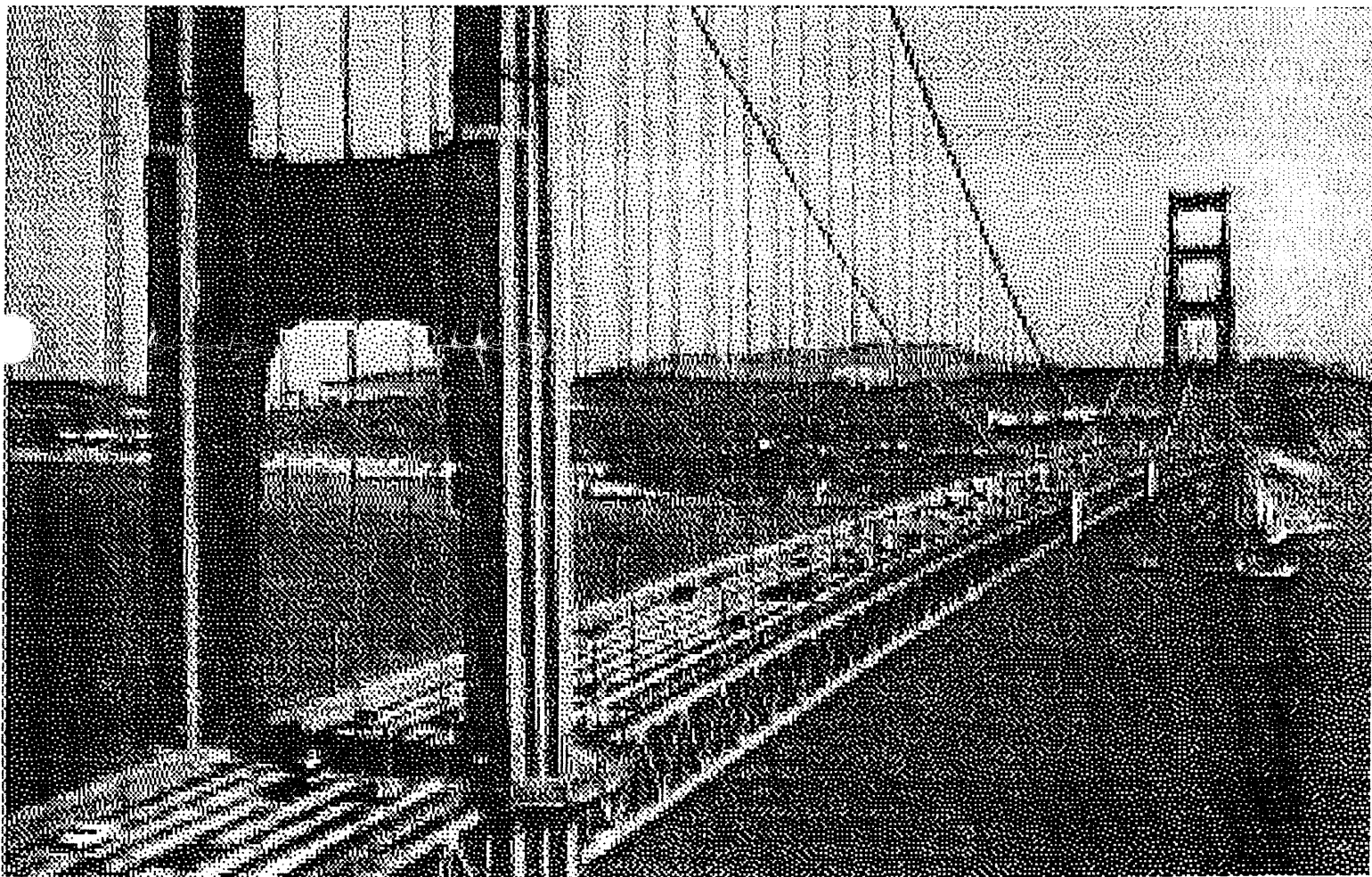


SINC - LINK

MAR - APR '94 VOL 12-2



TORONTO TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB

SINC - LINK

MAR - APR '94 VOL 12-2

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THE QL SIG WILL MEET AT 586 ONEIDA DRIVE, BURLINGTON, ONT. 7PM START. NEXT MEETING TO BE ANNOUNCED.

SINC-LINK IS PRODUCED ENTIRELY ON SINCLAIR AND TIMEX-SINCLAIR COMPUTERS.

SEND CORRESPONDANCE TO:

SINC-LINK EDITOR, TORONTO
TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB, 14
RICHOME COURT, SCARBOROUGH,
ONTARIO, CANADA M1K 2Y1.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:	RENE BRUNEAU (531-9749)
TREASURER:	BILL LAWSON (444-8772)
SECRETARY:	GEORGE CHAMBERS (751-7559)
ACTIVITIES:	LOU LAFERRIERE (820-3725)
QL CONTACT:	HUGH HOWIE (634-4929) NOTE NEW AREA CODE 905
NEWSLETTER:	JEFF TAYLOR (244-8583)
LIAISON OFFICER:	GEORGE CHAMBERS, 14 RICHOME COURT,
(Out-of-town members)	SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO M1K 2Y1
	(416-751-7559)



TORONTO TIMEX-SINCLAIR
USERS CLUB

TORONTO TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB

EDITORIAL

Don't shoot the editor! It's my fault that this issue is late. I've been working on a few things and let too much stuff slip by.

Most of the information for this issue has been written or provided by Hugh Howie, our QL Librarian and QL Liaison.

Where have all the users gone?

In the last year we have seen a dramatic drop in the ZX81 and 2068 club participation. Our book libraries have not been active for several years, and the tape and disk libraries, with the exception of the QL libraries run by Hugh Howie, have also become inactive.

