

**TANDY****The CoCo Column**

by Dan Robins

In this issue of *Computer Shopper*, we take a look at Sardis Technologies' DMC controller. A unique piece of hardware which makes life a bit easier for the OS9er. Thinking of adding a disk drive to your CoCo system? We'll tell you how. And we'll also answer letters from readers.

**Run-DMC**

And it does it quite well. No, not the rap group, but the Dual Mode Controller (DMC) from Sardis Technologies, 2261 East 11th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V5N-1Z7. A preliminary version was released at the 1987 Chicago Rainbowfest, but it wasn't until June 1988 when David Wiens released the final version of the DMC controller. (At press time, the manual was being professionally typeset, and owners of the preliminary version should receive their final version by the time you read this review.)

What does the DMC controller do? In as few words as possible, and without getting too technical, your CoCo issues a HALT command to the computer when it is accessing the disk. When this occurs, it prevents any other function from occurring while this HALT interrupt takes place. If you type something on the keyboard during this HALT, it's lost! The DMC controller provides a buffering action that lets the disk handling take place while it stores all other actions in a buffer. When the disk actions are complete the system retrieves the other actions from the buffer.

Although it does take the place of the Radio Shack Disk Controller, RS-DOS users may be disappointed with the results of the DMC controller. The most noticeable difference will be apparent to OS9 users. With the DMC in place, tasks will not lose keyboard input characters, as has been the case, while disk access is taking place.

I found using the DMC controller a true pleasure. The controller showed its true colors while programming an assembly language program. Using a word processor in one window, an assembler in another, and a test screen in a third window, at no time did the system lose any character I was typing. Although I should admit, while disk access was taking place, it took a few moments for the word processor to catch up with my typing. It was much better than waiting for the disk drive to quit.

The DMC controller is a well built piece of hardware, constructed in the same manner as Radio Shack controllers. The buffer storage area is expandable to 32 kilobytes, and several different types of Disk ROM chips can be used in the controller.

The controller does need special soft-

ware (drivers and such) to take advantage of the special electronics. Sardis Technologies provides these modules with the hardware. Additional commands included are Allowsleep, Bootfix, Bootmod, Disktype, Dmode, Sformat. A few modules of extreme interest are Descgen2/3 (generate device descriptors for use with the controller), Kernlpatch (patches OS9's kernel for use with DMC), Modfix (corrects a module's CRC), and TestBuf (tests the DMC's buffer memory). The documentation also covers new system calls allowed with the new device descriptors.

If you are a serious OS9 user, then the DMC controller should be the next piece of hardware you should think about purchasing. The technology of the system, professional packaging, and benefits of use make it worth the \$149.50 price tag!

**Adding Another Drive**

Unless you know someone who has performed this task, adding another disk drive to your system can really be a chore. This tutorial should be helpful if you intend to add a single or double sided disk drive to your system, which consists of a Drive 0 system or compatible.

There is no way I can say that certain drives will always work with a Color Computer set up. If you prefer, you can purchase drives specifically from Radio Shack, specifying to the salesperson that it's for the CoCo. More than likely, you'll want to check out the vendors in *Computer Shopper* who do offer better prices. One rule of thumb that seems correct 99% of the time is, if it works on an IBM, it'll work with a CoCo. You may select from 35, 40, or 80 track disk drives. Your Disk Basic ROM, however, will only recognize 35 tracks. Third party vendors do offer special ROMs that will recognize 40 tracks. If you decide to use an 80 track drive, RS-DOS will only recognize the first 35 (or 40) tracks. You will be able to take advantage of all 80 tracks with the OS9 Operating System.

If you purchased your Drive 0 system from Radio Shack, chances are you'll need to buy a new cable and connectors. The connectors of the factory produced systems are missing "teeth," and you'll be cussing up a storm if you use these while adding this additional drive.

Parts you'll need for a new disk drive ribbon cable are available from your Radio Shack store. You'll need three 34-position card-edge connectors (276-1564—\$3.95). One connector for the controller and one for each of the drives. Radio Shack does not sell 34 connection ribbon cable, but there is a way around that! Purchase a 6-foot roll of RS 232 Ribbon Cable (278-774—\$4.69), and very carefully strip off two

strands of the cable wire. Believe it or not, it works!

Now that you have this hardware, carefully attach one of the card-edge connectors to each end of the cable. You may wish to lay out your entire drive system and measure the distance between the two drives. Keep this in mind when you are attaching the third card edge connector. One of the worst things you can do is attach the connector, hook the entire system together, and find that you didn't have enough cable between the two drive connectors. While laying this cable out, notice the little triangle or dot on one side of the connector. You want to make sure this indicator is facing the same way in all cases.

