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Gryphon Software and Colorforms Team Up To Launch "Colorforms Computer Fun Set" For Windows

Childhood Favorite Enters The Computer Age -- New Interactive Capabilities -- "Cereal Box" Concept Transforms Packaging Into Toy -- Licensing Hot Character Properties On The Horizon

San Diego -- Gryphon Software Corporation, creators of award-winning Morph, has entered into a strategic alliance with toy manufacturer, Colorforms, to create two "Colorforms Computer Fun Set" software titles, "Basic Set" and "My First Colorforms." An exciting, interactive and fun software program for children, Colorforms Computer Fun Set for Windows will officially debut in May 1994.

Colorforms Computer Fun Set is based on the Colorforms concept -- creating artwork by mixing and matching existing stick-on shapes and images and affixing them to various thematic backgrounds. A creative and educational tool for children ages three to ten, Gryphon's software version of this childhood standard includes interactive capabilities such as sound, color and texture options and object resizing to profile endless possibilities for creating art on the computer.

"Our strong relationship with Colorforms enables us to work closely with the company that has a 38-year old tradition of creating exceptional products for children," said Mike Malone, president of Gryphon Software. "The Colorforms Computer Fun Set 'Basic Set' is brimming with fun themes like Alphabet, Farm, Ocean and Play Shapes. The 'My First Colorforms' version includes themes for younger children like Miss Weather, Play House and Play Set."

According to Malone, the launch of the Colorforms Computer Fun Set represents a strong push for Gryphon into the children's software market with a new design approach that will appeal to parents and children alike. Taking inspiration from children's cereal boxes with games on the outside and prizes on the inside, the Colorforms Computer Fun Set is innovatively packaged so that the box itself can be used as a toy. Actual Colorforms stick-ons are included and can be affixed to a Colorforms background designed on the box.

Colorforms Computer Fun Set "Basic Set" is designed for children, ages three to ten while "My First Colorforms" includes bigger artwork for younger children, ages three to six. Included with each program are more than nine corresponding backgrounds from which to choose, such as a barn, an underwater scene and a field for "Basic Set," and playgrounds, special rooms and a beach scene for "My First Colorforms."

Every module provides a palette of 27 instantly recognizable shapes and figures associated with that particular theme. The Farm theme, for example, offers

different shapes relating to the farm; a cow, pig, chicken, wishing well and tractor are just some of the items that come with the particular module. Each shape or figure is an independent object and may be easily moved and resized by simply pointing and clicking. The color and texture of any given shape may be changed by choosing from a wide variety of colors and textures.

Sounds are also an integral feature in the Colorforms Computer Fun Set. Specific objects have sound associated with them so that each time an item is placed or clicked with the Speaker tool, a sound is played; dogs bark, cats meow, words are pronounced, etc. There is also a variety of "clear screen" and "erase" sound effect options. For example, the child may click on an object with one of the "drop" Eraser tools and as the object drops off the screen, it is accompanied by the sound of breaking glass.

The minimum system requirements for the Windows version of the Colorforms Computer Fun Set are as follows: IBM-PC/386 or compatible CPU; 4MB RAM; Microsoft Windows 3.1 or higher; a mouse (for pointing and clicking); and a VGA display offering a minimum of 256 colors.

Carrying a retail price of \$49, Colorforms Computer Fun Set "Basic Set" and "My First Colorforms" are available for Windows or for the Macintosh platform. Lab packs and site education licenses are also available. The product may be purchased worldwide through major computer store chains, retail outlets and mail order houses. The product is also available through leading microcomputer distributors -- Ingram Micro, Merisel and Software Resources.