TAB(32)"(&"HE
(execaddr,4))"
730 PRINT:PRINT PRINT STRING$(39
5)
740 REM * Do it Again? *
750 tape=(1=0):IF disc THEN :DIS
IN' Reset Tape Flag & Indire
ion
760 LOCATE 1,23:PRINT" Do You Wi
to Analyse Another Program"
770 LOCATE 15,25:PRINT"(Y) or (N
"rev$"-rev$
780 match$="YN":GOSUB 810
790 ON select GOTO 220,840
800 REM ** Key Selection Routine
*
810 select=0:WHILE select=0:select
$=UPPER$(INKEY$):IF select$>"
THEN select=INSTR(match$, sele
t$)
820 WEND:RETURN
830 REM ** Exit Routine **
840 MEMORY oldmem:CALL &BBFF:MODE
1:PEN 1:SYMBOL AFTER 240
850 END

```

AMSTRAD ACHIEVERS

Get your name in our "HALL OF FAME"

Register your name and score on the form below, and if possible, send a photo of the screen. (See Page 25 for 'Achievers' to date)

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Telephone Number.....
Game..... Score.....
Achieved (date)Game lasted (mins.secs).....
Signed.....

THIS NEXT PART MUST BE COMPLETED

Witness' Name
Address
Telephone Number
Occupation
I confirm that the above claimed score is accurate and genuine
Signed

Post this form along with your tips for playing the game to:
Amstrad Achievers, The Amstrad User, Shop 2, 33 The Centreway,
Blackburn Road, Mt. Waverley, Victoria 3149.



doogier

Review of the CPC6128

by Robin Nicholas

As I sit and look at the new CPC6128, I cannot help feeling sorry for those people who have just purchased a CPC664. Why Amstrad bothered to release the 664, knowing full well that the 6128 was due to be released within such an indecently short space of time, is beyond me. I suppose, to be fair, the full 64k of RAM in the 664 (and the 464 for that matter) could not support the standard versions of some of the better CP/M software, whereas under CP/M Plus (or CP/M version 3) on the 6128, the full 128k becomes available - but more of this later.

Like the previous machines in the Amstrad range, the standard CPC6128 comes as a package including a green screen with the option of a colour screen for about another \$200 dollars. The floppy disc drive is housed to the right of the keyboard on top of which is a chart showing the colour and key definition numbers.

The power switch and volume control can be found at the back of the unit along with the second disc drive port, a monitor and power supply sockets, and finally an expansion port and a 68000 compatible printer port. On the left side of the unit are the sockets for the joystick, sound output and tape recorder.

The trend with computers is 'the bigger they get, the smaller they come' and the 6128 is no exception. With the greater capacity of 128k, the physical size of the unit has reduced by over two inches on its predecessors. The colour scheme is dark grey with light grey keys.

The keyboard has 74 dished keys and has been redesigned into one block with

the cursor keys positioned below the numeric keypad. Compared with the 464, the small ENTER key has disappeared and the COPY and CONTROL keys are now situated to the left of the space bar. One, much larger ENTER key is on the right of the space bar, and its original position (on the 464) is taken with a RETURN key.

The system still provides the standard 20, 40 or 80 column screen display, and although the screen is slightly different in terms of connection to the processor, the quality of performance appears to be identical.

The 'guts' of the 6128 is very similar to the 464 being the Z80 processor with Basic ROM but with the major

addition of the 64k of RAM. For the technical there are seven LSI chips: the Z80A processor running at 4MHz; 128k of RAM arranged in two 64k banks (over 41k available to the user in Basic, 61k available to CP/M Plus as the Transient Program Area [TPA]); 48k bytes of ROM containing BASIC, the operating system and disc extensions; a 6845 CRT controller device; an AY-3-8912 sound generator chip; an 8255 parallel I/O device; and a 7653 floppy disc controller.

Extra Basic commands are loaded from disc, which means that there should be full software compatibility with the 664. Unfortunately this cannot be



guaranteed to apply to the 464 despite the fact that Amstrad reckon on about 99.5%.

The extra commands allow the use of the additional 64k RAM either as a RAM data file or to save up to four screen displays. The latter are held in 16k blocks each, providing the facility to switch with the main screen display block very quickly. The two commands to achieve this are |SCREENCOPY and |SCREENSWAP. To use the RAM as a data file, the commands |BANKOPEN, |BANKWRITE, |BANKREAD and |BANKFIND are used.

