

CHAPTER 25

Code	Character	Hex	Z80 Assembler	— after CB	— after ED
214	VERIFY	D6	sub N	set 2,(hl)	
215	BEEP	D7	rst 16	set 2,a	
216	CIRCLE	D8	ret c	set 3,b	
217	INK	D9	exx	set 3,c	
218	PAPER	DA	jp c,NN	set 3,d	
219	FLASH	DB	in a,(N)	set 3,e	
220	BRIGHT	DC	call c,NN	set 3,h	
221	INVERSE	DD	prefixes instructions using ix	set 3,l	
222	OVER	DE	sbc a,N	set 3,(hl)	
223	OUT	DF	rst 24	set 3,a	
224	LPRINT	E0	ret po	set 4,b	
225	LLIST	E1	pop hl	set 4,c	
226	STOP	E2	jp po,NN	set 4,d	
227	READ	E3	ex (sp),hl	set 4,e	
228	DATA	E4	call po,NN	set 4,h	
229	RESTORE	E5	push hl	set 4,l	
230	NEW	E6	and N	set 4,(hl)	
231	BORDER	E7	rst 32	set 4,a	
232	CONTINUE	E8	ret pe	set 5,b	
233	DIM	E9	jp (hl)	set 5,c	
234	REM	EA	jp pe,NN	set 5,d	
235	FOR	EB	ex de,hl	set 5,e	
236	GO TO	EC	call pe,NN	set 5,h	
237	GO SUB	ED		set 5,l	
238	INPUT	EE	xor N	set 5,(hl)	
239	LOAD	EF	rst 40	set 5,a	
240	LIST	F0	ret p	set 6,b	
241	LET	F1	pop af	set 6,c	
242	PAUSE	F2	jp p,NN	set 6,d	
243	NEXT	F3	di	set 6,e	
244	POKE	F4	call p,NN	set 6,h	
245	PRINT	F5	push af	set 6,l	
246	PLOT	F6	or N	set 6,(hl)	
247	RUN	F7	rst 48	set 6,a	
248	SAVE	F8	ret m	set 7,b	
249	RANDOMIZE	F9	ld sp,hl	set 7,c	
250	IF	FA	jp m,NN	set 7,d	
251	CLS	FB	ei	set 7,e	
252	DRAW	FC	call m,NN	set 7,h	
253	CLEAR	FD	prefixes instructions using iy	set 7,l	
254	RETURN	FE	cp N	set 7,(hl)	
255	COPY	FF	rst 56	set 7,a	

The system variables

The bytes in memory from 235521 to 23733 are set aside for specific uses by the system. You can peek them to find out various things about the system, and some of them can be usefully poked. They are listed here with their uses.

These are called *system variables*, and have names, but do not confuse them with the variables used by the BASIC. The computer will not recognize the names as referring to system variables, and they are given solely as mnemonics for we humans.

The abbreviations in column 1 have the following meanings:

- X The variables should not be poked because the system might crash.
- N Poking the variable will have no lasting effect.

The number in column 1 is the number of bytes in the variable. For two bytes, the first one is the less significant byte — the reverse of what you might expect. So to poke a value *v* to a two-byte variable at address *n*, use

POKE *n,v*—256*INT (*v*/256)

POKE *n*+1,INT (*v*/256)

and to peek its value, use the expression

PEEK *n*+256*PEEK (*n*+1)

Notes	Address	Name	Contents
N8	23552	KSTATE	Used in reading the keyboard.
N1	23560	LAST K	Stores newly pressed key.
1	23561	REPDEL	Time (in 50ths of a second — in 60ths of a second in N. America) that a key must be held down before it repeats. This starts off at 35, but you can POKE in other values.
1	23562	REPPER	Delay (in 50ths of a second — in 60ths of a second in N. America) between successive repeats of a key held down: initially 5.
N2	23563	DEFADD	Address of arguments of user-defined function if one is being evaluated; otherwise 0.
N1	23565	K DATA	Stores 2nd byte of colour controls entered from keyboard.
N2	23566	TVDATA	Stores bytes of colour, AT and TAB controls going to television.
X38	23568	STRMS	Addresses of channels attached to streams.
2	23606	CHARS	256 less than address of character set (which starts with space and carries on to the copyright symbol). Normally in ROM, but you can set up your own in RAM and make CHARS point to it.

