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NUMBER 2

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Tandy 1000 EX & SX

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MACHINE SPECIFICS

subscribers on a monthly basis. The programs are mostly games and utilities, but some home-finance packages are included. Each monthly "issue" contains at least 10 programs, which are available either on disk or cassette.

The quality of the issue I looked at ran from excellent to so-so. But, at about 60 cents per program, the service is a potential bargain. It costs \$70 for 12 issues; back issues with more than 500 programs are also available.

Quote of the Month: "Anything that is significantly advanced cannot be distinguished from magic. The CoCo 3 is magic."—Mark Siegel, software products manager at Tandy and one of the key developers of the CoCo 3.

STEVE MILLER, former computer columnist for UPI, is a freelance writer and computer consultant.

ORPHANS

BY PATRICK SPERA

Like others, I spend a great deal of time scanning computer magazines for articles about my favorite machines. For the most part, this is a wasted labor. Only a couple of magazines, like FAMILY COMPUTING and Computer Shopper, still support orphans.

So where would a person go to find a magazine or newsletter for his or her computer? Am I going to tell you? You bet your RETURN key I will.

Adam Advice. NIAD Newsletter (P.O. Box 1317, Lisle, IL 60532; [312] 961-3529) provides a monthly newsletter for its members. The \$18 (\$24 for first class and for Canadian mail) annual fee will get NIAD members the newsletter, discount prices on hardware and software, and access to the NIAD Public Domain software exchange.

Digital Express, Inc. (Route 1, Box 29-G, Oak Hill, WV 25901) produces a monthly newsletter called *Nibbles & Bits*. A six-month subscription is \$12 (\$18 for 12 months). Subscribers get discounts on products carried by Digital Express. Back issues cost \$3.50.

TI 99'er News. *Micropendium* (P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680; [512] 255-1512) is a broad spectrum magazine for the TI 99/4A. The 12-issue price is \$17 (\$20.50 for

first-class mail and in Canada and Mexico). *The Smart Programmer* (Bytemaster Computer Services, 171 Mustang St., Sulphur, LA 70663; [318] 527-0035) is a newsletter with a programming slant. The cost is \$18 (first class mail in the U.S. and Canada) for 12 issues. A complete set of Super 99 back issues can be had for \$18.

Genial TRAVeLER Diskazine (Genial Computerware, 835 Green Valley Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19128; [215] 483-1379) is a "flippy" disk (a floppy that is actually two single-sided, single-density disks) with articles and programs. Gee, no more listings to type in! It is \$36 for a six-issue subscription. Unless you want your subscription to begin with the current issue, you will start with Volume 1, Issue 1. This will entitle you to the two bonus disks given to "charter subscribers."

Timex Tabloids. *SyncWare News* (Thomas D. Woods, P.O. Box 64, Jefferson, NH 03583; [603] 586-7734) provides six newsletters for Timex Sinclair users. *Quantum Levels* (\$18.95/6 issues) is for QL users. *SyncWare News* (\$16.95 for 6 issues) is for TS 1000, 1500, and 2068 users.

Time Designs Magazine (29722 Hult Rd., Colton, OR 97017; [503] 824-2658) is a bimonthly magazine for TS computers. The price is \$15 for one year. *Time Designs* recently merged with *SUM Magazine*.

OSI, CP/M, Eagle. *PEEK[65]* (P.O. Box 586, Pacifica, CA 94044; [415] 359-5708) is a monthly magazine for the OSI series of computers. The rate is \$22 for 12 issues.

The Convocation (Leslie Lieurance, Editor, 101 Parnassus, #1, San Francisco, CA 94117; [415] 661-4362) is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Screaming Eagles User Group (David Yaros, president, 615 Executive Building, 35 E. Seventh St., Cincinnati, OH 45202). It is free to members and \$6.50 for nonmembers. It covers Eagle computers from the EII to the Eagle 1600 PC.

