

# 80-BUS NEWS

MAY-JUNE 1984

VOL. 3 ISSUE 3

- The 80-BUS 800 Series
- IVC/SVC Insight—Part 2
- Improved Nas-Sys 3



The Magazine for  
**GEMINI & NASCOM USERS**

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# 80-BUS NEWS

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Editor : Paul Greenhalgh

Associate Editor : David Hunt

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## EDITORIAL

### **Questionnaire**

Well, I hope that it all went to plan, or else I'm about to make a fool of myself - but then that's nothing new! The theory is that with the last magazine a Questionnaire went to all of the subscribers to 80-BUS News. (The reason for my uncertainty is that this is being written before the other mag. has come back from the printers.) Now, the purpose of the Questionnaire (from now on referred to as 'Q') is many-fold. Firstly it is to find out what equipment you are using - this will then let us know whether an article about, for example, the Polydos operating system, will be read with interest by the 25 per cent (say) of the readership that runs Polydos, or just by the author! Secondly there is a section asking what type of articles you like - this will influence whether we write more about hardware, software or more reviews etc. Thirdly, the section on your likely expansion and product desires will give us an indication of what general direction we should be heading in with you. Fourthly, depending on how modest you are (or aren't) in answering the 'knowledge' part, we can establish the average level of competence, which will let us know how simple or complex we should get. And finally it will keep someone here (yes Dave, you've been volunteered!) out of mischief for a considerable time - assuming we actually get some response.

### **The Prize**

When the 'Q' went to press we decided that, as we usually get a pitifully low response to requests for input, we needed to offer a prize as an incentive. At the time of writing the 'Q' we didn't know what this should reasonably be. Since then Gemini has stepped in and offered a prize of £100 (inc. VAT) of Gemini 'Goodies' in the form of a voucher that can be redeemed at any Gemini dealer. In addition to this we will give 10 lucky people a free years subscription to 80-BUS News. So now you have 12 amazing reasons for sending in that 'Q' that is still sitting next to your computer:

- 1 - the chance of £100 worth of goodies,
- 2-11 - the chance of a free sub.,
- and 12 - the opportunity of being able to influence the contents of the mag. (Yes YOUR opinion really does count.)

Being the eternal pessimist what I am, I personally doubt that we'll receive more than a 20 per cent return rate, so PROOVE ME WRONG. After all, what weight will "70 per cent (of the 3 per cent of the readership that actually replied) wants the entire mag. to be about Comal" carry? Anyway....

### **This Issue**

Somewhere in this issue you will find one of David Hunt's ramblings. Now the layout used is an experiment, and we would like your reaction to it. Please just scribble a note on your still un-returned 'Q', on your re-subscription, on an article, or on a post-card, saying what you think. The cost of printing this mag. has slowly been creeping up and up, and we need to cover this. There are several choices: a) put up the subs (never a very popular idea), b) get the magazine typeset and thus smaller (difficult to justify for the relatively low number of magazines produced and for the additional cost, delays and loss of control incurred), or c) reduce the number of pages. I favour the latter, but one way of keeping the actual quantity of material the same would be to treat most of the magazine the same way as Dave Hunt's article (i.e. fit two pages onto one). Now even I don't know exactly what it'll look like until the magazines are returned from the printer, so I hope it is legible - please let us know what you think. Be seeing you.

P.S. For those of you puzzled by this issue's front cover, the answer is really quite simple. Read David Parkinson's article and think about one of the new features of the SVC!! Your answers with the next article you submit please.....

**GEMPEN/DISKPEN – A Review of the New, Improved Version****By C. Bowden**

A short while after I got my NASCOM 2, I saw NASPEN advertised, and I bought a copy. Having no Disks or Printer at that time, I really did not need a Text editor/formatter and NASPEN remained largely unused. The built in editors of ZEAP and BASIC fulfilled all of my needs. When I upgraded my system to IMP Printer, Disks and CP/M though, I required an editor to write Assembly Language source files. I had to learn to use ED for this. ED is very powerful, but also very clumsy to use, after cursor type editing. (At least both the Gemini CP/M and SYS allowed me to screen edit MBASIC source code.) Then DISKPEN, a revised NASPEN running under CP/M, became available. I bought one, and soon learned to use it to write my Source files, and odd letters, and also started to do some real Text editing. After a while I added an IVC card to my system, and upgraded to GEMPEN at a very reasonable cost, to take full advantage of the 80 wide screen.

This situation continued until a few months ago when a new improved GEMPEN/DISKPEN was advertised. (From now on I will call it 'PEN'.) The cost of upgrading was again very reasonable, so I got the new version. The improvements are certainly worth while. Whilst previous versions will do most of the things that the average user needs, there were certain bad points. For example use of "D" instead of "d" could have fairly disastrous consequences. Such 'CASE' related commands have now been removed. Another big improvement has been in the provision of a 'HELP' command. Customization information is also provided. Another feature that greatly increases the scope and power of PEN is that it is also possible to load and run 'Overlay' files.

In 80BUS NEWS Vol 2. Iss.5 the Editor refers to WORDSTAR which is a very well known text processor program that runs under CP/M. I have used WORDSTAR, and it is a VERY powerful program. It can deal with Files longer than RAM Memory, which PEN cannot. Due to its power and complexity, there is quite a lot to learn if one is to become reasonably proficient, and I have not really devoted that much time to this, probably because PEN can do just about all that I require anyway, and is much more suited to system hardware, unless a lot of customizing is done to Wordstar. It is really a case of 'Horses for Courses'. If one needed to write anything longer than about 30-40K, or do something really 'Fancy', then WORDSTAR would be the better choice. The real 'Clincher' for most users would be the price, which is in favour of PEN by about 5 to 1.

PEN is available in a number of versions, but those to suit GEMINI or NASCOM Hybrid systems are the same. Minor differences can be patched as required. The PEN module is supplied on disk together with a number of other files. These are:

- |                                  |         |                            |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| 1) GEMPEN.COM or DISKPEN.COM     | (10K)   | Main Module.               |
| 2) PEN1.DOC, PEN2.DOC & PEN3.DOC | (98K)   | Program Documentation.     |
| 3) CONFIG.DOC                    | (22K)   | System Configuration Docs. |
| 4) SPOOL/MAXIFILE/.DOC; etc.     | (26K)   | DOC's on OVERLAYS.         |
| 5) EPSON/CENT/NEC.LST            | (8K ea) | .PRN's for Printer Config. |
| 6) HELP.OVL                      | (14K)   | HELP Overlay.              |
| 7) OVERD/MENU.OVL                | (2K ea) | More overlays.             |

It will be seen from the above that extensive .DOC files are provided. Persons experienced in assembly language will be able to alter and Patch the main module to support other printers, or to change other system defaults. These may be patched using a debugging tool such as ZSID/DDT/GEMDEBUG. For example,

I quickly altered my main module to support a GM827 keyboard, attached to my IVC Card. This is supported by PEN, but is not 'switched on' in PEN when supplied. I have also altered the default 'lines per page' to 20, and 'Line width' to 76 as I find 20 line pages ideal for 'skipping through' [Ed. - Mr. Bowden hasn't found the ^B and ^C commands.] and 76 wide does not seem to stop for Hyphenation so often. At the time of writing this, I have just bought an EPSON FX80 Printer, and I hope to change a few things in the printer tables. PEN contains tables for Proportional Printers but like the option for the GM827 keyboard, this is also switched off when supplied, also the tables are for Centronics and NEC printers, which will probably turn out different to those used by the FX80. To fully support reconfiguration though, it is necessary to alter HELP.OVL, and this is not easy, as the small bits of machine code in the file prevent it loading with an Editor. To make the support 'suite' complete, I feel that the source for HELP.OVL ought to have been supplied, since all of the other 'tools' to make alterations are supplied.

PEN can be entered in several ways. If the command PEN (Enter) is given, then it is assumed that a new file is being started and a default name \$\$.PEN will be allocated. If a name is given, e.g. PEN STD.MAC - then the named file will be loaded if found on the logged in disk. If not found then the question NEW FILE ? Y/^C is asked. ^C allows recovery from a spelling mistake, whilst a "Y" will open a new file of the given name. Normal CP/M conventions are supported so that:

A>B:PEN A:TEST.DOC is quite legal.

Note however that unless HELP.OVL is on B:, current USER or USER 0, or on A: USER 0, it cannot be loaded, so it is best to put PEN, and any .OVL files onto the default or A: disk before starting. Another good feature of PEN is that it much more forgiving than most Programs if a Disk suddenly 'fills up' since PEN allows one to change Disks without rebooting.

The top line of the screen displays the version number, current cursor line, and Bytes free. If the cursor is off the screen, an indicator shows whether it is before or after the displayed data. The bottom two screen lines are command status lines. This leaves 22 lines (IVC Version) free for text display.

In common with most text Editors, PEN operates in two modes - Command and Insert, and will be in Command mode when run up. Over 60 commands are available, although many are infrequently used. The commands fall into several groups, relating to specific functions such as Cursor movement, text formatting or disk access. The various groups may be displayed on the screen by calling up the HELP Overlay, by means of the "?" or ^E command. When this is done the lower part of the screen is cleared of text and a 'MASTER MENU' of 12 groups is displayed. Entry of the key letter will then call up a second, more detailed and specific display describing commands relevant to that group. It is thus possible to refresh one's memory on all commands at any time. When the HELP display is no longer needed, it may be removed from the screen.

The Insert mode is entered by either the I (i) - Insert, or A (a) - Append command. If I is used the cursor does not move within the text, wheras the 'A' command moves it to the 'end of text' position so is more suited to adding text at the end of an existing file. Either command causes the word 'Insert' to be displayed on the status lines at the bottom of the screen. The cursor is displayed as a flashing Left arrow in Inverted video and it is non-

destructive. It is best to consider that ALL operations will occur at the place pointed to by the arrow. e.g. BS will delete the letter pointed to and characters under/after the cursor will move left/up. Any typed Characters will be inserted in the 'gap' pointed to, and text under/after the cursor will move right/down. This is different to editing in BASIC etc. where characters will 'overtype' unless space is created by shift/right arrow. The Insert mode is terminated by a ^Z.

A number of commands (also used in Insert mode) are available to move the cursor forwards or backwards through the text by units of one character/word/line/paragraph/Quarter page. The main cursor commands are Right and Left arrow, to move one character, Shift Right or Shift Left arrow to move one Word, Up or Down arrow to move one (logical) line, Shift Up or Shift Down arrow to move one Paragraph. In command mode, text can also be scanned in 'Pages'. The length of a page can be changed from the default value by using the '3' & '4' commands, to suit screen or Printer output. Page markers can then be inserted into the text, or removed at will, by simple commands. If Pages are marked forward and backward scanning is supported (8 or 9 commands). Any page may be printed (P command) and if the cursor is not moved, repeated printing of a Page is possible. More sophisticated printing is allowed under the Spool overlay.

It is important to realize that a line MAY NOT mean one line as seen on the screen. One normally enters text into a file by just typing words, spaces and punctuation, but WITHOUT pressing ENTER at the end of each screen line. The text will 'wrap around' onto the next line of the screen, etc., although some words may appear broken when the end of screen line is reached. In memory though, the text will be continuous. Thus a paragraph of say 200 words may be entered, and the cursor may be half way down the screen but the line counter will still say line 1, because the logical end of line is marked by a CR,LF sequence, which results from pressing ENTER, or from formatting. Half a dozen such paragraphs may occupy several K. of memory and take two or three screens to display fully, but may only register six lines on the status display.

When the text is formatted to the desired length however, the program will place a CR,LF at the end of every line of 76 (or whatever length set - N.B. These are .1" steps, NOT characters), and the line counter will display the correct count. Since the screen can only display 48 or 80 chars. on a line, any lines formatted longer than this will 'wrap around', and this will result in the line count indicator not agreeing with lines as counted on the screen.

Another consequence of the lack of CR,LF before formatting is that the UP/DOWN arrow keys will cause the cursor to jump the whole length of the logical line. This makes reaching the middle of a paragraph by cursor character or word commands tedious. The answer is to format frequently, or to press ENTER or RETURN fairly often when near the Right hand side of the screen. Formatting takes longer as the amount of text grows, and it is not necessary to put the cursor to the start of the text each time a format is done. It can be placed at the end of the previous formatted part. If formatting is done on the last one or two paragraphs entered, it is very quick. The whole text only need be reformatted if changes are made near the start, or some other change is needed such as a different line length.

A minor criticism of PEN as far as I am concerned is that after formatting the cursor always moves to the start of the text. I would have preferred it to display from the position at which the format command was given. This is usually what I want to see after formatting so I have to step through the text until I find the required position again, which is a little annoying, although use of '\*' and '=' commands (which are cursor position markers) would probably help. Source Code files are not formatted of course, and normally ENTER would be pressed at the end of each line.

In Insert mode anything typed except cursor commands and BS will be placed into the file. This includes a number of non Alpha-Numeric characters, which have a special meaning, and are 'embedded' commands to control formatting or printing. It is thus possible to indent, exclude from formatting, cause a printer to change character set or print mode and so on. PEN has around 16 commands to control printing.

A nice feature of PEN is that TAB characters show on the screen as a row of little dots. Since 'TABS' can upset formatting, it is useful to be able to 'see' them. (A formattable TAB character (^A) is available as an alternative.) Any area of text may be marked (^U) to exclude it from formatting, so that tables or lists that would be destroyed by normal formatting may be included. The ^U command is cancelled by a ^F command, to allow formatting to recommence. PEN also supports an Indent command (^R), which indents in steps of 4 spaces, and appears on the screen as (different) dots. This can help in building tables or lists, or just to indent the whole text. The Indent is reduced by the ^X command. If the commands are placed into the text in insert mode, variable amounts of indent are possible. In command mode, the ^R and ^X commands operate on the whole text, so could be used to set a print margin, for example.

#### Some Other Commands

It is impossible to describe all of the commands in a review, so only a few will be described in any detail. Many commands are straightforward, no option commands. Potentially fatal commands are protected by 'Are you sure?'.

#### Block Move/Delete

Any block of text may be marked with a 'backslash' character at start and end. If the cursor is then moved to another place, the 'M' command will cause the marked block to be inserted at the cursor position. The original block is not deleted. The markers may be removed by the 'N' command. Alternatively a '^D' command will allow block(s) to be deleted, but PEN first checks that it has the right block, as there could be several marked blocks throughout the text. Using backslash for the move markers can be inconvenient to the C programmer as these are used as remark delimiters within C. The information supplied with PEN makes it an easy task to choose some other less used character instead.

#### Change Keyboard Case

The 'U' command will reverse the Keyboard case, which is very useful since this saves much operation of the Shift key, depending on the type of file being edited. With the GM827 keyboard, which has a 'CAPS LOCK' key, it is possible to permanently set Upper case or Lower case, or to have Lower case/Shift upper or Upper case/shift lower. With a NASCOM and GEMINI keyboard in use together, a number of parallel options are possible!!

Kill Text

'B' will kill all text from cursor to the start of text, while 'K' will kill from cursor to the end of text. Smaller amounts may be removed by using the Block Delete command. The 'D' command will kill text from cursor back to the previous 'New line', and so could kill several displayed lines. (See comment on lines above.)

Disk Commands

At any time a copy of the text in memory can be saved to disk by use of the 'W' command. Control returns to PEN. When the edit session is finished, the 'E' command will write the file to disk, and exit to CP/M. Editing can be terminated without writing to disk, by use of the 'Q' Quit command, but in this case the question 'Are you sure' is posed. In common with most programs of this type, two disk copies of a file are maintained, the most recent always becoming the Named file, whilst the other becomes the .BAK - Backup file. When the next edit is completed, the old .BAK will be deleted, and the previous master file will be renamed FILENAME.BAK. The newly edited file will saved as the new master, under the correct FILENAME.TYP. If the user wishes to retain the .BAK file on the disk before an edit, then it can be renamed. i.e. -  
REN MYFILE1.DOC=MYFILE.BAK.

An unusual and very useful feature is the 'O' command, which change the name of the output file from within PEN. very useful for breaking bits of source code up into constituent parts, etc.

Another very useful command is the 'R' command. This will read another file from disk, and insert it into the file currently in memory, at the Cursor position. This is useful for things like Letter Heads, or EQUATES Source file listings.

Find Commands (with Replace option)

When activated, PEN prompts for the 'Find' string on the status lines. The required string should then be entered, and terminated with ^Z or ^C. A ^Z causes PEN to immediately start searching. If ^C is used, a second String is expected, and should be entered, terminated by ^Z. If a second string is entered, it can be used as the replacement string as described below.

The 'F' command will search the entire file, ('f' from current cursor position) and display any text that matches the 'Find String'. It will then stop. If 'ENTER' is pressed the next occurrence is found. If the 'Replace' option is active, then pressing 'ENTER' will cause the String to be changed for the replacement option, and a further 'ENTER' will find the next occurrence. Whenever a match is found, if 'SPACE' is pressed instead of 'ENTER' the substitution is NOT made, and the next match is sought. The last entered Find command can be re-activated, even after further editing, by use of the '^F' command. Appart from changing spelling mistakes, or replacing abbreviations, one nice use of this command is to rewrite 8080 Source files to Z80 Mnemonics.

Overlays

Overlays are a new feature of PEN. I am unable to comment on these in much detail because I have only had experience of the two supplied with PEN. The idea is good though, and it adds greatly to the power and versatility of PEN. The OVERLAY 'Menu' is activated by the '&' command, which displays a list of overlays that may be available and used. The 'OVERD' overlay for example, will display the Directory of a Disk, or allow deletion of files.

Some Other Commands

'1','2'	- Alter line length - .lin steps (for formatting).
'V','v'	- Change screen format (48/80 col)/Remove 'Menu'.
'*'	- Place a marker in text.
'='	- move cursor to marker and delete it.
'O'	- Allows renaming of the output file.
'J'	- Insert single Character. Avoids 'I','^Z' sequence.
'P'	- Print File. (To next Page marker, if any exist.)
'G','^G'	- Insert (Remove) Page Markers.
'Z','(Y')	- Move to Start (End) of text.

N.B. A few commands do not apply to all Versions of PEN, due to possible Hardware differences, particularly Screens and Keyboards.

Formatting

Although only a few commands relate to formatting, this is one of the main features of PEN. With a Formatter, one can type away without attempting to regulate the Right hand edge of the display, or relating to Compressed Print on a 15 inch Printer. One simply continues typing until say, a paragraph has been entered. At this stage, the screen display will be 'ragged' with some words broken at end of (screen) line. If the formatter is now invoked, the text will be adjusted so that all lines are of the same (preset) length, without any broken words. To achieve this PEN will add some extra 'space' characters to the line, at positions where a single space already exists, until the total count is correct. The net result is a very pleasing display. Occasionally PEN cannot continue because a word at end of line is too long, and there are not enough single spaces in the line for formatting. The text is displayed with the cursor pointing to the offending word, and one can hyphenate ('-' command), or edit to get around the problem. PEN is not permitted to automatically hyphenate as this could result in some odd effects. Three or more adjacent spaces are not adjusted, as these could be Indents, Tabs or similar required gaps. Two adjacent ENTER characters are not altered as this is taken to indicate end of paragraph.

The commands associated with formatting are 'S', 'L' and 'X', and they are protected by 'Are you sure' to avoid making a mistake such as formatting Source Code. The use of these commands is fully described in the .DOC's and there is little point in going into the differences here. Normally it is only necessary to place the cursor before the part of the text to be formatted and to issue the 'S' command, and confirm with 'Y'.

