Air Defense

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"Air Defense" is a challenging game for the 5K VIC-20, 16K Atari 400/800, unexpanded TRS-80 Color Computer, Apple II, TI-99/4A, and PET/CBM. Look in the article for special notes on your particular machine.

The object of the game of "Air Defense" is to defend your land (at the bottom of the screen) from falling bombs. The bombs appear at various places at the top of the screen. As they fall, the player must line up the crosshair of his gunsight and fire when the bomb and crosshair are aligned. On the VIC version press S to move up, X to move down, ‹cursor down› to move left, and ‹cursor up› to move right. Press SPACE to fire.

The player gets only one shot, and timing is critical. After 20 bombs have appeared, the game ends, and the player is given a score showing hits and misses and a point score.

One of the unique features of the game is the increasing difficulty factor: as the player improves his skill, the crosshair is gradually moved toward the top of the screen, and quicker reflexes and improved technique are required to destro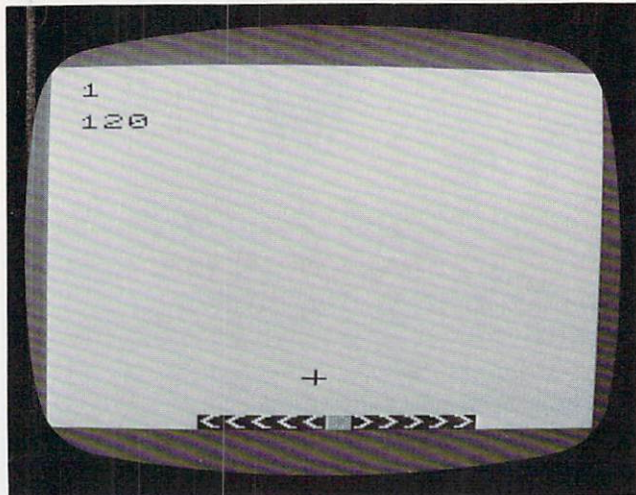y the falling bombs. As a reward for increasing skill, the player earns higher point values for successive hits. In addition, the player receives a higher score the sooner the falling bomb is destroyed.

Program 1: VIC Version

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100 X=RND(0)
110 A=8152:B=38872:P=0:M=0:T=0:Q=0
120 PRINT"{CLEAR}{07 DOWN}        AIR DEFENSE
    "
130 PRINT"{02 DOWN}        DO YOU NEED"
140 PRINT"{DOWN}        INSTRUCTIONS?"
150 PRINT"{DOWN}       TYPE 'Y' OR 'N'"
160 FOR H=1TO1000:GETD$
170 IF D$="N" THEN 380
180 IF D$="Y" THEN 220
190 NEXT
200 PRINT"{CLEAR}{DOWN}YOU DID NOT PRESS '
    Y' OR 'N'."
210 FOR K=1TO5000:NEXT:GOTO120
220 PRINT"{CLEAR}  YOU MUST STOP THE"
230 PRINT"   FALLING BOMB BY"
240 PRINT"    EXPLODING IT IN"
250 PRINT"       MID-AIR."
260 PRINT"{DOWN} MOVE THE CROSSHAIR"
270 PRINT"{DOWN}*{REV}LEFT{OFF}:CURSOR U/D
     KEY"
280 PRINT"{DOWN}*{REV}RIGHT{OFF}:CURSOR L/
    R KEY"
290 PRINT"{DOWN}*{REV}UP{OFF}:WITH THE 'S'
     KEY"
300 PRINT"{DOWN}*{REV}DOWN{OFF}:WITH THE '
    X' KEY"
310 PRINT"WHEN THE BOMB AND THE"
320 PRINT"CROSSHAIR ARE LINED UP, FIRE BY ~
    PRESSING THESPACE";
330 PRINT" BAR."
340 PRINT"{DOWN}PRESS ANY KEY TO START"
350 GET D$:IF D$="" THEN 350
360 PRINT"{CLEAR}{10 DOWN}        GOOD LUCK!
    "
370 FOR I=1TO2500 :NEXT
380 IFT=20 THEN 860
390 PRINT"{CLEAR}":D=INT(RND(1)*10)
400 T=T+1
410 E=D+7685
420 F=D+38405
430 PRINTP*Q*10
440 FOR I=1 TO 200:NEXTI
450 POKE A,91:POKE B,0
460 GET A$
470 IFA$="S"THENA=A-22:B=B-22
480 IF A$="X"THEN B=B+22:A=A+22
```


A bomb explodes in the VIC-20 version of "Air Defense" (PET/CBM and Apple versions are similar).