Now that the drives have been purchased and the cables are ready, we have to prepare the "insides" of the disk drives so they function correctly. A "terminating resistor" must be located in the last drive in the chain. Nice words, but what does it mean? A terminating resistor is an electronic component that looks like a chip but is usually blue or

gray in color. Take a look at your cable. One end is attached to the controller card. Whichever disk drive is attached to the connector at the other end of the ribbon cable is the last drive in the chain. It is this disk drive which must have the terminating resistor. If the resistor is in any other drive, remove it. You usually can locate the resistor socket, as it is one of two sockets in the circuit board and usually has no writing around the socket.

The other socket, which should have writing around it's edges, is the jumper block. You should notice abbreviations like HM, MX, D0, D1, etc. This jumper block is where you'll set the drive number to be used with the system. If the jumper block has an "HM" setting you'll want this to be jumped. The only other jumper you'll need to attach is the drive number you want it to represent. One drive needs to have the "D0" jumper set, and the other with the "D1" jumper set.

The help offered here on configur-

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**TEXAS INSTRUMENTS****TI Forum**by Ron Albright  
and Jonathan Zittrain

This month we begin with the final installment of "Extending Extended BASIC," a series composed by TI genius Barry A. Traver.

**Extended Extended BASICS: Part 3**

Last month we looked at two ways to extend TI Extended BASIC (Michael Riccio's STAR and Curtis Provance's EDP); this month we'll be looking at seven other options (although spending less time on each).

For TI-99/4A owners who do not have 32K memory expansion, the good news is that there are two replacement cartridges for TI XB in which many of the new commands can be accessed even if you have only console and cassette, because the new commands are contained right in the module. I'm talking about the Mechatronic Extended BASIC II PLUS and the Triton Super Extended BASIC. Both are able to do everything that TI XB does and then some. (Memory expansion is needed, however, if you want to make use of the high-resolution graphics routines in these modules—the Apesoft routines in the former case, Quality 99 Software's Draw 'N Plot in the latter.)

In addition to the 40 graphics-related commands, the Mechatronic XBII+ offers 19 new commands: BHCOPY (screen dump); VPEEK, VPOKE, and GPEEK; ALLSET (CHARSET with lower-case); WAIT (to set delays); MOVE (to copy blocks of memory within or between CPU and VDP); MSAVE and MLOAD (to save contents of CPU to cassette or disk in program

format or load it back in); BYE and NEW (as statements); RESTORE (with variable line number); QUITOF and QUITON (disable or re-enable quit key); SPROF and SPRON (same for sprite motion); SCREENOF and SCREENON (same for screen); and FIND (string within an array).

The Mechatronic XBII+ is a German product and is sometimes difficult to find in the United States, but one place it is available is the Queen Anne Computer Shoppe, 6102 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98115. The cost—including manual and demo disk—is about \$75, but you should phone before ordering to check on exact current price (206/522-6558 voice; 206/361-0895 BBS, accessible via PC Pursuit).

In addition to the 14 graphics commands, the Triton Super Extended BASIC has 29 new CALLs. Of these, some are similar to (or logical extensions of) Mechatronic routines: PEEKV, POKEV, PEEKG, and POKEG; BYE and NEW; RESTORE, GOTO, and GOSUB; QUITOFF and QUITON; STSPRT and GOSPR (sprite motion); SCROF and SCRON (screen). Other new CALLs are CAT (catalogs disk to screen); ALOCK, CTRL, FCTN, and SHIFT (to detect key position, up or down); BEEP, CHIMES, and HONK; CLOCK and CLKOFF; ALL (fills screen with character), COLORS (sets foreground and background for all character sets), KEYS (with validated key list); and RUNPROC (with variable for device and filename).

In addition to the new program statements, the Triton SEB has some new commands for immediate mode—

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# TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

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COPY, DEL(ete), and MOVE—and extends the RES(equence) command, so that the XB programmer can work with the manipulation of groups of program lines easily. Cursor movement is also extended (e.g., to allow use of up and down arrows). In addition, the TRACE statement has been modified to permit sending of output to printer rather than to screen. In short, this cartridge is especially helpful for XB programmers, even if they're writing standard TI XB programs.

The Triton SEB is available directly from Triton, P.O. Box 8123, San Francisco, CA 94128 (phone: 800/227-6900) for about \$60 (it is also available, I understand, for \$52.50 from the L.A. 99ers Computer Group, P.O. Box 67A79, Los Angeles, CA 90067, a source for other hardware/software products as well, in addition to publishing TopIcs, a fine user group newsletter). Of the two cartridges, my opinion is that the graphics in the Mechatronics XBII+ is definitely superior, although the Triton SEB has a slight edge in other areas, especially

for programmers. I own both and recommend both with enthusiasm.

