

**ANIM  
CONTEST II**  
Win Top Prizes!—p. 16

**SPECIAL!** Multimedia with AmigaVision—p. 40

November 1990  
U.S.A. \$3.95  
Canada \$4.50  
UK £2.50  
An IDG  
Communications  
Publication

# AMIGA

## WORLD

### Games Galore!

- Top 20 Amiga Games of 1990
- 10 PD Favorites
- *Sneak Preview:*  
15 Picks for '91

**Plus!**  
Buyer's Guide To  
Amiga Networking  
Photo-Compositing  
Hints & Tips

#### Reviews

- ▶ Saxon Publisher
- ▶ 3D Professional
- ▶ excellence 2.0
- ▶ MIDI Quest . . . *More!*





# A Graphic Demonstration



**Deluxe Paint III**  
has 32 colors\* and costs \$149.95.



**Digi-Paint 3**  
gives you 4096 colors and costs \$99.95.

## Get the picture?

Which one of the artistic tools pictured here would a child choose? The answer is obvious, the more colors the better. The choice is just as easy when it comes to Amiga paint programs. Digi-Paint 3 works in the Amiga's powerful Hold-And-Modify (HAM) mode which allows you to paint using all 4096 colors simultaneously. By comparison, Deluxe Paint III (by Electronic Arts) operates in less sophisticated modes, restricting you to a maximum of only 32 colors\*. What does this mean to your Amiga art? Simply put, the program with more colors makes the better pictures. But that's just one of the reasons Digi-Paint 3 is the ultimate paint program.

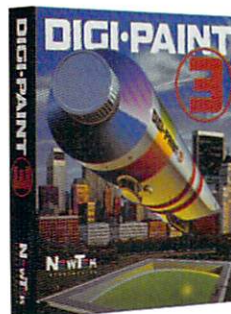
Other advanced features found in Digi-Paint 3:

- 14 drawing modes including colorizing, range painting, and texture mapping
- Powerful tools including: magnify, rotate, cut-and-paste, and variable transparency

- Anti-aliased fonts give sharp edges and a crisp television look
- Paint on canvases up to 1024 x 1024 with auto-scrolling
- Supports *all* Amiga display modes and resolutions
- Compatible with the Amiga 3000 and WorkBench 2.0

AmigaWorld magazine recently compared the leading paint programs in a head-to-head showdown. A clear winner emerged: **"Digi-Paint 3 is the one to beat for speed, versatility and professional applications."** After six pages of detailed evaluations they concluded with, **"If you are really serious about owning only one paint program, we would have to recommend Digi-Paint 3."**

Digi-Paint 3 is available now  
at your local Amiga dealer or call  
**1-800-843-8934** or 913-354-1146.



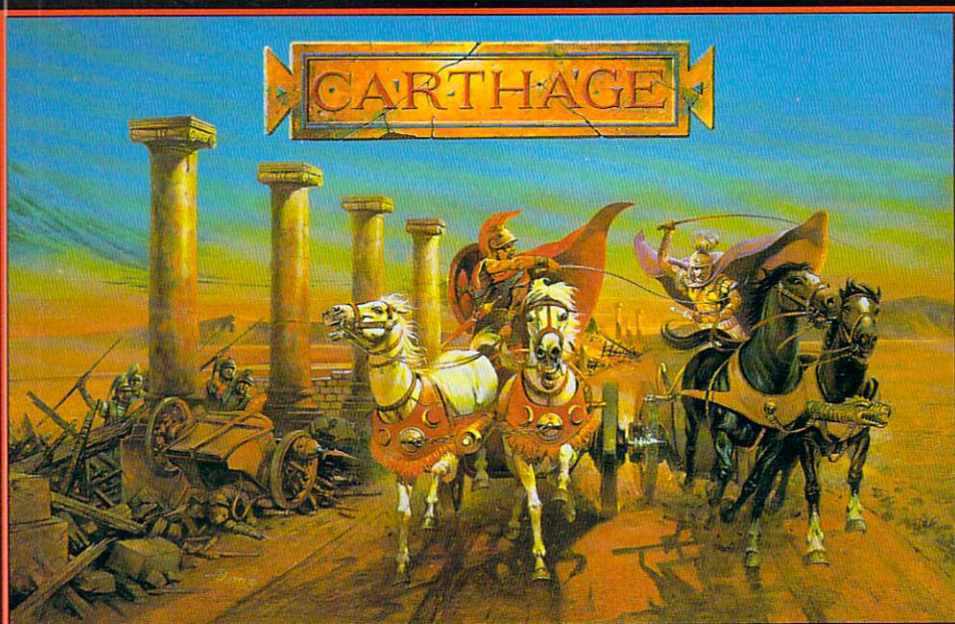
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\*In some modes an additional 32 half-intensity shades are available.

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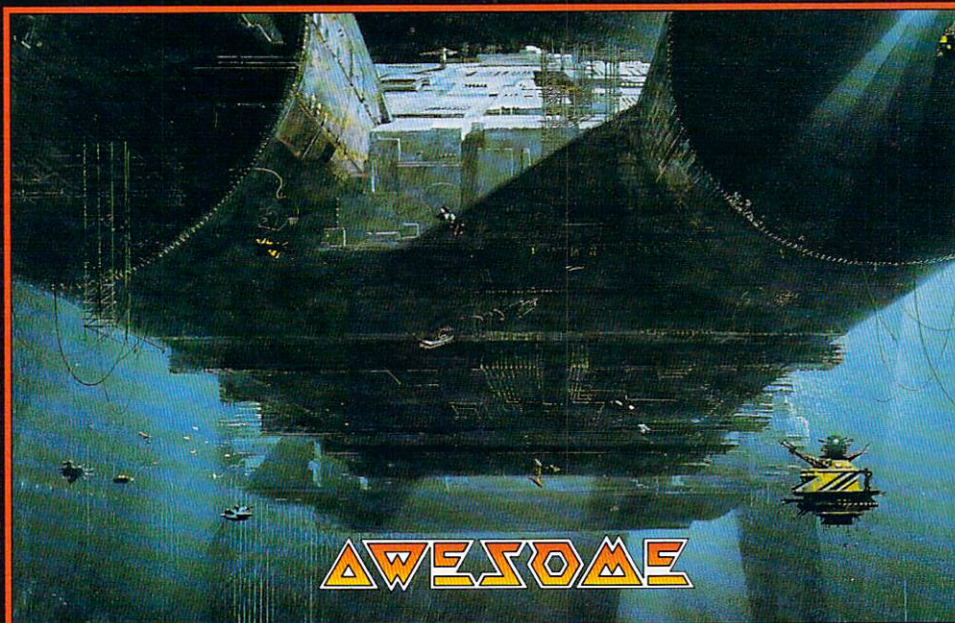
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Amiga Screen Shots

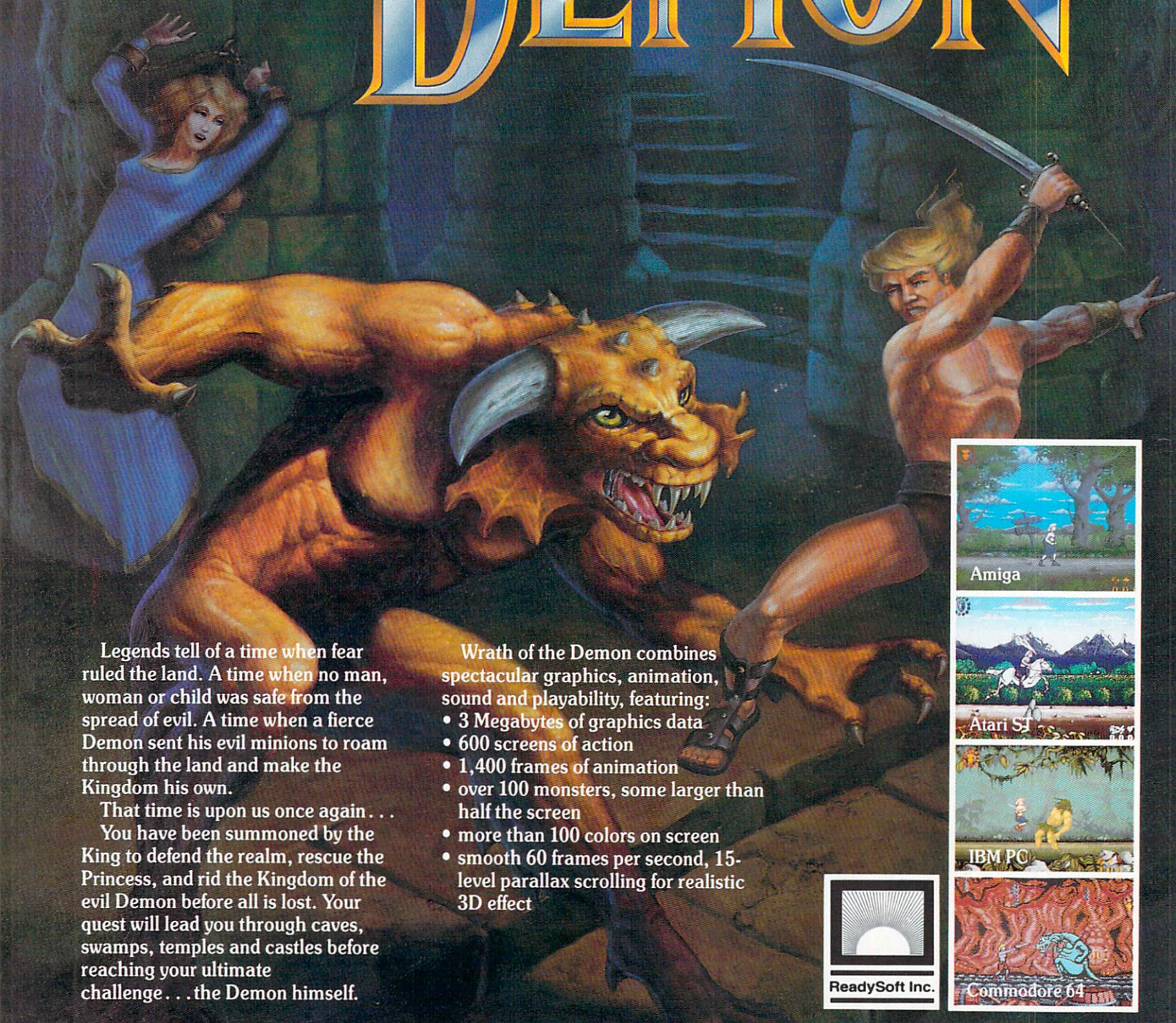


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Amiga



Atari ST



IBM PC



Commodore 64





# ♦ C ♦ O ♦ N ♦ T ♦ E ♦ N ♦ T ♦ S ♦

## FEATURES

### TOP 10 GAMES ..... 26

Join the countdown to the best 10 Amiga games of 1990 (plus consolation winners 11-20). From arcade shoot-'em-ups to role-playing adventures, they all had one thing in common: fun!

### BARGAIN BASEMENT GEMS: THE TOP 10 PD GAMES ..... 32

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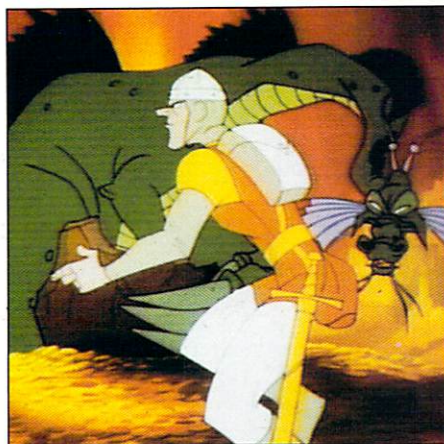
Rumor has it that *AW* is going to have a baby (!) ... details inside ...

### POINTERS By Jim Butterfield ..... 60

An old pro shows Amiga newcomers how to adapt their styles to programming in assembly language on the Amiga.

### ACCENT ON GRAPHICS By Joel Hagen ..... 66

If you have a predilection for the incongruous (maybe you'd like to see your boss in a Girl Scout troop photo, or your cocker spaniel leading a team of Alaskan sled dogs), Joel has some neat photo-compositing tricks you'll be sure to enjoy.



Maybe that puzzling proposition "The Child is father of the Man" explains why so many adults, as well as children, enjoy playing computer games. If not, the Amiga's superior graphics, animation, and sound capabilities will provide convincing secondary argument. In any event, you'll get no disagreement from us in this our annual Games Special!

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... And with a heavy stream of Amiga new products, make that ditto!

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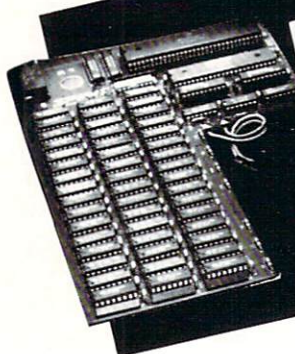
Be your own hero—if you want to.

### ANIMATION CONTEST II—WIN!

Time is running out to submit your entries for inclusion in *The AmigaWorld Animation Video Volume II*. An Amiga 3000, a Video Toaster, and lots of other great prizes are waiting for you on **page 16**.



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AmigaWorld (ISSN 0883-2390) is an independent journal not connected with Commodore Business  
 Machines, Inc. AmigaWorld is published monthly by IDG Communications/Peterborough, Inc., 80  
 Elm St., Peterborough, NH 03458. U.S. subscription rate is \$29.97, one year; \$46.00, two years;  
 \$64.00, three years. Canada \$38.97 (U.S. funds), one year only. Mexico \$38.97, Foreign Surface  
 \$49.97, Foreign Airmail \$84.97 (prepayment is required on Foreign Surface and Airmail subscrip-  
 tions in U.S. funds drawn on U.S. bank). All rates are one-year only. Second-class postage paid at  
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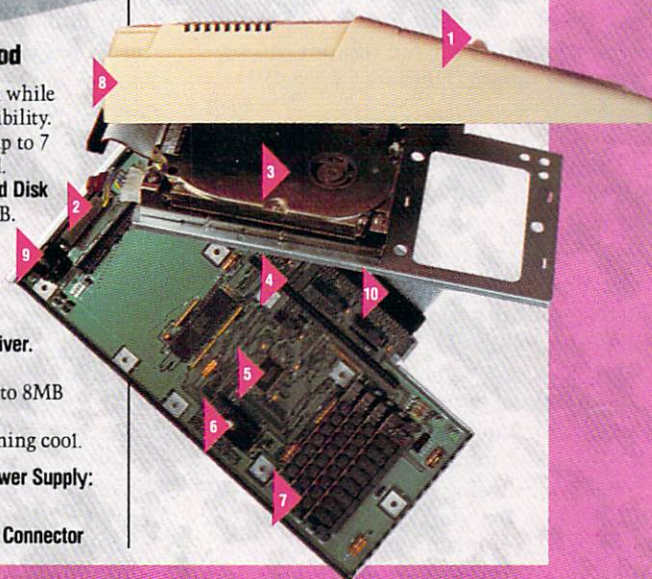
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# CHIEF CONCERNS

*Open the champagne! Have a cigar! We're celebrating a new arrival.*

## First of all, a word of thanks:

Lou's been a hard-core laser-disc junkie ever since he got AmigaVision, and a couple of months ago he was poking around looking for laser discs. He managed to pick up a disc for the original Dragon's Lair arcade game, and soon had AmigaVision controlling its every move. Then, in planning this, our Games issue, we thought those images would work perfectly on the cover. One phone call, and we had permission to use it. So, many thanks to Sullivan Bluth Interactive Media, of Burbank, CA, successor to the Bluth Group Ltd. that did the original art and design for Dragon's Lair and Escape from Singe's Castle.

Now, have I got a surprise for you! I am turning over most of this month's column to our acquisitions editor, Linda Barrett Laflamme, who will tell you about a soon-to-be-launched new project. Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending upon your taste) my full column will return next month. Heeere's Linda!!

—DB

Since *AmigaWorld* began, we've heard the plea, "Give us more technical information." Since *Transactor's* demise, your pleas have escalated to clamors. So, we agreed at the annual strategy meeting to increase our programming coverage and boost the technical level of our other articles. Then someone brought in the overflowing box of letters from new users, all begging for more rudimentary articles. It turned out to be a long meeting.

But you're going to love the results. (I do, because I'm getting a new job.) *AmigaWorld* itself will continue on its current course, offering you the best all-

around Amiga coverage. For those of you who want more hard-core programming and technical information, I'll be heading, not merely a new section, but a whole new publication—*The AmigaWorld Tech Journal*.

I've recruited the top technical talent of the Amiga community to share their insights, techniques, and algorithms for C, BASIC, assembly, Modula-2, and the operating system, plus advanced video, MIDI, and speech. Want to dig deeper into the OS and even write your own libraries? Read *The AmigaWorld Tech Journal*. Trying to get better results from your BASIC compiler? Consult *The AmigaWorld Tech Journal*. Need to set ARExx hooks and routines in your programs? Looking for public-domain programming tools? Struggling with time-code or converting your cable station to the Amiga? Yup, *The Tech Journal* will come to your rescue.

In addition to a full slate of tutorials (on such topics as porting your work to 2.0, debugging, and designing databases), each bimonthly issue will offer hot tips, news, and tools from the developers and networks, plus columns devoted to graphics programming, operating system routines and conventions, and more. Of course, I'm saving plenty of room for hardware and software reviews. Rather than do cursory looks at a multitude of products, however, the authors will delve deep into a select few, giving you detailed comparisons, benchmarks, and specs.

With so much to read, when will you find the time to type in all the sample listings or download the PD utilities? Never, because there's no need. While I'm riding herd on the articles, Mare-Anne Jarvela, our special products coordinator, will be compiling *The Tech Journal's* companion disks. Thanks to

creative packing techniques and her trusty archiving program, each disk will feature executable code, source code, and the required libraries or includes for all the example programs in the issue—plus the recommended PD utilities, demos of new commercial tools, and any other useful surprises that will fit. No, you don't have to fill out extra order forms or say the magic word; a disk is automatically bundled with every journal.

The first issue will hit dealer's shelves in March. Whether you are a developer, want to improve your programming skills, or just crave meaty information about your machine, you won't want to miss it. As soon as the circulation department catches up with the whirlwind enthusiasm here in editorial, we'll give you all the details on bringing *The AmigaWorld Tech Journal* directly to your mailbox.

As for my mailbox, I hope it fills up soon with more of your suggestions and requests. What would you like to learn more about from the pages of *The Tech Journal*? From which programmers and luminaries would you like to get tips? Have I forgotten an element you'd like to see on the disk? Reader surveys help us get started in the right direction. Continued reader input will help keep *The AmigaWorld Tech Journal* fresh and interesting, as well as authoritative and informative. So, to paraphrase Doug, "Keep clamoring!" I'll talk to you in March. ■

—LBL



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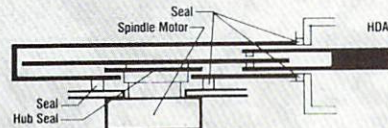
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- Latest Magneto-Optical technology enables cartridges to be over-written many times, offering unlimited storage capacity.
- 66.7ms average access time.

## 3 IMPACT WT-150—WangTek 150MB Streaming Tape Backup System: Together with GVP's TAPESTORE™ software, makes backups simple and fast.

- High performance with backup speeds of over 6MB per minute when using GVP TAPESTORE software.
- Uses industry standard DC6150 cartridges with 150MB formatted capacity.
- Mounts internal in Amiga 2000 5.25" drive bay or external using GVP's IMPACT XC (see photo, left).



SII-MO9200E/600  
shown here in  
vertical position.

- Comes standard with GVP's comprehensive TAPESTORE backup and restore software package.
- TAPESTORE also sold separately.

## 4 GVP's New FFAASTROM™ SCSI driver and installation software comes standard with the Series II™ SCSI Controllers' giving ultimate removable media drive support. When purchasing GVP mass storage removable devices, be sure to ask for a GVP Series II SCSI Controller! Ask for the complete kit.

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### Hard-Disk+RAM-Card ▼



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# REPARTEE

*Comments, complaints, and concerns*

*from AmigaWorld readers.*

## GET PACKING!

In his article "Pack It In!" (Aug. '90, p. 46) Graham Kinsey states that GENie polices uploads and filters out .ZIP files. He also seems to say that the Starship staff is doing this, and that people should demand that we stop.

Mr. Kinsey's statements are totally erroneous. We do not do this, never have, and probably never will. There are hundreds of .ZIP-archived files in the Starship libraries right now, and furthermore, I know of no GENie roundtable that has an anti-ZIP policy. Kinsey should have checked the validity of his claim before printing such a ludicrous statement.

**Rick Moyer**  
*Address unknown*

## NAME CALLING

I take exception to Doug Barney's branding of Robert Morris as a jerk ("Chief Concerns," p. 6, Aug. '90). You and anyone else who is going to holler about the subject should know that Morris's program created a worm, not a virus. Viruses multiply and spread; worms do not. Further, a worm is not intended to destroy information or invade anyone's privacy, which is the sole purpose of a virus.

Had Morris been successful

in perpetrating his prank, nobody would have noticed it. His mistake was in not testing his program properly. Also, had he not tried this prank, the system's vulnerability might never have been detected. Imagine what could happen if someone entered the system undetected and injected a real virus.

Robert Morris was guilty of creating chaos for a day and was punished properly. As for the estimated millions of dollars required to remove the worm, much of that work would have had to be done anyway to "close the back door" to the network.

If being a jerk is a prerequisite for being sent to the slammer, there may be a cell reserved for you.

**Steven Duran**  
*Albuquerque, NM*

## WHAT KIND OF DEAL?

Recently, *AmigaWorld* has talked a lot about the quality of dealers and what they should offer the customer. Your points are well taken and any true dealer (not box mover) would agree.

The problem is that your magazine makes it difficult for responsible dealers to exist. You accept advertising from anyone, whether or not they are authorized dealers. This means that although you say one thing regarding dealers, you endorse another—that is,

to buy from the cheapest (not least-cost, mind you) place in town. Consumers who want value should look to a dealer who knows and understands the Amiga and its applications, offers pre- and post-sales support, training, and information updates.

I speak from experience. I had to give up my Amiga dealership because the customer was not willing to pay for value and service, and I could not make a living giving away the product at a few points above cost. Customers must pay a fair price to compensate quality dealers for the hours they put in to learn about and demonstrate hardware and software.

**Thomas Gilligan**  
*Scotch Plains, NJ*

## STAYIN' AHEAD

About two years ago, the name Amiga could be found only in Amiga-specific publications. These days, however, many PC and business magazines see the Amiga as a leader in many applications—especially multimedia.

No other computer can match the Amiga for combining graphics, sound, and animation. This lead is starting to disappear, however. Apple's Macintosh can display millions of colors in high resolution, while the Amiga is limited to 4096 in lo-res or interlace.

Systems such as NeXT have 16-bit, CD-quality sound, compared to our eight-bit, four-voice output. In addition, the Amiga lacks support for CD-ROMs and technologies such as Intel's DVI (digital-video interactive system) and Phillips' CD-I.

It's time to enhance these features to give CBM a serious image and make the Amiga the multimedia champion.

**Rainey W. Shelby**  
*APO New York, NY*

## NOT MY JOB

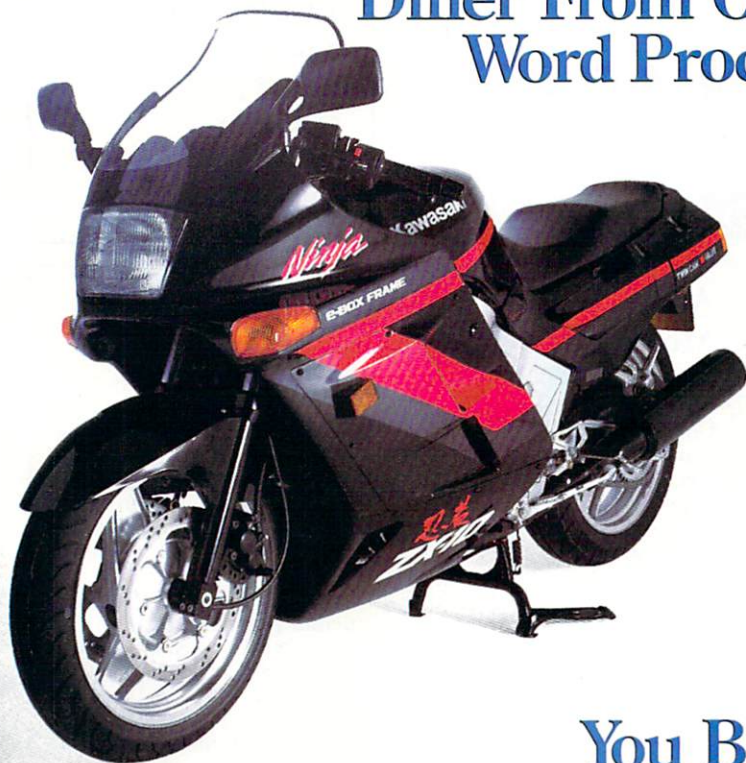
I was not surprised to find Doug Barney whining once again about Commodore and the Amiga's problems, and what *we* as consumers should do about it. ("Chief Concerns," p. 6, Aug. '90.) I do not feel compelled to do Commodore's job of properly pushing the Amiga by writing such and such an organization. As Amiga owners, we have paid good money and have put up with the hassles that come with using this machine—isn't that enough?

**Joseph Luppens**  
*New York, NY*

Send your letters to: Repartee, *AmigaWorld* Editorial, 80 Elm St., Peterborough, NH 03458. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. ■



# How Does New ProWrite 3.0 Differ From Other Amiga Word Processors?



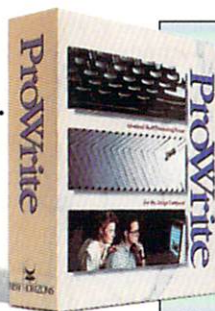
## You Begin To Get The Picture.

### Beneath Its Elegant Design Lies A Word Processing Powerhouse.

Ease into the solid comfort of the ProWrite environment. Zip in your text and briskly format with intuitive menu and ruler controls. Now slip into high gear using the power of keyboard commands. Deftly cut, copy and paste on the fly, knowing the formidable 100,000-word spelling checker is checking as you type, and the vast thesaurus is standing by with over 300,000 cross references to fine-tune your ideas. Graceful multiple columns are at your fingertips with choice of snaking or parallel text flow. If you're really into performance, you can tackle tedious tasks with the touch of an F-key using macros. For you power users, the AREXX port awaits you. And ProWrite's print merge feature eagerly churns out those form letters.

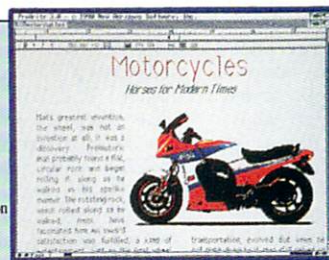
### So Intuitive, So Responsive, You've Got To Experience It To Believe It.

Your thoughts pour effortlessly onto the screen, then just as fluidly out to your printer, virtually unaware of anything between you and the printed page. (After all,



### Features

- Spelling checker with 100,000 word dictionary
- Spell check all at once or as you type
- Multiple columns with snaking or parallel text flow
- Thesaurus with over 300,000 cross references
- Print merge
- Import any IFF or HAM pictures
- Wrap text around pictures
- Multiple line headers and footers with Title Page option
- Macros, when used with AREXX
- AREXX port
- Hyphenate words with soft hyphens
- Tabs with left, center, right, or decimal alignment
- Definable decimal tab alignment character
- Prints color or black and white printer-resident fonts and pictures at the same time
- Prints printer-resident fonts with any variety of Pica, Elite, Condensed, and Wide fonts at the same time
- Prints on any Preferences-based printer
- True "What you see is what you get" display
- Multiple fonts, sizes, styles, and colors
- Adjustable defaults for all program settings
- Comprehensive keyboard equivalents
- Select All command for document-wide changes
- Go to any page on command
- User-definable dictionary
- Up to ten documents can be open at once
- Undo and Redo commands
- Adjustable page sizes
- Print sideways or across paper perforation
- Print documents back-to-front, separate odd-even, or collated
- Line spacing in single, one and one half, and double
- Print to PostScript using optional PostScript module
- Adjust printer dot density
- Adjustable top, bottom, left, right, and binding margins
- Reduce or enlarge documents in one percent increments
- Adjust line spacing in one point increments
- Automatic space before and/or after paragraphs
- Automatic word look up
- Automatic page numbering with choice of five different formats
- Sort paragraphs from A to Z or Z to A
- Character, word, sentence, line, paragraph, picture, and page counts
- Six different date formats and two different time formats
- Computes average word and sentence length and readability grade level
- Insert current date and time either as fixed text or as an updating marker



what good are all those features if they're a distraction to use?) Even your swiftest typing can't outrun it. Wrap your text around a graphic and you're ready

for the home stretch. Now it's time to print and you've got control over your printer's dot density, aspect ratio, and paper size. And ProWrite can print your printer-resident fonts with graphics in Pica, Elite, Condensed, and Wide—all on the same page. With ProWrite's flexibility, you can smooth out any rough spots—no matter what kind of printer you have.

With all these performance features and more, ProWrite stands in a class by itself as your power performer. And best of all, it stands on the shelf now at your favorite store.



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# Headliners

NEWS FROM THE AMIGA COMMUNITY

**Forecast:**  
Sunny  
(see report  
of Dallas  
SIGGRAPH  
conference)

## Amiga Wows Crowds At SIGGRAPH

DALLAS, TX—Riding high on the Amiga's sudden surge in professional respectability, Commodore Business Machines rode in to Dallas Aug. 6-10 to make an impressive showing at the National Computer Graphics Association's 1990 SIGGRAPH conference.

The annual event attracts up to 30,000 of the world's foremost computer graphics professionals for a week of seminars, technical exhibits, and film and video expositions. Amidst this mind-boggling array of state-of-the-art workstations and high resolution displays, the Amiga has traditionally been cast as an also-ran. But with Commodore packing powerful A3000s, 2500/30s, Amiga UNIX, CDTV, and AmigaVision into its booth, conference attendees were forced to take notice.

The Amiga was also represented by third-party developers whose products promise to thrust the computer into the forefront of the graphics world. Impulse, for example, demonstrated its new 24-bit display card, Firecracker 24, available in two configurations that offer resolutions up to 1024 x 482. Impulse also unveiled its follow-up to the Turbo Silver 3-D modeler—Imagine.

Hash Enterprises demonstrated

Animation:Journeyman, a unique 3-D product aimed at the professional market, while Walt Disney Computer Software got things moving with The Animation Studio.

ASDG and Active Circuits showed off their 24-bit graphics solutions for the print and video markets, emphasizing the Amiga's ability to communicate with existing graphics hardware, such as Sharp's color scanners and Truevision's Targa and Vista-series display cards.

Elsewhere at the show, the University of Lowell demonstrated its 256-color, high-resolution display card, which, they announced, Commodore will be shipping by year's end. In its own impressive booth, Newtek continued to wow the crowds with its amazing Video Toaster. The company startled many observers by announcing its intention to bundle Allen Hastings' new animation program, Lightwave 3D, with the \$1595 Toaster at no extra charge.

At SIGGRAPH, where most animation systems begin in the \$60,000 range, attendees like to get a glimpse of the future. After this show, many believe the future is the affordable Amiga.

—Rick Rodriguez

## A3000 Takes Off into Space

WEST CHESTER, PA—Commodore is conquering space with a new version of the Amiga 3000. How? By shipping upgraded machines with 25 percent more hard-disk storage space.

Commodore, which had been equipping the A3000 with a 40-megabyte hard disk, upped the standard equipment to 50 megs in mid-August without increasing the price of the machine. "In light of the sophisticated graphics, an-

imation, and video applications currently available, providing users with increased storage capacities is a priority," explained Walt Simpson, Commodore's Director of Product Marketing.

According to Simpson, Commodore has received tremendous response to the new configuration from both dealers and customers. In fact, initial A3000 orders have exceeded the company's forecasts.

—BGT

## Amiga Wins Virginia Tech: Move Over, Mac

BLACKSBURG, VA—Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has, for the last three years, required incoming computer-science majors to purchase Apple's Macintosh with A/UX. Not any more. After seeing the power and capabilities of an Amiga 3000 running AT&T's UNIX System V.4, university officials have switched allegiance.

"Commodore's UNIX passed every one of our tests," said Dr. James Arthur, chairman of the Virginia Tech computer-science department's selection committee. "From the Amiga technology to V.4 delivery to the Amiga's unbeatable price, Amiga UNIX was the clear choice for our department. We're also very pleased with Commodore's willingness to work closely with us to produce a so-

lution tailored to our needs."

"This is a significant win for Commodore," boasted CBM Director of Education Howard Diamond. Virginia Tech's purchase came during the A3000 UNIX beta-test phase, in the midst of preparations for the product's worldwide launch.

Virginia Tech chose UNIX as its operating-system standard because UNIX is a good environment in which to experiment. Also, because it is largely platform independent, it allows the exchange of information between diverse hardware systems—an essential factor for computer science. UNIX V.4, which many expect to become the standard, integrates all the features of the various UNIX technologies.

—BGT

## CBM Machines Hold Government Posts

RESTON, VA—SMS Data Products Group, a Commodore distributor, was awarded a federal-government contract in August. "For years we've been saying that Commodore's product lines are ideal for government users," said SMS President Bert Rosecan.

SMS's schedule includes both Amiga workstations and Commodore Intel 80286/386 PCs. Randall Griffin, Director of the Reston-based Commodore Federal Systems Group, said that with this achievement, Commodore is beginning to strengthen its presence in the federal market.

Griffin said that the Amiga is receiving a warm welcome from government agencies. The Navy and NASA in particular, he noted, appreciate the Amiga's graphics prowess for engineering, graphics, and simulation applications.

—BGT

## The Show-me Dates

The Amiga will be appearing at a number of consumer/trade shows throughout November. For details on the following shows, call the numbers listed.

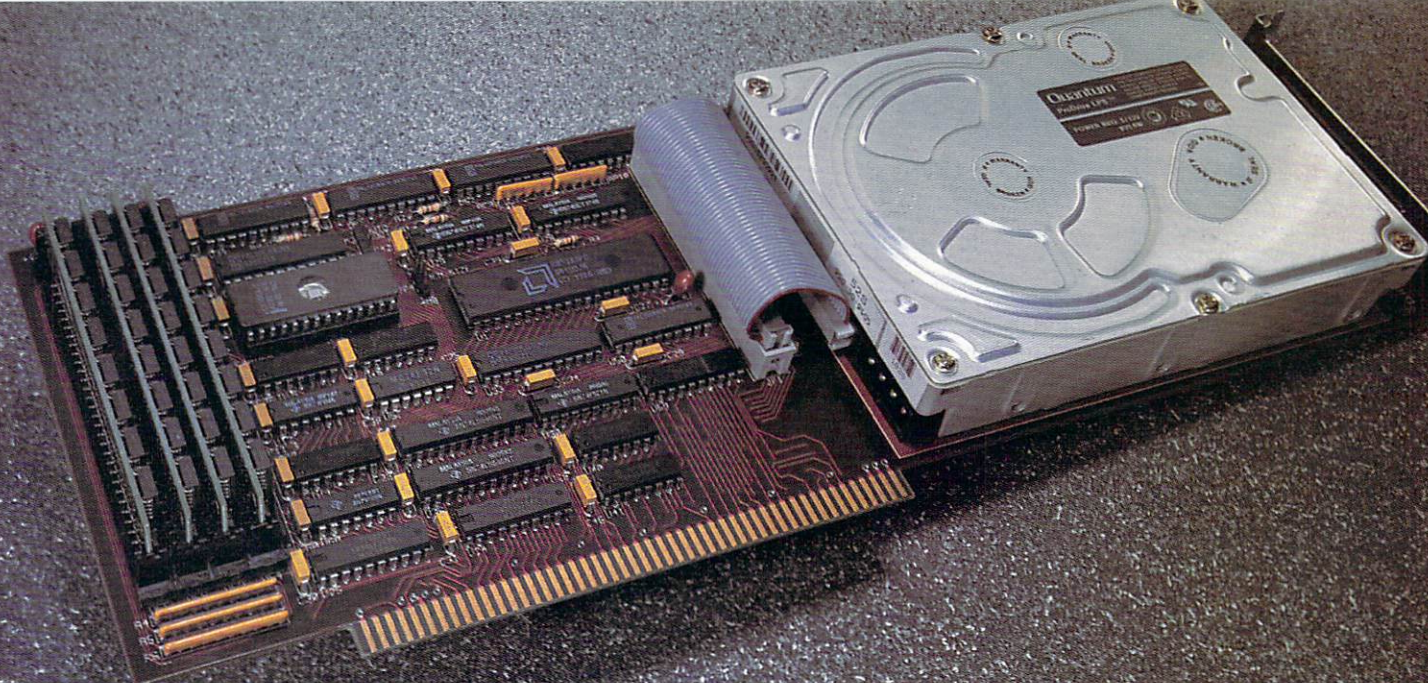
Nov. 8-12  
Amiga '90  
Cologne, W. Germany  
914/741-6500

Nov. 12-16  
Comdex  
Las Vegas, NV  
617/449-6600

Nov. 26-30  
Video Expo Orlando  
Orlando, FL  
914/328-9157  
800/248-KIPI

Nov. 30-Dec. 2  
World of Commodore/Amiga  
Toronto, Ont., Canada  
416/595-5906





## The first integrated hardware/software storage solution for your Amiga.

**N**exus is a unique combination of state-of-the-art hardware and software designed to meet your current and future storage needs.

The Nexus features a high performance SCSI interface, 4 megabytes of memory expansion, space for a 3.5" hard drive and the most complete storage software ever assembled. The Nexus is fully compatible with Amiga 2000 and 3000 series computer systems, the PC Bridgeboard and the A-Max emulator.

### Easy To Install

You can install Nexus in your Amiga in a matter of minutes. To make the installation completely effortless, Nexus includes intuitive configuration software. The easy to follow instructions take you step-by-step to a successful installation.

### 1-800 Customer Service

When you need help for any reason, we are just a toll-free phone call away. When you call you will talk to a knowledgeable person who cares about you and who will go to any length to assure your satisfaction.

### Exclusive 5 Year Warranty

Nexus is superbly engineered and uses only the finest components to give you many years of trouble free operation. We stand behind our products by offering an exclusive 5 year warranty on parts and labor.

### Focus On Storage Systems

By focusing our development exclusively on storage systems, we deliver complete storage solutions and not just a hodgepodge of hardware components.

## Nexus Hardware

A high degree of component integration allows the Nexus to combine a SCSI interface, a 3.5" hard drive and 4 megabytes of memory on a single card. Mounting your 3.5" hard drive directly on the card leaves your drive bay open for future expansion.

### High Performance SCSI Interface

Nexus uses an innovative SCSI design, giving you the vast storage of a hard disk, while simultaneously approaching the speed of a RAM disk. Imagine reading from your hard disk the equivalent of an 880,000 byte Amiga diskette in less than one second.

### Memory Expansion

Nexus gives your application software more room to work by adding 2 or 4 megabytes of memory to your Amiga. You can add memory to the card using easy to install single in-line memory modules (SIMMs). Save a valuable expansion slot by avoiding the use of a dedicated memory card.

### Unlimited Storage Options

Nexus lets you make the right choice for your storage needs by supporting a variety of SCSI drives including streaming tape, removable cartridge, erasable optical, DAT and CD-ROM.

## Nexus Software

Nexus is more than just a superb piece of hardware. Nexus includes the most complete storage software available for the Amiga.

### FlashBack

Protect your valuable data by performing regular backups using our convenient FlashBack software. FlashBack lets you select files for backup using the mouse and can save files to any storage device including diskette and streaming tape.

### PowerBench

With its intuitive user interface, PowerBench lets you take charge of your Amiga. Click on a graphics file to see it, a sound file to play it, a text file to read it and that's only the beginning.

### SmartCache

Intelligent caching improves performance and extends the life of your hard drive. SmartCache speeds up data access by using a specified portion of memory to store frequently used information.

### SpoolIt

Any data sent to the printer is captured and saved on disk. SpoolIt prints the data in the background while you continue to use your application software.

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Undelete a file that was accidentally deleted. Do a media analysis to locate and map out bad blocks or potentially bad blocks. Improve hard disk performance by reorganizing the disk to remove fragmentation and to make files contiguous.

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Our formatting and partitioning software sets a new standard for ease of use. With the click of a few buttons you can format any SCSI hard drive instantly.

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Memory diagnostic software verifies the proper operation of your expansion memory. The MemoryDoctor program uses a graphics display to show which components, if any, need to be replaced.

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Circle 5 on Reader Service card.



## Making It Big With Amiga Graphics

CHEYENNE, WY—Trained in the fine arts, Dean Johnson first became interested in the computer as an artistic tool when he was exposed to the Amiga. After purchasing an A500, Johnson soon realized that for his purposes, his greatest limitation was the lack of viable hard-copy options. Instead of buying a high-end printer or plotter, he decided to build his own.

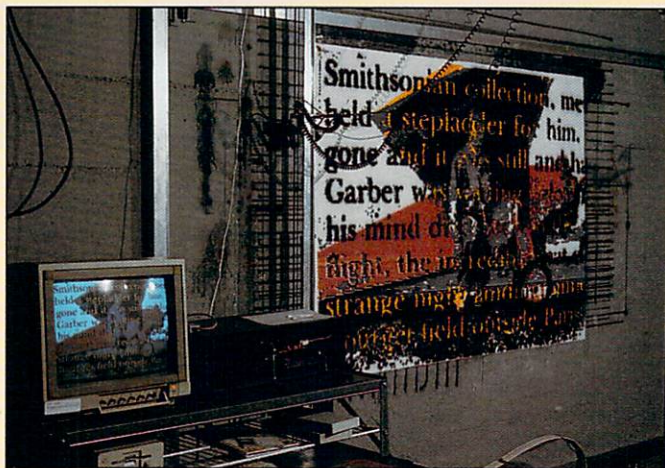
Following a crash course in robotics, Johnson began to design and assemble a robotic airbrush to run from his Amiga. One year later, he had a "printer" capable of painting Amiga images on any flat surface—from a mere 16×20 inches to a gigantic 6×9 feet!