I think that, in most cases, users of the ZX81 and 2068, have made the jump to other systems with their increased memory, video and availability of hardware and software at reasonable prices. Indeed, you can now find complete systems, although used, at prices that first attracted us to the Sinclair computers. Many users have simply packed up their old systems and stored or given them away. Our loss but understandable, considering that both the ZX81 and 2068 have been out of production for about 10 years.

This scenario does not apply as much to the QL market. There is still considerable activity both in Europe and in North America for the QL. Witness the development of a new Gold Card and the occasion of another QL computerfest in Newport as reported in this issue.

Where do we go from here?

The strength and vitality of a club can be judged by the active participation of members in the club and this can be reflected in the newsletter. That being the case, we as a club need a booster shot. Summer is just around the corner and is traditionally the hardest time to get material for the newsletter. As can be seen, there is lots of QL material and Hugh has indicated that he has barely scraped the barrel. Maybe we should change the name from SINC-LINK to SINC-QLINK. Think about it.

Rene Bruneau
President

APRIL'S SHOWERS '94

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"Don't tell me ... it's a light pen."

by Hugh Howie

Oh dear, I almost forgot to tell you what the darned thing is it is so easy to use. Just type `sdp_key q` and from then on, whenever you press the "ALT & q" you will send a screen display to the printer. (Put it in all your BOOT files, just after TK2_EXT, then it's always ready for use) There are some occasions when such is not the case such as when the QL is expecting input from another source etc. Let's try it - Type in:- `sdp_key q`, then press ALT & q.

940114

QLerk QLerk QLerk QLerk QLerk

A BUSINESS FINANCIAL program by BILL CABLE - looked at by Hugh Howie

Page 1

The heading may make you think you are listening to a flock of ducks on the local millpond, or a skein of geese on their annual migratory pilgrimage flying high overhead. But really "QLerk" is the name of a program by the renowned New Hampshire programmer, Bill Cable.

Bill has spent a lot of time, a lot of work, on this program, and he has tested it in various businesses in his area. The result is a program that will keep your business records in order, or even just your household finances in order. The only limitation on the uses of this program are what the user places on it himself.

I was lucky in being able to look at version 2.1, but now I have version 3.0, and the improvement is significant. I will not mention the previous version again, as that would serve no useful purpose, and I only mention 2.1 to show that Bill is in a constant phase of updating and improving the system, and that is what it is - it is a system to keep your records up to date.

This would be a good time to mention that the program is vast. It is very complex, very comprehensive. It is going to take the user some time to get to know the ins and outs of it. It is not for the faint hearted, but once you have seen what it can do - you will be impressed.

This is an Archive program, Archive being provided on the program disk, but can also be run using your own Archive. It requires that you have extra memory, a minimum of 512K extra memory would be required. QLerk will run on a 7.5MHz QL, but slowly. The Trump Card much better, the Gold Card being best of all because of its extra speed of operation.

Disk drives are essential, MDV could not possibly hold everything. QLerk will run from two 720 disks. Or, if you have HD or ED drives or a hard drive, it could all be run from the one disk. The options are there for your own configuration.

To start with, there is an excellent manual which contains a wonderful demo

taking you through the example setup on the disk, one keypress at a time.

The demo starts off by telling you how to make your first backup of the program disk, and takes you through each and every step to get the demo up and running. You are shown how to use the Menus. How to check what payables are in the system, and how to make payments. How to handle receivables, how to write a cheque, make purchase orders, invoices, get various reports from the system.

Once you have run the demo a couple of times, you will have an excellent idea of how the whole system operates.

The Manual is easy to read and follow. It describes the various Program Modules and what each contains and does.

The whole is menu driven and there are about a dozen and a half of them. Each menu contains about 10 - 12 options, it varies, and each option has its own set of options.

Here is what the Main Menu looks like:-

QLerk MAIN MENU

```
Payable mode..... work on expenses (payables, purchase orders, payments)
Receivable mode.. work on revenues (receivables, invoices, income) & bank/t
Inventory mode... work on inventory
Load module..... report module, address module, system module
Monthly to group. bring monthly (re-mastered) records to group for inspect
Group..... edit (view, change), merge into main, make new group
Main database.... edit (view only), bring records to group to work on
Support file..... edit (view, change, add) address, category, item, duty, user
Backup/re-master.. backup data & optionally purge dated records to monthly f
Directory..... directory a device with copy and delete options
Other..... print label, copy files home, help info, new user, rescreen
Quit..... quit QLARK with option to halt ARCHIVE
```

Use key F4 or 1-9 or CRP to choose and (ENTER) to accept

Now to keep track of all those Menus, could be a formidable task, but there is a complete page allocated to each menu. That page starts off with a screen dump of what the menu looks like, just as I did above, and there is an explanation under the dump, telling you what occurs there. This Screen dump method of displaying the menus, means that you can refer to the manual for a particular menu, and see what it does for you. Thus helping you decide whether to go back or forward to complete a task.

The facility on each menu can be selected in a number of ways. You could use the up/down arrow and ENTER, or you could select by the key letter of the facility, or, if you can remember the number of the facility required, you can make the selection by number!

Should you at any time get out of QLerk by pressing ESC by mistake, just type 'm' and you will be back into the Main Menu, so all is not lost.

The system is completely inter-active, in that an entry made in one mode, is transferred to all other modes where it is required, so that if a payment is made by cheque, the money is removed from the bank account, the account is reduced accordingly. Where the money went and where it came from, is all recorded automatically. One aspect that Bill mentions in his manual, will show just how interactive the system is. If you were to pay an account by VISA, the account would be paid, and the system would make out a new account showing that you owed VISA that amount.

The system can handle up to five cheque writing accounts at the same time. Plus two or three cash registers.

The cheque is filled out by the printer, and an address label printed ready to be pasted to the envelope. Everything is optional to your own requirements.

Payables, Receivables, Purchase orders, Cheques, Invoices, are all available. Inventory control, Bank Accounts, Cash Registers, Taxes, Duties, Deductions, Cyclical payments / receivables are all

taken care of.