Although the preceding work with console and cassette, memory expansion and disk system are recommended or required for SXB, DEP, String Master, and XXB (all of which use the standard TI XB module).

Jim Hollender's SXB is the granddaddy of extended Extended BASICs, but has not yet been superseded for certain applications. It contains more than 100 assembly language routines for database manipulation, string and string array processing, integer handling (packing for efficient use of memory), and video display (including windows, although 40-column mode is not supported). It is available at \$49.95 from Tenex, P.O. Box 6578, South Bend, IN 46680 (phone: 800/348-2778). Related materials (including a SXBrief newsletter and additional assembly routines) can be purchased directly from J K & H Software, 2820 S. Abington St., Arlington, VA 22206 (phone: 703/820-4131). Incidentally, the term SXB is trademarked by J K & H, and this product should not be confused with

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# TANDY

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ing an additional disk drive should be applicable in a majority of cases. However, I do recognize there may be differences between your specific drive and the one described in this tutorial. If you'll write and specifically describe the circuit board of your disk drive, we'll try to get you up and running.

### Letters From Readers

**Q.** From Bonnie Baird of Ranglely, Colorado.

I'm a novice computer user and need advice and information concerning our Color Computer 3. Specifically, I need to know what (if any) specifications there are for a monitor, disk drive kit, cassette, and printer. I also need advice on choosing programs other than Tandy programs and an explanation of why my disk drive will (or won't) run a program purchased elsewhere. Also, our CoCo 3 is currently hooked up to a television and doesn't seem to accept a program in hi-res mode. Can you tell me why?

**A.** The Color Computer 3 has three different video outputs to choose from. The

first, and apparently what you are using, is an RF output to a television. A drawback of this choice is the lack of clarity with high resolution (80 column) text screens. I believe this is what your problem is. Other choices are composite and RGB outputs. The composite output (available through the RCA-type female jacks in the back) are better than the RF-output and used with both monochrome and color monitors. The best resolution is available through the RGB output with the use of a Radio Shack CM-8 or any other compatible RGB Analog monitor.

I always suggest Radio Shack products for complete compatibility with the Color Computer 3, however, there are several third party vendors offering fine products which, in a majority of cases, will work as well. I would suggest if you plan to purchase any hardware to always ask questions and find out how compatible it really is.

The vast majority of programs produced for the Color Computer 1 and 2 will work with the CoCo 3. Problems arise when the developer of a program made an undocumented call to a machine language routine in the computer's Read-Only-Memory. Particular problems arise with the CoCo 3 when the program makes calls to the area which contains the new Super Extended Basic ROM. Quite a few programs have patches available on bulletin boards or national electronic services, however, some programs will not work on the CoCo 3. As with hardware, ask the company you plan to purchase from if the software is compatible with the Color Computer 3.

**Q.** From Charles M. Kay of Cheraw, S.C.

I am in dire need of a Data Sheet Instruction Set for the 68B09E CPU. I wrote to Tandy's Customer Mail Center, but got no response. Also, do you know if the bare PC Board for the RAM upgrade of a Color Computer 3 is available, and if so where? In closing, I wish to express my satisfaction with your magazine. I made a telephone purchase from one of your advertisers and received the goods in less than one week!

**A.** Glad to hear that you enjoy the CoCo Column, and that one of our advertisers treated you well. Most of them strive to do exactly that. You should be able to get the Data Sheet on the 68B09E directly from Motorola, the manufacturer. I'm not sure on the price, but their address is: Motorola, 3501 Ed Bluestein Blvd., Austin, Texas 78721. It is 36 pages in length, and the publication number is DS9846R2.

Folks like CRC Computers in Montreal, Quebec and Owl-Ware in Mertztown, PA offer a bare board for the 512K upgrade. Prices seem to average around the \$25-\$30 range.

As always, I invite you to send in your comments, suggestions, and questions. Send your correspondence to The CoCo Column, *Computer Shopper*, 5211 S. Washington Ave., Titusville, Florida 32780.

# ATARI

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good picture. For those readers interested in Mr. Poehland's article, finding a reprint will be a challenge, but I will try to contact the author in the hopes that he may comment in a future column.

### The RAMcharger

The recent questions and answers on the RAMcharger have generated much more interest than I had anticipated, and readers have been good enough to supply additional information, clarify points, and provide comments and opinions based on their personal experiences. Here's one last letter on the topic, written by a respondent to the original reader request:

Dear Jeff:

I'm writing again because of the many differing opinions on the RAMcharger, CP/M and Happy 1050 issues. Phil Beck's letter was the most accurate, and he doesn't even own a RAMcharger. To answer some of the questions recently raised:

Yes, CP/M 2.X is the standard.