Dean begins his creations using

a bitmap paint program. Then, using software that he and his friend Ross Hilman wrote, Johnson converts the IFF file to ASCII format. Another program, written by Hilman, reads the ASCII file, controls the stepper motors and airbrush solenoid, and drives the airbrush to spray paint onto the canvas, wood panel, paper, or whatever. Because the airbrush applies paint one color at a time, it must make a number of passes to complete a multicolored image.

Johnson not only creates his own works with the Amiga, but he also uses Amiga systems to teach computer-graphics courses at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne.

—BGT



From screen to canvas, via Dean Johnson's robotic airbrush.

## That's Insurance!

NEW YORK, NY—With a goal of establishing a presence in every state within five years, Bowers, Schumann & Welch, one of the country's largest insurance agencies, needed help. One step toward that goal was to set up a standardized employee-training environment to quickly get new agencies up and running.

It set its sights on interactive computerized training systems, and one of the firm's employees knew of Future Touch's touch-screen monitor for the Amiga. "So BS&W contacted us," beamed Ed Kalbaugh, a partner in Future Touch, Inc., a division of Amigo Business Computers, of East Northport, NY.

Because the project was so immense, Amigo and Future Touch in turn called on Commodore for

assistance. CBM responded by loaning eight systems (each comprised of an A2500/30 with a 40MB hard disk, five megs of RAM, an A2300 genlock, a Pioneer 4200 laser-disc player, and a Future Touch touch-screen monitor) and providing a beta copy of AmigaVision, Commodore's new, multimedia authoring software. Thus equipped, a project director, two graphics people, two AmigaVision programmers, and a part-time hardware specialist set to work (also using TV\*Text Professional, DeluxePaint III, and Page-Render 3D) and completed the project in two months.

"That's something we never could have accomplished with traditional programming," reasoned Kalbaugh. With AmigaVision, you can easily assemble the pieces of a

## Happy Trails

EASTERN EUROPE—Just like Charles Kuralt, Commodore has been hitting the road. But instead of driving around in a camper looking for human interest stories, Commodore Electronics Ltd., a division devoted exclusively to spreading the word in developing nations, has managed to stage Commodore-only consumer shows throughout the year in Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. "We've been very successful," CEL Marketing Manager Gregory Koler reported. He added the observation that these product-awareness shows have sparked sales to a considerable extent.

The tour showcases Amiga applications in exhibits and seminars, covering such topics as desktop publishing, video, graphic design, interactive computer training, and hyper-media.

CEL is catering predominantly to private enterprises—to architects for CAD applications, to artists who design fabrics, and even to medical institutions dabbling in signal processing.

"The interesting thing about the Eastern bloc is that we have a whole generation that has not had an opportunity to be exposed to computers," Koler said. From this, Commodore is building a new loyalty, he added. With the seeds CEL has planted in Eastern Europe, it plans to gradually nurture success from the ground up.

—J. Jackson

## Masters of the Airwaves

TUSCON, AZ—You'll find him deep in a basement, in either of two 5×12-foot rooms. Is he a key character in a dungeon-escape game? No; Mike Masters is a computer-graphics specialist at TPAC, the Tuscon Public Arts Channel.

He is also a self-proclaimed cartoon fanatic and power-Amiga user—which is fortunate, because TPAC is an all-Amiga cable station. The station started out with an A2000, sporting a 20MB hard disk and 9MB of RAM. Now there are two such beasts at TPAC keeping company with a 4.5-meg A500 and a 5-meg A2500 with a 40MB hard disk. "We love our memory," quips Mike.

Since April '88, the station has used Amigas to inform the community of upcoming dance, theatre, music, gallery, and museum events. According to Masters, his mission is to add flash and color to otherwise flat, sterile images. "When I came on, I wanted to give (the station) a splashy look," he explained. His two right-hand assistants are Zuma Group's TV\*Show and Electronic Arts' DeluxePaint III.

TPAC resides at Pima Community College, where communications students help run the station. The students learn basic animation and titling under Mike's supervision. What do the students think of the Amiga? "I can usually impress them very quickly," reports the satisfied Mike.

—J. Jackson

project that other people complete, he said. Assembling pieces of code, added Kalbaugh, is not so easy, and the overhead—with code and library maintenance—is great. Another compelling reason for using AmigaVision is that, because it is so easy to use, it allows BS&W the option of updating the training program without outside help.

"This is the first time I have seen a company approach training from a total, corporate-wide perspective," noted Kalbaugh, who also runs a management-consulting firm. "This program is geared for everyone—from the boardroom to the mail room." He explained that the interface is akin to an organizational flowchart: An employee touches a series of icons to arrive at a full-motion video or graphic accompanied by full-stereo sound.

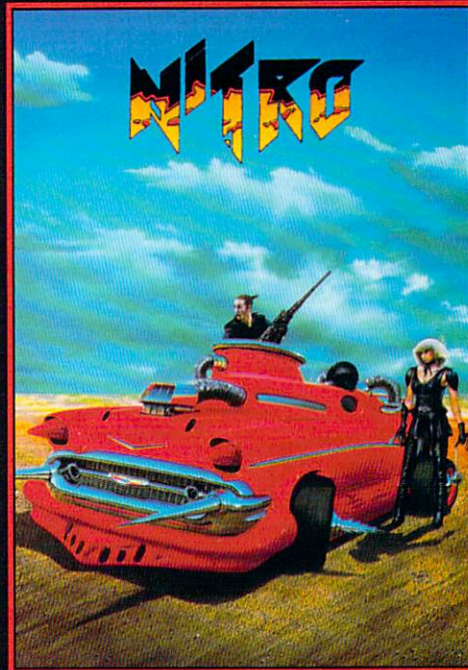
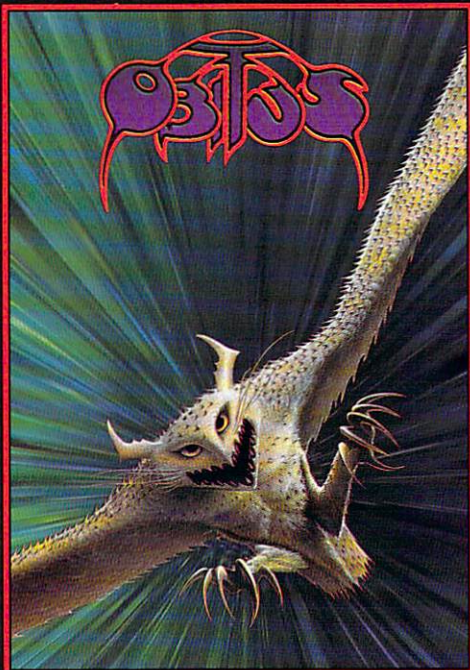
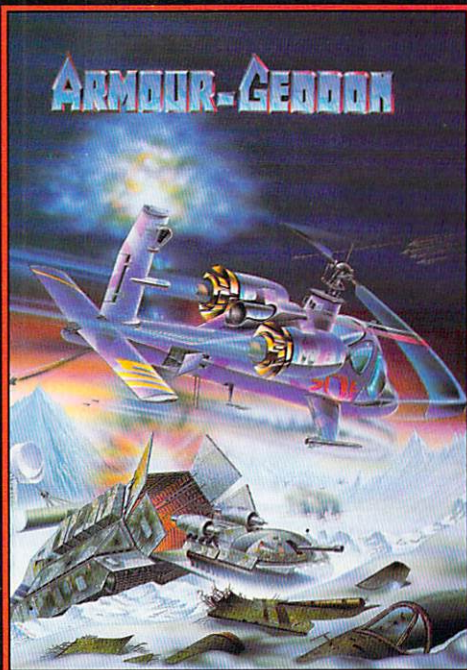
The system is not only helpful for training; it also serves as a standard reference for employees to refresh their knowledge.

BS&W is currently negotiating with Commodore to purchase 1000 Amigas. "The significance of this project," says Kalbaugh, "is that if all goes as anticipated, The Amiga will substantially penetrate a significant market." Phase 2 of BS&W's plan is to network the machines using the existing equipment, and Phase 3 is to network the Amigas via Unix.

—BGT

**Headliners is compiled by Barbara Gefvert Tyson. Send your news bits to Headliners, Amiga-World Editorial, 80 Elm St., Peterborough, NH 03458. ■**





## ARMOUR-GEDDON

Post-Holocaust: A power crazed entity desires control of earth. They develop an energy beam and intend to bounce it off a custom-built satellite back to earth. All unprotected life will be wiped out.

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Featuring a sophisticated head-to-head serial link enabling 'being-there' realism between two players.

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Screen Shots from the Amiga version.  
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Screen Shots from the Amiga version.  
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Race against the computer or friends.

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**Squeals on wheels!**  
**Lead - free frolics!**

Screen Shots from the Amiga version.  
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Armour-Geddon	Amiga
Obitus	Amiga
Nitro	Amiga







# Supra Corporation

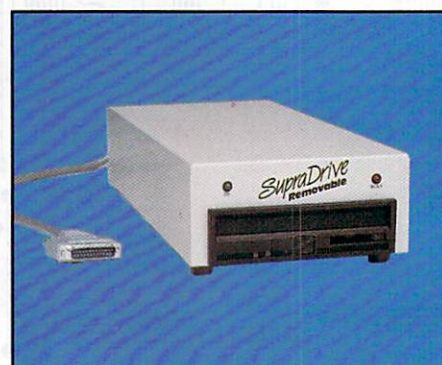


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Quiet, reliable floppy disk drive works with all Amiga® computers. 1MB unformatted capacity. Pass-through port for connecting additional drives.



## **SupraDrive™ Removable**

Syquest™ removable cartridge drive for the A500 or 2000. Great for primary & back-up storage. Comes complete with SCSI interface, or as add-on drive.



## **SupraModem™ 2400**

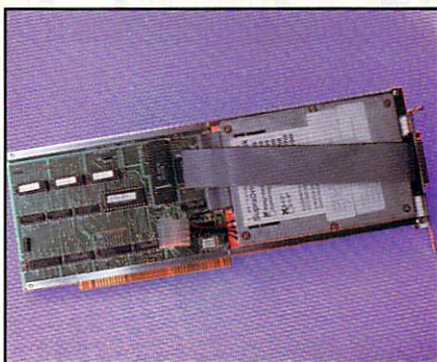
100% Hayes™-compatible 300, 1200, 2400 baud modem for virtually all computers. Compatible with all popular telecommunications software.





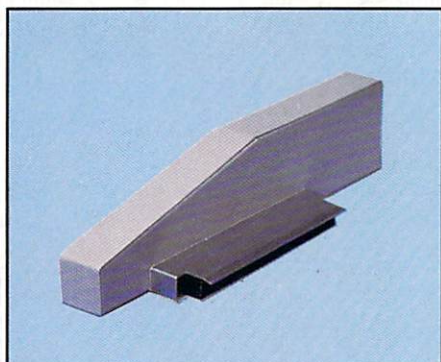
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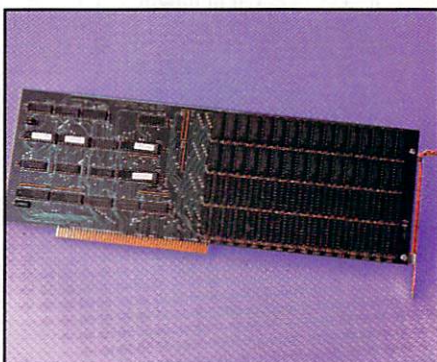
### SupraDrive™ WordSync™

Easy-to-install, autobooting hard disk card for the Amiga 2000. Uses high-performance Quantum™ hard disk & includes SCSI port, utility software.



### SupraRAM™ 500RX

1/2, 1, 2, 4, or 8MB of FAST RAM for the Amiga 500. Easy to expand. Zero wait states & hidden refresh. Amiga bus pass-through.



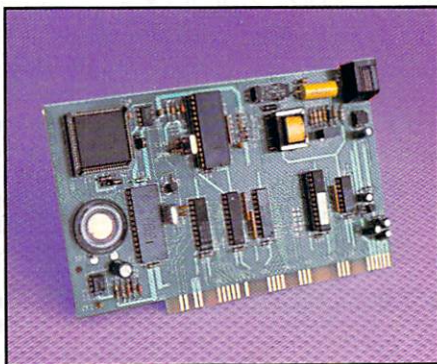
### SupraRAM™ 2000

2, 4, 6, & 8MB of FAST RAM for the A2000 & 3000. Easy to expand. Zero wait states & hidden refresh. Four-layer board improves reliability.



### SupraModem™ 2400 Plus

SupraModem 2400 with MNP5 & V.42bis error correction & data compression protocols. Allows transmissions up to 9600 bps.



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Internal half-card modem for the Amiga 2000 & 3000. Installs easily in any Amiga bus slot. Supports multiple modems on one computer.

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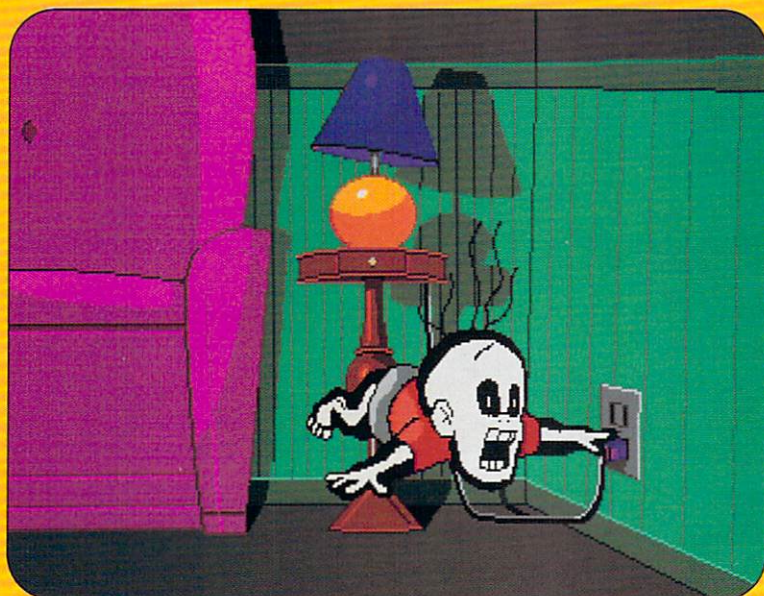


**DEADLINE**  
For Contest Entries:  
**Nov. 30, 1990**

# Holy Bitmaps!

## A FREE AMIGA 3000 AND A NEWTEK VIDEO TOASTER?

### Plus 6 More Super Amiga Prizes?



From David Hancock's "Juice," Animation Video Vol. 1

## That's right, and here's how to win:

Send us your best Amiga animation for inclusion on **The AmigaWorld Animation Video Volume II**. Even if you don't win, we'll give you \$50 and a free copy of the video if we use it as part of the tape.

Volume I was superb, but this one's going to be even better. Let's focus on entertainment value—jokes, themes, plots, etc. Let's create animations that say something. Demonstrations of technique are great, but stories are even better! And start cranking now, because we're looking to put this baby together in time for the 1990 Holiday Season.

Send your animations on floppy disks, with full instructions as to loading. Be sure to specify or include suitable playing programs. There is no limit on the size of the animation. But if your animation is particularly large, contact us about other means of transmission (800/441-4403, x-107).

Send your animation to Lou Wallace, Animation Video Contest, *AmigaWorld*, 80 Elm St., Peterborough, NH 03458. Include your name, address, and telephone number. Animations must be your original work. By submitting them, you grant *AmigaWorld* permission to use and distribute them with our tape.

## And Don't Forget Our Special Category Prizes!\*

### Best 3-D

1st PRIZE  
**Impact A2000-030**  
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2nd PRIZE  
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1st PRIZE  
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2nd PRIZE  
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Progressive Peripherals & Software

\*All prizes donated by their respective manufacturers.



# You deserve the best!

- ✓ Its handling of graphics is unsurpassed: Pen Pal is the only program I tested that will automatically wrap text around graphics... **AmigaWorld** July 1990.
- ✓ Number 1 best seller in Productivity Software category. **Amiga Insider** - *From The Top* - March, April, May, June, July, August 1990.
- ✓ Five Stars! The best of the lot by a huge margin... Intuitive and easy to use... Fast enough that speed isn't even a consideration. **Info** Jan/Feb 1990.

## Word Processor:

- Easy-to-learn and use.
- Import IFF pictures.
- Drawing tools for making lines & boxes.
- 100,000+ word spelling dictionary.
- Automatic form fill-in.
- Mail-Merge.
- Search and Replace.
- Automatic text wrap around graphics.
- Built-in Database.

# Pen Pal

by: SoftWood, Inc.

1 (800) 247-8314

**\$149.95**

## Database Manager:

- Keep track of names and addresses, things-to-do, recipes, tape libraries, and more.
- Merge data with word processing documents for personalized form letters and reports.
- Very fast sorting and searching.
- Print mailing labels and reports.

The Pen Pal documents shown below have text placed over filled backgrounds, reproduce IFF and HAM pictures in their original palettes, automatically flow text around irregular shapes of graphics, and use multiple fonts, styles, and sizes. Make no mistake about it - no other word processor can produce documents of this quality on the Amiga. For features, price, ease-of-use, quality, and customer satisfaction never settle for less than the best. Ask for Pen Pal - your best choice in a word processor.

SoftWood, Inc.  
P.O. Box 50178  
Phoenix, AZ 85076

July 22, 1990

Dear Sirs,


Hello! I am writing this letter using "Pen Pal". Normally I do not correspond with computer companies, but this time I had to make an exception.

I have been looking for a program that I could use to create colorful letters, useful forms, and effective business graphics. I have purchased several Amiga word processors whose ads made great claims as to their capabilities. After using these programs, however, I found that the ads were only hype! I soon began to feel that no program would do what I wanted to do.

Recently I saw your program "Pen Pal" on my dealer's shelf. According to the package I thought that I might finally be in luck. Although I purchased this program I was afraid that in reality it would not do everything the package said it would do. As soon as I got home from the computer store I fired up the program on my computer. Without even reading the manual I was soon creating documents with color and pictures. As you can see from this letter, I have gotten pretty good at your program's graphic capabilities.

One pleasant surprise I had was to discover that Pen Pal almost as much as the word processor. I find that I use this database mailing list, video tape library, and again cooking recipes in as databases. When I send Christmas cards this year I will use Pen Pal to print the mailing labels. I am designing my own Christmas cards in Pen Pal including some pictures I drew in a paint program. I plan to use Pen Pal's mail-merge feature to merge my mailing list names with the card to make each one personalized.


Thank you for making this program available!



Man's (and Women's) Best Friend

by Cliff Mt. Joy  
for Ms. Ballendier's English 101

A dog is the most wonderful animal companion a man or boy can have. Many years ago Senator Vest of Missouri made a speech that tells what every dog owner feels about a dog. Here is part of that speech:



The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and poverty, in health and sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground where the wintry winds blow if only he may be near his master's side. When all other friends desert he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. And when death takes the master in its embrace, and his body is laid away in the cold ground, there by the graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even in death. Circle 3 on Reader Service card.

MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Period Report to Division Managers


The first quarter numbers are in...

	Three Months Ending Mar 31, 1989	Three Months Ending Mar 31, 1988	Six Months Ending Mar 31, 1988	Mar 31, 1987
SALES				
U.S.	46,770	122,331	876,940	218,507
Europe	372,521	57,916	701,262	174,803
Asia	93,653	24,867	176,339	43,701
Net Sales	433,944	248,113	1,753,540	437,011
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Cost of sales	208,176	29,100	382,358	39,300
Selling, general, and admin.	354,434	97,140	695,948	169,250
Research and development	46,549	14,815	84,667	20,000
Income from operations	312,384	112,531	585,386	208,461
Equity in loss of S.W. operations	(10,891)	5,337	(21,813)	21,813
Interest income	7,347			
Income before federal taxes	303,840	117,868	563,573	210,274
Provision for federal taxes	113,500	51,000	102,500	102,500
Income before federal taxes	190,340	66,868	461,073	107,774
Net income	50,17	50,00	50,00	50,00
Net income per share				

...and they are better than expected!

In the first quarter of 1988 each division took advantage of strong economic conditions in their respective territories to post sales figures well in excess of their goals.

Rigorous cost cutting combined with this new distribution system have helped keep our operating expenses in line. Net income before taxes increased 285% over the same period last year.





# REVIEWS

## SAXON PUBLISHER

*Ambition will get you  
everywhere—almost*

By Chris Dickman

SAXON INDUSTRIES HAS a modest claim for its first application, Saxon Publisher. It's the best desktop publishing program available for the Amiga, the company boasts, and within a year it will be superior to anything available on the Macintosh or PC platforms.

Only time will prove the validity of the latter prediction, although I do not think the reputations of PageMaker, Ventura or QuarkXPress are in much danger. And while Saxon is a promising first release that in many ways exceeds the capabilities of PageStream (Soft-Logik), Professional Page (Gold Disk) is still the tool of choice for professional-quality publishing on the Amiga.

### OPENING UP TO IMPORTS

Because the primary function of a page-layout program is to integrate existing text and graphics files, robust import abilities are a must. Saxon provides good support for graphics, being able to import industry-standard Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) files created on the Macintosh, PC, and Amiga platforms, as well as files from ProVector (Taliesin), an Amiga drawing application. You can import IFF-compatible bitmap graphics with up to 4096 × 4096 pixels and 4096 colors for display in shades of gray.

The program supports any Amiga-compatible word processor, but will retain such formatting as bolding and italicization only for Word Perfect files. In view of the fact that no other formatting

survives the journey to a Saxon page, you must do all the text formatting in Saxon itself.

As with most page-layout programs, text is contained in boxes, which are linked together both on a page and between pages. You can type text directly into boxes or import it from a file. You can move and resize boxes, and add sizing handles that let you draw irregularly sized boxes. There is also a freehand box-drawing gadget, with which you can easily draw a box of any shape. This provides an intuitive method to create boxes for wrapping text around irregular graphic shapes or enlarged initial caps. You can assign such boxes to function keys and recall them when needed.

Because there is no master-page feature, you must design pages individually.



### YOUR TURN!

Saxon Publisher does not support some of the fonts I use most—like Zapf Chancery and Zapf Dingbats—although I understand the company is working on this. I think support of downloadable fonts is critical.

The program does a beautiful job on structured bitmaps—far better than Professional Page. I also like being able to specify the angle of a slant. It has taken me a while to get used to Saxon's setup, though, because it is different from the other desktop-publishing programs I have used. I still find it easier to change text styles in Pro Page.

I have found occasional bugs in the software. One time, while printing a proof, the program caused a whole page to bold irrevocably. I have not yet seen the perfect Amiga desktop-publishing program!

Gail Simunac  
Kansas City, MO

You can also assign entire pages to function keys for recall within a document, but the program does not keep track of the assignments. And if you create a variety of layouts, you will soon run out of function keys.

Column-guide creation is equally idiosyncratic. You specify the number of columns, draw a box on the page to indicate left and right outer columns, then drag to the left to size the columns. You must do this all by eye on the screen, with help only from the rulers. The space between the columns snaps to the current grid setting while you drag, making it difficult to know the size of the space you are creating. Guides can be only one width—there is no way to create asymmetrical guide layouts. Once you have created guides, you must draw boxes in them before entering text. This whole process seems unnecessarily labor-intensive.

Imported text and graphics files are listed in Saxon's sidebar to the left of the page. Clicking on a selection places that file in the currently selected box. You must repeat this process for each box you wish to fill with imported text; there is no provision to place a text file automatically on every page of your document. This puts a serious dent in Saxon's claim to be suitable for long-document production.

### FORMATTING WITH STYLE

Once you have some text on your page, you can perform all formatting, with the exception of minor changes such as bolding or underlining, using style tags. Simply apply these tags to paragraphs of text or embed codes into the text file. Formatting styles are grouped together in style sheets, which are independent of the current publication. You can save style sheets to disk and load them as re-



quired. To define styles, just fill out the style requester.

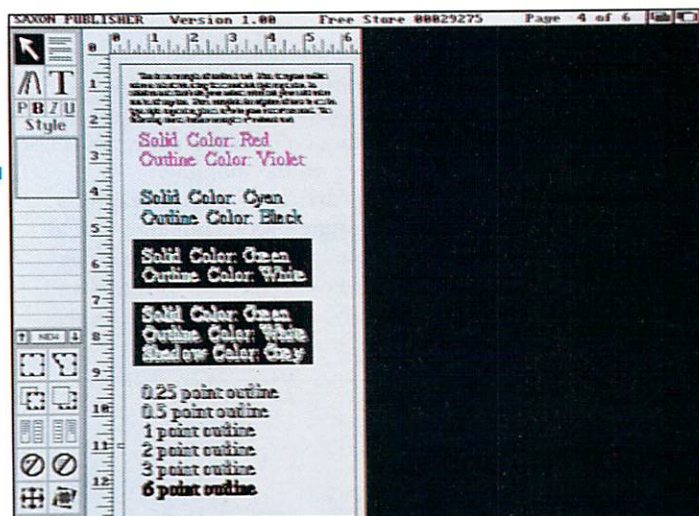
Each style has five components: Normal, which applies to an entire paragraph; Caps, applied to all capital letters; First, applied to the first letter of a paragraph; and Special1 and Special2, which you can use for such things as mathematical characters and bullets. Although you define each of these separately, if you change the font name or size in the Normal category, the other four components will also take on these attributes. Saxon takes good advantage of PostScript printers by letting you define type—in any size from 3 to 2000 points—in one-point increments.

Nice touches in the type requester include automatic drop-cap creation. This requester also lets you define such typographic attributes as interline and interparagraph spacing, alignment, and tracking (intercharacter spacing). Saxon places left and right indents under Spacing, and while you define values in points, you define first-line indents elsewhere in the requester using inches. This is needlessly confusing, as is Saxon's limited tab handling, which sets tabs permanently for every half inch. This inflexibility makes Saxon unsuitable for the many documents that require accurate alignment of columns.

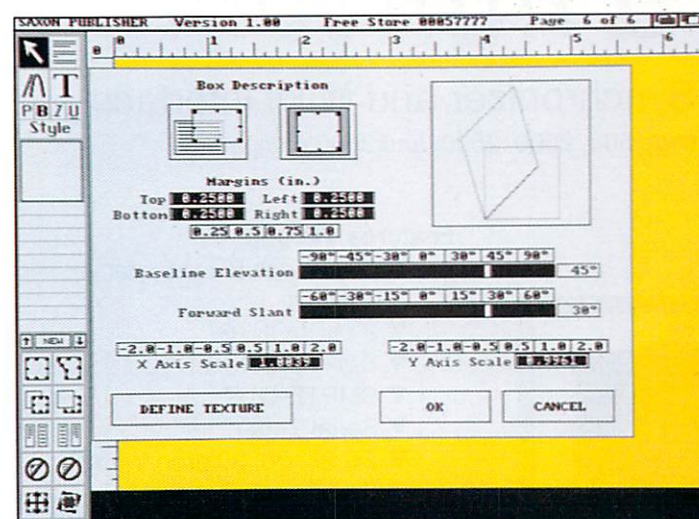
Most unusual is a separate texture requester, with which you can define a range of effects to apply to type, boxes, vector-based drawings, and even entire pages. The effects include outlines and drop shadows of different sizes and colors, 18 PostScript linear and radial fountain fills, and three variants of the brick effect used on the Saxon box.

## STYLE SHOWS

Styles are applied to an entire paragraph at a time. The program provides four



Saxon's quick-display fonts.



Boxing in the Saxon ring.

gadgets to apply the current style to every paragraph in either the box or the entire document, moving forward or backward through the publication. This is an ingenious way to apply tags to multiple paragraphs. Unfortunately, however, there is little provision for overriding the style in a given paragraph. You cannot, for example, assign a different face to just one word in a paragraph. You can change only its bolding, underlining, or italicization—a limitation I would like to see removed.

As with all style-based programs, changing the definition of a style automatically reformats all paragraphs attached to that style, making global formatting changes painless. Painless, but not fast; I found that Saxon slows to a crawl when working with styles.

Because text always resides within a box, changing the attributes of a box alters any resident text. The Box requester

provides some interesting abilities, such as rotation, x- and y-axis scaling, and skewing. As you enter values for any of these, the requester provides a visual indication of the effect. Here you can also define margins, which have the welcome ability to automatically refit corresponding text when they are altered. What's missing is the ability to perform such actions as changing margins or condensing text in several boxes simultaneously.

Saxon provides the usual box- and line-drawing features, as well as the ability to draw complex Bezier curves. Drawn objects, however, must be attached to a box, and to move the object, you must move the box. In doing so, you see only the box, not the objects, which makes it very difficult to position them accurately. Worse, there is no way to resize objects. Saxon is thus very awkward for forms creation. The good news is that you can apply any of the options ▶



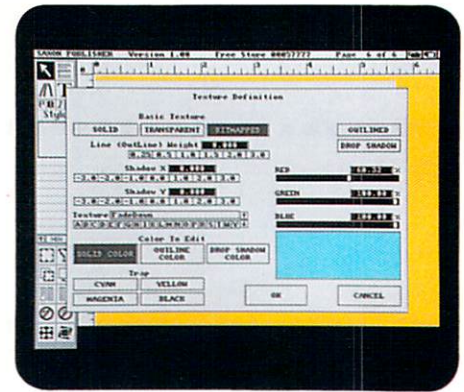
in the Texture Definition requester to drawn objects. But clearly, this is one aspect of the program that needs further work.

### THE FONT DILEMMA

The lack of interest on the part of traditional font vendors in supplying type in Amiga versions has for years bedeviled the creators of Amiga publishing applications. These developers were forced to

use their own crude bitmap fonts or non-standard, outline-font technology. The results were often less than professional-quality type on the page, and poor screen fonts on the monitor.

With the arrival of Compugraphic's scalable outline font technology, it is at last possible to create both high-quality output on PostScript laser printers and imagesetters, and accurate type display on screen.



Define Texture effects.

Saxon, however, has decided to go its own route in bringing a broad range of type-manipulation effects to publishers. It currently provides access to the standard resident fonts of PostScript laser printers, with the exception of Zapf Dingbats and Zapf Chancery (although Saxon promises to develop support for these shortly).

In addition, it supports a limited number of other PostScript fonts: American Typewriter, Benguiat, Garamond, Lubalin, and Souvenir. If you can download the Adobe PostScript versions of these (with a Bridgeboard, for example) to your laser printer, you can use them. You can also output your document at a service bureau that has these fonts. There is, however, no way to add fonts to Saxon. If you want to use Futura, for example, you're out of luck.

Saxon provides two screen fonts for each font it supports: an exceedingly crude version, which displays quickly, and a detailed version that displays very slowly. Because you can assign either version to a style, you can display large headlines in the smooth version and body copy in the crude form. (Saxon promises a cleaner version of the fast screen font.)

Designers need access to a wide variety of fonts, and Saxon could easily add support for a broader range of Adobe PostScript fonts. That, however, does not seem to be the company's goal. Saxon has announced that it will develop its own downloadable fonts and a separate program to allow font creation. I wish them the best, but typography being the exacting art that it is, similar efforts have not met with success in the past. I would prefer to have more support for Adobe ▶

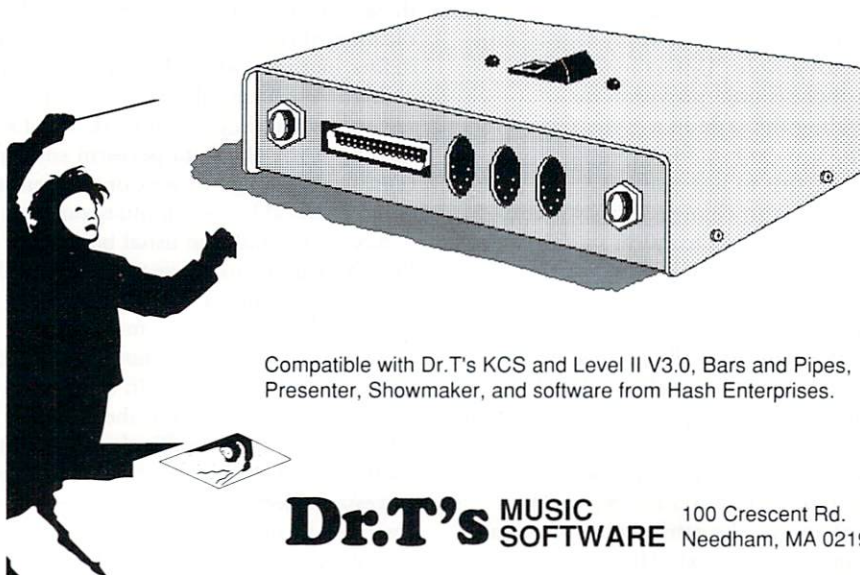
# The Phantom<sup>TM</sup>

## SMPTE Synchronizer and MIDI interface

For Amiga 500, 2000, 2500, and 3000 computers

### Features include:

- ▼ Offset with BIT Accuracy
- ▼ MIDI-IN
- ▼ 2 MIDI-OUTS
- ▼ SMPTE-IN
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- ▼ Serial Thru
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Compatible with Dr.T's KCS and Level II V3.0, Bars and Pipes, Presenter, Showmaker, and software from Hash Enterprises.

**Dr.T's MUSIC SOFTWARE** 100 Crescent Rd.  
Needham, MA 02194





## The art of driving.

**Introducing the ultimate driving machine**, the AE HD (high density) Drive, Applied Engineering's new high density 3.5 drive (above, at right). The first and only high density drive for the Amiga, it runs circles around the competition. The FCC certified design supports both standard 880K and 1.52 MEG 3.5" disks. The new AE standard device controls both the high density mode and built-in electronic disk ejection. For running the new Amiga UNIX, the AE standard 1.52 MEG format is a virtual must.

**1.52 MEG capacity** means you can stop playing diskette roulette. Simply store your large 2-disk application programs on one, high density disk and forget about fumbling for "sets" of disks. And storing files just became twice as easy too, because you'll only need half the number of disks.

**We also added performance features** like an exclusive 2-way LED indicator that displays green for reading, red for writing. And a smooth, quiet electronic

disk ejection to replace the clunky "punch" of other drive's ejectors. Since our electronic ejection is tied to the write/enable function, you can no longer accidentally trash a disk by inadvertently pushing the eject button while the drive is writing. Our ejector waits until the drive completes the write and then auto-ejects the disk.

**Beauty AND brains.** Aesthetically, the AE HD Drive is every bit as handsome as it is intelligent. We designed a high-impact ABS plastic case to protect the top quality SONY mechanism inside.

**For driving on a budget**, we've designed a quick, quiet 880K standard 3.5" drive as well (above, at left). Incorporating a reliably quiet and trouble-free design, the AE 880K Drive™ sports a tough aluminum case, custom molded cable and an on/off disable switch.

**Both drives are compatible** with all Amiga computers and feature complete daisy-chain capacity (from AE to another drive or vice-versa), MS-DOS compatibility, pass through connectors, FCC certified designs and full one-year warranties.

**AE High Density 3.5 Drive..... \$239**  
**AE 880K Drive..... \$119**

**For ten years**, AE has forged a reputation for exciting and innovative peripherals. Built to our own exacting standards of quality and reliability, our products are backed by the best warranties and the best technical support in the business.

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fonts or adoption of the Compugraphic technology.

Saxon prints only to PostScript printers and provides admirable control when creating positives or four-color separations on high-resolution PostScript imagesetters. You can set values for screen angle and density, and output bitmaps at double or quadruple their original resolutions. The usually terse documentation is particularly unhelpful in discussing

printing issues; those unfamiliar with PostScript printers may be in for a lot of trial and error.

#### NOW AND THE FUTURE

There's no doubt that the folks at Saxon are ambitious. A version slated for November release should add automatic page numbering, template support, master-page capabilities, automatic hyphenation, and rulers in points, picas, or

centimeters. Also announced is a Saxon-developed PostScript interpreter, to allow output on non-PostScript devices such as dot-matrix printers. Better memory management is also being promised. This is welcome: Just over 120K of memory is left after loading Saxon on a one-meg machine, which provokes insufficient memory messages for even the simplest documents. You'll need several megabytes to perform useful work.

The first release of Saxon is a curious mix. On the one hand, it has such advanced features as extensive style-tag support, PostScript-based text manipulations and graphic support. On the other, it is weak in the fundamental areas of tabs, graphic-object manipulation, hyphenation, Adobe font support, and the formatting of text areas smaller than a paragraph. Saxon Publisher is currently appropriate for short, funky documents packed with graphics and weird text effects. Future releases may well turn it into a professional-level program for creating long, high-quality publications in a production environment.

#### Saxon Publisher

##### *Saxon Industries*

14 Rockcress Gardens  
Nepean, Ont.  
Canada K2G 5A8  
613/228-8043  
\$445

*One megabyte and two disk drives required.*

## AMIGA Programmers Wanted!

The **AmigaWorld Tool Chest** has created a fantastic opportunity to publish new, uncirculated Amiga programs. If you've written something special for the Amiga, and would like to earn some extra money, please contact us for our Tool Chest Author Guidelines. Perhaps you'll be the next **Tool Chest Star!**

**AmigaWorld Tool Chest  
Submissions Dept.  
AmigaWorld Magazine  
80 Elm St.  
Peterborough, NH 03458**

## 3D PROFESSIONAL

*Watch out for the undertow!*

**By Bradley W. Schenck**

OVER THREE YEARS ago, Amiga artists received the first wave of 3-D modeling software. As we experimented with those tools, we watched a new generation emerge with Videoscape 2.0 (Oxxi/Aegis), Sculpt-Animate 4D (Byte by Byte), and Turbo Silver SV (Impulse). Now, while we anticipate the third wave—with Impulse's Imagine, Hash's Animation:Journeyman, and NewTek's Lightwave 3D—3D Professional looms out of the shadows. And it does loom—in the biggest software package ever to

*Continued on p. 94*



# CD-ROM

## for the Amiga®



### CD-ROM System

Xetec brings the cutting edge of optical technology to the Amiga with the CDx-650 SCSI drive systems. Now, unlimited access to vast amounts of information is possible with removable, non-volatile CD-ROM discs having capacities to 650 meg (750 floppies). Reads industry standard ISO 9660/High Sierra discs (same format used in Commodore's new CDTV®).

**Audio compact discs.** In addition, the CDx systems include the ability to play conventional digital audio CDs with supplied software through stereo line-out or headphone jacks.

**Take your pick.** The external model, CDx-650e, features a rugged, compact enclosure with built-in power supply, and dual SCSI connectors for daisy-chaining. Economical internal model also available.

**Free software.** Currently available from Xetec is our *Fish & More™* Vol. 1 CD-ROM which includes the Fred Fish library (up to #360) and additional PD software totaling over 400 megabytes of data. *Fish & More* is included free with the purchase of any CDx system (a \$2000 value if purchased on floppies!).

CDx-650i internal system.....\$599.00  
for the A-2000/2500

CDx-650e external system.....\$699.00  
for all models

Amiga and CDTV are registered trademarks of Commodore Business Machines, Inc.

**Factory-installed software.** All FastTrak, FastCard, and FastTape drive systems are now shipped with user-specified portions of the Fred Fish library installed at no charge. Please contact Xetec for additional details.