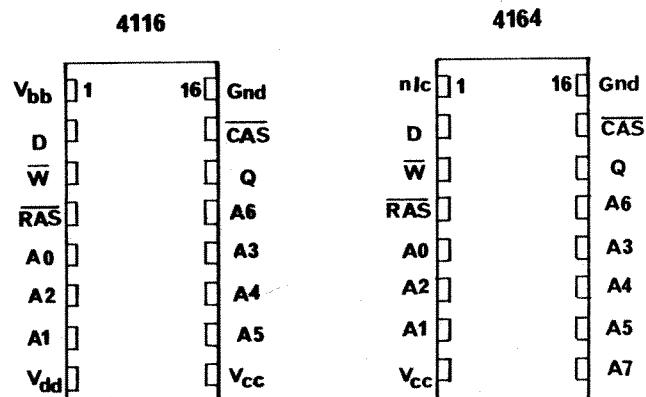
There are still a number of commands that have not been mentioned in this short review, largely concerned with setting up system parameters for screen display, formatting or printing, but it is hoped that what has been written will give the reader a good idea of the main features of the PEN family of text Editor/Formatter programs. While it is easy to criticise any Software, and I have mentioned a couple of things in this article, I think that the current issue of PEN will satisfy the Text Editing and Formatting needs of most Home and Small Buisness users in all but the most exacting of tasks, and is well worth the cost.

**64k, or even 128k, on a RAM A Board?****by P. A. Forrester**

There are probably many Nascom owners who would like to have a full complement of RAM but who jib at paying over £100 for one of the 64k boards which can be purchased, and so most of us soldier on with our old RAM A boards. Some may have added another set of 8 4116s, using the 'piggy-back' method described in INMC-80 (1). However, now that 4164 dynamic RAMs can be obtained for less than £5, I started to ponder whether a better solution might not be to abandon the 4116s and add a block of 8 4164s at a cost of about £35. After I had worked out how to do this, it seemed a shame to leave the other block of 8 sockets unfilled, so I splashed out yet again and added another set of 4164s to give me a total capacity of 128k. Since the Z80 can only address 64k at any given time, I had to find out how to page the additional memory in and out of the address space. This note describes how all this can be achieved. I will not attempt to give a detailed recipe of which tracks to cut where, but rather, will try to give sufficient information so that anyone with a bit of knowledge of digital logic should be able to follow what I have done. The conversion to 64k can be done without the addition of extra support chips, apart from a couple of inverters, and only requires simple mods to the circuitry, but the use of two 64k blocks imposes the need for some means of controlling which parts of the 128k of available RAM is coupled into the memory-map at any given time and this requires some additional chips; the way I have done it only takes 7 extra TTL parts costing in total under £2.

Let us start with a little background on dynamic RAM. This differs in several respects from static RAM, such as the 6116 discussed in 80-BUS News (2). Firstly, the chips we are interested in use address multiplexing; secondly, they have only two data pins, an input and an output; and, thirdly the data must be periodically refreshed. Also, because they are based on NMOS, rather than CMOS, the 4116 consumes rather more power than the equivalent-capacity 6116. Let us briefly consider the implications of these statements. Our understanding can be aided by Fig. 1, which gives the pin layout of the 4116 and 4164.

You see that the 4116 has only 7 address pins and the 4164 has 8. To address 16 kilobits, we need 14 address lines, and so these have to be fed to the chip in two parts. First the lowest 7 lines of the address bus are fed to the address pins of the chip and these are latched internally by applying a low on the /RAS (row address select) pin; then, the next 7 bits are fed to the chip and these are latched by pulling the /CAS (column address select) pin low. It is one of the functions of the board designer to ensure that the addresses and their appropriate latching signals are fed to the chip in the correct sequence. The 4164 operates in a similar manner but requires that all sixteen address lines are coupled in two groups A0 - A7, and A8 - A15. Setting up an address on the input latches gives access to one cell so that we can read or write one bit. When R/W goes low, the bit presented at the input pin D is latched provided /CAS is also low. The stored bit then

**FIGURE 1**

appears at the output pin Q when R/W goes high. /CAS also acts as an output enable; when it is high, Q switches into the high-impedance state. Because only one bit is stored for each address pattern, 8 chips are needed to service the full data bus. Thus a block of 8 4116s give 16 kbytes and 8 4164s give a full 64 kbytes. This is in contrast to the byte-mapped 6116, where a single chip can be used to provide a block of 2 kbytes.

The other main feature of dynamic RAM is that the charge in the memory cells slowly leaks away and has to be replenished periodically by rewriting. Each cell has to be refreshed within a time less than 2 mSec for the 4116 and less than 4 mSec for the 4164. This is another feature which has to be provided by the memory board designer. Fortunately, the problem is not as complex as it first appears since cells in the same column can be refreshed in parallel by applying an address to the rows only which is strobed by /RAS. Provided all row addresses are strobed during the stated period, refresh is assured. During this process, /CAS is held high which minimises power consumption and ensures that no data is placed on the data bus during refresh cycles. The refresh process occurs during the second half of the opcode fetch cycle, and the Z80 provides a 7-bit refresh counter which makes this part of the memory board design fairly straight-forward. However, when selecting 64k chips a little care has to be taken since, for example, the Texas 4164 requires an 8-bit refresh cycle and therefore presents problems when used with the Z80. Also, some chips, such as the Motorola MCM6664, have an internal refresh counter but require a strobe pulse to be applied to pin 1 to clock the counter on. You should therefore use 7-bit refresh chips which do not utilise pin 1, such as the Mostek MK4564, the Fujitsu MB8264, the NEC uPD4164, etc. The ones I actually used were Motorola MCM6665AP20s.

The 4164 is simpler than the 4116 in that it can operate from a single 5 volt supply, so the -5 and -12 volt supplies will not be required in the new layout. A further advantage of the 4164 is that it actually consumes less power than the 4116; the 4116 typically consumes only 125 mW when running and 17 mW on standby, whereas the corresponding figures for the 4164 are 460 and 20 mW respectively. Let us turn now to the circuit modifications required to add a single set of 8 4116s to the RAM A board, and after that we will go into the additional circuitry to achieve paging for the 128k RAM. Incidentally, if your copy of the circuit diagram is as minute as mine, you will probably find the use of a magnifying glass helpful to see the fine details of the circuit.

The first item which must be attended to is the address multiplexing. For the 4116s, A0 to A6 are multiplexed with A7 to A13 by IC20 and IC21, which are 74157 quad 2-to-1 line data selectors. The two remaining lines, A14 and A15, are decoded by IC24 to produce 4 16k decodes - we will utilise these for paging the 128k RAM. For the 4164s, A0 to A7 must be multiplexed with A8 to A15. It does not actually matter which lines are multiplexed together as long as the components of each pair come from the two different groupings, and that A0 to A6 are coupled as a unit to the RAM chips and latched by /RAS so that refreshing is performed correctly. Unfortunately, in the original design, A0 is switched with A7 which is not allowed, so A7 must be disconnected and replaced by A14, which can be picked up from pin 15 of the 74LS75 address latch IC25. All the remaining pairs can be left unaltered, which leaves A7 and A15 to be dealt with. As currently configured, the remaining inputs on IC21 toggle between 0 and +5 volts to provide the /CAS signal via three buffers in IC 3 which provide a short delay to allow the address lines to settle. It seemed to me to be more straightforward to use these inputs to toggle between

A7 and A15 to provide the additional RAM address line A7', and find some other means of generating /CAS. Therefore A7 is removed from IC20-pin3 and taken to IC21-pin 13 and the connection to earth removed; A15 is picked up from IC25-pin 16 and taken to IC21-pin 14, and the 4K7 resistor removed. The complete set of 16 address lines are then multiplexed by IC20 and IC21.

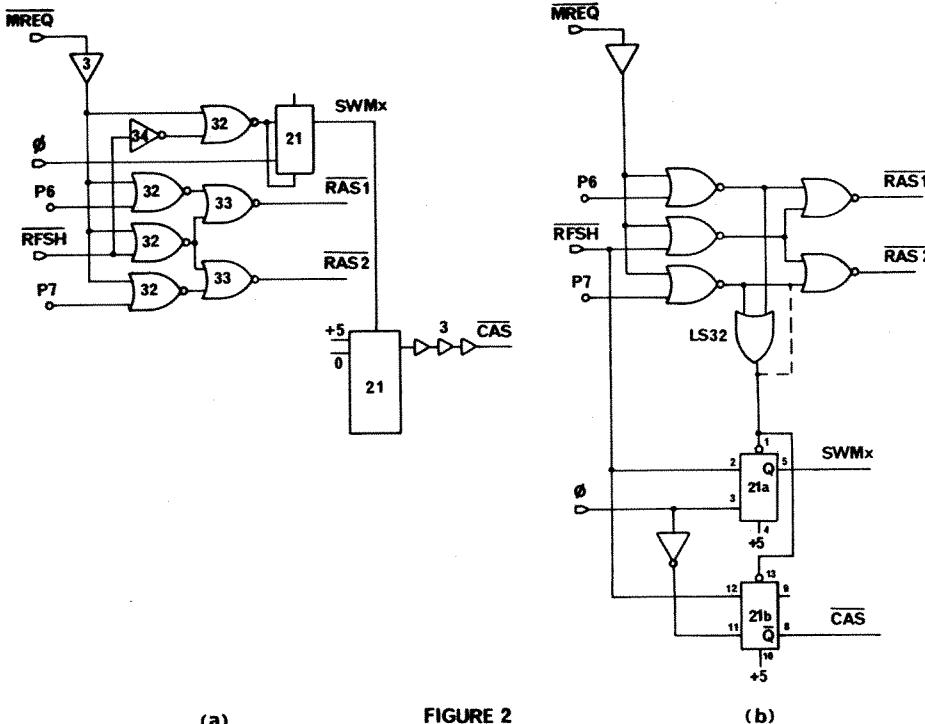


FIGURE 2

Now we have to produce a /CAS signal with an appropriate delay to replace the one generated by the multiplexer. There are various ways in which this could be done but an elegant solution, using only a single 74LS74, was shown recently by D. Allen (3). His circuit is shown in Fig. 2(b), and the relevant part of the original RAM A circuitry in Fig. 2(a). The latter uses only one half of the 74LS74, but by rewiring IC21 to the form of Fig. 2(b) both /CAS and the switch signal SWMx for the multiplexer can be generated. This works as follows: when /MREQ and /CS go low, /RAS is generated, thus latching the row address A0 to A7. At the same time, the reset line of both flip-flops goes high. The D input is /REF, which is high during memory access cycles, and so on the first positive edge of the system clock after /MREQ, IC21(b) flips, which switches the A8-A15 to the RAMs. On the next negative going clock edge, IC 21(a) flips /CAS low, latching the column addresses. During refresh cycles, the D input to both flip-flops is low and so neither switches and /CAS remains high, although /RAS goes low to strobe the row addresses providing refresh.

Fig. 3 shows waveforms derived from my modified board using the shortest program I know which is xx: JR xx in assembler, or 18 FE in hex. When loaded anywhere in memory, this program repeatedly accesses that address. The waveforms were obtained with an 8-channel Tektronix 7D01 Logic Analyser with a time resolution of 20 nSec. Two complete cycles are shown; note the sequence of the /RAS, SWMx and /CAS signals and how the A0 line toggles during each refresh period. In this arrangement, /CS, which is applied to either P6 or P7 depending upon which block of sockets is used, can, in principle, be tied to earth; however, see below. Also, the 74LS32 OR gate, which drives the 74LS74 flip-flop reset-pin high when either P6 or P7 and /MREQ are low, is not

required if only the 64k version is to be used. It is then sufficient to tie the reset pin to the OR gate output as indicated by the dotted line. The inverter for the clock input to the flip-flop can be taken from pin 9 (input) and pin 8 (output) of IC 34 which does not appear to be used in the original design. Both the extra address line A7' and the /CAS signal should be coupled to the RAM via 33R resistors to reduce electrical noise and ringing.

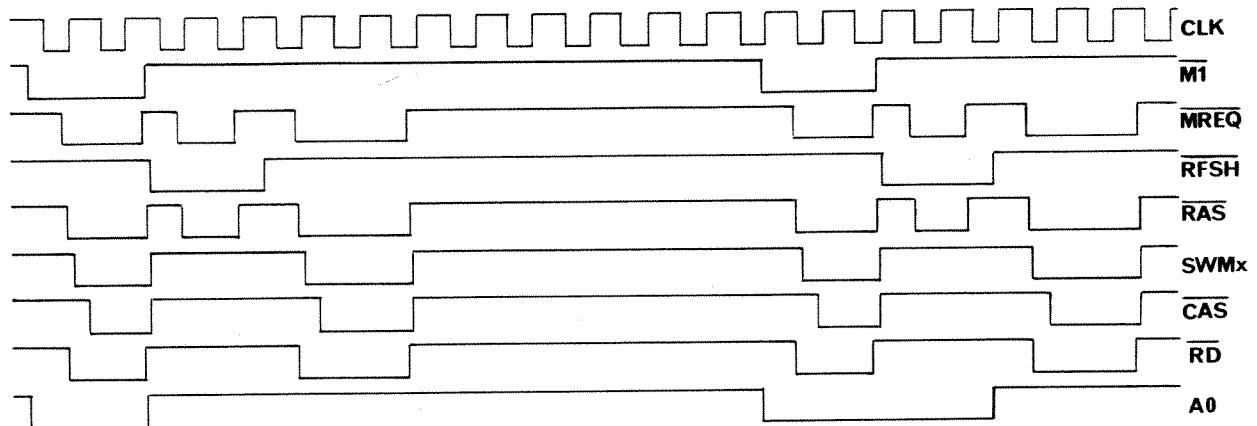


FIGURE 3

When it was first tested by writing a block of identical bytes using the NasSys C command, the RAM showed a lot of corrupted bytes. The reason for this took me many hours to uncover. Eventually I discovered that the read/write line on pin 1 of the data bus buffer IC 2 suffered from spurious negative pulses of about 50 nSec duration. These pulses occurred every time the /RAMDIS signal was activated. This line goes low about 50 to 60 nSec after /MREQ; thus, with /CS on P6 or P7 held low, the buffer is put into the read state as soon as /RD and /MREQ go active. Now if this is the start of a read-cycle of memory on the main board, the read buffer on the RAM board should not be activated, but it does not know that for 50 nSec or so, until /RAMDIS goes active. As designed, P6 or P7 are fed from the decoders IC 22 and IC 23, or IC 24, and these, together with the address latch IC 25, produce sufficient delay that /RAMDIS goes low before /CS and hence there is no timing problem. The solution which seemed to be most simple was to produce a version of /MREQ delayed by about 60 nSec, and apply it to the NASCOM SEL pin (which is coupled directly to bus line 11); this stops IC 36 from going low until after /RAMDIS goes active, if it is going to. I used two gates from a CMOS 4049 inverter connected in series, which produces sufficient delay. This is the only additional chip which is required to complete the 64k conversion. I must confess that I thought I still had problems, even after applying the delay, but this turned out to be nothing to do with the modified board, but rather, that I was testing it using a 10 inch extension board to give me more ready access to the RAM card; it turned out that this introduced sufficient spurious fluctuations to the bus lines to cause corruption of some of the data. Finding this also wasted a considerable amount of time - so be warned. With all the bugs removed, the board functioned perfectly without wait-states at 4 MHz.

If you do not like the thought of cutting up the tracks of your board until you are sure that these modifications will work, you can get round this by putting the ICs which require circuit changes to be made into new sockets; they should be the type with the pins oriented so that they can be plugged directly into the original IC sockets (you may have some difficulty finding this type). The new sockets have those pins which require modifications bent out so that they are accessible for soldering; they are then inserted into the original sockets and the rerouting of the wiring made to the bent-out pins. This technique can be used for a permanent modification and leads to quite a neat job but do not forget that the 5 volt line should be decoupled at each memory chip.

So that is all you have to do to produce a full 64k conversion job. Adding another 64k follows along the same lines, with the /CS for that block being taken from P7. The 74LS32 OR gate needs to be added to ensure that the flip-flop reset pin goes high when either block 1 or block 2 is selected. However, adding this additional gate led to another problem; on my board, the rising edge of the clock occurs almost simultaneously with the generation of the /RAS signal so that SWMx is produced within a few nanoseconds after /RAS. Even though the RAM specification states that the address should remain stable for 20 nS following /RAS, the unmodified board and the 64k version appear to work happily. However, the delay introduced by the OR-gate (even using the higher speed 74S32) causes the flip-flop reset to go high after the clock transition, which upsets the correct phasing of SWMx and /CAS. The solution is to delay the clock signal applied to the flip-flop by inserting four 74LS04 inverting buffers coupled in series between the clock signal from the bus and the flip-flop clock pin, which introduces a delay of about 30 nSec; this appears to be sufficient. I believe that similar modification to the original board was suggested in an early issue of the INMC to delay the generation of SWMx and /CAS, but I was unable to find a reference to this.

We now have to select which block, or part of a block (which we will call a page, following the usual custom) is coupled into the memory map. If you are content to couple in either one block or the other, you only have to toggle one bit derived from the PIO, so that when P6 is up P7 is down and vice versa. Provided you have NasSys overlaying the RAM you can keep control by using the O command. However, greater flexibility is achieved if you are able to couple in any 16k page from either block. One way of doing this is shown in Fig. 4; the 74LS75 4-bit latch is partly decoded as port 3 - this fits in with the partial decoding of the other ports used on the N2 main board; you can, of course, fully decode it to be any other number between 9 and 255, but then /IOEXT must be generated too. The four Q outputs from the latch are ANDed with the four 16k decodes which appear at the points labeled 0 to 3 on the RAM board, and the outputs ORed to produce a /CS for the first block of RAMs on P6. The /Q outputs are treated similarly and fed to P7. This ensures that there can be no contention between the two RAM blocks. Since /CS acts as the output buffer control line, it must only activate one block at a time; this is ensured using the 74LS32 to create logic-low AND gates with the inputs P6 and P7 to give two /CS lines, one for each block. Control of the paging can then be done by writing to Port 3, either statically by using the NasSys O command or as part of a program by using the out instruction. 0 3 0 selects the whole of block 1, and similarly 0 3 F selects block 2, while 0 3 3, for example, maps pages 1 and 2 of block 2 and pages 3 and 4 of block 1 into the memory map.

