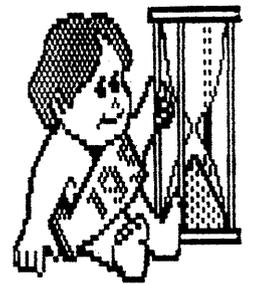
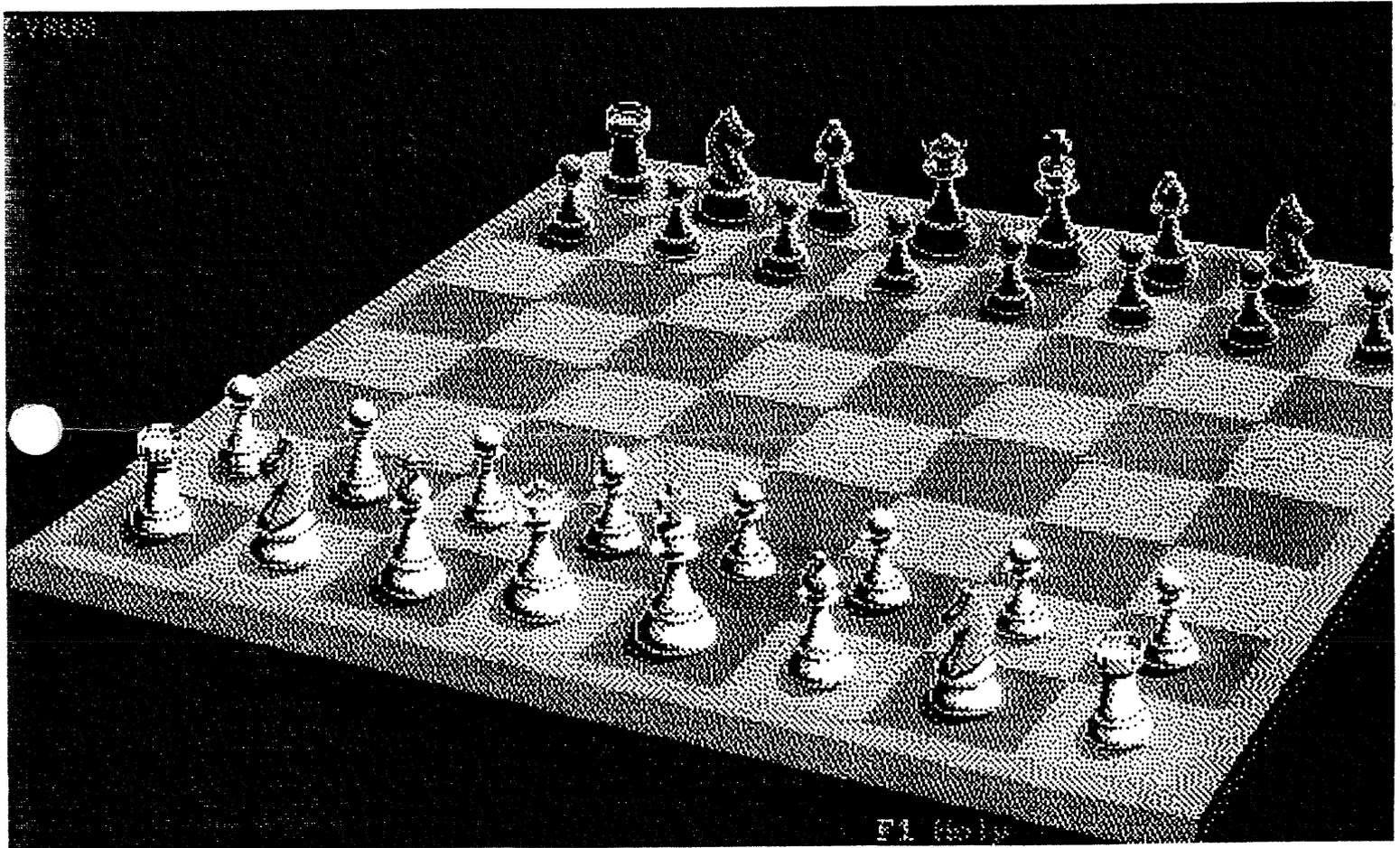




SINC - LINK



JAN - FEB '93 VOL 11-1



**ELEVENTH YEAR
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**

TORONTO TIMEX - SINCLAIR USERS CLUB

SINC - LINK

JAN - FEB '93 VOL 11-1

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THE TS2068 & ZX-81 GROUP MEETS ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 14 RICHOME COURT, SCARBOROUGH, ONT. 7PM START.

THE QL SIG WILL MEET WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20TH AT 586 ONEIDA DRIVE, BURLINGTON, ONT. 7PM START. FEBRUARY DATE TBA.

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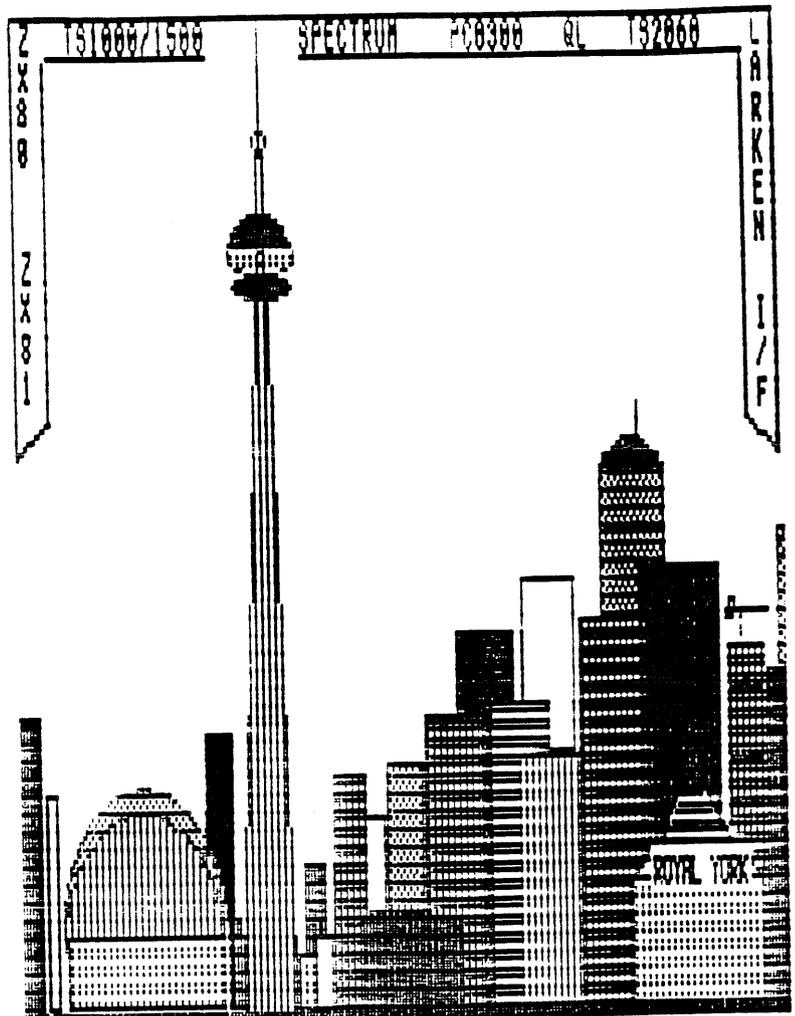
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TORONTO TIMEX - SINCLAIR USERS CLUB

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Editorial

Welcome to the 11th anniversary issue of Sinc-Link. It doesn't seem so long ago that I was patting everyone in the club on the back for making it to ten years! The main reason we are still around is thanks to the core of local enthusiasts here and our out-of-town members who continue to supply interesting and informative articles for our newsletter. We're the biggest newsletter thanks to you, so keep up the good work.

Membership Drive

Last issue I alluded to a mailing experiment. Hugh Howie, in an effort to inform people of our existence, undertook to mail a large number (several hundred copies) of our Sept-Oct issue to a group of Timex and Sinclair users who have never been members but that he was aware of. Since he is the QL librarian, he naturally was trying to target QL users. Along with the newsletter was an information sheet about the club, a membership application and an invitation to join. Hugh put a lot of effort into folding, labeling, licking, stamping and mailing those packages.

The result? To date we have 25 new members, with applications still coming in. Most of these new members also use the TS2068/Spectrum and/or the ZX81/TS1000/TS1500 so they can access the rest of the club libraries as well as the QL library.

Well done, Hugh. Also thanks to Hugh and George for the follow-up welcome packages to the new members.

To the new members.. WELCOME. I would like to extend this invitation to you to write of your experiences or questions and we'll be happy to publish them in Sinc-Link. See the comments from some of our new members in this issue.

Club Meetings

The TS2068/ZX81 and QL groups are meeting at George's and Hugh's homes respectively. I can tell you that the new venues are considerably more comfortable and easier to get to than the high school room we vacated in November. Systems don't have to be disassembled and reassembled to provide demonstrations and we don't have to worry about the school voltage gremlins anymore. Thanks for the hospitality too.

RIP Bill Pedersen

I am sorry to have to inform the membership of the passing of William J. Pedersen, founder of the WIDJUP Co., and longtime Timex-Sinclair software wizard and vendor, early in the new year.

I met Bill last summer at Dayton and was impressed by his knowledge and enthusiasm of the workings of his favourite computer, the TS2068 and of his imaginative software.

I had the unfortunate timing to phone the day of his funeral. Prior to his death he was in the process of reworking the ROM to enable the 2068 to reach its full potential. I hope someone picks up where he left off. See his article on dot-matrix printers last issue.

That's all for now... J.T.

TS 2068 PROGRAMMING TIP
by George Chambers

The system variables stored at addresses 23552 to 23755 are used by the computer to keep track of it's operation. Look in the TS2068 User Manual, "Appendix D, System Variables" for a list and short description. These stored variables offer quite a few programming possibilities. This article will describe an application for two of them.

The variables being discussed are labelled SPOSN, and are located at addresses 23688 and 23689. Together these two variables store the current PRINT position; that is, where the next character on the screen will be printed. The first address contains the column number, while the second address contains the line number. Well, not the screen positions as we understand them. We would get the screen positions by subtracting the PEEKed value in address 23688 from 24 (for column number), and in address 23689 from 32 (for line number).

In my programming I did a Larken CATalogue, followed by a flashing message 'Press a key for menu'. I wished to remove the message without clearing the rest of the screen.

I could, of course, have simply had the program 'PRINT AT x,y;"
"' to wipe out the flashing message. But in this application the message could appear on most any line; depending on the size of the CATalogue display. I made use of the variables mentioned above.

Figure 1. is a listing of a short program to demonstrate the possibilities. Let's discuss this listing:

LINE 5: We are assigning a random number to each of variables a and b. The numbers produced by the RND function will be a value always less than 1.

LINE 10. The variables a and b are being used to print "george" at random locations on the screen. The 'a*22' selects a random screen line from 0 to 22. The 'b*26' similarly selects a screen column. (We have used 'b*26', rather than 'b*32', so that the "george" will be printed on one line, i.e. it won't be wrapped around onto the second line. If this happened it would require more complex programming to remove the flashing 'george', and tend to obscure the model.

Note also the semi-colon at the end of 'george'. Without this semi-colon the print position stored in the variable would be at the start of the next line, and the 'covered' would always appear at the beginning of the next line. Try it and see.

LINE 15 Pauses for a moment so you can see the 'george' is present.