CodeWorks (3838 South Warner St., Tacoma, WA 98409; [206] 475-2219) is a bimonthly magazine for users of Microsoft BASIC. It provides generic listings of programs that the reader can edit to run on a particular machine. The cost is \$24.95 for six issues. **rc**

PATRICK SPERA can be reached on CompuServe (ID: 76703.4350).

the PROGRAMMER

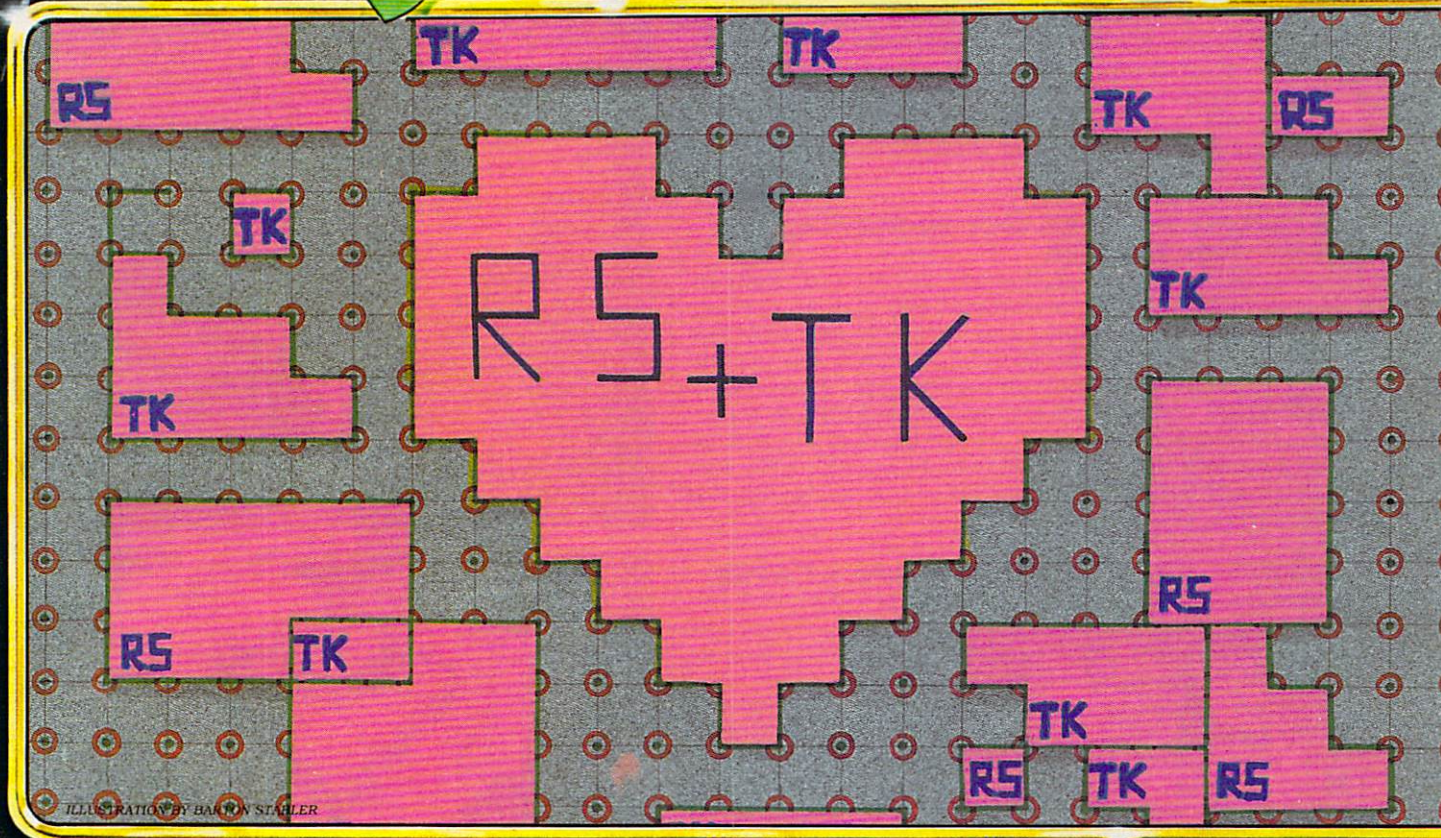


ILLUSTRATION BY BARON STÄBLER

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Dots are it in our connect-the-dots game for two players.