Notes	Address	Name	Contents
1	23608	RASP	Length of warning buzz.
1	23609	PIP	Length of keyboard click.
1	23610	ERR NR	1 less than the report code. Starts off at 255 (for -1) so PEEK 23610 gives 255.
X1	23611	FLAGS	Various flags to control the BASIC system.
X1	23612	TV FLAG	Flags associated with the television.
X2	23613	ERR SP	Address of item on machine stack to be used as error return.
N2	23615	LIST SP	Address of return address from automatic listing.
N1	23617	MODE	Specifies K, L, C, E or G cursor.
2	23618	NEWPPC	Line to be jumped to.
1	23620	NSPPC	Statement number in line to be jumped to. Poking first NEWPPC and then NSPPC forces a jump to a specified statement in a line.
2	23621	PPC	Line number of statement currently being executed.
1	23623	SUBPPC	Number within line of statement being executed.
1	23624	BORDCR	Border colour * 8; also contains the attributes normally used for the lower half of the screen.
2	23625	E PPC	Number of current line (with program cursor).
X2	23627	VAR\$	Address of variables.
N2	23629	DEST	Address of variable in assignment.
X2	23631	CHANS	Address of channel data.
X2	23633	CURCHL	Address of information currently being used for input and output.
X2	23635	PROG	Address of BASIC program.
X2	23637	NXTLIN	Address of next line in program.
X2	23639	DATADD	Address of terminator of last DATA item.
X2	23641	E LINE	Address of command being typed in.
2	23643	K CUR	Address of cursor.
X2	23645	CH ADD	Address of the next character to be interpreted: the character after the argument of PEEK , or the NEWLINE at the end of a POKE statement.
2	23647	X PTR	Address of the character after the █ marker.
X2	23649	WORKSP	Address of temporary work space.
X2	23651	STKBOT	Address of bottom of calculator stack.
X2	23653	STKEND	Address of start of spare space.
N1	23655	BREG	Calculator's b register.
N2	23656	MEM	Address of area used for calculator's memory. (Usually MEMBOT, but not always.)
1	23658	FLAGS2	More flags.

Code	Character	Hex	Z80 Assembler	— after CB	— after ED
170	SCREEN\$	AA	xor d	res 5,d	ind
171	ATTR	AB	xor e	res 5,e	outd
172	AT	AC	xor h	res 5,h	
173	TAB	AD	xor l	res 5,l	
174	VAL\$	AE	xor (hl)	res 5,(hl)	
175	CODE	AF	xor a	res 5,a	
176	VAL	B0	or b	res 6,b	ldir
177	LEN	B1	or c	res 6,c	cpir
178	SIN	B2	or d	res 6,d	inir
179	COS	B3	or e	res 6,e	otir
180	TAN	B4	or h	res 6,h	
181	ASN	B5	or l	res 6,l	
182	ACS	B6	or (hl)	res 6,(hl)	
183	ATN	B7	or a	res 6,a	
184	LN	B8	cp b	res 7,b	lddr
185	EXP	B9	cp c	res 7,c	cpdr
186	INT	BA	cp d	res 7,d	indr
187	SQR	BB	cp e	res 7,e	otdr
188	SGN	BC	cp h	res 7,h	
189	ABS	BD	cp l	res 7,l	
190	PEEK	BE	cp (hl)	res 7,(hl)	
191	IN	BF	cp a	res 7,a	
192	USR	C0	ret nz	set 0,b	
193	STR\$	C1	pop bc	set 0,c	
194	CHR\$	C2	jp nz,NN	set 0,d	
195	NOT	C3	jp NN	set 0,e	
196	BIN	C4	call nz,NN	set 0,h	
197	OR	C5	push bc	set 0,l	
198	AND	C6	add a,N	set 0,(hl)	
199	<=	C7	rst 0	set 0,a	
200	>=	C8	ret z	set 1,b	
201	<>	C9	ret	set 1,c	
202	LINE	CA	jp z,NN	set 1,d	
203	THEN	CB		set 1,e	
204	TO	CC	call z,NN	set 1,h	
205	STEP	CD	call NN	set 1,l	
206	DEF FN	CE	adc a,N	set 1,(hl)	
207	CAT	CF	rst 8	set 1,a	
208	FORMAT	D0	ret nc	set 2,b	
209	MOVE	D1	pop de	set 2,c	
210	ERASE	D2	jp nc,NN	set 2,d	
211	OPEN #	D3	out (N),a	set 2,e	
212	CLOSE #	D4	call nc,NN	set 2,h	
213	MERGE	D5	push de	set 2,l	