LINE 20 Overlays the flashing 'george' with the 'covered' message. Because of the way the system stores the information we have to subtract the PEEKed values from the screen size values of 24 and 32.

Note the '-6' in the line. This is because what we have in the system variable is the present PRINT position. But we want to start our overlaid word 'covered' six positions back, to the start of 'george'.

LINE 30 Self explanatory.

Figure 1.

```
5 LET a=RND: LET b=RND
10 PRINT AT INT (a*22), INT (b*26);"george";
15 PAUSE 30
20 PRINT AT 24-(PEEK 23689),32-(PEEK 23688)-6;"covered"
30 PAUSE 30: CLS : GO TO 1
```

Plus4 version 3 = OK

by Hugh Howie.

I have been using plus4 for some time now from version 1 through version 2; and when I was told that there was a version three available, and on reading the blurb that came with it, my first re-action was "who needs this".

After a week or so of thought, version 3 was in my mail box!

First thing to note was that there were a few pages to update the manual, this included a glossary/index. Very useful.

Many more things to be configured and saved ready for use the next time the program is loaded.

Many more functions are streamlined to two keys, such as the marking of a block in the text. This used to be done with moving the cursor to start of text to be marked, <F3><Block><Enter> scroll to destination <Enter>. This has now been changed to placing cursor at one end of block to be marked, CTRL & B then you can GOTO either Top, Bottom, Line or Page as a destination <Enter> and the block is marked! Fast!

NOTE:- CTRL & B in older versions was the invisible hyphen, but to accommodate the above BLOCK command, the invisible hyphen is now CTRL & N

CTRL & A will change the case of the character under the cursor. Easy!

Configurable options that can be saved as defaults now include a document default typeface, a document default layout, a document default ruler.

Line numbers may now be shown from the top of the page or top of the document. This can be very handy when typing a long document, to show you exactly where you might be on any given page. <F2><Options><Numbers> to select.

Toggle the prompts (Menu) from Top, to Bottom or even OFF. Of course the menu does show when the program thinks you might need a prompt. Certainly cleans up the screen appearance, but I also miss the prompts. I guess it is very much a

matter of preference.

One time it was that to redraw the window you had to <F2><Zoom><ESC>, now this has been changed to SHIFT & F2 making the operation very much faster.

I have not timed the extra speed with version 3 but it is purported to be considerably faster when scrolling or formatting long texts.

Easier selection of typefaces. Now when you press <F4><Typeface> you will be presented with a list of all the typefaces in use in the current document, press <TAB> and you will get a list of all typefaces available. In both cases move the square over typeface required and press <Enter> to activate. How simple!

There are many other improvements to aid speed of handling.

Is version 3 worth the few \$\$\$ extra?

You bet it is.

TORONTO SINC-LINK by Peter Hale

I recently received a notice from The Toronto (CANADA) Sinclair group with a sample newsletter and an invitation to join for \$20.00 a year.

I was impressed enough with the QL section to send off my membership fee.

Very well, you say, good for you.

What has impressed me so far is the courtesy and flow of correspondence that has resulted. Hugh Howie, the QL Librarian, wrote to give a list of the extensive Public Domain library - just for the QL, and the I received a letter of welcome from George Chambers, the Secretary.

As most members of NESQLUG received a similar invitation, I won't go further into the details, but just remind you that a check for \$20.00 to George Chambers, Toronto T/S Users Club, 14 Richome Crt, Scarborough, ONT CANADA M1K 2Y1 will get you the same great service.

QL SIG MEETING

On November 18th, the QL Special Interest Group met at the home of Hugh Howie where a number of topics were discussed, the first of course being the in-process mailing of a random Newsletter to many who we believe have been QL users at one time, or still are, and offering our support in the declining world of QL interest groups.

Being probably the foremost Sinclair Interest group in North America, with strong QL interest, we felt that we should bring our facilities to the attention of the many who may not even know that we exist; in particular that we are a strong and vibrant QL group. Many Sinclair groups are going to the wall, but we are not - we are going ahead in all respects - and will continue to do.

There were three QL's in use, networked, and although full facilities of that system were not utilised, that was only because there was no need for that at this particular time.

There was a short discussion on a couple points of Archive, that wonderful database program which would appear to be ignored by many QL'ers. This is not a weak or difficult program to understand, it just requires a little attention to detail, study and trial to see what it really can do. The main point to bear in mind in the use of Archive, is that Archive depends on the operation of what are almost stand-alone procedures to operate. Archive is a collection of procedures.

The main part of the evening was spent in a demonstration of the resilient and varied features of text87 plus 4. The version under examination was version 3.1. To most it was an enlightening experience as that all had heard of plus4 but this was the first time they had seen a real demonstration, and they were quite impressed.

The demonstration consisted of the slick way in which typefaces could be changed, and intermingled in the one document. Also the way in which a document could be typed in, using one typeface to give large letters on the screen, and how by use of the BLOCK facility, that document could be produced on paper by a couple simple commands.

Spelling correction was also explained. Rulers and tabs, and their uses and variety were also displayed, plus the search/replace feature, and how fast and easy it was in actual use. The search/replace feature can be of real benefit in the editing of documents and ALSO listings.

Many questions were asked, and the depth of interest was very heartening. It is anticipated that other features in the production of more complex documents will be discussed at a future meeting.

After a considerable time spent on this subject, a message was passed from #1 to #2 QL that the coffee was now ready, but for some reason a second message had to be passed to break the interest in plus4!

Occasionally a "movie" style picture would be flashed on screen, and this was a great way to keep the interest at a peak.

All in all, a very enjoyable evening, and if it had not been that "tomorrow" was a work (ugh) day, I am sure the meeting would have lasted much longer.

'till the next time --- have patience ----

112992

SOME QL STUFF

by Hugh Howie.

text87plus4 as a LISTING EDITOR.

I had a program in which I wished to change a number of strings, many of them repeated in different parts of the program, such as changing STATE\$ to PROVINCE\$, and ZIP CODE to POST CODE, etc., and I got tired of going back and forth through the listing. I decided there just had to be an easier way to do the job.

I loaded text87plus4 into the black box of tricks known as a QL, I then IMPORTED the listing as an ASCII file. I was then able to use the SEARCH/REPLACE function of plus4 to change most of the strings very quickly.

I then EXPORTED the listing as an ASCII file, using the original title if desired. Loaded as normal. And the edited version was good!

An ARCHIVE _prg file can be edited the same way, and save a lot of time. Instead of going through a file line by line, probably missing something on the way, you start at the beginning, select the string to change, and do all occurrences of that string at the same time.

Try it for other items to be edited.

TASKMASTER / ARCHIVE DIRECTORY.

Have you ever got tired of watching the files stream past when you asked for a DIRECTORY? I have, and I thought I might share this solution with you.

This is only good if you are in a multitasking environment with Archive, Quill, etc loaded, You see, the PSION four, when asked for a directory, will print that directory in THREE or FOUR columns across the screen, and wait for your command to scroll to the next page of the directory.

So instead of looking at 20 items in a column, you can stare at as many as well over 70 spread out in columns across the screen.

Quite a lot easier than the one column.

text87plus4 24 PIN DRAFT DRIVER.

When version 3 of plus4 came out, a new PRINTER DRIVER was also introduced in the 2488 disk.

This driver can be loaded in as and when required, and with only a minor adjustment in the text type to suit your document, you can have a really FAST, DRAFT COPY of the document, without the normal period of waiting for the NLQ version.

A real time-saver!

=== MORE SOME OTHER TIME ===

MASTERFILE. MF-PRINT, GRAPHIC 24 AND LKDOS

What follows is a review of my pirating of several programs furnished me by heretofore upstanding citizens. I wanted a file program for my library of "Big Band" music which is on 252 reel-to-reel tapes. Presently I have 17 boxes of locator cards arranged in alphabetical order by song title. Each card lists the title, vocalist (if any), band, date of recording (if known), tape#-index count-track, and length (if previously timed). PRO-FILE did not seem to offer itself to the use I wanted to make of the file after processing for computer use.

The set-up for screen display was done using MF basic modified by George Chambers to replace the Microdrive LOAD and SAVE instructions with LKDOS drives 0-4. The tape saves were left pretty much intact. The BASIC program interacts with the MC program using GO TO USR R. (R=59363) Before returning to BASIC the BC register is loaded with the BASIC line number to which to go.

After starting to enter the titles into the MASTERFILE program that I then had, I wanted a means to print them to pages of loose leaf note book paper. My copy of MASTERFILE lacked the MF-PRINT programs. (When you pirate, you don't always know what is available.) What was available was GRAPHIC 24 which at the time was imbedded within the OMNIBUS program (of which I didn't know at the time.) George had sent me a disassembly print-out of the program which was located at 24580 to 24821.

Listing #1 is the AUTOLOAD program, which will boot the screen copy to large printer program into DOS so that NMI stop and "F" or PRINT #4: DATA 0 will print to the large printer whatever is on the screen. "POKE 16152, 5182" makes the printout only 20 lines. "POKE 16152, 5694" will get you 22 lines. Without the POKE you get all 24 lines. The next four POKES eliminate the beginning and end blank line. The CLEAR 57327 is required on my version of MASTERFILE before loading. If you version calls for a different location then that is what should go here. I "purged" the copy I used and called it "EMPTY1.B1." The rest of the program is the AUTOLOAD SAVE.

Listing #2 is the modified MASTERFILE BASIC program which I call "EMPTY1.B1"

Since the screen print only uses half the page width, I added a "USER" routine (Lines 4900 - 4990) to set the margin for printing to left or right side of the page. My records were displayed with 4 lines and a blank line. This put 4 records and the first two lines of the fifth on the screen. These extra 2 lines were eliminated from the printing by POKEing the program in LKDOS RAM at 16153 with 20 instead of 24 for the number of lines to print. I also POKEd 16106-16108 and 16233-16235 with zeros to disable the line feeds which were not needed. I replaced the "COPY" command in line 4010 with "PRINT #4: DATA 0." This now allows you to print to the large printer the records selected while in DISPLAY and pressing "P." One caution about this: If you ask for All, have sufficient paper to print the "All" you have selected.

All of this was then rendered essentially useless after "discovering" MFP. Now I use the screen copy to print screens which I need to remember later, such as the formats and specifications developed when setting up the display and print spec's.

I have modified the tape or disk drive and catalog calling routine not to change its use but to prevent its being called on other occasions when the same routine is used for a keyboard input.

It is possible to use MF-PRINT by following the User Guide, however you must be able to visualize the end print-out before tackling the specification set-up. I ended with "Title" and "Vocal" on the first line in compressed PICA and the rest on the second line. Getting the first line in compressed PICA was elusive. Your printer must accept the print codes which you put in the spec using the MFP utility program. The printer codes are for the whole line. Since my first line was to be "Title" and "Vocal", at first I tried printer codes to make "Title" compressed and "Vocal" regular. That came out all regular. To send printer codes LKDOS must be conditioned not to eliminate character codes. This is done in LINE 4211 by POKE 16093, 32. However this now messed up the Newline instruction. POKE 60630, 0 fixed this by NOPping a RET at 60630 in the overlay program which then let the carriage return routine go to the line feed routine before RETing.

The "file" saving (F\$) is so set up that by answering the request for name with "ENTER" you will get the name that is held in C\$ and shown on the Main Menu, if that is not what you want, then type in the name (up to 6 char) that you do want.