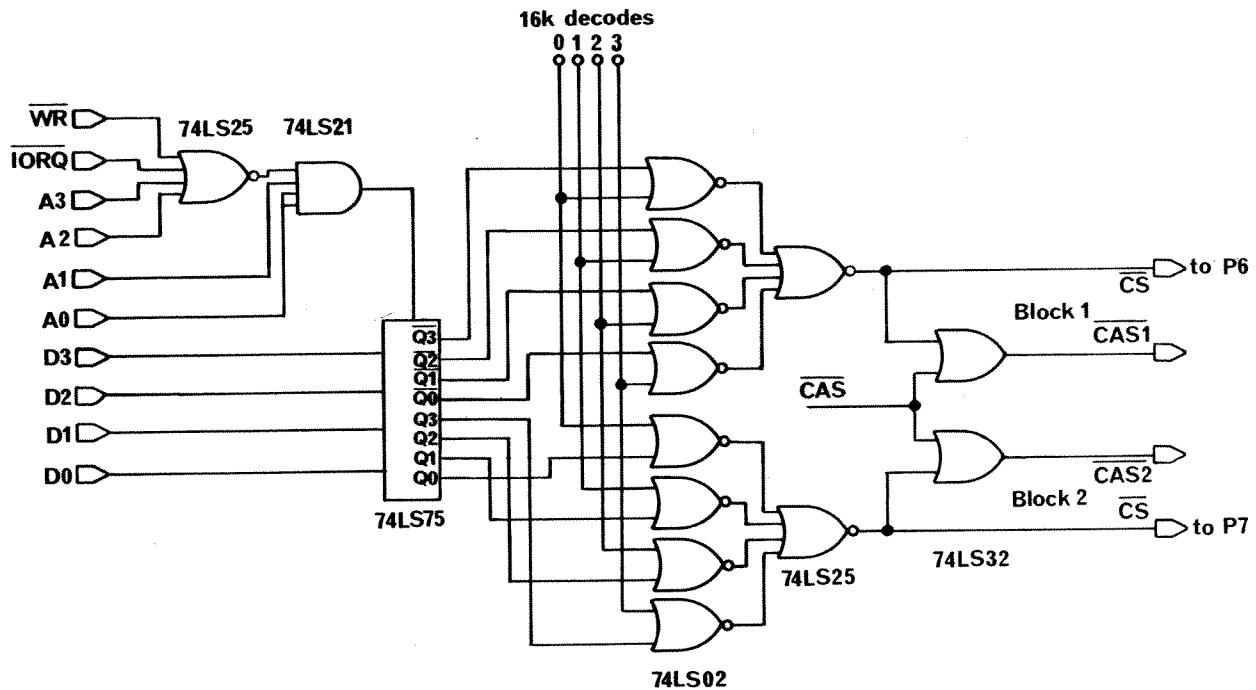


FIGURE 4

I built the additional circuitry on a 3 by 4 inch piece of Vero card which was mounted about 2 cm. above the main board; it was held at one end by wire-wrap pins which plugged into the empty EPROM sockets and was supported at the other end by two insulating pillars. These were held in place by fine insulated wire threaded through convenient holes in the boards. Connections to the various signal lines were then made by soldering to the IC socket pins on the underside of the main board. This made a reasonably neat arrangement of what is essentially a bodge job.

256k RAM chips are now becoming available, but unfortunately they currently cost about £50 each, so even a single block would cost £400, which is beyond the reach of most of us. However, the price projection is that they will be under £10 by mid-1985. These chips require a full 8-bit refresh cycle and a little thought is required to toggle the A7 line at the appropriate times during refresh; a number of ingenious solutions have been suggested in various electronic journals. I wonder who will be the first to upgrade his RAM A board to half a megabyte?!

- [1] INMC 80 News Vol 3, Feb-Apr 1981, page 16-17 see also 80-BUS News Jan-Mar 1982, page 12.
- [2] 80-BUS News Vol. 1 Issue 3, July-Oct. 1982, page 21-23.
- [3] D. Allen New Electronics Vol. 17 No. 5, 6th. March 1984, page 26.

## An Insight into the Gemini IVC and SVC Part 2

By D. W. Parkinson

### THE GEMINI SVC

To continue from where we left off ... The SVC is a close relative of the IVC that is upwards compatible with it, but offers extended features and greater power. The extra features that have arrived with the SVC are summarised in table 1.

I'll start by taking various of the hardware changes that have been made and indicating the software benefits that have been gained.

### SCREEN MEMORY/CHARACTER GENERATORS

The IVC had a 2k x 8 static RAM for the screen memory, a 2k x 8 EPROM for the main character generator, and a 2k x 8 static RAM for the alternate character generator. With the SVC design these have been combined into a single 8k x 8 static RAM. The 8k of RAM is partitioned in various ways depending upon the selected display mode (see Figure 1). When in alpha mode the RAM is actually accessed twice per character. The first time is to pick up the character from somewhere in the lower 4k, and the second time to look-up the appropriate row of dots for that character from the upper 4k.

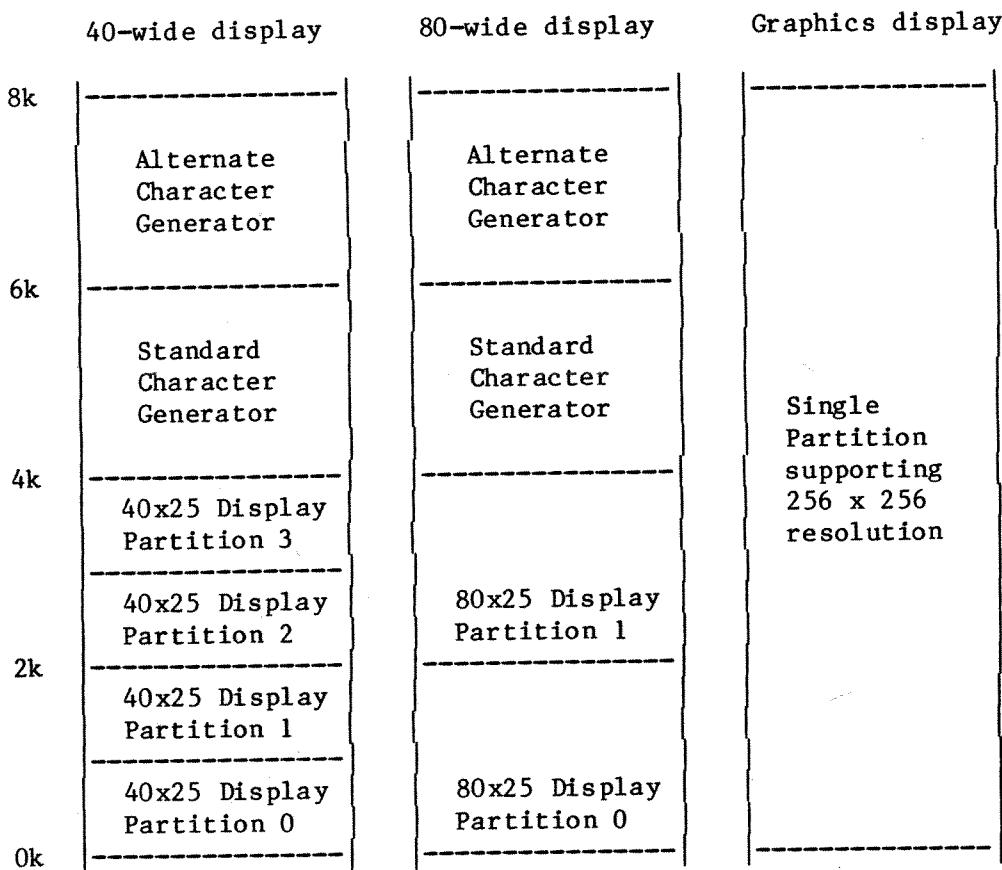


Fig 1. Display memory image

With the SVC the character set is now totally programmable. The initial character set is held within the monitor EPROM, and is copied out into the top half of the screen RAM on power-up, or whenever alpha-mode is reselected following a graphics display. The SVC-MON also holds various foreign character

sets that can be selected by means of an on-board DIL switch. (The character generator is actually initialised with the English character set, and then, depending on the DIL switch settings, a small sub-set of characters may be overwritten by their foreign language versions.)

The two standard alpha display modes are now 80 x 25, (80 characters by 25 lines) and 40 x 25. With the increase in the size of the alpha screen memory from 2k to 4k, (remember the other 4k is used as a character generator), it was decided to add the concept of multiple 'screens'. I felt that this offered certain advantages over treating the 4k of memory as a single screen, although the latter would offer the possibility of being able to scroll back through the last 50 lines (or 100 lines in 40-wide format) that had been displayed. With the 'multiple screen' concept you can select (via an escape sequence) which of the available screens is to be displayed, and which is to be updated by the incoming data/commands from the Host. My reasons for doing this I list below, but I must confess that reason (1) was perhaps a little selfish!

1. It required a very small change to the existing software to support it.
2. This feature had zero impact on the current performance of the SVC. (The alternative approach would have meant scrolling 4k of data, and also added the problem of handling any 'locked' screen lines.)
3. It allows programs to set up hidden 'help' screens that can be switched to instantly.
4. It simplifies (possibly) the implementation of concurrent tasks. (If you want to have two tasks running concurrently with independent screens on a system with an IVC there is the problem of how the undisplayed screen is handled. There are two options open: a) Queue all console output for the non-displayed task, wait until its screen image is swapped into the IVC, and then send it. Or b) Duplicate all the necessary parts of the IVC monitor in the system software so that the screen image can be updated immediately.)

When set into the graphics mode the SVC uses the entire 8kx8 screen memory as a 256 x 256 pixel display. (No colour, it's black-and-white only I'm afraid!) As a result the RAM based character set is lost, although the default character set is still present within the monitor EPROM. The SVC will still display text in this mode, but the format is now 32 characters/line and you are restricted to the English character set. (Each incoming ASCII character is used to index into the EPROM-based character generator table from whence the bit patterns are copied out into the screen RAM. I have not as yet included any check for special sub-set characters, nor the subsequent check of the DIL switch settings to see if these should be modified.) Any enterprising Dane or German who is irritated by this could swap the relevant dot patterns of the subset characters in the default table with those in their language table, not forgetting to exchange the words 'English' and 'Danish' (or whatever) where necessary in the manual.

#### **ATTRIBUTES**

The IVC only offered one attribute - the selection of the alternate character generator. This is normally loaded with the complement of the main character set to give video-inverse characters.

The SVC offers a variation on this theme. For various reasons the screen memory word width remains at 8 bits. This, as before, leaves a single bit that can be used as an attribute bit. But the SVC, unlike the IVC, allows this bit to select a variety of attributes. So setting bit 7 of a character can select one or more of the following attributes:- use the alternate character generator, blink the character, half intensity character, and, display the character with a half-tone background. Note that I said 'one or more'. The SVC supports an escape sequence that is used to select which attributes you want. You can select any combination of the above, e.g. blink + half-intensity, but the one thing to remember is that with only one attribute control bit available, all characters on the screen with this bit set will respond in the same way. Therefore it is not possible to have inverse characters on one part of the screen, and half-intensity characters on another part.

One apparent omission from the attribute list above is that of inverse video. This was originally included as a specific attribute, but was later dropped in favour of the half-tone background. It is assumed that inverse video is provided in the usual way via the alternate character generator.

#### **TRANSPARENT ACCESS & ESP**

With the SVC, a hardware technique is used to achieve transparent access. On the face of it all that has to be done is to connect the 'display enable' (or 'display active') signal from the display controller via a few gates to the Z80 /WAIT input. Thus, if the processor attempts to access the screen memory while the display is active, it is made to wait until the end of the display period, after which the Z80 is free to continue with its read/write cycle. However a problem arises when the Z80 finds, on going to access the display memory, that the display is inactive. The dilemma here is that although the display memory is free at that instant, the display controller may start a new display line at any moment (like in the middle of the forthcoming read/write cycle of the Z80). If it does, this will lead to one of two outcomes: a corrupted read/write cycle, or interference down the left hand side of the display depending on which controller gets priority.

This is where ESP comes in. The arbitration circuit has to know whether there is time for the Z80 to complete its read/write cycle without interruption, or whether the /WAIT signal should be applied immediately as the display controller is about to start a new display line. Those of you who have followed the description so far are probably thinking - 'ah! you just generate or tap off an earlier version of the Display Enable signal and use that'. Unfortunately this is easier said than done as the 'display enable' signal generation circuits are buried deep inside the 40-pin plastic package of the display controller and only the final signal emerges on one of the pins. (That's what modern LSI does for you!) There is a way around this problem and that is to apply a classic wartime (and peacetime) ploy of mis-information. What happens with the SVC is that some external delay has been added to the 'Display Enable' signal, and in setting up the internal registers of the controller, the SVC monitor informs it that the first address of the display is a byte earlier than in fact it is.

The following simplified description assumes a screen format of 80 x 25: When the display controller displays a TV line it loads its display memory address register with the starting address of where the current line of characters is stored in the memory (lets call it N). The address register is then incremented at the character rate for the entire TV line width (64uS)

after which it is reset for the next line. If it is still working through one of the 25 'character' lines on the screen then it is reset to N and the character generator 'line' address is incremented by one, otherwise it is reset to N+80 to select the next line of characters. When the display line starts the controller turns ON the 'display enable' signal. This is turned OFF after address N+79 is passed. Then, as further pre-programmed character positions are passed, the controller generates the Horizontal Sync pulse, and finally the internal reset signal for the counter.

From the information we have given it the controller thinks it is displaying characters N to N+79, but by playing around with the external delays we actual display N+1 to N+80, and in the process gain sufficient advance warning of an active display line to prevent any unseemly clash between the Z80 and the display controller. As the controller has been fooled over the start of the display, it also has to be mis-informed about the cursor position, a task that the NMI routine carries out as it updates the internal registers of the controller.

### **INTERRUPTS**

With the display contention problem solved by hardware, various other changes could be made. One was the use of the interrupt system. Previously, with the transparent screen access being determined by software loops, interrupts could not be used as they could interfere with critical parts of the loop. With the SVC, keyboard input is now done under interrupt. Also, while the SVC-MON is scrolling the screen (with an LDIR instruction), it enables an interrupt routine to collect and buffer incoming characters from the Host. Normally the SVC-MON polls for input characters.

### **KEYBOARDS**

An option for a serial keyboard has been included in the SVC. This is an either/or option with the parallel keyboard, not an AND one, as they both share the same IO port (on the SVC) and some of the interface circuitry. The serial keyboard requires fewer wires to interface it, and this leads to lower cost. (See the latest Gemini price list - The multi-core 'curly-wurly' cables for the parallel keyboard cost a fair bit! The difference in price solely reflects the cabling costs. There is no difference in keyboard costs as the change required on it was only a small one in the on-board software. (The keyboards use an 8035 single-chip microprocessor to scan the key matrix and generate the appropriate ASCII codes.)

### **NMI**

As with the IVC, on the SVC the vertical sync output of the display controller is connected to the NMI input of the on-board Z80. However the SVC NMI service routine performs different functions. It no longer scans the keyboard as that has been transferred to a conventional interrupt routine (see above). It handles the timing of various attributes. The tone generator for the on-board bleeper is directly enabled and disabled by the SVC monitor and thus the duration (but not the frequency) of the 'bleep' is fixed at an integral number of NMIs. Similarly the low frequency waveform used to 'blink' characters is also generated by this software. One other feature, mentioned by Dave Hunt in the last issue, is the implementation of a software 'clock'.

One point to bear in mind when you start thinking 'wouldn't be nice if..' is the fact that the NMI routine is executed once every 20ms. The larger and more cumbersome it becomes, the more it is likely to have an impact on the

general performance of the SVC. Thus the NMI software is written for speed, and tries to avoid specialised checks for unlikely occurrences. (See below for the ramifications.)

#### **THE SOFTWARE CLOCK**

The SVC supports a software clock that works on the basis that NMIs are occurring at the rate of one every 20ms. (This assumes that the CRT controller's registers have been set up correctly.) A software counter repeatedly counts down from 50, and every time it reaches zero (once a second) an internal ASCII digital clock display is updated. After updating the clock the software checks a flag to see if it is to be displayed. If the flag is set, the clock is copied to a predetermined position on the screen. The default display position for the clock is at the top right of the display, but, by sending the appropriate escape sequence, it may be positioned anywhere on the screen.

Note that the clock software in the NMI routine only spends time updating the screen once per second when the internal ASCII clock is advanced. For the other 49 'ticks' of the clock no time is wasted updating a (probably) unchanged display. One other 'feature' that resulted from the basic NMI philosophy of minimum overhead is that the SVC supports a 60 hour clock rather than the more usual 24 hour clock! The updating software does not include a check for the special case of the hours. This fact will only be noticed by those who burn the candle at both ends. (It would have been interesting to have kept quiet about this, and seen if it was ever reported as a bug. My feeling is that it would have been a year or two before anyone noticed it, and then it would probably have been by accident.)

#### **GRAPHICS SOFTWARE**

My intention with the initial graphics software was to provide the fundamental routines on-board where the greatest speed advantage could be obtained, and to leave the neat user interface and extended features to an intermediate interface program. (e.g. The Gemini/CCSOFT GRAPHPAC package.) Thus for example there are no Escape sequences for 'pen-up' and 'pen-down', or for relative plotting. The basic escape sequences deal with absolute coordinates, and include the pen-up-down command within them.

The routines included offer: Pixel set, reset, and test. Line drawing. Circle drawing. Flood fill.

The algorithms I used were simple and orientated towards speed. They only use addition, subtraction. There is no multiplication or division involved other than by a simple shift for division by 2. In this first release of the SVC-MON I concentrated on simplicity, and so certain possibly desirable features have not been included. (e.g. All the line drawing is done with a single line type - a solid line. There is as yet no option for dotted lines, dashed lines, or whatever.) The circle routine draws a true circle, there is as yet no support for drawing ellipses. (Depending on how your monitor is adjusted you might have to draw an ellipse in order to get a circle displayed!)

Internally the SVC graphics routines use 16-bit arithmetic. Although this does have a small impact on performance it also has two advantages.

i) It offers a possible upgrade path sometime in the future if Gemini should ever produce a card with higher resolution.

ii) Any over-sized plots that go off the screen re-appear in the correct place when they return within the bounds of the display. There are no sudden 'wrap-around' problems that wreak havoc on some displays.

The graphics origin has been placed at the bottom left of the screen to line up with the pencil-and-paper convention. This also aligns with the approach taken by Hewlett-Packard in their extensive range of desk top computers, (98XX series, series 200, etc). These are widely used throughout Industry mainly in engineering applications.

There is also a 'flood fill' routine that, given starting coordinates X,Y, will fill the enclosed area that includes X,Y. This routine will fill polygons of any shape, and is fast in operation. The hardest part of developing the 'fill' algorithm was reducing the amount of workspace required by it. In essence a fill routine is very simple if recursion is allowed and a simple 'C' implementation is shown below.

```
fill(X,Y)
int x,y;
{   if(test(x,y) return;      /* stop if point is already set */
    set(x,y);                /* ..else turn point ON           */
    fill(x+1,y);             /* Now check adjacent points     */
    fill(x-1,y);
    fill(x,y+1);
    fill(x,y-1);
}
```

This routine will do the job. The drawbacks of it as it stands are various. If it fills an empty 256 x 256 screen in the worst possible order the routine FILL will call itself 65,535 times, requiring a stack depth of about 128k together with another 256k required for the new values of X and Y that are generated on each CALL to FILL. The problem can be eased by making FILL fill in a line at a time instead of a point, but it still requires a fair amount of memory.

I ended up using an algorithm that utilised a FIFO (First in First Out) buffer rather than recursion. (You could regard recursion as a LIFO - Last In First Out - buffer.) This reduced the workspace requirements considerably. In fact I found that I could fill very complex shapes with only 128 bytes of workspace. However the FILL routine did drop out when I was filling a particularly complex shape with the software clock also present on the display. (It gave up as it was filling around the numbers of the clock display.) Up to then I had managed to keep my hands off the 1k of memory on the SVC that was reserved for downloading user programs into. As this memory sits there unused in 99% of cases I decided to grab it for the FILL routine, but to temper this impudence by implementing an 'intelligent' grab. What actually happens is this:

If no user program has been downloaded the FILL routine will use the full 1k as its workspace.