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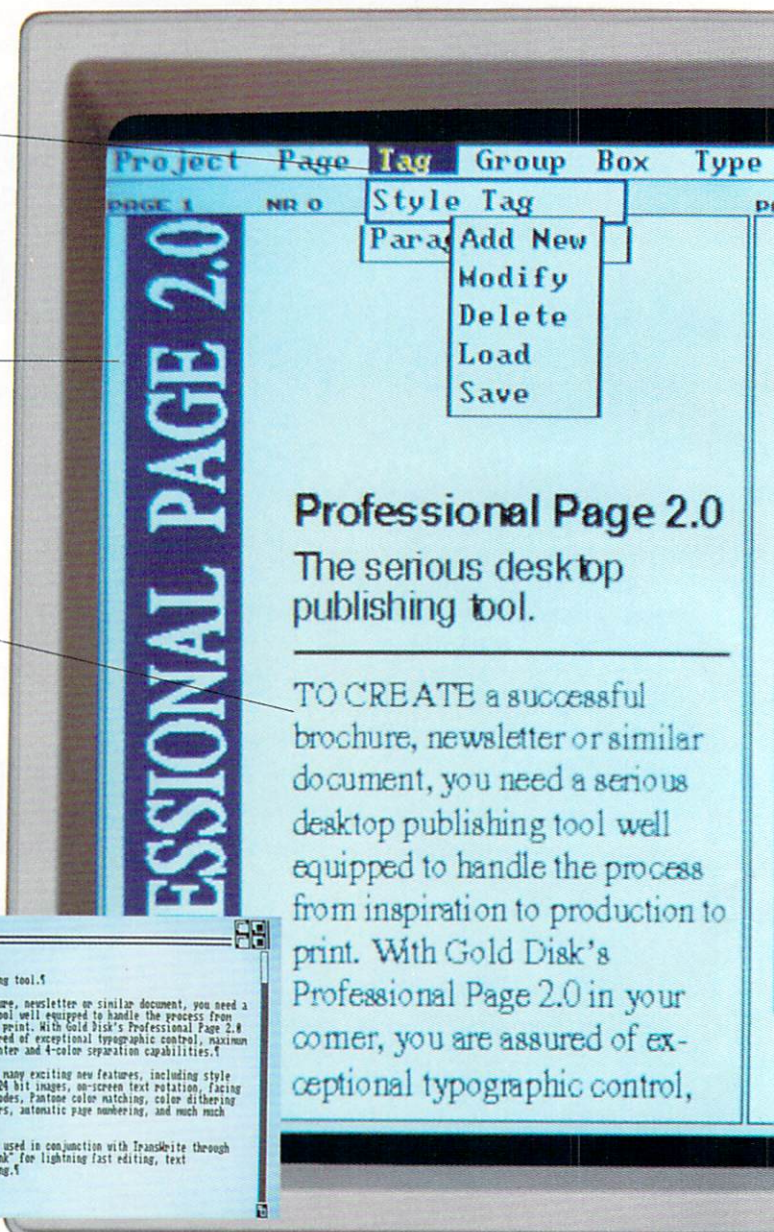
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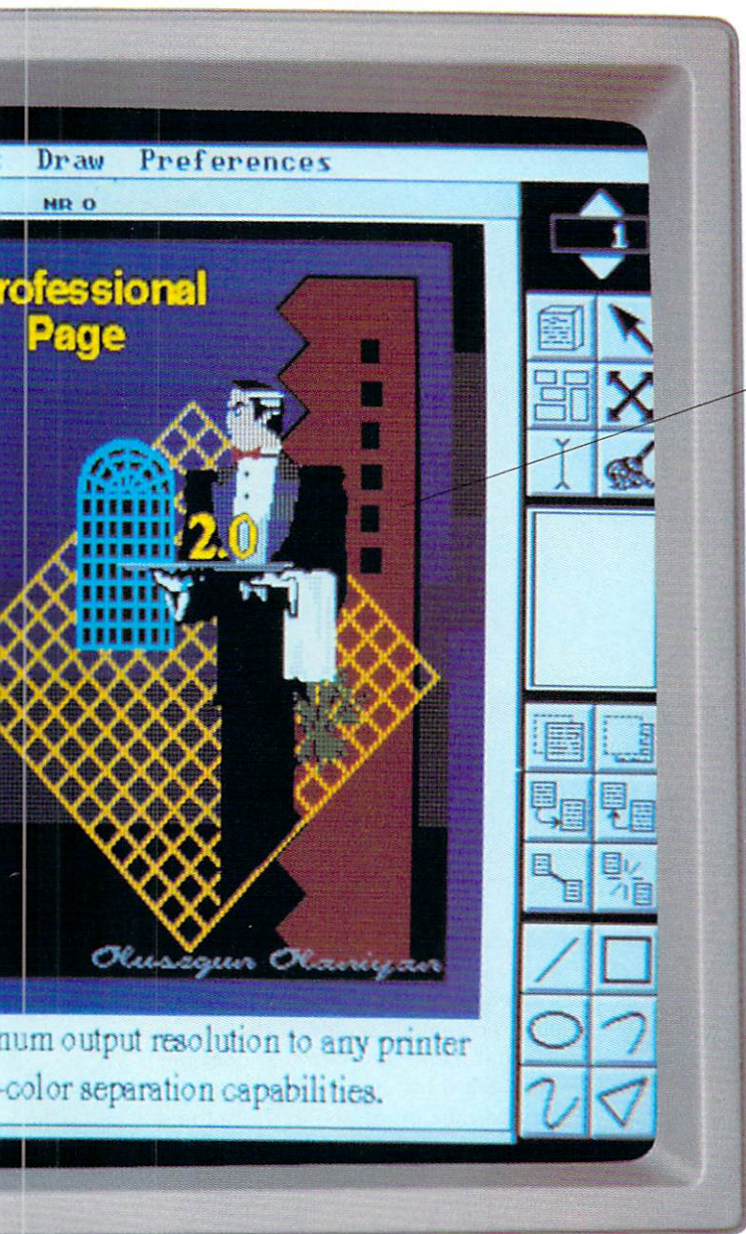
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# TOP 10

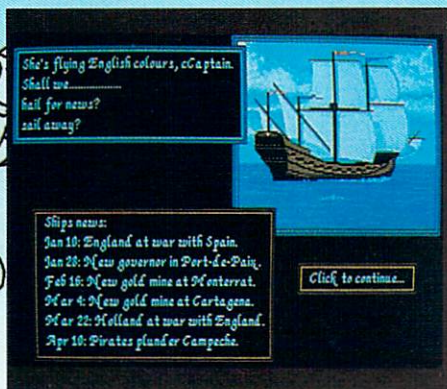
By Linda B. Laflamme and Game Testers Harv Laser, Rob Lawrence, Graham Kinsey,

TRYING TO SIDESTEP reality? The third annual Top 10 Games has just what you need, from Spanish galleons to space ships, from terrorists to giant ants. After many hours of playing (er, research), testers rated each game for quality of presentation (Does the game have good graphics and sound?), durability (Does it hold its appeal for a long time?), and, most important, entertainment value (Is the game fun?). To prevent repeating ourselves, we decided that only games released since the last ranking (held in July of '89 and appearing on p. 23 in the November '89 issue) were eligible.

10

## PIRATES

Graphic Adventure  
Microprose, \$44.95



Command a ship of go-for-broke mercenaries, visiting 50 towns in the Caribbean and living the life of a 16th- or 17th-century pirate. At the outset, you can specify your nationality, the difficulty level, your special skills, the years during which you wish to plunder (from 1560 to 1680), and whether you wish to mount your own career or re-create one of six famous excursions. While the historic expeditions are challenging, controlling the game is simple, with a mouse-and-menu interface that does not dampen the spirit of the game. You quickly become immersed in the era and the call of the sea.



# GAMES

David T. McClellen, Peter Olafson, Kevin Rohrer, John Ryan, and Dodson Yaple

9

## STAR COMMAND

Role-Playing Adventure  
Strategic Simulations, \$49.95



Straightforward and involving, Star Command is proof you don't need fancy graphics and sound effects to make a good game. First, you create and lead eight star-troopers on a mission to find and destroy Blackbeard and his hoard of intergalactic pirates. The self-mapping feature comes in very handy for indoor exploring. As you progress and best the enemy in hand-to-hand and ship-to-ship skirmishes, you gain experience, rank, and more potent weapons. With the pirates disposed of, prepare to repel the invasion of an alien, insectoid race.

8

## ESCAPE FROM SINGE'S CASTLE

Arcade  
Visionary Design, \$69.95



Want a laser-disc game, but can't afford it? Get this look-alike, instead; you'll have the same fun, practically the same graphics, and some cash left over. A follow-up to Dragon's Lair, Singe's Castle combines an intuitive interface with the original's stunning animation style and simple do-or-die play. Not only can you now save five games in progress and specify the difficulty level, but you can also turn on a Cheat mode to point you in the right direction. To truly rival the laser-disc version, Singe's Castle will link to Dragon's Lair. You get the arcade-length game and an interface for Dragon's Lair in one fell swoop.



7

**688 ATTACK SUB**Strategy  
Electronic Arts, \$49.95

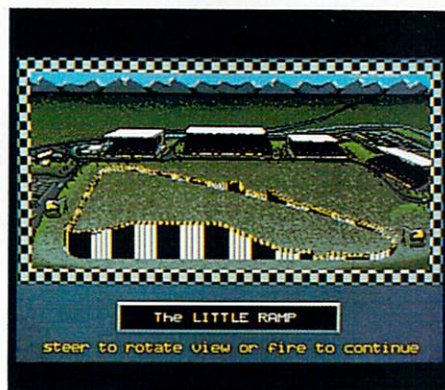
As captain of a U.S. Los Angeles-class nuclear attack sub, you race the clock or a computer-controlled enemy on ten missions, ranging from sinking three derelict destroyers while remaining hidden from a friendly sub, to escorting a convoy or searching for and sinking a Soviet missile submarine. If you're feeling more antisocial, you can command a Russian Alfa-class sub and take the opposite role on missions, shadowing American subs or finding and sinking one before it completes its job. Each sub comes equipped with all the weapons and sensors—controlled via eight displays—that you'd find on its real-life counterpart. Be prepared, however, for pauses while the game changes displays and loads the realistic digitized sounds.

6

**BATTLE SQUADRON**Arcade  
Innerprise, \$49.95

Just keep shooting. A beautifully rendered space blastfest, Battle Squadron never lets up its frenzied pace. You encounter four types of ships (some of which are invisible) and far too many ground installations for your health on the game's three long and challenging levels. At least you can tailor the game to your skills by specifying the number of extra lives you start with, your initial weapon, and the enemies' speed and maximum shots. If you need moral and fire support, you can team up with a friend, but keep in mind that you're also fighting each other for points. The game's most welcome feature is the quick return to action after you die; the most annoying is having to plug the mouse (or joystick) into port 2 to control the game in single-player mode. Don't stop to ask why player 1 is in port 2 and vice versa—just keep shooting.

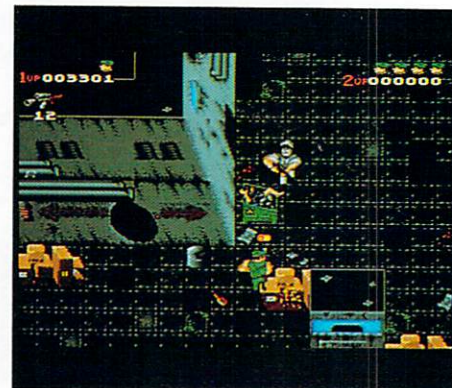
5

**STUNT CAR RACER**Sports  
Microprose, \$49.95

Imagine driving at 200 mph (or more) along a roller coaster. Not just another racing game that sends you in circles, Stunt Car Racer lets you roar over elevated stunt tracks full of steep hills, drawbridges, ski jumps, and banked curves. As if the tracks themselves were not enough of a challenge, you race against a series of computer-controlled opponents who become increasingly hard to beat as you advance up the track levels. The graphics could be better, but the animation is so realistic that it will make even the strongest stomachs queasy. Stunt Car Racer is also this

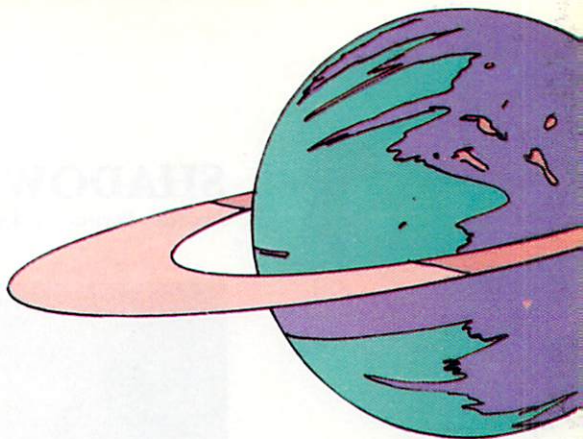
year's winner of the "do-not-try-this-at-home" award.

4

**NY WARRIORS**Arcade  
Virgin Mastertronic, \$49.99

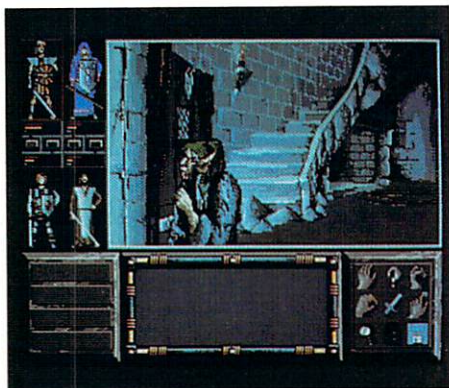
Arm your rocket launcher, warm up your flamethrower, and get ready to toast some trigger-happy gangsters. Terrorists have taken over the World Trade Center, and you (and a friend, if you wish) must wipe them out before they can nuke the city with a hydrogen bomb. First you have to get to them, though. With 360 degrees of scrolling streets and slums full of obstacles, you'll find plenty to blast. The digitized sound effects and detailed graphics are as raucous as the game. Your best weapons are lightning reflexes and a very bad temper.





3

**DRAKKHEN**  
Role-Playing Adventure  
Draconian, \$59.95



While in most dungeons-and-dragons games you are at odds with the dragons, in this three-dimensional quest you're trying to save their kingdom. With your band of three fellow adventurers, you traverse the island's four terrains (desert, steppe, swampland, and arctic waste) to retrieve eight magic gems from the dragon princes and resurrect the great

dragon. You can gain experience and power by beating up everything that crosses your path. Don't expect much more for character interaction; you can basically just greet and question the non-players. The scenery, however, more than makes up for the disappointing locals.

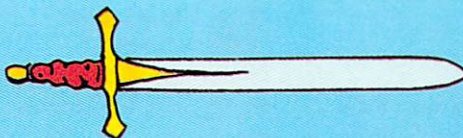
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**IT CAME FROM THE DESERT**  
Action/Strategy  
Cinemaware, \$49.95



What happens when a meteor lands in the desert? Ants mutate to B-movie proportions, Cinemaware makes a combination strategy and arcade game about them, and you become a geologist. Your job is to convince the rather thickheaded locals of the danger and to organize an army against the creatures. While the game features plenty of character interaction, you also have to be a skilled fighter. Stock up on knives, cars, pistols, grenades, dynamite, tanks, jet planes, and, of course, bug spray. The graphics, music, and speech carry on the company's tradition of show pieces. If you win the game but crave more extermination, check out It Came from the Desert II: Antheds (\$14.95). ►

## Before You Play



The type of game that makes one player want to continue forever may make another throw down the joystick in disgust. To make it easier for you to identify the games you like and avoid those you know you'll never win, we've classified the options into the following categories:

### Arcade

You use a joystick or mouse to shoot, catch, avoid, or deflect objects. Although many arcade games require strategic planning, their emphasis is on dexterity and speed.

### Action/Strategy

Trying to appeal to action lovers as well as thinkers, this category contains strategy games that have arcade or arcade-like elements. In the best examples, the arcade sequences are seamlessly integrated into the play of the game. In poorly-designed games, the arcade aspect seems tacked on as an afterthought.

### Sports

These games simulate the play of a particular sport such as hockey, basketball, or racing. Some sports games stress arcade skills, while others emphasize strategy.

### Text Adventures

In these imaginary worlds, you must use your wits to explore and survive. The worlds are created by descriptions supplied by the game. To specify your actions, you type commands.

### Graphics Adventures

Also called illustrated adventures, these games use pictures to supplement or replace text descriptions. In some graphics adventures, the images serve only as illustration, while in others they serve as the interactive interface. You point and click to indicate your actions.

### Flight Simulators

Zoom into the air realistically with these games. You are at a flying machine's controls as ever-refreshed 3-D graphics simulate its movement through the skies.

### Role-Playing Adventures

Assemble a party of adventurers, outfit them with supplies bought from the local store, and send them on a quest to (usually) wipe out some monstrously evil being. The task is to develop characters with the attributes necessary to survive the final challenge.

### Strategy Games

With strategy games, joystick prowess takes a back seat to cool, calculating thought. The category encompasses games of logic, as well as those based on real-life scenarios.





1

## SHADOW OF THE BEAST

Arcade; Psygnosis, \$49.95



Notorious for its difficulty, celebrated for its incredible graphics, *Shadow of the Beast* is the *piece-de-resistance* among arcade adventures. As you jump, punch, and kick your way above and below ground through this carefully detailed world, you'll meet 132 varieties of creatures straight from your nightmares. Don't fail to pick up the scattered items you need for the final showdown, assuming you make it that far. Some monsters shatter to reveal smaller, equally nasty creatures inside; hold your ground and punch again. Loosen your grip on the joystick or become distracted by the game's up to 13 levels of scrolling and six music scores, and you'll find yourself with a long wait (almost two minutes) while you're resurrected from an untimely death. The longer wait for a sequel is over, however; *Shadow of the Beast II* was recently released.

## The Second Tier

If you've already played all the top finishers and want to sample the rest of the best, check out these ten runners up:

### 11 Day of the Viper

Graphic Adventure

Accolade, \$49.95

Guide a Viper-5 robot on a search for a sequestered cyborg and his robotic army.

### 12 The Third Courier

Graphic Adventure

Accolade, \$49.95

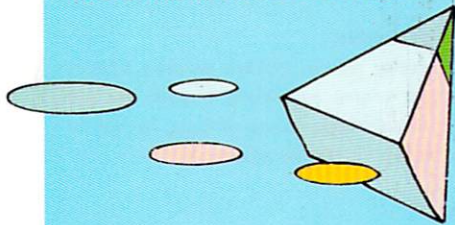
As the star of this espionage thriller, you must hunt on both sides of the Berlin wall for stolen U.S. defense plans.

### 13 Their Finest Hour

Flight Simulator

Electronic Arts, \$59.95

Fly for either side in this re-creation of World War II's Battle of Britain.



### 14 Nuclear War

Strategy

New World Computing, \$49.95

Bomb or be bombed in this tongue-in-cheek game of global politics.

### 15 Space Ace

Arcade

Ready Soft, \$59.95

Save beautiful Kimberly from evil Commander Borf in this Don Bluth arcade look-alike.

### 16 Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade

Graphic Adventure

Lucasfilm, \$49.95

Guide Indy on his search for the Holy Grail.

### 17 Budokan: The Martial Spirit

Sports

Electronic Arts, \$49.95

Practice Karate, Nunchaku, Kendo, and Bo; then test your skills at the tournament in Tokyo.

### 18 Romance of the Three Kingdoms

Strategy

Koei, \$69.95

Try to unite ancient China under one ruler—you.

### 19 Clown-o-Mania

Arcade

Star Games, \$34.95

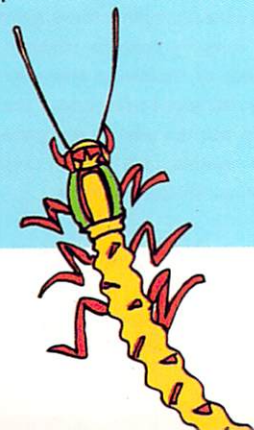
Run a clown through multiple scrolling levels, collecting jewels and blasting monsters.

### 20 Gold of the Americas

Strategy

Strategic Studies Group, \$39.95

Vie with explorers from three other countries to conquer and colonize the Americas.





# Manufacturers' Addresses

**Accolade**

550 South Winchester Blvd., Suite 200  
San Jose, CA 95128  
408/985-1700

**Cinemaware**

distributed by Electronic Arts

**Star Games**

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**Draconian**

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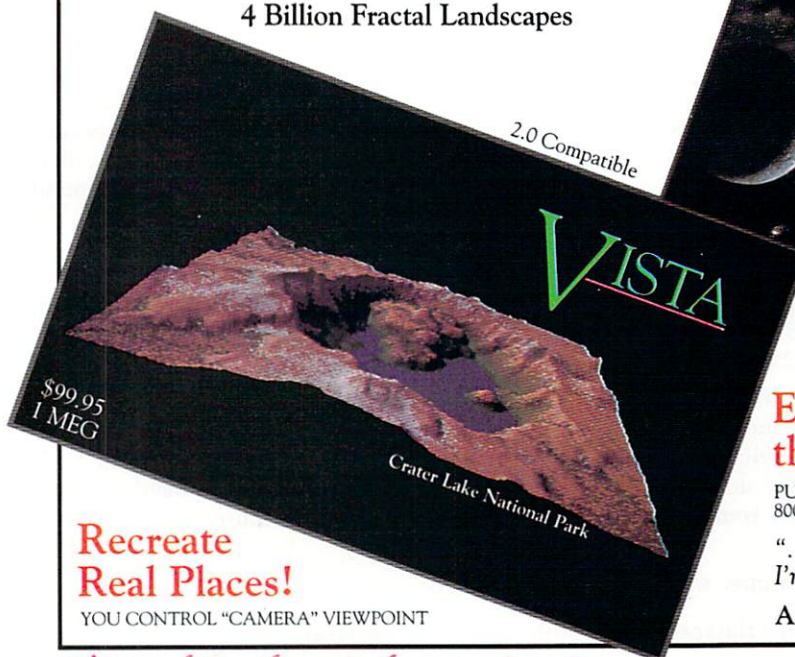
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# Bargain Basement Gems:

# THE TOP 10 PD GAMES



ALWAYS ON THE lookout for an evening of cheap fun, we scouted the on-line networks to find the best games the public domain has to offer. For a minimal download charge (and maybe a shareware contribution), you can get plenty of games that rival the expensive commercial choices. We based the rankings on the total number of downloads for each game and the Gaming Board's ratings for

quality of presentation (Does the game have a good interface?), durability (Does it hold its appeal?), and entertainment value (Is the game fun?). To help you find the winners, we've listed their file IDs for the major communications networks: CompuServe (CS), GENie (GE), and PeopleLink (PL); plus their Fred Fish disk numbers (FF).

## 10 DeluxeBurger

Arcade; Brian Conrad; CS: Deluxe.arc;  
GE: 3975; PL: 17946

If you're not hungry when you sit down to play, you soon will be. This silly shoot-'em-up from the programmer of SimCity offers burgers, fries, and ketchup as targets. Grab a beer and join in the greasy fast fun.

## 9 Destination Moonbase

Arcade; Jimbo Barber; CS: Moon.lzh;  
GE: 8342; PL: 21405; FF: 312  
Shareware: unspecified donation.

This very classy update of Lunar Lander

adds a few new twists. After picking up cargo and fuel by docking with an orbiting space station, you must deliver the load to the lunar surface. Just like a trucker, your goal is to complete all your assigned deliveries while crashing as infrequently as possible. Gorgeous graphics add to the fun.

## 8 Quattro

Arcade; Karl-Erik Jenss; CS: Quattr.zoo;  
PL: 21237; FF: 230

One of many Tetris and Welltris clones, Quattro is a two-dimensional version with three difficulty levels. With the joystick or keypad, you must maneuver the falling puzzle pieces into complete rows, which

collapse down on each other. Let the pit fill to the top and you've lost. To help you plan a strategy, the game previews the next piece to fall. To add to the fun, it offers sound effects and 43-color background screens.

## 7 Electric Train

Strategy; Dennis Saunders; CS: Train.lzh;  
GE: 8155; PL: 22249  
Shareware: \$5.

Put your Amiga on the bedroom floor or under the Christmas tree and play Electric Train for a dose of nostalgia. Lay the track or load an existing setup, then don your engineer's cap. You must control two trains ►

By Linda Barrett Laflamme, with the Gaming Board:

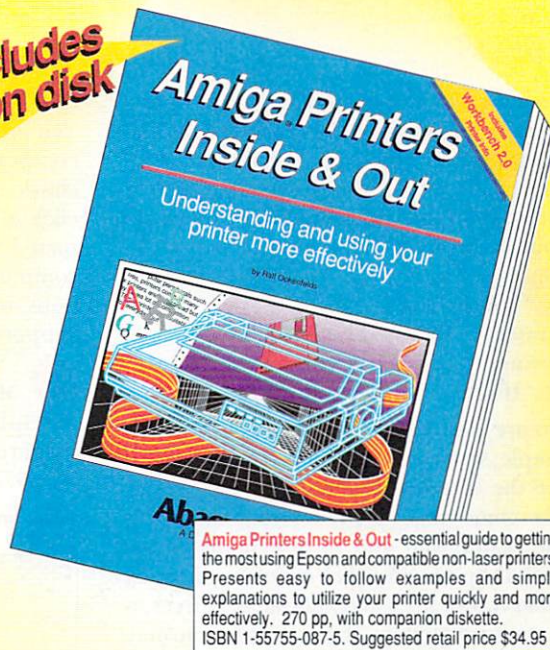
Graham Kinsey, Harv Laser, Peter Olafson, Kevin Rohrer, and John Ryan



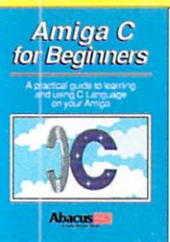
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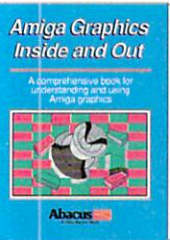
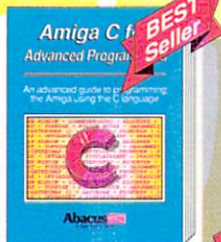


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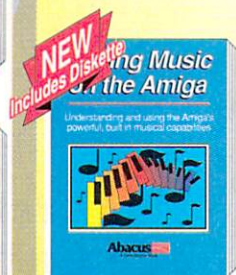
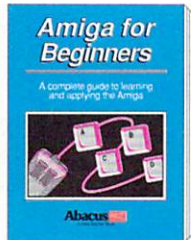
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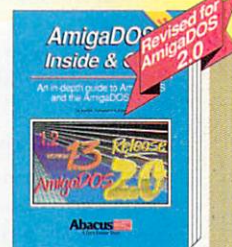
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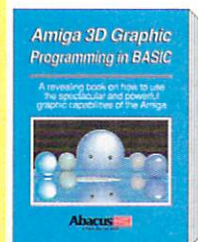
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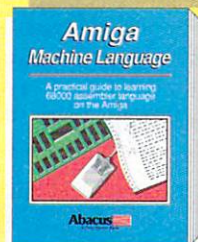
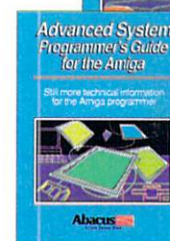
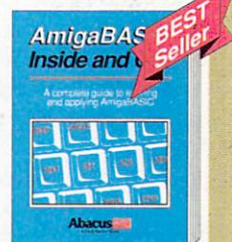
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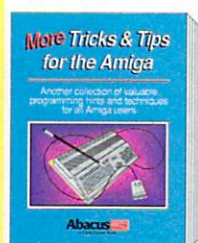
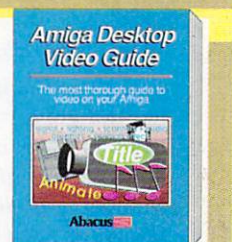
**3DGraphic Programming in BASIC** - details writing 3D graphic programs: ray tracing in all resolutions, light sources and shading and more. 360 pp ISBN 1-55755-044-1 Suggested retail price \$19.95

**AmigaBASIC Inside and Out** - step-by-step guide to AmigaBASIC. Every AmigaBASIC topic: charts, windows, pull-down menus, files, mouse & speech commands. Covers Workbench 1.3 Info. 548 pp ISBN 0-916439-87-9 Suggested retail price \$24.95



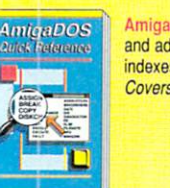
**Machine Language** - comprehensive introduction to 68000 assembler ML programming, covers 68000 microprocessor, speech, sound, menu programming, complete intuition program including Proportional, Boolean and String gadgets. 264 pp ISBN 1-55755-025-5 Suggested retail price \$19.95

**Desktop Video Guide** - clearly explains how you can harness the video power of the Amiga. Guides you through the confusing jargon and terminology to give you a practical introduction to video production and more. 240 pp ISBN 1-55755-057-3 Suggested retail price \$19.95



**More Amiga Tricks & Tips** - a collection of easy to use techniques, hints for Amiga owners, disable fast RAM, NewCon and Pipe devices, more. Covers Workbench 1.3 Info. 218 pp ISBN 1-55755-051-4 Suggested retail price \$19.95

**Tricks and Tips** - presents dozens of tips on accessing libraries from BASIC, custom character sets. AmigaDOS, sound, important 68000 memory locations and much more! 342 pp ISBN 0-916439-88-7. Suggested retail price \$19.95



**AmigaDOS Quick Reference Guide** - An invaluable, easy-to-use reference tool for beginners and advanced programmers alike. You can quickly find commands by using the three handy indexes designed with the user in mind. Commands in alphabetical order for easy reference. Covers Workbench 1.3 Info. 128 pp ISBN 1-55755-049-2 Suggested retail price \$9.95

**Companion Diskette** - Available for all titles except Amiga for Beginners, Desktop Video and AmigaDOS Quick Reference. \$14.95 each

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**1-800-451-4319** Ext. 1211

Circle 224 on Reader Service card.



from a crawl to runaway speed and keep them from crashing into each other. The appropriate choo-choo sounds are perfectly integrated. This layout is easier to set up than the real thing, and, best of all, your cat won't attack the train.

## 6 Metro

Strategy; Mark A. Thomas & David P. Townsend; CS: Metro.zoo; GE: 5775; PL: 16106

Picture SimCity for the public domain, with simple, serviceable graphics. In Metro, you are the director of a city's transit system. The game builds a city for you, arranging the residential and employment areas. With the point-and-click controls, you must build transit lines and allocate resources to increase ridership. If you don't, you may find a pink slip in your box.

## 5 Nakamoto

Arcade; Tom Eshelman; CS: Nakamo.zoo; PL: 20511

An updated version of the C-64's popular JumpMan game, Nakamoto makes you climb and jump your way up vertically and horizontally scrolling screens of ropes and ladders. You'll need a good eye for distance and a steady joystick hand to make it to the top. At least the game gives you super sound to listen to along the way. If you master the existing screens, you can create your own with the built-in editor.

## 4 MechForce (formerly BattleForce 3.61, BattleFort, and BattleMech)

Action/Strategy; Ralph Reed; CS: Battle.arc; GE: 7913; PL: 22234; FF: 273  
Shareware: \$25.

Giant mechanized robots called Battlemechs fight for territory with you at their helm. On each of the possible 12 missions, up to four computer- or human-controlled teams of seven robots each can play at once. 'Mechs come in different classes, with a variety of capabilities and weapons; choose your machine carefully. The combat area—displayed on 16-color screens—features varying terrains. The game also sports a full Intuition interface and is backed up by appropriate digitized sounds.

## 3 Monopoly

Strategy; Ed Musgrove; CS: Monopo.zoo; PL: 20174; FF: 251

If you want to be a high-stakes real-estate dealer, but don't want to bother keeping

track of the money, boot up Monopoly. You and up to three friends can play this computer version of the Parker Brothers classic. No typing or counting needed; just click to roll the dice and watch your animated token move along the board. The computer monitors all the cash transactions, too. All the board-game options are supported.

## 2 Moria 3.0

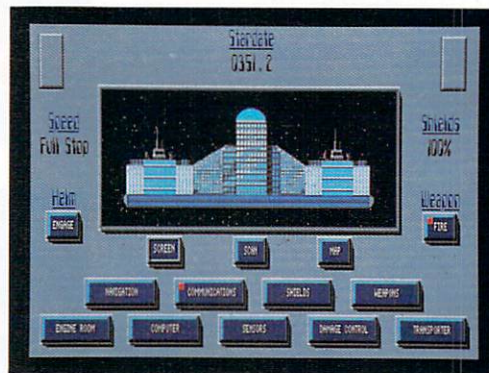
Role-playing Adventure; Bryan and Richard Henderson; CS: Moria3.zoo; GE: 5729-30; PL: 15421-22; FF: 194

Few commercial games can match this dun-

geon-based fantasy's impressive complexity. You must explore the world, battle monsters, and find gold on a quest to penetrate a series of dungeons and defeat the Balrog who is lurking in their depths. You start at the town level above ground, where you load up on supplies, weapons, armor, and magic devices by bartering with shopkeepers. Complete with pull-down menus, pickup mode, continuous-move mode, real-time mode, and message-wait-time mode, Moria keeps getting bigger and better; static atmospheric graphics at appropriate moments are a notable addition for version 3.0.



## Star Trek: The Game



Action/Strategy; Jimbo Barber; CS: STTG1A.wrp, STTG1B.wrp, STTG2A.wrp, STTG2B.wrp, STTG2C.wrp; GE: 5872-73, 5875-78, 5886; PL: 16302-06  
Shareware: \$5.

Why pay for shareware? To encourage programming more first-class games like this one. Based on the original *Star Trek* series, this game casts you in the role of Captain Kirk. After receiving your orders from Star Fleet Command, you embark on a mission, using the simple point-and-

click controls. As you complete each one, it reveals clues to your ultimate goal. The missions, usually involving transporting people or valuable cargo, don't seem hard until you factor in unruly Klingons spoiling for a fight (at least you can vary the intelligence of their attack sequences) and your ever-dwindling supply of dilithium crystals. A beauty to look at (especially its long, spectacular opener) and challenging to play, the game also boasts sound effects and digitized voices of crew members. ■

## Public Domain Sources

**American PeopleLink**  
800/524-0100 voice  
800/826-8855

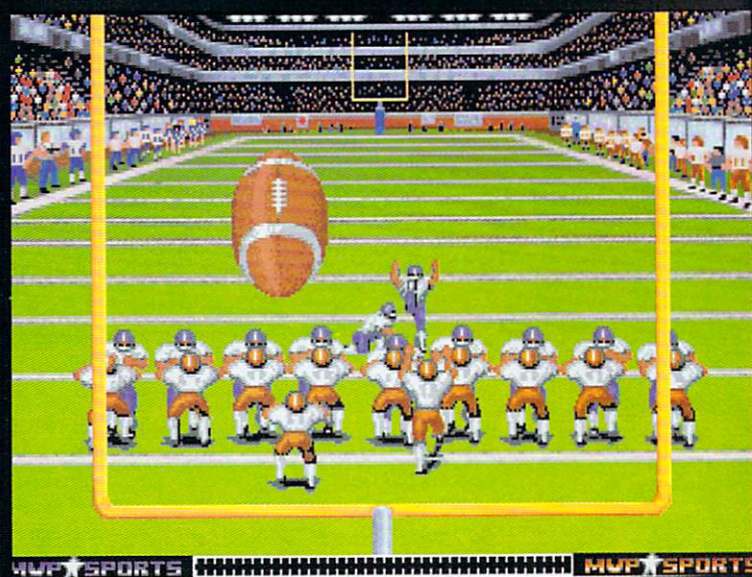
**CompuServe**  
800/848-8199 voice  
614/457-8650 from Ohio

**Fred Fish**  
1346 W. 10th Place  
Tempe, AZ 85281

**GEnie**  
General Electric Information Services  
800/638-9636 voice



# We put in everything but the commercials.



It's fourth and eight. Six seconds on the clock. Your timeouts are gone and you're down by one.

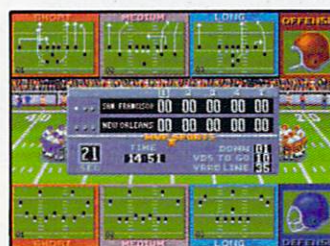
A field goal here and you win it all.

But don't be nervous.

You've only got 20 million people watching you.

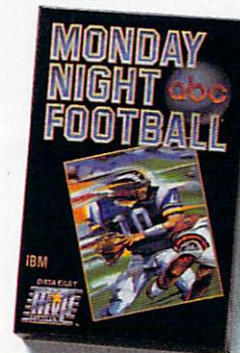
This is ABC's Monday Night Football.

With the best graphics. The best sound. And action so real, Frank Gifford even does the commentary.



It just doesn't get any better than this, guys. Except that you don't have to wait for Monday night to play.

So. Let's see if you can split those uprights...



Available for IBM-PC/  
Compatibles, Amiga, and  
Commodore 64.

Circle 233 on Reader Service card.

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# Winners in the Wings

*Think you've seen it all? Not so!*

*Game developers still have plenty of new tricks, as this sneak peek proves.*

**B**ECAUSE GUESSING WHICH games will be hot and which will flop is a risky business at best, we're sticking to investigative journalism and leaving the predictions to Jeanne Dixon. We ferreted out information on early versions of games that will hit the streets "real soon now" (translation from developer-speak: before 1991). Rigorous hours of testing revealed the 15 most promising prospects. Now, you be the judge of which will be the biggest winners.

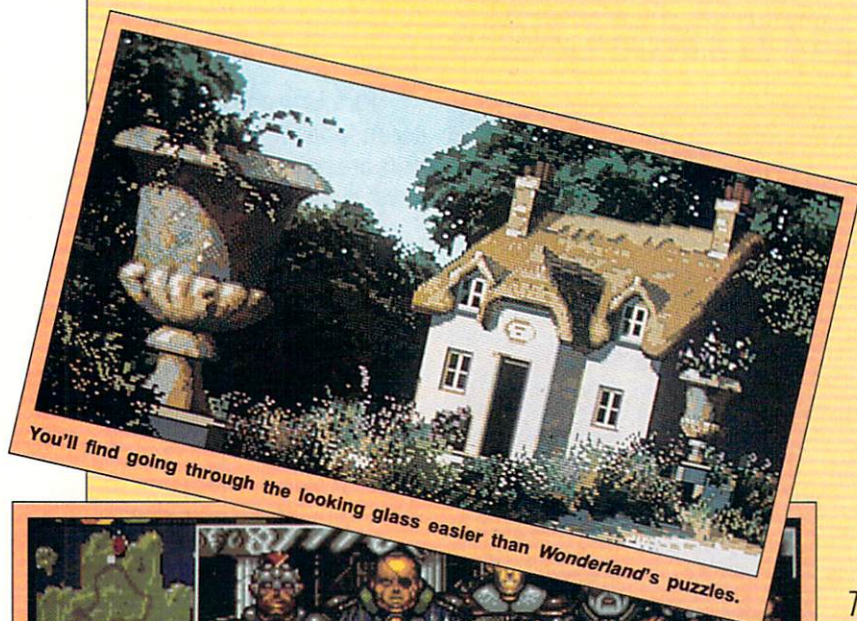
## FOR TIRELESS TRIGGER FINGERS

After the mega-hit *Shadow of the Beast* (see "Top 10 Games" on p. 26), we were doubtful that Psygnosis could release a sequel that was equally impressive.

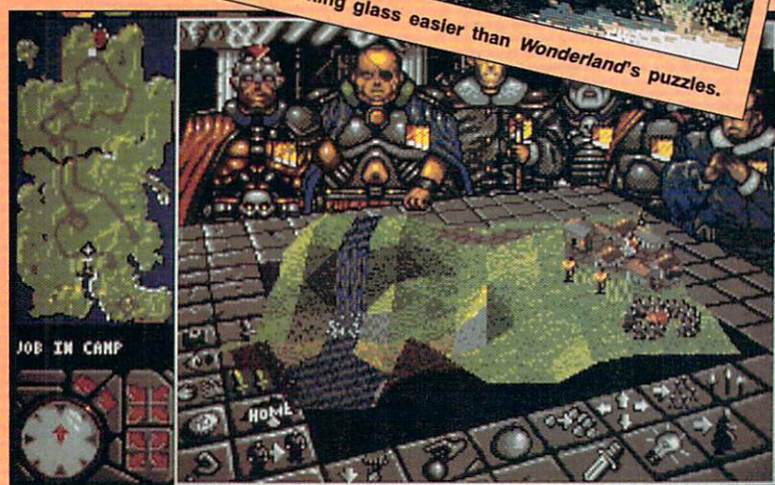
**Shadow of the Beast II** (which should already be on dealers' shelves) proved us very wrong. As sequels go, we think it will be a real lethal weapon, letting you make all those terrible monsters die harder, too.

Not content to rest on their *Beast* laurels, however, Psygnosis is preparing a whole onslaught of new games. Our favorite among them is **The Killing Game Show**, a superbly crafted shoot-'em-up with 16 levels. The idea is to collect keys that lower the various barriers, letting you progress upward to the ►

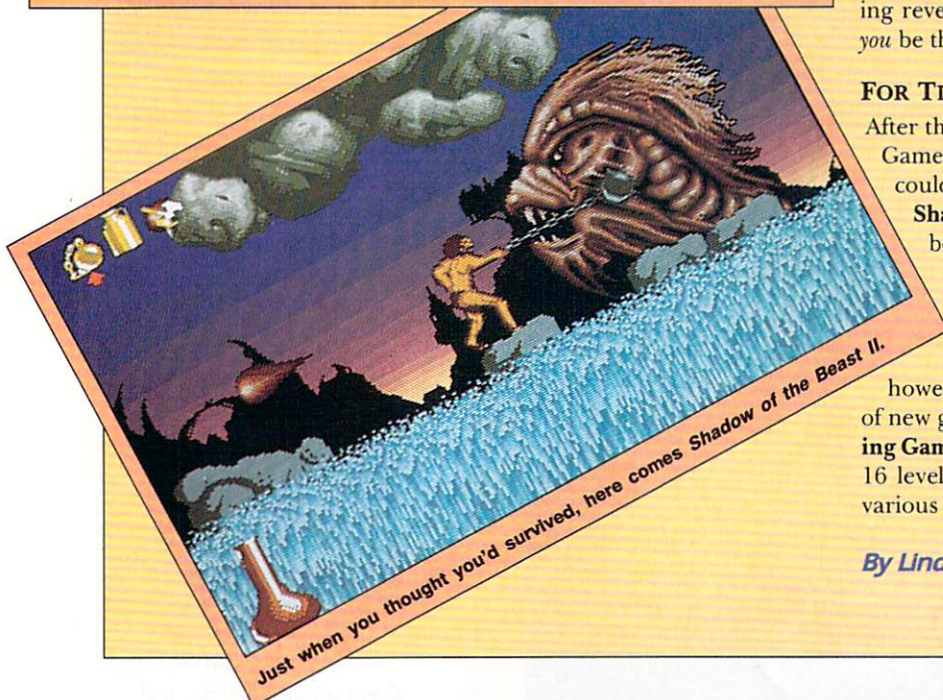
*By Linda Barrett Laflamme and Lou Wallace*



*You'll find going through the looking glass easier than Wonderland's puzzles.*

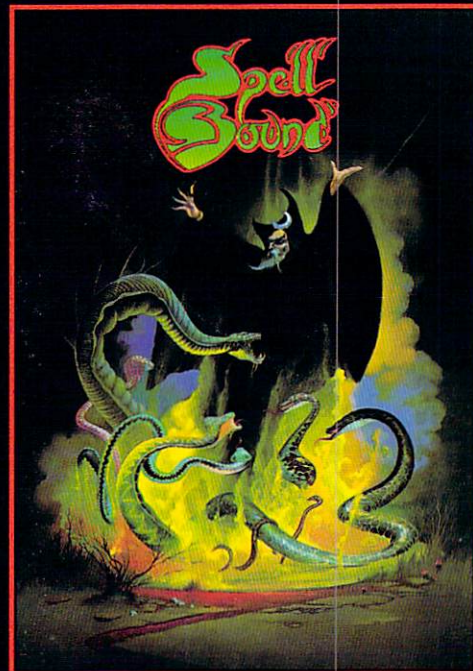
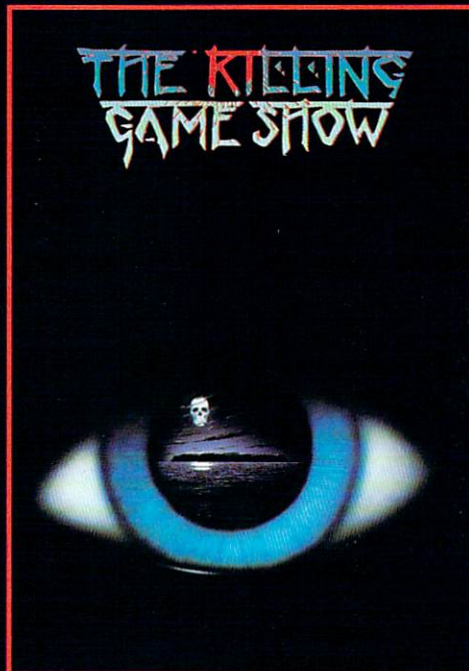
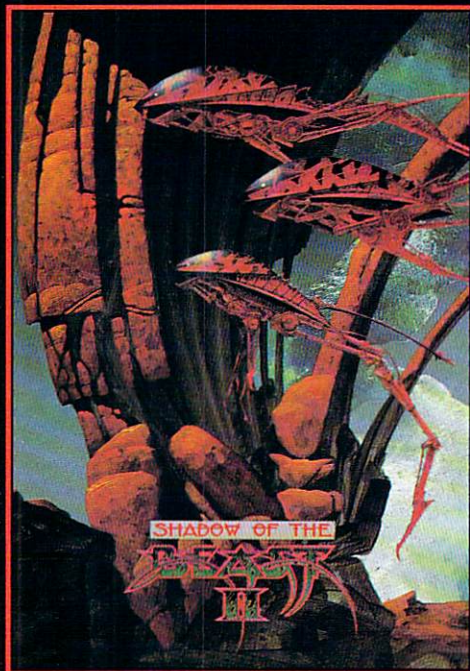


*You'll need negotiation, force and bribery to win in PowerMonger.*



*Just when you thought you'd survived, here comes Shadow of the Beast II.*





## THE BEAST IS BACK!

THE SEQUEL TO THE TOP SELLING  
AMIGA GAME OF 1989

### THE CONFLICT CONTINUES...

Your deadly struggle for freedom against the dark forces of the Beast Lord is now but a painful memory. You try to forget the anguish of the past by concentrating on your prize for success in the bloody battle: the return of your humanoid body.