I have modified the program saving routine by making the "mfcode" have "C2" as a suffix. I have the "mfpovl" program in and this is saved with the program save.

I don't remember reading anywhere "How and What" to print, but it is the "Selected" group of records in the order set up by your display format. The Master File program is a dream (nightmare?) to select records to display/print. Although it will only show 22 lines on the screen, with enough paper you can print the whole file in one swoop. I wanted to print front and back on the paper so I used the "paper out" stop on the printer by feeding only one sheet at a time and then printing the reverse side with the next group.

I hope this stirs some interest in using MASTERFILE. I think it is a very good program for most file uses.

Ken Shoenberger, 3503 Royal Oak Drive, Titusville, FL 32780

Listing #2

```

1 LET od=VAL "4": IF dt=od THEN
PRINT #od: OPEN #VAL "3","lp"
2 PRINT ;: PAPER VAL "7": GO TO
USR VAL "58285"
3 PRINT #od: LOAD "mfputi.B1"
4: PRINT #od: LOAD "mfpovl.C1"CO
ODE : GO TO R/R
5 PRINT #dt: LOAD "mfcode.C1"CO
DE : GO TO R/R
6 PRINT #dt: SAVE "mfcode.C1"CO
DE VAL "57328",VAL "8208": GO TO R
/R
50 PRINT AT VAL "15",VAL "1";"
Larken Dr.(0-4) or Cassette(5)"
60 LET d=CODE INKEY$-VAL "48": I
F d<R-R OR d>VAL "5" THEN GO TO V
AL "60"
63 IF d<>VAL "5" THEN PRINT #od
: GO TO d
65 LET dt=VAL "2": IF d<>VAL "5"
THEN LET dt=od: BEEP VAL ".1",R-
R
67 RETURN
70 IF dt=VAL "4" THEN RETURN
72 PRINT AT VAL "17",VAL "2";"
Verify ? Y/N"
75 IF INKEY$="Y" OR INKEY$="y" T
HEN BEEP VAL ".1",R-R: PRINT AT V
AL "17",VAL "8"; PAPER VAL "8"; BR
IGHT R/R;"ing...": GO TO VAL "90"
80 IF INKEY$="N" OR INKEY$="n" T
HEN RETURN
85 GO TO VAL "75"
90 IF P THEN VERIFY N$: VERIFY
""CODE : RETURN
95 VERIFY n$ DATA f$(): RETURN
96 IF dt=VAL "2" THEN LET n$=c$
( TO 10): RETURN
97 LET n$=c$( TO 6): LET n$=n$+"
.A$": RETURN
98 IF dt=VAL "2" THEN LET n$=c$
( TO 10): RETURN
99 LET n$=c$( TO 6): LET n$=n$+"
.B1": RETURN
100 RETURN
4000 IF c$(1)="G" THEN GO SUB 50:
IF d<>VAL "5" THEN CLS : PRINT #
4: CAT
4005 INPUT PAPER VAL "7";(c$( TO
VAL "32")); LINE c$: GO TO USR R
4010 PRINT #4: DATA 0: GO TO USR R

4020 LET P=R-R: GO SUB VAL "96": P
RINT #dt: SAVE N$ DATA f$(): GO SU
B VAL "70": GO TO USR R
4025 STOP

```

```

4030 LET P=R/R: GO SUB VAL "98": P
RINT #dt: SAVE N$ LINE VAL "4037":
PRINT #dt: SAVE "mfcode"+(".C2" A
ND dt=od)CODE VAL "57328",VAL "820
8": GO SUB VAL "70": GO TO USR R
4031 GO TO USR R
4037 PRINT #dt: LOAD "mfcode"+(".C
2" AND dt=od)CODE : GO TO R/R
4040 LET c$=STR$ (VAL c$( TO VAL "
14")/VAL c$(VAL "15" TO VAL "19"))
: GO TO USR R
4050 GO SUB VAL "96": CLS : PRINT
'("Play the tape..." AND dt=VAL "2
")+("Loading..." AND dt=od);n$ AN
D dt=od: PRINT #dt: LOAD N$ DATA f
$(): GO TO USR R
4200 GO SUB 50: CLS : PRINT #od: C
AT : PRINT AT VAL "2",r-r; BRIGHT
r/r; PAPER VAL "6";"Give name of p
rint spec to load": INPUT N$: IF N
$="" THEN GO TO R/R
4201 LET n$=n$+".A$": PRINT '("Pla
y the tape..." AND dt=VAL "2"): PR
INT #dt: LOAD N$ DATA P$(): GO TO
USR R
4210 REM See MFP User Guide
4211 PRINT #od: POKE 16090,150: PR
INT #4: POKE 16092,8202: POKE 6063
0,0: GO TO USR r
4290 CLOSE #VAL "2": GO TO USR R
4900 INPUT "Set Column? Y/N ";a$:
IF a$="N" OR a$="n" THEN GO TO VA
L "9000"
4970 INPUT "Left or Right? ";a$
4980 PRINT #od: POKE VAL "16094",o
d: IF a$="R" OR a$="r" THEN PRINT
#od: POKE VAL "16094",VAL "40"
4990 LPRINT : GO TO 1
7000 LET c$="": GO TO USR R
9000 BEEP R/R,R-R: PAUSE 0: GO TO
USR R
9900 PRINT #4: SAVE "EMPTY1.B1" LI
NE VAL "4037"

```

Listing #1

```

10 RANDOMIZE USR 100: OPEN #4,
"dd": RANDOMIZE USR 24580: PRINT
#4: POKE 16152,5182: PRINT #4:
POKE 16106,0: PRINT #4: POKE 161
07,0: PRINT #4: POKE 16233,0: PR
INT #4: POKE 16234,0: CLEAR 5732
7: PRINT #4: LOAD "Final1.B1"
9000 CLEAR 27000: RESTORE 9030:
FOR n=23300 TO 23309
9010 READ a: POKE n,a
9020 NEXT n
9030 DATA 205,102,0,62,3,211,244
,201,0,0
9040 RANDOMIZE USR 23300
9050 RUN

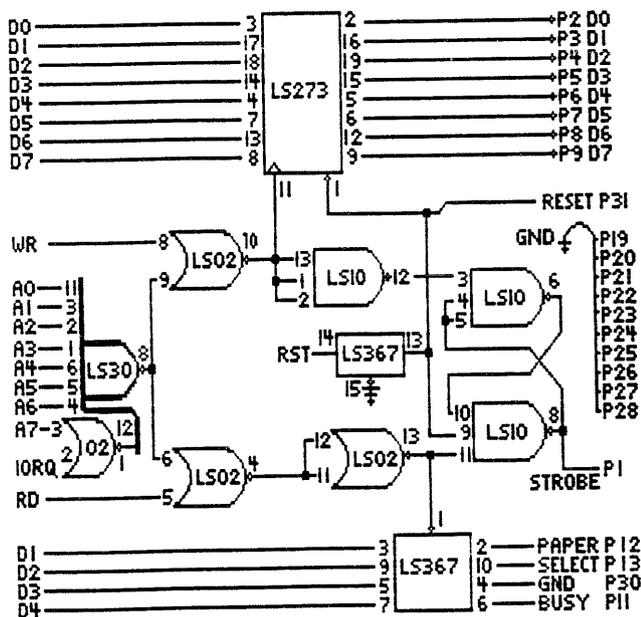
```

DID YOU KNOW?

Yesterday the November '92 Sinc-Link came along with the Out-of-town newsletter. George mentioned that a couple of members are looking for AERCO type printer interfaces.

Some time ago I realized that a feed-thru connector would improve the I/Fs usefulness. I had also wished for a longer cable than the one supplied with mine. Since we have several IBMs in the house I decided that an IBM style connector would be more convenient. Then I could use a cable I already had. So I made a duplicate using solder type sockets connected with wire wrap wire as the hook-up wire. I had a 90 degree connector and all the chips from previous projects, except for one-the 74LS273. I had a 74S273 that I thought I would use temporarily until I could get the correct chip. (It has been close to two years now but I still plan to replace it - someday.)

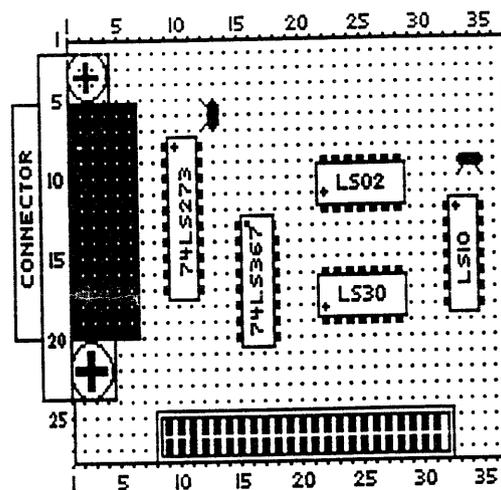
Below is the circuit diagram:



As you can see I am still trying to use Pixel Print for my articles and to try to draw a schematic with ArtStudio is pressing the issue a little bit. In case it isn't clear I was trying to indicate that LS02 pin 1 connects to pin 12 of LS30

I built the unit on a piece of perf board with holes on .1 in. centers. I used sockets because I don't like to solder to ICs,

but sockets aren't necessary. There are two isolation capacitors that go across the ground and the +5 busses. Of course the highest numbered pin is the +5 volt connection and the diagonally opposite is the ground connection and is not shown on the schematic. The only other parts required are a 18 type edge connector(s) to which the right hand connections are made. The printer cable numbers are the P numbers down the left side of the schematic. The component layout that I used is shown in the sketch shown below. I don't think any of this is critical and it could be made smaller if you did not choose to use an IBM style (25-position D-subminiature) connector.



The view is what you see looking over the keyboard at the female edge connector. The isolation capacitors are .1UF discs.

The schematic shows the final printer parallel connector pin numbers. If an IBM style D-mini is used the following chart will decode them:

parallel													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
IBM													
parallel													
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
--	--	--	--	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
IBM													
parallel													
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36			
25	--	--	--	--	16	15	--	--	--	17			
IBM													

Les Cottrell 108 River Hts. Dr.
Cocoa, FL USA 32922

323½ N. Church Street
Bowling Green, OH 43402-2307
October 13, 1992

Dear George,

Sorry I haven't gotten back to you earlier. I decided I should wait until I got paid, and could send you my dues.

I am glad to see I was correct about address 0004 in the LKDOS cartridge. Speaking of which, it might be nice to make a simple change to the FORMAT program to check that it is the right version. When I got the earlier Omnibus disk, one of the first things I had to do was replace the LKDOS Larken FORMAT program with the LKDOS Aerco FORMAT. Actually, it would be trivial to write the BASIC to LOAD the correct CODE, provided the appropriate CODE was available on the disk.

On the version of FORMAT I have, the LKDOS Aerco version of Hcode ("Hcode.Ca") is loaded in line 1020. All that would be necessary is to add a line 1015 to do the LKDOS PEEK to see which ROM they have, and then use IF statements to LOAD the appropriate code. As far as I can tell, there is only one other change that would have to be made, and that is to the BASIC which determines which number to POKE for the correct drive (the Larken POKES are two times the Aerco POKES, last I checked).

Naturally, these remarks apply equally to any other program that accesses the *i/f* directly instead of using the cartridge (for instance, a program to read DD disks in an HD drive). Since all of the OUT commands to access the *i/f* are different on Aerco, as are the values written to the command register or the select register, any library program or CODE which does this should make sure the *i/f* is there first. That is just common sense, since not all people who use LKDOS have the same *i/f*.