You want a hard copy of some aspect of the business? By date? By occurrence? Frequency? How often has someone done business with you this last few weeks? months? You name it, and you will probably find the information is in there somewhere, all you have to do is dig it out, and with those easy-to-use menus, it is not so difficult.

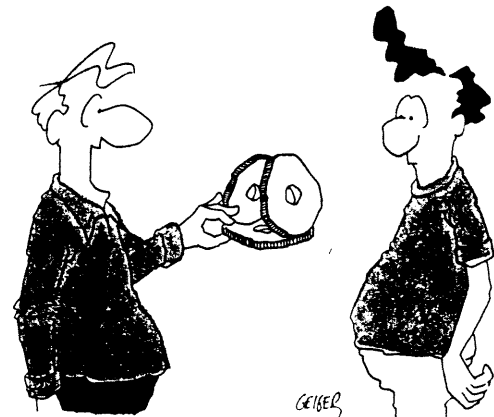
There is a complete Inventory system so that you keep track of everything in stock. Does its own value evaluation for you. Enter Item, Price, and Number, and everything is taken care of.

No matter what you do, it is almost impossible to make an error. For example, when you make some entries, you are asked if you wish the entries to be merged, and you must answer with Y or N, thus you always have the opportunity to make corrections BEFORE the documents are altered or changed.

If you have any questions to ask about this program, why not write to Bill, after all he can answer much better than I can, and he is always willing to help.

His address is:-

Bill Cable
Wood and Wind Computing
RR 3, Box 92
Cornish, NH 03745, USA
Phone (603) 675-2218



"It's here at last! The triple-side, double-density diskette."

ZX81 RESOURCES

A Tethered Robot

This project was found in the November and December 1986 issues of SINCLAIR USER and is suitable for both the 2068 and the ZX81. The original article was written by Rupert Goodwins and his design was based on a simple platform with two powered wheels and a caster. You could easily substitute a cheap plastic motorized toy (one that is powered by an attached cable and handset). Here one motor drives the rear wheels and the other motor turns the front tires.

The project consists of two circuits built up on VEROboard. The first circuit and board layout is for a simple Input/Output board that plugs into the back of the computer. If you already have an I/O board, you don't need to construct this interface. The second circuit and board layout is for a Motor board which provides the switching logic to control the direction that the motors will turn (the layouts are done on graph paper that has the same pitch as the holes in the VEROboard). A ribbon cable between the interface and motor board carries the control signals and power to the motors. Note that the interface and motor boards will not control the speed of the motors, just the direction.

Construction is started by cutting the VEROboard to size (25 x 36 holes and 37 x 36 holes). IMPORTANT NOTE: the board layouts show the bottom or copper side of the VEROboard. That means that the transistors and ICs are being viewed from the bottom! Locate and cut the traces marked by an x on the layouts. A permanent marker makes the job easier to catch mistakes before you cut. Insert all of the jumpers before you load the components, again making sure that you have the right holes. Use sockets for the ICs and be careful not to overheat the diodes and transistors when you solder them in. Check both boards for shorts or misplaced bits.

Before you insert the ICs, plug in the interface board and turn the computer on. If the computer does not come up, power off and check for shorts or misrouting on the lines and leads coming from the edge connector. If everything is ok, insert the ICs and test again.

Connect the two boards together with the ribbon cable, hook up the switches but not the motors, and try the following tests:

2068 10 PRINT IN 31;" ";INPUT " ":GOTO 10

ZX81 1 REM XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
 10 FOR X=16514 TO 16519
 20 INPUT A
 30 POKE X,A
 40 NEXT X
 100 PRINT USR 16514;" ";
 110 GOTO 100

Input the following machine code ignoring the information after the semicolon:

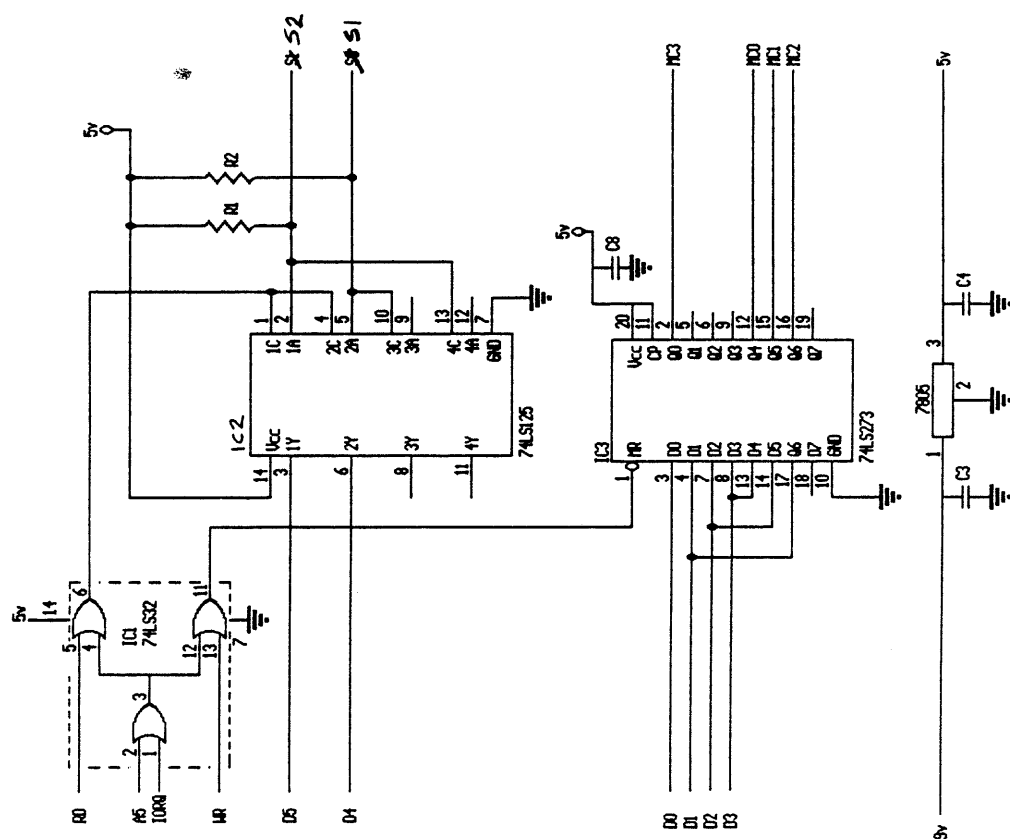
219 31	;IN A,(31)
79	;LD C,A
6 0	;LD B,0
201	;RET