If a user program has been downloaded, then the FILL routine will use 3/4 of the remaining space as workspace. (i.e. If a program 227 bytes long is downloaded, the FILL routine will grab the last  $(1024-227)*3/4$  bytes of the 1k RAM area for its buffer.)

This I believe is an acceptable approach as it is only likely to affect the 0.000001% of users who download 1k user programs while using the graphics fill command at the same time.

As a brief aside on FILL routines - You can always tell a recursive based FILL routine, as, when it is filling a complex area, there are often pauses while nothing apparently happens on the screen. What is actually happening is that the FILL routine has just filled to a 'dead end', and there then follows a period where the recursive structure 'unwinds' itself, returning from layer to layer back up the stack until it finds an area that it has not yet filled.

#### BUG TIME

Well folks, it had to happen. Between writing the first part of this article and completing this one someone has unearthed a bug that is present in both the IVC and SVC monitors. That fact that it has taken so long to surface is indicative that none of you are likely to have met it yet (otherwise you would have reported it - wouldn't you?). It is in the ESC "f" ... sequence that allows you to redefine the function keys from a program. If you try and 'undefine' a key using this sequence the key is not actually fully deleted from the function key table, and if the key is subsequently pressed something will be returned to the host system. What the 'something' is cannot be easily predicted. Key definitions can be removed totally from the table, but only by using the Shift/Edit feature direct from the keyboard.

TABLE 1: Extra features of the SVC

HEX	ASCII	DECIMAL	COMMAND
<u>General</u>			
07	~G	7	Bell - sound on-board buzzer
<u>Cursor Movement</u>			
1B 0C	<ESC> ~L	27 12	Cursor home
<u>Screen format</u>			
1B 34	<ESC> "4"	27 52	Select graphics mode
1B 70...	<ESC> "p"...	27 112...	Select display/update partition
<u>Character set</u>			
1B 67...	<ESC> "g"...	27 103...	Set language
1B 62...	<ESC> "b"...	27 98...	Read back character set
<u>256x256 graphics</u>			
1B 52	<ESC> "R"...	27 82...	Reset point X,Y
1B 53...	<ESC> "S"...	27 83...	Set point X,Y
1B 54...	<ESC> "T"...	27 84...	Test point X,Y
1B 6C...	<ESC> "1"...	27 108...	Draw/Erase/Complement a line
1B 6F...	<ESC> "0"...	27 111...	Draw/Erase/Complement a circle
1B 6D...	<ESC> "m"...	27 109...	Move cursor to X,Y
1B 77	<ESC> "w"...	27 119	Fill a polygon
1B 64...	<ESC> "d"...	27 100...	Graphics screen dump
<u>Keyboard</u>			
1B 3E...	<ESC> ">"...	27 62...	Download soft-key display
<u>Clock</u>			
1B 74...	<ESC> "t"...	27 116...	Set clock time
1B 74 3D..	<ESC> "t="...	27 116 61.	Position clock display
1B 74 45	<ESC> "tE"	27 116 69	Enable clock display
1B 74 44	<ESC> "tD"	27 116 68	Disable clock display
1B 74 3F	<ESC> "t?"	27 116 63	Return clock time
<u>Miscellaneous</u>			
1B 61...	<ESC> "a"...	27 97...	Set/reset attributes

## Dis-assembly of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7

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```

FB8B CD13F8 RND: CALL TSTSZN ; Test sign of FPREG
FB8E 211910 LD HL,SEED+2 ; Random number seed
FB91 FAEFB M,RESEED ; Negative - Re-seed
FB94 213A10 LD HL,LSTRND ; Last random number
FB97 CD51F8 CALL PHLTFP ; Move last RND to FPREG
FB9A 211910 LD HL,SEED+2 ; Random number seed
FB9D C8 RET Z ; Return if RND<0
FB9E 86 ADD A,(HL) ; Add (SEED+2)
FB9F E607 AND 0000011B ; 0 to 7
FBA1 0600 LD B,0
FBA3 77 LD (HL),A ; Re-save seed
FBA4 23 INC HL ; Move to coefficient table
FBA5 87 ADD A,A ; 4 bytes
FBA6 87 ADD A,A ; per entry
FBA7 4F LD C,A ; BC = Offset into table
FBA8 09 ADD HL,BC ; Point to coefficient
FBA9 CD62F8 CALL LOADFP ; Coefficient to BCDE
FBAC CD08F7 CALL FPMULT ; Multiply FPREG by coefficient
FBAD 3A1810 LD A,(SEED+1) ; Get (SEED+1)
FBBD 21FOFF ADD A ; Add 1
FBB3 E603 INC 00000011B ; 0 to 3
FBB5 0600 LD B,0
FBF7 FE01 CP 1 ; Is it zero?
FBF9 88 ADC A,B ; Yes - Make it 1
FBFA 321810 LD (SEED+1),A ; Re-save seed
FBFB 21FOFF LD HL,RNDTAB-4 ; Addition table
FBC0 87 ADD A,A ; 4 bytes
FBC1 87 ADD A,A ; per entry
FBC2 4F LD C,A ; BC = Offset into table
FBC3 09 ADD HL,BC ; Point to value
FBC4 CBEF5 CALL ADDPHL ; Add value to FPREG
FBC7 CD5FFF RND1: CALL BCDEFP ; Move FPREG to BCDE
FBCA 7B LD A,E ; Point to MSB
FBCB 59 LD E,C ; LSB = MSB
FBCC E14F XOR 01001111B ; Fiddle around
FBCE 4F LD C,A ; New MSB
FBCF 3680 LD (HL),80H ; Set exponent
FBDD 2B DEC HL ; Point to MSB
FBDA D6AB LD B,(HL) ; Get MSB
FBD2 46 LD (HL),80H ; Make value -0.5
FBDD 3680 LD HL,SEED ; Random number seed
FBDF 211710 INC (HL) ; Count seed
FBDB 34 LD A,(HL) ; Get seed
FBF9 7E SUB 171 ; Do it modulo 171
FBDA D6AB JP NZ,RND2 ; Non-zero - Ok
FBDC C2E3FB LD (HL),A ; Zero seed
FBDF 77 INC C ; Fillde about
FBE0 0C INC D ; with the
FBE1 15 DEC E ; number
FBE2 1C INC INC BNORM ; Normalise number
FBE3 C1DEF6 RND2: CALL HL,LSTRND ; Save random number
FBE6 213A10 LD FPTHL ; Move FPREG to last and return
FBE9 C36BF8

```

# NASCOM ROM BASIC

## DIS-ASSEMBLED

## PART 7

**BY CARL LLOYD-PARKER**

## Dis-assembly of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7

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## Dis-assembly of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7

RESEED: LD (HL),A ; Re-seed random numbers  
 DECB HL  
 LD (HL),A  
 DECB HL  
 LD (HL),A  
 JP RND1 ; Return RND seed

RNDTAB: DEF8 068H,0B1H,046H,068H ; Table used by RND  
 DEF8 099H,0E9H,092H,069H  
 DEF8 010H,0D1H,075H,068H

COS: LD HL,HALFPI ; Point to PI/2  
 ADDPHL ; Add it to FPREG  
 STAKFP ; Put angle on stack  
 LD BC,8349H ; BCDE = 2 PI  
 DE,OFDBH  
 CALL FPBCDE ; Move 2 PI to FPREG  
 POP BC ; Restore angle  
 DE DVBCDE ; Divide angle by 2 PI  
 CALL STAKFP ; Put it on stack  
 INT ; Get INT of result  
 BC ; Restore number

DE SUBCDE ; Make it 0 <= value < 1  
 LD HL,QUATR ; Point to 0.25  
 SUBPHL ; Subtract value from 0.25  
 CALL TSTSIGN ; Test sign of value  
 SCF ; Flag positive  
 JP SINI ; Positive - Ok  
 ROUND ; Add 0.5 to value  
 CALL TSTSIGN ; Test sign of value  
 OR A ; Flag negative  
 SINI: PUSH AF ; Save sign  
 CALL P,INVSEN ; Negate value if positive  
 LD HL,QUATR ; Point to 0.25  
 ADDPHL ; Add 0.25 to value  
 POP AF ; Restore sign  
 NC,INVSEN ; Negative - Make positive  
 LD HL,SINTAB ; Coefficient table  
 JP SUMER ; Evaluate sum of series

HALFPI: DEFB 0DBH,00FH,049H,081H ; 1.5708 (PI/2)

QUATR: DEFB 000H,000H,07FH ; 0.25

SINTAB: DEFB 5 ; Table used by SIN

DEFB 0BAH,0D7H,01EH,086H ; 39.711  
 DEFB 064H,02FH,099H,087H ; -76.575  
 DEFB 058H,034H,023H,087H ; 81.602  
 DEFB 0E0H,055H,045H,086H ; -41.342  
 DEFB 0DAH,00FH,049H,083H ; 6.2832



## Disassembly of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7

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Dis-assembley of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7

```

FD9B AF      DELAY: XOR    A          ; Delay routine
FD9C F5      DELAY1: PUSH   AF        ; PUShes and POPs delay
FD9D F1      POP    AF
FD9E F5      PUSH   AF
FD9F F1      POP    AF
FD9F F1      DEC    A          ; Count delays
FDA0 3D      DECF   NZ,DELAY1    ; More delay
FDA1 C29CFD
FDA4 C9      RET

FDA5 CD84F4      WIDTH: CALL   GETINT  ; Get integer 0 to 255
FDA8 73      LD     A,E        ; Save column
FDA9 324210    LD     (LWIDTH),A  ; Make sure "", follows
FDA1 C9      RET

FDA5 CD84F4      LINES: CALL   GETNUM  ; Get integer 0-255
FDA8 CDBBE9    LD     DE        ; Width to A
FDA3 E2534610   LD     (LINESC),DE ; Set width
FDA7 ED534810   LD     (LINESS),DE ; Set lines counter
FDA8 C9      RET

FDA5 CD84F4      DEEK:  CALL   DEINT  ; Get a number
FDA8 CDBBE9    DEINT  DE        ; Get integer -32768 to 32767
FDA9 E1      POP    HL        ; Save number
FDA1 46      LD     B,(HL)    ; Number to HL
FDA1 23      TNC   A,(HL)    ; Get LSB of contents
FDA3 7E      LD     ABASS    ; Get MSB of contents
FDA4 C372F0    JP     ABASS    ; Return integer AB
FDA5 CD84F4      DOKE:  CALL   GETNUM  ; Get a number
FDA6 CDBBE9    CALL   DEINT  ; Get integer -32768 to 32767
FDA7 CD41ED      DEK:   CALL   CHKSYN ; Save address
FDA8 CDBBE9    CALL   DEPB   ; Make sure "", follows
FDA9 E1      DEPB   " "
FDA2 CD41ED      DEK:   CALL   GETNUM  ; Get a number
FDA3 7E      DEK:   CALL   EX     ; Get integer -32768 to 32767
FDA4 CDBBE9    DEK:   CALL   (SP),HL  ; Save value, get address
FDA5 CD84F4      DEK:   LD     (HL),E  ; Save LSB of value
FDA6 CDBBE9    DEK:   INC    HL        ; Save MSB of value
FDA7 CD41ED      DEK:   LD     (HL),D  ; Restore code string address
FDA8 C9      RET

FDDE F3      JJUMP1: DI      IX,-1    ; Disable interrupts
FDDF DD21FFFF  LD     IX,-1    ; Flag cold start
FDE3 C312E0    JP     CSTART  ; Go and initialise

```

FDDE F3 JJUMP1: DI IX,-1 ; Disable interrupts
FDDF DD21FFFF LD IX,-1 ; Flag cold start
FDE3 C312E0 JP CSTART ; Go and initialise

```

SCREEN: CALL   GETINT  ; Get integer 0 to 255
FDE6 CD84F4      FDE9 F5      PUSH   AF        ; Save column
FDEA CD90E6    CALL   CHKSYN " " ; Make sure "", follows
FDEB 2C      DEFB   " "
FDEE CD84F4      FDF1 C1      CALL   GETINT  ; Get integer 0 to 255
FDF2 E5      POP    BC        ; Column to B
FDF3 C5      PUSH   HL        ; Save code string address
FDF4 CD11FE    FDF5 E5      PUSH   HL        ; Save column
FDF6 CD6DFE    FDFB CA04FE ; Calculate screen address
FDFE E1      FDFE E1      PUSH   HL        ; Save screen address
FDF9 22290C    FEO2 E1      POP    HL        ; See if NAS-SYS
FEO3 C9      RET     HL        ; "T" monitor - "T" cursor
FEO4 2A180C    TMNCUR: LD   HL,(TCUR) ; Restore screen address
FEO5 3620    HL        HL        ; Set new cursor position
FEO9 E1      FE0A 22180C ; Restore code string address
FEOB 365F    FE0F E1      POP    HL        ; Restore code string address
FE11 21C907    SCRADR: LD   HL,VDU+10-65 ; SCREEN VDU address (0,0)
FE14 0600    LD     B,0        ; Line to BC
FE16 4F      LD     C,A        ; Test it
FE17 B7      OR    A          ; Zero - ?FC Error
FE18 CAA0E9  FE1B FP11    CP     Z,FCERR ; 16+1
FE19 F2A0E9  FE20 D1      CP     P,FCERR ; 16 lines
FE21 F1      FE22 D5      PUSH   DE        ; RETurn address
FE23 1600    FE25 5F      LD     D,O        ; Get column
FE26 B7      FE28 59    OR    A          ; Re-save RETURN
FE2A CAA0E9  FE2B F1      CP     Z,FCERR ; > 16 - ?FC Error
FE2C FE21    FE2D F1      CP     48+1    ; 48 characters per line
FE2E F2A0E9  FE2F 19      ADD   HL,DE    ; Add column to address
FE30 1600    FE32 59    LD     E,C        ; Test it
FE33 0640    FE35 19      ADD64X: ADD   DJNZ  ADD64X ; 64 Bytes per line
FE36 10FD    FE38 C9      RET     HL,DE    ; Add line
FE39 CD6DFE    FE3C CA22FE ; SIXTY FOUR TIMES!!!
FE3F DF5F    FE41 C9      MFLP   JP     MFLP    ; See if NAS-SYS
FE42 C35100   TMFLP:  JP     MFLP    ; "T" MFLP

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Dis-assembly of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7 PAGE 98

```

FE45 F5 MONOUT: PUSH AF ; Save character
                CALL MONTST ; See if NAS-SYS
FE46 CD6DFE CALL Z,TRNOUT ; "T" output
FE49 CA4FFE POP AF ; Restore character
FE4C F1 RETT ; Output it
FE4D F7 RET
FE4E C9

FE4F F1 TMNOUT: POP JP ; Restore character
FE50 C34A0C TOUT A,(BRKFLG) ; "T" output
FE52 344D10 BREAK2: LD NZ,RETCTC ; Break flag set?
FE53 C265FE CALL MONTST ; Yes - Return ^C
FE54 CD6DFE CALL Z,TCHINP ; See if NAS-SYS
FE55 CA62FE POP RIN ; Get "T" character input
FE56 DF62 SCAL ; Scan for a character
FE61 C9 RET

FE62 C34DOC TCHINP: JP TIN ; "T" input a character
FE65 3E00 RETCTC: LD A,0 ; Clear Break flag
FE66 324D10 CALL A,CTRLC ; Return ^C
FE6A 3E03 LD RET
FE6C C9 MONTST: LD A,(MONTST+1) ; "T" monitor or NAS-SYS?
FE70 FE33 CP 33H ; 31 00 10 / 31 33 0C
FE72 C9 RETT

FE6D 3A0100
FE70 FE33
FE72 C9

FE73 CD39FE SAVE: CALL FLPLED ; Flip tape LED
FE76 CD6DFE CALL MONTST ; See if NAS-SYS
FE79 CA7FFE JP Z,TSAVE ; "T" save
FE7C DF57 SCAL ; Save program
FE7E C9 RET

FE7F 3A8D00 TSAVE: LD A,(MONTYP) ; "T2" or "T4" (FLAGS!!!)
FE82 CA0004 JP T4 Write ; T4 Write
FE85 C3D103 JP T2DUMP ; T2 Dump

FE88 CD39FE MONLD: CALL FLPLED ; Flip tape LED
FE8B CD6DFE CALL MONTST ; See if NAS-SYS
FE8E CA99FE JP Z,TLOAD ; "T" load
FE91 3E52 LD A,"R" ; "T" load
FE93 322B0C LD (ARGN),A ; Set READ
FE96 DF52 SCAL ; Load program
FE98 C9 READ RETT ; Load program

FE99 3A8D00 TLOAD: LD A,(MONTYP) ; "T2" or "T4" (FLAGS!!!)
FE9C CA0C07 JP Z,T4READ ; T4 Read
FE9F C3D103 JP T2DUMP ; T2 Dump ??????????

FEA2 CD6DFE MONITR: CALL MONTST ; See if NAS-SYS
FEA5 CA0000 JP Z,MONTST ; Jump to zero if "T"
FEA8 DF5B SCAL MRET ; Return to NAS-SYS

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Dis-assembly of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7 PAGE 99

```

FEAA CD39FE MONVE: CALL FLPLED ; Flip tape LED
FEAD CD6DFE CALL MONTST ; See if NAS-SYS
FEBO CA0E9 JP Z,FCERR ; Verify not available on "T"
FEB3 3E56 LD A,"V" ; Set VERIFY
FEB5 322B0C LD (ARGN),A ; Verify tape
FEB8 DF56 SCAL RET ; Verify tape

FEBB 3E00 INITST: LD A,0 ; Clear break flag
FEBD 324D10 CALL MONTST ; See if NAS-SYS
FECC CD6DFE JP Z,INIT ; "T" - No NMI vector
FECD CA190 LD HL,BREAK ; Set NMI gives break
FECE 21DFFE LD (NMI),HL ; Get start up condition
FEF9 227E0C PUSH IX ; "Z" set if cold , Else clear
FECC DDE5 POP AF ; "Cold" or "Cool" start?
FECE F1 OR A ; "Cool" don't init NAS-SYS
FEFC B7 FD0 C219E0 JP NZ,INIT ; Delay for keyboard clear
FD03 060F LD B,15 ; Allow time for key release
FD05 CDCDFC CALL DELAYS ; Initialise NAS-SYS
FD08 CD0D00 CALL STMON ; Initialise BASIC
FD0B C319E0 JP INIT ; Save character

FEDE F5 BREAK: PUSH AF ; Flag break
FEFF 3EFF LD A,-1 ; Restore character
FEEL 324D10 LD AF ; Return from NMI ; Cursor address to HL
FEFA F1 RETN: RETN ; Get an input line
FEFB E45 NOP ; Save cursor address
FEFF 00 INLINE: SCAL DE ; Cursor address to HL
FEES DF63 PUSH DE ; Get end of line
FEEA D5 POP HL ; Space?
FEEB D5 ADD HL,DE ; No - Copy to buffer
FEEC E1 LD DE,48-1 ; Back 1 character
FEED 112F00 ADD A,(HL) ; Wasteful test on E
FEFO 19 ENDLIN: LD " " ; Start of line - Copy it
FEF1 7E LD GP ; Back 1 character
FEF2 F202 FF LD E,LINBF ; Keep looking for end
FEF4 C202FF DEC HL ; Get end of line
FEF7 1D LD A,0 ; Start of line
FEF8 3E00 OR E ; Back 1 character
FEFA B3 JP Z,LINBF ; Keep looking for end
FEFB CA02FF DEC HL ; Start of line
FEFE 2B JP ENDLIN ; Return to NAS-SYS
FEFF C3F1FE