I also just recently came into some information which may make it easy to write a routine to read LKDOS disks on a PC. Unfortunately, PC-DOS (or MS-DOS) does not seem to be able to understand about disks with 10 sectors per track (usually). I have just found an old book on ml for the PC that happens to mention what looks like a way around this, direct access to the drive by track and sector instead of "logical sector". This requires use of one of the BIOS interrupts (INT 13, if I recall) instead of the usual DOS commands. If you don't know what that means, don't worry about it. I will have to work on this a bit and let you know if it works out. Theoretically at least it might be easier than the reverse routine I've been trying for reading PC disks on a TS 2068. Since the structure of LKDOS directories and files is comparatively simple, writing a PC program to interpret LKDOS disks is much easier than a program to read PC-DOS disks.

Take care of yourself. I'll send you the Unerase article and my results with the PC in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

Steven V. Embrose

TORONTO TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB

Gen. Sec., George Chambers, 14 Richome Crt. Scarborough, Ont. Canada, M1K 2Y1
1993 Jan 2

Mr Howard J. Clase
Box 9947. Station B,
St John's
Newfoundland,
A1A 4L4

Dear Mr Clase,

You will probably not realise it, but you have just taken part in a club membership drive which we are in the process of completing.

We realised there were a lot of people out there who were looking for somewhere to go - to belong to. So we sent out a sample Newsletter with a letter and an application form, inviting QL users to become members of one of the most progressive and illustrious QL Clubs in North America, and one which is also recognised overseas.

We have had numerous replies and new members enrolled, and in many instances the excellence of our newsletter was acknowledged. We knew all along that it was excellent and should be in all QL'ers mailboxes, and it was this excellence that triggered many to join our gathering of ardent QL'ers.

Now you, Mr Clase, already being a member, were not included in this mailout, so you probably were not aware of what was going on. Therefore this letter may come as a surprise to you, and I hope it does. Pleasant that is.

What may be more of a surprise to you is that the newsletter sent out was the one with your ALTKEY macros in Quill article, and this article was lauded in more than one of the notes and phone calls accompanying the applications for membership, as being one of many things to make a favourable impression. Many learned from that superb article.

Oh Yes, Mr Clase, I know that you are already aware of the excellence of your writings, so perhaps this is not such a surprise to you after all. But I bet you never thought to see this letter of appreciation in that prestigious publication - Sinc-Link!

Thank you Howard.

Yours sincerely,



Hugh H. Howie,
QL Contact,
586 Oneida Dr.
Burlington, Ont.
Canada, L7T 3V3
(416) 634 - 4929

QL

Copyright A. Pywell.

Another Last Word On INSTR:

We should by now be able to write some code to find a string within a string. (the experts call the little string a 'substring'). But , having found the substring, what if we want to find out if the substring occurs again?. Easy-peasy!. Our friendly neighbourhood QL allows you to search just part of a string and you can specify which part.

Remember POSITION = "PYW" INSTR "ALAN PYWELL"?. POSITION takes a value of 6. To save my typing fingers (one on each hand) let's assume that we have previously said A\$ = "ALAN PYWELL". So POSITION = "PYW" INSTR A\$ also returns 6 . Note that the keyword LET is optional, so I save my fingers again. Incidentally, I suppose that you , like me, read "Position equals 'PYW' Instring etc.. NAUGHTY!. You (and I) should read '(Let) Position take the value of'. I wonder if anyone other than authors reads it correctly?.

But suppose for some reason our prog says POSITION = INSTR A\$ (6 TO LEN (A\$)) ?. This is quite legitimate. What, do you suppose, is the value of POSITION now?. Well, the string (substring!) we were searching is "PYWELL" so INSTR found a match on the first letter. POSITION therefore takes the value 1. To put it another way, if you specify where the search is to begin then POSITION will start counting from that position and the count begins at 1 - the earlier part of the string to be searched is ignored. I've rambled on about this because if you want to carry on a search after finding one match you need to be aware of all that's just been said.

Let us suppose that A\$ =
"Alan Pywell is a towering genius and modest with it. Alan Pywell is also a liar".

POSITION = "PYW" INSTR A\$ will again return a value of 6 in POSITION. But we want to continue the search but we do not want to perform the pointless exercise of searching from the start of the string, so this is where the facility to specify which part of a string we want to search. Neither can we resume the search from POSITION because the first occurrence of "PYW" would be found immediately. We must resume the search from at least one character further on i.e. from POSITION + 1. Let's try POSITION = "PYW" INSTR A\$ (POSITION + 1 TO LEN (A\$)). Counting starts from the "e" in the first Pywell - when it finds the next occurrence of Pywell it will have counted to 51. But this tells us only that the second Pyw is 51 characters beyond the "e" in the first Pywell - not a lot of use. What we must do is tell QL to add the count of the first search to the count of the second but Oh, dear, silly old QL has forgotten the first count!.
So let's tell QL to remember the first count!.

```
POSITION = "Pyw" INSTR A$
OLD_POSITION = POSITION: REMark QL 'remembers' the first count
POSITION = "Pyw" INSTR A$(OLD_POSITION + 1 TO LEN (A$))
POSITION_OF_SECOND_OCCURRENCE = POSITION + OLD_POSITION
```

Now OLD_POSITION + POSITION (6 + 51) = 57. I'm a great believer in making people think so I have to tell you that the second occurrence of "Pyw" is the fiftyeighth character. So the last line of the prog above should read:

```
POSITION_OF_SECOND_OCCURRENCE = OLD_POSITION + POSITION + what?
```

Oh, alright, here's a clue. Add one. Experiment a bit with your own string and substring - you'll soon get it sorted out in your mind.

(Thinks 'Oh dear, here comes the dreaded GOTO again'
After my remark about fools and GOTO I received a couple of vitriolic letters from the anti-GOTO brigade. One writer claimed that his intelligence puts him in "the top 1% of the population" . If I had dignified his tirade with a reply I would have said that so does mine and greater intelligence gives greater capacity for being a fool. I don't advocate the liberal sprinkling of progs with GOTO but I do believe that the occasional use of this extremely useful keyword helps the learner no end. Look at this:

```
1000 PRINT "PRESS SPACE TO CONTINUE"  
1010 KEYS = INKEY$  
1020 IF KEYS <> " " THEN GOTO 1010:REMark Loops back until space is pressed.
```

Nothing wrong with that I say - it works!.

The above writer went on to say that if one's car has an ashtray then one should take up smoking, 'because it's there', according to my argument!. I didn't expect sense from one so blinkered. GOTO is there, but I never argued that one must use it simply that one can use it if one wishes. I frequently use a GOTO when programming to simplify my thought processes. At some stage I make the programme 'more elegant' by replacing many, but not necessarily all, GOTOs.

I would welcome suggestions for Part Five, I love receiving letters

Alan Pywell 13 Sandyfields Close Sea Lane Saltfleet Lincolnshire LN11 7RP

The above article was received too late to go into our November issue because Alan has been in and out of hospital in September/October resulting in him not being able to get the disk in the mail in time.

*You will note that Alan is asking for what YOU would like him to write about, so why not drop him a line and say something - even although it is just - "get well soon", I think that would be nice. Don't you?
Hugh Howie.*



BACKUPS

QL

COPIES

by Hugh Howie.

How often have I wished that my BACKUP disk was EXACTLY the same as the ORIGINAL disk! And would perform in EXACTLY the same way!

Well now I have that, the backup is EXACTLY the same as the original, even down to the date and everything else. When I take a WSTAT of my backup disk, I see that it bears the same date as the original.

This program which I have just acquired is really a very useful tool to have in your library. It will operate in a multi-disk setup, such as on a four disk stack! Between disks of the same type. 40 to 40 or 80 to 80 track. Only those configurations are permitted.

You can pop out and into the program by CTRL + C, so it is always available when required. When it first starts up, you are asked which is to be the Disk of ORIGIN, and also the TARGET (DESTINATION) disk. Toggle your selections with the first letter of option selected.

You are asked if you wish to FORMAT the Target disk. And if you wish to see what track the copier is copying. It even asks if you wish to make another copy.

It is a very FAST copier. I only use it on my Trump Card unit, and instead of switching disks as it copies, DISCOPY loads the complete disk into memory, and then transfers the memory to the TARGET disk in one fluid motion.

The only discordant factor I can find is that it requires both the original disk and target disk to be of the same type. This program will NOT copy from a 40 track to an 80 track. It will NOT copy from DD to HD to DD. Nor so far as I know, will it copy ED disks. But it WILL copy from 5 1/4 to 3 1/2 to 5 1/4, if both disks are of the same track and capacity.

Those discords are not too important as most folks who have two disk drives, usually have them of the same type. It's only idiots like me that has DD and HD and 40 and 80 and 5 1/4 and 3 1/2 all mixed up in various configurations.

It is peculiar to see a disk with a date in 1961 being copied over and the copy still bears the 1961 date.

You can learn to use this program in five minutes! It will even copy ATARI TOS and MS-DOS disks! Exactly! 720 K or 360 K, single or double sided.

As I said, DISCOPY will copy your disk over, EXACTLY the same as the original disk. And I mean that, EXACTLY.

Read your own interpretation into that last remark. Then write to EMSOFT, P.O. Box 8763. Boston. MA. 02114-0037. Don't forget to send some cash. Like \$14.95 US funds. That's all it costs.

101592

ZX81 RESOURCES KEYBOARD BUFFER with KEY-REPEAT

Rene Bruneau January 1993

Some time ago, I came across an article in SYNC that provided the ZX81 with a hardware key-repeat feature. Under normal conditions, the ZX81 operating system requires you to press and release each key before it will process the next key pressed. This is done in the key scan routine where the code checks to see if the key pressed is the same as before or if it is different. If there is a change, the new key value is accepted and processed. The repeat-key circuit uses a timer chip to toggle a buffer on and off at a slower rate than the key scan. Each time the buffer is off, the key scan detects a 'no key pressed' condition and accepts the pressed key value each time the buffer is on. The function can be disabled with a switch.

The keyboard buffer circuit is based on an article in a back issue of 'YOUR SINCLAIR'. With the omission of the timer chip and associated components (marked with an asterisk in the component list and boxed on the circuit diagram) the buffer will work on a 2068. The cable between the keyboard and the computer can be several feet long.

THE HARDWARE

A PCB mask has been provided for photocopying onto TEC 200 mylar film to be transferred to a blank circuit board. Load the components as shown on the overlay, being careful to install the sockets and capacitors correctly. The edge connector is located on the component side of the board, with the extender on the side facing away from the computer. Omit the marked components if the buffer is intended for a 2068 and solder a jumper across the switch pads as noted. Check for poor solder joints and jumps between traces and clean any that are suspect. Before you install the ICs on the board, plug the assembly onto the rear edge connector of your computer, turn it on, and confirm that the computer initializes properly. If it doesn't, quickly shut off the machine and check your work again.