But as you slowly adjust to your newly-won physique, the pain you thought gone is about to return... the Beast Mage has kidnapped your sister! She must be rescued before she falls foul of his dark arts. You journey to a hostile alien world to face the malevolent hosts of the Beast Mage and interact with more friendly characters to learn of your unfamiliar surroundings.

You must fight your way through many enemy-infested levels collecting and using weapons and objects to aid your crusade towards conflict with the Beast Mage... before he makes your sister his own!

Screen Shots from the Amiga version  
AVAILABLE ON THE PSYGNOSIS LABEL

## THE KILLING GAME SHOW...

... WILL HAVE YOU CLIMBING THE  
WALLS - IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT!

Suited in limited-protection armour you're the unwilling contestant on THE KILLING GAME SHOW. In front of a TV audience of millions you must battle your way to the top of 16 Pits of Death infested with Hostile Artificial Life Forms specially created by THE KILLING GAME SHOW's manic scientists to give you a hard time.

But... don't forget the rising fluid or it's "Next contestant time".

You must give the viewers their value for money — collect the awesome weapons and tools — if you can!

First prize is your life — Don't waste it!

Screen Shots from the Amiga Version  
AVAILABLE ON THE PSYGNOSIS LABEL

## SPELLBOUND

DON'T GET CAUGHT  
BY THE WARLOCKS!!

Just as you were about to advance a grade in the school of magic your tutor goes and gets himself kidnapped. You have to rescue him or you'll never graduate.

Battling through eight diverse and dangerous lands, collecting spells and objects along the way, you use your limited magic powers to fight off deadly adversaries in a fraught-filled fight to free your tutor.

But it's going to be a tough task on your own: take a friend along to increase your chances and double the fun!

Screen Shots from the Atari ST version  
AVAILABLE ON THE PSYCLAPSE LABEL

## PSYGNOSIS

29 Saint Mary's Court,  
Brookline, MA 02146  
Telephone: (617) 731-3553  
Fax: (617) 731-8379

**SHADOW OF THE BEAST II** - Amiga  
**THE KILLING GAME SHOW** - Amiga  
**SPELLBOUND** Amiga/Atari ST

Circle 123 on Reader Service card.

**PSYGNOSIS**



level's top. Succeed, and you move on to the next.

Special-effect tokens are hidden throughout each level; some offer special powers or weapons, while others are red herrings. You can carry only one item at a time, so choose carefully what to pick up. Don't stop to think, however; the deadly flood waters are always rising. Do shoot everything that moves, and blast anything that doesn't get out of your way. A novel feature is the ability to automatically replay all or part of your last life and specify where to start over. *Psygnosis'* signature graphics, multi-level scrolling, and excellent sound and music round out the package.

When you need a break from killing monsters, try zapping aliens. **Awesome** is a vertically scrolling, high-speed blastfest in space. Instead of encasing you in a mechanized robot like *The Killing Game Show*, **Awesome** puts you at the helm of a spaceship. It also gives you larger targets.

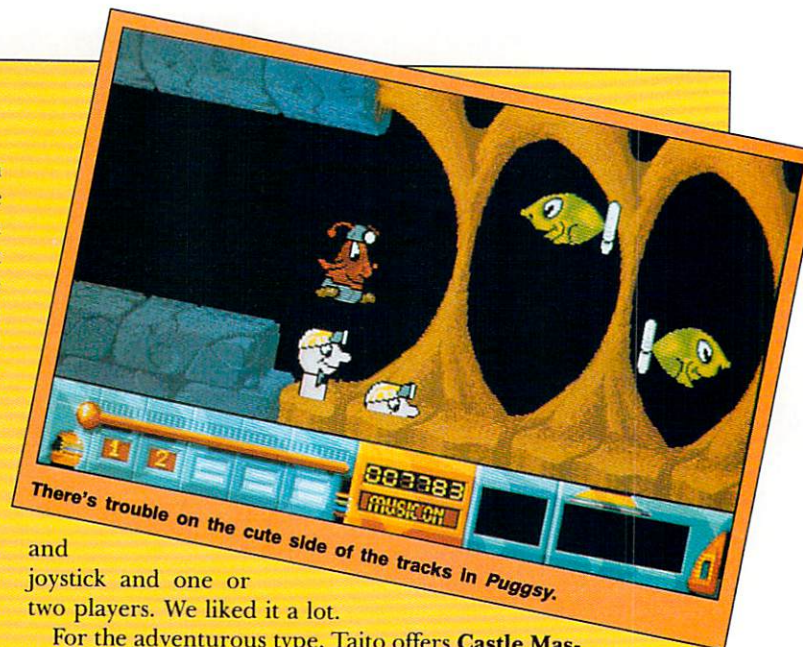
For a total change of pace, *Psygnosis*, the masters of the dark-edged and destructive, are releasing **Puggsy** and **CutiPoo**. More like animated cartoons from Saturday morning TV than the company's usual violent arcade games, the pair still offer quite a bit of enjoyable action. In addition, they're appropriate for young audiences.

#### EVENING ENTERTAINMENT OR EVENING NEWS?

Rugged commandos only need apply to Taito's arcade offering. Fresh on the heels of *Operation Wolf* (and just in time for the real trouble in the Persian Gulf) Taito brings us **Operation Thunderbolt**. You must free 23 hostages from the clutches of the volatile General Kadam (no kidding!) in Northern Africa. Like *Wolf*, it's a kill-or-be-killed scrolling arcade game, with eight increasingly difficult missions, digitized sound, and coming-at-you graphics. It supports mouse



Better looking than *Wheel of Fortune* and harder than *Jeopardy*, it's *The Killing Game Show*.



and joystick and one or two players. We liked it a lot.

For the adventurous type, Taito offers **Castle Master**, a real-time game of exploration. In it, your goal is to rescue your twin from the evil Castle Master who is trying to enslave your spirits. The graphics looked interesting, and the 3-D motion was well done.

#### NO I.D. REQUIRED

Accolade is working on more down-to-earth themes. The first on tap is **Bar Games**, a tongue-in-cheek look at the singles scene. Try your hand at five "exotic" sports. Air Hockey puts you at the opposite end of the table from increasingly skilled opponents. In *Wet 'n' Wild* (a do-it-yourself, wet T-shirt contest) you must dump buckets of water on the willing women walking on stage. *Liar's Dice* pits you against a bluffing, buxom barmaid in a game of chance, while *Last Call* casts you as a bartender sliding beers to thirsty patrons. Our favorite is *Pick-up Artist*, in which you must use your silver tongue to charm three lovely ladies hanging around the bar. (Strangely enough, Linda was much better at this.)

For a more sedate and cerebral evening's entertainment, try Accolade's **Ishido**, a Shanghai-style board game. You place matching tiles on a board (instead of removing them, as in Shanghai). Scoring is based on the final number of tiles on the board.

Too tame? Accolade also caters to your gruesome streak. **Elvira, Mistress of the Dark** combines exploration, combat, and puzzle solving in a graphically intense horror game with a sinister soundtrack. Your goal is to find the six keys that open the chest containing *The Scroll of Spiritual Mastery*. If you acquire it first, you can rid the castle of its evil denizens. If the evil Queen Emelda gets it in her clutches... shudder the thought. (Note: This one is not for those with weak stomachs, as it contains scenes of very graphically depicted gore.)

#### WHITE RABBITS AND RED SPOTS

Gentler adventurers will better appreciate Virgin



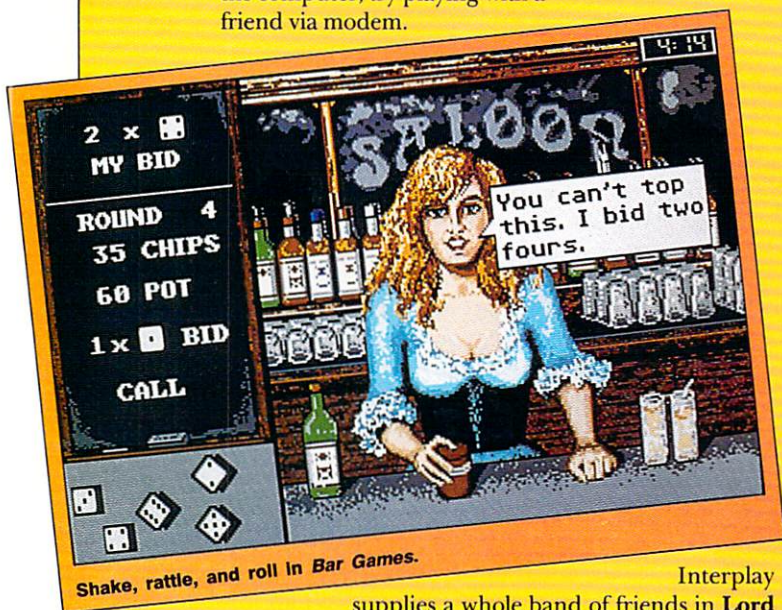
Mastertronic's **Wonderland**. A beautifully rendered adventure game based on Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, Wonderland has a properly baffling story line. From the little we've seen, this one promises to be a winner, full of puzzles and mysteries.

If TV commercials are more your style than children's classics, wait for **Spot**, a board-like game that is vaguely reminiscent of Othello. Don't worry, Virgin Mastertronic has spiced it up with plenty of cute animations, starring 7-Up's Spot, the wonder dot.

Too small a scale? Conquer a few planets in Virgin Mastertronic's **Overlord**, an involved combination of strategy and role-playing elements. You explore space, settle planets, and develop their populations, resources, wealth, and defenses. While helping your planets to peacefully prosper is a big job in itself, you must also build strongholds to repel the inevitable alien invaders. At least they (and all the other graphics) are nicely rendered.

#### ANCIENT STRATEGY

Capturing the king is a simpler, if not easier, goal in **Battle Chess II**, from Interplay. This time the contest is based on Chinese Chess and sports more detailed animation and multiple difficulty levels. If you can't beat the computer, try playing with a friend via modem.

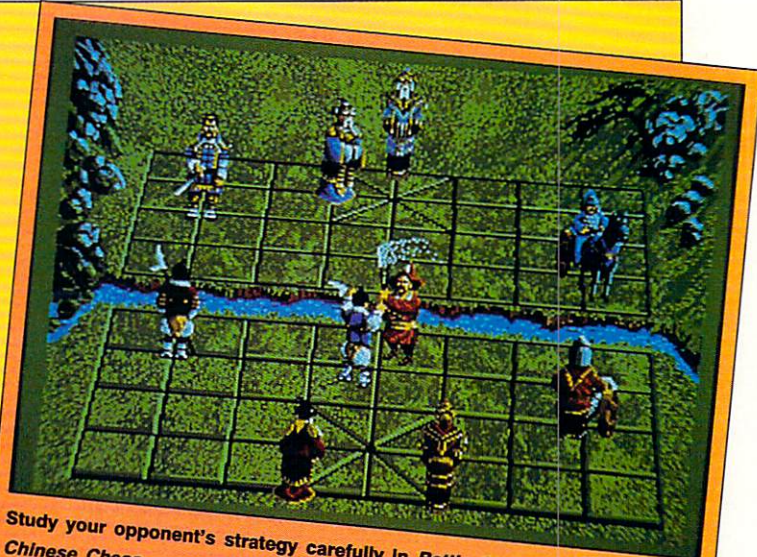


Shake, rattle, and roll in **Bar Games**.

Interplay supplies a whole band of friends in **Lord of the Rings, Vol. I**. Grab your old lantern and adventurer's sack and immerse yourself in Middle Earth. Acting in the role of Frodo the Hobbit, you try to protect the One Ring from Sauron's Dark Riders. While you must complete a series of tasks based on events in Tolkien's book, your troop may include adventurers that were not in the original story.

#### FOR THOSE WHO WANT IT ALL

What holiday season would be complete without a



Study your opponent's strategy carefully in **Battle Chess II: Chinese Chess**.

game from Electronic Arts? This year the company is releasing the latest gem from BullFrog Productions, programmers of **Populous**. In **PowerMonger**, you are cast as the leader of a homeless tribe that arrives in unfamiliar territory. Your goal is to conquer all of the two hundred territories that make up the world. **PowerMonger** uses much of the simulation software technology developed for **Populous**, but includes more features, such as inventing, bribing, and negotiating with other commanders. The inhabitants of your world are also more diverse; they include fishermen, farmers, ranchers, and a variety of animal life. With so much to keep track of, the game's simple iconic interface is extremely welcome. If you are a fan of **Populous**, you'll feel right at home here.

While Linda was more intrigued by this one than Lou, we did agree on one point. The hardest part of all these games is waiting for the final versions. ■

## Manufacturers' Addresses

#### Accolade

550 S. Winchester Blvd.  
San Jose, CA 95128  
408/985-1700

#### Electronic Arts

1820 Gateway Dr.  
San Mateo, CA 94404  
415/571-7171

#### Interplay Productions

3710 S. Susan, #100  
Santa Ana, CA 92704  
714/545-9001

#### Psygnosis

29 Saint Mary's Court  
Brookline, MA 02146  
617/731-3553

#### Taito Software Inc.

267 West Esplanade  
North Vancouver, B.C.  
Canada V7M 1A5  
604/984-3344

#### Virgin Mastertronics

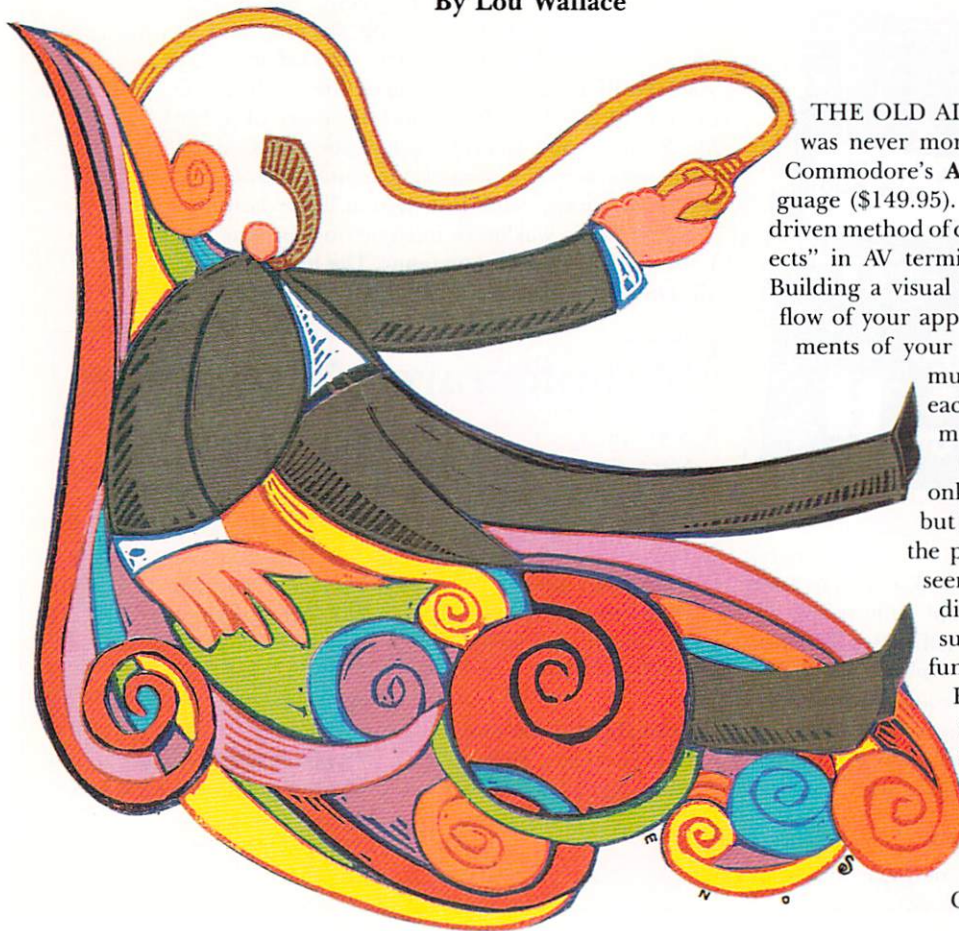
18001 Cowan, Suites A & B  
Irvine, CA 92714  
714/833-8710



# Go with the Flow!

*AmigaVision's icon-based,  
visual-flowchart approach to multimedia  
is so easy that you'll be authoring projects  
like this one before you can say "point-and-click."*

By Lou Wallace



THE OLD ADAGE "a picture is worth a thousand words" was never more true than when it comes to working with Commodore's **AmigaVision** (AV) multimedia authoring language (\$149.95). The system's stylish user interface and icon-driven method of creating applications (called "courses" or "projects" in AV terminology) is a lesson in clarity and economy. Building a visual flowchart of icons that represents the logical flow of your application, you can assemble all the diverse elements of your presentation—text, pictures, speech, sound, music, video, animation, and so forth—and define each of their attributes in a simple, highly intuitive manner.

Our "picture...thousand words" adage not only best describes the structure of AmigaVision, but it also points out the best way to *show* you how the program works. After all, if you have not yet seen AmigaVision in operation, it would be very difficult to convey with words alone just how such a graphics-oriented authoring language functions in creating an application.

For this article, I have constructed a relatively simple multimedia project that I will employ as a visual tutorial to demonstrate how to use AmigaVision in creating your own presentations. (If you do, however, also want a more traditionally descriptive account of what AmigaVision is, see "Welcome to a New Generation," p. 18, June '90.) The complete ►





## The art of memory engineering.

**Introducing the art of memory engineering.** With the Amiga's practically unlimited potential, often the only barrier to greater productivity is a lack of memory. Adding expansion memory to your computer opens doors to new capabilities. But knowing how much to add and how to add it can be a real headache.

**For Amiga 2000s, 2500s and 3000s,** Applied Engineering's new RamWorks 2000™ (above, at right) is the definitive memory expansion solution. The board was engineered to incorporate 256K x 4 dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips. That's a significant improvement over chips used on other boards because it gives you growth-path choices. You can add memory in large increments or smaller, more affordable increments of 512K at a time. And you can add these small increments all the way up to 8 MEGs.

**Ease of use** is also important. Many memory expansion boards require the user to configure tiny switches or jumpers in a trial and error fashion to suit their particular hardware. RamWorks 2000 has an intuitive

on-board feature that automatically configures your setup — making it much easier to install and upgrade. No switches, no jumpers — just add memory and go.

**We also designed** RamWorks 2000 to be fully compatible with the A3000, so if you decide at some future date to upgrade your computer, you can switch the card over. RamWorks 2000 carries a *five year warranty*. RW 2000 w/2 MEGs \$273.

**Additional MEGs \$72.**

**For Amiga 500s with 512K,** we designed the RamWorks 500™ (above, at left). Combining the functions of an internal 512K memory card and clock card, RamWorks 500 boosts the A500's available RAM to 1 MEG. We incorporate 256K x 1 DRAM chips to make RamWorks 500 fully compatible with ALL A500 hardware and software, including pre-1989 machines. The built-in clock function automatically time and date stamps your files and a graphical diagnostic program checks for bad or improperly seated chips. *Five year warranty.* With 512K installed \$79.

**For the new A500 Professional with 1 MEG built-in,** Applied Engineering designed Timemaster 500™ (above, top). An

easy way to add clock functions to your files, Timemaster 500 quickly attaches to the A500-P's expansion slot. Your files are then automatically time and date stamped for easy reference. *Five year warranty.*

**For ten years,** Applied Engineering has forged a reputation for exciting and innovative peripherals. Built to our own exacting standards of quality and reliability, our products are backed by the best warranties and the best technical support in the business.

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sample program—plus many of the specific menus and requesters required to put it together—are included here and will be presented step-by-step.

### PUT A SPIN ON THAT BIG RED CUE BALL, MISTER!

In brief, our sample AV project is designed to allow the user to select an image of the planet Jupiter from a pictorial menu of the solar system. When selected, the Jupiter “hot spot” will trigger a full-motion video sequence of Jupiter spinning on its axis, accompanied by a music soundtrack.

The application itself is a fully interactive multimedia presentation. It uses a variety of Amiga graphic images, digitized sounds, and full-motion video (from laser disc), and it plays an Amiga SMUS music file. Figure 1 shows the entire sample application in icon format as it appears in the AV Flow window (which is the “canvas” on which you create the application). Double-clicking any of these icons brings up a requester associated with that particular segment of the

program. In effect, you use the requester to define the icon.

For example, Figure 2 shows the Module Icon requester (right) that appears on screen when you click the main Module icon in the Flow window (left) for our Jupiter program (labeled here as “Sample Multimedia Program”). As with nearly all of the requesters for the icons in our program, you can define its attributes almost entirely by simply clicking on the various gadgets—very little keyboard input is required.

In assembling the Jupiter program, I used a CAV (Constant Angular Velocity) format video disc containing various planetary images and digitized animations from NASA’s Voyager space missions (the disc is available commercially). I then preloaded this data into memory—along with some sound and music files—as shown in Figure 3A. Next, I digitized individual planetary images in HAM mode using FrameGrabber (\$699.95, Progressive Peripherals & Software), and then combined them into one picture

*Text continues on p. 46*

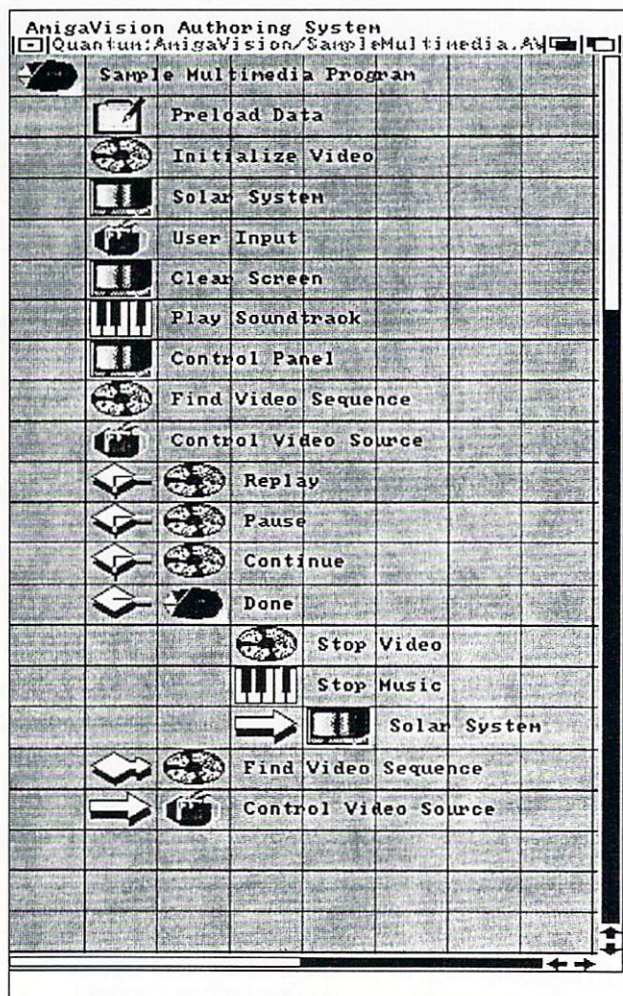


Figure 1. The complete “course” in flowchart format for the Jupiter sample multimedia program as it appears in the AV Flow window.

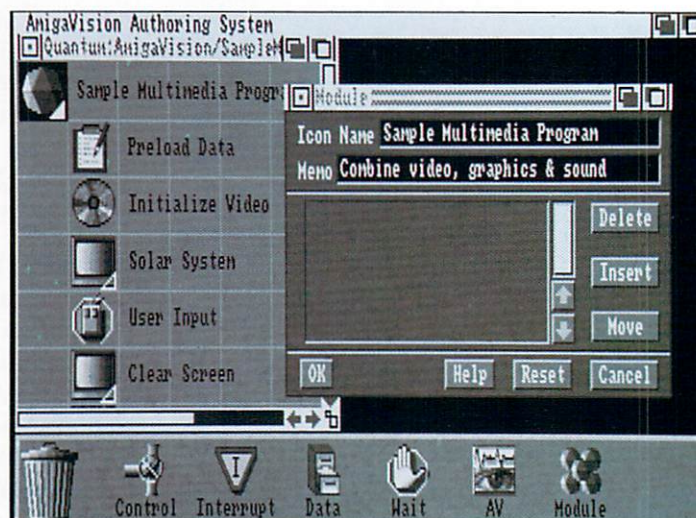


Figure 2. The Module Icon requester. Its icon (shown at the top of the Flow window to the left of the requester) acts as the parent for all icons in an AmigaVision flowchart.



# If you have a paint program, you need...

Have you ever loaded a graphic file only to discover it wasn't the one you wanted? Well, now there's **ImageFinder**!

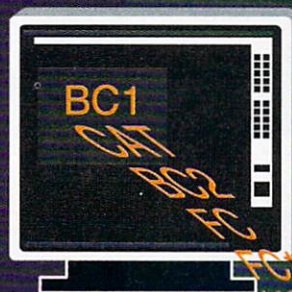
**ImageFinder** is a program that creates an index of your graphics files. When you want to find a particular picture, pop up the **ImageFinder** window and browse through the miniatures.

A single click chooses the one you want. Return to your paint program and let **ImageFinder** type the name into the file requester for you!

Do you have too many pictures to look through? **ImageFinder** makes it simple by letting you sort by name, size and depth. You can also sort by primary and secondary color!

**ImageFinder** supports both ILBM and ANIM files, allows multiple index files and will even update the index as you create new pictures.

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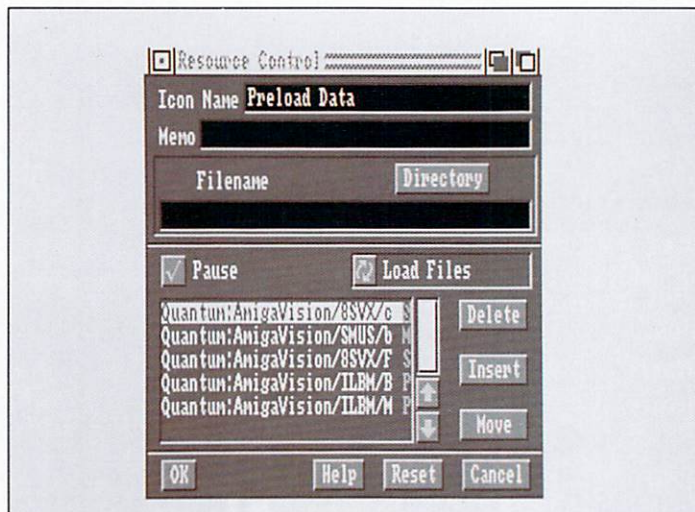
Amiga is a registered trademark of Commodore-Amiga, Inc.

Circle 309 on Reader Service card.

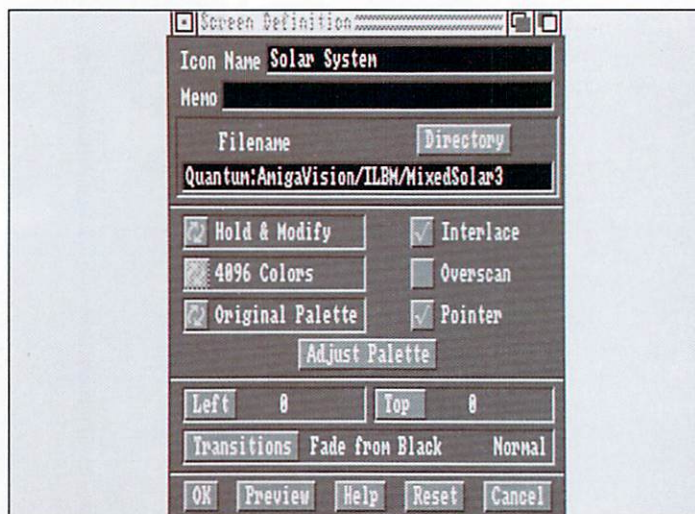
**ZARDOZ**  
SOFTWARE



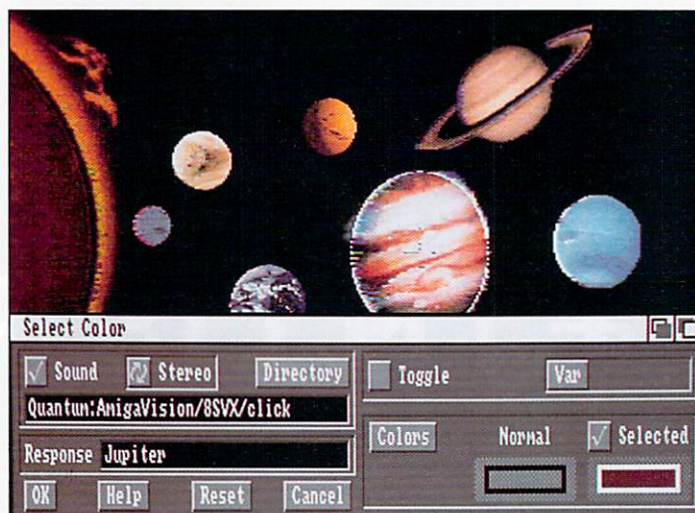
# Defining Icon Requesters in the AmigaVision Jupiter Sample Application



**Figure 3A.** The Resource icon (labeled Preload Data in our sample program) allows you to preload (and also unload) data files—graphics, sound, animations, and musical instruments—such as the DMCS music soundtrack used in our application. Once loaded via the Resource Control requester pictured here, they can be accessed by other icons. If you do not enable the Pause button, AmigaVision can be loading data while executing other tasks, allowing Amigas with limited RAM resources to utilize large amounts of disk-based data while still generating seamless presentations.



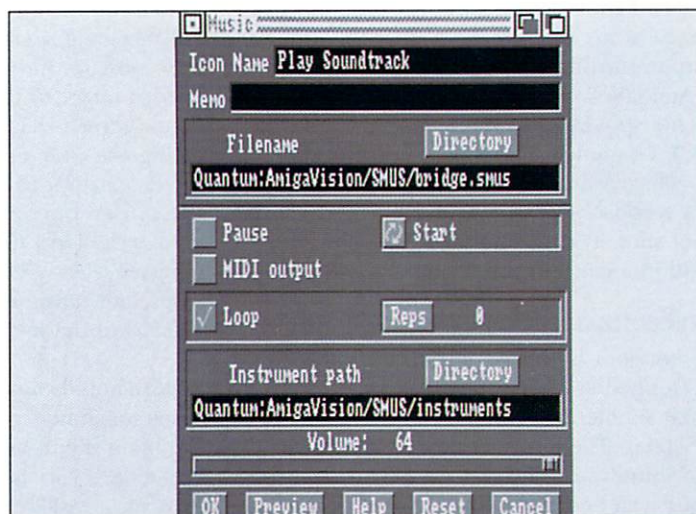
**Figure 3B.** The Screen icon (labeled Solar System) is used to load and display IFF images, such as the digitized solar-system composite image I used for my main menu. All screen modes are supported, including HAM and Extra\_Halfbrite displays. The Screen icon affords precise control over how and where the image will be displayed. Its Screen Definition requester also allows you to choose from many different transitions. In this case, I have the solar-system picture appearing as a fade from black.



**Figure 3C.** Having used the Mouse icon (labeled User Input) from the AV Wait submenu, and its requester, I am now working inside the AV Object Editor. I have already added a circle "hot spot" around Jupiter, having selected Circle from one of the various pull-down menus available. Here, in addition to defining the hot spot, I have chosen a digitized feedback sound (a click) and feedback color (red with a white outline). I have also entered "Jupiter" in the Response gadget, so that each time a user clicks on this spot, the Response() function will return the word "Jupiter" to my program, verifying the selection.



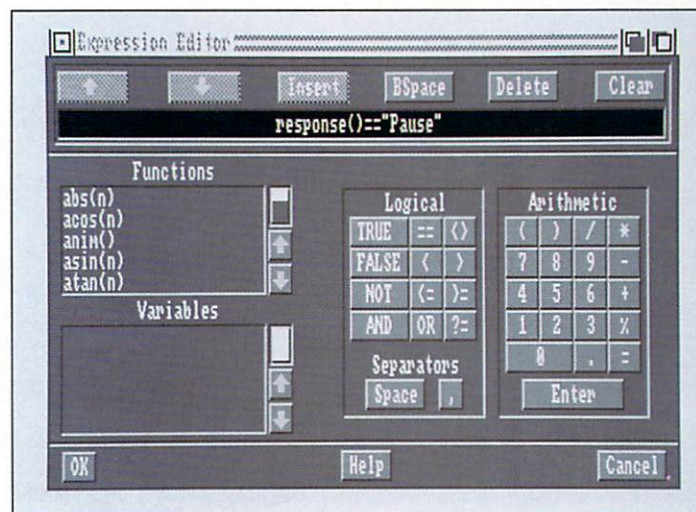
**Figure 3D.** In the requester for the Music icon (labeled Play Soundtrack) I have entered the instructions for playing the SMUS music file. In the Filename gadget, I have selected "bridge.smus" as my song—a DMCS version of "Bridge Over Troubled Waters." The Pause button has not been enabled, so program execution continues as the music plays. I have also selected Loop, which means the song will repeat until the presentation is ended.



**Figure 3E.** The Video icon (labeled Find Video Sequence) controls the laser-disc player. Here, in its requester, I have instructed it to turn on video and play frames 33596–34115, which is the sequence where Jupiter is rotating. Pause has not been enabled, so again program execution continues during the entire time this sequence is playing.



**Figure 3F.** Through one of the If . . Then . . Else icons, I am now working in the AV Expression Editor. Here, I am checking the Response() function to see if the user clicked on the Pause button in the DeluxePaint control-panel screen image I genlocked over the video signal. If this expression evaluates as true, i.e., if the user clicked on the Pause button, then another Video icon acting as a partner with the If . . Then . . Else icon will pause the laser disc on the current video frame.





From p. 42

using Digi-Paint 3 (\$99.95, NewTek). Loading the digitized HAM picture of the solar system into the program (see Figure 3B), I could now use this composite image as my main menu—what the user will see first upon starting the application.

Using AmigaVisions' Object Editor, I defined Jupiter as a hot spot by drawing a circle around it (see Figure 3C). I assigned a digitized sound (a click) to the area, which would serve as feedback, and also selected a feedback color. When a user selects the Jupiter hot spot, a "click" sound will be played, and Jupiter will momentarily change into a solid color.

#### WAITING ON READY FOR THE SHOW TO BEGIN

After the hot spot is clicked, program flow—which has been stopped at User Input (a Mouse icon from the AV Wait submenu)—continues on past that icon to Clear Screen. The screen is cleared, and we begin the music soundtrack (see Figure 3D)—a standard SMUS music file, created with Deluxe Music Construction Set (DMCS) (\$99.95, Electronic Arts), using digitized musical instruments.

Moving on to Find Video Sequence (see Figure 3E), we see how the program initiates the full-motion video (a sequence from the laser disc showing a close-up of Jupiter rotating). At this point—via the icon just preceding this Video icon—the program also displays a screen image I created in DeluxePaint III

(\$149.95, Electronic Arts). This image, a simple control panel with buttons, allows the user to pause (freeze) the image, continue, replay, or quit. I genlocked this image on the screen using Commodore's A2300 Genlock Card (\$399).

So now we have Amiga-generated music playing, a video image of Jupiter playing from laser disc, and the on-screen DeluxePaint image of the control panel giving the user final control over the whole multimedia extravaganza. Figure 3F demonstrates one of these user options—Pause—whereby the program pauses the laser disc on the current video frame. If the user selects Done (the quit button), the video disc stops, the music ends, and the entire presentation returns to the solar-system main menu.

With not too much more time and effort, you could easily make hot spots for all the planetary images in the main menu and create a different presentation sequence for each one. (In fact, I have already done just that—with very impressive results.) A full-scale interactive multimedia application like this would have taken weeks, or even months, to complete using more traditional programming methods. With intuitive, icon-driven authoring systems such as AmigaVision, however, you will find that in just a matter of hours or a few days, you can create sophisticated multimedia applications you never dreamed you could do. ■

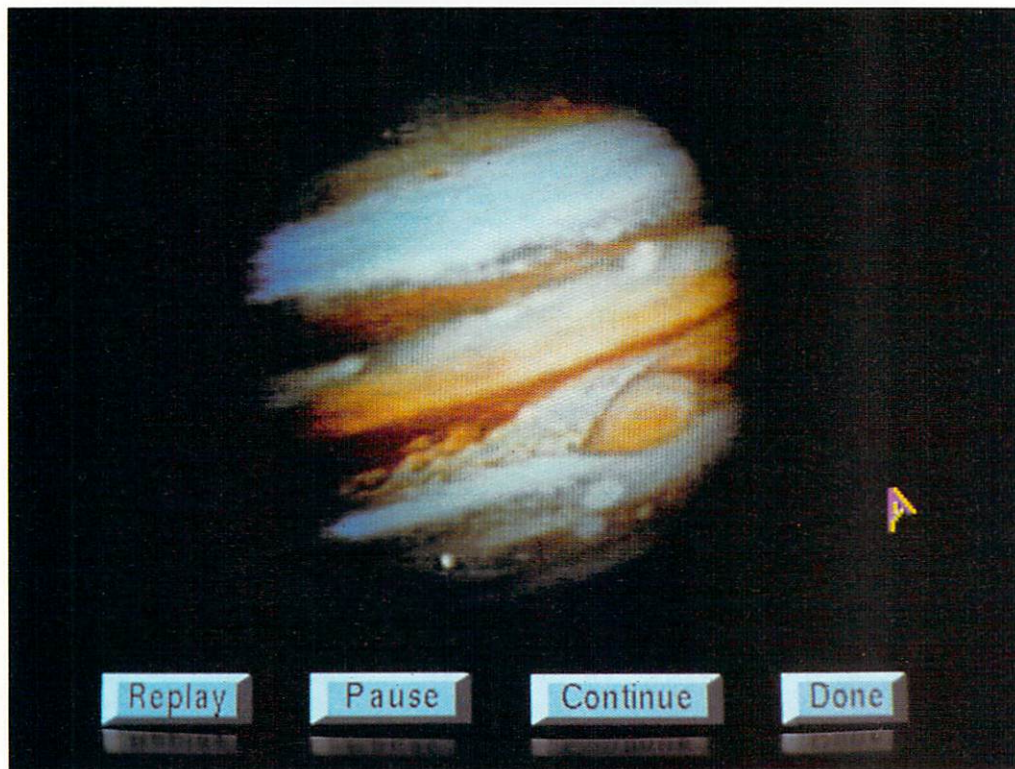


Figure 4. A freeze-frame from the laser-disc sequence the user sees after selecting Jupiter from the solar-system main menu. A music soundtrack plays as the planet spins merrily away.



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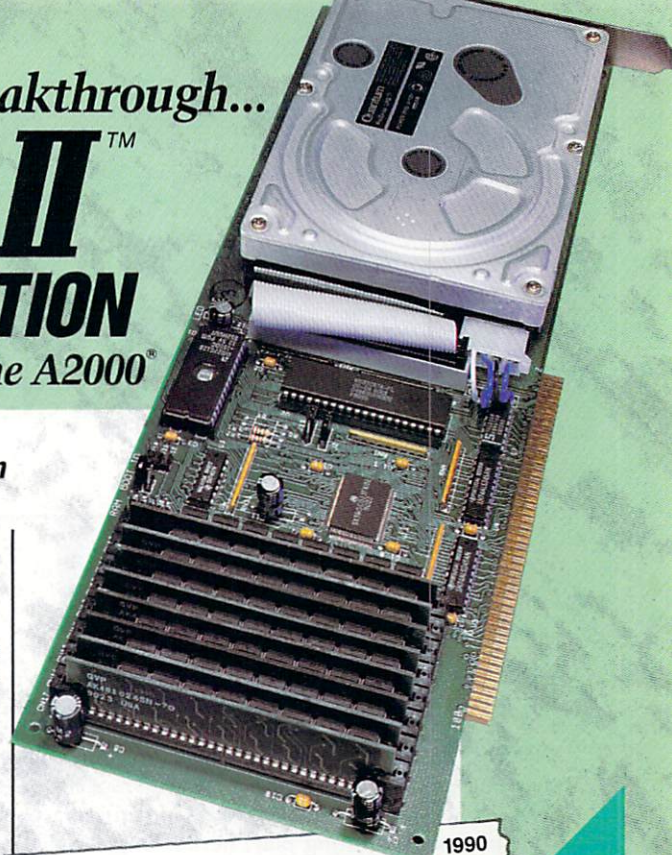
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New Series II 48MB Removable media hard disk drive. GVP now also offers the NEXT GENERATION removable media hard disk drive which offers increased capacity (48MB formatted) and major technological advances in cartridge air flow filtering design and robustness. Call for details.