You should get a screenfull of 255's, which change to 223's, 239's and 207's as the switches are pressed. If you don't get 255's then check the wiring around IC1 and IC2 on the interface board. Next, switch everything off and connect the motors. Switch on again. If one or other of the motors starts, try switching on again. If the condition persists, check the wiring around IC3, the area around the transistors and the diodes. If the motors are silent, then try the following tests:

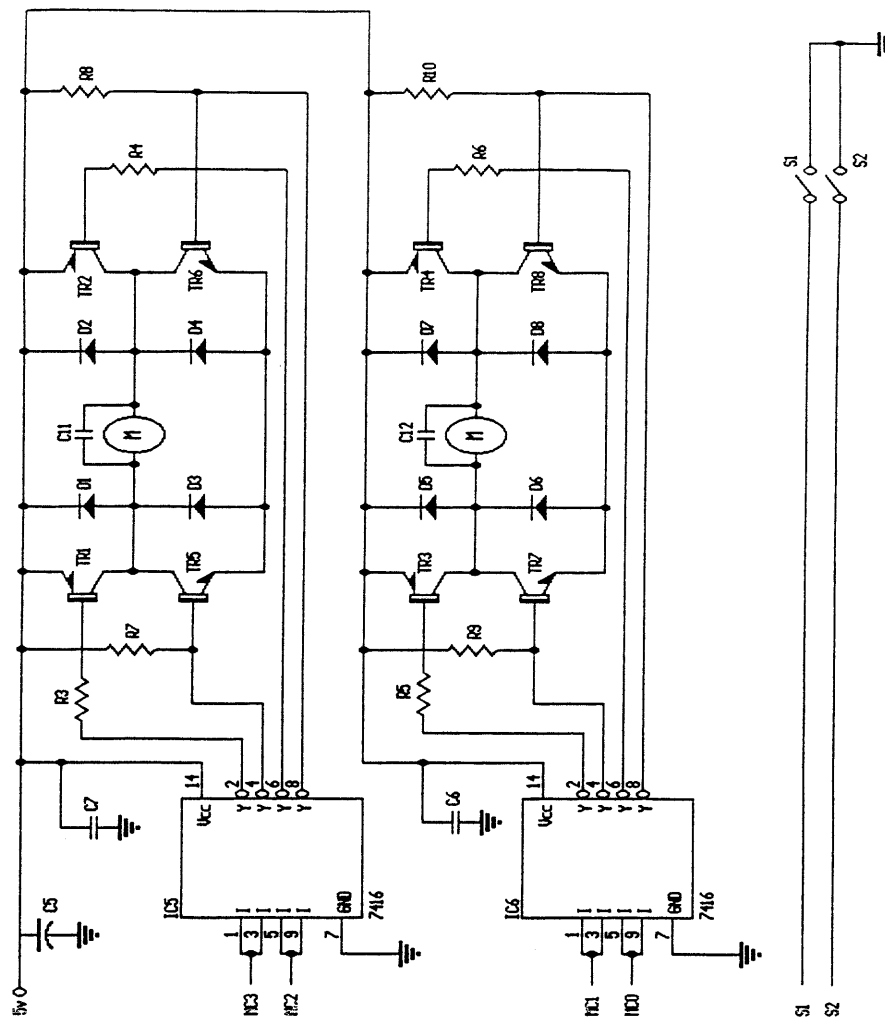
2068	OUT 31,1	one motor should start
	OUT 31,2	same motor should reverse
	OUT 31,0	stops motor
	OUT 31,4	the other motor should start
	OUT 31,8	reverse
	OUT 31,0	stop

To get both motors running, add the numbers together:

OUT 31,5	Both motors running
OUT 31,9	1 st motor forward, 2 nd motor reverse
OUT 31,10	both motors reverse
OUT 31,6	1 st motor reverse, 2 nd motor forward



Interface Circuit



Motor Board

ZX81

```

1 REM XXXXXXXXXXXX
10 FOR X=16520 TO 16524
20 INPUT A
30 POKE X,A
40 NEXT X
100 PRINT "INPUT CONTROL NUMBER: 1,2, 4,8, 5,9,10,6, 0"
110 INPUT X
120 POKE 16521,X
110 RAND USR 16520
110 GOTO 100

```

Input the following machine code ignoring the information after the semicolon:

```

62 0      ;LD A,0
211 31    ;OUT 31,A
201       ;RET

```

The results should be the same as for the 2068.