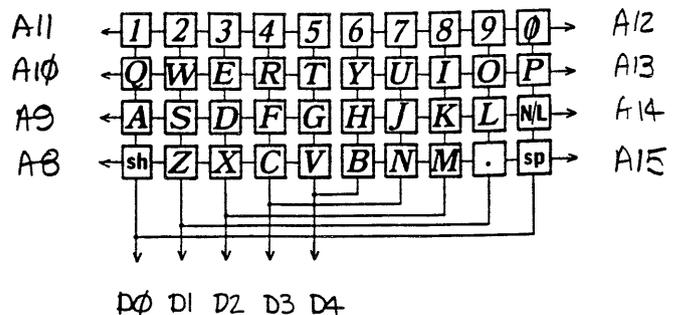
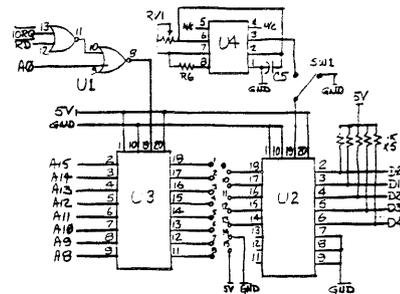
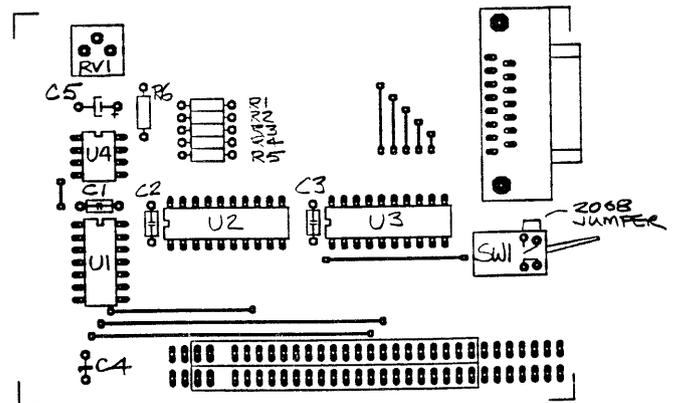
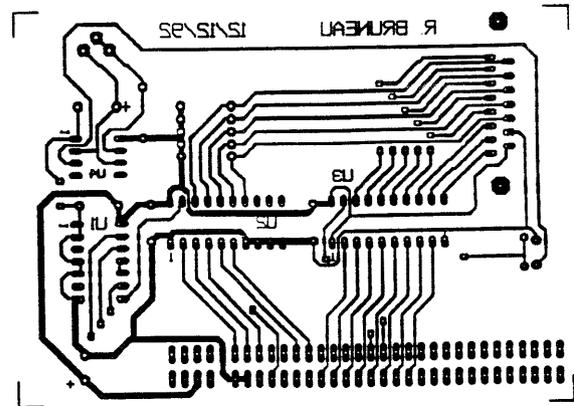
TESTING

Set the trim pot to the centre of its adjustment. Use a bare wire to short one of the A8 - A15 lines to one of the KBD lines. A character should appear on the screen and repeat until you remove the wire. Adjust the trim pot to achieve the desired repeat rate. If the rate is too high, no characters will print. To fully test the board, you have to construct or adapt a keyboard to connect to the buffer board. A suggested layout is shown, copied from Mike Lord's "THE EXPLORER'S GUILD TO THE ZX81 AND TIMEX SINCLAIR 1000".

COMPONENT LIST

- U1 74LS32
- U2 74LS245
- U3 74LS245
- U4 *LM555 timer
- C1 100nF polyester
- C2 100nF polyester
- C3 100nF polyester
- C4 4.7uF - 10v tantalum
- C5 *100uF - 10v electrolytic
- R1 1K - 1/4 watt resistor
- R2 1K - 1/4 watt resistor
- R3 1K - 1/4 watt resistor
- R4 1K - 1/4 watt resistor
- R5 1K - 1/4 watt resistor
- R6 *1K - 1/4 watt resistor
- RV1 *10K vertical trimpot
- S1 *SPDT toggle or slide switch
- J1 SUBD15 female connector
- J2 SUBD15 male connector
- J3 ZX81 or 2068 Edge connector

* Used for ZX81 Key Repeat



What is an Editor?

Reading many magazines and papers I often wonder what is expected of an Editor.

An Editor Gets blamed if the publication is not out on time.

An Editor Gets blamed if he chops and changes the material he is presented with.

An Editor Has to know what the reader wants, and also to give it to the reader.
(I ain't goin' to change that line!)

An Editor Is supposed to correct the writers errors which the writer should have done for himself.

If the Editor Should make a change in the wording of a text he is accused of altering the tone and intent of the author, and of spoiling the character the author was trying to portray.

An Editor Is not allowed to state his views too strongly except when the reader agrees with those views and then the Editor can ramble on as long as he/she/it wants.

An Editor Is supposed to keep the quality of content and amount of content up to a certain standard, often with little to work with.

I have one suggestion if you do not like what the Editor is publishing, and that is to write and tell the Editor.

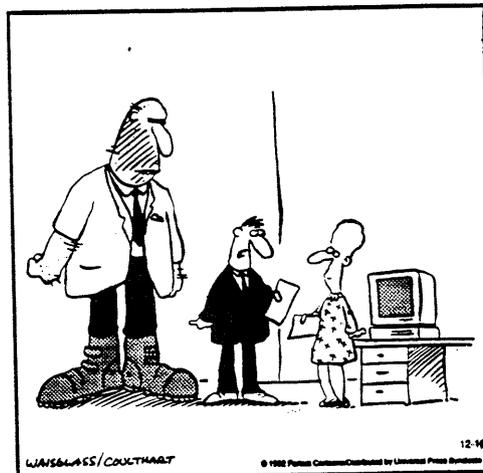
Oh! I almost forgot, the Editor can only **publish that which** is sent in to the Editor, and if nothing is sent in then someone has to fill up a lot of empty spaces.....that's another of the Editors jobs...filling in the spaces no one else has sent in anything to fill the spaces with....

Please Mr Editor, this is my little contribution for this month!

Hugh Howie.

Farcus

by David Waisglass
Gordon Coultart



**"Whatever you do, don't ask him
to boot the computer."**

Q L I P S

by Hugh Howie

I had a letter recently in which the writer was discussing TorQLib, our QL Library. One thing he was asking was if it was necessary to have "C"ontinue and also "N"ext in the catalogue MENU presentation, and this gave me the thought it might be worth mentioning in this column.

NEXT is an Archive command, where typing this in will take you to the next record of the current file.

CONTINUE will continue previous SEARCH or FIND from the record following the displayed record in the current file.

For example:-

Say you have records A, B, C, D, E, F.
And records A, D, F, have the word **CLOCK** in them.

Say you are at record "A" on the screen, if you now type **NEXT** you will go to record "B", and so on through the file displaying each record in rotation.

If you use the **FIND "CLOCK"** command, you will see record "A" on screen. Now if you type **CONTINUE**, you will be taken to record D, **CONTINUE** once again and you will see record F displayed. Thus placing on display only the records containing **CLOCK**.

Now can you see the difference?

NEXT goes to the next record on file.

CONTINUE goes to the next record of the string selection made by FIND or SEARCH.

In the TorQLib Catalogue, it is not necessary to type **next** or **continue** - only the initial letter of the word (**c** or **n**) and [ENTER] is necessary.

Please note:- "find" is case independant.
"search" is case dependant.

CLOSE - NEW - QUIT

Now to the difference in the above Archive commands.

CLOSE will close the file in use, making

the file safe, and saving any changes you may have made to the file.

NEW will close the file AND the program in use, but leaving you in Archive ready for another program to be run.

QUIT closes the file in use, the program in use, and returns you from Archive back into SuperBasic.

In all the above cases, the file is saved back to the device in use. That is why it is important to ALWAYS close an Archive file properly.

Now, should you just happen to try loading a file and get the message that the file is "not known" or "duplicate name" it is possible you have a file which is already open or has not been closed properly. In the latter case, there is a neat little program in the library called **DBF_CLOSE_BAS** written by Howard Clase. This program will close those files you failed to close yourself.

At this point I should mention that there is a difference between a file which has been left OPEN from the OPEN command, and one which has been left OPEN from the LOOK command.

When you are referring to a file it is usually in the LOOK state, in which there is not much damage done to a file left open that cannot be repaired by **DBF_CLOSE_BAS**. You have just been LOOKING at the file.

If you have been adding to, or making changes to a file such as editing records, or inserting new records, then you will have been in the OPEN state. In which case if you remove the disk, or leave the program without using the proper CLOSE or QUIT, then you are in all probability going to lose a whole stack of stuff, which can't always be recovered without a lot of work.

The moral of the story is :-----

KEEP A CURRENT BACK-UP
and

CLOSE THAT FILE - PROPERLY -

930103

January 9, 1993

John E. Juergens
18 Bryce Canyon Way
Pacifica CA 94044-3723

Hugh H. Howie
QL Contact
586 Oneida Drive
BURLINGTON ONT.
CANADA L7T 3V3

Dear Mr. Howie,

Have just about recovered from system(s) and outlook changes occasioned by our purchase of a Gold Card, a 3.2M drive used as FLP3 and PC Conqueror Gold SE (sometimes Digital lays it on their names a bit thickly.) I really don't care to repeat that process of rearranging so many things.

However, do have some comments for any of your colleagues contemplating similar purchase(s):

1. Gold Card: The publicized 4 times speed-up is accurate for most of the work you wish speeded-up. For example, in running our Archive-based checking and tax program, the object_pro file took 76 seconds before start-ing; with the Gold Card it takes 19.

Searching through a 650 record, 8 fields/record file for tax information, via FIRST, NEXT, etc., used to take up to 16 minutes; now, 3+ minutes.

Of the 2M of memory, actually available to me is about 3553 sectors.

The battery backed clock works, in contrast to another I had.

We still use QfLash in eprom and TQ+ with Quill and find no problem.

However, there is a bug: It takes the form of screen-display corruption. The best description I can give is that it looks as if the lighted pixels are being swallowed one by one by silicon bacteria.

Miracle was informed and they quickly responded with a newer ROM chip (free of charge) which was supposed to clear-up the corruption should it start. It did just that. If the corruption starts what one sees is a growing patch of black through the F1, F2 part (lower) of the start-up screen, followed by a turning back on of the turned-off pixels BUT, in turn, followed by the identical corruption. The bottom line is the fix did not fix it but does make for an interesting display if one is into that sort of thing.

The good news is that over 90% of turn-ons do NOT result in corruption and, of those that do, turning off the QL, waiting from 3 to 5 seconds, no more, and then turning it back on, results in a 99% success rate for me.

If the corruption is noticed at the F1 - F2 display there is no sense in proceeding; the corruption continues and ruins, at least, Quill and Abacus.

The problem is somewhat more than trivial but I can live with it for the speed and memory (about 1.7+M net) trade-offs.

2. The ED drive: If you read IQLR you will have noticed two recent articles on the Teac ED drive, the problems encountered and solutions found in getting it to work with the Gold Card.

On the basis of the IQLR, Nov/Dec 92. p. 137, article, I sent away to Midwest Micro for one. I can say that the settings recommended, p. 140, as well as the drive both work well.

However, I had another problem: I wished to use the drive as a semi-hard disk for both QL and PC-C files on FLP 3 or C: (the Gold Card supports 3 drives) and the Teac ED drive-select options are only DS0 or DS1, ie. FLP1 or FLP2.

The solution turned out to be something rather old and simple. An adaptation of IBM's cobble to make it easy for a user to add a second drive to their single drive machines.