Two versions of CP/M are supplied with the 6128 - 2.2 and 3.1 (CP/M Plus) - and you will know that the 2.2 version is used on the 464 and 664. In addition, there are two terminal emulators - the VT52 and the Zenith Z19/Z29. The 3.1 version takes advantage of the 6128's larger memory and should be capable of running WordStar, Multiplan and other popular pieces of software. The clever implementation of this version is such that the various statements and routines are loaded just once on the initial boot. This saves the bother of keeping a note of which system files are available when changing discs. Error messages are more 'user friendly' and are scrolled along the bottom of the screen.

The manual is very thorough as usual, covering the now standard introduction and tutorial with examples, and then the Basic keywords, AMSDOS and CP/M, an introduction to Logo, Bank switching and a lot more. However, it may still be necessary for a newcomer to purchase additional reading material to get to grips with the machine.

So, how much does it all cost?

The basic green screen package, including CP/M 2.2, CP/M Plus and Dr. Logo will retail at around \$800.

The colour screen package will cost around \$1000 and an additional disc drive will be about \$400. At these prices, Amstrad still maintain the initiative in providing low cost entry points - in this case, possibly, small business.

INTRODUCING THE NEW AMSTRAD PCW8256



*with 256K RAM, built-in disc
drive, monitor, printer,
LocoScript word processing
software and CP/M Plus*

*For a full review see the
December issue of
THE AMSTRAD USER*

Menu Utility

from Reuben Carlsen

The following two modules can be used whenever you need a menu for any program. They evolved because I am currently writing business application packages. I wanted all my menus to have only alpha-key selection, as I dislike having menus with 1, 2, 3 etc.

I wanted to be able to use the command "ON A GOSUB 000, 0000, 3000 " etc. but this only works with numeric inputs. So the problem was that I needed to convert alpha inputs to numeric codes. Hence the line A=(ASC(A\$)-64, this converts alpha inputs to numeric inputs.

The ASCII code for Capital A is 65, so when you hit "A" the program takes it as 65, subtracts 64 and leaves it as 1, input B as 2 etc.

I had to ensure that all inputs were uppercase - this was easy with A\$=UPPER\$(A\$). With that problem solved, I wanted the cursor flashing on-screen when waiting for an input. This was solved with a simple little sub-routine which locates where you want the cursor to appear, prints the cursor, drops to the delay sub-routine, returns, prints CHR\$(8) which brings the print position back one space then prints CHR\$(16) which blanks out the cursor, the program then drops to the delay sub-routine again, and turns to the line that starts the process over again.

The line IF A\$<>" THEN RETURN, ensures that the sub-routine keeps looping until an input is detected. When an input is detected it returns to the routine that handles the put.

I have written three routines (two are presented in this article), "MENU/10" for MODE 1 with a menu for 10 options. The next "MENU/13" for MODE 2 with a menu for 13 options. I've included quite a few REM statements to hopefully explain what is happening throughout.

```

' ***** THIS IS A
MENU WITH 10 OPTIONS
' *****
' ***** WRITTEN B
Y REUBEN CARLSEN
' *****
' ***** THIS VERS' IS FOR MODE
1 WITH OPTIONS VERTICAL ON SC
REEN *****
MODE 1
LOCATE 10,1:PRINT"MAIN OPTION
BLOCK [vers 1.4]"
LOCATE 14,4:PRINT"(A) option 1
":LOCATE 14,6:PRINT"(B) option
2"
LOCATE 14,8:PRINT"(C) option 3

```

I have set myself up with a complete bank of these routines, when I need a menu with anything from 2 to 20 options I just MERGE them from tape, (soon to be disk).

I have used CHR\$(224) for my cursor, I plan on using this cursor as a feature of all my packages so I would appreciate it if other writers choose another character.

I hope someone can use these little routines, I enjoyed writing them a great deal. I am still refining them as I am trying to get the response delay a little shorter, maybe someone else has got some ideas.

By the way, I didn't invent the flashing cursor sub-routine, part of it came from "AMSTRAD COMPUTING" by Ian Sinclair. This is a top book, I cannot recommend it highly enough.

NOTES

- 1) When modifying these routines for your own programs you can either add or delete the option lines, depending on the number of options you need. Where I have "OPTION 1" etc. you can just type in what your options are.
- 2) In the line IF A<1 OR A>12, just change the last number to the number of options your menu has. This ensures that the program only recognises input within the menu limits.
- 3) The "Quit" option always returns to MODE 2, I did this so during development I could list more on the screens.

I haven't included a commentary, I think the REM statements in each listing will suffice. If you have more than one menu in a program you could use the same flashing cursor sub-routine, as long as you want the cursor at the same co-ordinates each time.

