André's Acorn BBC Test ROM

```
Andre Test ROM at OS location

first led flash=rom code executed

START of bittest &1000;Bit=01234567

START of bittest &7000;Bit=012
```

BBC model B Test Rom

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1. A multifunctional Testrom

This document explains how to use the diagnostic testrom for the Acorn BBC.

Background:

My first BBC came to me defective. Had no idea how to check it. Did the keyboard work?, did the sound work?, did the display work?.

A long time ago I wrote a testrom in late 1990 to diagnose cpu of Williams Pinballs, to check the vital IC's on board using the onboard leds, I thought let's do something similar for the BBC.

A dead BBC/CPU is often related to ram errors, however to display anything on screen, ram is also used. So the screen is not always the best diagnostic device.

A method used by pinball CPU's is to use the onboard led for diagnostics. On the BCC I used the shift and capslock leds for diagnostics. Each time the led flashes means an IC is working correctly.

This Test Rom would not possible if I could not have looked at the code provided by Tricky and his testrom, which was made available by him at star dot org. Also the Sideways ROM generic code and utilities by Rich Talbot-Watkins provided a lot of help.

BBC model B Test Rom

This manual explains how the test-eprom works how to identify errors during startup. I hope it can be helpful for repairing Acorn-BBC's

This test rom image is one image, but has thee appearances depending on which socket it is placed:

- 1) OS TEST ROM: If you put in socket IC52 (OS location) it will flash the keyboard leds. Each flash means it passed a IC check (RAM)
- 2) "BASIC" Testrom. If the testrom is placed in socket before BASIC rom (fi. IC socked IC101).) it will flash the keyboard leds each flash means it passed a IC check (RAM, user VIA, sys VIA).
- 3) Testrom in sideway socket. The basic rom needs in socket 101 and the testrom in ic socket 88. In this mode you can perform simple RAM en VIA tests to find fi. Stuck bits.
 - a. MODE 0: *RAMTEST
 Does as simple test of the whole memory.
 - b. *STUCKBITS

Will test 2 addresses if bits are stuck, checking the 16 RAM IC's (often a ram IC failing will cause one specific bits to fail.)

c. *USRVIA

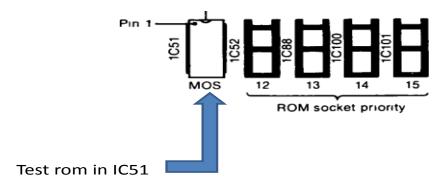
Does a simple test to check the user via works

d. *SYSVIA

Does a simple test to check if the system via works.

2. Located at IC51: The OS TEST ROM

To use the testrom rom to do a start up test. You have to place the rom in IC socket IC51. It does not rely on ram chip's





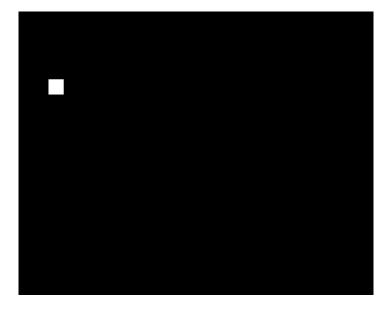
When powered up it will perform an number test. If a test is passed a keyboard ledflash is given (the cursor flashes also). First the tests are done using mode 7.

```
Andre Test ROM at OS location v0.05

first led flash=rom code executed
START of bittest &1000;Bit=01234567
START of bittest &7000;Bit=01234567

tests passed, Switch to special mode 0 f
or large cursor and blank lines, Reset
to run test again
```

After that a modification of mode 0 is used with blank lines, so the cursor should be better visible in case of ram errors.



Press Break to restart the test.

A flash of the keyboard led (or the cursor) indicates it has passed a test:

- 1. First keyboard led(or cursor) flash => OS-Rom code test passed, the eprom is working. The 6502 can execute the code of the test os rom.
- 2. Second flash: Test D0 at &1000 => IC 61 passed
- 3. Test D1 at &1000 => IC 62 passed
- 4. Test D2 at &1000 => IC 63 passed

For the other led flashes refer to cross reference in chapter 5

BBC model B Test Rom

If a test fails the computer will stop flashing at that point. For instance is there is a failure of D1 at &1000 you will see only 2 flashes

3. Located in IC101: The language testrom

If the eprom is placed in IC101 location, and the original Acorn os1.2 rom in ic51. After a successful startup 19 ledflashes will be shown.

First led flash:

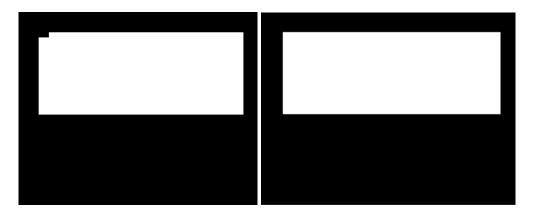
This indicates the Acorn OS-rom has started and functions, and also test-eprom in 101 is working.

For other led-flashes look at the crossreference table in chapter 5.

First mode 7 is used to display the tests.



After the tests are completed, the mode is switched to mode 0. Sowing a black and white screen and a large cursor should blink at approx. 1 second rate. No additional tests are done.



4. Located in IC88: The testrom as a sideway rom

Testrom in sideway socket. The basic rom needs installed fi. In socket 101 and the testrom in ic socket 88. In this mode you can perform simple RAM en VIA tests to find fi. Stuck bits.

```
BBC Computer 32K
Acorn DFS
BASIC
>*H.
DFS 0.90
DFS
UTILS
TEST ROM 1.00
RAMIEST
STUCKBITS
TESTSU
USRVIA
SYSVIA
0S 1.20
>
```

Commands:

- a. MODE 0: *RAMTEST
 Does as simple test of the whole memory.
- *STUCKBITS
 Will test 2 addresses if bits are stuck, checking the 16 RAM IC's (often a ram IC failing will cause one specific bits to fail.



c. *USRVIADoes a simple test to check the user via works

```
>*USRVIA
USER VIA TEST
User VIA Register 6 functions correct
USER VIA T1 TEST
functions Correct
T1=F0EB (Initiated with %F0F0;should be
<=%F0EB)
User VIA T1 correct
USER VIA T2 TEST
functions Correct
T2=F0EB (Initiated with %F0F0;should be
<=%F0EB)
User VIA T2 correct
User VIA Register 7 functions correct
)
```

d. *SYSVIA

Does a simple test to check if the system via works. After that the system will be resetted.

5. Cross reference led-flash to defective IC

Model B is assumed and S25 in (standard) north position. So if you see only 2 led flashes and then a long period of nothing. Then the test of ic62 failed. Thus ic 62 may be defective.

Led flash	Meaning	Comment
First Flash visible	Eprom image ok	
2nd flash	IC61 ok	D0 @ 1000
3th flash	IC62 ok	D1 @ 1000
4th flash	IC63 ok	D2 @ 1000
5th flash	IC64 ok	D3 @ 1000
6th flash	IC65 ok	D4 @ 1000
7th flash	IC66 ok	D5 @ 1000
8th flash	IC67 ok	D6 @ 1000
9th flash	IC68 ok	D7 @ &1000
10th flash	IC53 ok	D0 @ &7000
11th flash	IC54 ok	D1 @ &7000
12th flash	IC55 ok	D2 @ &7000
13th flash	IC56 ok	D3 @ &7000
14th flash	IC57 ok	D4 @ &7000
15th flash	IC58 ok	D5 @ &7000
16th flash	IC59 ok	D6 @ &7000
17th flash	IC60 ok	D7 @ &7000
18th flash	System VIA ok	Not in OS-rom test
19th flash	User VIA ok	Not in OS rom test