IBM apparently shipped their add-on 2nd drives set to DS0 - Drive Select Zero - (the QL equivalent of FLP1) and they sold or furnished a replacement ribbon cable with two edge-card drive connectors. If examined, the cable just before the connector to the 2nd drive was different. One would see that just before the edge-card connector for the 2nd drive, the 34 conductor ribbon cable was split into 3 parts.

The middle part, consisting of lines 10 through 16, maintained as a contiguous unit after being separated from the main cable about an inch, was given an 180 degree twist and then re-placed into the main cable, held there by the 2nd drive connector.

Effectively, this put the MOTOR ON line, #16, in the place of Drive Select zero line, #10, for the 2nd drive thus allowing somehow a 1 drive system to use a second drive.

I did approximately the same thing with our ED drive, separating lines 12 thru 14, consisting of DS1, a Ground line and DS2, reversing and replacing them. The important last step was making certain that the ED drive itself was set to operate as DS1 (FLP2).

Now, when FLP3_ is called for, the signal goes out on DS2 but, because of the 180 degree twist, it enters the drive on DS1 causing it to respond as FLP3_. Those clever IBM engineers! Line #1 of the ribbon cable line is the line closest to you as you sit in front of the QL; alternatively, line 34 is the line closest to the protruding Gold Card heat sink.

3. PC Conqueror Gold SE: Firstly, it should only be acquired about the time Lent starts as it has a distinctly penitential quality about it. Let me hasten to add that it is a tinkerer's delight. By locking the user into nothing, one is free to make almost infinite choices about how to operate DOS on the QL. One has many more choices than a DOS machine user does about how what gets done when including multi-tasking a QL program along with a PC program should that prospect ever appear gratifying!

At its fastest it runs DOS applications at about the speed I remember our un-expanded QL ran Quill or Abacus. At its slowest, such as running our checking and tax program in Psions's PC-4 Archive, it's intolerable. Running Quill or Abacus from the PC-4 group is quite acceptable.

Some time ago, we had purchased two inexpensive word processors of the PC persuasion. One runs quite acceptably but the other would be much too slow for practical use. The worst of it is that I haven't a clue as to why the large difference in speed exists. I do appreciate that Archive must needs run through several layers of programming before it gets to the emulator level. And, once there, it's not home yet.

So much, it seems, depends upon the programmer and things you and I could not be expected to know or publishers to list. So, few if any rules can be made to guide a purchase. Shareware with its "test before you buy" feature should provide a partial solution.

On the positive side, purchasing PC-C beats having a number of large pieces of additional hardware cluttering up an already over-crowded computing and at 110 BPS, it's cheaper than an actual PC even at today's cut-throat prices.

Under PC-C, DOS is free to use about 700K for programs leaving about 800K free as LIM equivalent Expanded Memory, RAMDRIVE (VDISK), or whatever.

Although PC-C does support two DD and/or HD drives, it does NOT support ED drives as such. However, a user having an ED drive may use it as a pseudo-hard disk, ie. as drive C:, with up to 3.128M of space available and in conjunction with the other two drives, A: and B:.

The interesting thing about PC-C's hard disk handling (real or pseudo) is that it convinces DOS that a file on a QL formatted disk is a DOS hard disk; enough so that a user must FDISK and FORMAT the disk (file) to use drive C:

Once through the convolutions of producing a DOS-useable hard disk, one may copy it, empty or full of DOS files, to another QL-formatted disk by the SuperBasic COPY command. Of course, WHERE one copies 3.128M TO is another problem for another day - sort of like the nuclear waste problem!

All in all, I'm extremely doubtful that IBM or the clone makers are dreading the PC-C onslaught to their market share. But, exploring the great amount of PC shareware out there without an inordinate investment and on a machine with which one is familiar may seem worthwhile to some. Perhaps one may find a good program in PC land that has escaped the eye of a QL programmer.

I seem to have rambled. Thanks again,



INTERBANK DATABASE
TS-2068 and the Larken RAMdisk
George Chambers

This is the first of two articles which will describe the insertion of blocks of prepared data into an interbank database.

One of the disks in our Larken disk library (#30) has programming which makes use of the Larken RAMdisk. It manages the memory chips in the RAMdisk in such a way as to create an immense database. Where the 2068 has about 38K of free memory, this program makes it possible to create a database of up to 282K.

The programming to make this possible was written by one of our members, Larry Crawford, and examples of it's use are on the disk #30. It has languished in the library without much attention being paid to it. Until recently, that is. A few months ago I took another look at it, and became enchanted with it's possibilities. When Bob Mitchell created the index of the Sinc-Link newsletter contents (published in the newsletter in recent issues), I found it rather frustrating to search out articles; it was still difficult to locate a specific article. Then an idea came to me. Why not make use of this interbank database program to hold the Sinc-Link index. This is an article about my experience.

The first thing to be decided was how large each record in the file should be. The database is designed to handle any size record, up to a maximum record size of 127 characters.

Many of the entries in Bob's Sinc-Link index exceed 64 characters, some even larger than the 127 character limit. It seemd most expeditious to make the record size coincide with a Tasword file, that is, make each record equivalent to two lines of Tasword, 128 characters.

Larry's program is based on the premise that the entries will be entered manually. This was not my intention. My plan was to massage the n/l index data (which is on library disk (#52) so that it would conform to the 127-character size I set for my database.

The 'index' data on disk #52 was in the form of Mscript files. Since it appeared easier to massage the data if it was in the form of Tasword files, I used another program in our library (on #55-Stephen Gunhouse Collection) called 'WP Conversion'. This utility can convert an Mscript file to a Tasword file, and vice versa.

Incidentally the n/l index files were originally on an MSDOS disk, and were converted to Mscript files by using the conversion program on library disk #27 MSDOS/LARKEN.

Once the Mscript 'index' files were converted to Tasword, I edited them. That is to say, where an entry was longer than the 127 characters allowed, I split it into smaller records. With Tasword this was an easy matter; Each record had to use no more than 2 lines of Tasword. That is to say, every second line of Tasword was the start of a new record. I started each record with the newsletter ID, e.g. 9101 9/1 p.04. If an entry had to be split, each new entry had to be given this ID. This was the most tedious part of the job.

I needed a marker at the end of the actual data in each record (something like a period at the end of a sentence). But in this case I wanted the keyword ENTER (code 13). What I did was place an asterisk at the end of ea entry in the Tasword file. I then broke out of Tasword Basic and did a

FOR/NEXT loop which searched through the text, replacing every appearance of the asterisk 'code 42' with the value 13.

Enter this in the front of your Tasword program:

```
1 GOTO 10
2 FOR N = 33280 TO (length of tasword file)
3 IF PEEK N = 42 THEN POKE N, 13
4 NEXT N: STOP
```

To use, enter GOTO 2. It will take a minute or so to complete. Don't forget to delete this once you gave finished with it.

This marker '13' prevents the "empty" part of any record from showing on the screen. If there were no marker '13' there would be blank lines in the screen display of the record. In effect the marker tightens up the screen display.

Having saved the prepared Tasword files, now comes the touchy part; inserting it into the database.

We know the database starts at address 32768. How do we know that? Well, because that is where the bank-switching takes place; in the upper half of the computer memory, which starts at address 32768. We can verify that. Let's try.

First load the interbank database SHELL. The disk has an AUTOSTART menu. Select option B. You will be presented with a CAT, showing one or more ".CC" files. Enter "SHELL".

When it has loaded you will see a menu. Select option 'N. New Database'. You will be asked for a name, then for the record length for this database. In our case we shall select the maximum. Enter 127. You will now return to the menu.

We shall enter our first record. Select Option A, then type in say, your name. Just a short name will do. With the name still on the screen, press the ENTER key. The next record entry will appear. This time we shall terminate the record entry by entering a STOP, i.e. the 'shifted A' key. This should bring you back to the menu. We now have our first entry in the database. Let's look at it. Select Option 'L', and when asked, ask to start at record 1. The screen will show your name as record 1. The screen will ask you to "PRESS ANY KEY". We want to break out into the Basic, so 'break' into the program with the usual way with the Break key and space bar.

This is about the only place in the program operation that you can break out into Basic. The other situation is where you have a screen display of records and the 'scroll?' indicator showing. Here, if you want to break out of the program, enter "N". A "PRESS ANY KEY" will appear. Break out of the program with Break key and space bar.

We are now out of the program. Enter a LINE in the program:

```
1 FOR N = 32768 TO 65500: PRINT N, CHR$ PEEK N: NEXT N : STOP
```

Use GOTO 1. Never use RUN, or you will lose program variables. You will get a display on the left side of your screen showing a series of addresses, with the letters of your name opposite them. This is the start of the record area. Continue with scrolling. The screen will show emptiness, except for the addresses. Except that, depending on the record size you selected, you will presently come across a "STOP" entry.

Note this address; it is where the next entry will start. In our case, since you entered 127 as the record length, you will come across this 'STOP' at address 32896.

This will be significant when we come to loading in our 'prepared' Tasword files, which we will cover in our next article.

THE XCHANGE VERSION OF QUILL

Although Quill is old, most QL owners still use it, at least part of the time. It is a very good general purpose word processor. The enhancements in version 2.35, especially when running with Athene's Turbo Quill+, has made the program a lot less buggy and much more responsive. With the Gold Card, I am told, the speed is greatly increased. But there are still shortcomings.

Quill has no Block Copy and Save feature or Global replace command. Nor does it have a mail merge feature. But Quill's biggest omission, in my opinion, is its inability to import most ASCII files. (Yes there are ways to get around this, but they are cumbersome.)

Text87 and Perfection can overcome these problems, but they are fairly expensive and there is a learning curve. Another solution is XCHANGE.

XCHANGE is a disk version of the set of four PSION programs that came with the QL. It allows all four programs to be loaded simultaneously. Using the F6 key (shift F1 with the QL) the user can switch from one application to the next. Several documents can be loaded at once. The amount of memory is the only limit to the number of PSION applications available.

I'll concentrate on the changes in Quill, but XCHANGE includes a Task Sequence Language (TSL) that allows a programmer to control interplay between the various applications. It also has 3D charts in Easel and a one-step command to export Easel, Abacus or Archive files and import them into Quill.

The version of XCHANGE I use is 3.87 (copyrighted in 1987). I am told that it was hacked over from the THOR. The only documentation I received was some pages from the reference manual dealing with the MAIL subcommand and the GLOSSARY feature. Also, on the disk, was a short Quill_DOC explaining how to use the Task Sequencing Language. Five sample _TSL programs, which appear to have been part of a longer tutorial,

where also included on the disk. With the PSION F1 help feature, the above documents are enough to figure out most features.

XCHANGE requires the Toolkit II extensions. Once loaded you are presented with the taskswtiching screen. There are several commands available using F3. You are also allowed to scroll to one of the four PSION programs and enter it. If you push the ENTER key with the Quill label highlighted (for example) you are prompted for a TASK name. Type a name, press the enter key and you are in Quill. To open more Quill applications, press F6 (shift F1), scroll down to the Quill label, enter and use a different task name. Press F6 to switch between applications at any time.

Once in Quill you will be in familiar territory. There are a few apparent minor differences. For example, to change from Insert to Overwrite it will say press F9 (which is shift F4). There is a block for F6 (XCHANGE) and there is a task name at the bottom. Help is still available at all times by pushing F1. F3 gives you the commands, and prompts are turned off and on with the F2 key. The only added command is EXTRACT, but there are several additional subcommands and we'll get to those in a minute.