```

160 A=(ASC(A$)-64):'***** THIS LINE
CONVERTS ALPHA INPUTS TO NUME
RIC *****
170 ' *****
A=1,B=2,C=3,D=4 etc.
' *****
180 ' *****
SO LINE 240 IS POSSIBLE
' *****
190 '
200 IF A=17 THEN GOSUB 370 ELSE 22
0:'* LINE 160 CONVERTS "Q" INP
UT TO = 17 *
210 '
220 IF A<1 OR A>9 THEN 140:'* THIS
LINE STOPS ANY INPUT OUTSIDE
THE MENU RANGE *

```



```

230 .
240 ON A GOSUB 260,290,300,310,320
,330,340,350,360
250 .
260 .**** LINES 260-360 ARE THE SUB
ROUTINES FROM MENU SELECTIONS
****
270 .
280 CLS:LOCATE 7,12:PRINT"YOU SELE
CTED SUBROUTINE 1":GOTO 380
290 CLS:LOCATE 7,12:PRINT"YOU SELE
CTED SUBROUTINE 2":GOTO 380
300 CLS:LOCATE 7,12:PRINT"YOU SELE
CTED SUBROUTINE 3":GOTO 390
310 CLS:LOCATE 7,12:PRINT"YOU SELE
CTED SUBROUTINE 4":GOTO 380
320 CLS:LOCATE 7,12:PRINT"YOU SELE
CTED SUBROUTINE 5":GOTO 380
330 CLS:LOCATE 7,12:PRINT"YOU SELE
CTED SUBROUTINE 6":GOTO 380
340 CLS:LOCATE 7,12:PRINT"YOU SELE
CTED SUBROUTINE 7":GOTO 380
350 CLS:LOCATE 7,12:PRINT"YOU SELE
CTED SUBROUTINE 8":GOTO 380
360 CLS:LOCATE 7,12:PRINT"YOU SELE
CTED SUBROUTINE 9":GOTO 380
370 CLS:LOCATE 6,12:PRINT"YOU SELE
CTED THE 'QUIT' OPTION":FOR Z=
1 TO 2000:NEXT:MODE 2:END
380 LOCATE 5,22:PRINT"START AGAIN
(Y/N) [ ]"
390 GOSUB 570:**** THIS LINE SEN
DS TO 2ND SUBROUTINE FOR FLASH
ING CURSOR ****
400 IF AS="Y" THEN 10
410 IF AS="N" THEN GOTO 640 ELSE 3
90
420 END
430 .
440 .**** LINES 500-560 IS 1st SUB
ROUTINE FOR THE FLASHING CURSOR
E ****
450 .**** LINES 570-630 IS 2nd SUB
ROUTINE FOR THE FLASHING CURSOR
E ****
460 .**** THE FLASHING CURSOR IS A
SMILING FACE, I INTEND TO MAKE
E ****
470 .**** THIS A FEATURE OF ALL MY
SOFTWARE SO I WOULD APPRECIATE
E ****
480 .**** IT IF OTHER PEOPLE USED
SOME OTHER CHARACTER,..., THANKS
****
490 .
500 AS=INKEY$
510 AS=UPPER$(AS)
520 IF AS<>" " THEN RETURN
530 LOCATE 33,25:PRINT CHR$(224);:
GOSUB 560
540 PRINT CHR$(8);CHR$(16);:GOSUB
560
550 GOTO 500
560 FOR J=1 TO 400:NEXT:RETURN
570 AS=INKEY$
580 AS=UPPER$(AS)
590 IF AS<>" " THEN RETURN
600 LOCATE 26,22:PRINT CHR$(224);:
GOSUB 630
610 PRINT CHR$(8);CHR$(16);:GOSUB
630
620 GOTO 570
630 FOR J=1 TO 400:NEXT:RETURN
640 CLS:LOCATE 6,12:PRINT"YOU CHOS
E TO EXIT TO 'SYSTEM'":FOR Z=1
TO 2000:NEXT:MODE 2:END
10 . **** THIS IS A
MENU WITH 13 OPTIONS
****
20 . **** WRITTEN
BY REUBEN CARLSEN
****
30 . **** THIS VERS' IS FOR MODE
2 WITH OPTIONS LISTED ACROSS
SCREEN ****
40 .
