

PCjr: Our First Look

# MICROCOMPUTING<sup>®</sup>

WAYNE GREEN INC.

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## Are Micros for Real (Estate)?



**A Derfler Trilogy:**  
"Overview" and Reviews  
Of Next Step, TI CC-40





VIC-20 that is similar in operation and appearance to Script-64 and RTC 4, also from Richvale Telecommunications. Data created with VICscript is compatible with both of these word processors.

●The Draft Aid Computer Aided Design System is a CAD System that is designed for the Commodore 8000 series. Draft Aid goes from hand drawing to plotter quickly and easily, through four user friendly steps:

The Matrix Editor lets you specify where you want the drawing to appear on the plotter's board.

The Segment Editor is then used to draw on the screen shapes that will appear in the final drawing.

The Relation File Editor combines shapes with positions.

The Relation File Plotter then performs the actual plot with one instruction, which leaves the operator free to proceed with other work.

The plotting features allow for creating arcs and circles, rotating drawings through 360 degrees, moving drawings anywhere on the plot surface, enlarging or reducing drawings in either axis, inverting any drawing in either axis and drawing up to 9801 shapes with one instruction.

The data entry features include operational and error alarms, full error checking, an escape function to cancel the last command, full menu-drive for ease of use, a built-in calculator, cross referencing, file sorting and formatted screen displays.

All in all, this is a great package for educational uses, printed circuit boards, design and electronic drafting.

## Super VIC-Kit

Mantronics Software Designs offers a Basic programmer's utility pack on disk called the Super VIC-Kit. This package adds more than two dozen new commands to simplify writing and editing Basic programs. It also includes a resident machine language monitor, a complete set of disk commands, an escape key option and automatic keyword generation. The package requires at least 8K of memory plus the VIC-1540/1541 disk drive.

The program is supplied on disk in a special relocating format. When first loaded, it relocates itself to the top of memory. It occupies 3K of memory and doesn't use any zero page locations, making it transparent to most programs.

In addition to 26 new commands, Super VIC-Kit has a repeating key for each key on the board. It also provides you with a space bar pause option for catalog, Dlist, list, and find commands.

The program is a great addition for all Commodore VIC users. You should specify which Super VIC-Kit fits your computer. The Commodore and VIC packages

cost \$24.95. Mantronics Software Designs at 360 Pierce Ave., Suite 120, No. Mankato, MN 56001.

## Speed Term II

Gary Schroeder of Astral\*Image is offering the latest version of his SpeedTerm II intelligent terminal program for the Commodore-64. SpeedTerm II resides in high RAM (\$C000 to \$CFFF) leaving approximately 38K (\$0801 to \$9DFF) free for the upload/download buffer area. Other terminal packages typically use compiled Basic and only offer a 24K to 28K buffer area.

Another unique feature of SpeedTerm II is the on-line printer dump with its ability to create program files for uploading to CIS or sending to friends with SpeedTerm II. SpeedTerm II will automatically convert downloaded files into a program and then load and run it at the stroke of a key.

## The Super VIC-Kit is a great addition for all VIC users.

Besides the upload and download capabilities, you can also select screen colors, view the function key assignments and change terminal options. When using the on-line printer dump, normal XOFF (control-S) and XON (control-Q) flow control is used to ensure that no data is lost.

Several additional utility programs are also included in SpeedTerm II. DiscPrint gives you reviewing and printing options for sequential disk files. Proffile converts program files on disk into an .IMG file called Up for uploading SpeedTerm II.

Fileprogram converts downloaded Basic files into program files on disk. The SpeedTerm Editor creates sequential files used for either future uploading with SpeedTerm II or for your purposes.

For more information on the entire package, check the CompuServe xal database of the C-64 SIG and look at a file named "speed.tii 73575.604" or write Astral\*Image, 812 B St., Studio A, San Rafael, CA 94901. The complete package sells for \$29.95 and includes disk and documentation for the Commodore-64.

## Mator Products

Mator Systems Ltd. of Sussex, England has been designing and building highly technical microprocessor-based products since 1976. It currently has several interesting products for the Commodore PET/CBM systems.

## Shark Deep in Capacity

The Mator Shark is an intelligent high-density hard disk storage system with storage capacities of ten, 20, 30, 60 and 120 megabytes. Through its processor and disk operating system, it provides you with a number of software interfaces. Various hardware interfaces, including Intel Multibus, RS-232 and IEEE-488, are also available to accommodate most existing micro systems.

As an option, there's a disk operating system that's completely compatible with the Commodore PET/CBM systems in conjunction with the IEEE-488 interface. This version simply connects to your PET/CBM with standard IEEE cabling and instantly provides unprecedented data-storage capacity and performance. Existing software developed for use with Commodore floppy disks can be used without modification since all features of the latest Commodore PET DOS 2.5 are supported.

## Sharkive on Tape

As if that weren't enough, there's also a fast tape archive unit available that directly connects to the Shark hard disk system. The Sharkive is a high-speed tape archiving system designed specifically for use with the Mator Shark hard disk system. It uses ANSI standard 1/4-inch removable magnetic tape cartridges such as the DC-300XL and DC-600A. These cartridges provide 11M or 15M formatted capacity on each cartridge.