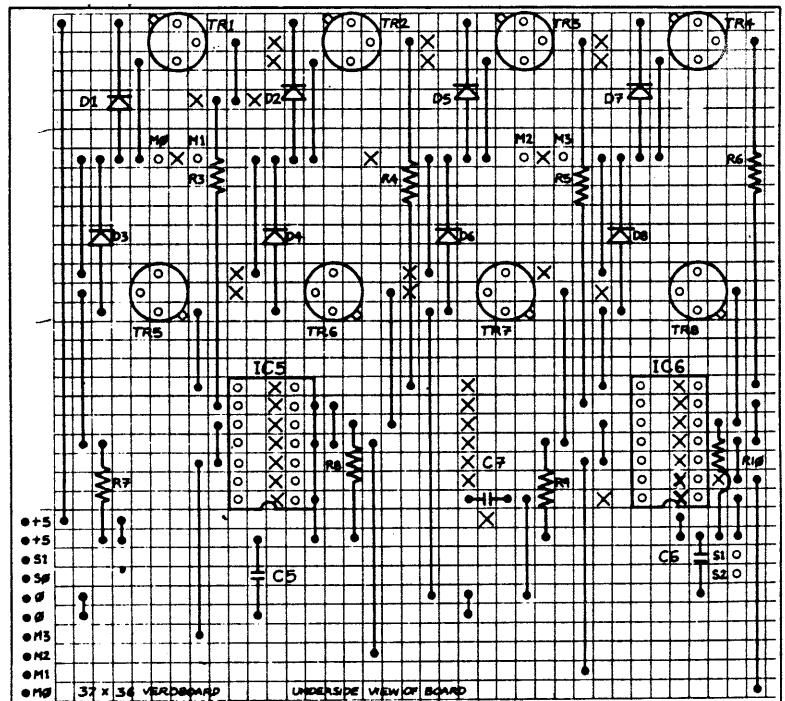
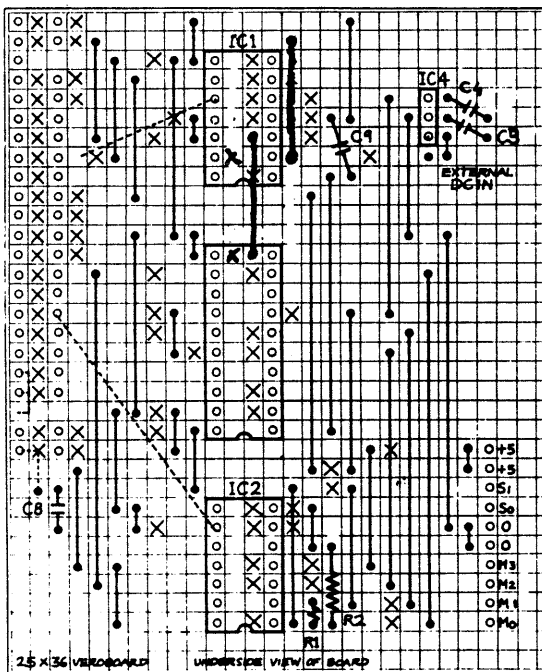
COMPONENTS:

Interface Board

IC1 74LS32
IC2 74LS125
IC3 74LS273
IC4 7805
R1,2 10K
C3,4,8 100nF
MISC VEROboard 25 x 26 holes
Wirewrap edge connector with
polarizing key at position 3
Small heat sink for 7805

Motor Board

IC5,6 7416
TR1-4 PNP, TIP36 or equivalent
TR5-8 NPN, TIP35 or equivalent
D1-8 1N4001
R3-10 150 ohms
C5 1000uF 25v Electrolytic
C6,7 100nF
MISC VEROboard 37 x 36 holes
2 SPST Switches, Normally Open
6 ft 10 wire Ribbon Cable
2 5v Geared Motors with wheels



QL JOTS and TITLES

Page 1

by John Juergens

I've been corresponding with Hugh Howie for the better part of two years. During that time I've mentioned various things which do and do not work for me on our Gold Card QL. Hugh suggested that these should be shared via SINC-LINK.

Our QL has three disk drives: FLP 1 is a 5.25"/720K drive, FLP 2 is a 3.5"/720K drive and FLP 3 is a 3.5"/3.2M/ED drive. FLP 3 was velcro'd onto the double-drive case which houses FLP 1 & 2.

FLP 3 uses only 5 volts which is furnished by the double-drive power supply. We use FLP 3 as one would a hard disk and, as such, it's very handy and contains a lot of stuff I would have to look through other disks to find when I need it. Like Topsey, it grew ... and grew until eventually I had to decide what to save and what to keep on it. Again, eventually, that process will have to be repeated ... and repeated ... but that is sort of the way life is.

If you believe, as I do, that simpler is better then why press CTRL & C when one keypress will do it? I use the British Pound Sign & tilde key as I have yet to find another regular use for that key. To change CTRL & C to the BPS, refer to JBOOT, below.

If you use Quill you may find that after some amount of character deleting and re-arrangement, the screen seems odd or the cursor is not positioned correctly, just press SHFT & F5. It's quick and straightens things out.

Although I have used TaskMaster and believe it to be a truly great programming triumph, I prefer for several reasons to use a modification of Bill Cable's Taskette switcher. One of the problems I encountered initially with setting up Taskette was that the only thing that would stop the SuperBasic portion from multi-tasking with the on-screen application was to let SuperBasic come to rest with an INPUT command. That is, INKEY\$(-1) would initially stop activity in SuperBasic but as soon as one hot-keyed into an application, such as Abacus or Quill, and pressed a key, it would trip the SuperBasic INKEY\$(-1) and off the program in SuperBasic would go ALONG WITH the application, slowing both down noticeably. Worse still was that hot-keying back into SuperBasic would result in chaos.

That all changed, i.e., requiring an INPUT command in SuperBasic to utilize the Taskette switcher, when I discovered the extens1 file in the QL-Exchange suite recently released into public domain. When extens1 is RESP'd and called in a BOOT program, not only does it stop SuperBasic from multitasking when INKEY\$(-1) is employed but it RE-WRITES the last program screen automatically in response to either CTRL & C or a POKEd substitute.

Macros: I think that macros rank right alongside the eraser and Kleenex in the world pantheon of great inventions. The first macros I came across were the KeyDefine group. Later, when I purchased Turbo Quill + I found to my surprise that the package not only speeded up Quill but that it included the capability of macro-making. The MOST interesting macro of TQ+ was the one invoked by CTRL & S (S_Keydef) because it was a START-UP macro, that is, after Quill loaded, the macro would "play" automatically without need for another/other keypress(es). This occurs only because TQ+ actually modifies the Quill program during the TQ+ installation to have Quill "request" the file S_Keydef.