Yes, disk formats are a barrier, and no it is not a problem when downloading files from a BBS or other computer.

Yes, ADM-3A is the de facto standard. The RAMcharger CP/M emulates the ADM-3A in eight column mode, and the ADM-31 in forty column mode. Professional CP/M programs offer install or configuration options to match your terminal or do a custom installation.

Kenneth Rogers said the Happy 7.1

for enhanced 1050 drives only displays text files. This is a misconception because Happy 7.1 software does not display IBM files. It copies them back and forth between Atari and MSDOS disks. It doesn't care what kind of file it is, but it does provide the option to translate the non-compatible carriage returns in data files. What Happy is trying to say is that your Atari won't run an IBM program just because you copy it to an Atari disk. I have seen an MSDOS compatibility option advertised for the ATR-8000, but have never heard of anyone using it, or how well it works.

John Kolak  
Ft. Polk, Louisiana

O.K. We'll call your letter the second to last on the topic, and we'll hear from an ATR-8000 MSDOS user in a future issue.

### Newsletter Contest

Due to the erratic summer schedules of many user group newsletters, a new winner will be selected in the October issue. This should give a chance for the later newsletters to catch up with the early ones, and thereby allow me to judge the same month of each newsletter. And instead of a single winner, I will likely name a group of winners so that recognition can be given to a wider number of quality newsletters. This is in response to suggestions from newsletter editors.

"Why select a winner at all?" some have asked. In addition to hopefully providing additional incentive to Atari users groups to make their newsletters the envy of their communities (putting

Commodore and Apple newsletters to shame), those Atari users living in small towns where 8-bit support is limited often turn to the best newsletters of more distant user's groups for their information. The following letter from the managing editor of the *Michigan Atari Magazine* provides a good example:

Dear Jeff:

We thank you for naming the *Michigan Atari Magazine* as newsletter of the month. We feel honored by your kind praise. By printing our address you have allowed us to help Atari owners who otherwise were frustrated and felt very isolated. One case in point is a woman in South Dakota who we are corresponding with and helping to get more from her XE. She felt very upset because she couldn't get support and didn't know where to turn. Because you listed our newsletter, she contacted us and was able to get a good DOS plus access to public domain software she didn't know was available. Thank you for your help and support.

Pattie Snyder-Rayl  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Your group should also be praised for its willingness and eagerness to provide support to those outside the community, as well as for your newsletter.

### Next Month

We'll take a look at additions you can purchase for your Video Title Shop and Gauntlet programs, more reader mail and Atari news.

Reader's questions, comments and contributions are welcome. Address all correspondence to Jeff Brenner, "Applying The Atari, 9/88" c/o *Computer Shopper*, P.O. Box F, Titusville, FL 32781.

# TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

## TI Forum

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the Triton SEB mentioned earlier, in spite of the similarity in names.

Another old-timer is Charles Davis's Display Enhancement Package (or DEP), an extension to TI XB (like Curtis Provance's EDP) that provides a 40x24 display format and other enhanced data entry & screen control functions. Although I favor Curtis's EDP, Chuck's DEP has its own special features, including three distinct operating modes—scroll mode, scroll mode with locked area, and page mode—and its own useful functions, such as decimal alignment. The program is available directly from the author, Charles Davis, Oak Tree Systems, 3922 Valentine Road, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189 (phone: 313/426-3480); check with him

on current price (I believe it is in the area of \$30 or so).

Richard Mitchell's String Master is a collection of 29 assembly routines focused (as its name implies) upon the manipulation of strings and string arrays, including sorting routines. An earlier issue of *Computer Shopper* described it as "one of the most valuable software development tools the 99/4A has seen since the Extended BASIC cartridge." It is available from Bytemaster Computer Services, 171 Mustang St., Sulphur, LA 70663-6724 for \$19.95.

My own Extended Extended BASIC (XXB) was published in Volume 1 of the Genial TRAVeLER (still available for \$36 from Genial Computerware, 835 Green Valley Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19128, with more routines to come in Volume 2). XXB is a collection of

40+ new commands in the areas of disk access, character sets, text mode, graphics mode, peeks and pokes, and miscellaneous. Its unique (for now) feature is its modularity: individual packages of routines can be embedded within regular Extended BASIC programs if desired, so that—unlike STAR, EDP, SXB, DEP, or String Master—you don't have to load in the extra routines before loading in the program. (The TRAVeLER diskazine also contains Todd Kaplan's ALSAVE program and full information on how to use it, so that you can embed your own assembly routines within XB programs or even create your own extended Extended BASIC!)

