

you may select higher levels of play for a more difficult opponent. Hints on improving play past this point will also be given. You won't soon outgrow VIP-FLOP!

Each higher level of play causes the program to perform a deeper look-ahead to figure its next move. Pressing even-numbered keys (except Key 0) will select the same level as the next higher odd number. (Key 2 will be treated the same as Key 3, Key 4 equals Key 5, etc.) Each higher level results in a search one move deeper than the last level. Press Key 1 for a one move look ahead, for example, Key 3 for 2 moves, Key 5 for 3 moves on up to a maximum of Key F for an 8 move look ahead. It is possible to modify the program so it looks ahead all the way to the end of the game on each search, but in that case, you may want to lay in a stock of novels to read while the computer makes up its mind! Such a depth (to a maximum of 30 moves) would take hours!

After selecting the level of play you wish to compete against (or the level you want the computer to compete with itself) VIP-FLOP asks you to select one of three versions. Key 1 selects the normal Human vs. Computer (H-C) version; Key 2 calls a Computer vs. Computer (C-C) game, and Key 3 will cause VIP-FLOP to operate only as a monitor, keeping score and making your moves as you play with a friend -- the Human vs.