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## Dis-assembly of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7

	PAGE	100		PAGE	101
FF02 D5 LINTBF: PUSH DE BC	; Line length to BC		FF55 CD15FF RESETB: CALL GETXYA AF	; Get co-ords and VDU address	
FF03 C1 POP INC LD DE,BUFFER	; Length +1		FF58 F5 PUSH AF	; Save bit mask	
FF04 03 LD HL	; Input buffer		FF59 7E LD A,(HL)	; Get byte from screen	
FF05 116110 POP POP	; Line start		FF5A FEC0 CP 11000000B	; Is it a block graphic?	
FF08 E1 PUSH BC	; Save length		FF5C DA73FF JP C,NOTES	No - Leave it	
FF09 C5 LD IR	; Move line to buffer		FF5F 063F AND B,00111111B	Six bits per block	
FF0A EDB0 LD A,0			FF61 A0 AND B	Clear bits 7 & 6	
FF0C 3E00 LD (DE),A			FF62 C1 POP BC	Get bit mask	
FF0E 12 POP BC	; Mark end of buffer with 00		FF63 A0 AND B	Test for common bit	
FF0F C1 LD B,C	; Restore buffer length		FF64 CA4CFF JP Z,RESCSA	None Leave it	
FF10 41 LD HL,BUFFER-1	; Length returned in B		FF67 7E LD A,(HL)	Get byte from screen	
FF11 216010 LD RET	; Point to start of buffer-1		FF68 E63F AND 00111111B	Isolate bit	
FF14 C9			FF6A A8 XOR B	Clear that bit	
FF15 C990E6 GETXYA: CALL CHKSYN	; Make sure "(" follows		FF6B FEC0 CP 11000000B	Is it a graphic blank?	
FF18 28 DEFBA	"("		FF6D C24BFF JP NZ,PUBBIT	No - Save character	
FF19 C941ED CALL GETNUM	; Get a number		FF70 3E20 LD A," "	Put space there	
FF1C C98BE9 CALL DEINT	; Get integer -32768 to 32767		FF72 C34BFF JP PUTBIT	Save the space	
FF1F D5 PUSH DE	; Save "Y"		FF75 C1 NORES: POP BC	Drop bit mask	
FF20 C990E6 CALL CHRSYN	; Make sure ")" follows		FF76 G34CFF JP RESCSA	Restore code string address	
FF23 2C DEFBA	"")		FF79 CD15FF POINTB: CALL GETXYA	Get co-ords and VDU address	
FF24 C941ED CALL GETNUM	; Get a number		FF7A 0601 LD B,(HL)	Get character from screen	
FF27 C990E6 CALL CHRSYN	; Make sure ")" follows		FF7D CDEDF0 CALL TSTBIT	Test if bit is set	
FF2A 29 DEINT	; Get integer -32768 to 32767		FF80 C291FF JP NZ,POINTO	Different - Return zero	
FF2B C98BE9 CALL DEINT	; Save code string address		FF83 3E01 LD A,0	Integer AB = 1	
FF2E E5 PUSH HL	In IY		FF85 0601 LD B,1	Drop return	
FF2F FE1 POP IY			FF87 E1 POINTX: POP IX	PUSH code string address	
FF31 C996FF CALL XPOS	; Address and bit mask		FF88 FDE5 PUSH IX,RETNUM	To return a number	
FF34 F5 PUSH AF	; Save mask		FF8A 111DEE LD DE,RETNUM	Save for return	
FF35 C9C2FF CALL ADJCOL	; Adjust column		FF8D D5 PUSH DE	Return integer AB	
FF38 C911FE CALL SCRADR	; Get VDU address		FF8E C32F0 JP ABPASS		
FF3B F1 POP AF	; Restore bit mask		FF91 0600 POINTO: LD B,0	Set zero	
FF3C 06CC LD B,11000000B	; Block graphics base		FF93 C387FF JP POINTX	Return value	
FF3E B0 OR B	; Set bits 7 & 6				
FF3F C9 RET					
FF40 CD15FF SETB: CALL GETXYA	; Get co-ords and VDU address		FF96 C1 XYPOS: POP BC	Get return address	
FF43 F5 PUSH AF	; Save bit mask		FF97 E1 POP HL	Get column	
FF44 7E LD A,(HL)	; Get character from screen		FF98 E5 PUSH HL	And re-save	
FF45 FEC0 CP 11000000B	; Is it a block graphic?		FF99 C5 PUSH BC	Put back return address	
FF47 D250FF JP NC,SETOR	Yes - OR new bit		FF9A 7D LD A,L	Get column	
FF4A F1 POP AF	; Restore bit mask		FF9B 0601 LD B,0000001B	2 bits per character	
FF4B 77 PUTBIT: LD (HL),A	; Put character on screen		FF9D A0 AND B	Odd or even bit	
FF4C FDE5 PUSH IY	; Restore code string address		FF9E F5 PUSH AF	Save it	
FF4E E1 POP HL	; From IY		FF9F D5 PUSH DE	Get row	
FF4F C9 RET			FFAO E1 POP HL	to HL	
FF50 C1 SETB: POP BC	; Restore bit mask		FFA1 110000 LD DE,0	Zero line count	
FF51 B0 OR B	; Merge the bits		FFA4 010300 LD BC,3	3 blocks per line	
FF52 C34BFF POP PUTBIT	; Save on screen		FFA7 23 INC DIV3LP:	Subtract 3	
			FFAA 13 INC SBC HL,BC	Count the subtractions	
			FFAB C911FF JP Z,DIV3EX	Exactly - Exit	
			FFAE F2A8FF JP P,DIV3LP	More to do	

## Dis-assembly of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7

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```

        DIV3EX: ADD    HL, BC      ; Restore number
        POP    AF      ; Restore column and odd/even
        OR     A       ; Set flags (NZ or Z)
        LD     A,L      ; Get remainder from /3
        Z, NOREM   D
        JP     A,3      ; No remainder
        ADD    A,B      ; Adjust remainder
        LD     A,0      ; Bit number+1 to B
        POP    A,00000001B ; Bit to rotate
        SHFTBT: RLCA      ; Shift bit left
        SHFTBT: DJNZ      ; Count shifts
        RET
        ; Restore correct place
        RET
        ; Restore return address
        ; Get bit mask
        ; Get column
        PUSH   AF      ; Re-save but mask
        POP    HL      ; Get column
        LD     A,L      ; Divide by 2
        ADD    A,1      ; Start at column 1
        AND   00111111B ; 0 to 63
        LD     H,A      ; Save column in H
        PUSH   HL      ; Re-save column
        PUSH   BC      ; Put back return
        LD     A,E      ; Get row
        RET
        ; SMOTOR: CALL    CASFF
        ; A,(HL)          ; FIP tape drive
        ; Get byte
        RET
        ; CLOAD or CSAVE?
        ; CLOAD - Get header
        ; CSAVE - Send header
        ; CLOAD - Get header
        ; Output CRLF
        ; Get an input line
        ; Save bit mask
        ; Get common bits
        ; Restore bit mask
        ; Same bit set?
        ; Return 0 in A
        ; Output character in A
        ; Output CRLF
        ; Output character in A
        ; Output CRLF
        ; "Cool!" start
        ; Warm start
    
```

## Dis-assembly of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7

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```

        ABPASS: F0F2      ; ABS
        ADDEXP: F7D1      ; ADDIG
        ANTBLU: EC55      ; ANYNAM
        ARG2: 0C0E      ; ARGN
        ARRLP: F288      ; ARRSLV1
        ASCPS: EBC7      ; ATN
        BAD: F59D      ; BADINP
        BCDEFP: F85F      ; BFREE
        BREAK: E0B7      ; BREAK2
        BRKFLG: F045      ; BSERR
        BS: 0010      ; BUFFER
        CFEVAL: FCC8      ; CFEVAL
        CASFF: FCD5      ; CHKLNTR
        CHKBRK: FD40      ; CHR
        CHKTPP: ED46      ; CNV1N1
        CLOAD: F4F9      ; CLOAD1
        CLOAD: F52B      ; CLOAD2
        CLOG: E6CC      ; CLREG
        CMPLOG: EEEA      ; CMPNUM
        CNV1N1: FD20      ; CNV1N2
        CNV1N2: FD27      ; CNV1N3
        COMMAN: F926      ; COMMAN
        COMMON: FCD9      ; CONOT1
        CONVAN: EE22      ; CONV1N
        CPDEHL: E68A      ; CPYLIT
        CRESTR: EAC9      ; CRLIN
        CRTST: F1CE      ; CRTSTE
        CSTART: E012      ; CTRLOG
        CTRL: 0013      ; CTRLU
        CURPOS: 10AB      ; CURSOR
        DATSNR: E3A7      ; DCBCDE
        DEF: F106      ; DEFNT
        DELAY1: F9D5      ; DELAYS
        DETHLB: F870      ; DELTBL
        DIV: F767      ; DIV1
        DIV3EX: DIV3LP      ; DIV4
        DOAGN: E0F8      ; DODEL
        DODULL: EB98      ; DODOM
        DOPSC: EBC2      ; DOL
        DPOINT: F952      ; DRSTR
        DREHDL: E5D5      ; EDIGIT
        ENDINP: E9A0      ; ENDLIN
        ERLLIN: E3E1      ; ERLLIN
        ESC: 001B      ; EVAL
        EVDPAR: E009      ; ENNOT
        EXTAB: FB3A      ; EXPENT
        FCERR: E9A0      ; FDITLP
        FLGDLF: F81E      ; FLGREL
        FNCTAB: E10F      ; FNRLY
        FNDTOK: E71B      ; FNVAR
        FNTHR: EF9D      ; FINVAL
        FOREND: E7A9      ; FORSLP
        FPEXP: 10E7      ; FPINT
        FPSINT: E97F      ; FPTHL
        FPTBL: F86B      ; FRE
        FRDNL: E018      ; FRDNL
        FNDWRD: E53C      ; FNROST
        FPRND: ED92      ; FOPRND
        F594: F594      ; FOUND
        FPLFD: F58E      ; FILE
        FPHULT: F708      ; FPHUG
        F8BB: F825      ; FLVEFR
        F859: F825      ; FLVEFR
        F86B: F86B      ; FRDNL
        F900: F900      ; FRDNL
        F944: F944      ; FRDNL
        F946: F946      ; FRDNL
        F948: F948      ; FRDNL
        F952: F952      ; FRDNL
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        F99_09: F99_09      ; FRDNL
        F99_10: F99_10      ; FRDNL
        F99_11: F99_11      ; FRDNL
        F99_12: F99_12      ; FRDNL
        F99_13: F99_13      ; FRDNL
        F99_14: F99_14      ; FRDNL
        F99_15: F99_15      ; FRDNL
        F99_16: F99_16      ; FRDNL
        F99_17: F99_17      ; FRDNL
        F99_18: F99_18      ; FRDNL
        F99_19: F99_19      ; FRDNL
        F99_20: F99_20      ; FRDNL
        F99_21: F99_21      ; FRDNL
        F99_22: F99_22      ; FRDNL
        F99_23: F99_23      ; FRDNL
        F99_24: F99_24      ; FRDNL
        F99_25: F99_25      ; FRDNL
        F99_26: F99_
```

```

DIS-assembley of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.7

INIT          E2DF INITTAB   E2DF
INP F344 INPUT    EBFD INPBIN   EC
INPMSG F345 INPUT    EC80 INRNG   FF
NTRNSUB 103E INPUT    EBFD JJUMP   FF
ITMEEP F83C INPUT    EC80 KILIN   FF
KILFOR ED31 LET     E4 LINEAT  10
LEN F3B2 LET     E4 LINEAT  10
LFRGNM F437 LINEN$N 1048 LINFND  F
LOADPF E0E5 LOG    E4 LOGFND  F
LOADPF E0E6 LS     001C LS$TBN  10
LOADPF E0E7 LS     103A LS$TND  E4
MANLP F3B4 F92E MATCH   E4
MIDLP F3B5 E036 MIDNUM  F
MIDLP F3B6 E036 MIDNUM  F
MLDBLP F907 MULVAL  1
MONIR FEA2 MONUD   F
MONITYP 008D MONVE   F
MOVDIR E591 MOVLUP  E
MSIZE E036 MU$BLP  F
MULTEN F970 MULVAL  1
NEGAGT FAA7 NEW    E
NFERR 0000 NFERR  E
NOLIN E0000 NOLIN  E
NORES F0000 NORES  F
NOXOR F0000 NOXOR  F
NOTSTR EF65 NULL    F
NULLLP E88D NULL    F
NXTCCHR E3A8 NXTDAT  E
NXSTSL EA76 NXSTTT  E
OMMER E3A2 ONRND   E
OPNPAR E056 OUTC    E
OUTBAD F56B OUTNCR F
OUTTBS E682 OUTNCR F
OVERR E1BC OVSTT   F
PAND E811 PASSA   F
PHLTFP FB51 PLUCDE  F
POINTB FF79 POINTX F
NULLLP E88D POPNOK F
NXBTY 1000 NXBTY  E
NXTOPR 1000 NXBTY  E
OM 000C OMERR  E
ONJMP E81E OPNPAR E
OUTPORT 1007 OUTBAD F
OUTT  E67C OUTTBS E
OV 000A OVERR E
PADD F994 PAND E
PEND E872 PHLTFP FB51
POINTO FF91 POINTB FF79
POPHL F36F POHRT F754 POS    E
PORTO F0C0 POS    E
POWER1 FAC5 POWER2 FA$2 PRNTL  F
PRNTCR EB81 PRNTL  F
PRNTST EB6D PRNTS  F
PROMPT E4FC PROMPT E
PSUB F5C8 PTRLP E481 QT$TLP F1D5
PUTFD E7EE Q$TLP F1D5 Q$T$R  F
READFG 10CD EB$D RESET   1057
RESEED FBEC RESET   1057
RSZER F633 RETADR EF$D RETCTC F
RETNAF E58D RETNUF EF$D RETNUM  F
RUNLIN EA2C SAVEL  F
SBS$CPT F692 SCALLP  F692
SC$END FEEA SC$TLP  F
SEED 1017 SETB   FF40 SETIO  F
SETOR F500 SETPTR E47C SETTOP F
SGRN F822 SG$NEXTP F484 SAVEXP  F
SHRTI F6A4 SHRTI  F
SHRLP F6A8 SHRTI  F

```

15-assembly 81 NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver 4.1

Dis-assembly of NASCOM ROM BASIC Ver. 4.0	
104	INLINE FEEB
IMPORT 103F	SINI FC36
IMPORT E4C9	SISER1 F06A
JNLVRS FDD5	SIPCFST F066
LDNM11 E73C	SITPSA F33D
LETSTR FAA2	START E000
LINES FDAD	STOP E870
LIST E6D	SUBCDE F5CA
LOKFOR E35A	SUPTLZ FA54
LSTLTP E70C	T4PR 0400
MAKINT F487	TCINP FE62
NFLPL 0051	TESTO F247
MINUS BE11	TM 0018
MULSP10 F7FC	TMPSTR 10BF
MONSTT 0000	TOUT 0C44
MORINV E610	TESTRK E861
MOVUP E379	TESTRM E5A2
MULT F706	UARTD 0001
NASOUT FCBF	UL 000E
NEAT EC6	USR 1003
NMFLGL 104C	WAITLP F468
NOMLAD F915	WRKSPC 1000
NOSPC E578	ZDIV 00AF
NULFLG 1044	ZEROIP 0EFC
NKEYARY F02C	ZGTR 00B3
NXTITM EC31	ZNEW 00A4
OKHSIG E34B	ZPOINT 00C7
ONGOLP EAR1	ZSTEP 00AB
OTKLN F5E9	QUTEXP FA70
OUTWRD E725	QVIST3 F7F5
PEEK F5A3	POINT 1051
POPAF F245	PORAJ EE43
POWER FAB5	PUTCTL F66D
PRITAB E2A4	READ EC2C
PRNTOK E3F8	RESDIV F7A1
PROGST 10F9	RESTOR E846
PSET 1054	RETLIN FA6A
SMVAR F275	RETURN EA4B
SNDHDR E39C	RLTLP ED76
SRCHLP E866	RNGTST FAB2
STALL E866	RSLNPK E770
STRADD F2B8	RUNFST E4C5
STL0OK 115D	SUMSER FB5B
SQR 1066	TAREAD 070C
STAKEY F844	SMOTOR E906
STAKFP 000D	SNERR E91D
STL1N F19A	SRCHLN E494
STRADD F2B8	START F068
STL1N FB14	SUMSER FB5B
STL1N F05A	TUREAD 070C
STRPOOL F288	SMOTOR E906
STRSPC 105A	SNERR E91D
SUNLPL FB73	SRCHLN E494
SUNOFF E937	STL0OK 115D
SYSTAD F1C8	STL1N F19A
T2DUMP 03D1	STRADD F2B8
TBK2 001C	STL1N F19A
TCS 001F	STL1N F19A
TCUR 0C4D	TLOAD FE99
TIN 0C4D	TNROUT FE04
TMFCUR FEA2	TOPPOOL F346
TMFLP FE04	TOSTRA F03A
TMSTPT 10B3	TOPSTL FFBD
TMSTPL 10B1	TSAVE FE7F
TMSTPL F347	TSCLNP F03A
TMSTPM E05B	TSNUM ED44
TMSTRN F813	TTISTR ED45
TMSTRN F815	UARTS 0002
UARTOT FD5F	UARTS 0002
UL 000E	UPDATA F6B6
ULERR EA46	UNITY F6B6
VARDN 10DB	VARDN 10DB
VAL F41C	VARDN 10DB
WARNST 00AE	WORDB E255
WIDTH FDAS	WORDB E255
WUART F4BA	WUART2 F4B7
WUART 0080	ZEQUAL 0084
ZEND 00AF	ZEQUAL 0084
ZENP 00A1	ZFOR 0081
ZEROLP 0EFC	ZFOR 0081
ZFN 00A7	ZGOTO 008C
ZJUMP FFFD	ZLEFT 00CD
ZJTR 00B3	ZLTH 00B5
ZNOTE 00AA	ZONELP EBA6
ZNEW 00A4	ZOR 00B2
ZPOINT 00C7	ZREM 008E
ZSTEP 00AB	ZSGN 00B6
ZTAB 00A5	ZTIME 00AE
ZTHEN 00A9	ZTO 00AAE

THE END

Dave Hunt's BitsIntroductory Wafflings

Time flies, it seems like only yesterday I was writing my last piece in a panic to get something into the mag. Yet, in the intervening time I have been on holiday, come back again, sat around, another mag. has come out, I have done this and that and I still don't feel inclined to start setting anything down for the next issue. Still having read the letters in the last issue, and having a distinct feeling that I'm being got at, I have summoned up the energy to put fingers to keyboard, and pour out more of the same old gibberish I'm famous for.

As I seem to have got away with some rude remarks about our Editor in my last piece, we'll try again. He's had a new toy for the last six months!! No, it's not Viv, as mentioned in my last article ... but read on. If any one in the readership happens to be a traffic cop on the M1 or M6, en route from Chesham to Blackburn, and if you happen to stop a white TVR doing what it's supposed to (about 150, that is), don't put him away for too long, or we'll not see another mag until you let him out again .... That's if you can catch him in the first place!!