Finally, we come to a really unique product: Myarc's XBII (also known as Extended BASIC Level IV). All of the preceding add commands to TI Extended BASIC, whereas Myarc XBII entirely rewrites it! Not only are lots of new features now present (high resolution graphics, 40-character text mode, windowing, integer variables, and more), but also even regular TI XB programs may run up to three times as fast when run with Myarc XBII. The other Extended BASIC extensions mentioned earlier essentially extend the power of TI XB; Myarc XBII extends the power and the speed.

Except for certain assembly routines (not ordinarily present in regular TI XB programs), Myarc XBII is surprisingly compatible with TI XB (although it cannot claim complete compatibility as can the Mechatronic XBII+ and the Triton SEB cartridges). The speed and power it offers is a significant upgrade, but requires special hardware along with the program on disk, viz., a special cartridge (essentially a supercart) and a Myarc RAMdisk (128K or 512K).

Although a Myarc 128K card (with special eeprom) would be sufficient, the Myarc XBII is usually sold at present with the 512K card, the total package (Myarc XBII with cartridge and RAMdisk) running around \$300 or so. That may sound expensive, but—if you subtract the price of the RAMdisk—this product is not really any more expensive than some of the other options mentioned in this article (i.e., in the neighborhood of \$70). (You can purchase it through Tenex or through a local Myarc dealer like the Queen Anne Computer Shoppe—see addresses given earlier.)

In summary, we've looked briefly at nine extensions to TI Extended BASIC (which itself is a powerful and useful programming language). More develop-

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## COLOR COMPUTERS I, II, III ADD-ON'S

### Free Software for Drive 0 Systems

CoCo Checker...Test roms, rams, disk drives and controller printer, keyboard cassette & more.  
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- Heavy Duty Power Supply
- 2 Drive Cable
- Gold plated contacts
- Controller & Manuals

**289<sup>95</sup>** Drive 0 & 1

- 2 Double Sided Slim Line Drive
- Case holds 2 slim line drives
- Heavy Duty Power Supply
- 2 Drive Cable
- Gold plated contacts
- Controller & Manuals

### Other Drive Specials

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# ADAM

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verting the audio tape into a DDP. (Please note: in order to use the interface, you must install a second Digital Data Drive. Additional data drives are available from a variety of ADAM dealers for approximately \$25.)

When in use, the interface sits on top of the memory console. The user toggles the interface between normal and format modes by pressing a push button switch. Two LED indicators show which mode is active. The interface may be left on the memory console permanently, or stored in the recessed area beside slot 1 when not in use (the interface is slightly smaller than the ADAM modem). When the interface is not in use (normal mode), both tape drives will function normally.

The interface can be installed by most ADAM users in under five minutes. Two male and two female connectors connect to four ribbon cables extending from the side of the interface. The data drive has two cables with male connectors, which are normally connected to the ADAM. For installation the data drive cables connect to the interface, and the interface connects directly to the ADAM.

After installation you will need to calibrate the speed of both tape drives. The interface software includes a graphic utility which individually analyzes the drive speed, which you may adjust by following the simple instructions provided (nothing difficult, just turning a small adjustment screw). It is important both drives are calibrated to ensure proper operation of the interface. After calibration you

will probably notice a marked improvement in the speed and accuracy of the data drives, regardless of which program is running.

The interface's menu driven software is very simple to use. You may create twelve different formats, ranging from the standard 256K DDP to my personal favorite, a "flippy" DDP which is bootable on both sides (128K per side). Select the type of DDP you wish to create, place the appropriate tapes in the drives, and relax. Six minutes later you are the proud owner of a brand new DDP. The software includes on-line help and the capability to print any menu screen. The interface manual is a bit weak in places, but adequate in light of the on-line help. Check the source DDP/disk for any additional documentation files.

During the duplicating process, the interface employs "Dynamic Micro-Spy" error checking. In plain English, the interface monitors the read status of the master DDP in drive 1. Should any block not read on the first attempt, the procedure will abort and display a "possibly weak/bad master tape" error message. In addition, the interface tests the newly created DDP in drive 2. This verification system ensures a high degree of accuracy.

The audio tapes I use to create DDP's are a higher quality than most found in retail stores. I purchase audio tapes in bulk from a specialized dealer and have them created to my personal specifications (something worth checking into if you buy tape in quantity). The off the shelf audio tape which offers the best quality versus price is the

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ments may take place in this realm in the future (e.g., I recently heard the exciting news that Curtis Provance is working on making a version of his EDP that makes loading in of separate modules possible). If programmers make use of these resources, we will continue to see new and better software for the TI-99/4A. (If you've written any programs making use of any of these resources, I'd love to hear from you!) In my opinion, if our computer is to survive and thrive in the days to come, a significant reason for that success will be the extensive use of these Extended Extended BASICS.