QL JOTS and TITTLES

Page 2

Once it became clear that macros COULD do something automatically upon loading one of the Quill suite of programs, I looked for many years for a macro which would start Abacus and Archive. Yes, I was aware that the "run ..." command in Archive would start one's program WITHIN Archive but that provided no help in starting the "run ..." automatically.

Initially, I believed that the TSL complement to the QL-Xchange group provided that capability but I was wrong. Although the TSL capability in the PC-Four group, for IBM compatibles what QL-Xchange is to QLs, WILL perform a start-up function, the TSL capability in QL-Xchange will not; that is, the TSL capability in QL-Xchange can only be keypress-initiated once the Main Menu screen in Xchange is displayed but not before.

Then, a few months ago, Dilwyn Jones, sent me something he threw together - out of the goodness of his big heart. To make it work he used part of his Dilwyn Jones Toolkit - a remarkable collection of commands and routines for a truly give-away price - and (included) a procedure called QUEUE which he had lifted from Quanta. QUEUE's author is Simon Goodwin. QUEUE's essence is that it will send the contents of a\$ to WHEREVER the cursor is enabled. This, of course, is the basis for an application- start-up macro using a switcher such as Taskette.

We now can do most anything we wish IN Abacus, Archive and/or Quill FROM SuperBasic starting with LOADING them to running Commands or Functions.

With this article-on-disk to Hugh Howie I have included two files: JBoot and JBoot1. They include everything I've mentioned above and are lightly REMark'd. Additionally, included are the machine code files to make the utilities run. If you wish to use them, you'll have to get a copy of the file(s) from Hugh.

QUEUE is run with my procedure Cue. Cue is invoked from procedures starting with CueWP.. and CueSS.. which contain the macros running from SuperBasic but AFFECTING Abacus or Quill WHILE actually in and running Abacus or Quill. Taskette is procedure MTsk.

QL LIBRARIAN NOTE:-

As the listings are about eleven pages long, and there are other files required to make the utility run, I will supply any member with the complete thing on disk. The usual conditions, send me a formatted disk and return postage. I can handle 5 1/4 720 & 1440 and 3 1/2 DD, HD, ED disks.

THE RELEASE OF XCHANGE

Page 1

Recently I received a whole stack of disks from Ron Blizzard, and on one of the disks was a treatise on Xchange, the recently released Psion program. The article deals with how Xchange was released, and gives a lot of information on the use of this program.

This issue, I will give the history, as told by Gunther Strube & Erling Jacobsen, of the maneuvering to have it released. Next issue I will give the rest which is titled "XCHANGE Introduction and Reference Information"

Hugh Howie.

København, 7.7.93

Dear QL user,

At last we succeeded in getting the XCHANGE program released for you, the QL user. XCHANGE was programmed for the THOR based on the standard PSION QL software. Dansoft paid a considerable amount of money to have an improved version of the standard software but based around the concept of the IBM XCHANGE version. The software was then distributed on license from PSION as the standard software running on the CST THOR PC computer. Three versions were made: one english version, one danish version and a QUILL-only XCHANGE version in danish (sorry QL-users!). Around 1989 the production of the THOR computers were stopped due to cash flow problems. Dansoft and THOR International stopped the THOR business a year later. All excisting services were moved to other people. The Ritzau news system (NB: please refer to QL WORLD anno 1987-88) is still running in various information centres like the danish television and radio stations. Nobody had at the time any idea of releasing the XCHANGE software to the QL users. However, Dansoft knew that pirate copies were around running on QL's and other compatibles! We had copies of it!

In early 1993 we contacted Hellmuth Stuvén (former owner of Dansoft) to get an idea of the status of the THOR XCHANGE program. He informed us that he paid for the development costs and an exclusive agreement of the sole distribution of the THOR XCHANGE software. He agreed to release the software to the QL community. We now realise that PSION themselves have no objection of letting the software flow freely among QL users (the letter printed in the June issue of QL-world).

The THOR XCHANGE contained a minor degree of software protection against letting the program run other platforms than the THOR computer. It was a simple check whether a 'THOR watermark' was present or not (the THOR serial number display on initialisation of the computer). If no watermark was present the program simply displayed 'This software is only running on a THOR', and executed an infinite loop (the program had to be killed from another source, e.g. SuperBASIC). The software protection has now been removed.

THE RELEASE OF XCHANGE

Page 2

In addition, we have improved the XCHANGE program in other areas:

1. XCHANGE used to call the MODE system call to redraw its windows. You already know the effect - all windows below XCHANGE are displayed momentarily. If you have a look of the old PSION boots you will notice that they close SuperBASIC windows #1 and #2 before execution the PSION program to prevent the 'window demonstration'. This has now been fixed.
2. XCHANGE (and the previous PSION quartet) created a dummy job for its workspace. The drawback of this is that if you accidentally kill that job the mother job will crash (since its workspace has been corrupted due to QDOS using the memory for its own purposes). XCHANGE has now been modified to allocate its workspace in the Common Heap Area (dynamic allocation/deallocation) as any job usually does.
3. The old PSION quartet had no active cursor which had the effect of not being able to activate the PSION console input by CTRL C, if the program had been executed by the SuperBASIC EXEC/EX commands. The problem of that were fixed if you installed the pointer environment with its protected windows. If you do not have any window system installed in your QL, you would have the same problem with XCHANGE. However we have modified XCHANGE with an active cursor (but not visible) to prevent that problem.

Unfortunately all THOR XCHANGE documentation (based around QUILL files) exists only in danish. There is still a chance to get information in english, since all english THOR users have the standard THOR manuals. You should be able to contact a THOR user through QUANTA. However, much incorrect information will be present, since it was written before the XCHANGE program was finished for the THOR (the XCHANGE information in the english THOR manuals were based around the IBM XCHANGE version which has more features than the present THOR version). Do not despair, dear QL user, since you still have the online help (with F1). Additional information of XCHANGE will be found in this document. We have only included the information that cannot be read from the XCHANGE help files. All other information should be comprehensible from the help files.