1990

SCSI TIMES

## The ULTIMATE Trade-Up Offer???

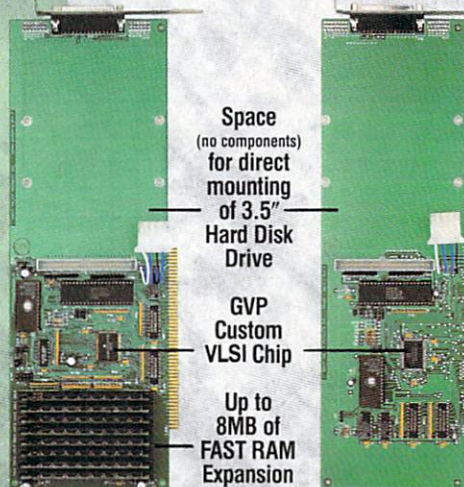
GVP today introduced its new Series II product line and announced a bold new trade-up program, which is certain to further bolster GVP's dominant market share in the Amiga hard drive market.

Details of GVP's new TRADE-UP program are as follows:

- For \$109 plus \$6 for shipping (USA only), end-users can trade-up to the new GVP Series II SCSI "Hard-Disk-Card" (without drive) by simply sending in their present SCSI controller (from ANY manufacturer) together with a money order or certified check, payable directly to GVP.
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# PLAYING CLOSER to the NET

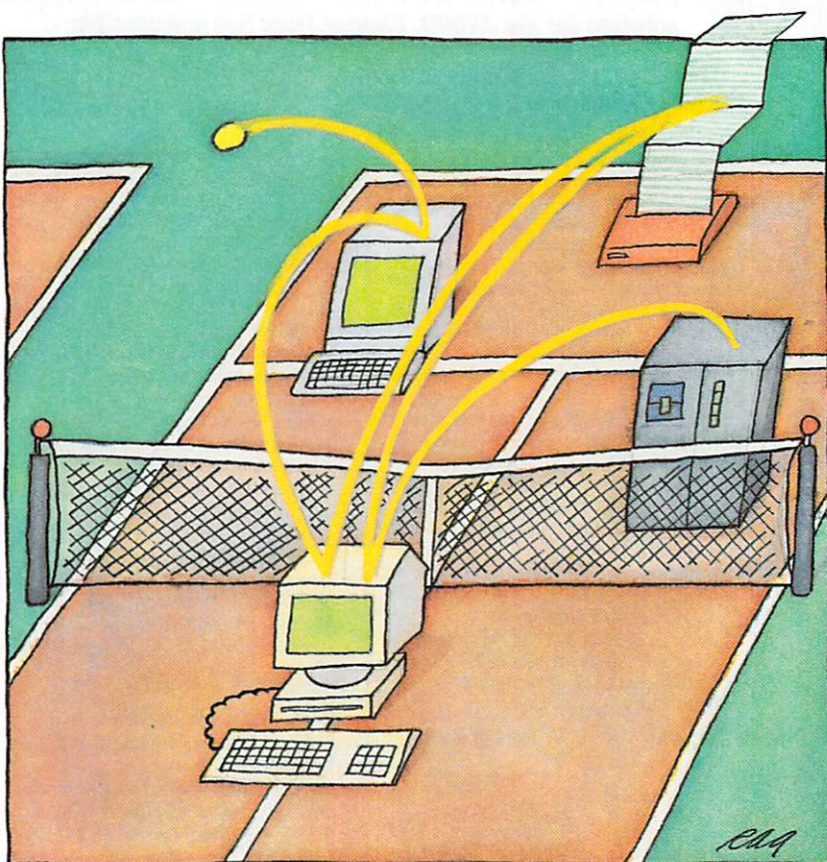
DESPITE ITS ADVANCED graphics, unparalleled multitasking, and sophisticated selection of software, the Amiga drops its advantage in one crucial area of world-class computing play: networking. This weak spot in the Amiga's game is keeping the machine off a good many corporate courts—as well as limiting the possibilities for Amiga owners to share data and applications.

All that, however, may be about to change, given Commodore's recent commitment to place the Amiga squarely in the corporate marketplace. With CBM and others introducing networking equipment that supports such major hardware schemes as Ethernet and Arcnet—and such popular protocols as Novell, AppleTalk, DECnet, and TCP/IP—networking appears destined to be a part of the Amiga's future.

## FUNDAMENTALS OF NET PLAY

So what is so special about networking? On the simplest level, networks permit the sharing of equipment. Having several employees use a common printer, modem, hard drive, streaming-tape back-up system, or even a floppy-disk drive is much more cost effective than buying one of each for every individual.

The ability to pass messages is another key benefit of networks. If you have ever used an E-mail system, you can understand the simple beauty of leaving a



message or list of instructions for someone who is otherwise engaged without playing phone-tag or physically meeting. E-mail alone can make an office much more efficient.

In addition to sharing equipment, networked co-workers can easily transfer and share files. For example, everyone can update the customer database or peruse the same documents without the usual mountain of photocopies. At a ►

Recent product announcements from both Commodore and third-party developers may move the Amiga into the forecourt of the corporate networking game.

By Doug Barney



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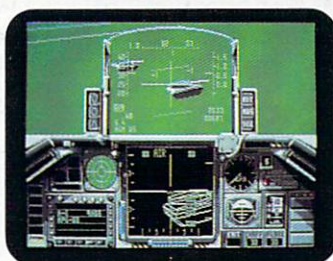


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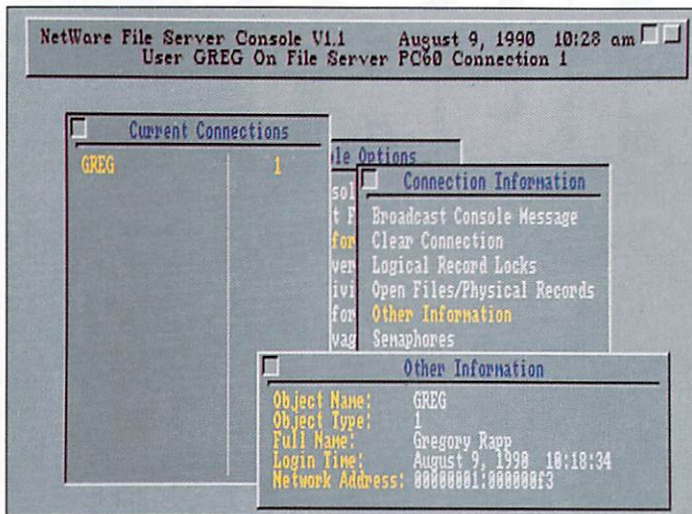
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higher level, networks can even allow users to share applications. In theory, networking is quite simple. Take a couple of computers, a bit of wire, a net-



Commodore network administrator utility for Novell Network.

working protocol, and software that understands that a network exists. Choosing a network can be immensely complicated, however, because you are faced with a bewildering variety of competing hardware,

conflicting protocols, and incompatible operating systems. In short, there are far too many "standards."

To try to get a handle on this confusing situation, let's examine individually the basic elements of the networking setup.

The hardware connecting computers serves as the physical medium through which data passes. Popular hardware schemes include Arcnet (a low-cost, medium-performance network), Ethernet (fast and often used with Unix, DEC, and in other large-system environments), Token Ring (typically found at IBM corporate installations), and LocalTalk (for the Apple family). (For more detailed information on each of these networks—and on the network protocols mentioned in the next paragraph—see the "Networking Glossary" that accompanies this article.)

The software comprises both the protocols—which allow programs on separate computers to communicate—and the programs that manage, or control, the network. Popular protocols include AppleTalk (Apple II and Macintosh systems), DECnet (usually specific to Digital Equipment Corp. computer sites), Novell NetWare (popular in corporate environments), and TCP/IP (used with Unix).

## AN IMPRESSIVE RALLY

Commodore is taking a relatively sweeping approach

# Networking Glossary

**AppleTalk** As you can imagine, AppleTalk is a scheme designed by Apple aimed primarily at the Macintosh. The system often uses the relatively slow (0.3 Mbps [megabits per second]) LocalTalk hardware, but has grown in popularity because of its low cost, ease of use and installation, and general reliability.

**Arcnet** A middle-of-the-road hardware solution in terms of performance and price, Arcnet uses a so-called modified token-passing scheme. Under a typical scheme, a token is passed along each node. Only the node possessing the token can send a message. Under the "modified" approach, each node acknowledges receipt of the token. Arcnet automatically reconfigures as nodes change.

**Client** Refers to the workstation's relationship to the server.

**Database Server** Intelligent way of storing database files. The server can sort and manipulate data prior to sending to node.

**DECnet** DECnet is a networking architecture that links Digital Equipment Corp. systems, from large minicompu-

ters to workstations, and is based upon Ethernet hardware.

**Ethernet** A relatively fast system, Ethernet is popular in DEC and Unix environments. Operational speeds are around 10 Mbps, or one million characters per second.

**FDI (Fiber Distributed Data Interface)** An evolving standard for 10-Mbps, fiber-optic cable networks.

**Fiber Optic** A highly advanced form of cabling that uses light to transmit data. This allows for very long distances between nodes.

**File Locking** Protects shared files by allowing only one user at a time to make changes.

**File Server** Nonintelligent way of storing files. Files are stored remotely, but all querying and data manipulation occur on the node. In addition, all activity is controlled by the file server. Some file servers are dedicated, which means that the system is only used as a server. Others

are nondedicated and can be used as workstations.

**Gateway** A hardware/software combination that links systems with different protocols.

**Interoperability** The ability of devices from a variety of vendors to share data and communicate effectively.

**ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network)** ISDN specification describes the replacing of an analog telephone network with a digital medium. Under ISDN, phone lines can simultaneously handle image, video, voice, and text data.

**LAN (Local Area Network)** A group of personal computers networked together.

**Network Management** Software that controls LAN access and network resources.

**NFS (Network File System)** A portable (able to be moved from system to system) file-server system used mostly in Unix workstation environments.

**Node** The physical workstation attached to a network.



## Net Worth

INSTEAD OF TWIDDLING his corporate thumbs until more sophisticated Amiga connectivity tools materialize, **Chris Hertel** is blazing a trail. As senior programmer and head of PCs for the international banking firm of Credit Agricole (CA) in Chicago, Hertel is in the vanguard of enthusiasts seeking to place Amigas in the corporate world.

Using a combination of TSS Net (Syndesis), Dale Luck's X11 X-Windows system (GfxBase), and the A2065 Ethernet Adapter (Commo-

dore), Hertel ties Amigas into the bank's mammoth network of DEC VAX minicomputers, workstations, and PCs. Currently, many of CA's workstations run X-Windows, a Unix-oriented graphical interface (similar to the Amiga in that regard) that taps the power of both the workstation and larger, more powerful machines.

The Amiga ties in when Hertel begins to quote figures. DEC VT 1000 workstations that can run X-Windows tend to run around \$3000 (not including the addi-

tional cost for X-Windows). With the Amiga, Hertel can do it for less *and* have the added power of a graphics-based, fully multitasking computer.

According to Hertel, the Amiga running TSS Net and X11 is only a "research vehicle." If Hertel has his way, however, Amigas will be serving as hubs of relatively low-speed Star networks (networks where all data requests are passed through a single machine) that would then request data from the larger VAX minicomputers. If the

machine clears these hurdles, Hertel wants to put Amigas on the desks of the bank's executives.

Although generally impressed with the Amiga products, Hertel still faces one or two difficulties. For instance, the Amiga meets with some resistance, particularly as DEC does not officially support the product. As if this reason alone were not enough, Hertel admits he "can't find a service contract anywhere. I have to learn to do it all myself." □

—DB

to networking, considering the combination of hardware and software it announced earlier this year. Hardware debuts included the **A2065 Ethernet Network Adapter** and the **A2060 Arcnet Network Adapter**. On the software side, the **AS220** Amiga client for Novell NetWare and the **AS225** for TCP/IP and NFS standards also made welcome appearances.

● Innovative third parties have also rolled up their sleeves in the networking arena. Chief among current third-party products are AppleTalk- and DECnet-compatible systems. Progressive Peripherals' **DoubleTalk** and DigiFex's **Interact** make up the AppleTalk contingent, while GfxBase, Interworks, ASDG, and Syndesis

*Text continues on p. 54*

**Novell** A networking protocol very popular in IBM-oriented corporate environments.

**OSI (Open Systems Interconnection)** A networking standard for interconnecting disparate computer systems strongly supported by DEC.

**Protocol** A software method that allows programs on separate machines to communicate. Protocols define signal type, how the signals are received, and the physical arrangement of the network.

**Record Locking** Protects shared database records by allowing only one user at a time to make changes.

**SNA (Systems Network Architecture)** A complicated, still-evolving set of standards from IBM. The ultimate goal of SNA is to allow dissimilar systems to work together effectively on a "peer-to-peer," or equal, basis.

**TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol)** A networking protocol with broad support deriving from its ability to connect disparate hosts.

Generally used with Ethernet hardware, TCP is also popular within Unix environments. The Internet Protocol (IP) originated as a US Dept. of Defense protocol developed for the ARPANET network, and was then revamped for Unix.

**Terminal Emulation** The ability of a personal computer to act, generally via modem, as a terminal to a host system.

**Thick-Wire Ethernet** A form of Ethernet that uses relatively thick, twisted-pair wiring. Thick-wire Ethernet, which requires a transceiver at each node, is more expensive than thin-wire Ethernet. Thick-wire carries signals over a greater distance than thin-wire.

**Thin-Wire Ethernet** Generally uses coaxial cable, a thin wiring, and can also run over twisted-pair. Thin-wire does not require a transceiver on each machine.

**Topology** The physical layout of a LAN. There are three major topologies, Bus, Ring, and Star. With a Bus network, all computers are connected via a single lin-

ear cable. Data is sent back and forth across the bus or cable and is captured by specific machines. In a Ring network, all computers are connected by a cable that forms a ring. Data is passed along the ring until captured by the target computer. In a Star network, all computers are connected to a central computer that acts as a communications node. All communications must pass through this central computer.

**Wide Area Network** A network in which devices are widely separated.

**X-Windows** A graphical user interface for Unix, developed at MIT, that many firms, including DEC, have made a standard. Essentially a graphics display server, X-Windows is the opposite of most client server systems where the workstation is the client and the larger machine is the server. X-Windows depends upon the power of the server to support the interface, while the back-end or client system provides data processing and manipulation. □

—DB



# Amiga Networking Products

## HARDWARE

### A560 Arcnet Network Adapter

*Commodore*

Price unavailable

Provides full Arcnet bus protocols over Arcnet bus topology networks (HIT module). The A560 connects to the A500's bus via an 86-pin connector on a female BNC connector. Allows up to 256 nodes, with a maximum distance of 2000 feet between nodes. This autoconfigured, 2.5 Mbps Arcnet, local-area network board comes with 2KB of buffer memory, a power supply, and an internal connector for optional 1MB RAM expansion.

### A2060 Arcnet Network Adapter

*Commodore*

\$229

Provides Arcnet bus protocols over Arcnet bus topology networks (HIT module). This 2.5 Mbps, autoconfigured card connects to the bus internally via a 100-pin connector, supports up to 256 nodes no further than 2000 feet apart, and features a socket for optional autoboot ROM. It also provides buffered memory to enhance inter-system communications. The A2060 comes with a BNC "T" connector, a BNC-to-BNC cable, and an 93 ohm network terminator.

### A2065 Ethernet Network Adapter

*Commodore*

\$349

Provides ANSI 802.3 type Ethernet protocols over thick and thin connections and runs at 10 Mbps. A 32K onboard RAM buffer provides shared RAM between the Am7990 processor and the A2000. The autoconfigured card connects at the 100-pin internal bus connector with a 15-pin female "D" connector for thick Ethernet/Cheapernet with 100 nodes per segment, or a female BNC connector for thin Ethernet/Cheapernet networking with 30 nodes per segment.

The A2065 features DMA data reading and writing to shared RAM and operates at 10 Mbps.

### A2232 Multi-Serial Port Board

*Commodore*

\$399

A multi-serial port board, the A2232 provides seven additional RS-232 ports for connecting devices such as terminals, laser-disc players and touch screens. The card connects internally at the 100-pin bus connector. Each eight-pin mini-DIN connector is provided with an adapter cable for conversion to standard DB-25.

### AIP-2000 Package

*GfxBase*

\$795

Runs at standard 10 Mbps and utilizes 32K of onboard buffer for incoming and outgoing data; provides thick and thin Ethernet.

### A-Net

*Great Valley Products*

A2000: \$699; A500: \$749

Ethernet (thick and thin) network controllers for the A500 and A2000. IEEE 802.5 standard types A and B, 10 Mbps transfer rate, with 16-bit data path addressing. Supports up to 30 stations with total cable length of up to 600 feet of thin Ethernet co-axial cabling. Comes with 16KB of onboard static RAM, allowing DMA directly to or from the network A2000 controller; also has DMA sequencer allowing DMA transfers direct from or to memory.

### Comports 8

*Amigo Business Computers*

\$379

An A2000 card with two channels connected on external male connectors, one 25-pin and one 15-pin, and six channels on two internal connectors for an 8-channel RS-232 communications interface. The autoconfigured card provides the capability for up to 40 channels (with five boards) and features a baud rate selectable up to 57.6K and a buffer size up to 64K.

### DoubleTalk

*Progressive Peripherals*

Under \$500

AppleTalk-compatible network for A2000, A3000 and A500. Features a high-speed mode, promising that an Amiga-only network will run at twice the speed of a standard AppleTalk network. Any Amiga can function simultaneously as a file server, printer server, or client. A dedicated system server is not required. The DoubleTalk card comes with a phone jack network adapter and provides an additional serial port with its own CPU and 512K of ROM for performing complex operations.

### Dual Serial Board

*ASDG*

\$249.95

A single-slot A2000 series- and A3000-compatible board. Provides two AT-compatible asynchronous serial ports with driver software.

### Dual Serial Module

*ASDG*

\$199.95

An IEEE 959 module compatible with the Twin X board. Provides two asynchronous serial ports with full driver software.

### ENLAN

*Interworks*

\$295 (base)

Phase-IV end-node implementation of DECnet networking. Allows the exchange of files and data with DEC VAX/VMS computers or other Amigas running the DECnet protocol. Comes with a VT100 terminal emulator. Supports both thick- and thin-wire Ethernet on A2000s and higher.

### Interact

*DigiFex*

\$299.99 (A500), \$329.99 (A2000)

A hardware and software AppleTalk networking system that has the capability to create an Amiga-only network with up to 32 nodes and can connect your Amiga



or Amiga-only network to an AppleTalk-compatible laser printer. The A500 package comes with an external RS-422 serial expansion port peripheral with passthru. The A2000 version is a combination of Interact software (see Interact) and a stand-alone MultiPORT board (see MultiPORT).

#### **LANRover**

**ASDG**

Price not available

An Ethernet board for A2000 series and A3000s, conforming to IEEE 802.3 standard and featuring DMA, a 16-bit data path, and on-card memory management. Supports both thick and thin Ethernet connectors.

#### **MCS 1000**

**Comspec**

\$205 (Canadian)

IEEE printer interface.

#### **Microshare MCS 8004/8008**

**Comspec**

\$627/\$821 (Canadian)

Allows up to eight computers to share a printer. The system includes a despool feature which enables whoever is using the printer at a given time to cancel output without affecting other users, and also a top-of-form feature that helps individuals identify their own output. Comes with a built-in 256K buffer.

#### **MultiPORT**

**DigiFex**

\$249.95

A stand-alone expansion card required for using Interact with the A2000 (see Interact in the software section, below). Provides a nine-pin RS-232, a 25-pin parallel printer, and an RS-422 serial port.

#### **Serial Solution**

**Checkpoint Technologies**

\$199

Adds 25- and 9-pin serial ports.

#### **The Serial IV + Card**

**Expert Services**

\$299.95

Adds four serial and one parallel port.

The serial ports can be reconfigured for a MIDI device.

#### **Twin-X**

**ASDG**

\$329.95

General purpose I/O board that serves as a dual IEEE 959 interface board. This A2000-compatible card can host any two standard or one double-wide IEEE 959 modules available on the market. Provides a standard autoconfigured interface to the Amiga, allowing its modules to autoconfigure under KickStart from 1.2 and later.

#### **SOFTWARE**

##### **AS220**

**Commodore**

\$149

This Amiga client goes by the official name of Amiga Networking Software for Novell NetWare. It gives the Amiga the capability of utilizing Commodore's A2060 adapter to communicate with Novell Networks running Novell NetWare, version 2.15 or higher. The software features password security and provides the user with two interfaces: a text-oriented interface or the Amiga mouse-based interface. Users can employ the Amiga's multitasking feature to simultaneously run other programs under AmigaDOS and/or the MS-DOS with Amiga Bridgeboard options.

##### **AS225 TCP/IP and NFS Software**

**Commodore**

\$199

Provides the Amiga with the ability to connect to DoD and other networks that support either TCP/IP or NFS standard packet-switching protocols.

##### **Interact**

**DigiFex**

\$79.95

AppleTalk networking software that allows you to send Amiga text and graphics output to an AppleTalk-compatible laser

printer. Requires DigiFex MultiPORT Board (see hardware section).

#### **Middleman**

**Benaiah Computers**

\$59.95

A VT100 terminal emulator that supports numeric keypad graphics and baud rates from 300 to 19,200.

#### **Middleman II**

**Benaiah Computers**

\$149.95

Tekronix 4105 color terminal emulator.

#### **TSSnet**

**Syndesis**

\$395

DECnet and X-11 (X-Window implementation from GfxBase) support for the Amiga. TSSnet can communicate over both Ethernet and the serial port, and provides multiple concurrent sessions between Amiga tasks and those running on any other nodes.

#### **X-11**

**GfxBase**

\$395

Implementation of X-Window System, version 11, from the MIT X-Window Consortium. Offers the capability to access host-based applications. Supports local X-based applications, AS225, and color.

#### **X-11 Programmers Toolkit**

**GfxBase**

\$250

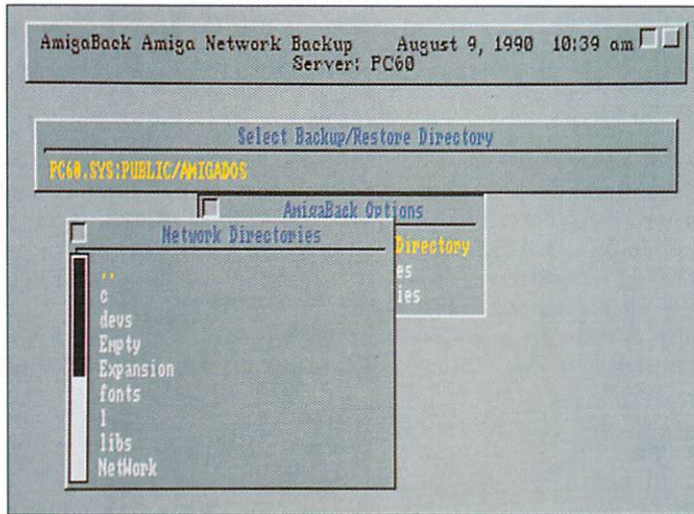
An implementation of X-Window System client programming interface. Provides client application programming access to the network transparent and operating system. The Toolkit consists of the MIT Xlib interface libraries, including the higher-level MIT Xt intrinsics library adapted to compile native Amiga clients using the Lattice 5.0 C Compiler. □



From p. 51

provide DECnet-compatible Ethernet systems.

The reasons for AppleTalk support are fairly obvious. Despite its relatively slow operational speed in the Apple arena (owing to the LocalTalk Apple hard-



Commodore back-up utility for Novell Network.

ware), it is a low-cost system with a reputation for ease of use and reliability. In addition, in an Amiga-only setup with Amiga networking hardware, the AppleTalk system will function at considerably faster speeds.

But why DECnet? Perhaps Commodore and others are simply following Apple's lead. One of Apple's first and foremost networking goals has been to connect

with Digital Equipment's VAX computers, because many DEC sites also have large installations of Macs, which are used primarily in scientific and design capacities. With at least similar—and probably better—potential offered by the Amiga, it is easy to see why there is now a proliferation of Amiga-to-DECnet products.

On still another route, Commodore's AS220 software system allows the Amiga to work with Novell-based networks. Renowned for its high performance and flexibility, Novell's NetWare software is a huge success, and corporations flock to the Orem, UT-based firm. With a properly installed Novell network, Amiga users can take advantage of all the cost-effective networking benefits mentioned previously. In addition, software updates can occur on the server, rather than on each personal computer. Amiga users can also share data and computer resources with other personal computers on the network, including Macintosh and IBM PCs, as well as IBM mainframes, Sun workstations, and DEC VAXes. (Keep in mind, however, that Commodore's Novell implementation requires the installation of a nonAmiga computer—generally a fast IBM PC or compatible—to act as the server. The Amiga can only access information as a client.)

Commodore, however, is testing the AS220 software with Arcnet and Ethernet schemes. Picking up the Ethernet ball, Oxixi has an add-on device driver under development that, according to company representatives, will allow third-party Ethernet cards—such as those from Hydra, GVP, and ASDG—to run with the Commodore software. Currently, you can ▶

## Manufacturers' Addresses

### ASDG

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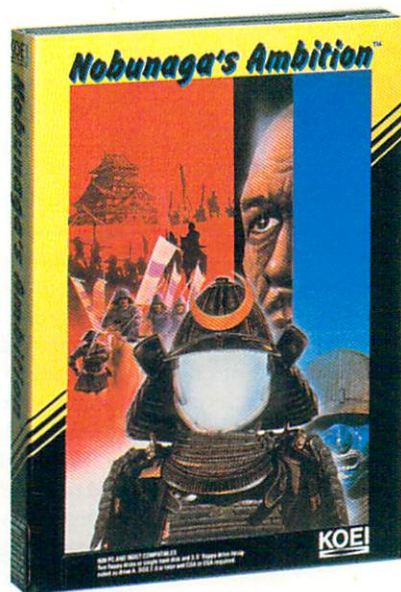
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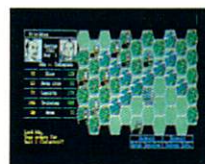
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Battlefield Map



Ending Screen

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run AS220 only with Commodore boards.

Despite what may be perceived as a broad array of networking products (see the "Amiga Networking Products" buyer's guide on p. 52), Amiga developers have addressed only a small slice of available networking options. Because of lack of demand, effectively connecting the Amiga to "big iron," such as IBM mainframes, has so far been a neglected area. If and when the Amiga makes major inroads into large corporations, we may see developers tackle the heavy hardware.

### STUCK AT DEUCE?

As difficult as building individual networking products may sound, the real problem will be to make Amiga applications work effectively with the networks. Given the confusing multiplicity of networking systems, we're talking about a task of considerable proportions.

Commodore, however, plans to ease that burden. In an "unannounced research project," the firm is writing a so-called network adapter independence layer into the Amiga's operating system. According to Commodore, when this project is completed, all conforming network software will work with any supported network transmission medium. As Commodore's VP of Applications and Technical Support Jeff Scherb explains, this would allow a properly written version of DECnet to work with Ethernet, Arcnet, and other hardware adapters of the future. According

to Scherb, this would, for example, let you base your hardware scheme and protocol choices upon price/performance rather than compatibility.

As it stands, the number of Amiga applications currently taking advantage of networks is negligible. Seeing the light early on, however, Precision Software has included Novell network support in Superbase 4, the latest version of its popular relational database. Amigas running Superbase 4 will be able to communicate with PCs running Superbase, provided both users share a common Novell server.

Fortunately, many Amiga networking software systems provide some of the same services (file transfer, E-mail, and so forth) as the major networks. In many cases, these services can be supplied while other tasks are running—although, typically, they are not fully integrated with the Amiga applications. Yet, as networks proliferate—and when Commodore releases its multinet programming interface—more Amiga vendors may build networking capability into their packages, thus allowing users to share files and send and receive messages from within applications.

Given present conditions, it may be some time before you and your Amiga start networking with the big boys. But the players at Commodore and other Amiga development firms aren't afraid to stand at the net and volley with the heavy hitters. Stay tuned for a lot more activity on the Amiga networking front. ■

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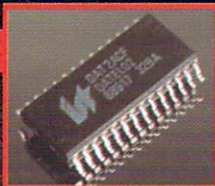
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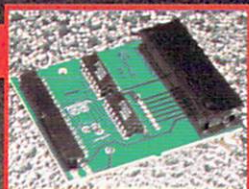
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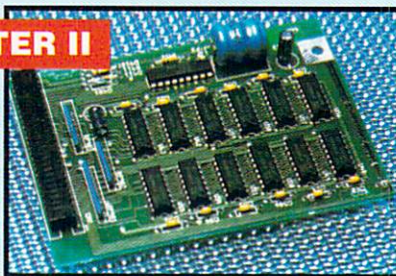
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## First Steps in Assembly Language

By Jim Butterfield

IF YOU HAVE experience with assembly language on other machines, making the transition to Amiga assembly should not be a problem. Just follow these steps and you will easily adapt.

Keep your first programs simple. They should be CLI driven, for you need lots of extra code for an icon start from the Workbench. They should also focus on DOS calls and involve only a few system calls. The dos.library calls do "traditional" data-processing jobs: reading the keyboard or files, outputting to a screen, file, or printer, and so on. DOS-oriented coding lets you produce useful programs quickly.

Leave the more complex system calls (to the Graphics and Layers libraries for screens, windows, gadgets, and menus) until you gain some Amiga programming experience. By the same token, do not overload on reading documentation. There's too much information to digest at once; concentrate on what you need immediately. Go easy on advanced assembler tools, such as macros and includes, as well. They will be useful later, but at first they might mask the nature of what your code is doing.

### GATHER YOUR TOOLS

If you cannot afford a commercial assembler, linker, and debugger, check your user's group or bulletin board for the public-domain programs A68K (by Charlie Gibbs), BLink (by John Toebe), and Debug (by Jim Thibodeau and Larry LaPlume). Free assemblers do have one drawback. Unlike commercial packages, they do not include the useful sets of supplementary files called includes and libs, because the files are copyrighted by Commodore.

You can, however, get along without these files. Their most important information is offset values, which tell a program how to find a position within a data structure and the specific jump-table offset to use in calling a library function. You can find these values

in several books; a good choice is *Amiga ROM Kernel Manual, Includes and Autodocs* (\$57.90, Addison-Wesley, Route 128, Reading, MA 01867, 617/944-3700).

For further research, you'll find no better reference for the microprocessor chips than the manufacturer: *The Motorola MC68000 Programmer's Manual*, catalog #M68000PM/AD (\$3.70, LDC, PO Box 20924, Phoenix, AZ 85036, 800/521-6274). For AmigaDOS calls, the official reference is *The AmigaDOS Manual* (\$24.95, Bantam Computer Books, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10103, 212/765-6500).

### A SIMPLE SAMPLE

Let's try a simple program that prints a message (Hello, world!) and runs from the CLI only. We'll plan the program from the inside out, first discussing the command that does the job, then adding the extra code to perform the setups the Amiga requires. To send the message, you use the DOS call, Write( ), which sends ASCII characters to an output stream. The register setup is:

- A6—DOSBase, the address of dos.library (jump table)
- D1—output handle, a value defining our output path
- D2—data address, a pointer to the message "Hello, world!"
- D3—data length, size of the message "Hello, world!"

Invoke Write( ) with a subroutine call (JSR) to address DOSBase minus hexadecimal 30. (Note that the jump table is below the DOSBase reference pointer.) This command returns a value in register D0 that could be used for error checking, but we won't worry about that right now.

You know how to set up the D2 data address; that will be the message "Hello, world!" that you will define near the end of the program. You also can define the D3 length, of course, by counting the message's characters or having the assembler do so. ►



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The remaining questions are how to get the A6 pointer to DOSBase and the D1 output handle.

### GETTING A HANDLE

The output handle is easy. Because you are starting from CLI, the DOS call, Output( ), will give you the "current output stream" handle. In this case, it is the CLI window, because you are not using redirection. The register setup is:

A6—DOSBase, the address of dos.library (jump table)

To return the file-handle value in D0, invoke Output with a subroutine call (JSR) to address DOSBase minus hexadecimal 3C.

Your working program now has two steps: call Output( ) to get the handle, then call Write( ) to send the message. Before doing so, however, you need to find the address DOSBase.

The first step is to find the "jump table" (Library Base, in Amiga terms) that gives you access to the DOS calls. This is not always located at the same address in memory, so you have to look for it. In fact, some libraries won't be in memory at all when you first search; they will be loaded from disk at that time. Whether you're looking for the library base or loading it, use the Exec call, OpenLibrary( ), which searches for a library base according to a name you supply. The register setup is:

A6—ExecBase, address of the Exec Library (jump table)

A1—a pointer to the library name in ASCII

D0—zero or a library version number

To return the library address in register D0, invoke OpenLibrary( ) with a subroutine call (JSR) to address ExecBase minus hexadecimal 228. If the command returns zero, you did not find the address.

The library name, like the "Hello, world!" message, will be written into your program. Be sure to take three precautions: Follow the name string by a binary zero character; spell the library name with upper- and lowercase letters exactly as specified; and, when you're finished, remember to close all libraries you opened. An Exec call, CloseLibrary( ), makes a note that you do not need a library any more. (When all programs accessing it close a library, the system removes it from memory.) The register setup is:

A6—ExecBase, address of the Exec Library (jump table)

A1—a pointer to the library base

You invoke CloseLibrary( ) with a subroutine call (JSR) to address ExecBase minus hexadecimal 19E.

Let's review the program flow again. First, call OpenLibrary( ) to get the DOS library base; then print, using Output( ) and Write( ). Next, free the DOS library with CloseLibrary( ). That doesn't sound too hard, but you may seem to be running into a paradox. You need to get ExecBase (often called

SysBase), the pointer to the Exec library. Are you starting to go around in circles? Nope.

The base of the Exec library might be any of several places, but you have an easy way of finding it: Its address is always stored in the longword at location 4 (that's four bytes, ranging from 4 to 7). No more calls are needed; just grab the address and start using it.

One more piece of useful data: All system calls are likely to change registers D0, D1, A0 and A1; the values in the other registers (D2 to D7 and A2 to A7) will be preserved. If you're smart, you'll make your own subroutines work that way, too.

### THEORY IN ACTION

I won't explain the instructions or addressing modes here; check them with any reference document. You can enter the following code from an editor program, and then assemble and link it to produce a simple, working program. It's complete in itself; no includes, linked libraries, or macro files are needed.

```
; Optional for some assemblers
section code
; Open and set up the DOS library
MOVE.L 4,A6           ; set up ExecBase in A6
LEA     DosName(pc),A1; address of Dos name into A1
MOVEQ   #0,D0          ; any version
JSR      -$228(A6)      ; call OpenLibrary("dos.
                        ; library",0)
TST.L    D0             ; did we get the dos library?
BEQ.S    Exit           ; nope, give up
; Find the output handle.
MOVE.L   D0,A6          ; set up DosBase into A6
JSR      -$3C(A6)       ; Output( )
MOVE.L   D0,D1          ; setup output handle
; Send the message.
LEA      Msg(pc),A0     ; address of Hello, world!
MOVE.L   A0,D2          ; .into D2
MOVEQ    #14,D3         ; size of Hello, world!
JSR      -$30(A6)       ; Write(handle,"Hello, world!",14)
; Close the DOS library
MOVE.L   A6,A1          ; DosBase pointer
MOVE.L   4,A6           ; using Exec library
JSR      -$19E(A6)      ; CloseLibrary(DosBase)
MOVEQ    #0,D0          ; signal 'no error'
Exit RTS
DosName   DC.B  'dos.library',0
Msg       DC.B  'Hello, world!',$a
END
```

All you have to do is assemble, link, and run it, and you're on your way! ■

*Jim Butterfield is a grizzled veteran of the microcomputer wars who has been writing about Commodore machines from the Kim1 to the Amiga. He is also the author of Machine Language for the Commodore 64, 128, and other Commodore Computers. Write to him at 14 Brooklyn Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada M4M 2X5.*



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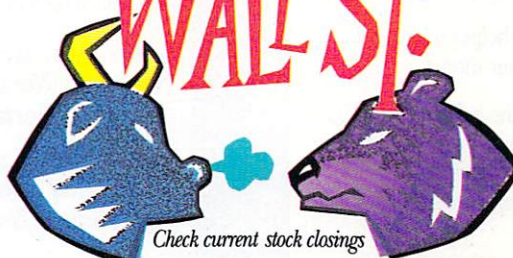


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## # 21

A continuing series  
of tips, techniques,  
and tricks for  
creating more  
imaginative Amiga  
graphics.

By Joel Hagen

# Compositing Conjury

IN WOODY ALLEN'S movie "Zelig," clever compositing techniques placed Allen's character convincingly into scenes with Adolph Hitler, Babe Ruth, and other real, historical figures on newsreel footage. Through software such as DeluxePaint III (Electronic Arts), Digi-Paint 3 (NewTek), Deluxe PhotoLab (Electronic Arts), and Photon Paint 2 (Micro-Illusions), the Amiga can put similar capabilities in your hands. For this introduction to photo-compositing techniques, we will use DeluxePaint and the Amiga's 16-level gray scale. A future column will explore HAM methods for achieving the same objective.

**"LINCOLN, LINCOLN, I'VE BEEN THINKIN' . . ."**

Compositing a photo of a person into another scene is a fun first project. You could join the crew on the bridge of the Enterprise, have your little brother body-slam Hulk Hogan, or put your mother-in-law on the surface of Mars. For the illustration accompanying this column, I started with a Matthew Brady portrait of Abe Lincoln, then searched for a suitable image to add to it. I chose a photo of the Mimbreno warrior, Mangus, that matched the Lincoln lighting fairly closely. Sometimes (as I did in this case) you can even flip an image in the computer to match shadow directions.

I used Digi-View (NewTek) to capture both images—adjusting brightness, contrast, and sharpness, so that both pictures matched as closely as possible before saving. I had to adjust the distance from photo to camera differently for the two images to get the heads about the same size. Marking the measurements of Abe's head on a piece of paper held to the screen, I was then able to use them as a reference for focusing the camera on the Mangus photo. You

will find that attention to detail in selecting images, sizing them, and balancing the image-processing settings in the digitizer will make compositing much easier and more effective.

Loading the image of Abe into DPaint, I worked in a 32-color palette for convenience. In order to use the Shade and Blend modes, I remapped the shuffled Digi-View gray scale to a sequential gray scale. Referring to the palette positions as 0 through 31, I made color 16 black, color 31 white, and color 0 near-black, with the blue slider raised one notch. I "Spread" color 16 to color 31 to get the required sequential gray scale and set it as the only Range. For menu readability, I made color 1 brown and then made all other colors nongray. It is critical that all colors be nongray except the last 16.

If you have done everything correctly, the picture will be unrecognizable colored confetti. Now, however, go to the Picture menu, select submenu Change Color, and choose Remap. The computer remembers the original grays in the picture and searches your new palette for the equivalents you have provided. After several seconds, the image should pop back to its original appearance, remapped to the last 16 colors. If it fails to do so, reload the original image, select Restore Palette from the Change Color submenu to bring back your sequential palette, and then Remap again.

**"MY CAPTAIN. . . YOUR CAP 'T AIN'T RIGHT!"**

Saving the remapped image, I then loaded Mangus to the spare screen. Using Restore Palette and Remap, I matched it to Abe's palette. With brushes from the tool bar, I carefully "erased" the background color around Mangus with a nongray color, which allowed me to pick him up as a brush from the background. Flip-



## There are big kicks to be had from small tricks—as these compositing techniques will clearly demonstrate.

ping to Abe on the spare screen, I positioned him to see if the composite had potential. I quickly saw he was too light, a little too large, and outlined with a lot of dark pixels from the background of his original image.

Back on his screen, I cleared the screen, stamped him down on the left as a safety image in case I made mistakes, and pressed SHIFT-O. This removed a single-pixel outline from the Mangus brush, getting rid of most of the “mat line” of dark pixels. I stamped this new brush down to work on and then pressed the F5 key for the Shade mode. Positioning the brush precisely over the screen image, I clicked the appropriate mouse button once to darken him one level. Picking him up, I checked him against Abe and found the match good. I hit the “-” key once to reduce his size, returned him to his own screen, and saved him.

I wanted to place Mangus behind Abe, the top hat, and the table. To do so, I made a two-color version of Abe’s picture as a mask. Using the “,” key to sample the values of the background, I noted that I would get a clean silhouette by making the first seven dark grays one color. In the Stencil tool, I selected the last nine grays and then Make Stencil. Selecting blue from my palette as a background color, I cleared the screen to make the seven dark grays all blue—giving me a clean silhouette of all foreground objects in the photo. I cleared the stencil, selected that blue and then Make Stencil. This foreground area was now established as a mask. I toggled Stencil off and reloaded the image of Abe. Bringing my Mangus brush into that image, I toggled Stencil on and he popped neatly into the background.

Cleanup, the final stage of compositing, will make or break the image. I began



It is doubtful that the famed Civil War photographer Matthew Brady himself could explain why President Lincoln (above) is trading hats (reluctantly) with a visiting Arizona tourist.

with a single-pixel brush and Magnify. Using the n key, I moved around the edge of the Mangus cutout—striving to eliminate hard edges by changing Edge values to ones closer to the background. The “,” key allowed me to pick appropriate colors from the magnified screen for pixel-by-pixel changes. I frequently used a single pixel in the Shade mode to easily darken or lighten a row of pixels. Turning off magnification, I used Blend mode to nudge edges where needed and to feather the hair and headgear into the background. With a small brush, I used the Smooth tool sparingly to blur a few spots that were still too sharp. I cut out Mangus’s cap, flipped it, and put it on Abe—modifying it with Blend and Shade. That was about it.