## Transfer Data in No Time

The Sharkdrive is a separate unit from the Shark hard disk and can be added at any time. It is directly connected to the Shark by ribbon cable and is controlled by the same controller that controls the Shark's hard disk. This avoids the time-consuming transfer of data to and from the host computer when carrying out a back-up or restore function.

## A Dolphin Connection

The Mator Dolphin 3 is a compact and extremely cost-effective microprocessor based solution to the problem of connecting micros to mainframe computers. It allows virtually any micro system with a standard IEEE-488 or RS-232C communications interface to successfully communicate with mainframes. It achieves this through specially designed hardware and PROM resident software.

## Commodore Converts to Protocol

To date, Mator has successfully installed protocol converters for Commodore systems involving the following protocols:

- IBM Bi-Sync Protocols.
- ICL XBM protocols: PCT2, C02 and C03 batch.
- 2780, 3780 and HASP batch.
- 3270 interactive.



- Burroughs poll/select protocol.
- various asynchronous protocols.

Also, many standard and well-proven conversions are now available and new conversions are constantly under development.

For more information on these and other Mator products, contact Mator, Inc., 4203 Spencer St., Torrance, CA 90506.

## Misc Happenings

Sirius Software (10364 Rockingham Drive, Sacramento, CA 95827) recently released a new game for the Commodore-64 and VIC-20 called Type Attack.

Developed by a game designer and a professional educator, Type Attack teaches typing skills in a fast-action arcade-style game. Groups of words and letters falling from the top of the playing field must be stopped by typing the same words or letters on the computer keyboard.

The game includes 39 preprogrammed lessons designed to follow standard typing course formats in such a way that the player automatically learns typing conventions and concepts. A lesson creator allows the player to design lessons for specific typing or vocabulary problems.

There's also a real-time words-per-minute bar with settings from one to 99.

The program is supplied on disk for the Commodore-64 and on cartridge for the VIC-20. Suggested price is \$39.95 retail.

Other new programs for the Commodore systems include:

- Gruds in Space and Blade of Blackpoole, both graphics adventure games for the Commodore-64 at \$39.95 each.
- Squish'em, originally on disk for the C-64 is now on cassette for the VIC-20 at \$19.95. It requires a minimum of 8K expansion memory to load on the VIC.
- Final Orbit is a simulated 3D battle in space for the VIC-20 with a free game on the cartridge. The pinball simulation game called Bumper Bash and Final Orbit retail for \$39.95.

## Written for Challenge

Hayden Book Company recently announced a new book, *VIC Games* written by Nick Hampshire. The book includes a collection of 36 arcade-style, strategy and educational word games for the VIC-20.

With this book you can challenge your driving skills on your own Grand Prix race track, fight a war with space pirates, maneuver your way through a maze of landmines, solve the Rubik's cube,

create colorful images and music, find your way out of the jungle or improve children's spelling and vocabulary skills. The 192-page softbound book sells for \$12.95.

## Commodore Guide

The editors of Consumer Guide offer an introductory guide for the Commodore-64 and VIC-20 by Jim and Ellen Strasma. This 80-page, spiral-bound picture book makes things simple for the first-time computer user. It's completely illustrated with exceptionally clear photographs.

The book shows you how to connect the computer to your television or monitor, introduces you to the many features found on the keyboard, explains the various peripherals and how to expand your system and reviews various software and other resources that are available.

## Meet the Keys

A special chapter, "Meet the Keys," ensures that you'll fully understand the exact function of each key on the keyboard. There's also a series of step-by-step screen-illustrated exercises.

This super book is a bargain at \$4.98. It has to be the most complete and understandable introduction to a computer ever published. I highly recommend it. □

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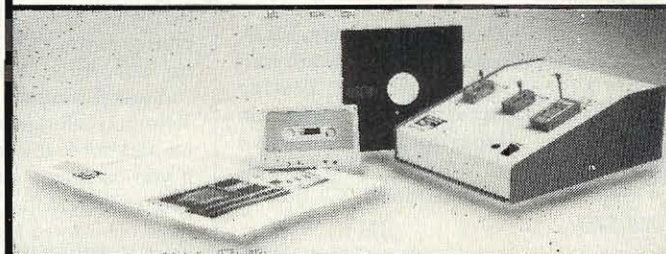
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## AFFORDABLE PROM EPROM PROGRAMMING !!!



Until now manufactures of programming equipment cost thousands of dollars. That is until now! If you can afford a Radio Shack Model III or IV you can afford a PROM/EPROM programmer! Riverlake Systems Inc. has introduced the model EP-10 PROM/EPROM programmer that connects directly to the Model III or IV 50 pin bus and programs the popular PROM types 82S23/123, 82S126/129, and 82S130/131 ALSO EPROM types 2758, 2716, 2732, 2732A, and 2764. The EP-10 comes complete with menu driven single key command software. Since we were always updating the capability send for a complete list of device capability.

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