One last thing; both the old PSION programs and XCHANGE draw their lines around menus by POKE'ing directly to the screen memory! EASEL draws its graphs partially in the same way! If you use the ATARI QL-emulator with the EXTENDED MODE 4 emulator card (780x280 pixels in mode 4) a lot of mess is drawn onto the screen whenever an XCHANGE menu is drawn or XCHANGE EASEL is active. This is because the base address of the screen memory is lower than on the QL. If you have installed the QVME card in your ATARI, there is no problem since the video memory on the card is placed at a completely different address (in high memory). Since the menu lines is drawn in the old screen memory you will have XCHANGE running perfectly without the menu frames. However you will get only half of the graphics on the screen in XCHANGE EASEL - the rest is actually POKE'd in the old screen memory. With driver release E.30 you can use a command to activate the standard 512x256 resolution with all screen output directed to the old screen memory. This is then copied via the fast ATARI blitter chip to the QVME card. XCHANGE will display everything again as it used to.

Executing the XCHANGE on a QL (or compatible)

THE RELEASE OF XCHANGE

Page 3

Since XCHANGE was designed to run on a THOR, certain things must be obeyed to be able to execute it on a QL:

1. You must have at least 256K expanded RAM in your QL. XCHANGE is a 183K program which needs minimum 64K workspace.

2. XCHANGE creates a workfile, 'Psion_xch' in ram1_. It is therefore needed to have a ramdisc driver installed. If you have a Gold Card, an ATARI QL emulator, or a QL with expanded RAM and QRAM/QPAC2, there is no problem since they install a RAM disk on initialisation. If you do not own a RAM disc, but have a disk drive, you can execute the following:

```
FLP_USE RAM <ENTER>
EXEC RAM1_XCHANGE <ENTER>
```

The June issue of QL-world indicates that other modified versions of XCHANGE V3.90 exists. If you should get any information, please let us know.

If you should have any queries, please contact us at the following address:

Gunther Strube
Gl. Kongevej 37, 2.th
DK-1610 København V
Denmark

We hope that you will enjoy XCHANGE, and, it is your responsibility to distribute XCHANGE to every QL user you know!

Best wishes from

Gunther Strube & Erling Jacobsen

DID YOU KNOW?.....

The origin of the terms *bug* and *debugging* is thought to have occurred in 1945 during the development of a computer called the Mark II. A relay in the machine failed. The cause of the failure was found to be a moth. The development team carefully removed the moth and taped it into their log book. From that time on. when the computer was not working, the development team members said they were debugging the computer.

DID YOU KNOW?.....

The keyboard as we know it (QWERTY) was designed in the last century for use on the Remington Typewriter. The designers found that it was too easy to jam the hammers on the typewriter, so they moved the most commonly used keys around to decrease the typing speed. Several alternative keyboard layouts are available but few people take the time to learn them.

News - and some QL Library Additions

by Hugh Howie

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DETROIT AREA BBS

I have recently heard from John Impellizzeri that he and Don Waltermann have set up a BBS in the Detroit area, and that they have a linkup with Tony Firshman's (of TF Services) BBS in England to exchange messages with other QL users in Europe.

There are file areas with plenty of the latest public domain programs available for download. Any message you leave on the BBS will be echoed around other BBS's in Europe.

This BBS is available 24 hours a day, 300/1200/2400 baud callers are welcome. There is no cost other than a phone call to the Detroit, Michigan, area.

This BBS runs entirely on a Sinclair QL and is called "Qbox-USA", and can be reached at (810) 254 - 9878.

AN 800 NUMBER BBS?

I have also heard a rumour that there will soon be an 800 number BBS. It will be operated by Taylor Penrose, and I understand it will be in Florida.

It will be a few weeks before it is up and running, and will operate from 1 AM to 2 PM EST. The number is to be:-
(800) 942 - 6721

You are asked to call voice before dialing with your modem.

Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

MIRACLE in NEWPORT to be REPEATED.

It has been announced that IQLR will be holding another Miracle in Newport on May 14th of this year. I have been told that Stuart Honeyball of Miracle Systems will again be in attendance. This will probably be the North American debut of the SUPER GOLD CARD, utilising the 68020 CPU.

Reputed to be three times faster than the Gold Card - this makes it about 25 times faster than the original bare 128K QL! Four Disk drive capability, 24 Mhz. 32 bit. RAM of 3968 KB. Parallel/Centronics port. And goodness knows what else. Hey mother where is my check book?

Talking about check books, that would appear to be the only fly in the ointment. The cost for the SUPPER GOLD CARD is going to be about £375, and with a Gold Card used in exchange about £250. Those prices could and probably will be changed before this gets into print.

I have heard that Dilwyn Jones and family are coming. Many were sorry he was absent last year. No doubt he will have plenty of his software catalogue items to assist you in getting rid of that heavy wallet!

John Impellizzeri and his partner Don Waltermann will have their QBOX_USA BBS in actual operation.

Bob Guildler will have his digitiser in operation.

Ron Dunnett of QUBBESoft will there with his Fastnet QL networking interface. By that time his IDE hard disk interface called QUBIDE might also be available.

Al Boehm will be showing his cloud making ideas which he uses in his job of creating cloud patterns for showing on TV weather charts.

Paul Holmgren and Frank Davis from Mechanical affinity will be there with a whole stack of new goodies. I believe they are trying to expand their software endeavors.

Ernie Richardson is returning.

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It is anticipated that there will even be a German contingent coming over - but this has not been confirmed as of this date. Perhaps the cost of travel might be too much.

This year the show will be held in the Howard Johnston Motel, where the facilities should be a vast improvement over last year.

Dinners, Sunday brunch, get togethers, are all laid on, add what you want to do yourself, and this should be a great show.

All in all, it looks as if this might be the show to see for this year.

