

HELP!

Help-intro

Do you have anything for this column? The three headings are:

- (1) Helpful Hints,
- (2) Who's Got the Answer? and
- (3) "PET" Pals Wanted.

Just send your contributions (including answers to any questions which have appeared) to:

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Please let us know if you wish your full address published.

This month we are only printing Helpful Hints (we have a backlog) and "PET" Pals Wanted. We do have 18 questions on hand, but they will have to wait until next time. There just isn't room for them this time.

Helpful Hints

I assume Mr. Awbrey needs the CP/M system disk which is normally supplied with the SOFTBOX. If so, it is a bit strange that the supplier would not have included this with the hardware and manual, but it would be quite easy to send him a backup 8050 disk if he contacts me.

Douglas A Staley #3389
Thornhill, Ontario

(Editor's note: Please send Mr. Staley your purchase receipt for the SOFTBOX. I am sure he would not want to risk violating copyright!)

(?) Use joystick instead of specified keys in program — L. Warner, Toronto

I use a C-64 which I believe has Kernal 1. I have converted some PET games to the 64 and added joystick options. One program is Arrow by Jim Butterfield that I got from TPUG BEST GAME 1 (O)X3 disk. I have sent a copy of this game to the TPUG library, however the screen clear routines for the newer C-64 probably will cause the screen pokes to be the same as background color. I have seen some fixes for this listed but not having the newer machine I can't test the results. The joystick routine is simple and you should be able to insert it in your code easily.

The read routine is this:

S1=PEEK(56321)AND15

I check to be sure S1 is not being used, then use this routine for the joystick read. I set the keyboard input variable accordingly — 14 is up, 7 is right, 11 is left, 13 is down, 15 is center. 10,6,9,5 are the other directions if

you need them. The other Joystick port is 56320 if you want it or to use both possibly S2=PEEK(56320) and another set of ifs. Of course you can set up this peek and print the values to see exactly how to interpret the movements of your joystick.

10?peek(56321)and15:goto10

will display the numbers returned for each position of the joystick. To check for the fire button fb=((peek(56321)and16)=0) fb=-1 when the fire button is pressed. 56320 is the address for the other stick.

For a more complete explanation of this technique see "Joysticks and Sprites on the Commodore 64" by Sheldon Leeman in the February 83 issue 33 Vol. 5 No. 2 COMPUTE!

Rick Crone #4637
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Jackson, TN 38305

(?) Looking for a program for decision tree analysis and one to upload ASCII to PDP 11/70 and to an IBM 4341 — Alan Flaschner, Ohio

Mr. Flaschner has answered his own question. Here is what he has found out — perhaps it will help others.

Erickson and Hall have written a user-friendly program for decision tree analysis, one that will easily allow me to change the probabilities associated with possible events and quickly see (for example print) the result of those changes. It is published within Computer Models for Management Science text by Addison-Wesley and includes a diskette with 13 programs.

Microtechnic Solutions published a user-friendly program for uploading and downloading, one that easily allows me to upload as you require as well as to download from those computers to either disk or printer. The program is called The Smart 64 Terminal Plus.

Alan B. Flaschner #5963
Toledo, Ohio

My 8K expander for the VIC 20 is extremely difficult to plug in and extract, and I find it irritating to discover I am loading a 5K program into an expanded VIC and vice-versa! By using the 8K LOAD program included on TPUG tape (V)TS, it is possible to load 5K programs without extracting the memory expander. An alternative method is to enter in direct mode the following instructions:

POKE 642,16: POKE 644,30: POKE 648,30:
SYS 64824

This "cons" the expanded VIC 20 into believing it has only 3583 bytes of available RAM. To revert back to 8K, enter SYS 64802. I can now leave my 8K memory expander plugged in at all times.

Barbara A. Cross
Brookfield, Nova Scotia

Cleaning heads on tape and disk units. Tim Tremmel gave excellent advice on this subject in the October issue, but he failed to point out one thing. You should only use computer approved Texwipes or swabs. These maybe difficult to get in your area and if so you can use surgical swabs. The reason for using these special swabs is lint. This lint can build up in your heads and cause all sorts of problems including permanent damage to your heads or cause damage to your media.

Theodore G. Lange
Riverside, California

(?) How to use the 1541 Backup program?
Alan Tomlin, Ontario

Thanks to Mike Kotuba of Burlington, Ontario and Richard Crone of Jackson Tennessee who also contributed detailed instructions on how to use this program.

(?) Where to get replacement fuse for VIC 20?
Bob Hart, Illinois

One day I was messing around with the user port and accidentally blew the fuse. Fortunately for me, it only blew the fuse. I thought I would have a hard time finding a replacement but I was wrong. I just went down to a local music store and they happened to have one for 75 cents.

Brendan Westhoven
Lake Havasu, Arizona

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