### Ron's Part

The following article about Jerry Price and TEX-COMP is Ron's part of this month's column, written solely by Dr. Albright; I (JZ) do not necessarily endorse or subscribe to the information and views contained therein.

October will mark the 5th Anniversary of the orphaning of the TI-99/4A by its "parent." It seems only fitting to highlight one of the firms that has sup-

ported the TI user since, virtually, Day 1. Tex-Comp (P.O. Box 33084, Granada Hills, CA 91344; (818) 366-6631) is, as stated in their advertising and catalogs, the "oldest (1980) and largest exclusively TI-99/4A supplier in the world." They continue to be a major source of supply for the TI-99/4A user and, according to Jerry Price, one of the founders, there is more hardware, software and accessories available to the TI-99/4A user at lower prices than ever before. Price, a Los Angeles attorney and businessman with degrees in both engineering and law, started a TI dealership in 1980 to meet the needs of business clients and friends when he demonstrated the productive (and fun) things that could be done with this newly introduced computer and they all wanted units for themselves. After developing several engineering application programs for his business customers, Price noted that "we started selling quite a few and that was back when the basic console and monitor went for about \$1000." When he found that even the few TI produced software and hardware products were not readily available through conventional retail outlets, he contacted TI directly which,

at that time, was hurting for dealers. TI was impressed with his background and interests. "They were also interested in our credit rating since TI required its direct discount dealers to be quite strong financially." One of the problems Price initially had was reaching the TI market since ads in general computer magazines were too expensive for the relatively small TI segment that might be among the readers. TI would not release the 99/4A customer lists they had compiled from warranty cards, sales promotions and direct sales so, when Price learned that a TI-99/4A magazine was about to be published, TEX-COMP found an effective way to reach the TI user. They were up and running in late 1980 and been going strong ever since.

In addition to its worldwide mail order operation, TEX-COMP also operates a walk-in retail outlet at its warehouse complex in Northridge, a San Fernando Valley section of Los Angeles. While the store is only a small part of the overall TEX-COMP business which is worldwide in scope, and is only open during limited hours (due to lease restrictions of the commercial business park it is located in), it allows Price to keep in close contact with the TI community and learn firsthand what is in demand. In fact, all new mail order products are tested and evaluated by

local customers prior to mail order release to ensure that only the best products reach the market. Price admits the TI market in general is far from what one would call a growth market however, because of the large number of TI-99/4A computers produced (Price estimates in excess of 3 million) and the high quality, reliability, capability, and relatively low cost of software and accessories, Price sees an ongoing market for some time to come. In addition to those who keep using their 4As because they realize what a good machine they have, Price continues to sell a sizable number of new TI computers and many new TEX-COMP customers have recently acquired their systems as hand-me-downs or through classified ads.

According to Price, people who come into the TEX-COMP retail store for the first time thinking there is little or nothing still available for this computer are amazed when they see the selection and inventory. When TI announced it was no longer remaining in the home computer business, most dealers and distributors either returned their stock to TI for credit or closed it out at drastic reductions. Instead of going along with this trend, Price began buying all the popular TI hardware and software from other dealers and distributors and purchased in excess of \$1 million worth of software direct from TI. TEX-COMP also owns the world's supply of TI computer consoles which it bought through

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# ADAM

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standard Sony C-60. Commonly available for under \$1, they are used by most ADAM dealers and user groups who fabricate their own DDP's.

The MegaCopy Interface is \$45 (U.S.) plus 10% shipping. Add 3.5% for Visa card orders. Because of the elapsed time between writing this column and its publication, I suggest you call to verify price before ordering. The MegaCopy Interface is one of the best designed, least expensive, most functional ADAM peripherals ever created. My compliments to Syd Carter on his elegant solution to a difficult problem.

### Excellent ADAM Newsletter

A few months ago I sent a letter of inquiry to a "new" ADAM newsletter, one I subsequently learned was over a year old. I don't know how I overlooked it for so long, but I don't want anyone else to make the same mistake.

The "ADAM-Link of Utah Newsletter" is published bimonthly by (you guessed it) ADAM-Link of Utah [2337 South 600 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106, (801) 484-5114 (8:00 am to 7:00 pm (MST) M-F)]. Edited by Alan Neeley, this newsletter is superb in both content and layout. Each issue consists of approximately 30 pages packed with news, program listings, reviews, and articles. Adam-Link of Utah also offers PD and retail items for sale, and has operated a popular (and PC Pursuitable) ADAM BBS for two years. The BBS operates on the phone number listed from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am (MST) weekdays and 24 hours on weekends and holidays.