Code	Character	Hex	Z80 Assembler	– after CB	– after ED
126	-	7E	ld a,(hl)	bit 7,(hl)	
127	©	7F	ld a,a	bit 7,a	
128		80	add a,b	res 0,b	
129		81	add a,c	res 0,c	
130		82	add a,d	res 0,d	
131		83	add a,e	res 0,e	
132		84	add a,h	res 0,h	
133		85	add a,l	res 0,l	
134		86	add a,(hl)	res 0,(hl)	
135		87	add a,a	res 0,a	
136		88	adc a,b	res 1,b	
137		89	adc a,c	res 1,c	
138		8A	adc a,d	res 1,d	
139		8B	adc a,e	res 1,e	
140		8C	adc a,h	res 1,h	
141		8D	adc a,l	res 1,l	
142		8E	adc a,(hl)	res 1,(hl)	
143		8F	adc a,a	res 1,a	
144	(a)	90	sub b	res 2,b	
145	(b)	91	sub c	res 2,c	
146	(c)	92	sub d	res 2,d	
147	(d)	93	sub e	res 2,e	
148	(e)	94	sub h	res 2,h	
149	(f)	95	sub l	res 2,l	
150	(g)	96	sub (hl)	res 2,(hl)	
151	(h)	97	sub a	res 2,a	
152	(i)	98	sbc a,b	res 3,b	
153	(j)	99	sbc a,c	res 3,c	
154	(k)	9A	sbc a,d	res 3,d	
155	(l)	9B	sbc a,e	res 3,e	
156	(m)	9C	sbc a,h	res 3,h	
157	(n)	9D	sbc a,l	res 3,l	
158	(o)	9E	sbc a,(hl)	res 3,(hl)	
159	(p)	9F	sbc a,a	res 3,a	
160	(q)	A0	and b	res 4,b	ldi
161	(r)	A1	and c	res 4,c	cpi
162	(s)	A2	and d	res 4,d	ini
163	(t)	A3	and e	res 4,e	outi
164	(u)	A4	and h	res 4,h	
165	RND	A5	and l	res 4,l	
166	INKEY\$	A6	and (hl)	res 4,(hl)	
167	PI	A7	and a	res 4,a	
168	FN	A8	xor b	res 5,b	ldd
169	POINT	A9	xor c	res 5,c	cpd

user
graphics

Notes	Address	Name	Contents
X1	23659	DF SZ	The number of lines (including one blank line) in the lower part of the screen.
2	23660	S TOP	The number of the top program line in automatic listings.
2	23662	OLDPPC	Line number to which CONTINUE jumps.
1	23664	OSPCC	Number within line of statement to which CONTINUE jumps.
N1	23665	FLAGX	Various flags.
N2	23666	STRLEN	Length of string type destination in assignment.
N2	23668	T ADDR	Address of next item in syntax table (very unlikely to be useful).
2	23670	SEED	The seed for RND . This is the variable that is set by RANDOMIZE .
3	23672	FRAMES	3 byte (least significant first), frame counter. Incremented every 20ms. See Chapter 18.
2	23675	UDG	Address of 1st user-defined graphic. You can change this for instance to save space by having fewer user-defined graphics.
1	23677	COORDS	x-coordinate of last point plotted.
1	23678		y-coordinate of last point plotted.
1	23679	P POSN	33-column number of printer position.
1	23680	PR CC	Less significant byte of address of next position for LPRINT to print at (in printer buffer).
1	23681		Not used.
2	23682	ECHO E	33-column number and 24-line number (in lower half) of end of input buffer.
2	23684	DF CC	Address in display file of PRINT position.
2	23686	DFCCL	Like DF CC for lower part of screen.
X1	23688	S POSN	33-column number for PRINT position.
X1	23689		24-line number for PRINT position.
X2	23690	SPOSNL	Like S POSN for lower part.
1	23692	SCR CT	Counts scrolls: it is always 1 more than the number of scrolls that will be done before stopping with scroll? . If you keep poking this with a number bigger than 1 (say 255), the screen will scroll on and on without asking you.
1	23693	ATTR P	Permanent current colours, etc (as set up by colour statements).
1	23694	MASK P	Used for transparent colours, etc. Any bit that is 1 shows that the corresponding attribute bit is taken not from ATTR P, but from what is already on the screen.

Notes	Address	Name	Contents
N1	23695	ATTR T	Temporary current colours, etc (as set up by colour items).
N1	23696	MASK T	Like MASK P, but temporary.
1	23697	P FLAG	More flags.
N30	23698	MEMBOT	Calculator's memory area; used to store numbers that cannot conveniently be put on the calculator stack.
2	23728		Not used.
2	23730	RAMTOP	Address of last byte of BASIC system area.
2	23732	P-RAMT	Address of last byte of physical RAM.