So we have history rewritten on the Amiga. Our little project was purely for fun, but we are also seeing increasing computer alteration of journalistic images without realizing we are being handed a modified reality. This is risky magic in a free society, and the legal and ethical bounds of such techniques are coming under closer scrutiny. Therefore, *caveat compositor*:

“So now this craft I to you confer;  
Do not the wrath of the gods incur.” ■

Joel Hagen’s credits include work in art, astronomy, science fiction, and software development. Write to him at 10512 Sawyer, Oakdale, CA 95361. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a reply.



# MASTERING MultiMedia



## Picking the Right Program

By Geoffrey Williams

*Editor's Note: Welcome to our new monthly column on multimedia. It will feature a variety of experts bringing you tips, techniques, or tutorials on different aspects of Amiga multimedia productions.*

YOU HAVE THE perfect interactive presentation mapped out in your mind. All you need now is multimedia software to build it. Find the functions you plan to use in the list below and see which programs handle them most skillfully.

**Hot-Key Random Access to Stills and Animations:** If you need simple page flipping only, I suggest Elan Performer 2.0 (Elan Designs, \$59). It lets you easily assign animations and stills to every key on the keyboard. By putting the program in Record mode you can display pictures and animations using the hot keys, and then later play back the entire sequence with the same timing. AmigaVision (Commodore, \$149), The Director (Right Answers Group, \$69.95), Viva (MichTron, \$199.95), and CanDo (INOVAtronics, \$149.95) also allow you to assign an unlimited number of keys to specific actions in the presentation. Interactor (Very Vivid, \$79) and TV\*Show (Zuma Group, \$99.95) limit you to function keys, while DeluxeVideo III (Electronic Arts, \$149.95) limits you to eight assignable keys.

**Text Handling:** The Director and CanDo lead the pack with powerful text capabilities that let them interpret typed input, scanning for a specified set of characters. Although AmigaVision cannot do sophisticated text interpretation, it will accept keyboard entries during a

presentation and is able to integrate them with database functions.

**Mouse Button Control:** If you want the mouse buttons to behave like a slide projector's remote control, TV\*Show is the best choice. The left mouse button moves the presentation forward; the right button shows the previous image. If you are used to slide presentations, you'll have no trouble adapting. While AmigaVision makes mouse control easy, it ignores the right button and, as a result, lacks TV\*Show's very useful forward and reverse capabilities.

**Hot Spots:** A hot spot is a graphic element on the screen that, when clicked on, triggers an event. Interactor lets you create animated buttons that can move around the screen. CanDo lets you create buttons that will trigger different scripts depending upon whether they are double-clicked, single-clicked, clicked and dragged, or clicked and released. AmigaVision lets you create buttons with its object editor or import brushes to use as buttons. TV\*Show and Elan Performer do not use hot spots, and Viva and UltraCard (Intuitive Technologies, \$50) can handle only rectangular buttons, not the free-form ones available in the other programs.

**Playing Back Different Formats:** Elan Performer is the only interactive software I know of that supports multiple animation formats. You can play ANIM, Movie, and RIFF animations, as well as show RGB8, RGBN, and Commodore's RGB 24 picture formats, which it converts and displays as HAM.

**Transitions:** Fancy wipes and reveals between pictures add visual interest. DeluxeVideo III is the leader, offering 13 wipe effects (each with four adjustable patterns) and 16 variable-speed slide effects. TV\*Show has 40 variable-speed transitions, and AmigaVision has 18, with a choice of three set speeds. The other programs' transitions are either limited or nonexistent.

**Linking Animations:** One way to create longer and more interactive animations is to sequence several short ones together. This also allows you to change color palettes in between. Few programs, however, splice segments seamlessly. Viva puts a grey screen between them. TV\*Show pauses for almost five seconds. AmigaVision introduces a pause of about one second, while DeluxeVideo III hesitates briefly but still perceptibly between animations. Only The Director and Elan Performer link animations together without interruption.

**Memory-Efficient Animation:** While the ANIM compression format is efficient for cel animation, long sequences still consume large chunks of memory and disk space. Storing bits and pieces of an animated sequence in memory and moving them as needed is a more compact method. The simplest approach is to have the program move a brush around the screen, as in TV\*Show. For real power, however, The Director and DeluxeVideo III are the leaders.

DVideo lets you move brushes and ANIMbrushes across the screen along straight, curved, or erratic paths. You can even move an ANIMbrush while scrolling ►



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behind it a SuperBitMap (a picture wider than the screen). As an ANIM, this would take up a lot of memory. With DVideo, all you have in memory is the background screen and the ANIMbrush; the program then manipulates these two elements as you wish. You can also specify different movements based on the way the viewer interacts with your presentation. Instead of having a separate ANIM for each response, you have a variety of scripts that describe the movement of the on-screen objects.

The Director is even more efficient: You load a screen of graphics into memory and display or animate sections of that screen. While The Director is designed for users who want the most from their presentation software, it is entirely script-based and therefore the hardest to use.

**Interactive Animation:** Being able to change the flow of an animation by interacting with it is one of the most powerful capabilities of interactive multimedia. CanDo, DVideo, The Director, and AmigaVision all do a good job of creating interactive animation, but none

comes close to the power of Interactor. That program lets you specify animated brushes as buttons for the viewer to click, even while those brushes are in motion. All animated objects, including buttons, can be affected by such variables as gravity, friction, and acceleration, and they can even detect collisions with other on-screen objects. If you wish, a mouse click or a collision will resequence the animation in the animated brush.

**Sound:** DeluxeVideo III gives you the most control over digitized sounds, letting you alter pitch, volume, channel, stereo separation, and the ability to pan a sound from one speaker to the other. AmigaVision and CanDo let you set the volume and channel only, while The Director and TV\*Show let you set the volume and pitch. Interactor controls only pitch. All allow you to specify the number of times the sound repeats.

An often vital function is to synchronize a sound effect to a particular animation frame. TV\*Show makes this very easy by triggering a sound effect on a specific frame of the animation. The

Director is also frame specific. With DeluxeVideo III, you can watch the timeline and get an approximate synchronization. While CanDo plays ANIM-brushes only, it will play a sound on a specific ANIMbrush frame. Interactor uses its own brush-animation format for animation, but it does provide frame-accurate sound synchronization.

**Music and MIDI:** Both DVideo and AmigaVision can play SMUS music files, even through a MIDI instrument. While better MIDI support is planned for the next AmigaVision upgrade, DVideo currently has the best MIDI and music support, with control over tempo and volume. AmigaVision gives you control over volume only and is limited to four MIDI channels.

**Scoring:** Being able to keep score is especially important for educational applications. CanDo, Interactor, AmigaVision, Viva, and The Director all fit the bill with scoring and math capabilities.

**Laser-Disc Control:** Only AmigaVision and Viva offer easy-to-use interfaces for laser-disc control. Both let you pop up a control panel with which you can search for the sequences. Programming a laser-video sequence for automatic play is a snap with both of these programs.

**ARexx:** ARexx is a language that lets multitasking programs communicate with and control each other. DeluxeVideo III can send ARexx messages, but cannot receive them. AmigaVision, CanDo, and Elan Performer have two-way ARexx ports, which means that they can control other programs as well as receive instructions from them. ARexx support is also promised for the next upgrade of The Director. (This column will delve deeper into scripting techniques next month.)

Most multimedia producers rely on more than one program. With all that is available, you are only limited by your imagination, talent and budget. ■

*Geoffrey Williams is Executive Producer for Creative Business Communication and head of the Amiga Video-Graphics Guild. Write to him c/o AmigaWorld Editorial Dept., 80 Elm St., Peterborough, NH 03458.*

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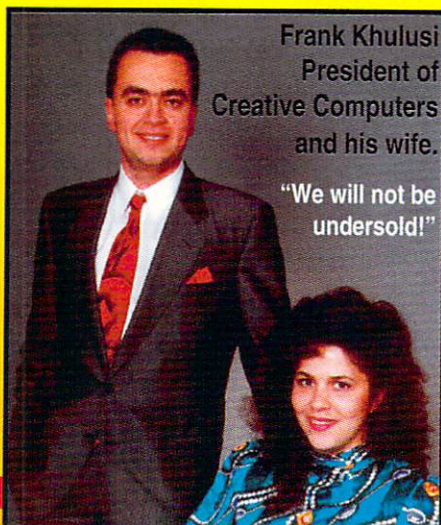
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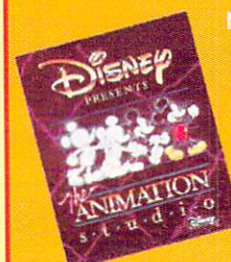
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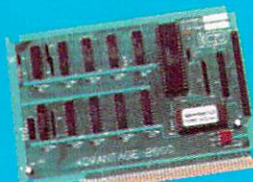
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## NY WARRIORS

By Peter Olafson

ONE OF A handful of shoot-'em-ups that behave like stand-up quarter-eaters, *NY Warriors* explodes onto the Amiga's screen rich with detail. While your green-suited man is burning down everyone in sight, trees blow gently in the wind. Rats run across your path. Clouds of insects hover over trash bins. People pop up from manholes and park benches, and they're not polite at all.

The concept is a bit like *Warriors*, the gang movie of a decade ago. Terrorists have planted a nuclear device in the World Trade Center and are holding New York hostage. They want Manhattan, Greenwich Village, and southeastern Schenectady. (I know, Greenwich Village is part of Manhattan, but this is what it says in the manual.)

Scrolling is multi-directional, and as you progress through eight sections of the city, finding your way out becomes tougher and tougher. Enemies grow decidedly more intelligent—not simply more numerous and trigger-happy—with each of the four levels of difficulty. To help, the game per-

mits stockpiling of resources; up to two improved weapons are accumulated and then automatically substituted when the better one is exhausted.

*NY Warriors* has a distinctly Amiga feel, as well. A wonderful Sonix-built score kicks things along. If you like, you can toggle it off and just listen to the firestorm of explosions. The detonations (and the game graphics generally) are rendered in a rich, deep palette that lends this forsaken city a kind of hyper-reality. It's almost a shame that the pace is so frenetic, as there's a great deal to take in. Play it once to win. Play it again to see what you can see.

It could have been perfect. I'm a little tired of two-disk games that won't recognize a second drive or support a hard disk. The high-scores screen on my copy was marred by a graphic glitch—a rather tatty ending, considering the pristine quality of what preceded it.

Compared with the artfulness and depth of the game, the failings are petty. *NY Warriors* is one great shoot-'em-up that belongs in every arcade gamer's collection. (\$49.99, Virgin Mastertronic Inc., 18001 Cowan, Suites A & B, Irvine, CA 92714, 714/833-8710. One megabyte required.)

## Crib Notes

By Peter Olafson

**DOCKING YOUR SHIP** in *Operation Spruance* (Parsec, \$49.95) is the toughest part. Grounding is much more likely to end your mission than enemy fire. The best method of berthing the ship that I've found is analogous to parallel parking: Move it slowly (10 percent power), adopt a steep angle of approach, cut back the wheel at the last moment, and put it in reverse. You can do this in forward or reverse, but I found the rear view and reverse controls a little awkward.

Getting away from the dock isn't nearly the problem it appears. Don't bother backing out. You can turn the ship on a dime, and without taking any timbers off the pier. Put it in reverse, crank your rudder full left, and, when the ship is at a 90-degree angle to the dock, kick it into forward and pull your rudder right. If you time it correctly, you'll be pointed between two channel markers.

The first mission isn't bad, provided you react quickly to the two Tomcats at 12 o'clock. Don't pause for a second once you've made them. If they take out any of your systems, you might as well restart. You'll need only Sparrows against them, however, so they're expendable once the jets are down. Other craft can be easily managed if you survive their air-to-ground missiles.

• Hey, nobody said you had to *fight* the orcs on your first mission in *Times of Lore* (Origin, \$39.95). Just grab the urn—it's southwest of the clearing—and get out. If you do have to fight, be sure you first get the dagger from the woodsman's house.

• *Ultima V* (Origin, \$59.95) should be out for the Amiga soon, and I'll open

the new year with a slew of hints for that monster adventure. In the meantime, here are some direction signs for people stalled in the end-game of its predecessor.

What's worse than getting to the entrance to the Chamber of the Codex (that last room is a killer, isn't it?) and not having the answers? Nothing. You're told most of them explicitly within the body of the game, but if you've skimmed over the philosophical stuff, which is not as question-and-answer oriented, you may find yourself all dressed up with no place to go.

For one thing, you'll need a good understanding of the virtues and the principles on which they're based. For another, there's that three-syllable word of passage. You have the syllables, but can't figure their order. Well, think. You've been hearing about truth, love, and courage until you're blue in the face. It's almost as though old Lord British were trying to drill something into you, isn't it? I hope you also wrote down the letters that appeared as you achieved avatarhood in each virtue. If it looks like gobbledygook, remember that the virtues, like the principles, have a certain order.

• I came across some *Dungeon Master* (FTL, \$39.95) arcana on one of the networks the other day. You probably think the barbarian Halk is just a bruiser. Not so. If you have him use magic objects, he'll gain a magic point or two. With two, he can cast "LO," which doesn't mean a thing, but with repeated use will give him enough experience to advance a level. (The posting, by a Jason Freund, indicated

*Continued on p. 84*





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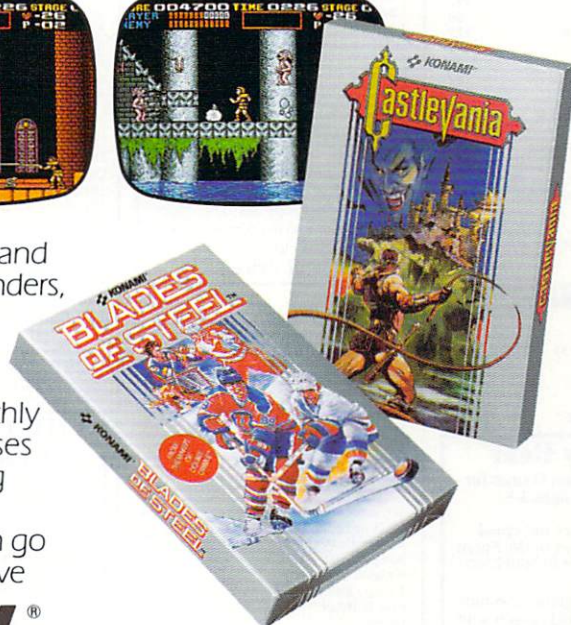
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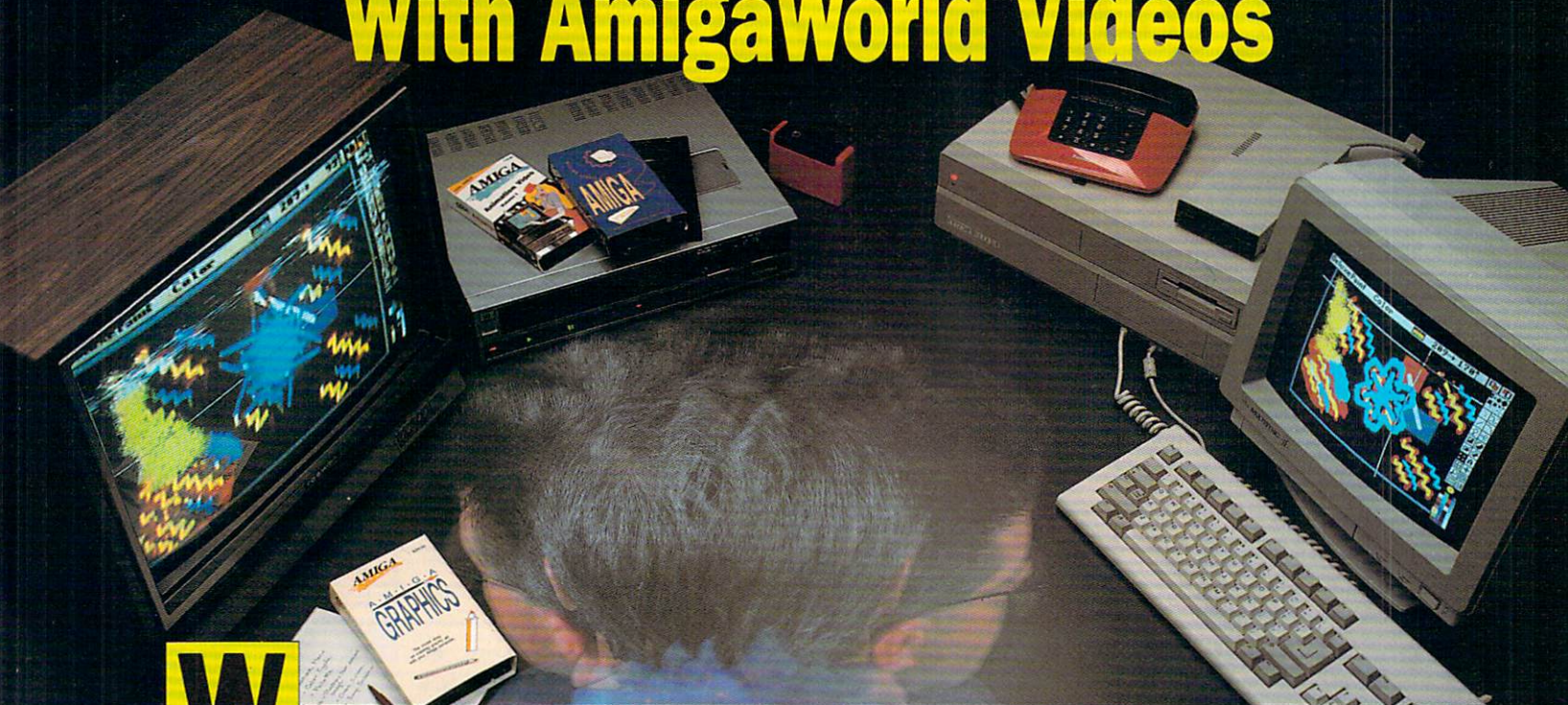
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
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## KNIGHTS OF THE CRYSTALLION

By Dodson Yaple

A CONGLOMERATION OF several perennial favorites, *Knights of the Crystallion* takes place in the City of Bone, which was carved from the fossilized remains of an enormous prehistoric beast. As the leader of one of the ossified precincts' loosely-confederated clans, you have to juggle familial and commercial responsibilities while trying to advance your personal quest for spiritual knowledge.

Like Cinemaware's arcade adventures, *Knights* is a cluster of mini-games featuring detailed graphics, flashy effects, and staggering audio. While its elements are not always as seamlessly integrated as those of a classic such as *Rocket Ranger*, its sound and HAM graphics can compete on any level. Appropriate music accompanies each segment, running six or seven minutes before recycling, and there is also some very effective digitized speech. An included audio cassette lets you listen without booting the program.

Play revolves around two



Life is one puzzle after another in a fossil city.

main sequences—a trading game and a run-around-picking-things-up-while-avoiding-perils game. The latter employs a blessedly simple mouse control that lets you concentrate on monster-zapping and object-grabbing. Similarly, the several satellite games test your brainpower more than your reflexes. You progress steadily against just enough resistance to keep things interesting, instead of getting stuck on a single obstacle for days.

*Knights* is a two-disk game

that loads its various segments as you select them. Fortunately, because it has no DOS-based copy protection, you can minimize access time (and disk swaps) by installing the game in RAM or on a hard drive. Otherwise, there is little to complain about. *Knights of the Crystallion* is a solid piece of work that nearly matches the best the genre has to offer. (\$39.95, JDC, 2549 W. Golf Rd., Suite 500, Hoffman Estates, IL 60194, 708/882-7416. No special requirements.)

that Halk may lose his magical ability before he gains the level. You'll have to keep at him.)

Those in search of a really nasty scene should try going back to the dungeon entrance with the Firestaff, but without the Power Gem. The last posting was more a curiosity: Evidently a figure appears if you look back through the door into the Hall of Champions using the "look through solid objects" spell. Anybody know who he is?

• Jason Gordon of Overland Park, KS, wonders whether the rings and hooks on *DM's* walls are good for anything. I've never found any use for them—too big for my fingers, too small to hang a hat on—but I understand there's at least one spot where they'll come in handy. Besides, in this game, it's a good practice not to let anything go untouched.

• More *Dungeon Master*: Ian Boreyko of Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, writes that he's been stuck for two weeks in a Level 6 room with a pit trap, a teleporter and a switch. (Look for my name on the wall, Ian. I've stayed at that motel, too.) The trick is the interrelationship of those features. The switch controls the teleport field. You'll want to put an item where the field is located. Throw the switch, and the item is whipped around the corner, which makes the trap close. Turn off the field to get the item back, and open the door to get the key.

• Kevin Bunker of South Thomaston, ME, offers a clever way to chalk up mind-numbing numbers of experience points in *Bard's Tale II* (Electronic Arts, \$59.95). It's quite legitimate, but it capitalizes on a weakness in the game, and if you think man was born to suffer, you may want to skip it. You'll need a spellcaster who can cast "Disrupt Illusion." Now, go out and find yourself a monster band that includes illusion-casting magic-users. (Kev mentions the Makers on Level 4 of Dargath's Tower as an example.)

Cast the "Disrupt Illusion" spells at the opening of combat. Kill off the front men, but leave the spellcasters alone. They'll keep conjuring up illu- ▶

## OPERATION SPRUANCE

By Kevin C. Rohrer

WHEN YOU STEP onto the deck of the destroyer in *Operation Spruance* (OS), you assume command. Novices should practice navigating the Spruance first, but the more confident (or foolhardy) can jump right into one of the five Persian Gulf missions.

You control the Spruance through nine screens, each accessed via a function key. For

example, Threat Board lets you track and identify all air, surface, and sub-surface contacts. You also direct the weapons, both offensive (ASROC, Sparrow, and Harpoon missiles, plus five-inch guns) and defensive (chaff, flares, and decoys). Unfortunately, guided missiles can't be tracked; only Radar allows you to get a look at them. Granted, a message

states missiles are approaching and gives their direction and speed, but you cannot direct gun and missile fire against them. Even worse, the game ship lacks the high-speed, multibarrel guns, called Phalanx, that are basic to the real warship's missile defense.

Although OS tries to be a true simulation, it has too many inaccuracies and omis- ▶



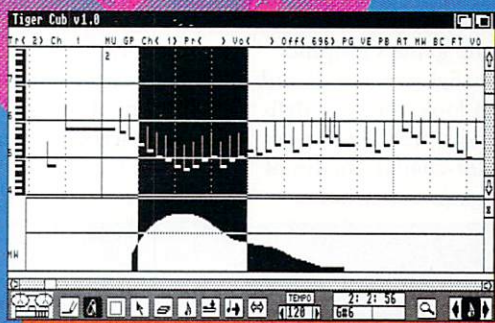
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KAWAI K-5  
KORG M-1  
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sions to claim the title. The Towed Array and a separate Sonar screen weren't included either, and both are necessary for combatting submarines. Neither can you switch between active and passive sensors, and, worse still, Spruance's two anti-submarine helicopters are absent. Full

control over these would have made up for all the game's other weaknesses. Also, the ship's maximum speed is over 50 knots, which is well above the top speed of any real destroyer, and you can go in reverse just as fast!

The game does, however, offer a good feel for com-

manding a warship. Function keys 6-9 move you from below decks to one of five Bridge positions. From them, you can pan your view 360 degrees, look up and down, and even walk forward. Although the 3-D, filled-vector graphics are good, there is one unfortunate problem: The quay is the same color as the ship, which makes differentiating between them difficult while docking and departing.

OS has possibilities and, with a major refitting, could become the standard for warship simulations. A better manual, the addition of the missing weapons and sensors, and easier piloting controls would make the game an armchair sailor's dream. As it is, however, I recommend you leave Operation Spruance in port. (\$49.95, *Parsec Software*, 2506 S. Golf View, Plant City, FL 33566. No special requirements.)



Command your own destroyer.

## WINGS OF FURY

By Rob Lawrence

TRY TO IMAGINE watching a devastating World War II battle on a Saturday morning cartoon—in particular a Pacific Theater battle featuring the U.S. Navy's mighty F6F Hellcat fighter with a Looney-Tunes backdrop. If you succeed, you've got a good picture of *Wings of Fury*.

According to the story, the U.S.S. Wasp is badly damaged and must make its way back to port. As the only pilot on the aircraft carrier (poor recruiting tactics, I guess), you must take to the skies and defend the Wasp against Japanese torpedo planes, battlecruisers, and island guns. For weapons, your Hellcat is equipped with six .50-caliber machine guns, along with your choice of bombs, rockets, or a torpedo.

While the game's graphics do have a slightly comical and cartoonish look, they are definitely up to snuff. The waves in the water change shades of blue, the ships are detailed

and colorful, and the pixel-sized deck officers direct you with semaphores. The horizontally scrolling scene zooms in when you fly at low altitudes, providing a more de-



Protect your carrier.

sory creatures, and you'll keep disbelieving in them and getting credit for killing 'em. This can on go on all night. "When you get sick of racking up points and gold, simply move in and slaughter the poor fools," Kevin writes.

• Remy LaFarque of Schenectady, NY, is looking for the magic map and wand in *King's Quest III: To Heir Is Human* (Sierra, \$49.95). Both are essential items, as you can't really explore for long without the map or prepare spells without the wand. Begin in the wizard's bedroom. A diligent search of the closet will turn up a parchment and a key. The parchment is blank...for now. (You'll figure it out soon enough.) The key fits...well, what could it fit? Perhaps you should study harder.

• While rating the Top 20 Games of 1990, the Games Review Board uncovered plenty of helpful tricks. For the remainder of the column, I'll turn over the floor to my colleagues.

• Rob Lawrence suggests keeping to the right on Level 4 of *NY Warriors* (Virgin Mastertronic, \$49.95) to reach the subways faster. On Level 7, you should take time to collect some weapons before you proceed. You'll drop everything if you get hit, however, so watch your step.

• Another one from Rob: In *Third Courier* (Accolade, \$49.95), there are a pair of "reload" rooms in the aqueducts—one north, one south—that will replenish the ammo in your current weapon. Heaven only knows what they're doing down there, but don't ask questions. Just load up.

• Some rather brutal tactics for *Laser Squad* (Microlusions, \$39.95): Kill one of your own troopers if that's what it takes to get a clear shot at the enemy. "Chances are the enemy would have shot him anyway," writes Rob. "And remember, enemy units carry less armor on their backs."

• Forsake sensible starts in *The Duel: Test Drive II* (Accolade, \$44.95). Practice running the RPMs deep into the red before letting out the clutch. The extra oomph could win the race. (Get pulled over for speeding much, Rob?)

• Fellow driver Graham Kinsey rec-



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**Amiga+ Magazine** - December 1990

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**Amiga World Magazine** - March 1989

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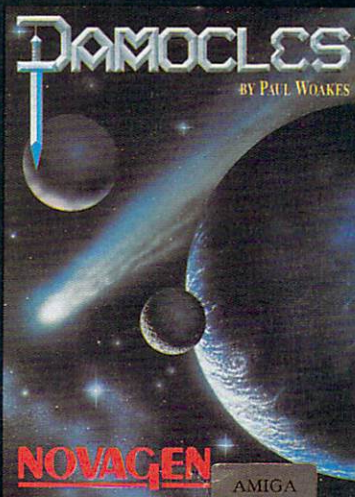
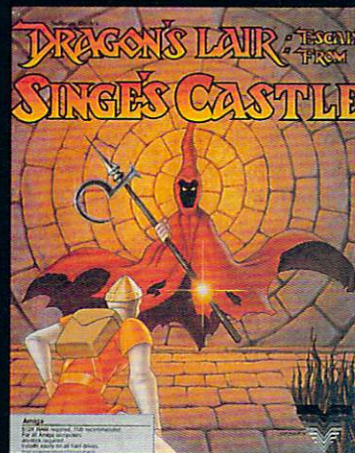
**Computer Entertainer**, April 1990

"Singe's Castle is a visual delight, I highly recommend it."

Lou Wallace, **Amiga World**, July 1990

"...nothing else can come near it in terms of its graphics ... a superb piece of software."

**Commodore and Amiga Review**, July 1990



"It's Brilliant, Buy it... We give Damocles a resounding 95%"

**The One**, October 1989

"A superlatively polished adventure brought to life through amazing 3-D 16-bit graphics. Overall 95%"

**ZZAP Magazine**, March 1990

"A corker of an arcade adventure with totally engrossing gameplay. Damocles is Mercenary to the power of three!"

**Zero Magazine**, March 1990

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tailed view of your plane and the ground. This is especially helpful when strafing the little Japanese soldiers who run down the beach like madmen, jumping about six feet into the

air and screaming when they're hit. The game has no accompanying music, but terrific sound effects.

Wings of Fury might sound great, but I quickly lost inter-

est. It did not have enough variation to hold my attention. After a while, each new mission seems to be the same as the last: bomb the islands, strafe the Japs, sink the ships,

shoot the planes. If you are 12 or under, you might enjoy it. (\$39.95, Broderbund Software Inc., 17 Paul Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903, 415/492-3200. Joy-stick required.)

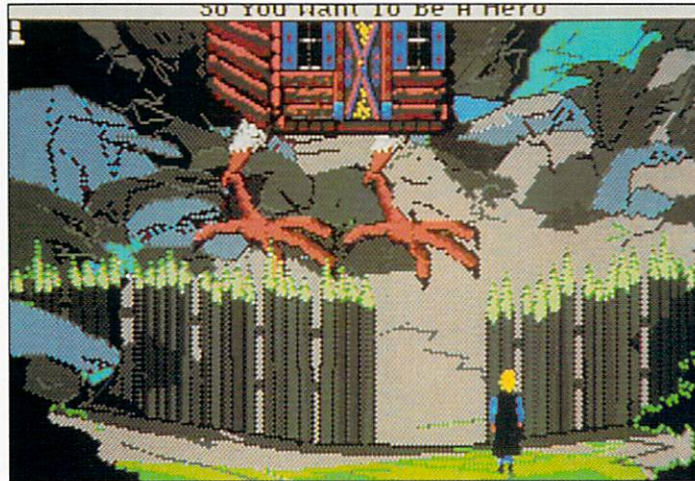
## HERO'S QUEST: SO YOU WANT TO BE A HERO

By Graham Kinsey

COMBINING FANTASY role-playing aspects with those of illustrated text adventures, Hero's Quest: So You Want To Be a Hero sets you on a path from a correspondence course on heros to becoming a legitimate (and famous) hero.

You design your character, then guide it through the town of Spielburg and the countryside, completing quests and battling powerful opposing forces. In building your hero, you choose from three basic classes—fighter, magic-user, or thief. You also have initial control over the proficiency of your character in five attributes (strength, intelligence, agility, vitality, and luck) and in various skills, including those associated with other classes.

The game starts in Spiel-



No one told you about this in the correspondence course.

burg, where you purchase basic provisions and converse with the many townsfolk to learn about the available quests (and their rewards). Outside the town, you can find

a low-paying job that covers the cost of a room at the town inn each night, thus enabling you to survive at the outset. Only quick reflexes will help you defeat the monsters,

which is the only way to earn enough gold for long-term survival; combat in Hero's Quest is strongly arcade-based.

While the plot is fairly solid, presentation is weak. The graphics are pathetic, far more 8-bit than Amiga. The fantasy/role-playing aspects are nothing to get excited about, either, and the text parser is rather crude.

At least the digitized sounds are adequate, and you are able to install the five-disk game on a hard drive. The game will run on accelerated Amigas, but unfortunately this doesn't help you finish it faster. Overall, Hero's Quest was a large disappointment; avoid it. (\$59.95, Sierra On-Line, PO Box 485, Coarsegold, CA 93614, 209/683-4468. No special requirements.)

ommends a minimum 200 mph speed for making the jump on the ski-jump track in *Stunt Track Racer* (Microplay, \$39.95). On the other hand, *never* use the drawbridge at high speed, and never just drop off the end unless it's all the way down.

- According to Dodson Yapple, in *Shadow of the Beast* (Psygnosis, \$49.95), you can master the final hazard—that giant club—with brute force if you have three lives left. Just keep pounding on the wall. If you don't have the lives, you'll have to time your movement to the club's movement, running in to deliver a few punches, then pulling back to safety.

- Of course, getting to the end is the

hard part. The requests I receive most frequently are for *Shadow of the Beast* and *Blood Money* (Psygnosis, \$49.95) back doors—words you type into the high-score table to become invincible, have infinite lives, or better. (Usually, it's the name of the programmer's girlfriend's dog.) Well, sorry to disappoint you, but I don't know of any. There are code-based cheat hacks for both games. I can't recommend them from experience, but they're available on many bulletin boards. I'll be happy to post them to a couple of the major ones if you want to experiment.

Next issue, however, I'll give you what you've been begging for—as many back doors as I can cram into a column. It goes against my grain,

but I'll do it just this once. Call it a Christmas present. Don't spend it all in one dungeon.

### COMPANIES MENTIONED:

Accolade, 550 South Winchester Blvd., Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95128, 408/985-1700.

Electronic Arts, 1820 Gateway Dr., San Mateo, CA 94404, 415/571-7171.

FTL Games, 6160 Lusk Blvd., C-206, San Diego, CA 92121, 619/453-5711.

MicroIllusions, 17408 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, CA 91344, 818/360-3715, 800/522-2041.

MicroPlay, distributed by Microprose, 180 Lakefront Dr., Hunt Valley, MD 21030, 301/771-1151.

Origin Systems, 110 Wild Basin Rd., Suite 330, Austin, TX 78746, 512/328-0282.

Parsec Software, 2506 S. Golf View, Plant City, FL 33566, 813/757-0360.

Psygnosis, 17 St. Mary's Court, Brookline, MA 02146, 617/566-1569.

Sierra On-Line, PO Box 485, Coarsegold, CA 93614, 209/683-4468.

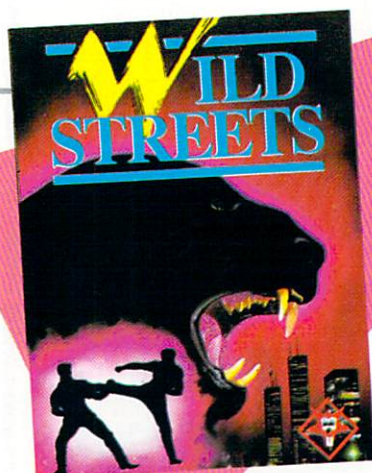
Virgin Mastertronic Inc., 18001 Cowan, Suites A & B, Irvine, CA 92714, 714/833-8710. ■



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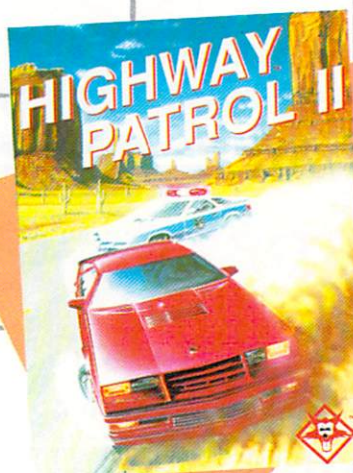
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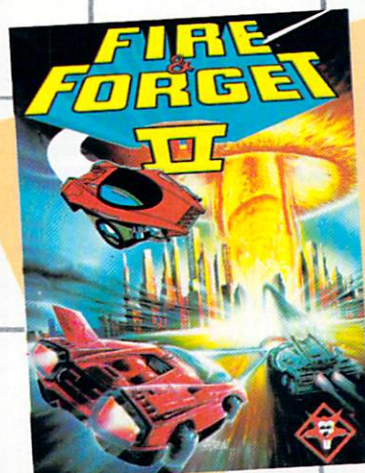
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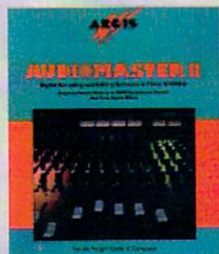
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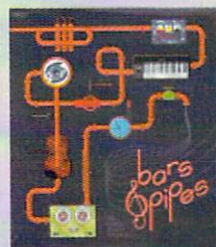
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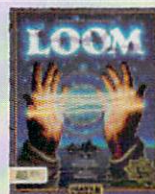
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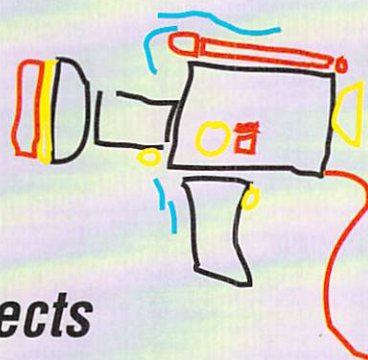
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From p. 22

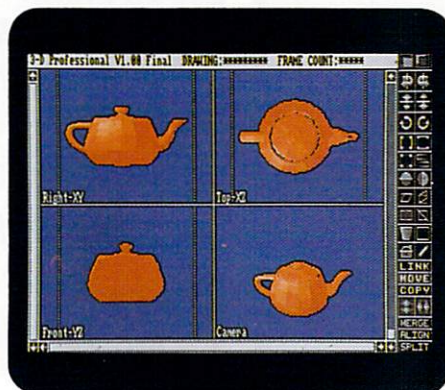
tower over Amiga dealers' shelves—like a dark horse in the 3-D race.

Developed by Cryogenic Software, 3D Professional is published by Progressive Peripherals & Software. Inside its immense box are three manuals, a tutorial videotape, and six disks of software and data that include 68000 and floating-point versions of the program, object and image data, and the Animation Station program (which is also available separately from Progressive).

3D Pro boasts an impressive list of features. Among these are multiple graphics formats (including 24-bit color output and eight-bit gray scale); variable screen sizes; support of MicroIllusions' Transport Controller for single-frame video recording; an AREXX-compatible scripting language; texture mapping; automatic text extrusion; fractal landscapes and trees; lathing; extrusion; 3-D conversions of bitmapped graphics; key-frame animation; and use of 2-D IFF images as foregrounds and backgrounds. The rendering modes do not include ray tracing, so real shadows and reflections are not possible. There are ways to fake

them, however, and a convincing argument against ray tracing is that it takes so much time.

The program can import 3-D objects in a wide variety of formats, though all color and surface characteristics may not survive the translation. It can save objects in Videospace format as well as its own file format. It outputs graphics files



Tea for 3-D—Pro style

as IFF, except for the IFF 24-bit format; you can save 24-bit files in the same RGB format that Sculpt-Animate 4D and Mimetics' Frame Buffer use.

### IN UP TO YOUR ANKLES

The program's interface is wholly mouse-based except in scripting, and its screen has a large selection of icon-based tools. It's obvious that a tremendous amount of development time went into the interface, which is consistent and workable. If you have never used 3-D software before, you may find it easy to get your feet wet with 3D Pro. Unfortunately, though, the water is not very deep.

On starting the program, a requester asks you to specify values to determine the number of objects, vertices, and other elements that define a scene. If you specify too few of these values, 3D Pro will eventually refuse to let you add, modify, or load objects. I found the only realistic way to deal with this was to use very high values to avoid ever running out of available space. The result was that I used virtually all of the memory in my seven-megabyte system.

Memory is taken up even before you create any objects in a scene. This is a good example of the type of housekeeping that software should take care of behind the scenes. The fact that you cannot

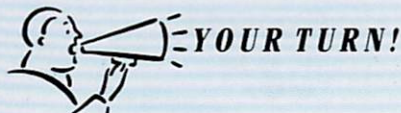
alter these values without destroying all data in memory makes the program very awkward.

3D Pro is a point-and-polygon system in which it's not possible to move or even select points except in the lathing and extrusion modules. Objects are either constructed from primitives (cubes, spheres, and so on), or are created in those special modules—from within which you cannot see other related objects you are working with.

Because of the nature of 3D Pro's solid modelling, objects sometimes appear to poke through other objects when they shouldn't. In such cases, you must manually split the offending objects up into individual pieces. There is no Undo function in any part of the program.

### UPDATE TO THE RESCUE?

Although the program contains many interesting features, they are frequently implemented in an awkward fashion. For example, the several textures available are referenced to the world's origin rather than to the origin points of the individual objects. This means that if a textured object should move in the course of an animation, the appearance of its

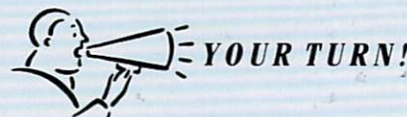


3D Professional has the best documentation of any of the 3-D modeling programs. It is the only program I've ever bought that does not require you to read the manual. The instructional videotape is a good idea; it's well done, and it's a good supplement to the manual.

The program is friendly and very powerful. It falls somewhere between Caligari, which is tremendously powerful but very expensive, and Silver, which is less powerful but affordable. I feel it is slightly overpriced, though; I would like to see it in the \$200-300 range.

3D Pro is not great for object creation, but it is fine for texturing, lighting, and rendering imported objects. I appreciate the fact that the program supports Videospace and Sculpt formats. The only thing I wish for is support for 3-D stereo vision; a Read\_Me file in Animation Station hints at this. 3D Pro does so well in handling standard 3-D; I wish it would go the extra step.

*John Semper  
Toluca Lake, CA*



3D Professional is a wonderful program. Its intuitive interface and pull-down menus make it easy to use. I like it better than either Sculpt or Turbo Silver; the learning curve is not as great. I also like its expansivity, which allows for ray tracing, custom displays, and so on.

Progressive provides wonderful support. The videotape is a big benefit, too, but with the wealth of manuals included, a three-ring binder would be helpful.

*Mike Lamb  
Pueblo, CO*

texture will actually change. Texture-mapped objects are therefore impractical to move, making texture mapping a feature of questionable value.