A bargain at twice the price, the \$15 annual fee (6 issues) is money well spent. The single copy price is \$3. I suggest you take the plunge, but at least try one issue. You will find it a valuable resource.

### ADAM Consulting

Tina White of the White Company [POB 5553, Augusta, ME 04330, (207) 395-4554], offers professional consulting for the ADAM computer at an hourly rate of \$25, well below the industry average. Specializing in ADAMCALC and SmartFILER, the White Company also sells ADAM computers and related items. If you live in the New England area and are considering using an ADAM computer for business purposes, keep in mind the White Company will evaluate the suitability of the ADAM for your application at no charge.

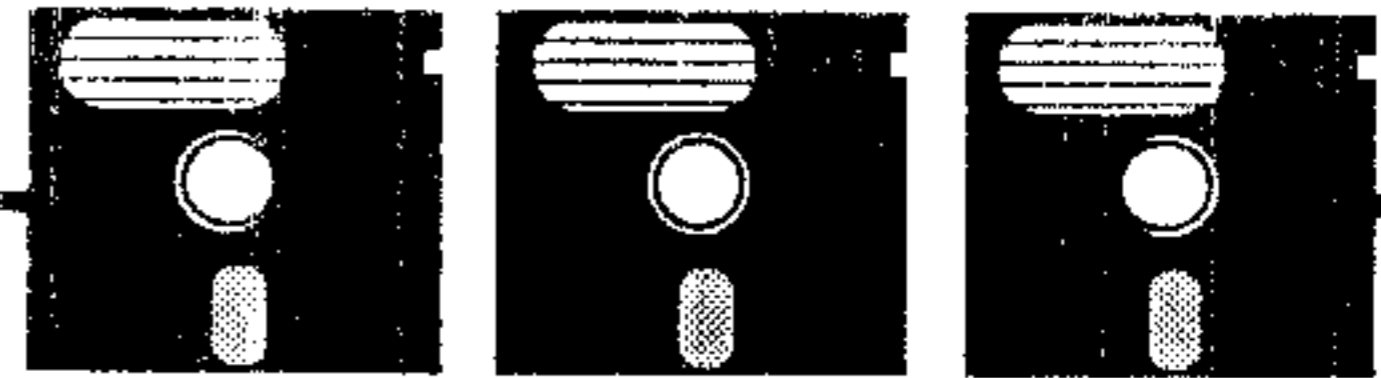
### Coming Attractions

Next month I'll examine what may be the most technically advanced third-party package ever created for the ADAM—Digital Express' PaintMASTER and its integrated Clipper, FontPOWER, PaintAIDE, SpritePOWER, and SwiftPRINT programs.

I am always happy to hear from fellow ADAM Users. Contact me via U.S. Mail in care of the Triangle ADAM Users, 2623-A Yanceyville St., Greensboro, NC 27405-4407. Please enclose an S.A.S.E. if you want a reply. I may be reached by E-Mail on American People Link (PAPPASPM), Compuserve (72277,3303), Delphi (PAPPASPM), or FIDO Net's ADAM\_GENERAL Echo (151/2).

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**TI Forum**

continued from page 277

many sources and has an agreement with TI so that the computers will all have a one year TI factory warranty. From time to time a visitor to TEX-COMP will express concern about the availability of TI software. If Price is around and not too busy, he will take visitors on a guided tour of the warehouse to see the enormous stocks TEX-COMP still maintains.

According to Price, the majority of TI users are not user group members

and that there are "1000s of people throughout the United States, Canada, and the rest of the world who are either geographically removed from any user group or prefer to be a loner and use the 99/4A system for a particular application and/or for personal enjoyment. User group members tend to purchase far less from dealers than unaffiliated users since the user groups are more self-sustaining since they sell both new and used software to each other. TEX-COMP does maintain a close relationship with many user groups

throughout the country and has donated 1000s of dollars worth of door prizes and TI materials to various user groups and TI gatherings." Price actively supports all of the LA area User Groups with donations of door prizes and is often a guest speaker. TEX-COMP supports many of the small TI dealers throughout the U.S., Canada, and even Europe and Price has developed close friendships with many who even have come to California as guests of TEX-COMP. TEX-COMP also donates large amounts of TI related products to

charitable causes including schools for the hearing impaired, a Korean orphanage, a New Mexico Indian Mission, and schools for minorities and underprivileged children. Price's office also displays many letters and certificates of gratitude for TEX-COMP's generosity and support through the years.