This program tells you the first 22 bytes of the variables area:

```
10 FOR n=0 TO 21
20 PRINT PEEK (PEEK 23627+256*PEEK 23628+n)
30 NEXT n
```

Try to match up the control variable **n** with the descriptions above.
Now change line 20 to

```
20 PRINT PEEK (23635 + 256 * PEEK 23636 + n)
20 PRINT PEEK (16509+n)
20 PRINT PEEK (23755+n) *
```

This tells you the first 22 bytes of the program area. Match these up with the program itself.

* FROM 3RD EDITION

Code	Character	Hex	Z80 Assembler	— after CB	— after ED
82	R	52	ld d,d	bit 2,d	sbc hl,de
83	S	53	ld d,e	bit 2,e	ld (NN),de
84	T	54	ld d,h	bit 2,h	
85	U	55	ld d,l	bit 2,l	
86	V	56	ld d,(hl)	bit 2,(hl)	im 1
87	W	57	ld d,a	bit 2,a	ld a,i
88	X	58	ld e,b	bit 3,b	in e,(c)
89	Y	59	ld e,c	bit 3,c	out (c),e
90	Z	5A	ld e,d	bit 3,d	adc hl,de
91	[	5B	ld e,e	bit 3,e	ld de,(NN)
92	\	5C	ld e,h	bit 3,h	
93	]	5D	ld e,l	bit 3,l	
94	↑	5E	ld e,(hl)	bit 3,(hl)	im 2
95	—	5F	ld e,a	bit 3,a	ld a,r
96	f	60	ld h,b	bit 4,b	in h,(c)
97	a	61	ld h,c	bit 4,c	out (c),h
98	b	62	ld h,d	bit 4,d	sbc hl,hl
99	c	63	ld h,e	bit 4,e	ld (NN),hl
100	d	64	ld h,h	bit 4,h	
101	e	65	ld h,l	bit 4,l	
102	f	66	ld h,(hl)	bit 4,(hl)	
103	g	67	ld h,a	bit 4,a	rrd
104	h	68	ld l,b	bit 5,b	in l,(c)
105	i	69	ld l,c	bit 5,c	out (c),l
106	j	6A	ld l,d	bit 5,d	adc hl,hl
107	k	6B	ld l,e	bit 5,e	ld hl,(NN)
108	l	6C	ld l,h	bit 5,h	
109	m	6D	ld l,l	bit 5,l	
110	n	6E	ld l,(hl)	bit 5,(hl)	
111	o	6F	ld l,a	bit 5,a	rld
112	p	70	ld (hl),b	bit 6,b	in f,(c)
113	q	71	ld (hl),c	bit 6,c	
114	r	72	ld (hl),d	bit 6,d	sbc hl,sp
115	s	73	ld (hl),e	bit 6,e	ld (NN),sp
116	t	74	ld (hl),h	bit 6,h	
117	u	75	ld (hl),l	bit 6,l	
118	v	76	halt	bit 6,(hl)	
119	w	77	ld (hl),a	bit 6,a	
120	x	78	ld a,b	bit 7,b	in a,(c)
121	y	79	ld a,c	bit 7,c	out (c),a
122	z	7A	ld a,d	bit 7,d	adc hl,sp
123	{	7B	ld a,e	bit 7,e	ld sp,(NN)
124	|	7C	ld a,h	bit 7,h	
125	}	7D	ld a,l	bit 7,l	