You can turn IFF bitmapped images into 3-D objects, but the program creates them as flat mosaics, in which the indi-

*Continued on p. 98*



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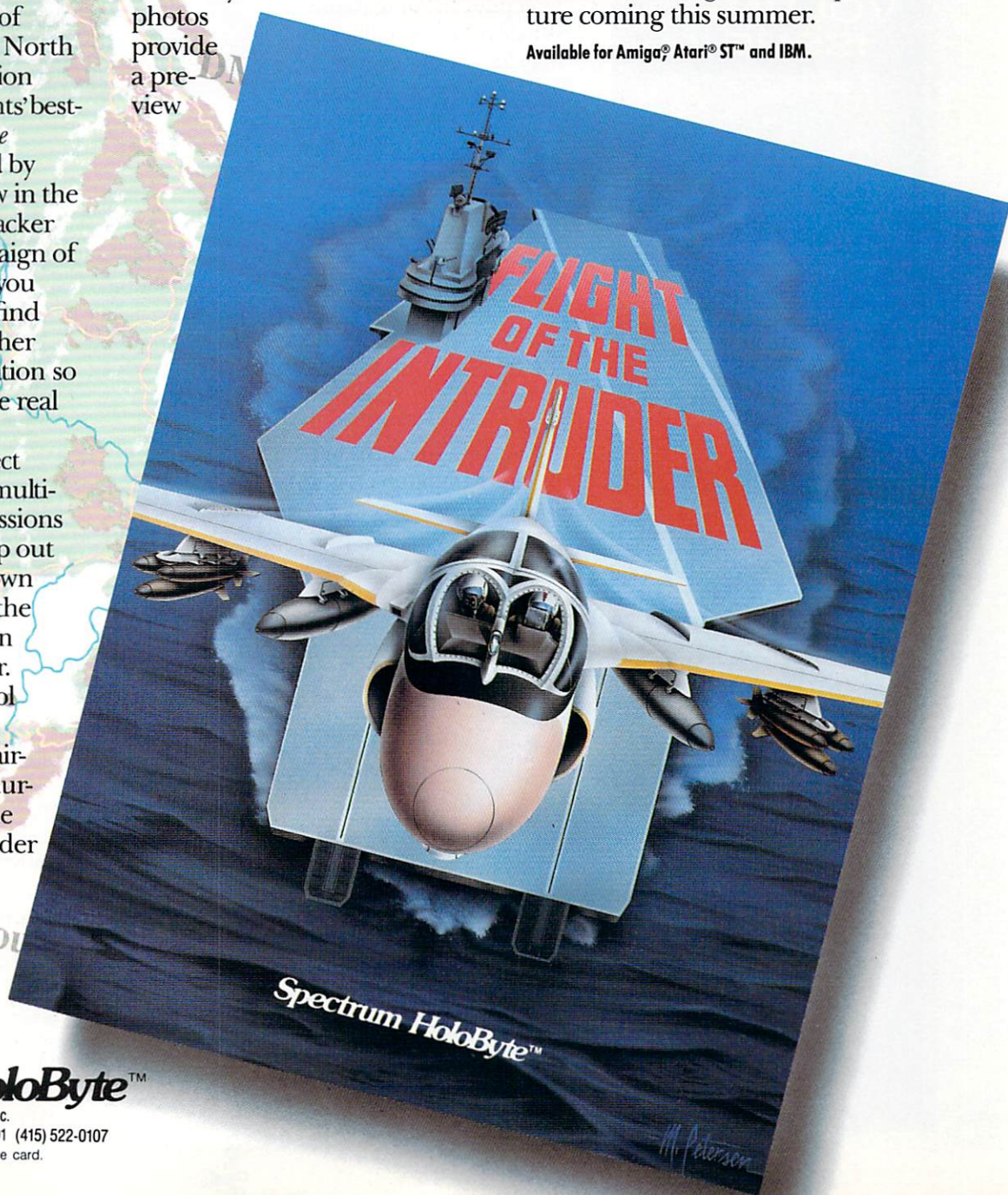
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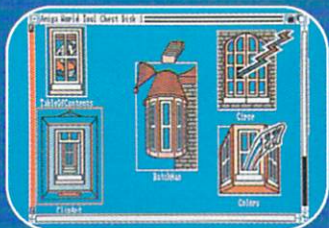


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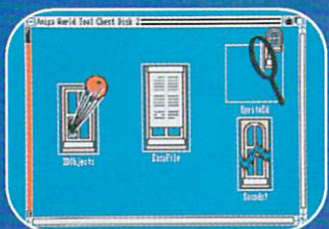
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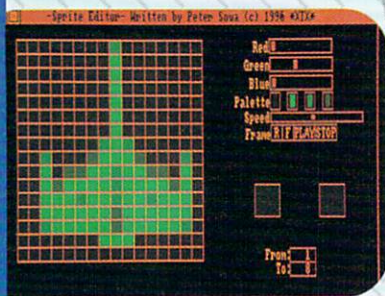
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From p. 94

vidual pixels of the bitmap become separate objects. Even low-resolution pictures convert into very complicated 3-D objects when you use this technique. In addition, there's no way to wrap a flat image onto a 3-D object.

Although you would expect this type of solid modelling to render as fast as Videoscape, or at least as fast as the solid-model modes of Sculpt and Silver, that does not seem to be the case. Rendering is painfully slow, even on a 68030-based system, though it is still faster than ray tracing. The quality of the HAM images is not very good, and the rendering routine performs no anti-aliasing, so HAM images show stair-stepped jagged edges and HAM fringing. Better HAM images would result from rendering in 24-bit color and using another program—ASDG's The Art Department, for instance—to convert those images to HAM. That, however, doesn't help the lack of anti-aliasing.

Some of these problems (space does not permit a blow-by-blow accounting of all 3D Pro's failings) may be addressed by software updates; the basic structure of the program suggests better things to come. In fact, point editing is one example that the author mentions as a future enhancement.

## REACHING OUT

You can use an external program to render 3D Pro files, which presents a unique and interesting situation. Custom renderers can be created (Cryogenic is currently working on a ray-tracing module); and rendering across networks is a possibility. That means that 3D Pro, running on a networked Amiga, could potentially call a renderer on some other computer on the network and do all the computation on another system.

The ARExx support in the scripting language is very welcome, and makes it possible for ARExx programmers to construct some sophisticated animation functions to work from within 3D Pro.

The fractal object-creation tools are also interesting, even if the trees are not particularly treelike. The author does mention future possibilities for fractalizing objects, which sounds intriguing.

If you currently use another 3-D program, you're unlikely to want to jump ship for 3D Professional. Despite its

range of features, it is far from being the first release of the new generation of 3-D software. It's much more like the final release in the last generation.

On the other hand, if you're just about to begin working in 3-D graphics, you might want to look at 3D Pro. The author's obvious commitment to the product indicates that we can look forward to improvements, and you may decide that you want to sign on for that ride. At the moment, though, the ride looks rather long and rocky for the inexperienced, and the destination a bit uninspiring for the serious traveller.

## 3D Professional

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## MIDI QUEST

### *Total synth support*

By Steve Quinzi

FOR THE PAST few years, musicians have relied on software editors and librarians to compensate for two major deficiencies of the typical MIDI synthesizer, namely, low on-board sound storage and cumbersome voice programming. With MIDI setups growing larger (a pro's rig typically consists of a dozen or so modules), the concept of a single software package to manage the patches for all of your synths makes a lot more sense than the single-device approach we are accustomed to.

MIDI Quest, the new universal patch editor/librarian from Sound Quest, can store and edit patch data for all MIDI devices, including most current synths, that support system-exclusive (sys-ex) communication. You can group together any number of patch or sys-ex files in a single database and send it out to the various devices simultaneously.

## MIDI IN MANIFOLD FORM

Because MIDI Quest is designed for use with external MIDI hardware, you need a MIDI interface and at least one MIDI

synthesizer or module to use it. For effective use with a setup of multiple MIDI devices, you should also have a MIDI patcher that responds to program changes.

The noncopy-protected software comes on two disks. One holds the program itself. The other contains drivers that allow communication with specific MIDI devices. Table 1 shows, in alphabetical order by manufacturer, a list of the machines for which MIDI Quest provides drivers. The more contemporary of these devices are also supported by editing templates—graphic editing pages for changing synth parameters—that are also on the second disk. To fit all these drivers and templates on a single disk, Sound Quest uses a compressed format. Using MIDI Quest's Install utility, you can decompress the files you want and copy them to another disk, which must be named Drivers. The install routine also creates a default setup file.

## SETTING UP YOUR GEAR

MIDI Quest opens with a Driver List window displaying all the drivers and ▶

**Table 1. Machines supported by MIDI Quest drivers.**

**Casio:** CZ101, 1000, 3000, 5000 and VZ1

**Digital Music Services:** MX-8

**Digitech:** DSP128

**Emu:** Proteus

**Ensoniq:** ESQ-1, ESQ-M, and SQ-80

**Kawai:** K1, K3, and K4

**Korg:** DS-8, DW 6000, DW8000, EX8000, M1, M1R, M3R, and the T-series machines

**Lexicon:** LXP-1

**Oberheim:** Matrix 6, 6R, and 1000

**Roland:** D-5, D-10, D-20, D-50, D-110, E-20, GR-50, JX-8P, MT-32, U-20, and U-220

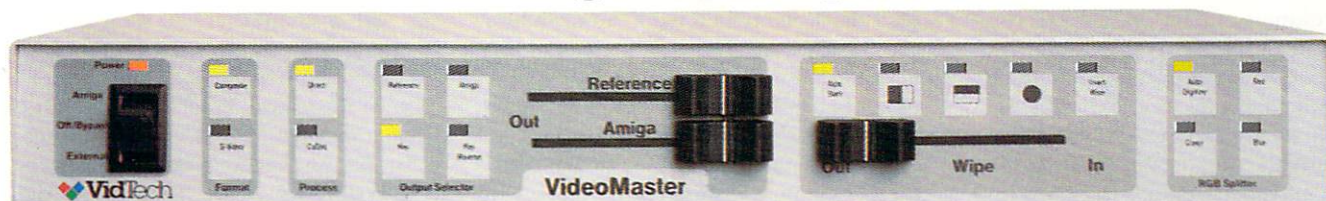
**Sequential Circuits:** Drumtracks, MultiTrack, Six-Track, Prophet 5, 10, 600, and T8

**Yamaha:** DMP7, RX11, RX17, RX21L, RX7, V50, TX81Z, DX7, 5, 11, 21, 27, 100, 7IID, 7IIFD, TX7, TF01, TX802, FB01, and SPX90



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- ◆ A special effects generator produces horizontal, vertical, circle and inverted wipes—automatically timed or manually controlled.



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The S-Video, Y/C signal is processed independently in, through and out.

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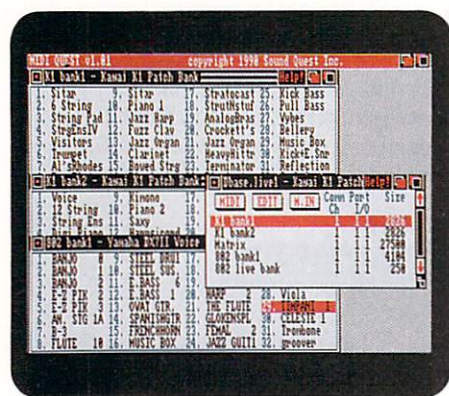
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templates you have installed. If you use different combinations of MIDI devices, you can create multiple setup files. To the right of each driver in the window are six columns of data that govern communication with the corresponding MIDI device: Communication Channel (commonly known as device number), MIDI Channel, Port I/O (the serial port is currently the only possible setting on the Amiga), Patch Number (specifies in-



Patch banks in the database window.

dividual patch location and, in some synths, differentiates between patch banks), and Control Number. The last field applies only if you have a MIDI patcher. It contains the program change number that is sent to the patcher to route the MIDI signal to and from the appropriate device when a particular driver is selected. Making use of this field requires some setup work on the patcher, but it is well worth it.

If all is set up correctly, selecting a patch-bank driver from the driver list and clicking on the Edit button will cause the patch bank to appear on the screen. By holding the Shift key down and clicking with the mouse, you can select all of the drivers in the list; MIDI Quest will ask for a data dump of the corresponding MIDI devices and display them on screen one at a time. If you click the Disk button instead of the Edit button and follow the same procedure, the program saves the data disk. Likewise, if you click the DBase button, the program transfers the data to a Data Base window.

## ALL THE WAY TO THE BANKS—AND PATCHES

There are two types of editing avail-

able—bank and patch. Bank editing lets you manipulate the makeup of patch banks in a typical librarian environment. You can audition any patch by clicking on a patch name in a bank. You can also copy patches or groups of patches to different locations in the bank or even between banks of the same device. The order of a selected group of patches can be inverted or shifted up or down. Also, three random patch-generation features are available: Mix combines parameters of two patches to produce a new bank; Mix All combines large parts of data from two patches; and Blend takes data from a selected group of patches to arrive at a new bank. If you do not like the results, you can restore any bank to its original state.

Selecting one patch driver and clicking on the Edit button causes a single patch-editing template to appear—if you have installed a template for that data type. Although the templates vary by device, all of them have (where applicable) graphic displays of envelope shapes, sliders, gadgets, and alphanumeric data arranged in a logical fashion. You edit by dragging with the mouse. The templates are larger than a single screen, but you can get to all the parameters by using the scroll bars at the bottom and side of the screen.

The Single Edit menu offers some time savers. Copy and Paste can copy a group of parameters in one patch to the same location in another. Forced Fill is supposed to copy parameters within a patch, but I found it to be very inconsistent. Randomize produces random variations in a selected group of parameters.

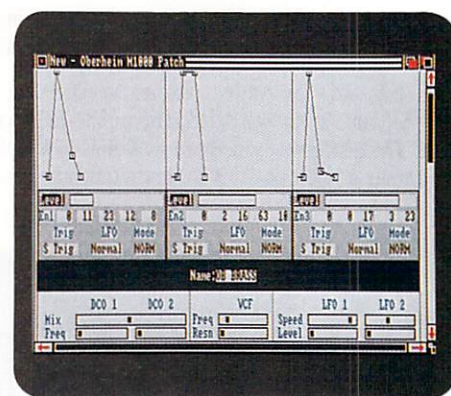


## YOUR TURN!

MIDI Quest is a breeze to install. It does exactly what it promises, and the database function is excellent. It employs the Amiga's features well. Moving about the program is not always intuitive, however, and I would appreciate being able to start from scratch with an edit template. Also, you cannot go from some bench editors to the voice editor. All in all, MIDI Quest is fantastic—one of the best MIDI packages for the Amiga.

Bill Thompson  
Womelsdorf, PA

I found that it is best to work on one patch at a time, because the program really slows down when two or more editing templates are active. If you come up with a sound that you want to keep working on, you can save it temporarily in one of four buffer locations. After you've made additional changes, you can save it to a new buffer location and compare the two versions. At any time, you can restore the entire patch to its origi-



The Oberheim Matrix-6 pattern-editing template.

nal state, or do the same with a group of parameters.

## DEVICE DATA

MIDI Quest's most prominent feature is its database capability. Select the appropriate drivers in the Driver List window and click on DBase, and you will have a database filled with information from all the synths on line. You can create a blank database by opening a new database window and selecting DBase from the Windows menu. A requester allows you to load disk files, but you can also load individual banks or single patches from disk, from MIDI, or by copying from other databases. You can exchange single patches between patch banks and databases through the Single Patch editor. Incidentally, the program's requesters are very frustrating. They provide neither change-volume buttons nor any way to interrupt the loading of a disk directory. Better requesters would definitely speed the program's operation.

Once you have assembled a database, you can sort the file in one of five ways: by instrument/type, file size, MIDI-reception time, or alphabetically by file name or manufacturer name.

MIDI Quest offers some interesting ►



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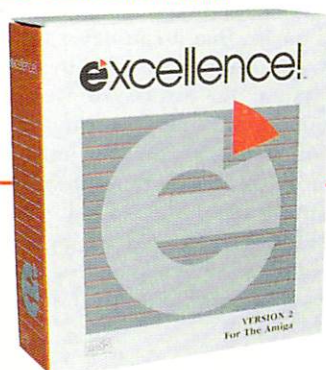
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ways to check sounds and data. From the MIDI controller window, you can generate any type of MIDI information using the mouse. The Sequence Player can play any Standard MIDI File (SMF) format-0 sequence, but I wish it supported format-1 SMF sequences as well. You can store up to ten sequences at a time, and buttons numbered 1 through 10 specify which sequence is to be played. Play, Stop, and Loop buttons control the playback, while a bar/beat/tick display shows you your location in the sequence.

You can change the tempo of the MIDI file, and a group of 16 buttons below allows you to mute any MIDI channel. The benefit of having such features on an editor/librarian program is that while the sequence plays, you can change sounds from the bank window or do single-patch editing from a template, and hear the changes in real time.

The MIDI Monitor window can display either MIDI data generated by the Sequence Player or that coming in from an outside source. Note data appears on a grid wherein the horizontal represents MIDI notes, and the vertical represents MIDI channels. Controller, velocity, aftertouch, pitch bend, program change and sys-ex data are also displayed. The Amiga-M key sequence toggles between graphic and text displays of data.

#### A MACRO ON THE LINE

MIDI Quest offers two very advanced features. One is a facility for creating drivers for any MIDI devices not supported by the program as packaged. For this purpose, the program provides its own macro language and a window into which you plug MIDI-implementation information. The other advanced feature is a utility for converting patch files in the format of another manufacturer into Sound Quest format. Like the Driver Creator, the File Conversion utility requires you to write a macro—using the macro language—to convert one file format to another.

Both of these features were designed for those who are thoroughly versed in system-exclusive, fluent in hex, and very patient. Those who are not can log on to Sound Quest's electronic bulletin-board system to see if a suitable macro has already been written. If you cannot find the macro you need, just upload the file

that you want to convert. Log on again in a few days, and you will find a macro to do the job.

MIDI Quest is a great and comprehensive program. I would be happy with just its database aspects, but the extra features make it that much more appealing. It is easy to learn, thanks to the on-line help and the Fast Tips menu selections, which offer pointers on using most aspects of the program. The documentation is good, although an Amiga-specific manual would be preferable to sifting through references to the PC, Mac, and Atari versions of MIDI Quest.

Are you wondering whether to dump your single-machine editor/librarians in favor of MIDI Quest? My answer depends on your setup and expansion plans: If you have just one MIDI device, or if you find yourself doing a lot of patch editing on a particular device, I recommend you hold on to the editor you have. If, on the other hand, your MIDI setup is large or growing, MIDI Quest is your best bet. It's an invaluable tool for total-system management and a cost-effective way to support a lot of gear.

#### MIDI Quest

##### *Sound Quest*

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*One megabyte required.*

#### DR. AMI. .

*Physician, heal thyself*

#### By Sheldon Leemon

WHEN YOU HAVE a health problem, an early and accurate diagnosis puts you in the best possible position to deal with it. The same principle applies when various parts of your Amiga system are not performing properly. Dr. Ami . . (Free Spirit Software) attempts to perform as diagnostician and counselor, to help you recognize and deal with hardware problems. After using this package for a while, however, I have a much better

understanding of why so many people are afraid of doctors.

#### DOC, I SEEM TO BE LOSING MY MEMORY

Dr. Ami. . actually consists of two separate programs. Memory Doctor is designed to test the memory chips on your computer's motherboard and RAM expanders. When you start the program, it displays the size and type of each block of memory in the system. You choose a block (sliders let you limit the area to a portion of a board) and the type of test you wish to perform—either Read Only, or the more thorough Read/Write test. A Drop option adds a delay to test memory refresh (a process by which dynamic RAM chips are constantly updated to ensure proper data retention).

As the test is performed, a bar chart shows you whether a block of memory is free or in use, and whether it passed the test or failed. By pressing the right mouse button, you can bring up a second screen showing a greatly enlarged version of this chart and a display designed to help you find the location of bad chips on your RAM board. The program also lets you send an error list to a printer or a disk file that you can use in conjunction with the included Config-Mem program to remove defective memory from the free-memory pool.

#### INCOMPLETE DIAGNOSIS

Even before running these tests, I had certain misgivings about Memory Doctor. For one thing, the program tests only one bank of memory at a time, and just once per test. Because some memory problems are intermittent in nature, or show up only after a certain period of time, only a test that can run continuously for several hours is apt to find tricky problems.

Another limitation of Memory Doctor is that it tests only free memory, and not memory that the system shows is in use. This means that it can never test the portions of RAM occupied by the operating system, the display, or even Memory Doctor itself. While it is true that nice programs don't ordinarily intrude on memory other programs are using, an exception should be made for diagnostics. Otherwise, it's like asking a doctor to examine a fully clothed patient. Finally, although the tests can take a fairly ►



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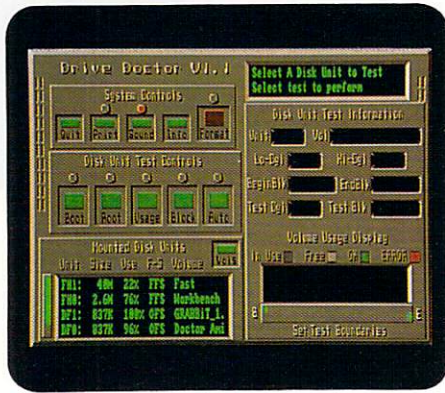
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long time, there is no way to stop in mid-stream.

With these limitations in mind, I proceeded to test the memory in my A2000. As expected, everything checked out fine. Because I wanted to test the program's error-reporting routines, however, I decided to manufacture a problem. I removed one of the chips from the middle of a Microbotics 8-Up! memory board, bent one of the legs out,



Drive, Doctor, drive!

and replaced the chip in the socket.

When I ran Memory Doctor again, it reported no memory errors on the board. To double check, I ran the memory-test program that Microbotics provides with its memory boards. Not only was the test much faster than Memory Doctor, but it spotted the error right off the bat.

I then bent out a different leg of the chip and called the Doctor back, this time using the program's most intensive mode, Read/Write with the Drop option. The results were the same. Finally, I removed the chip from the board altogether. Again, the Microbotics memory test had no problem spotting the trouble. Memory Doctor, however, went through the entire test showing no irregularities until it came to the end of the block of RAM, at which point the screen went blank and the program crashed. I never did get to check the error reporting.

#### SELECT A DEVICE AND SAY "AH"

Drive Doctor, the second program in the set, is designed to help you cope with errors on your floppy- and hard-disk drives. Its screen layout is similar to that of Memory Doctor. It displays all of the

drive volumes, and once you have selected a device, you can perform one of several tests.

The Boot test checks the boot block and allows you to rewrite it. The Root test checks the validity of the root block and allows you to rebuild it, restoring deleted files (as long as nothing has been written over them). The Usage test validates the Block Allocation Table, which identifies those portions of the disk that are in use. Finally, the Block test scans each track, checking for physical errors. If it finds an error, and the problem block is not in use, the program marks it as used, so that the system will not try to access the bad portion. Drive Doctor can also format disks that have physical errors, mapping out any bad blocks.

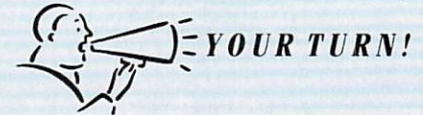
As with the Memory Doctor, the Drive Doctor has some obvious limitations. First, it maps out bad blocks only if they are not in use. If it finds a bad block that is in use, it won't try to delete the file that is using it and mark all of that file's blocks as used—it just leaves the bad block alone. In addition, if it finds damage to the root block, it tries to rebuild it on the same media. When the problem is with the media itself, this effort is not only futile, but may actually impede later attempts to rescue the data. That's why most disk-salvage programs never write to the damaged disk, but rather copy files from it to another disk.

#### OUT FOR A TEST DRIVE

To test Drive Doctor, I copied the Dr. Ami . . disk to several blank floppies, some of which were good, some of which were damaged through use, and some of which I intentionally damaged. One of these disks, for example, would copy only to track 60. When the Workbench's Diskcopy program terminated early, it left the disk with a boot block that identified it as an incomplete copy. Drive Doctor correctly identified this as a non-standard boot block (which it suggested might be due to a virus), and suggested that the block be rewritten. When this was done, most of the data could be recovered.

I then took one of the good copies of the disk and made a small pinhole near the last track. Although the Workbench accepted this disk, it would not let me copy files onto the bad section, and actually crashed when I tried to copy cer-

tain files. I used all of the Drive Doctor's tests on this disk, which passed all except the Block test. Because most of the bad blocks were already in use, however, the program did nothing to de-allocate them. As a result, the Drive Doctor left the disk in the same unusable state as it found it. Using Dave Haynie's public-domain program, Disksalv, however, I was able to recover as much of the disk as was left undamaged.



I have not used Drive Doctor. I have used Memory Doctor many times, however, and have found that it does not work. I tested the software with a RAM board that I knew to be defective; Memory Doctor reported that the board was fine.

Free Spirit's customer service is poor. I have called the representatives for help, but they insist the program is fine. Free Spirit should take Dr. Ami . . off the market.

Gary Sullivan  
Fremont, CA

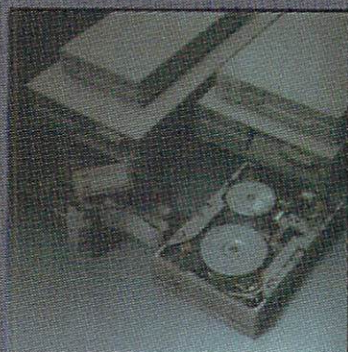
For my next test, I placed a small magnet on the surface of one of the disks. The result was that when I inserted the disk in a drive, I got the system message "Error validating disk, Doctor Ami . . Disk is unreadable." Again, Disksalv was able to salvage most of the data, but Drive Doctor was relatively ineffective. The disk passed the Boot and Root tests, but failed the Usage test. Drive Doctor's attempts to restore the allocation table only made things worse. When I tried the Block test, I got the message "Must have valid Root Block," but when I tried the Root test again, the results were "Root Block is valid."

While trying a heavily damaged disk, I ran into another of the Doctor's quirks. With the Auto mode switched off, the program stopped at every bad sector. Because nearly all of them were bad, I would have had to click on a requester over a thousand times to complete the test. The program, however, offers no Cancel option to allow a graceful exit. I tried giving it a hint by taking the disk out, but that didn't seem to faze the Doctor: It just kept reporting each block as bad. Finally, after ►



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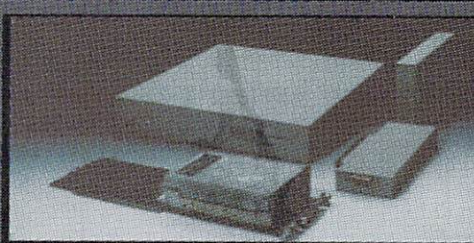
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I have an A2000 with three hard drives, two hard-drive controllers, an accelerator, and seven megs of RAM. I have suffered chronic problems with hard-drive errors, SyQuest cartridge failure, and mysterious software crashes. The local service center has been unable to correct these problems. I was on the verge of selling my Amiga when I purchased Dr. Ami . . ., hoping that it would help.

Memory Doctor not only located my memory problems (one intermittently bad RAM chip on my accelerator), but it also removes the defective memory on system bootup, so that I can continue to use my Amiga until the replacement chip is installed.

Drive Doctor was unable to tell me why I have hard-drive problems. It can, however, diagnose the cause of a hard-drive crash, recommend corrective action, and repair the drive. It was even able to format a SyQuest cartridge that previously would not format because of errors, and then remove the error sectors. This allowed me to continue using this otherwise useless \$100 cartridge.

Dr. Ami . . . has saved me hundreds of dollars and countless hours of frustration. If you own an Amiga, you should own this program.

**Jeff Sells**  
Brunswick, ME

a frenzy of clicking, it let me out of the test. I tried formatting the disk to map out the bad blocks, and that seemed to work (the program had noted that 17 cylinders were mapped out). When I tried to fill the disk with files, however, I got a Read/Write error. Apparently the Doctor didn't catch them all.

Although I'm a firm believer in preventive medicine, I also think it's important to choose a doctor that you trust. After several sessions with Doctor Ami . . ., I don't think that I'll be recommending his services to my friends.

### Dr. Ami . . .

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## MIGRAPH HAND SCANNER AND TOUCH-UP

*Scanning for just a little gold*

By John Wolfskill

THERE ARE MANY expensive ways to transfer pictures, photos, and graphs from the printed page to your Amiga's memory: optical readers, digitizers, and flatbed page scanners, to name a few. For many applications, however, a hand scanner may be the most appropriate solution.

For those who can benefit from high-resolution monochrome or gray-scale images, Migraph, Inc. offers the Migraph Hand Scanner with Touch-Up software, a graphics package with a host of drawing and editing features. The \$399 package includes a small, circuit-board cartridge that attaches to the serial port of the A500 or A2000 (its use with the A1000 requires an interface you can get for free by calling Migraph's toll-free support number), a 15-volt dc power transformer, a scan head with a four-inch wide LED scanning window, and the Touch-Up disk.

The  $5\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$ -inch scan head fits neatly and comfortably in the palm of your hand. On the right side you'll find a small slide switch that allows you to select four scanning resolutions: 100, 200, 300, and 400 dots per inch (dpi). On the left are a small thumb wheel to lighten or darken the image and a four-position switch to match the scanner's electronic output to the image type: a letter (line art) setting, and three settings for color or gray-scale photographs.

Installing the hardware is easy. Turn off the power switch, attach the cartridge to the serial-port connector, plug in the ac power adapter, and then attach the scan head's umbilical cord to the cartridge. Adding the software to your hard disk is equally simple: Insert the installation disk into any floppy drive, and drag the Touch-Up drawer from its window to the Workbench.

### TOUCH AND GO

The software is designed to work with an A500 and one megabyte RAM as a baseline configuration. If you plan, however, to scan  $8 \times 10$ -inch photos or full pages

of text, you will need two or three megs of RAM. The manual does a creditable job of explaining problems you can encounter if you try to scan more than your RAM can chew.

Touch-Up is a full-featured, graphics-editing package that supports the Ami-



Above are two Migraph-scanned IFF files output from DeluxePaint III to a 300 dpi LaserJet-compatible printer. The top image is from a black-and-white original. The lower image, scanned from a color photo, uses double dithering for 32 gray scales.



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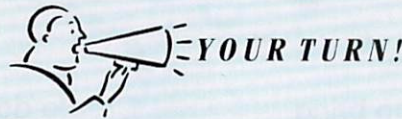
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ga's low- (320 × 200) or high- (640 × 400) resolution video modes. It takes advantage of virtual screen paging and scrolling to manipulate large scanned images, so the maximum image size is theoretically limited only by RAM. Touch-Up provides both icons and pull-down menus for most of its functions, so it is easy to use and understand.

Scanning an image requires only a few simple steps. Click on the Scan To Page icon, and a dialog box prompts you to set the height (2–14 inches) and width (full or half) of the scanned image. You now have ten seconds to start the scan process: Hold down the start button on the side of the scanner, then slowly roll the head over your image from top to bottom.

If you move the scan head too fast, an LED flashes a gentle warning, and if you do not slow down, the scan automatically aborts. The scanner forgives jerky movements and compensates for small amounts (5–10 degrees) of skew that sometimes occur when the scan head is not perfectly aligned with the printed image.



I have an Amiga 1000, and was a little frustrated that I had to order the adapter for my computer before I could use the scanner. I was also a little annoyed that the software originally packaged with the scanner (version .90) was not the final version.

Touch-Up is a really nice program, however. It has a lot of options, although it doesn't really feel like an Amiga program. I like the paint program; you can use it to create files at 300 dpi even if you do not use the scanner.

I use the scanner for my own desktop-publishing business and am truly satisfied with it (although I have not tried other scanners). Using it in conjunction with Professional Draw, I can produce great clip art. Migraph is responsive to customers' suggestions. The support line is easy to get through on, and the people are very helpful.

Michael Dugas  
Manhattan, KS

Therefore, you need not acquire a polished scanning technique to produce an image that's free of the wiggles. You can combine an image with one already in memory—just restrict the scanned image to one area of the screen by using the Scan To Clip icon.

## FLIP FILES

As a drawing program, Touch-Up excels. A wide assortment of drawing tools allow you to rotate by degree, to slant, compress, stretch, outline, embolden, and mask images. For adding to your images, there are B-spline and bezier-curve drawing brushes, pattern fills, spray paint, circles, and more. The editor also provides a good assortment of tools, including a fat pixel editor, a cleanup tool to remove stray pixels, and an exotic lasso tool that lets you define and move irregularly shaped areas of the screen window.

Two small gripes I have about the editor are its lethargic page-scrolling speed when working with virtual-page images and the lack of a switch to turn off the scroll bars while editing pixels close to ►

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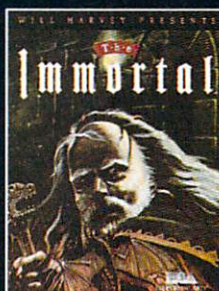
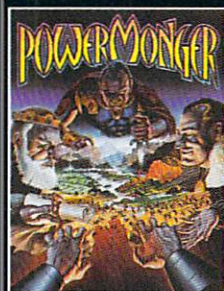
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the edge of the screen window. While it's only mildly annoying to accidentally hit the scroll bar and leave your work area behind, it's downright frustrating to wait 6-10 seconds before you can resume work where you left off.

Touch-Up can easily exchange its image files with other programs. You can load monochrome IFF files directly into the editor, but because the program does not work directly with color images, it automatically converts Amiga standard hi-res, medium-res, HAM, and EHB (Extra-Halfbrite), and PC Paintbrush (PCX) color images to black-and-white format for display. Touch-Up saves standard IFF, EPS, IMG, MAC, PCX, and TIF file formats. In addition to monochrome output, you can select double dithering, which produces a dense, rich-looking image with up to 32 apparent gray levels.

Touch-Up assumes you will use its image files with other applications; that's why there's no provision for printing from the image editor. I tested Touch-Up files for compatibility with Gold Disk's Professional Page and Electronic



I think the Migraph scanner is great. I use it with an HP DeskJet printer, scanning at 300 dpi, and find the quality and output is super.

I purchased the scanner quite a while ago, when it was packaged with prerelease software (version .90), and later received versions .91 and 1.0. The latter implemented a gray-scale converter—which was not even mentioned in the original documentation—as a bonus. In working, I found that the software sometimes mangled gray-scale files. I reported this to Migraph, and although the company did not call me back, within a week I received version 1.01, which fixed the problem.

Since then, I have had no trouble using the scanner on my five-meg A500 with a serial-port switchbox. Some screens update slowly, but the software provides nice resizing tools. The equipment is well put together, and the support is good.

Bob Fergusson  
Lyndhurst, NJ

Arts' DeluxePaint III and found no problems.

## THE RESULTING IMAGE

The Migraph hand scanner produces excellent IFF image files that usually require only a small amount of cleanup. The hardware is highly forgiving of its operator and requires only limited skills. Unfortunately, it lacks a pass-through connector, so if you use other serial peripherals, you must invest in a switchbox to select the output device, or you must shut down your Amiga to swap cables each time you want to use the scanner.

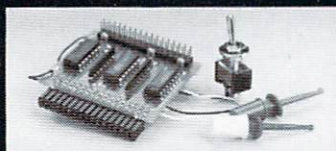
Although Touch-Up is intuitive for the most part, it provides no help screens or other means of troubleshooting when something goes wrong. With the exceptions noted above, however, it provides a fast and efficient way to edit images and prepare them for use in a variety of applications.

If you are looking for a fast, inexpensive image-scanning and -processing solution, Migraph's hand scanner and Touch-Up will do the job.

*Continued on p. 114*

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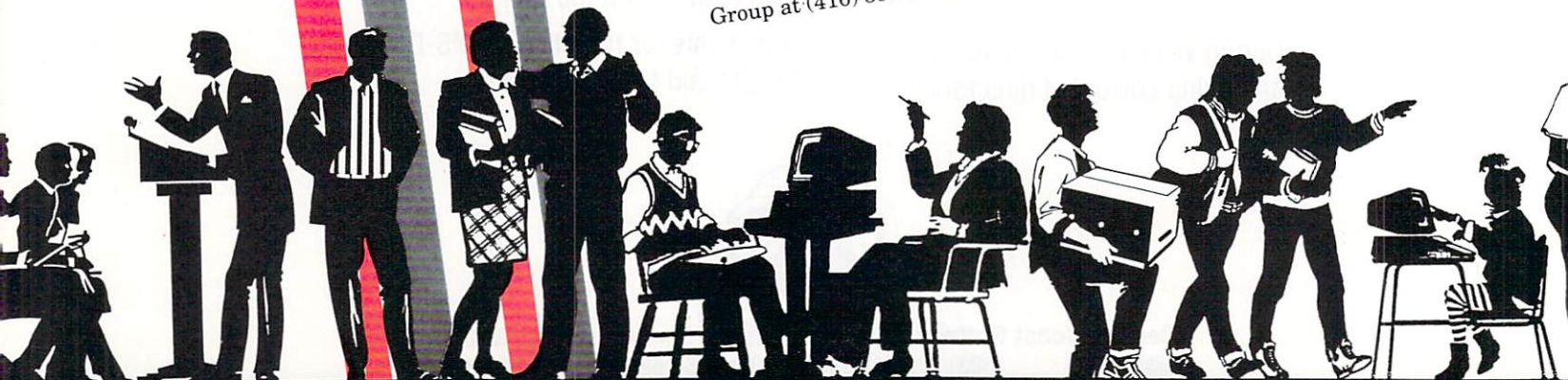
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AudioMaster, already the leading software for making and editing sound samples, has been substantially upgraded with the new AudioMaster III.

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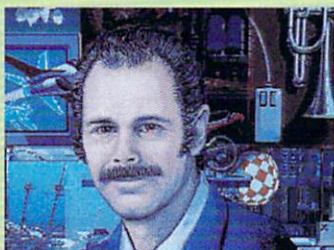


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From p. 110

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## EXCELLENCE! 2.0

*Renewed interest*

By Geoffrey Williams

WRITERS TEND TO develop very close relationships with their word processors. After spending years with Scribble!, grumbling over its inadequacies, I was wooed by Word Perfect, only to be heartbroken by its nonstandard, poorly designed interface and constant crashing. In excellence!, however, I found all the features I'd been looking for. I fell in love with the grammar checker, and also

liked the fact that it is similar to Word on the Mac, a program I am well acquainted with.

The romance soon soured, however. For all the things I loved about excellence!, its screen refresh was just too slow. Waiting for the screen to update every time I added a new sentence disrupted my train of thought. Also, I lost whole documents when the program unexpectedly crashed from time to time. We parted company.

With the release of version 2.0, I have renewed my friendship with excellence! The program's speed has increased dramatically: Pasting a sentence into a paragraph is now almost instantaneous. Also, it keeps up with me no matter how fast I type, and even does so with my wife, who uses all her fingers! Typing in new text as an insertion in a paragraph is still a little slow, but is at least acceptable. Finally, Guru visits seem to have been eradicated.

### BIG CHANGES

One of the most significant changes is in the area of printing. You can now save

print settings in the excellence! initialization file, and a landscape (sideways) print format has been added. Two new options let you change printer fonts and mix graphics with your printer's internal font. The program now supports color Postscript printers—you can even translate Professional Page Postscript fonts for use in excellence! Using the public-domain utility TOPP (To Professional Page), you can translate excellence! 2.0 files to Professional Page format as well, preserving fonts, style, subscripts, and superscripts. If both programs have the same colors defined, you can preserve the color information.

Another significant addition is the inclusion of virtual memory. This lets you use a floppy or hard disk as memory storage, although it works much more slowly. For example, if you have a hard drive and a megabyte of memory, it is possible to create documents as large as 976 pages (over 2.5 megabytes).

The original excellence! was designed to work with only 512K, which caused memory shortages and constant loading from the disk. In addition, you could ►



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save only to the program disk with a single-drive system, because the data for the file requester was called from that disk. The new version requires one meg and works much better. Also, when you quit, the program frees up the memory it uses—something the original version did not always do.

#### HAVING WORDS

Both the dictionary and thesaurus are from Merriam-Webster (the Proximity

Linguibase) and are top of the line. The dictionary has been beefed up to 140,000 words, and the program now consults the customizable dictionary as well as the standard one to guess a word. The improved thesaurus gives you not only a definition for any word you highlight, but also lists synonyms and antonyms.

I am disappointed, however, that you can no longer load the dictionary and thesaurus into RAM from within the program; to accomplish this, you must now run an included IconX script or load and assign them from the CLI. And you cannot load just one utility or the other, because the Assign command affects both. This is unfortunate, because together they take up more than a megabyte of RAM. On the positive side, you can still type and edit your document while the dictionary and thesaurus are active.

Strangely, the grammar checker still loads into memory from within the program. It has not changed from the original, and does a very good job of catching awkward phrasing, double words, and



**YOUR TURN!**

My experience with excellence! 2.0 has been very satisfying. I find the program stable and powerful, but still easy to use. As an excellence! 1.0 owner, I recommend it as an upgrade and also to anyone looking for a solid word processor.

In the future, I would like to see better graphics handling (including support for more than eight colors), complete text-wrapping capabilities, and support for Compugraphic fonts and AREXX.

*Randy Payment  
Dover, NH*

punctuation errors that are easy to miss when proof reading.

The powerful macro capability has been expanded, so that a macro can either execute another macro or repeatedly execute itself. You can also chain macros together. Although it is easy to assign menu functions to function keys ►



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or hot-key combinations, you still cannot assign macros to other than single keys. I would like to be able to set up a macro to replace the letters AW with the word AmigaWorld, for instance, but this is impossible.

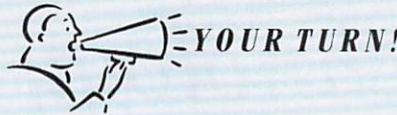
Among the many little touchups is a facility for inserting IFF, excellence!, and ASCII text. Line spacing is easier to adjust, and if you do not have a document open, you can change interlace and screen colors instantly. A new Go To Page requester pops up when you click on the page number at the bottom of the screen. The spelling checker can now cause the screen to flash and a beep to sound.

Several utilities have been added, including a new hard-drive installation program. It gives you a full-screen requester showing all the paths, and it is very easy to use. A verify program assures that everything copies to your drive without error.

#### DESPITE IMPERFECTIONS...

There are still a few things I don't like about excellence! The file requester, for instance, has but a single button to toggle between devices. This is annoying; it should provide buttons for each mounted device. Also, I would prefer a revised manual to cover the many program changes, not just an addendum.