EXTRACT allows a block of text to be highlighted, then saved to be merged with other documents at a later time. SEARCH and REPLACE have the following enhancements. They both now give the option of beginning at the TOP or defaulting from where the cursor is. REPLACE also prompts with "Yes, No or All?"--which allows global replacements. SAVE now asks to overwrite with an "OVERWRITE, YES?" prompt instead of requiring the user to push "Y." There are several other enhancements of this kind.

There is also a GLOSSARY feature that allows the user to predefine a set of commonly used keystrokes. This is similar to the one used in Turbo Quill+,

THE XCHANGE VERSION OF QUILL

even making use of the F5 key. Any letter or number can be defined and up to 250 keystrokes can be entered for each definition or "glossary."

The most important changes are in the FILE command. No longer will you find FORMAT, BACKUP or COPY. (BACKUP and COPY are two of the commands in the XCHANGE front end--FORMAT is no longer available from within XCHANGE.) These commands are replaced by the following: IMPORT (enhanced), EXPORT, MAIL and TRANSFER. These changes are, to me, the key advantage of using Quill under XCHANGE.

IMPORT now imports any ASCII text file, allowing many more extensions than _LIS. This saves the hassle of having to change the file name's extension. Import can be used to view TSL programs, SuperBASIC programs, Glossary definitions, etc. It also can be used to import text from other computers that has been brought over through the serial port, with DiscOver, or by using some other transfer program.

EXPORT makes an ASCII file with only carriage returns and line feeds at the end of each line. This is very nice for uploading files to Bulletin Boards. One disadvantage of EXPORT, since it puts line feeds and carriage returns at the end of each line, is that it can't be directly used for editing SuperBASIC programs. Either a filter program could be used to overcome this problem, or the old solution of making a special printer_DAT and saving to a _LIS file. The default extension with EXPORT is _EXP. If you use _TSL instead, the file is treated as a TSL program. This means you can write a TSL program, XCHANGE tasks, try it out, then return with the XCHANGE command and continue writing the program.

TRANSFER also makes ASCII text files. Its purpose is to allow Quill documents to be transferred to another type of computer using Quill (an IBM PC, for example) without losing the formatting and typestyle commands. It does this by using ASCII characters to define the control codes. Once the document is

transferred it can be saved in the regular way and nothing is lost. TRANSFER prompts the user either to Save or Load when the subcommand is chosen. MAIL is the most complicated of the FILE subcommands. It allows personalized form letters to be printed. It does this in one of three ways. Codes can be inserted into the standard document that prompt the user to type information from the keyboard when each letter is printed. Or codes can be embedded in the standard document allowing the information to be supplied by either a specially prepared Quill document or an Archive _EXP file. The ARCHIVE _EXP extension is the default.

I'm very impressed with Quill in the XCHANGE program. The ability to open two or more documents, extract what you want from one and load it into the other document is nice. There is multitasking software that allows task switching, but none that uses the enhanced version of Quill. I've used Turbo Quill+ by Athene for several years and am very happy with its increased speed and smoother "feel." The XCHANGE version of Quill seems about as fast and smooth as Turbo Quill+. In addition, it has the added FILE subcommand features.

If anyone would like more information about XCHANGE, please write. I'm told that Sharps still has a couple copies available for \$60, but I'm disappointed that a complete manual is not provided.

Ron Blizzard
1248 S. Vineyard #42
Mesa, AZ 85210

This is an extract of a letter recently received, and is used here with the permission of the author. I found it interesting. I think you will also. HHH

Toronto Timex-Sinclair Users Club.

I was very pleased to receive your invitation to join the Toronto Timex-Sinclair Users Club and am glad to accept it. My brother, Dale, tells me that he has already paid my dues (a Christmas present) and that I am to give you more information. (All this before I really even had a chance to read my first issue of Sinc-Link.) (I'm not complaining.)

I've owned a QL since late 1986. I bought it and an amber, monochrome, composite monitor for \$250 from A+. A few months later I added a Seikosha 1200 AS (serial, 9-pin) printer. Then, probably a year later, came a QfLash RAM drive cartridge and a 512K Expanderam. Perhaps a year later, I added an external modem and QLINK software. Microdrives became expensive and scarce so I finally decided to go to a disk drive system. RMG (in Oregon) had a couple used disk interfaces, a Cumuna and a Delta. I chose the Delta because it included a parallel port for the same price. RMG also had some uncased power supplies and I picked up a couple cheap (at the time) 5 1/4", Quad-density, Tandon disk drives from Ed Grey Enterprises (in Los Angeles). After several weeks of procrastinating, I finally put all the pieces together and for a time couldn't access the Expanderam's memory when the Delta was connected. I finally found the right trace to cut (thanks to Vernon Smith at CATS in Washington, DC) and was very happy to have 640K and disk drives. I managed to blow out the Centronics port, but my brother figured it out and we replaced the right chip (just a couple dollars). That's about it, except I purchased a microdrive version of Toolkit II (from Curry's in Glendale, AZ) and have been very happy about that decision ever since. (My brother and father both have Trump Cards but I can do just about anything they can with my system, plus use the superior QfLash RAM disk system.)

Though my wife thinks the QL is ugly (a lot of it is exposed and there are wires running all around the place), I'm very fond of the system. Not that I've always been true to the QL. Before I bought it I considered a 2068 (I had been given a Timex-Sinclair 1000, but I wanted a word processor - and the 2068 seemed like the next logical step. The QL came first--no regrets--but when I got a chance to pick up a used 2068 with Spectrum ROM, I bought it. I really don't know why. Then we decided we wanted to try to scan our stories in for the Blizzard Rambler (our small-press magazine) and we (Dale and I) got involved in the IBM world. (I.e., ahem, I ah... own an XT...) Actually I got involved with IBMs long before this. All my friends at work knew I had a computer so they kept asking me questions. I was forced to learn MS-DOS before I ever owned an IBM. I've learned quite a bit about compatibles by working on mine (I've replaced the Motherboard and many cards -- added memory, etc.) and I'm not that impressed (though DR-DOS is a large step above MS-DOS).

So where am I now? (I ask this question a lot in my letters.) I use both the QL and the XT. WordStar 5.5 on the XT had a definite edge over Quill (not in ease of use but because of its formatting ability) but now text87 plus4 may tilt things back into the QL's favour. In case I haven't mentioned it, my main interest in computing is in word processing, but I enjoy trying to program, playing games, and just generally reading about computers.

Your offer and Sinc-Link came at the right time. I had basically given up reading computer magazines because they cater to those who want the newest and

fastest and... who knows why? I'm quite happy slogging along with my XT and QL. But do I really need a Gold Card? About as much as I need a 386 or 486 in the IBM world. In other words, not at all. I'm not complaining, it's just that I sometimes wonder how much computing actually gets done with these "power" user computers. (I'm talking more of the IBM world here, it takes a 486 to run at an XT's speed when burdened with Windows. Seems pointless, but I probably speak more from ignorance than anything else.)

All the above was said, basically, to let you know that I'm happy with my QL system as is, except I may want to find a 3 1/2 disk drive. It seems most QL users have these and it would make it easier to share information if I did too. I plan to compare text87 plus4 to WordStar 5.5 and WordPerfect 5.1. This will be easy because, with text87 plus4 I can import long Quill documents then export them as "normal" ASCII (which means, in plus4 lingo, with Line Feeds only at the end of each paragraph) then, using QLINK's Filter program, change those LF's into Line Feeds with Carriage Returns. Then transfer this file to the XT, using QLINK and Procomm with a cable I made connecting the serial ports. The file is then opened as a WordStar document and can be formatted in any way. I can then convert the document over to WordPerfect format, load it into WordPerfect and have the exact document in all three word processors. Then we can start reformatting it in many different ways, do searches, etc., and we'll find out how much faster text87 plus4 is on an 8 Mhz machine as compared to WordStar and WordPerfect on a 12 Mhz XT. I'm guessing that plus4 will be as much as six times faster than WordStar and at least three times faster than WordPerfect.

I'd better go. Thanks again. I'll be proud to be a member of the Toronto Timex-Sinclair Users Club and I hope that I can contribute in some way.

Sincerely,

Ron Blizzard
1248 S. Vineyard #42
Mesa, AZ 85210 U.S.A.



Dear George:

The primary subject of this letter is the LARKEN RAMDISK. The LARKEN RAMDISK which has so many possibilities is; it seems to me; one of the least documented, least understood by its owners/users; myself included; and most underutilized plug-in peripheral produced for use with the TS-2068 computer by any manufacturer.

What I would like this letter to do is encourage you and all the other members of the TORONTO TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB to set about the task of fully testing the LARKEN RAMDISK and generating & providing to the owners/users of the LARKEN RAMDISK boards the much overdue and needed specifications/data documentation and software/firmware to provide those same owners/users the best possible uses of the LARKEN RAMDISK.

Let me explain what I mean by "the best possible uses of the LARKEN RAMDISK".

The first thing to be done is ascertain if any or all of the following LARKEN RAMDISK possibilities can be made realities.

- <1> - Find the best methodologies possible for using the LARKEN RAMDISK as expanded bank switched RAM? What software/firmware is needed? Where can the software/firmware best be located within the TS-2068 computer system? Would the software/firmware best be located within the TS-2068 computer in HI-RAM or in the LARKEN DISK CONTROLLER I/O cartridge? Provide several software/firmware working location variations so users with differing system setups would all get the best results from their system setup whether they have only the LARKEN RAMDISK or have both the LARKEN RAMDISK and LARKEN DISK CONTROLLER I/O with its cartridge. All users would be able to get the absolute best possible working location and results from their systems.
- <2> - Find a way to load and run 128 K SPECTRUM programs using the LARKEN RAMDISK as bank switched RAM.
- <3> - Find a way to add/combine two or more LARKEN RAMDISK boards by plugging one behind the other to provide 512 K, 768 K or 1024 K etc. of usable bank switched RAM. Produce proper documentation for any rewiring that must be done to add/combine two or more LARKEN RAMDISK boards together.
- <4> - Find a way to add one LARKEN RAMDISK board to be used as a RAMDISK and one or more additional LARKEN RAMDISK boards to be used as banked switched RAM.

Please put these propositions before the TTSUC membership for me. Perhaps you could place an article in the SINC-LINK newsletter so that out of town members as well as members of other users groups, would be encouraged, to pursue alone or in concert with the TTSUC members solutions for turning the LARKEN RAMDISK's possibilities into realities.

Please keep me informed as to what if any progress is being made in pursuit of the above noted goals by you or other TTSUC members as well as anyone you may be in touch with from other users groups.