Code	Character	Hex	Z80 Assembler	— after CB	— after ED
38	&	26	ld h,N	sla (hl)	
39	'	27	daa	sla a	
40	(	28	jr z,DIS	sra b	
41	)	29	add hl,hl	sra c	
42	*	2A	ld hl,(NN)	sra d	
43	+	2B	dec hl	sra e	
44	,	2C	inc l	sra h	
45	-	2D	dec l	sra l	
46	.	2E	ld l,N	sra (hl)	
47	/	2F	cpl	sra a	
48	0	30	jr nc,DIS		
49	1	31	ld sp,NN		
50	2	32	ld (NN),a		
51	3	33	inc sp		
52	4	34	inc (hl)		
53	5	35	dec (hl)		
54	6	36	ld (hl),N		
55	7	37	scf		
56	8	38	jr c,DIS	srl b	
57	9	39	add hl,sp	srl c	
58	:	3A	ld a,(NN)	srl d	
59	:	3B	dec sp	srl e	
60	<	3C	inc a	srl h	
61	=	3D	dec a	srl l	
62	>	3E	ld a,N	srl (hl)	
63	?	3F	ccf	srl a	
64	@	40	ld b,b	bit 0,b	in b,(c)
65	A	41	ld b,c	bit 0,c	out (c),b
66	B	42	ld b,d	bit 0,d	sbc hl,bc
67	C	43	ld b,e	bit 0,e	ld (NN),bc
68	D	44	ld b,h	bit 0,h	neg
69	E	45	ld b,l	bit 0,l	retn
70	F	46	ld b,(hl)	bit 0,(hl)	im 0
71	G	47	ld b,a	bit 0,a	ld i,a
72	H	48	ld c,b	bit 1,b	in c,(c)
73	I	49	ld c,c	bit 1,c	out (c),c
74	J	4A	ld c,d	bit 1,d	adc hl,bc
75	K	4B	ld c,e	bit 1,e	ld bc,(NN)
76	L	4C	ld c,h	bit 1,h	
77	M	4D	ld c,l	bit 1,l	reti
78	N	4E	ld c,(hl)	bit 1,(hl)	
79	O	4F	ld c,a	bit 1,a	ld r,a
80	P	50	ld d,b	bit 2,b	in d,(c)
81	Q	51	ld d,c	bit 2,c	out (c),d

CHAPTER

26

The character set

This is the complete Spectrum character set, with codes in decimal and hex. If one imagines the codes as being Z80 machine code instructions, then the right hand columns give the corresponding assembly language mnemonics. As you are probably aware if you understand these things, certain Z80 instructions are compounds starting with CBh or EDh; the two right hand columns give these.

Code	Character	Hex	Z80 Assembler	– after CB	– after ED
0	} not used	00	nop	rlc b	
1		01	ld bc,NN	rlc c	
2		02	ld (bc),a	rlc d	
3		03	inc bc	rlc e	
4		04	inc b	rlc h	
5		05	dec b	rlc l	
6	PRINT comma	06	ld b,N	rlc (hl)	
7	EDIT	07	rlca	rlc a	
8	cursor left	08	ex af,af'	rrc b	
9	cursor right	09	add hl,bc	rrc c	
10	cursor down	0A	ld a,(bc)	rrc d	
11	cursor up	0B	dec bc	rrc e	
12	DELETE	0C	inc c	rrc h	
13	ENTER	0D	dec c	rrc l	
14	number	0E	ld c,N	rrc (hl)	
15	not used	0F	rrca	rrc a	
16	INK control	10	djnz DIS	rl b	
17	PAPER control	11	ld de,NN	rl c	
18	FLASH control	12	ld (de),a	rl d	
19	BRIGHT control	13	inc de	rl e	
20	INVERSE control	14	inc d	rl h	
21	OVER control	15	dec d	rl l	
22	AT control	16	ld d,N	rl (hl)	
23	TAB control	17	rla	rl a	
24	} not used	18	jr DIS	rr b	
25		19	add hl,de	rr c	
26		1A	ld a,(de)	rr d	
27		1B	dec de	rr e	
28		1C	inc e	rr h	
29		1D	dec e	rr l	
30		1E	ld e,N	rr (hl)	
31		1F	rra	rr a	
32	space	20	jr nz,DIS	sla b	
33	!	21	ld hl,NN	sla c	
34	"	22	ld (NN),hl	sla d	
35	#	23	inc hl	sla e	
36	\$	24	inc h	sla h	
37	%	25	dec h	sla l	

Using machine code

Summary

USR with numeric argument

This chapter is written for those who understand *Z80 machine code*, the set of instructions that the Z80 processor chip uses. If you do not, but would like to, there are plenty of books about it. You want to get one called something along the lines of 'Z80 Machine code (or assembly language) for the absolute beginner', and if it mentions the Spectrum, so much the better.

These programs are normally written in *assembly language*, which, although cryptic, are not too difficult to understand with practice. (You can see the assembly language instructions in Appendix A.) However, to run them on the computer you need to code the program into a sequence of bytes – in this form it is called *machine code*. This translation is usually done by the computer itself, using a program called an *assembler*. There is no assembler built in to the Spectrum, but you may well be able to buy one on cassette. Failing that, you will have to do the translation yourself, provided that the program is not too long.