To keep the TI-99/4A a meaningful investment to its owners, TEX-COMP has continued to introduce new soft-

continued on page 506

**Computer Book List**  
continued from page 504

**Inside OS/2**

Gordon Letwin  
Microsoft Press

\$19.95  
Copyright: 1988

Gordon Letwin's *Inside OS/2* is a result of his programming experience and in-depth knowledge gained as chief architect of OS/2. The book features OS/2's graphics, architectural design, as well as a discussion of its weaknesses and strengths. Lets face it—if you want to know about a subject, the closer to the source you can get, the better—right? How much closer does anyone have to get than the chief architect of the whole project?

**dBase IV SQL User Guide**

Hursch & Hursch  
Ashton Tate

\$24.95  
Pages: 400  
Copyright: 1988

This book should help the users new to SQL (and there will be many of them!!!) to quickly come up to par using the powerful SQL features in dBase IV. For intermediate-level dBase users with "dot prompt" experience, this book will be most useful. Also available *dBase III+ To dBase IV: The Language Bridge Book*. By Adam Green [\$24.95] *SQL—The Complete Reference* available soon [\$24.95 Tentative].

InfoSource is a full service mail order bookstore specializing in computer and technical books. Should you wish to order any of the books, please send your payment, together with UPS shipping of \$4.50 for the first book and \$.50 for each additional book. VISA & MasterCard accepted. APO/FPO orders welcome. Most books, from most publishers, can be obtained by contacting InfoSource International Inc., P.O. Box 238, Barryville, N.Y. 12719-0238.

Orders Only: 1-800-327-7970. (717) 559-7665. CompuServe # 73177,3274.

**New Titles Expected For Publication**  
On Relevant Due Dates

SQL/dBaseIV/Oracle titles available or due for release shortly. Please note prices are subject to change.

**A Guide to The SQL Standard**  
Date

\$27.95

Pages: 205  
Addison-Wesley

**SQL: The Structured Query Language**  
Hursch and Hursch

\$18.95  
Pages: 260  
TAB

**Guide To SQL**

\$22.95  
Pages: 352  
Scott, Foresman & Company

**Working With Oracle**

\$19.95  
TAB

**Using dBase IV**

Ratliff, Heimendinger, Byers  
\$21.95  
Pages: 400  
Prentice-Hall

**Advanced dBase IV**

Ratliff, Heimendinger, Byers  
\$24.95  
Pages: 400  
Prentice-Hall

**dBase III Plus To dBase IV: The Language Bridge Book**

Green  
\$24.95  
Pages: 400  
Prentice-Hall

**dBase IV SQL User's Guide**

Hursch and Hursch  
\$24.95  
Pages: 400  
Prentice-Hall

**dBase IV Advanced Programmer's Guide**

Davis, Freeland, Olympia  
\$29.95  
Pages: 450  
Prentice-Hall

**dBase IV Business Applications Programming**

Dickler  
\$24.95  
Pages: 400  
Prentice-Hall

**dBase Systems Development Handbook**

Boston Systems Group  
\$39.95  
Pages: 450  
Prentice-Hall

**dBase IV: Complete Reference For Programmers**

Hergert  
\$24.95  
Pages: 600  
Microsoft Press

**The SQL Handbook**

Emerson, Bowman, Darnovsky  
\$19.95  
Pages: 320  
Microsoft Press

**Converting Applications To OS/2**

Productivity Solutions, Inc.  
\$21.95  
Pages: 300  
Microsoft Press

**Advanced Programmer's Guide TO OS/2**

Nguyen and Moskal  
\$24.95  
Pages: 600  
Microsoft Press

**Programming The OS/2 Presentation Manager**

\$29.95  
Pages: 800  
Microsoft Press



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	HIGH DENSITY US MAJOR	<b>.69</b>
	HIGH DENSITY W/TYVEK IN A WHITE BOX OF TEN <small>* ALL DISKS INCLUDES SLEEVES, LABELS, TABS</small>	<b>7.25</b>
<b>3.5"</b>	DS BULK (FUJI, MAXELL, JVC)	<b>1.15</b>
	HIGH DENSITY 2 MEG (PS2) JVC/FUJI BOXED/BRANDED	<b>\$3.90</b>
	JVC DS BRANDED IN PLASTIC BOX	<b>\$14.00</b>
	SONY DS BRANDED	<b>\$16.95</b>

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20 MEG SEGATE W/WESTERN DIGITAL	<b>\$269.00</b>
EPSON 720K 3.5 W/MOUNTING KIT	<b>\$84.00</b>
SEAGATE ST238 W/WESTERN DIGITAL CARD	<b>\$309.00</b>
GENIUS MOUSE W/SOFTWARE	<b>\$59.00</b>
DR. HALO III SOFTWARE	<b>\$49.00</b>

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