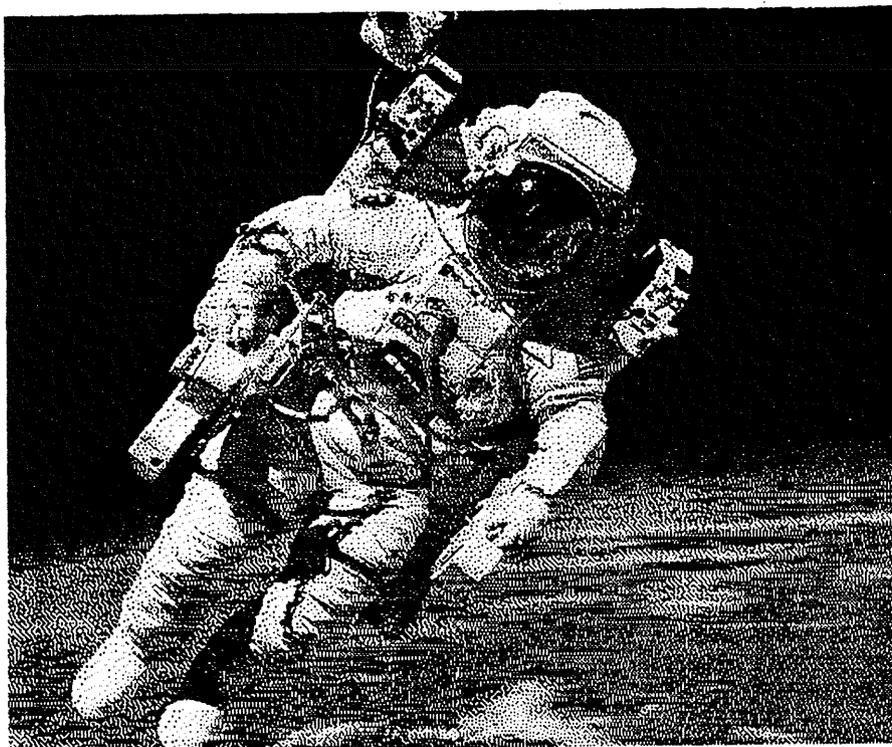
Lastly a SPECTRUM computer question. Is it possible to write a program to convert 128 K SPECTRUM sound chip programming to use the TS-2068 sound chip's output instead? Is there any data available in the TTSUC's library that describes the 128 K SPECTRUM sound chip and programming for it you can send me?

Thank you in advance for your help in the above matters.

Sincerely



Robert Shade



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Repair Charges for SINCLAIR/TIMEX Computers Revised Jan. 1, 1993

Prices do not include shipping and handling charges.
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I will ship via the cheapest method unless you specify otherwise.
The minimum handling charge for shipping is **\$2.00**.
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The minimum extra charge for modified equipment repair is **\$5.00**.

Definition of modified equipment: Any circuitry changes on the inside of the equipment case that involved the addition of components, wires, integrated circuits, or hardware. Customers who send in computer equipment that has had modifications done to it, which change the manufacturer's original design are subject to paying extra.

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			MIRACLE Centronics	
			RAM Centronics	

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		LARKEN RAMDISK		Z-SIO	AERCO 2068 Centronics

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				CST FDI

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ROTRONICS WAFADRIVE	Z-88
---------------------	------

The following items will be repaired for \$25.00 each + parts & shipping:

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TRUMP CARD	ZEBRA 2068 FDD System	AERCO 1000 FDI

For repairing modules, printers, monitors, or other computerized equipment not listed above - write for a price quote for the items you want repaired. For modifying or upgrading any computer or module - write for a quote.

I also service ATARI, COLECO, COMMODORE, IBM, OSBORNE, TI, and TRS-80.

In house turn around is usually 2 to 4 weeks.
Upgrades and problem cases may take longer.
You will be notified of any unusual delays or excessive repair costs.

(over)

Instructions for sending in computer equipment:

1. For repairs, please use a separate sheet of paper to describe in detail the problem you are encountering, and whether or not the problem is intermittent. List any software or hardware that are associated with the problem. Also list any modifications that have been done to your equipment.
2. For upgrades, please enclose or specify the magazine article or other source of information for doing each upgrade.
3. You may include a check or money order as a deposit for repair costs. You will be notified if a balance is due. Over amounts will be refunded.
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AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL QL USERS

To all it may concern;

Effective close of business March 2, 1993, EMSOft will cease operations.

It began in 1987 as a service to promote North American software for the Sinclair QL; it was not to compete with existing suppliers. It was not intended to be a profit-making enterprise. Nor was it to lose money.

To the extent that software was written for the QL, it did its job.

The decision to terminate operations was not arrived at impulsively but was hastened by mean and petty rumor mongering without basis in fact.

Mechanical Affinity is a reliable and domestic source of considerable hardware and software. We recommend them. Further, most European vendors now accept Visa/Mastercard thus avoiding currency exchanges.

Until March 2, any item of QL software still carried by EMSOft sells at a 50% reduction from normal. Prices below reflect all discounts and are limited to these items while in stock. The *asterisk indicates exceptions. All prices are postpaid in N.A. Choice of disk size/format: specify number of sectors. Add *\$4.00 per mdv.

Peter R. Hale

Software**	
text**plus4 v3.1 (3 QD disks)	\$69.98
WYSIWYG wordprocessor & Qtyp spell checker	
fountext**: graphic driver	24.98
WYSIWYG output to 9 or 24 pin with 32 fonts	
founted**: screen font editor	14.98
Make text87 custom fonts	
Z4**: 24 pin drivers (for text** only)	14.98
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QL_GENEALOGIST (2nd ED)	27.48
Family history with UK royal family demo	
CAPE Software	
RECIPE ver 2.0	19.95
Recipe card file _dbf and demo	
EMSOft	
MAILBAG ver 3.1	12.48
Mailing list _dbf with demo	
GLAND_LORD ver 3.1	12.48
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TRUST_FUND ver 3.1	12.48
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We can all do with a little bit of amusement in our daily
lives, and when I came across this I thought it might be just
the think(g) for the start of a
New Year

to remind us how mortal we all are.

I don't know where this came from,
but here it is for those who are 'gittin' there.

(I have already 'gotten' there)

Hugh Howie

MY GET UP AND GO --- HAS GOT UP AND WENT

How do I know my youth is all spent ?
Well, my get up and go has got up and went.
But in spite of it all I'm able to grin
When I think of where my get up has been.

Old age is golden so I've heard said,
But sometimes I wonder when I crawl into bed.
With my ear in a drawer, and my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.

As sleep dims my eyes I say to myself
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?
But I'm happy to say as I close the door,
My friends are the same, perhaps even more.

When I was young my slippers were red,
I could kick up my heels, 'way over my head.
When I grew older my slippers were blue,
But I could still dance the whole night through.

Now I am old, my slippers are black,
I walk to the store and puff my way back.
The reason I know my youth is all spent,
Is my get up and go has got up and went.

But I don't mind, when I think with a grin
Of all the grand places my get up has been.
And since I've retired from life's competition,
My schedules all scheduled (with complete repetition)

I get up each morning and dust off my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the 'obits',
If I see my name missing, I know I'm not dead,
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.

JAN/FEB 1993

JAN 15, 1993

Dear Out of Town members:

As I write this I have not seen this issue of the newsletter yet. Jeff is busy assembling it. He is having a bit of difficulty getting material together. Well, the Xmas season and all that. But I would like to make a reminder. Our newsletter is one of the best (I think it is THE best Timex newsletter, but then, I'm rather biased. Does that excuse me?)

What I really want to say is that it is good because we have enough members who are willing to put pen to paper. Would that more of you would. Let's not lose the best news editor we ever had.

I picked up some Timex stuff a few months ago, and have been getting rid of it slowly. A club member from California, Mike Stephens, got a Larkenized Ramex system; another member, Mac Pace, got an A & J Microdrive system. And Ken Gamey got an Aerco printer interface. I have managed to recover the cost of the items, and I managed to get a good collection of "Your Spectrum" magazines. That's what I really wanted. It seemed too bad not to get all the rest of the stuff for members who could make use of it.

In the last OOT letter I asked whether anyone knew whether a Tasman printer interface type B could be modified for the Larken system. Seems like a port incompatibility would lock up the Larken system. In response I had a letter from Bob Swoger, a head man in the Chicago TS group. He is a Larken enthusiast, and he sent me a schematic that was put out by Larry Kenny, on how to do that very modification. And a few days later a club member, Les Cottrell, wrote with the same information. Thank you very much. A demonstration of club usefulness!

I did try the Tasman mod out, but I must have made a mistake somewhere. At first I thought I had it. I put "george" into MSCRIPT, and it printed out perfectly. I thought, "I've done it!!". I then promptly wrote a letter to a member about it. But when I came to print out the letter, it did not function properly. I would get the first line, then a line 20 lines further on in the letter. Seems like the printer is not able to tell the computer to stop sending the material. I haven't figured that out yet; I shall have to ask Jeff to look at it. I'm not up to that trouble-shooting.

Bob Swoger also sent an updated version of LOGICALL, a disk management system developed by him. It is in our library on Disk #41. All you Larken owners, do ask for it.

There is an article in the newsletter re Interbank Database. It is about my experiences in installing the SINC-LINK index into this program. It is on a disk, and I can send it to you. There is only one problem; the SORT routine has a bug in it. With every SORT a number of files are mangled. That's not too critical in this application. There is no point to sorting, since there is only one order that counts. That is, the chronological order. When the SORT problem is remedied I shall give it a Larken library number. It is very useful. I found that I could not find things very easily with the paper index; it was too hard searching through page after page of detail.

I have a club member asking whether there are any Larken systems for sale. I'm sure there must be, members seem to fade out of the picture, and we never seem to hear of their equipment becoming available. Why not

put some adverts in the newsletter. They are free; a service to both buyers and sellers. Why not adverts asking for items, not just offering them for sale.

One of our members has just received a QL that was sent to Dan Elliott for service. Again, we had very super service from COMPUTER CLASSICS, Dan's corporate name. Seems this is his new name; it used to be Promiseland Electronics. Dan has put out a price list for servicing different Timex items, and I shall ask Jeff to include it in the newsletter. Incidentally, Dan Elliott has recently joined our club. Welcome to our group.

In looking through the piles of stuff in my computer room, I see where I have another complete set of SYNC magazines, plus about 8 assorted spare issues. SYNC was strong on TS1000, and faded out of the picture just about the time the 2068 came on the scene. You can have them, or part of them, as you wish, for the postage, and maybe a dollar or so for the packing materials.

I also have a few mixed issues of ZX COMPUTING. Same deal. I simply hate to throw them out, although it would be a lot simpler to do.

A number of members have the Spectrum ROM in their 2068 machine. I wonder if you are interested in Spectrum games to try out on your machines. Some of you are, I know, for I have been in correspondence with you. But there may be some newer members who have not realized this. Do drop me a line, and say you are interested. Whether you have a tape system or a Larken system is immaterial. I have loads of Spectrum games.

In a last letter I mentioned that I have copied a great number of pages of tips from some Spectrum magazines and offered them to members if they were interested. Some of you were. But it occurred to me that, if I didn't mention it last time, you should ask me for an index of the games these tips apply to. So you can see whether they are pertinent to what games you have. If you are interested, ask for the "index of games tips/pokes".

Game pokes to give infinite lives, etc, are hard to put into a tape based game, but are very easy to put into a game stored on a Larken disk. We have a program in the Larken disk library which will poke different numbers into a program with the greatest of ease. It is called "bopeep.B1" and is on disk #21.

I have put a new disk into the library. Well, really it is a disk I have had for quite a while. It is a collection of programs written and/or assembled by Stephen Gunhouse, one of our members. It has a number of very interesting programs on it. Recently I used one of them, a program which will convert an Mscript file into a Tasword file. And vice versa. I used it for the first time when I was working on the SINC-LINK index. It is a combination of Basic and M/C, and does it ever do a marvellous job. You should borrow the disk simply for this program alone. It is on disk #55.

This letter has been a bit of a mish-mash. Sorry about that. But I am working under a bit of pressure, getting a Neighbourhood Watch newsletter out as well as another one to my N.W. Block Captains. I had more I could talk about, but thankfully I have run out of space!!

Sincerely, George Chambers