50 MODE 2
60 LOCATE 23,1:PRINT"*** MAIN OPT
ION BLOCK ***
2.01"
70 LOCATE 23,2:PRINT"
"
80 LOCATE 12,6:PRINT"[A] option 1
",LOCATE 45,6:PRINT"[B] option
2"
90 LOCATE 12,8:PRINT"[C] option 3
",LOCATE 45,8:PRINT"[D] option
4"
100 LOCATE 12,10:PRINT"[E] option
5",LOCATE 45,10:PRINT"[F] opti
on 6"
110 LOCATE 12,12:PRINT"[G] option
7",LOCATE 45,12:PRINT"[H] opti
on 8"
120 LOCATE 12,14:PRINT"[I] option
9",LOCATE 45,14:PRINT"[J] OPTI
ON 10"
130 LOCATE 12,16:PRINT"[K] option
11",LOCATE 45,16:PRINT"[L] OPT
ION 12"
140 LOCATE 12,19:PRINT"[Q] QUIT"
150 LOCATE 23,22:PRINT"SELECT OPTI
ON REQUIRED [ ]"
160 .
170 GOSUB 560:**** THIS LINE SENDS
TO 1ST SUBROUTINE FOR FLASHIN
G CURSOR ****
180 .
190 A=(ASC(AS)-64):**** THIS LINE
CONVERTS ALPHA INPUTS TO NUME
RIC ****
200 . ****
A=1,B=2,C=3,D=4 etc.
****
210 . ****
SO LINE 270 IS POSSIBLE
****
220 .
230 IF A=17 THEN GOSUB 430 ELSE 25
0: * LINE 190 CONVERTS "Q" INP
UT TO = 17 *
240 .
250 IF A<1 OR A>12 THEN 170: * THI
S LINE STOPS ANY INPUT OUTSIDE
THE MENU RANGE *
260 .
270 ON A GOSUB 310,320,330,340,350
,360,370,380,390,400,410,420
280 .
290 .**** LINES 310-420 ARE THE SUB
ROUTINES FROM MENU SELECTIONS
****
300 .
310 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SEL
ECTED SUBROUTINE No' 1":GOTO 4
40
320 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SEL
ECTED SUBROUTINE No' 2":GOTO 4
40
330 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SEL
ECTED SUBROUTINE No' 3":GOTO 4
40
340 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SEL
ECTED SUBROUTINE No' 4":GOTO 4
40
350 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SEL
ECTED SUBROUTINE No' 5":GOTO 4
40
360 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SEL
ECTED SUBROUTINE No' 6":GOTO 4
40
370 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SE
LECTED SUBROUTINE No' 7":GOTO
40
380 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SE
LECTED SUBROUTINE No' 8":GOTO
40
390 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SE
LECTED SUBROUTINE No' 9":GOTO
40
400 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SE
LECTED SUBROUTINE No' 10":GOTO
40
410 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SE
LECTED SUBROUTINE No' 11":GOTO
40
420 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU SE
LECTED SUBROUTINE No' 12":GOTO
40
430 CLS:LOCATE 25,12:PRINT"YOU SE
LECTED THE 'QUIT' OPTION":FOR
Z=1 TO 2000:NEXT:MODE 2:END
440 LOCATE 27,22:PRINT"START AGAIN
(Y/N) [ ]"
450 GOSUB 630:**** THIS LINE SEN
DS TO 2ND SUBROUTINE FOR FLASH
ING CURSOR ****
460 IF AS="Y" THEN 10
470 IF AS="N" THEN GOTO 700 ELSE
50
480 END
490 .
500 .**** LINES 560-620 IS 1st SUB
ROUTINE FOR THE FLASHING CURSOR
E ****
510 .**** LINES 630-690 IS 2nd SUB
ROUTINE FOR THE FLASHING CURSOR
E ****
520 .**** THE FLASHING CURSOR IS A
SMILING FACE, I INTEND TO MAKE
E ****
530 .**** THIS A FEATURE OF ALL MY
SOFTWARE SO I WOULD APPRECIATE
E ****
540 .**** IT IF OTHER PEOPLE USED
SOME OTHER CHARACTER,..., THANKS
****
550 .
560 AS=INKEY$
570 AS=UPPER$(AS)
580 IF AS<>" " THEN RETURN
590 LOCATE 48,22:PRINT CHR$(224);:
GOSUB 620
600 PRINT CHR$(8);CHR$(16);:GOSUB
620
610 GOTO 560
620 FOR J=1 TO 400:NEXT:RETURN
630 AS=INKEY$
640 AS=UPPER$(AS)
650 IF AS<>" " THEN RETURN
660 LOCATE 48,22:PRINT CHR$(224);:
GOSUB 690
670 PRINT CHR$(8);CHR$(16);:GOSUB
690
680 GOTO 560
690 FOR J=1 TO 400:NEXT:RETURN
700 CLS:LOCATE 27,12:PRINT"YOU CHO
SE TO EXIT TO 'SYSTEM'":FOR Z=
1 TO 2000:NEXT:MODE 2:END

```