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How to type in FAMILY COMPUTING's programs, and what to do if a program doesn't work.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES CHERRY III

Cherry

CATCH IT!

BY JOEY LATIMER

Do you think you could catch "IT" if "IT" came up and bit you on the nose? In *Catch IT!*, the word "IT" travels across the screen in the direction of your "catcher". Your job is simply to catch IT by pushing the keys that move your catcher up and down on the screen. While catching IT may sound easy, a choice of three difficulty levels makes IT slippery for even the most skilled player. The number of points you receive increases each time you catch IT, and, to make high scoring possible, you have three rounds in which to accumulate points.



CHOOSE YOUR OWN KEYS

As the *Catch IT!* program is printed in the magazine, pressing "K" causes the catcher to move up, and pressing "M" moves the catcher down. It is easy to modify the program so that other keys can be used instead (say if you want to play left handed). To do this you must change line 40 now read-

ing DNS="M":UPS="K", so that the letter in quotes after DNS= is the letter of the key you want to use to move the catcher down, and the letter in the quotes following UPS= is the key you press to move the catcher up. For example, if you change this program line to DNS="S":UPS="X", then pressing "S" will move the catcher down and pressing "X" will move the catcher up.

Adam/Catch IT!

```

10 LOMEM: 29000:NORMAL
20 sp$ = CHR$(32):cl$ = sp$+sp$:fr$ = sp$
30 FOR a = 2 TO 29:fr$ = fr$+sp$:NEXT a
40 dn$ = "M":up$ = "K"
50 FOR a = 28000 TO 28005:READ t:POKE a,t:NEXT a
60 HOME:PRINT
70 PRINT TAB(5);"Welcome to CATCH IT!"
80 PRINT:PRINT "Use the <<";up$;">> and <<";dn$;">> keys"
90 PRINT "to move your ";CHR$(34);"catcher";CHR$(34)
100 PRINT "up and down. The goal is to"
110 PRINT "catch the word ";:INVERSE:PRINT "IT"
120 NORMAL:PRINT "before it hits the right"
130 PRINT "border of the screen.":PRINT
140 PRINT "Please select the level"
150 PRINT "of difficulty you prefer."
160 PRINT:PRINT "Would you like":PRINT
170 PRINT "(1) easy,":PRINT "(2) moderate, or"
180 PRINT "(3) hard?":PRINT:PRINT ">";
190 GET k$:IF k$ < "1" OR k$ > "3" THEN 190
200 PRINT k$:dd = VAL(k$)*.5:POKE 16953,0
210 rd = 1:sc = 0
220 HOME:VTAB 10:HTAB 10:PRINT "Get Ready!"
230 FOR de = 1 TO 1000:NEXT de:HOME:INVERSE
240 VTAB 2:HTAB 2:PRINT fr$:HTAB 2:PRINT fr$
250 VTAB 22:HTAB 2:PRINT fr$:HTAB 2:PRINT fr$
260 FOR a = 3 TO 21:VTAB a:HTAB 2:PRINT cl$;
270 HTAB 29:PRINT cl$:NEXT a:NORMAL
    
```

```

280 VTAB 1:HTAB 11:PRINT "Round: ";rd
290 VTAB 24:HTAB 10:PRINT "Score: ";sc;
300 x = 10:no = 4:ga = 4:CALL 28000
310 y = 4:z = INT(RND(1)*16)+4:ga = ga+(ga < 100)
320 GOSUB 10000
330 hx = z:hy = y:n = RND(1):IF y = 25 THEN 460
340 z = z+dd*((n < .5)-(n > .5))
350 FOR de = 1 TO 20:NEXT de
360 y = y+1:z = z+dd*((z < 4)-(z > 21))
370 VTAB hx:HTAB hy:PRINT cl$;
380 VTAB z:HTAB y:PRINT "IT";
390 k = PEEK(64885):IF k < 1 THEN 330
400 k$ = CHR$(k-32*(k > 96))*(k < 123))
410 CALL 28000:IF k$ <> up$ AND k$ <> dn$ THEN 330
420 IF k$ = dn$ AND x <> 19 THEN 450
430 IF k$ <> up$ OR x = 4 THEN 330
440 GOSUB 20000:x = x-1:GOSUB 10000:GOTO 330
450 GOSUB 20000:x = x+1:GOSUB 10000:GOTO 330
460 VTAB hx:HTAB hy:PRINT cl$;
470 IF z-x > 2.5 OR z-x < 0 THEN y = y+2:GOTO 540
480 VTAB z:HTAB 26:PRINT "*";
490 FOR t = 5 TO ga:PRINT CHR$(7);
500 sc = sc+10*dd:VTAB 24:HTAB 17
510 PRINT sc;:NEXT t
520 VTAB z:HTAB 26:PRINT sp$;
530 FOR de = 1 TO 200:NEXT de:GOTO 310
540 hy = y:y = y+.5:VTAB z:HTAB y:PRINT "IT";
550 VTAB z:HTAB hy:PRINT cl$;IF y < 27 THEN 540
560 rd = rd+1:IF rd < 4 THEN 220
570 HOME:PRINT:PRINT "Sorry, you missed ";:INVERSE
580 PRINT "IT":NORMAL:PRINT "three times!"
590 PRINT:PRINT "Your score was ";sc;" points."
600 PRINT:PRINT "Would you like to"
610 PRINT:PRINT "(1) play again,"
620 PRINT "(2) select a new level, or"
630 PRINT "(3) quit and return to BASIC?"
640 PRINT:PRINT ">";
650 GET k$:IF k$ < "1" OR k$ > "3" THEN 650
660 IF k$ = "1" THEN 210
670 IF k$ = "2" THEN HOME:PRINT:GOTO 140
680 HOME:POKE 16953,95:END
1000 FOR a = x TO x+2:VTAB a:HTAB 27:PRINT CHR$(252);
1010 NEXT a:RETURN
2000 FOR a = x TO x+2:VTAB a:HTAB 27:PRINT sp$;
2010 NEXT a:RETURN
3000 DATA 62,0,50,117,253,201
    
```