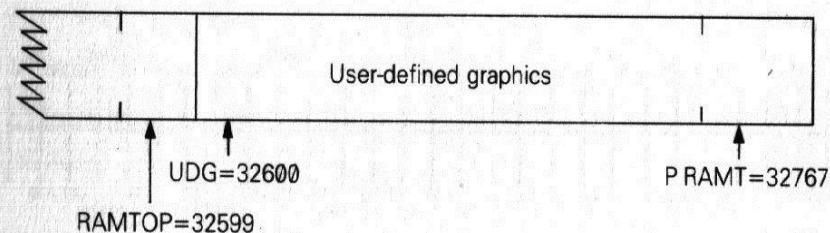
Let's take as an example the program

```
ld bc, 99
ret
```

which loads the bc register pair with 99. This translates into the four machine code bytes 1, 99, 0 (for ld bc, 99) and 201 (for ret). (If you look up 1 and 201 in Appendix A, you will find ld bc, NN – where NN stands for any two-byte number – and ret.)

When you have got your machine code program, the next step is to get it into the computer. (An assembler would probably do this automatically.) You need to decide whereabouts in memory to put it, and the best thing is to make extra space for it between the BASIC area and the user-defined graphics.

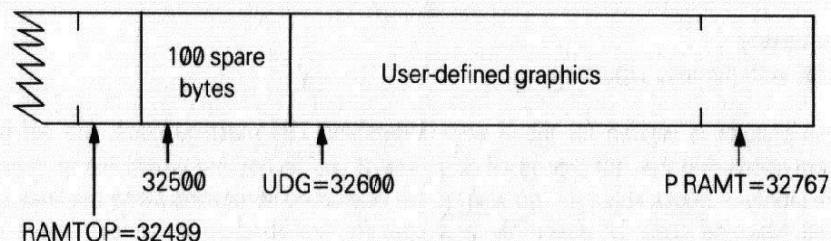
Suppose, for instance, that you have a 16K Spectrum. To start off with, the top end of RAM has



If you type

```
CLEAR 32499
```

this will give you a space of 100 (for good measure) bytes starting at address 32500.



To put in the machine code program, you would run a BASIC program something like

```
10 LET a=32500
20 READ n: POKE a,n
30 LET a=a+1: GO TO 20
40 DATA 1,99,0,201
```

(This will stop with report **E Out of DATA** when it has filled in the four bytes you specified.)

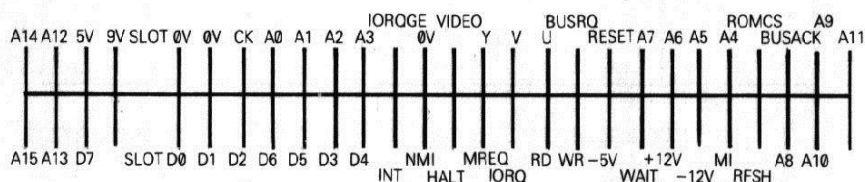
To run the machine code, you use the function **USR** – but this time with a numeric argument, the starting address. Its result is the value of the bc register on return from the machine code program, so if you do

```
PRINT USR 32500
```

you get the answer 99.

The return address to the BASIC is stacked in the usual way, so return is by a Z80 ret instruction. You should not use the iy and i registers in a machine code routine.

The control, data and address busses are all exposed at the back of the Spectrum, so you can do almost anything with a Spectrum that you can with a Z80. Sometimes, though, the Spectrum hardware might get in the way. Here is a diagram of the exposed connections at the back:



You can save your machine code program easily enough with

```
SAVE "some name" CODE 32500,4
```

On the face of it, there is no way of saving it so that when loaded it automatically runs itself, but you can get round this by using a BASIC program.

```
10 LOAD "" CODE 32500,4
20 PRINT USR 32500
```

Do first

```
SAVE "some name" LINE
```

and then

```
SAVE "xxxx" CODE 32500,4
LOAD "some name"
```

will then load and automatically run the BASIC program, and the BASIC program will load and run the machine code.

Notes

1. RST 38h calls Keyboard interpreter routine (op codes at 0050h tables at 0205h)
2. Sound routine entry point 03B5h. HL set for pitch (high value = low pitch), DE set for length of note (high value = long note)
3. COPY routine held at 0EACH (no parameters). Can be entered at 0EB2h but interrupts must be disabled, B set to no of scans (8 scans = 1 print line) and HL set to point to first line to be printed.
4. One high res line can be printed with routine at 0EF4h using HL to point to line. Before calling disable interrupts, after return switch printer off (OUT FB A) and enable interrupts.