It is a great pity that we cannot have a QL or Sinclair get-together nearer the centre of the continent. Just imagine the interest that would create, when folks from all over would have a better chance of attending. To say that the QL is dead is not borne out by the interest being shown in all parts of the world, and by the proliferation of new improved hard and soft wares being produced. Today, the QL is what it was intended to be, and there are not many computers which have withstood the test of time as the QL has.

CHEAP MODEM

There are some 2400 baud modems available at a very modest cost, \$8.95. They are uncased and require a \$1.50 power supply to be soldered in. They are available from:-
Halted Specialities Co.
Phone 1 800 441 5833

The modem (an EVEREX) is part number 14467, and the adapter and its connector, part number 14041 costs \$1.50.

That is the extent of my knowledge on those modems.

DKOPY - a Disk Copier

I have received from John Juergens a disk copier that will allow a disk to be copied to and from the same disk drive, and also will handle the ED drive. Operation is relatively slow, but it does make a photo image copy.

Title:- DKOPY_BAS

To copy from flp1_ to flp1_ is slow, and it takes about seven disk changes to complete the task. Of course it will also copy from drive to drive. There are certain limitations but there are many who will be able to make use of this routine. It will be on library disk UTIL_2.

It requires Gold Card and TK2 to be active. It was designed to fill in some of the gaps in "DISCOPY" which is a commercial program. DKOPY is PD.

The only way to assess DKOPY for your own use, is to try it.

ZIP / UNZIP

Zip/Unzip is a file compression system which is mainly used in BBS's for the transmission of information in a condensed form, thus saving phone time to say the least. It can also be useful if you wish to send someone a lot of material on disk, again, a saving of postage not to say the cost of the disks.

Most material can be condensed to about half its original size. Large files can be compressed more than small ones. A BOOT file of half a dozen lines for example will go over without compression, but a long file of a few hundred K will have a compression rate of sometimes over 70%. An average full disk will be compressed about 60%.

The ZIP suite is about 650K (UNZIPPED) and if you ZIP it you don't have any means to UNZIP it!

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The version in the library is version 3, and is on Library disk ZIP_1

NOTE

The following files are on COMM_2 disk, and are in ZIPped form, so you will require the ZIP_1 disk to make them available. As stated later, those and UNZIP can be combined on the one HD disk for your convenience.

QeM v 4.0

QeM is a Communications/terminal program for accessing BBS's. It has ANSI support and many file transfer protocols. Requires XPR V2.10 files to operate. XPR is required for file transfers with QeM, and is provided as part of the suite.

QeM is by Jonathan Hudson, and the version in the library is v4.0

QTPI v1.1

This is a terminal program for the pointer environment. It requires XPR v2.30 (included on disk) and also the pointer environment. (not included)

This has the same features as QeM, plus some new ones. Also by Jonathan Hudson.

XTRICATOR v1.4

A ZX81 emulator for the QL. many new features. By Carlo Delhez.

SPECTATOR v1.7

A Spectrum emulator for the QL, also by Carlo Delhez, and this also has many new features.

QLGIF

Two utilities to encode QL screens to GIF files and a decoder for GIF files to QL screens. by Carlos Delhez.

BormanDEV's

Three new device drivers to allow a PATH device (similar to MSDOS, SUB to allow a subdirectory to pretend to be a totally separate drive, and REDIRECT to rename drives or files or to redirect I/O.

DJEP

A Deskjet Envelope Printer. A small utility by John Impellizzeri to take advantage of the Hewlett Packard Deskjet printers built in envelope feeder. This requires TK2, the pointer environment, and the QMenu extensions, none of which are provided with this utility.

QLTRM 232

Another terminal program. This one is much simpler than QeM or QPTI. V2.32. Has ANSI support and Xmodem file transfer. By Jan Brededbeek.

The above programs have been placed in the QL Library, and are available to all members. It should be remembered that some of them are quite extensive, and that considerable free memory is required, but then again, most of them are Communication and/or BBS programs, and if you are into that aspect of computing you will probably have that memory available.

Except for DKOPY which is on UTIL_2, all the others will be on the COMM_2 library disk, in ZIPped form. You will require the ZIP_1 disk to make those files available.

The COMM_1 and the ZIP_1 disk can be combined on one HD disk.

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QINDEX

QIndex is a program to help you to produce sorted indexes for a book or file. Unlike database-style indexing programs where you type all required entries into a list, with this program you can load a plain text file or Quill _doc file and mark words or phrases directly to be inserted into an index. The program will add these to an index, which can be built up from several text file (e.g. if a book or manual has been written as several chapters in separate files).

A search facility is helpful for finding all occurrences of an item to be indexed. Entries with similar references can be automatically combined. There is an on-screen count of the number of entries.

Once the index has been prepared, the index can be exported to a text editor if required for tidying up, manual alteration, etc prior to printing.

The program offers a choice of setting layouts suitable for printing in text pitches from 10 characters per inch to 20 characters per inch, effectively determining the number of columns.

There is also a choice of layout styles, where you can separate groups of entries starting with different characters with a blank line, and/or insert the appropriate letters above each group, for example. Of course, you do not have to use one of the supplied layouts - you can add your own with the ability to import the index into another editor to do some manual alterations.

The program is Gold Card and Minerva compatible, and works in Pointer Environment (which is supplied, of course), so that it can be mouse controlled if required. For those without a mouse, it can also be used from the keyboard, of course. It comes with a simple to follow printed manual.

The program is available on disk only (3.5 inch or 5.25 inch) and expanded memory is required. Toolkit 2 is required, although nowadays that is built into almost all disk interfaces, so that should not be a problem. Cheques / Eurocheques / Postal Orders should be made payable to "Dilwyn Jones Computing". Payment by credit card (Visa / Access / Mastercard / Eurocard) is also acceptable. The price is £20.00

DILWYN JONES COMPUTING

41 Bro Enrys, Tal-y-bont, Bangor,
Gwynedd, LL57 3YT, Great Britain.

Tel: (0248) 354023