Note: The program begins by turning off the cursor; it turns it back on again when the program ends. If you exit from the program abnormally (e.g., if you have a syntax error or press CONTROL-C), you can turn the cursor back on by typing POKE 16953,95 and pressing RETURN.

Apple II series/Catch IT!

```

10 HOME:PRINT
20 AS$ = "*":CS$ = CHR$(32):IS$ = "IT":N1$ = CS$+CS$
30 FR$ = CS$:FOR X = 2 TO 38:FR$ = FR$+CS$:NEXT X
40 DNS$ = "M":UPS$ = "K"
50 PRINT TAB(10);"WELCOME TO CATCH IT!"
60 PRINT:PRINT "USE THE <<";UPS$;">> AND <<";DNS$;">> KEYS"
70 PRINT "TO MOVE YOUR ";CHR$(34);"CATCHER";CHR$(34)
80 PRINT "UP AND DOWN. THE GOAL IS TO CATCH"
90 PRINT "THE WORD ";:INVERSE
100 PRINT "IT";:NORMAL:PRINT "BEFORE IT HITS"
110 PRINT "THE RIGHT BORDER OF THE SCREEN.":PRINT
120 PRINT "PLEASE SELECT THE LEVEL"
130 PRINT "OF DIFFICULTY YOU PREFER."
140 PRINT:PRINT "WOULD YOU LIKE":PRINT
150 PRINT "(1) EASY,":PRINT "(2) MODERATE, OR"
160 PRINT "(3) HARD?":PRINT:PRINT ">";
170 GET K$:IF K$ < "1" OR K$ > "3" THEN 170
180 PRINT K$:DD = VAL(K$)*.5
190 RD = 1:SC = 0
    
```

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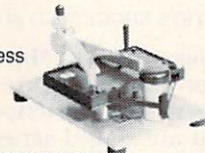
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