Computer Illiteracy

Now there seems to be an interesting case of computer illiteracy in our local junior school, and I hasten to add that this school is one of the better thought of schools in our area, progressive but sensible with it. Anyway the story goes like this:

They recently spent some of the PTA loot, extorted from mugs like me who have to spend good money going to school fetes and things, on four computers of the type very popular in schools right now. That's four computers between 400 kids, a pretty poor ratio for a start. Then they sent one class teacher off for a one day course on teaching the kids the mysteries of the computers. Now I believe you can learn a lot in one day, but the mysteries of computers ... in one day? Well when I was dragged along to the last open evening by the Mrs (I had to go, duty or something, as she's on the Board of Governors), I decided to find out what they did with these computers. I chatted up the teacher in charge of the computers and tried to find out what was taught. Well it wasn't programming as he didn't know a PEEK from a POKE, it wasn't how it worked, because he didn't know what a processor was, yet alone what type, or what the accumulator was, or anything. I was told they had 32K of RAM whatever that was, but he seemed to somewhat wooly about how much of that was workspace, video RAM, etc. What they did have was some 'educational' software, but the purposes of this were somewhat obscure, despite the teacher's obvious enthusiasm.

In all quite a waste of twelve hundred quid if you ask me, but I haven't finished yet. Number one daughter, who is twelve, shows no inclination towards computers apart from playing 'Wheelie' on a Spectrum. She's more into carpentry at present and spends her time murdering pieces of wood and mangling my tools.

Number two daughter is different, ten years old and altogether a quieter and more studious character. She wants to learn about computers, and fully appreciates that if you can program them, they can do very clever things far faster than you can do them. So after seeing the computer teacher, she went to the school library and borrowed some books. Rather good books they are, with serious intent, but amusing with it. Partially in comic strip, with cartoon bugs upsetting the programs, and written in the most generalised way. They are written for Microsoft BASIC, so what is so syntactically different, that you can't get them to work? The type of computers they use in schools of course.

Pitiful isn't it. Kids with interest can't get past the first few hurdles because the machines they have don't match the books in the library, while the teachers whilst keen, don't know what it's about. Number two daughter is now allowed on my machine, and is bashing in all the programs from David Ahl's book '101 BASIC Computer Programs'. Good practice is this book, it's written for Microsoft BASIC and because many of the programs don't work properly they require modification to make them go. She's actually getting very good, and is writing a database to keep track of her bird watching activities.

Altogether not bad for a ten year old (Dads are allowed a little pride in their kids, aren't they?), but an indictment on the current way computers are being taught in our local junior school. I hope this isn't par for the course in other junior schools, but I rather suspect it might be.

The printer revolution (horrid pun, you work it out)

A couple of years ago daisy wheel printers were priced such that you could only afford one if you were the sort of chap who could afford to buy gold plated ashtrays for the spare Roller. Certainly not the sort of thing to be purchased by the home user (to write poshly typed pleading letters to the Bank Manager), nor the sort of thing which may be used by smaller companies to write a couple of dozen letters a day, or to bash off the odd quote or two. In other words they were expensive!

Despite their price what you got for your money was something which was built like a battleship (so it didn't wear out churning out thousand upon thousand of circular letters which looked hand typed) and that went at a fair old speed (so it didn't take a month of Sundays to churn out the thousand upon ....). You know the sort I mean, the Readers' Digest ones which get consigned to the round filing cabinet unread. Qume and Diablo were the byword for these printers. As such, these beasts were (and still are) worth the money. And if you can lay hands on one at a reasonable price, they would still do for the better quality print job around the home.

However, over the last year a number of 'cheaper' daisy wheel printers have appeared. Some of these are simply office typewriters fitted with computer interfaces, some are purpose built computer printers. The office typewriter types tend towards the lightweight, both physically and also in longevity.

Two or three years ago one famous typewriter manufacturer got very cross with some enterprising people who had fitted an interface to one of their lightweight typewriters which was not designed to pound out text, sheet after sheet at a continuous 12 characters per second without stopping every now and then for coffee or to get to the loo (the typist, not the typewriter; before I get any more letters about DRH's funny little mistooks). The reliability problems started to get the manufacturer a bad name. Things have improved now, and the interfaced office typewriters are now robust enough for the average low duty cycle of the typical one person word processor user. Some even have the keyboard arranged to be a serial output device so it can be connected to the computer as the main keyboard. These also act as stand alone office typewriters, and so are seeing increasing use in offices around the country. As far as I'm concerned the only snag with these is the size. With the built in keyboard they are too big for my situation (and I dare say most other home users). I need something I can stick in the corner, and as I already have a keyboard for my computer I don't need (nor want to pay for) another.

When I started playing with computers the only choice at a price I was prepared to pay, was an antiquated IBM golfball. Solid (if its weight was anything to go by, made of lead), reliable, horribly mechanical, noisy and slow. These could be purchased for two or three hundred pounds and provided hours of innocent amusement trying to interface them to a Nascom. I wonder how many readers remember the early issues of the INMC magazine, that was printed on the old IBM golfball, which I might add is still giving sterling service, although no longer in my ownership. Somewhat dearer at that time were surplus Diablo and Qume daisy wheels, equally as heavy and reliable, less mechanical and more electronic, almost as noisy, a lot faster and a nightmare to interface as a lot of them were not fitted with serial or parallel interfaces as we know them today. Software and the necessary hardware drivers for these were diabolical, hampered by the total lack of cooperation on the part of the manufacturers in supplying interface information.

Whilst thinking of interface and service information, I remember IBM computers were totally unhelpful when it came to details on their golfball printers. However, in this instance, a point worth noting was that the IBM typewriter

division didn't exactly go a bundle on the 'stuck up twits' in the computer division (their description, not mine). When we told the typewriter division just how unhelpful the computer lot were, the typewriter guys bent over backwards to provide all the stuff we needed.

More recently, a number of medium priced (500.00 to 600.00 price bracket), medium duty daisy wheel printers have become available, mostly from the Far East. Brother, the Japanese typewriter people (is it the same as the sewing machine and knitting machine company?) have a number of daisy wheel computer printers with or without keyboards in all price brackets except the very lowest. Of the Brother machines the best way to describe them is 'average', you seem to get what you pay for. None are exceptional for the price, but all seem to be provided with the facilities that you might expect from the competition at a similar price. Qume, Olivetti, Triumph Adler, Tec and many others have followed the lead with machines in this bracket. But these are still too expensive for the home and small business user.

The Juki 6100 (I might have the number wrong, but the one you can get for about 300.00) is a very nice machine. Not fast, but a well built mechanism and very precise character registration. The only thing I don't like is the choice of wheels and ribbons. Now I'm all for standardisation in this area. I recently came across a 'Kores' printer ribbon catalogue (trade bible), and there are about 600 different types of cassette ribbon in the catalogue. About half of these are visually similar, but bet your bottom dollar, a ribbon for one machine which looks almost like a ribbon for another won't fit. The same applies to daisy wheels, there is a bit more standardisation here, but a growing trend for each printer manufacturer to make his own unique wheel for his printer. Like I say, the Juki have chosen Triumph Adler wheels and ribbons for their printer. On the face of it a very sensible idea, as these are the wheels and ribbons used by the Triumph Adler office typewriters, and so, should be available at your local stationers. Well I tried our local branch of a big chain stationer, and yes, they had them. The snag? The price. 6.00 for a ribbon and 22.00 for an ordinary plastic daisy wheel. I tried the local Indian stationers, he was a bit cheaper for the ribbons, 5.50, but didn't have the wheels. What a rip-off!!.

Two daisy wheel printers have recently come under my scrutinization, and having given them an intense scrute, I will now pronounce myself!! The Sample Daisy Step 2000 and the almost identical (but not quite) Quen-Data printer. Both printers cost about 225.00 and both are Qume clones in all but speed and quality of construction. Actually, Quen might just be a Far Eastern misspelling for Qume, who knows. Anyway, both use Qume wheels, which are cheap at about 5.50 to 6.00, and available in a vast range of type styles and pitches (if you can only find someone who actually keeps more than just a couple of types), and the carbon multistrike ribbons are cheap at about 3.00 and seem to last for ever.

Both printers have a Centronics interface with a 256 character buffer. The Sample has a serial RS232 option at about 55.00 with a 2K buffer. The Quen probably has a serial option available, but I haven't yet discovered for sure or how much. The printer control protocols are a superset of the Qume Sprint 5, and being a superset have a few extras thrown in, for example software selectable bidirectional logic seeking printing, selectable hammer strike pressure, etc. Printing speeds are about 20 characters per second with high speed skipping of white space. All the internal software seems to work without bugs, and although slow, the print output is of very good quality.

What about the mechanism? Well it's Ok so long as you keep the lid shut and don't look too closely. Pressed steel chassis, guides and runners where the Qume has a diecast aluminium chassis and precision ground steel guides and runners. The carriage is poorly located on the guides with nylon carriage slides. By contrast the Qume has phosphor bronze bushings for the front guides and sprung ball races for the rear. A not so subtle difference between the Qume mechanism on the one hand, and the Sample and Quen on the other. Mind you the price difference isn't so subtle either, the Qume costs nearly ten times as much as the other two.

The point is that both these cheap printers work, and work well. There can be no doubt that they won't stay working as long as the Qume, but then in a home environment, that sort of longevity isn't required. These two are DRH's best buy at the moment.

#### And so on to other things

I've spent some time doing some late spring cleaning amongst my disks and in the process came across a nice little program by Ward Christensen. Now for those who aren't devotees of the various CP/M User Groups, Ward Christensen is a software writer of some renown and greater output. You could be forgiven for thinking that he has single handedly written all the software on all the couple of hundred US CP/M User Group disks. He hasn't, but his name must certainly appear more often than most. Anyway, SCRAMBLE is a neat little encryption program for scrambling the text or code of a disk file. I liked the program so I spent a little time doing a little tidy here and a little tidy there just to provide fodder for those who like to find DRH's deliberate mistakes. Now I'll not take the blame for all the mistakes, only the ones I've committed, as the source code came to me as a Z80 source program. Now I haven't yet seen a Ward Christensen program written in Z80, it's always 8080 assembler, so someone has translated the file, and possibly done goodness knows what else in the process. So with no more said, I'll re-print Ward's original DOC file here, and the source will appear somewhere else in this mag.

"SCRAMBLE is a command used to encode a CP/M file"

The format of the command is:

"SCRAMBLE filename.type password"

where "password" is an 8 character password made of characters permissible in a file name (i.e. no ".," etc). To obtain a good "initial seed" for the scrambling process, no character in the password may appear more than twice.

The requested file is scrambled, and re-written in place. To unscramble the file, the IDENTICAL command is issued, i.e:

>SCRAMBLE filename.type password

This is because SCRAMBLE does an "exclusive-or" type modification to the file, and doing two identical exclusive-or's to data result in the same data being returned.

I feel a scrambled file is quite secure. Given that a file was scrambled and the password forgotten, I know of no way to determine what the original file was. Even a file which is all binary-0's, is sufficiently scrambled to defy finding out what the password or original data was. ...But I assume no responsibility for the "security" of files scrambled with SCRAMBLE as I am not a "student of cryptology".

Note also, that if an attempt is made to unscramble a scrambled file, using the WRONG password, then the file is technically "double scrambled" and SCRAMBLE would then have to be executed TWICE, once with the original password, and once with the erroneously-used password. Because of the exclusive or-ing process, either password may be used either time.

03/11/79 Ward Christensen"

#### Comms Software

Following Ward's Scramble, I've had a letter from Arto Limattila in Finland, who has thrown all the beautiful and complicated 'comms software out of the window and come up with a very simple patch to PIP.COM to make it communicate with another PIP on another machine, suggested by an article in "Microsystems" July 1983. As he writes,

"I also put here one program PIP, and how to use it for transferring data between machines. It uses some kind of handshaking in the transmitting procedure, so the receiving machine won't lost data, while it is saving it to disk. The transmitting computer sends a character and when the receiving computer gets it, it echoes it back to the transmitter who then knows the receiver is ready. When the receiver is not ready it does not echo until it is ready to receive. I think it has been used for many years, but I haven't seen it yet in 80-BUS News."

Now I haven't seen this one either and the code consists of a simple patch in the front of PIP. Once changed, this version of PIP can't be used for anything else, so Arto's suggestion is that the patched PIP be called IOPPIP. The code came as a hard copy dump and wasn't quite complete. Fortunately Arto also sent a disk with IOPPIP.COM on it, so I disassembled it and then re-assembled it. I then checked the newly assembled code was the same as the code on disk, just in case. Now if you look at the patch area in PIP as supplied, you'll see that there is the start jump, two fake RETs and a great wedge of bytes which read (INP:/OUT:SPACE). This routine neatly fits in this space with acres to spare, which now I know the space is there, I can think of a number of things which could be shoved in. Anyway, Arto's source code is shown later.

All very simple and straight forward, this program should work with a direct wired connection or through a modem via the telephone, but there have to be snags. One problem is that you can not assume an 8-bit data transfer, some machines only have 7-bit serial I/O implemented, so transferring object code files is a problem. Apart from that Arto's letter implies that the [0] option with PIP doesn't work as the receiver can not see a ^Z under this option and therefore doesn't know when the file is finished (I know this to be true, and the [B] option doesn't work either). Hitting RESET does not close the file, so some or all the file will be lost. His suggestion is to transmit all files in HEX in the Intel HEX format and use the LOAD.COM program provided with CP/M to convert back it into a .COM file. This is alright if you have the CP/M User Group utility UNLOAD.COM which converts a file into Intel HEX format. If you haven't tough!! Well perhaps not tough, just tough work, you see, I've just used UNLOAD to unload itself, so if you are really masochistic, you can sit down and type the following in using a word processor and then use LOAD to turn it into a .COM file. If you use Wordstar, do this in the non-document mode, otherwise you'll have soft carriage returns, and that will probably upset LOAD.

```
:100100002A06002BF9C311017E1223130DC2080128  
:10011000C9215C00111F010E90CD081C34610017  
:1001200000000000000000000043F4D0000000000FO  
:1001300000000000000000000000000000000000000BF  
:10014000E0D300004000C3B816012A4201EB2A44017A  
:10015007D973C9AD9F0121000224401EB2A4220  
:1001600017B957A9CD291012A400119BE0EACDA0  
:100170000500111F010E14CD0500B7C28B011180BF
```

Title SCRAMBLE SubTitle Program to scramble CP/M files using an 8-bit password.

\*Comment "SCRAMBLE by Ward Christensen Minor assembly changes D B Hunt 12/10/84

Scrambling is done in place, i.e. the file is modified on top of itself. The same password used to scramble the file is used to unscramble it, using the exact same command. This is because the scrambling code is exclusive-or'd with the data file, and two same exclusives result in the original value being returned.

### Command format:

scramble file name: [type da scwrd

where password is any 8 character string which is allowable as a file name (i.e. no ~., etc).

Well that just about sums it all up for this time. I'll keep Arto's article on switching between NASDOS and Nascom CP/M over until next time, so until next time have fun getting UNLOAD typed in.

```

; GP/M equates
0009      print    equ     9
000F      open     equ     15
0010      close    equ     16
0014      read     equ     20
0015      write    equ     21
0005      bdos    equ     0005h
003C      fcb     equ     003ch
006C      fcB2    equ     006ch
0068      fcBext  equ     fcB+12
007C      fcBmno equ     fcB+32

000D      cr      equ     0dh
1f      equ     0ah

0000      mf      defl   0      ` ; Show move not requested
cf      defl   0      ` ; Show comp not requested

; Define some macros to make things easier
; Define data move macro: move from,to,length
; from may be addr, or quoted string
; move macro ?f?t?l
; if not nul ?f
; irpc ?c,f
; ?q defl -?f?c&?c'
; Test for quote
endm

```

```

SCRAMBLE M-80 14 Oct 1984 20:45 PAGE 1-1
Program to scramble CP/M files using an 8-bit password.

if ?q eq ``           ; Init. local stack
local ?b,?z           ; Id hl,0
call ?z               ; add hl,sp
?b: defb ?f           ; Id (stack),hl
pop hl                ; Id sp,stack
ld bc,?z=?b           ; Get from
                      ; Get len
else
  ld hl,?f
endif
endif
?z: pop hl             ; Get from
ld bc,?z=?b           ; Get len
endif
if not nul ?t          ; Scramble a while to mix up the seed
  ld h,0               ; Get 256
endif
endif
if not nul ?t          ; See that the password is 8 characters
  ld a,(fcb2+8)
endif
endif
if de,?t
endif
endif
if not nul ?1           ; See that the password is 8 characters
  ld a,`_
endif
ld bc,?1
endif
call mover             ; Show expansion
defl -1
endif
endif

; Define CP/M macro - cpm fnc,parm
macro ?f,?p
cpm push bc
push de
push hl
if not nul ?f
  ld c,?f
endif
if not nul ?p
  ld de,?p
endif
call bdos
pop hl
pop de
pop bc
endif
; Start of program execution
cd 0122
call start
defb cr,lf,'SCRAMBLE as of '
00000-
01000
01000 CD 0122
01000 0D 0A 53 43
01000 0D 41 4D 42
01000 4C 45 20 61
01000 010F 73 20 6F 66
01113 20
01114 31 33 2F
01117 31 30 2F
0111A 38 34 2E
0111D 0D 0A 0D 0A
01211 24
01221 D1
01223 0E 09
01225 CD 0005
01231 start: pop
01231 ld c,print
01231 call bdos
01231 call
01231 print id
01231 inc a
01231 inc nz,scramlp
01231 jp

; Save the password
pwis8: move fcb2+1,passwd,8
        + ld ,h,fcb2+
        + ld ,de,passwd
        + ld ,bc,8
        + call mover
; Password is 8 bytes, now make sure no char
; is repeated more than 2 times
duptest: call ckdup
         inc inc
         dec b
         jp nz,duptest
; See that the input file exists
open,fcb
        + push bc
        + push de
        + push hl
        + ld c,open
        + ld de,fc
        + call bdos
        + pop hl
        + pop de
        + pop bc
        + inc a
        + inc nz,scramlp
        ; Ok?
        ; Yes, scramlp
; Abort if next character is not a
; valid character
; To next character

```

```

SCRAMBLE M-80 14 Oct 1984 20:45 PAGE 1-3
Program to scramble CP/M files using an 8-bit password.

018D CD 03A8 call exit
0190 2B 2B 20 4E defb '++ No such file. +'
0194 6F 20 73 75
0198 63 68 20 66
019C 69 6C 65 2E
01A0 20 2B 2B 24

; Read the file, scramble a sector
01A4 CD 0212 call rdsect
01A4 DA 01B6 jp c,finish
01A7 CD 0253 call scramble
01AA CD 0260 call backup
01AD CD 02C1 call wrsect
01B0 C3 01A4 jp scramlp

; All done ...
; ... On a "normal" cp/m system,
; anything, because we re-wrote in
; such systems as the NorthStar CP
; explicitly close the file, because
; directory will cause the clever
; to flush it's memory-resident dir
; finish: cpm
01B6 C5 push bc
01B6 D5 push de
01B8 E5 push hl
01B9 0E 10 push ld
01BB 11 005C push de,fcb
01BE CD 0005 call bdos
01C1 E1 pop hl
01C2 D1 pop de
01C3 C1 pop bc
01C4 3C inc a
01C5 CA 01DB jp z,finishl
01C8 CD 03A8 call exit
01CB 2B 2B 20 41 defb '++ All done. ++$'
01CF 6C 6C 20 64
01D3 6F 6E 65 2E
01D7 20 2B 2B 24

; finish:
01DB CD 03A8 call exit
01DE 2B 2B 20 43 defb '++ Close error -'
01E2 6C 6F 73 65
01E6 20 65 72 72
01EA 6F 72 20 2D
01EE 20 66 69 6C
01F2 65 20 6C 65
01F6 66 74 20 69
01FA 6E 20 defb 'unknown condition
01FC 75 6E 6B 6E
0200 6F 77 6E 20
0204 63 6F 6E 64
0208 69 74 69 6F

```

```

SCRABBLE M-80 14 Oct 1984 20:45 PAGE 1-4
Program to scramble CP/M files using an 8-bit password.

020C 6E 2E 20 2B
0210 2B 24

; Sector read routine
rdsect: cpm read,fcb
        + push bc
        + push de
        + push hl
        + ld c,read
        + ld de,fcb
        + call bdos
        + pop hl
        + pop de
        + pop bc
        + or a
        + ret z
        ; A

; Read error or eof
cp 1
scf
ret z
call exit
defb "++ Read error - fi

; Scramble the sector
scrambl:
        ld hl,80h
        call pseudan(hl)
        xor (hl),a
        inc 1
        jp nz,scrlp
        ret

; Backup the file pointer for the re-open
backup: ld a,(fcbrno)
        dec a
        ld (fcbrno),a
        ret p
        ; F

; We backed up into previous extent
; to re-open it
ld a,(fcbext)
dec a
ld (fcbext),a
        ; F

; Sector read routine
rdsect: cpm read,fcb
        + push bc
        + push de
        + push hl
        + ld c,read
        + ld de,fcb
        + call bdos
        + pop hl
        + pop de
        + pop bc
        + or a
        + ret z
        ; A

; Read error or eof
cp 1
scf
ret z
call exit
defb "++ Read error - fi

; Scramble the sector
scrambl:
        ld hl,80h
        call pseudan(hl)
        xor (hl),a
        inc 1
        jp nz,scrlp
        ret

; Backup the file pointer for the re-open
backup: ld a,(fcbrno)
        dec a
        ld (fcbrno),a
        ret p
        ; F

; Sector read routine
rdsect: cpm read,fcb
        + push bc
        + push de
        + push hl
        + ld c,read
        + ld de,fcb
        + call bdos
        + pop hl
        + pop de
        + pop bc
        + or a
        + ret z
        ; A

; Read error or eof
cp 1
scf
ret z
call exit
defb "++ Read error - fi

; Scramble the sector
scrambl:
        ld hl,80h
        call pseudan(hl)
        xor (hl),a
        inc 1
        jp nz,scrlp
        ret

; Backup the file pointer for the re-open
backup: ld a,(fcbrno)
        dec a
        ld (fcbrno),a
        ret p
        ; F

```



SCRAMBLE M-80 14 Oct 1984 20:45 PAGE 1-7  
Program to scramble CP/M files using an 8-bit password.

