

definitely has some real potential. Ability to store VIC programs on list & list them on 4022 printer is nice. Its usefulness may decline as more VIC peripherals hit the market. Documentation should serve as a model for entire PET software field.-Ralph Bressler.

PEDISK II Floppy disk Model 540-1, \$595 from CGRS Microtech.

REVIEW#1: Low-cost IBM-compatible drive which plugs directly into \$e000 slot with an interface board. Board has its own 2K operating system, which adds commands preceded by !. Could be used as remote data entry facility for large OBM-compatible facility. Handles program or data files, but 4040 programs will have to be modified for PEDisk (possible in BASIC, but nearly impossible for machine-language programs). CGRS has popular packages like MAE, Papermate, & Flexfile available to work with their drive. Less expensive than a 4040, even if you buy 2. Its direct memory access avoids IEEE bus & makes it up to 4 times faster than the Commodore line. Its incompatibility with 4040/8050/2031 disks may be too much of a problem for some.-Ralph Bressler

REVIEW#2: (1 double-density drive, 143k storage on 5 1/4" disks). System includes: 1 disk drive + housing, logic board, ribbon cable, manual, master diskette containing DOS with monitor. Instruction manual gives step by step instructions on installation & start-up & many clear illustrations on all PEDISK II commands & error message codes. DOS uses 2K from top of BASIC RAM, & operates with 'sys59904' command.

Two modes: DOS & direct mode. Direct mode (BASIC) has all familiar commands, plus extensions, such as !load !save !open !print !input & !run, & linked to your BASIC by the supplied ROM. !run command acts like a SHIFT/RUN, & can chain programs (e.g., !run"invade:0" to load & run INVADERS on drive 0). !list (version 5) lets you view disk contents w/o disrupting programs in memory. DOS monitor includes disk utilities to format disks, compress files, rename files/programs, copy entire disks (even with 1 drive), save machine-language programs with starting & ending addresses plus the execution addresses.

Good points: Since disk loads directly into memory, it's FAST!! (8K program which takes 2 min., 18 secs. to load from cassette loads in less than 2 1/2 secs, & 24k program takes over 7 mins. from tape compared to a PEDISK II load time of 4 secs!) [Vastly faster than CBM disks, too.-JS] Controller board connects up to 3 disks, easy to use, cheaper (by \$100) than Commodore's 2031 single disk drive, & excellent support (including phone conversations & now a newsletter). I've had no problems with the disk system (in over 4 mos. use).

Bad points: Will not read CBM disks, takes top 2K (2050 bytes) of your memory (if your program uses this, you'll need to 'sys' to access the disk again), can't use TOOLKIT(tm) ROM with disk, file names are only 6 characters long, & cannot read CGRS quad density disks with the double density system.

For anyone who's been using a tape recorder with their PET/CBM computer, this product is a much needed relief. A disk does to cassettes what keyboards and CRTs did to LEDs & toggle switches (remember them?). As an alternative to mass data storage devices on the market today, PEDisk II disk system is worth considering. Recommended.-JO

STARWRITER-II, by C. Itoh, around \$2,000. Needs a serial or parallel interface to PET. Cost roughly \$300 higher than Starwriter-I. Nearly identical to Starwriter printer we've used & loved for the past 9 mos., but nearly twice as fast (45 cps). According to 1 ad, faster overall than a 55 cps NEC Spinwriter. It does run circles around our other Starwriter. Print quality still good, altho fainter. A real bargain if you have the extra \$300, & need lengthy printouts. Recommended.-JS

SADI, \$290 from CMC. Versatile bidirectional serial & unidirectional parallel interface for PET, but may drive you nuts in daily use. SADI can't just be plugged in & used. First, you must command a baud rate (unless it's 300), &