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# FAMILY & HOME OFFICE COMPUTING

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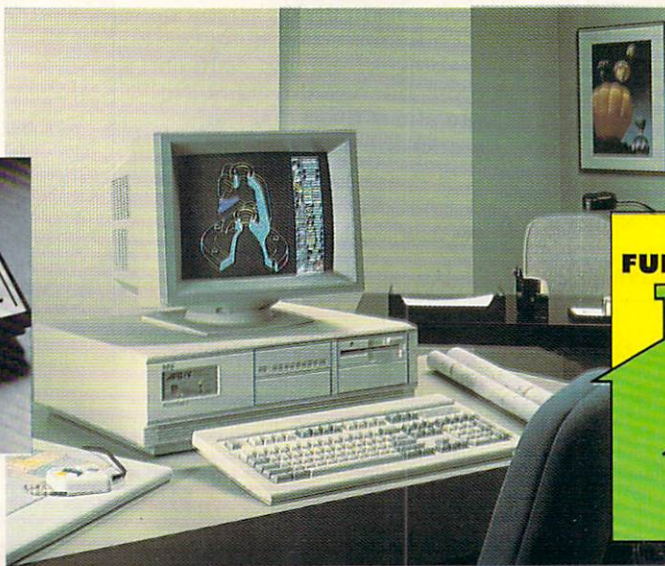
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**SELF-DESCRIBED FULL-TIME HOMEWORKERS**



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# MACHINE SPECIFICS

files that fit your wild-card specification and prevent you from deleting files you want to keep.

• If you want to redisplay the last DOS command you entered (to correct a misspelling or execute the command again, for example), just press the F3 key.

**Notes to Yourself.** Database management software is great for handling well-organized information, but what about stuff that's just . . . well, stuff. Notes to yourself. To-do lists. Titles of articles you want to read when you get a chance, or movies you want to rent, or people whose birthdays are coming up soon. Broderbund has a program called *Memory Mate* (\$70) that's ideal for keeping and retrieving information that hasn't been filed by category.

The memory-resident program indexes every word of every note you enter. That means you can search for anything that sticks in your mind—a name, a phone number, the date you wrote a note, whatever (as long as the item you're searching for is no longer than 73 characters)—and the program quickly finds all matching information. You can easily cut and paste information between *Memory Mate* and your application software.

STEVE MORGENSTERN can be reached on CompuServe (ID: 72545.606).

## TANDY

BY STEPHEN MILLER

### TANDY 1000

Because I constantly edit my writing while on the run, I tend to switch machines a lot—TX to portables (102 and 1400LT), portables to HX, and so forth. With all this, I need to keep track of the latest revision of a file. One way to accomplish this in MS-DOS machines is to make use of the resident MS-DOS program's date and time functions that stamp the date and time on files when they're saved. All this is wonderful—except that on the Tandy machines, the date and time you type in are stored in RAM and automatically updated as long as the power is on; when you turn off the computer, however, MS-DOS forgets the date and time. You have to reset them each time you boot MS-DOS.

The solution to the problem is a clock/calendar on an inexpensive

chip called SmartWatch (Cat. #25-1033; \$40). SmartWatch is user-installable. (I did it and only had to straighten one pin!) Now I don't have to manually type in the time and date every time I power up; SmartWatch tells me the date and time automatically and indicates the time I saved a given file.

### COLOR COMPUTER 3

The increased graphics and color capabilities of the Color Computer 3 have started to generate a number of drawing or graphics programs to rival the famed CoCo Max cartridge. Now even Greg Zumwalt and Steve Bjork, the prolific CoCo programmers who are responsible for some of the more popular CoCo software, have entered the graphic arena.

**Color Computer Artist.** Bjork's *Color Computer Artist* (Cat. #26-3277; \$30) is likely to generate the most interest because it's a fun, easy-to-use program with all the normal computer drawing tools. It works best with a color mouse or a higher-res joystick, but you can use the keyboard and produce effective pictures. I'm not an artist, so my efforts were, shall we say, less than spectacular? Nevertheless, the colors on an RGBI monitor were alluring.

**Phantomgraph.** Zumwalt's *Phantomgraph* (Cat. #26-3276; \$40) is a presentation graphics program. Its function is to produce graphs and charts for business presentations. Requiring a full 128K, *Phantomgraph* really makes use of the CoCo 3's graphics muscle. If you are already using your CoCo to run any of the popular CoCo spreadsheet programs, such as *DynaCalc* or *VIP Calc*, then *Phantomgraph* can use that statistical data you've already created to illustrate your financial projections. Unlike *Computer Artist*, *Phantomgraph* can be effectively used by nonartists. I was able to turn out some spectacular pie charts and colorful bar graphs.

STEPHEN MILLER is a computer consultant and journalist.

## ORPHANS

BY PATRICK SPERA

Genial Computers has released *PC Transfer* (\$25), which allows a TI-99/4A or Geneve system to read, write, and format an MS-DOS disk. You

could work on your IBM clone at the office, bring home your working disk, and finish the job on your TI. I like that idea.

**Alpha-One Adam.** No, it's not a police show. Alpha-One-Computers is a die-hard Adam dealer with a diverse supply of Adam software and peripherals. For \$10 you can purchase *The Best of Broderbund*, a package that includes *A.E.* and the classic game *Choplifter*. For the home office, you might like *MicroWORKS* (\$25), a combined spreadsheet, database, and word processor.

**Sinclair QL.** Never really popular in this country, the Sinclair QL does have a tight core of loyal users. Alpha-One also carries a selection of supplies for the QL enthusiast. As with most Sinclair computers, the keyboard is the weak point. Enter the Schon replacement keyboard (\$89). You can replace the flat-key European-style keyboard with a regular one. Installation is quick, but there have been reports of key-bounce problems.

Adios!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Patrick Spera, an aircraft technician and computer tinkerer who has supplied this column with wit and information since it began, has been transferred by his employer to Saudi Arabia. We hate to see him go, wish him luck, and hope the desert doesn't do in his trusty Timex.

Patrick of Arabia's disappearance also marks the end of the Orphans column. With new machines coming on the market daily, and many orphan owners upgrading, it makes sense to allot more space to companies still active in the marketplace.

However, we encourage all Timex and Adam fans to turn on their modems and tune in to the Computer Club Forum on CompuServe (GO CLUB)—TI users should go to the TI FORUM—where they'll find an active user community and all the information they'll ever need to keep their computers humming.

### PHONE NUMBERS

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