SCRAMBLE M-80 14 Oct 1984 20:45 PAGE 5  
Program to scramble CP/M files using an 8-bit password.

```

; Move subroutines      ; Macro expansion flag set?
7E          mf      a,(hl)
mover:    ld      (de),a
          ld      hl
          inc     hl
          inc     de
          dec     bc
          ld      a,b
          or      c
          jp      r12,mover
C2 039D   jp      ret
C9          ret

```

```

        ; Exit with "informational" message
        ; Get msg
        exit:    pop    de
                ld     c,print
                call   bdos
                call   exitl
                call   cr,lf,"$"
                exitl: pop    de
                        ld     c,print
                        call   bdos
                        call   exitl
                        ld     hl,(stack)
                        sp,hl

        ; Exit, restoring stack and return
        ld     hl,(stack)
        sp,hl

        ; To ccp
        ret

        ; Password
        defs 8
        defs 40h

        ; Stack
        stack: 2

```

Macros:	MOVE	Symbols:	MOVE
CPM			
			B DOS
		6666 7Q	0005 BACKUP
		0000 CTF	0322 CKDLP
		0396 CRNDUP	0010 CLOSE
		000D DAY	0381 DUPCHAR
		03A8 EXIT	03B4 EXIT I
		006C FCBN2	0068 FCBEXT
		01B6 FINISH	01DB FINISH1
		FFFF MF	0134 MIXUP
		039D MOVER	000F OPEN
		03BF PASSWD	0009 PRINT
		0300 PSUEULP1	02F8 PSEURAN
		0212 RDIRECT	0014 READ
		01A4 SCRAMLP	0256 SCRIP
		0122 START	0015 WRITE
		YEAR	
			0054
			B DOS
			031B CKDUP
			000D CR
			0173 DUPTEST
			005C FCB
			007C FCBRNO
			LF
			000A MONTH
			000A OPEN20K
			02FA PSEULPO
			0162 PWIS8
			0253 SCRAMBL
			0407 STACK
			02C1 WRSECT

Title PIP handshaking interface					
	M-80	17 Oct 1984	21:51	PAGE	1
<b>PIP handshaking interface</b>					
•z80					
00003	;	CP/M equates			
00004	rdrin	equ	3	;	Reader input
00005	punout	equ	4	;	Punch output
	bddos	equ	0005h	;	BDDOS call
0000-					
	aseg	org	100h		
0100	C3 04CE	jp	04ceh	;	Jump into start of PIP
0103	C3 010A	jp	recv	;	Receive a character
0106	C3 0119	jp	txitmit	;	Send a character
0109	buf:	defs	buf	;	Temp. space for rx'd bytes
010A	0E 03	recv:	ld	c,rdrin	Get a character from RDR
010C	CD 0005		call	bddos	
010F	32 0109		ld	(buf),a	Put it in buffer
0112	5F		ld	e,a	Echo it straight out ...
0113	0E 04		ld	c,punout	... through PUN:
0115	CD 0005		call	bddos	
0118	C9	ret			
0119	59	txmit:	ld	e,c	Send a character to PUN:
011A	0E 04		ld	c,punout	
011C	CD 0005		call	bddos	
011F	0E 03		ld	c,rdrin	Wait for the echo
0121	CD 0005		call	bddos	
0124	C9	ret			Echo received, all done.
					end

**The 80-BUS 800 Series****by P. A. Greenhalgh**

In these hallowed pages in the past you must have come across various 800 series numbers (e.g. "I use a GM802 plus EV814.....") and wondered what the writer was referring to. Well, fear no longer. This is the first part of an 'article' describing what physical products these magic incantations refer to.

So what is an '800 Series' product? Well, the 800 series was started by Gemini Microcomputers some considerable time ago, and consecutive numbers were given to each product as it was developed. An 800 number is allocated by Gemini only to major 80-BUS related items, and this therefore includes all of their 80-BUS boards, power supplies, keyboards, assembled motherboards etc. All of these Gemini numbers are given a 'GM' prefix. Gemini also decided to include other 'preferred' products from other manufacturers, and therefore the 'EV' referred to above means that the product comes from EV Computing. Similarly Belectra, Climax Computers, IO Research, and Microcode Processes have all had 800 series products.

So what is special about 800 series products? Well basically these are all built and tested products (there are one or two exceptions, and these have a 'K' suffix, meaning 'kit'), any 800 product should run with any other 800 product, and software support is available for most permutations. This is a somewhat over-simplified view, as, because of the exceedingly high number of permutations, there will inevitably be some exceptions, but for example to the question "Will a GM813+GM832+GM829+GM888+GM833+I0828+I0830+EV814+GM862+GM825+GM835+GM816+GM818+MP840 system run, and is there software for this?" the answer would be "Yes, if you can afford it, and if you have Battersea Power Station at your disposal"!!! However, if the question substituted that string of 800 numbers for just "GM813+MAP256+GM812+NASCOM-AVC" then the answer would be a resounding "NO", as the AVC and 812 are set to conflicting ports, the AVC memory has to overlay the MAP256, the GM813 and MAP256 have different uses of port OFEH, etc. Now the problem is not, at the end of the day, totally insoluble, but you would have to have a very good working knowledge of all of these products, and you are certainly going to face a severe challenge in finding any software that will run straight away, even if you overcome these 'slight' problems.

So the point is that if you have an 800 series based system then you will certainly find life much easier if you stick with 800 series add-ons, and hopefully the following list will give you a much greater insight into what these are..... (Please note that the following information is NOT guaranteed to be correct, although it hopefully is! Contact your dealer if you have a specific requirement.)

**GM801**

A complete 64K twin disk CP/M computer based on a single board designed by Gemini and sold to British Micro, who later released it as the 'Mimi'.

**GM802**

80-BUS 64K dynamic RAM board from Gemini incorporating Nascom style 'page-mode' to allow up to four of these boards to be used in a system. Also available as a kit in 16K form and minus page-mode circuitry. Does not support the 'Extended Addressing' mode later introduced by Gemini (see GM813).

GM803

80-BUS EPROM/ROM board from Gemini taking up to 16 EPROMs, either 2708 (1Kx8) or 2716 (2Kx8) types. Also has socket for Nascom 8K BASIC ROM. Incorporates 'page-mode' but not 'Extended Addressing mode'. Was also available as a kit. Discontinued, to be superceeded by GM853.

GM804

A linear power supply for powering up to two 5.25" floppy disk drives. Used inside GM805, GM815 and GM825. Only ever sold as a kit. Discontinued (although still used by Gemini in the GM825).

GM805

A single/twin 5.25" disk drive unit incorporating Henelec single density disk controller board and GM804 PSU. Pertec FD250 double sided 48tpi drives used giving 160K bytes formatted per drive. For use with Nascoms, connected to the system via the Nascom's Z80 PIO. Discontinued.

GM806

A combined 5A power supply board, buffer board with 'Reset jump' circuitry, and 5 slot backplane for expanding Nascom 1 computers. Sold as kit only. Also sold in 'A' version without PSU components. Only 'A' version now available.

GM807

A 3A linear power supply unit suitable for powering small systems. Was also available as a kit. Now discontinued and replaced by various switch-mode units (see on).

GM808

An EPROM programmer for 2708 and 2716 EPROMs. Originally produced by Bits and PCs and later taken over by Gemini. Attaches to the system via a Z80 PIO. Supplied with software for use with Nascom and Nas-Sys. CP/M software for Gemini systems available on request. Only available as a kit.

GM809

80-BUS single/double density floppy disk drive controller board. Supplied suitable for 5.25" use only, but small modification possible to support 8" only. Superceeded by GM829.

GM810

80-BUS motherboard incorporating 8 80-BUS positions (and connectors) and 5A linear power supply. Discontinued.

GM811

80-BUS CPU board. 4MHz Z80A processor, Z80A PIO, 8250 UART providing programmable baud rates, stop bits, parity, etc., RS232 interface, 1200 baud CUTS cassette interface, 8-bit input port. Most powerful feature of this board is the four 'byte-wide' 28 pin sockets that may be populated with EPROMs, ROMs or static RAMs from 2Kx8 to 16Kx8 (32Kx8?) per socket, thus making the board suitable for many control applications with, for example, 48K of EPROM and 8K of RAM on board. On-board memory may be switched out of memory map under software control. Memory decoding is provided by PROM which must be replaced if the standard 4 by 4Kx8 decoding is unsuitable. Normally supplied with RP/M monitor that emulates CP/M in a cassette based environment, and can also 'boot' GM809/GM829 based floppy disk system.

GM812

80-BUS IVC (Intelligent Video Controller) board. Has own on-board 4MHz Z80A to control all video functions. Interfaces to the host computer via three 80-BUS I/O addresses, thus not encroaching on any host memory. Normal mode 80 characters per line by 25 lines, with optional second mode (supplied set to 48x25, but user alterable). System keyboard (parallel type) is normally connected via the IVC, which thus provides `type-ahead` facility, and with certain keyboards also provides user-definable function keys (see GM827 and GM852). Light pen input provided. 256 different characters may be displayed, 128 fixed in EPROM and 128 user-programmable, being held in on-board RAM. Many control sequences include cursor addressing, partial screen scroll lock, pixel graphics (160x75), clear to end of line, clear to end of screen, define function keys, define programmable characters, insert or delete character from line, etc, etc. Now replaced by GM832 SVC.

GM813

80-BUS CPU/RAM board. Similar overall specification to GM811 above, but without 8-bit input port and with the `byte-wide` sockets replaced by a 2K/4K EPROM socket (removable from memory map under software control) plus 64K of dynamic RAM. This RAM is switchable as Page 0 under the Nascom style `page-mode` operation. This board also includes the Gemini `Extended Addressing` mode by utilising memory mappers. This allows the user to select the 64K of memory that the Z80 `sees` at any time as any 16 blocks of 4K each, out of a total memory space of 512K. This `Extended Addressing mode` may also be used in conjunction with `page-mode` to provide up to 4 pages of up to 512K, i.e. 2MBytes total. However note that very specialised software would be required to do this. Normally supplied with RP/M (see GM811), but in complete systems (e.g. Gemini Galaxy) supplied with an auto-boot EPROM that detects whether Winchester hard disks or 5.25" floppy disks are present on a GM809/GM829 and automatically `boots up`.

EV814

80-BUS IEEE 488 interface board from EV Computing for (surprise, surprise) connecting to other IEEE 488 devices. Incorporates on-board control software under the `page-mode` scheme that can be brought in and out of the system memory map. Does not support `Extended Addressing`.

GM815

Single/double 5.25" disk drive unit for use with GM809/GM829, incorporating 1 or 2 Pertec FD250 double sided 48tpi drives and GM804 PSU. Capacity, in double density mode, 350K (formatted) per drive. Discontinued - replaced by GM825.

GM816

80-BUS Multi-I/O board. Originally designed by Quantum, and then taken over by Gemini, this board provides 3 Z80A PIOs, a Z80 CTC, and a National Semiconductor 58174 Real-Time-Clock chip with battery back-up. An interesting feature of this board is the internal expansion bus - this allows additional boards to be `piggy-backed` onto the GM816 and make use of the I/O decoding and buffering that it provides. Currently available `piggy-backs` are the GM818 (see below) and the GM663 prototyping board.

GM817

An 85 Watt switch-mode power supply unit. Suitable for systems with about 5 boards and 2 5.25" drives.

GM818

A serial daughter board for the GM816 (see above) providing two 8250 UARTs with RS232 interfaces. These UARTs have programmable baud rates, stop bits, parity, stop bits etc, and also spare user-programmable input and output bits.

AM819

80-BUS Speech board, using the National Semiconductor Digitalker chip set. This card has a limited on-board vocabulary contained in ROM, and making it say anything outside of this limited library is extremely difficult. Produced by Arfon Microelectronics, who unfortunately went into receivership. Boards MAY still be available from one or two dealers.

AM820

Light pen, suitable for use with the GM812, GM832 and GM837 boards. Again, as AM819, this was an Arfon product, and so unfortunately it may prove impossible to obtain any more.

GM821

Original 59 key parallel interface keyboard from Gemini for use with the GM812/GM832 video boards. Although only 59 physical keys, all 128 possible 7-bit ASCII codes can be generated. Discontinued (see 827 and 852).

GM822

A small board containing a Nat. Semi. 58174 Real Time Clock chip with battery back-up. Connected to the system via a Z80 PIO. Only available in kit form.

GM823

Special version of the Gemini GM827 keyboard for the Danish market. Replaced by GM852 low profile version.

GM824

80-BUS A/D convertor board. Originally produced by IO Research, but later taken over by Gemini. This board provides 8 channels, each of 8 bit resolution. Input range is 0 - 5 volts with over-voltage protection. Conversion time is approx. 30 uS, including sample and hold phase. Support for vectored interrupts, and on-board prototyping area.

GM825

A single/twin 5.25" disk drive unit using one or two Micropolis drives and GM804 PSU. For use with GM809/GM829. Available in single and double sided 96tpi versions. Capacity in double density mode is 400K single sided, 800K double sided (formatted).

MP826

80-BUS CMOS RAM board from Microcode Processes. Contains 32K of battery-backed static RAM to give 1000 hours of memory retention during power-down periods. Flexible address decoding and Page Mode operation, but does not support Extended Addressing.

GM827

Gemini's 87 key keyboard (parallel interface) for use with the GM812/GM832 video boards. The keyboard has a 57 key main cluster, plus 11 function keys, 4 cursor keys, and 15 key numeric pad. These latter 30 keys may ALL be user-defined (via the G812 or GM832 video boards) in both their normal and shifted modes. Replaced by GM852 low profile versions.

I0828

80-BUS 'Pluto' colour board from IO Research. The number of permutations of this board should be the subject of an article of its own! Started off with on-board 5MHz 8088 processor, 640x288 resolution, 8 colours, two screens. Then there were 640x576 options, 8MHz options, and the current product is normally 768x576, 8 colour, 8MHz 8088, although the 640x576 (640x288x2) version can also be ordered! Also see other IO 800 products. Any volunteers for a 'Pluto Family' article?

GM829

80-BUS floppy disk controller board. Fully compatible with the GM809 that it replaced, but with a previously unused bit of the control port being used to switch the board between 5.25" and 8" operation, allowing both types (and 3.5" drives that electrically 'look' like 5.25" drives) to be attached to the GM829 at the same time. In addition the board contains a SASI interface that is used for the connection of Winchester disk controller boards. For an example of the flexibility of this board look at the Gemini Galaxy M-F-B family, the top model of which has a 16 Mbyte Winchester, double-sided 96tpi 5.25" drive, double-sided 48tpi 5.25" drive, double-sided 8" drive, and double-sided 3.5" drive all connected via a GM829.

I0830

Mini-palette board from IO Research, available as an add-on for the I0828 'Pluto' (although the latter then needs a new monitor EPROM). Gives the user the ability to select any 8 screen colours out of a Pallette of 256. This can be particularly impressive if 8 grey levels are selected, the resulting picture almost looking as good as a B&W photograph. Two look-up tables are supported, and the user may switch rapidly between them.

GM831

5 slot 80-BUS backplane (with 1" pitch between boards) including 77-way 80-BUS edge connectors. Discontinued as a built product, but the PCB continues to be available.

GM832

80-BUS SVC (Super Video Controller) board. Fully compatible with the GM812 IVC that it replaces, but with the following enhancements. 6MHz Z80B CPU used, which in conjunction with other hardware and software changes provides far greater speed. Second text mode is now 40x25. Graphics mode added of 256x256, with on-board monitor containing line and circle drawing routines, polygon fill routines etc. Buzzer added. Attributes added - half-intensity characters, half-tone background, blinking. All 256 characters are now user-definable - on power up they are down-loaded from the on-board monitor, and this includes switch options for French, Danish, German, Swedish, American and English characters. Serial keyboard input option added - although this is of Gemini's own design (see GM852).

GM833

Gemini's 80-BUS RAM-DISK board. Provides 512K bytes of RAM driven via a 'disk-like' 80-BUS I/O port interface of 'track', 'sector' and 'data' ports. On-board switch allows up to 16 boards to be decoded at the same port addresses, theoretically providing up to 8MBytes!

GM834

Special version of the Gemini GM827 keyboard for the German market. Replaced by GM852 low profile version.

GM835

5.25" Winchester hard disk drive sub-system. Contains a Rodime drive, along with hard-disk controller board and switch-mode power supply. Currently available in 5.4, 10.8 and 16.2MByte (formatted) capacities. Connects to SASI interface on GM829 board.

GM836

Multinet interface board. This small board is connected to the system via a Z80A PIO. An on-board DIL switch provides a unique station address to allow up to 32 systems to be connected together. The board transmits data onto the Network at 250 kbaud, at distances up to 600 metres using RS422 differential transmission.

GM837

80-BUS Colour board. Previously produced by Climax Computers, production of this board has now been taken over by Gemini. The board uses the Thomson EF9365 controller chip and provides high speed vector graphics of 256 x 256 in 16 colours. The chip also has a built-in character generator, and can write text in various orientations. Output is PAL UHF and analogue RGB TTL.

GM838

Special version of the Gemini GM827 keyboard for the French market. Replaced by GM852 low profile version.

GM839

80-BUS prototyping board. One of the great attractions of 80-BUS is the ease with which one-off boards can be interfaced to it, and this board provides an ideal base for one of these, incorporating extensive power rail connections, and laid out to allow high density IC packing.

MP840

14 slot 80-BUS backplane from Microcode. NOT supplied with any 80-BUS 77-way edge connectors. All active BUS signals are terminated into a potential balanced RC filter and are interleaved with ground shield tracks. The board can be easily 'cut-down' if required for smaller systems.

GM841

This 80-BUS extender board allows 80-BUS boards to be brought outside of a frame for testing and debugging purposes. Test point pins are provided on all lines, and all lines have their 80-BUS nomenclature.

Well, that's enough for this time. Next issue I hope to continue through to GM888, and possibly beyond !! I hope that the above descriptions bring out a few points that you were possibly unaware of before, and thus help you to find your way through the growing maze of products. 80-BUS provides a very flexible means of producing so many possible self-tailored systems, and if the information above in some way helps just one reader from making a potentially costly incorrect decision then it has been justified.

---

**AN IMPROVED NAS-SYS?****by Olav Lerflaten**

Here are some suggested modifications to NAS-SYS 3. NAS-SYS 3, while an excellent piece of software, has a couple of shortcomings from my point of view. In particular:

- It does not support a parallel printer.
- Access to the ASCII characters "{", "|", and "}" is awkward.

The latter point is perhaps of most concern to Scandinavians, as these characters are redefined as special Scandinavian letters. To ease word processing, the requirements are that the small "letters" { | } shall correspond to the capital "letters" [ \ ], respectively, each pair of "letters" assigned to its own key on the keyboard.

Both these shortcomings are corrected by these modifications to NAS-SYS 3. The requirements are:

- NASCOM 2 keyboard (57 keys)
- Centronics standard printer connector
- PIO port A (8 lines) to printer DATA lines
- PIO line B0 to printer STROBE line
- PIO line B2 to printer BUSY line
- PIO connector ground to printer LOGIC GROUND

The PIO is initialized during power-up, and reset to the printer requirements; this must be taken into account if the PIO is to be used for other purposes.

One problem with NASCOM standard software is differences in supplying LF or not after each CR, this gives problems when using printers. On EPSON printers this is easily fixed, as the CR is not needed, only LF may be used to separate lines. Consequently, this NAS-SYS version converts all CRs to LFs, and ignores all LF codes sent from some software packages. If your printer insists on CRs, it should be possible to convert all CRs to a CR and a LF, still ignoring incoming LFs.

To make room for the extra facilities inside the allotted NAS-SYS space, it was necessary to remove some existing code. I chose to attack the register display routine, shortening it so that now it will only display the contents of the Program Counter. After all, if you have DEBUG, you never use it anyway.

**Description of new NAS-SYS facilities****a) Keyboard changes**

```
{ and [ are on the "[\" key
| and \ are on the "CH/LF" key
} and ] are on the "]_" key
@ is now unshifted, repeating
_ is Shift/@
```

Remarks: The @ key is no longer available as an extra CTRL key (this facility is only needed on NASCOM-1 keyboards). CH and LF are not very important control codes, consequently they do not need their own key. CH is still

available as CTRL/W, and LF is available as CTRL/J. Whether [ \ ] and { | } are shifted or unshifted depends on the Keyboard option. With these changes, the full ASCII character set is still available from the keyboard.

#### b) Parallel printer support

Upon power-up or reset, the PIO is initialized. Printer output is activated by the U command, and deactivated by the N command. This is made possible by a change in the workspace initialisation, \$UOUT will initially point to the printer driver routine. Initial contents of \$UOUT: C3 CB 04

#### c) New NAS-SYS commands

Two new NAS-SYS commands are provided:

##### L PRINT

The contents of the accumulator are sent to the printer, using the printer driver routine. Please note that this command is independent of the N and U commands, working always. If the accumulator contains code f0A, data will not be sent to printer, code f0D will be sent to the printer as f0A. The printer must be on line, or the routine will make the Nascom hang up. This command is best used as a subroutine call in programs:

fDF f4C PRINT Sends contents of A to printer.

##### F aa bb cc dd ....

##### SEND ARGUMENTS TO PRINTER

Up to ten hexadecimal arguments following the command are converted to 8-bit data and sent to the printer. If arguments >FFF are specified, only the least significant byte is sent. Please note that this command is independent of the N and U commands, working always. The printer must be on line, or the command will make the Nascom hang up. As this command uses the printer driver routine, arguments of f0A will be ignored, and arguments of f0D will be converted to f0A. This command is very useful for sending control codes to the printer, for example to activate or deactivate emphasized or enlarged print mode.

#### Using modified NAS-SYS and printer with standard Nascom firmware

##### a) NAS-SYS

Printer on - U command  
Printer off - N command

The user is in direct communication with the printer, that is, everything that is typed on the keyboard will be sent to the printer. Line feeds are ignored. Carriage returns will be sent as line feeds.

##### b) NASPEN

For the P command to function, the printer reflection must be changed:  
101D DF 4C C9 SCAL "L RET

##### c) DEBUG

DEBUG uses the NAS-SYS \$UOUT jump, and therefore turns off the printer when started. Use these DEBUG commands to control the printer:

Printer on - :C 04CB  
Printer off - :C C143

```

; NAS-SYS 3 modifications
; by Olav Lerflaten.
; Bergen, Norway
; Nov.27, 1983
;

ORG F0005          ;Link PIO init routine
JP PRINT
;Support lower case [ \ ]
ORG F00B6          ;Change kbd mask (@ repeating)
LD D,FE7
JR F0145          ;@ as CTRL key not supported
F012F
CP "]+1
;Return if no arguments
LD B,A
;No. of args in B reg.
LD HL,EOC0C
;ARG1
LD A,(HL)
;Arg in A reg.
SCAL "L
;Output arg to printer
INC HL
;HL points to next arg
DJNZ NXTARG
;Cont until no more args
RET
;End of PRARGS
DEFB 0
;Fill

ORG F0183          ;Workspace init $OUT
JP DRIVER
;No LF on LP key

ORG F0408          ;NAS-SYS 3.1 */ ;New commercial
DEFM /PC=/
;Shortened PRGS routine
ORG F04A9
RST F28
;PRS
DEFB F18
;CCR
DEFM /PC=/
PREGS
LD HL,F0C69
;HL=(PC) before brkpt
SCAL F66
;TBCD3
SCAL F6A
;CRLF
;End of PREGS routine
RET

;PIO initialization routine
PRINT LD A,FFF
OUT (6),A
XOR A
OUT (6),A
DEC A

;Printer driver routine
DRIVER PUSH AF
BUSY IN A,(5)
AND E04
JR NZ,BUSY
POP AF
PUSH AF
CP F0A
;Save AF
;Line B2 high if busy
;Mask
;Try again if busy
;Data restored in A
;Is it LF ?
;If so, ignore
;Is it CR ?
;If not so, don't modify
;Make a LF from the CR
;Data to printer
NOCHG OUT (4),A
XOR A
OUT (5),A
INC A
OUT (5),A
POP AF
;Strobe low
;Strobe high again
;Restore AF before return
;End of printer driver
FIN RET

;Start of NAS-SYS F command
PRARGS LD A,(F0C0B)
;ARGN workspace loc
OR A
;Set Z flag if no arguments
JP CONTINUE
;Continue elsewhere

;Changes to the keyboard table
ORG F05C4
DEFB FFF
;No LF on LP key

ORG F05D1
DEFB FFF
;No CH on CH key

ORG F0616
DEFB F0E
;CH/LF key gives "\n" and "\r"
ORG F0619
DEFB F8D
;Shift/Q gives " " char

;Changes in subroutine table
ORG F078C
DEFW F04E8
;F command, args to printer
ORG F0798
DEFW F04CB
;L command, printer driver

```

## d) NAS-DIS

Use in Direct mode (NAS-SYS U command).

As NAS-DIS asks for memory addresses, unpredictable things may happen to the printer. This is because the subroutine outputs an ESC code, which the printer takes as the start of a control code. The cure:

- Either turn the printer momentarily off when NAS-DIS signals "Go?"
- Or change these memory locations in NAS-DIS:

CD00	00	NOP
CD01	00	NOP
CD02	00	NOP

## e) ZEAP

Change printer reflection:

```
OF04 DF 4C C9 SCAL "L RET
```

ZEAP U command will now list the source file, and ZEAP A command will, with option 04, give assembly listing.

## f) BASIC

Use in direct mode (NAS-SYS U command). It is possible to turn printing on and off from BASIC with DOKE statements:

```
Printer on - DOKE 3187,1912  
Printer off - DOKE 3187,1913
```

---

**Private Sales**

Nascom 2 in Kenilworth case with fan; 40K RAM, I/O board with UART & 1 PIO. Cassette deck and display monitor. Nas-Sys 3, BASIC toolkit in ROM. Hullforth, Wordease, V&T Assembler and games on tape. Manuals and large number of Nascom related magazines. £200 ono, Tel: 029668-651 Bucks.

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---

**Random Rumours (and Truths?)****by S. Monger**

Let's to report this time. For example, IO Research...Pluto 2 is here!! Yes, fed up with reading in this column about how little they do, IO Research have produced a super-duper new Pluto. There is the inevitable catch, the unreal price, but let's forget that while I lay down the mouth-watering fax:

"Pluto II is a brand new powerful single board graphics display system which has been designed to be completely hardware and software compatible with the original Pluto board. [Pluto I + £50.] Re-designed to use up-to-date technology [add £200] the board replaces 3 boards from the original Pluto range [add £1000] with one compact unit giving high reliability [+£150] and ease of use [+£80]. Based upon the highly successful Pluto concept [+£25], Pluto II's more advanced [+£50] video circuitry produces truly advanced colour graphics [+£100]. The board format is a compact 12" by 8" [-£500], multi-layer, 80-BUS compatible [+£300]. The processor is an 8MHz 8088 [+£0]. Half a megabyte of memory as standard [+£50] etc, etc, etc."

Anyway, the press release goes on to say that Pluto II is basically Pluto I plus Pluto Pallette (256 colours from 16.7 million), hardware pan and zoom, fast text scrolling and smooth shading (what's that?), and optional 50Hz frame grabber. The final figure?? Well over £2000 (two thousand pounds). Oh well, I didn't really want one anyway as I can't fit a 12"x8" board in my system!

Whilst on the graphics topic it may be worth mentioning that Gemini have implemented GSX on Pluto. (Why not on their own GM837 board???) GSX is supposed to do for graphics what CP/M did for disk drives. When I've found out what that means I'll let you know.

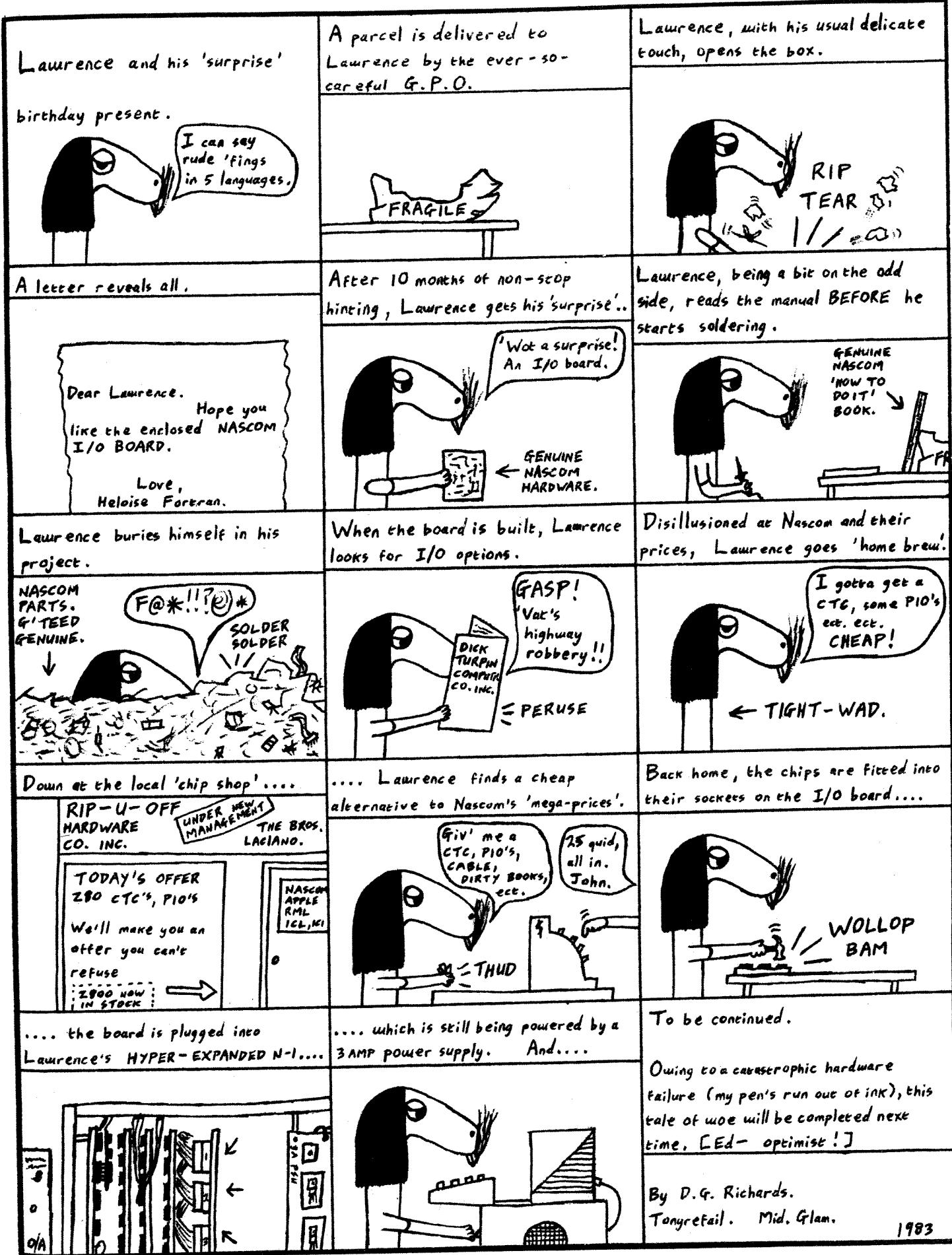
And what else has appeared? Yes, Gemini have been reading my bit as well as IO, as they have at last released the almost forgotten about GM848 Multi-Serial Board. This board has two Z80 SIOS, each providing 2 serial channels, and each direction of each channel of each device (phew) can be set to a different baud rate (must be some use). There is also a PIO thrown on the board for good measure, and the board occupies a switch-selectable block of 16 I/O ports. The SIOS of course cater with both synchronous and asynchronous protocols. Now where did I leave that mainframe? The price? £125 + VAT to you. Big 'G' are also shipping their new whizzo EPROM basher with some success, although I'm not quite sure where I'd put the 27256 that I could then program. (No, that is not a request for suggestions, thank you all the same.)

In my last bit (80-BUS Vol 3, Iss 1) I didn't have the price of the GM888, 8Mhz 8088, 8"x8", 8oz. board. that is now being delivered. £888? No, £190 actually, and CP/M-86? £175. (All plus VAT.) The CP/M-86 is currently for Gemini based systems only - will a Nascom version follow?

EV Computing have 're-vamped' their EV814 IEEE 488 board. I'm uncertain as to what 're-vamped' means, but it gives them reason to also 're-vamp' (i.e. raise) the price to, I think, £195 + VAT.

Lucas are apparently (and totally contrary to popular belief) still alive. It seems that from time to time the odd (very odd) Nascom 2 or 3 manages to escape from Warwick. But where oh where are there any new products? Or how about some advertising to show that they still exist??

And finally back to Gemini, the only great white hope where other manufacturers seem to have become stale in their lack of new products. Is the fact that they are a signed-up 'EasyLink' (some sort of computer telephone/telex/electronic mail system) customer an indicator that we may see an approved modem from them soon? Or is that a forelorn hope? And do the GM853 and GM863 boards described in their 'New Products' data sheet exist as much as/the same as/more than (delete as appropriate) the GM848 did a year ago?



## CMOS RAM BOARD RB32KC

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POWER FAILURE? Memory contents are preserved during power failure by a Ni-cad battery that is automatically recharged when the board is powered up. Contents are secure for up to 40 days.

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EPROM PROGRAMMER/ERASERS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED because by loading a RAM block and then using the hardware write protect link, the block becomes equivalent to EPROM.

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BP14C Backplane £57.00	Memory - Hitachi HM6116LP-3 £5.75

Plus £1.50 per board post and packing, plus VAT.



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### GEC LTU-11 PRETEL MODEM KIT

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GEC LTU-11 modem card 14.95 inc. VAT. (13.00 + VAT).  
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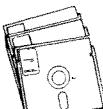
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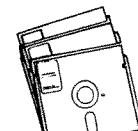
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The archive is supplied with nine useful formats when supplied, with others being made available to registered users free of charge for the first six months from registration. The archive can be edited and new formats created. Disks can be formatted from the archive so there is no need for preformatted disks when transferring software.

ALLDISC is supplied with full documentation and hints and pointers to discovering unknown disk formats. ALLDISC costs 172.50 inc. VAT. (150.00 + VAT). Carriage & packing 50p

### MDIS THE INTELLIGENT DISASSEMBLER

MDIS is a CP/M disassembler useable on most standard CP/M machines, switchable for either 8080 or Z80 mnemonics. Command syntax is designed to be similar to the Microsoft M80 assembler, and redirected input from .DAT files is allowed. The output files to printer or disk may include the disassembled code or in M80 format and output label types are differentiated by different letter prefixes. A powerful package at a price which is a lot less than its competitors. Supplied in most popular 5.25" disk formats (state type when ordering) at 57.50 inc. VAT. Carriage & packing 50p

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Yes, you guessed it. Some enterprising person has now 'disconboobered' the BDOS in CP/M and rewritten it as a Z80 program. Its fully compatible with the original with no bugs found to date. Because it's written in Z80 code it's smaller, this has allowed room for tidying up all the annoying stupidities in the original BDOS so that errors like:

BDOS ERROR ON x: R/O

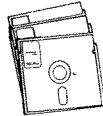
which usually causes you to lose everything you've just done, becomes the far more helpful:

Disk x: is set R/O

Do it anyway? (Y/N/^C)

Which, of course, means you don't lose anything. It even allows you to change disks when they are full without loss of data. In all, a lovely piece of software. Available in most popular 5.25" formats (please state when ordering) at 11.50 inc. VAT.

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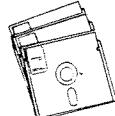
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The new DISKPEN is useable on all Gemini multiboard computers (Galaxy, Kenilworth, Quantum) and Nascom/Gemini hybrids, (MAPPEN is available for users of the MAP video card). DISKPEN is available as an upgrade to earlier DISKPENS and GEMPENS at 17.25 inc. VAT., or to new purchasers at 57.50 inc. VAT. (Please state disk format when ordering.)

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