Excellence! 2.0 works under Workbench 2.0, and looks great in interlaced



In version 2.0 of excellence!, the typing speed has been greatly improved and the scroll gadget allows scrolling through pages without waiting. The spelling checker is also quicker, has improved guessing abilities, and provides over 140,000 words with medical, technological, geographical, legal, and other supplements. Also, the thesaurus is now very comprehensive and the printing function has been enhanced to allow both text and graphics in Near-Letter-Quality mode.

MSS's technical support is one of the best. The company answers questions immediately and even replies to mail. Excellence! 2.0 is full-featured and bug free. If MSS made it still faster and allowed more than one line of text beside a graphic image, it would be the Amiga's best word processor.

**Bob Lockie**  
Burlington, Ont., Canada

mode on an A3000. In addition, the A3000's extra speed makes excellence! a joy to use. For those with standard monitors, the program's default colors do a good job of minimizing the effect of interlace flicker.

How does excellence! 2.0 stack up to the competition? Of the full-featured graphics-capable word processors, I

would give Pen Pal (Softwood Company) an edge in graphics handling, and rate ProWrite 3.0 (New Horizons) the best for script writing and storyboarding. If the ability to handle and manipulate words is your main concern, however, I recommend excellence! 2.0 above the others. Its spelling checker and thesaurus are unsurpassed, and it is the only one with a grammar checker. It is also the only one that has all the basic text and formatting features, including those for tables of contents, indexes, multiple columns, headers, and footers. For these reasons, excellence! 2.0 is the only graphics word processor I would use to write a book or lengthy term paper.

In fact, excellence! 2.0 compares well with non-graphics word processors. It is the only graphics-oriented package that comes close to the powerful but annoying Word Perfect in terms of text handling. If it worked as well with Professional Page (Gold Disk) as Transcript (Gold Disk) does, excellence! 2.0 would become my one-and-only word processor.

#### excellence! 2.0 Micro-Systems Software

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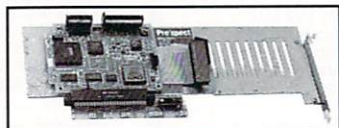
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## R E V I E W S

## TAKE YOUR TURN!

We want to know what you like and don't like about your new Amiga hardware and software. Some products we are looking at for upcoming issues are:

3D Text Animator (Mindware)  
A2024 (Commodore)  
A2232 (Commodore)  
A2320 (Commodore)  
AdSCSI 2000 with Q40S (ICD)  
AProDraw 2.0 (R&DL Productions)  
Draw4D (Adspec)

FractalPro (MegageM)  
MathVision (Seven Seas)  
Pro Video Post (Shereff Systems)  
Sketch Master (Dakota)  
VidControl (Integral Systems)

To comment on these, write us (Your Turn, *AmigaWorld* Editorial, 80 Elm St., Peterborough, NH 03458) or call (800/441-4403, ext. 346) by Oct. 20, 1990. Write or call at any time concerning other new releases.



## B A C K T A L K

### CANDID RESPONSES TO AMIGAWORLD REVIEWS

#### Deluxe Standoff

I disagree with the Back Talk letters criticizing Electronic Arts' DeluxeVideo III (Sept. '90, p. 98). I use an Amiga for television graphics, and do most of my work using DVideo and DPaint III. DVideo *does* support true overscan—352 x 480 and larger—through the View requester. My only complaints are that it is slow in 640 x 400 mode and that backdrops do not work with a 68030 accelerator.

Otherwise, I find DVideo to be extremely powerful and reliable. It is amazingly flexible, allowing you to create effects beyond the great many that it handles automatically. In addition, the intuitive graphic interface makes video work as simple as can be. I particularly like the visual control over timing and the powerful motion requesters.

DeluxeVideo III is a pleasure to use and gives professional results.

—Morgan Adams  
Panama, NY

#### Who Tops Publishing?

Your review of Soft-Logik's PageStream 1.8 (July '90, p. 14) was little more than a promotion for Gold Disk's Professional Page. When both programs can output to a PostScript printer or typesetter using Adobe fonts, how can you assert that the font quality of one program is superior?

The review said that PageStream was "stable enough to use," thereby suggesting that Pro Page is rock solid. Come on now! Pro Page in my experience is much more unstable than PageStream 1.8.

You seem to dismiss the entire subject of features, which is at the heart of desktop publishing. In my opinion, PageStream wins the "features war." To duplicate a group of components, for example, both programs require you to draw a box around the pieces. But while PageStream's clone procedure is elegant, Pro Page's is laborious and unprofessional. And that's not all. Your review did not do justice to PageStream.

—K.A. Klosson  
Oceanside, CA

#### A Press-idential Pardon, Please

Readers of the Sept. '90 Reviews section probably noticed some problems with screen photos. Specifically, photos for JMH's *The Talking Animator 2.0* and Mindware's *Digi-Mate III* were switched (pp. 76 and 78), and on p. 86, the two output examples of *The Art Department (ASDG)* were flip-flopped. We're sorry for the confusion.

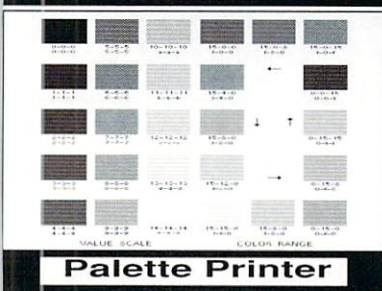
Another error crept into the review of Soft-Logik's PageStream 1.8 (July '90, p. 78). Here, we priced PageStream's optional disk of screen fonts at \$99.95. The disk actually goes for \$39.95. —Editors ■



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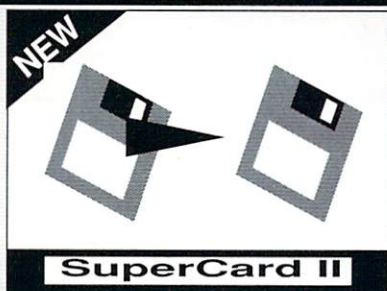
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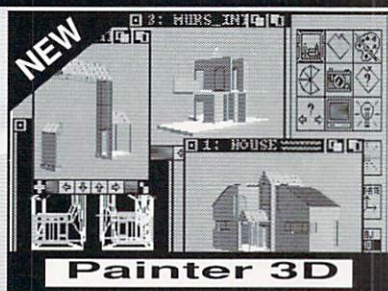
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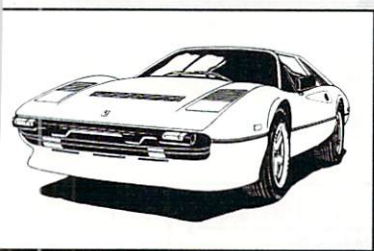
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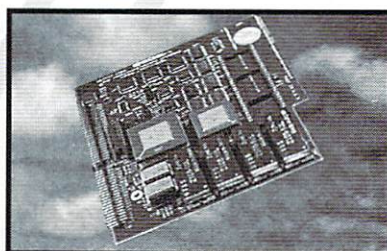
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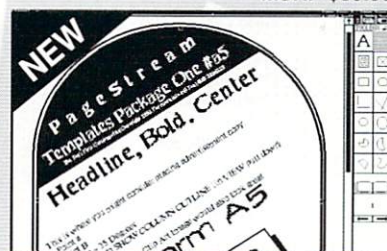
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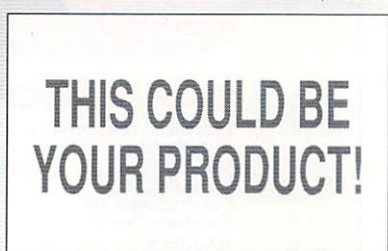
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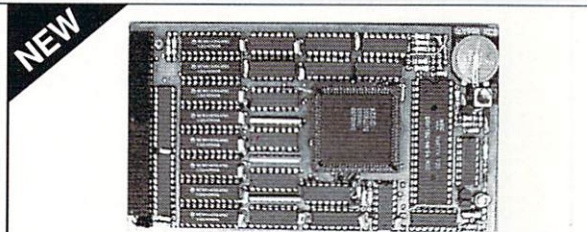
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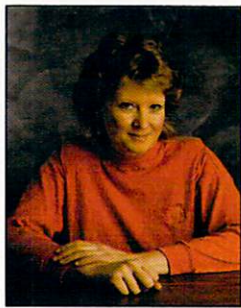
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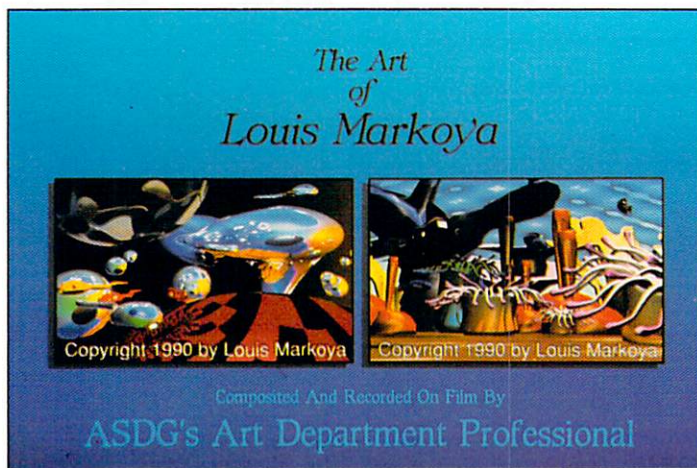
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Compiled by Jan Jackson

## IMAGE MAKERS

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Pro supports several devices, including Polaroid CI-3000 and CI-5000 film recorders, Black Belt System's HAM-E, Sharp's 24-bit color scanners, Digital Creations' DCTV, Impulse's FireCracker 24, and Mimetics' Frame Buffer. Other companion modules include the **Art Department Presenta-**



L. Markoya's work comes to you via ASDG's Art Dept. Pro.

GIF, PCX, Deluxe-Paint II, and MacPaint formats, and supports various imaging devices. With available add-on modules, you can save, import, or render images in 24-bit color, or up to 256 colors for non-Amiga formats.

**tion Graphics Pack** (\$129.95), which lets you combine business graphics with your images, and the **Art Department Professional Conversion Pack** which provides additional loaders and savers for Targa, TIFF, Pic2, and Rendition formats. (ASDG, 925 Stewart St., Madison, WI 53713, 608/273-6585.) RS# 552.

## THE PLOT THICKENS

FROM CADVISION International, which brought you X-CAD Designer and X-CAD Professional, come **X-CAD 3D** (\$499) and **X-CAD 3000**, a new generation of architectural design tools. Both packages read X-CAD Designer, Professional, and Taurus-version databases and read and write new X-CAD 3D symbol files and AutoCAD DFX files. In both programs, you can manipulate the 3-D viewport, draw line, arc, and string commands, plus select Layer and

Layer Colour commands.

X-CAD 3000 shares the same features as Designer, with additional offerings such as multiple definable viewports, idents display manipulation commands, project and rotate commands, and extensive trim, stretch, and general editing commands. For the complete bill of fare, contact Cadvision (London, England, 071/603-3313) or American Software Distributors (RR 1, Box 290, Bldg. 3, Urbana, IL 61801, 217/643-2050). RS# 502.

## STORMY WEATHER

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FPU can run asynchronously from 16 to 54 MHz. Storm Bringer lets you switch between the 68000 and 68030, and its memory is accessible from either mode. In addition, the board can use any math coprocessor. (IMtronics: 12301 S.W. 132nd Court, Miami, FL 33186.) RS# 505.

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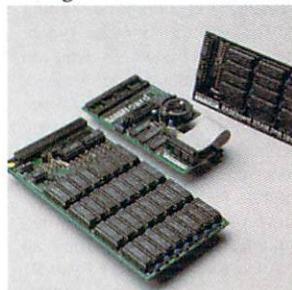
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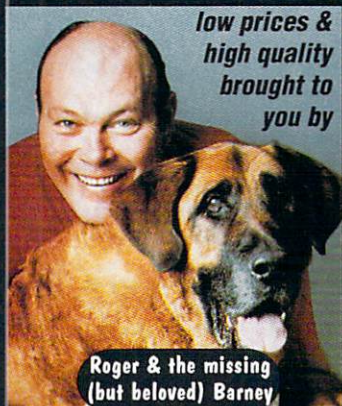
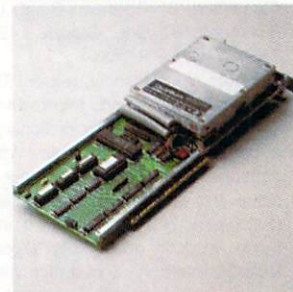
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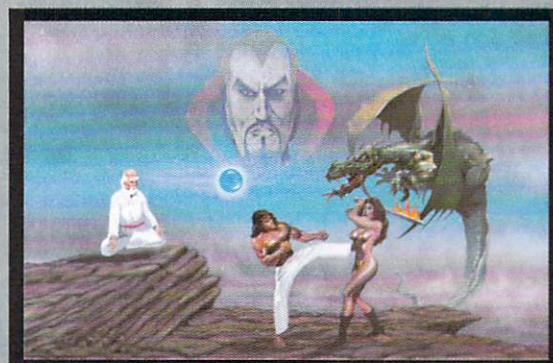
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tem. Transfer rates are limited only by hardware, and a remote shell makes maintenance easy. (Lake Forest Logic: 28101 Ballard Rd., Unit E, Lake Forest, IL 60045, 708/816-6666.) *RS# 511.*

**A-Max II** is ripe for the picking, according to ReadySoft. The Macintosh-emulator upgrade supports standard SCSI devices, such as the LaserWriter IISC and scanners, via compatible Amiga hard-drive controllers. The stepped-up version also works with Amiga accelerator boards having MMUs. (ReadySoft: 30 Wertheim Court, Unit 2, Richmond Hill, Ont., Canada L4B 1B9, 416/731-4175.) *RS# 514.*

Users of excellence! rejoice! The latest version, 2.0, sports improved typing speed, a 140,000-word dictionary, and a comprehensive thesaurus. With **excellence! 2.0**, you can save your page-setup and print options as defined defaults, print graphics with text in NLQ mode, work in documents larger than available memory, and switch between portrait and landscape orientations in graphic and PostScript modes via a requester. The program also sorts highlighted paragraphs in ascending or descending order. The upgrade is available to registered users for \$39.95. For a complete list of features, contact Micro-Systems Software (12798 Forest Hill Blvd., Suite 202, W. Palm Beach, FL 33414, 407/790-0770). *RS# 516.*

Have you heard? **A-Sound 2.0** (\$29.95), a sound editor and effects generator, offers over 20 special effects. The program supports IFF, RAW, and ASF file formats and features 16 individual tracks with drag-range highlighting, as well as an on-screen data panel that updates in real time. Each ASF sound file is executable from both Workbench and CLI, and has its own built-in sound player. (Deltaware Products, 3148 Kingston Rd., Suite 202, Box 395, Toronto, Ont., Canada M1M 1P4, BBS:416/439-0493.) *RS# 521.*

PageStream users: Another version just emerged. **PageStream 2.0** features text tagging, batch kerning and hyphenation for a smoother text flow, as well as the ability to search and replace attributes. It supports AGFA-Compugraphic hinted-outline fonts and Adobe Type-1 IBM-format, and specifies angles of arcs and rotation in 1/100-degree increments. Other improvements include the ability to specify font sizes to 1/100-point increments, to print crop and registration marks to non-PostScript printers, to create precise specification for bleeds, and to move objects off or partially off the page. Larger document sizes and Bezier cubic curves are also part of the upgrade. (Soft-Logik: 11131

F. S. Towne Sq., St. Louis, MO 63123, 800/829-8608.) *RS# 509.*

Your system won't get wet when it hits the beach with modular hardware hailing from the West Coast. **The Bod-ega Bay**, a self-powered, fan-cooled, A500 expansion chassis, doubles as a monitor stand. The bay holds up to four standard, 100-pin, A2000-style cards, a 3 1/2-inch hard disk, and a floppy disk drive.

The chicly diminutive **Rodeo Drive** external floppy drive, measuring 7 1/4 x 4 1/4 inches, is designed to run quietly and can be switched off to conserve power. Additional features include a pass-through connector for daisy chaining, and a one-year warranty covering parts and labor.

Configure the **Catalina Card**, a daughterboard RAM expansion system, in 2, 4, or 8 MBs. The Catalina Card hangs ten on the **Malibu Board**, a SCSI controller that you can fit with a standard 3 1/2-inch mounted hard drive and slide into an A2000 slot. (California Access, 130 Knowles Dr., Los Gatos, CA 95030, 408/378-0340.) *RS# 505.*

Videographers, you can enjoy coloring without feeling childish with **ColorboX**, a color-keying device. You can replace video signals with computer-generated signals and control the transition with a fader. ColorboX features three internal slots for I/O devices, adjustable-output signal saturation, a fader for color-key or genlock mode and several operating modes, such as Amiga thru, video thru, standard or invers genlocking, or standard or invers color keying. (IMtronics, 12301 SW 132nd Court, Miami, FL 33186, 305/255-9302.) *RS# 507.*

Don't forget your extra memory! The **BASEboard** (\$159.95) stocks your A500 with a battery-backed clock and up to 4 MB of RAM; 6 MB if you add the 2 MB **XRAM** daughterboard. Both boards let you add DRAMs incrementally by 512K to suit your tasks and pocketbook. The BASEboard slides into the A501 slot and features Super Agnus compatibility. (Expansion Systems, 44862 Osgood Rd., Fremont, CA 94539, 415/656-2890.) *RS# 508.*

For a bit more expansion—32-bit, that is—enter **Mega Memory** (\$349 unpopulated), a RAM board designed to work with Mega-Midget Racer, CSA's 68030 accelerator. You can add 1 (\$449), 2 (\$499), 4 (\$999), or 8 MB (\$1999) of DRAM above the Amiga's 9 MB address range to allow use of existing 16-bit memory. (CSA, 7564 Trade St., San Diego, CA 92121, 619/566-3911.) *RS# 509.*

Bars&Pipes owners, your horizons are expanding once again with the advent of two more add-ons. **MusicBox B**, with oodles of tools and accessories, includes an event scrubber, velocity modifier, chord player, key filter, Fostex MTC-1 Controller, and a disk-jockey, multisong loader, to name a few. **The**

**Multi-Media Kit** helps you add musical accompaniment to your graphics and animations. Kit features include Smoose, for converting Bars&Pipes files to SMUS and back again; ARexx support; Bars&Pipes MIDI Player; and Cue Card, which uses MIDI events to cue animation and graphics, both via ARexx and keystroke macros. For the full orchestration, contact Blue Ribbon Bakery (1248 Clairmont Rd., Suite 3D, Decatur, GA 30030, 404/377-1514). *RS# 510.*

Take command of your system with **QPMA BASIC Programmer's Toolkit** (\$29.95). The package provides graphics commands designed to work in Quad-Pixel Matrix Array mode, a standard developed by High Byte Software. With it, Amiga and AC-BASIC programmers can use a 320 x 200 resolution with 136 colors from a 8.39-million, pseudocolor palette. Taking advantage of the way the eye perceives colors under certain circumstances, QPMA creates an illusion of more colors. (High Byte, 91 Hillside St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.) *RS# 511.*

If it's time to replace your system's old A501 card, the **M501-s Memory/Clock Expansion Unit** (\$85) can fill the void. The card's most impressive feature, a cutoff switch, lets you deactivate the M501-s without removing the card. (MicroBotics, 1251 American Pkwy., Richardson, TX 75061, 214/437-5330.) *RS# 512.*

How would you like your A500 to change like a chameleon? By replacing your 68000 coprocessor with an SMT printed circuit board containing an 80286 16-bit, 8 MHz CPU, your Amiga can turn into an IBM AT MS-DOS compatible. **ATonce-Amiga** emulates the CGA, Hercules, Toshiba T3100, and Olivetti-G0317 graphic cards. With it, your Amiga mouse can function as a Micro-soft mouse, and your Amiga clock as an AT clock. (Vortex, Falterstrasse 51-53, D-7101 Flein bei Heilbronn, West Germany, 0 71 31/50 88-0.) *RS# 513.*

**Superbase 4** (\$495), the next generation of power database-management software, is rolling out to the showroom floor. The latest version features networking support for Ethernet- or ArcNet-based LANs, improved processing speeds, an expanded Database Management Language, and an overhauled forms-creation tool that allows you to incorporate check boxes and various images as buttons. (Precision Software, 8404 Sterling St., Suite A, Irving, TX 75063, 214/929-4888.) *RS# 514.*

Based on the popular board game, **Pictionary** (\$39.95) lets you play alone,

with one to four individuals, or as teams. The object of the game is to guess a word based on drawings. In team mode, you sketch clues on screen for other team members who try to guess the word. The game comes with a drawing program that includes a Practice Draw mode. Your Amiga displays an on-screen board, automatically rolls the die, and keeps track of progress. (Broderbund Software, 17 Paul Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903, 415/492-3200.) *RS# 515.*

**Desktop Video for Profit** (\$30) intends to show you how to earn money by producing and marketing videos using your Amiga. For beginners, **Desktop Video and the Amiga Computer** (\$30), an introductory tutorial, covers setting up and using a desktop-video system to create your own video productions. (Group M Productions, 100 Bridge St., #27, Hot Springs, AR 71901, 501/321-1845.) *RS# 516.*

Grab your baton and step up to **AudioMaster III**, the latest incarnation of Oxi's sound-digitizing program. A new utility, modeled after a CD player, stores and plays sounds. Other features include the ability to create multiple loops within a song, increased sampler support, real-time flange, and an upgraded oscilloscope.

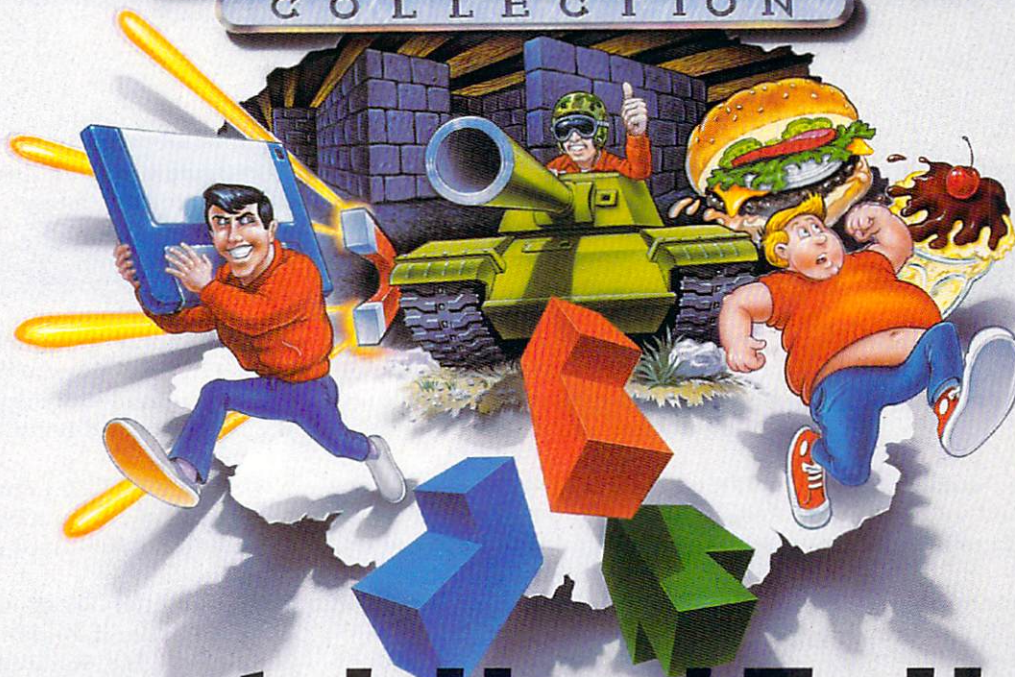
**A-Talk III**, the recently refurbished telecommunications program, now boasts remote capabilities and supports the XPR protocol. For either of these upgrades, contact Oxi (1339 E. 28th St., Long Beach, CA 90039, 213/427-1227). *RS# 517.*

You can use your RAM disk more efficiently, according to Marketron. The **Demand File Loader** (\$50) automatically loads files from floppy to your RAM disk. The program resides in your search path, so that AmigaDOS will search the RAM disk first, then query the DFL, which looks in a special file. (Marketron Micro-computer Systems, 125 N. Allen Ave., #324, Pasadena, CA 91106.) *RS# 518.*

Integrate Pioneer LD-V2200 laser-disc player activity into your own applications with the **Laserdisc Controller Software Library** (\$99.95). The library includes routines to open a serial port, initialize the player, write one of 40 player commands to the serial port, or read the player's response, detecting errors and the player's mode and operating parameters. (ACDA, 220 Belle Meade Ave., Setauket, NY 11733, 516/689-7722.) *RS# 519.* ■



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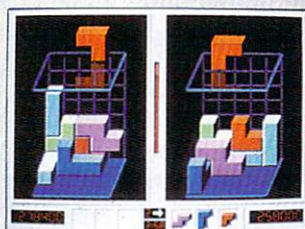
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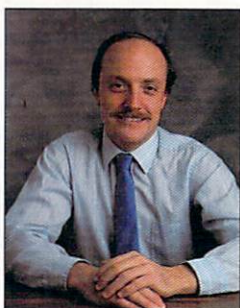
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# The PD Prospector

*"Yosemite Tim" has formed a posse to search the Amiga nets for them thar elusive utilities and applications.*

Compiled by Tim Walsh

Following is a selection, culled from the major telecommunication networks, of utilities, applications and informative files that should

prove helpful to the Amiga computing public. Filenames, numbers and library locations are listed for quick reference.

## American People/Link

WHOISWHO.LZH (AmigaZone Section 1, file #24164) Revised and re-uploaded listing of the Amiga community movers and shakers who use PLink.

DFC4.LZH (AmigaZone Section 4, file #24021) Disk format and copy utility. Great for making multiple copies.

RRDISK.LZH (AmigaZone Section 4, file #24016) A recoverable RAM disk from the software company, The Other Guys. Supports up to 32 units and can be auto-booted in Kickstart 1.3.

SELECTOR11.LZH (AmigaZone Section 8, File #23286) Small (8K) ARexx program run in conjunction with Baud Bandit. It launches an interface that allows you to click on files to be downloaded; then it downloads them unattended.

Harv Laser, Amiga sysop extraordinaire of PLink, finds DFC4.LZH a popular pick this month. It's a great utility for quickly making multiple archival copies of files, especially at user-group meetings.

## CompuServe

MOVSSP.LZH (AmigaTech, Library 13) Moves the system stack pointer into fast memory, speeding up the Amiga quite noticeably in many cases.

ANTIFL.LZH (AmigaTech, Library 13) Reduces flicker on interlace and hi-res screens. The original German documentation was translated into English by CompuServe sysop Steve Pietrowicz.

MSDOS1.LZH (AmigaTech, Library 14) Sets up your Amiga drives as MS-DOS drives. Enter DIR DF0:, and you get an AmigaDOS directory; enter DIR MF0:, and you get a directory of an MS-DOS disk from that same drive.

POPUPM.LZH (AmigaTech, Library 14) Menus and sub-menus pop up at the cursor when you press the right mouse button. Popular among many CompuServe users.

According to CompuServe assistant sysop Betty Clay, the anti-flicker program (ANTIFL.LZH) has been the single most popular download for the past six weeks.

## GENie

LZHSHELL.LZH (File #8916) Relatively small (17K) Shell program for LHARC that adds a point-and-click interface. Includes documentation and BASIC source code.

NOISETRACKER2.0.LZH (File #8880) Version 2.0 of Noisetracker, a European music editor. Offers MIDI support.

WB2LOOK.LZH (File #8863) Makes your current version of Workbench look like, but not work like, Workbench 2.0

ADDTOOLS.LZH (File #8847). A small (5K) program by Steve Tibbett that allows you to make lists of items to be added to your Workbench 2.0 Tools menu.

The big news from GENie isn't Amiga files; rather, it's saving money. GENie's general manager Bill Loudon announced that as of October 1, 1990, the \$29.95 sign-up fee is eliminated. Furthermore, subscribers will be billed only \$4.95 per month for access to GENie news, GE Mail and a host of other Star Services. So, if you haven't joined GENie yet, wait until October.

## Prospector's Perch: The prospector shares some of his tips.

As in October's inaugural column, I list popular downloads from one network, while not mentioning their existence on the other networks. While not all of the programs listed on one network are available on the other two, most are, and usually under a remarkably similar filename.

Be forewarned that although this column is billed as a "public domain" forum, some versions of the files listed may actually be classified as share-

ware or freeware. In these cases, the authors expect and rightfully deserve some contribution if you find their programs useful. By supporting these creative, hard-working individuals, you're giving them an incentive to create more software, in turn making the entire Amiga community a happier world in which to live.

This column and the one in October focused mainly on utilities and applications available from the networks.

We'll be covering more lively topics in future columns, along with other sources besides telecommunication networks for finding these PD gems.

If you want to establish an account with any of the above networks, here are the voice numbers to call:

CompuServe: 800/848-8199

614/457-8650 from Ohio

American People/Link: 800/524-0100

GENie: 800/638-9636

No modem? No problem! Send a SASE and \$1 to Fred Fish to find out the availability of the above Amiga public domain programs on disk. Address correspondence to:

Fred Fish  
1346 W. 10th Place  
Tempe, AZ 85281

Next month: public-domain games, games, and more games! ■



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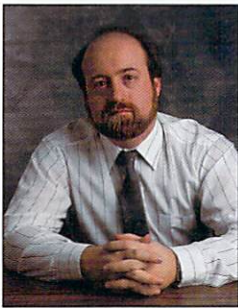
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# HELP KEY

*From lost commands to loss of sleep,*

*Dr. Lou has the sure cure.*

By Louis R. Wallace

## UPGRADE OR TRADE

**Q:** *I own an A2500 with the A2620 68020 board, and I was thinking about upgrading my system with the ECS, Workbench 2.0, and the A2630 030/882 board. Should I buy the upgrade components or just go for the A3000? I also want to add a 68040 board when they become available. I can't sleep until I decide. What should I do?*

**M. Manzano**  
APO, New York

**A:** Buying the 68030/882 board for your A2500 will most likely be cheaper than buying an A3000. You can then sell the A2620 board to an A2000 owner to recover some of your costs. Depending on which 030 board you get, you could end up with a machine with a significantly faster CPU than the stock 25MHz A3000.

Of course, you could just sell your A2500 outright. With the money from that sale and what you would have spent for a 68030 board, you could get the 25MHz A3000 already equipped with Workbench 2.0, the ECS, and a 68030.

As for the 68040 board, I suspect there will be comparable boards available for both the A3000 and the A2000. Because of the A3000's full 32-bit bus, however, an accelerated A3000 will run faster than a similarly equipped A2000, un-

less all your programs reside in 32-bit memory on the A2000's 68040 board. (Keep in mind that the more memory you add, the higher the price.) In all cases, if the Amiga has to access chip RAM (such as for animation), the A3000 will have a decided edge.

As you know, the decision isn't simple. The A2000 is a fully expandable Amiga and will continue to have a strong upgrade path. The A3000, however, offers even more possibilities for upgrading, and with the added features of the Zorro III bus, it will have options that won't be available for the A2000 series.

## WHERE'S THE DOCTOR?

**Q:** *Help! When my disk became unreadable, a message appeared on the screen stating "Error validating Disk—Disk is Unreadable." The instruction "Disk structure corrupt use DiskDoctor to correct it" followed. What is DiskDoctor?*

**R. Montalbano**  
Pomona, NY

**A:** DiskDoctor is a disk-recovery program that resides in your Workbench disk's C: directory. You can access it from the Shell (or CLI) by typing: DISKDOCTOR DFn:

where n is the number of the drive with the corrupted disk.

Because many users have reported problems with Disk-

Doctor, it should *not* be used on a disk unless you have exhausted every other possibility. Try public domain programs first. I recommend FixDisk and DiskSalv, which are available on both local and major telecommunication systems, as well as in many user-group libraries.

## BY ANY OTHER NAME

**Q:** *I keep hearing about a command called ALIAS that lets you create custom command names for CLI/Shell use. Where can I find it? It isn't in my C: directory or the Tools and Utilities drawers.*

**J. Forte**  
Washington, DC

**A:** The ALIAS command is indeed a very useful feature of the Shell. It isn't a command you can enter from the command line; instead, it is executed on start-up in a special text file. This file, called Shell-Startup, is in the s: directory of your boot disk.

In Shell-Startup, you will see a list of ALIAS commands already defined for you:

```
ALIAS XCOPY COPY ;rj clone
ALIAS ENDSHELL ENDCLI
ALIAS PRO EXECUTE S:SPAT PROTECT []
ALIAS SDATE EXECUTE S:SPAT SETDATE []
ALIAS REN EXECUTE S:DPAT RENAME []
```

```
ALIAS CLEAR ECHO ""E[0;0H"E[J"
ALIAS REVERSE ECHO
""E[0;0H"E[41;30M"E[J"
ALIAS NORMAL ECHO
""E[0;0H"E[40;31M"E[J"
```

The new commands (XCOPY, ENDSHELL, PRO, and so on) are merely shorthand for more complex, lengthy statements. They do not change the names of the files they reference; instead, they instruct the Amiga to run the standard command when you type the new name. With ALIAS, you can create powerful commands that are unique to your needs and system.

In the above list, the last three commands use escape sequences. For example, while AmigaDOS doesn't actually have a clear-screen command, the alias CLEAR uses some fancy escape codes to emulate it. Here are a few of my favorite ALIAS commands. Just for fun, try creating some of your own. All you need is a standard text editor that saves ASCII files.

```
ALIAS HEADER sys:SYSTEM/
FORMAT
ALIAS HOME CD sys:
ALIAS AHELP TYPE sys:s/shell-
startup
```

The last one (AHELP) will display your current set of ALIAS commands, just in case you forget what they are! ■



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We are the Official Public Domain Library of Antic Amiga Plus, we have been the Official PD library of Amiga World. Find out why these magazines choose us! Each of our disks is packed with nothing but the best programs. The first two letters on each disk indicate the orientation of the disk; DD# intermediate to advanced - often contains source, WB# general interest - most programs can be run from the workbench, and FD# games and entertainment. Order our disk based catalog and receive a coupon for a FREE volume on your next purchase. We always use only SONY disks!

### Featured Disk

**WB53:Graphics** - The disk contains C-light - The easiest to use raytracing we have seen to date. This one starts our life as a full featured commercial product similar to Sculpt3d. Now it has been released to the PD, our gain! Raytracing programs can generate stunning highly reflective surfaces of realist objects. Also, sMovie - a full featured video text editor similar to ProVideo, Broadcast Titled. Great video scrolling, wipes, special effects, and more...

### New Disks

**FD37a & b:Tactical Games** - Empire (2.2w) This game comes highly recommended. Now with a full featured graphic front end. Empire is a rich simulation of international politics, economics and war, which is played over a period of a few of months by 2 or more people. Players can run their countries from the normal Amiga keyboard, or via a modem at 300 to 2400 baud. Counts as two disks.

**FD38:Games** - Includes TinyBall - This tiny baseball game is very big in play action. CribbageMaster - an incredible cribbage program. Spades - a well done card game. ChessCheckers - A computer version of this classic. Puz - a slide piece puzzle game and construction set.

**FD39a & b:Tobias Star Trek** - This is a new completely different version of Star Trek than that found on FD12. This one was created by the german author Tobias. The game is in english, the instruction are currently in german (looking for a translation). Excellent!!! Counts as two disks. Requires 512k memory a 500, 2000 or Pal Amiga.

**FD40:Arcade** - MiddleEast - a timely arcade game of death and destruction set in Iraq. BackToTheFutureII - a very playable demo version of this soon to be released commercial game. City - a missile command game.

**WB54:Printing** - This disk contains several routines to help with the chore of printing. Including Gothic - Finally a Banner printer for the PD. PrintStudio - a well implemented all-purpose printer utility with a very comfortable graphic interface and many advanced features. Lila - with ease, print ASCII files to a PostScript printer, and many more.

**WB55:Application** - XCopyIII - a full featured disk copier, make backups of write protected disk with this one. RoadRoute - find the quickest route from one city to another, highway description included. Dairy - a diary program like "Doug Howard M.D." Cal - a calendar program. Magman - a database tailored to maintain records on articles and publications, and more.

**WB56:General Utilities** - This disk contains FullView, a great graphic display, text viewer, and printer (see Amiga World, Oct. 90, pg. 116), plus many more.

**WB57:Animation** - This disk has several "Demo" style animations, including Bitter, Lolly, Sissy, and xennex.

**DD69:Advanced Utilities** - SerNet and ParNet - Connect two Amiga's and share resources. MemMonitor - Similar to WFRag but greatly improved. Selector - put menus on your workbench screen, and more.

**DD70:Game construction/parser tool** - ADL (which stands for Adventure Definition Language) is a programming language and run-time environment designed for the convenient implementation of Adventure-like text games.

### Other Great Disks

**FD5: Tactical Games** - BullRun - a Civil war battle game, Metro - you play the role of a city planner. Build - a city planning game. A success, but poor planning will lead to disaster and financial ruin. Very very habit forming.

**FD6: GAMES!** - This disk is chocked full of games including: Checkers, Clue, Gold - A new slide the pieces puzzle, Jeopard - An enhanced version of Risk, RushHour - Surprisingly addicting, and SpaceWar - Best described as a cross between Combat-Tanks and asteroids.

**FD7: PACMAN** - This disk contains several pacman type games including: PacMan87, MazMan and Zonix.

**FD9: Moria** - This has great graphic controls, multiple spells, simple to learn and Hack - Play time several weeks!

**FD10: HackLife** - A dungeon adventure game. Considered a must have classic. This is the second release of this game on the Amiga. Great Amiga graphic interface. Play time several weeks!

**FD12A: Star Trek, The Game** - This is by far the best Star Trek game ever written for any computer. It features mouse control, good graphics, digitized sound effects and great gameplay. Counts as 2 disks. Req. 1Mb and two drives (or hd).

**FD13: Board Games** - contains multiplayer Monopoly, Dominoes, Paranoids, and others.

**FD14: Dungeon Master Hints and Arcade Games** - DM maps, spells, item location, and hints and more, also on this disk, Hball - an arknoid/break out type game, Trix - a Qix type clone.

**FD16: Strategy Games** - Includes Diplomacy and Empires, both great conquer and rule multiplayer games similar in concept to Simcity and Populas. Also includes blackbox, hearts, and others.

**FD17: Educational Games** - This disk includes several games for the younger members including geography, math, science, and word games, also includes Wheel of Fortune.

**FD20: Tactical Games** - MechForce(3.72) - A game that simulates combat between two or more giant, robot-like machines. Simple words can't begin to give you the feel of piloting a 30 - 40 foot tall, fire breathing, earth shaking colossus that obeys your every whim.

**FD24:Strategy Games and Others** - Includes Dicey, a yathzee type clone, MM - a master mind type clone, Flipper an othello type clone, China an great implementation of Shogun, CircuitWars a challenging game based on electronics, and Etrain a computer based model train set construction set for the enthusiasts.

**FD26:Arcade Games** - Marble slide, truly this is a commercial quality game. Similar to a Lucas game named PipeDreams, excellent playability and entertainment. Mutants, a small version of the arcade game of the same name, also SuperBreakout a pong/arknoids type game.

**FD29: Shoot'em up's** - WWII - your the pilot of a world war II plane flying through enemy territory, you've just been spotted, good luck on you mission. Spikiller - try and penetrate enemy lines with this game, and Retaliator - another great game.

**FD31: Games!** - Air Traffic Control - a good ATC simulation game, Black Jack Lab - a full featured set of card games, Chess Test - play chess with your friend in distant and remote places with this game and a modem, labyrinth - a well done text adventure game (like an infomac game), and MouseTrap - a 3d maze game.

**FD32: Game Cheats and Flight Simulator** - Includes an instrument flight simulator for a DC10. Also Cheats and Hints for the following games, Earl Weaver, Falcon, C.I.T.I.D., SimCity, SpaceAce, Space Quest, Text Drive hd install, and Extract a program that gets all of the text from within a game (or other) which helps cheating easier. Also several football teams (team files).

**FD33: Arcade Games** - Fireddy a mario brothers type of game, Gerbilis a target practice game, Pipeline a german interpretation of Pipe Dreams, Iron a light cycles version, and wetroids a wonderful version of asteroids with a hilarious twist.

**FD35 Omega** (v.1.3) - A new dungeon and outdoors adventure game in a similar vain as hack, rouge, and moria. This version is considerably faster and better than all previous versions. Play time several weeks or months.

**WB4:Telecommunication** - This disk contains several excellent pd communication programs designed to get you on line quickly and easily. Access (1.42) - A very nice ANSI term program based on Comm v1.34, but with the addition of transfer protocols, Comm (1.34) - Last version of one of the best public domain communications programs ever made on the Amiga, Handshake (2.12a) - Handshake is a Full featured VT52/100/102/220 terminal emulator.

**WB5: Fonts #2** - ShowFont(4.0) This program allows you to view fonts. Over 30 large AmigaDos fonts (some up to 56pts).

**WB7: Clip Art** - This disk is loaded with black and white clip art. Art includes, trees, watches, tools, US and State maps, and more.

**WB10:Virus Killers** - The latest and best VirusX(4.0), Kv(2.1), and ZeroVirus(1.3).

**WB11: Business** - Clerk(4.0), finally a full featured business accounting PD program for the small to medium company. Includes receivables, payables, end of month and much more.

**WB12: Disk Utilities** - This great disk is loaded with wonderful utilities for everything including making disk labels, disk cataloging, disk optimizing, disk and file recovery archive and organizing, and all sorts of file manipulation. A real must have!

**WB13: Printer Drivers and Generator** - over 70 different drivers, and if these don't do it, with PrtDrvGen you can make your own.

**WB15: Business** - This disk contains a spreadsheet, a database, a project/time management program and financial analysis (stocks).

**WB16: Business** - This disk contains an inventory manager, a loan analysis program, a great calendar/scheduler, a rolodex program, and pennywise a good "Cash Book" accounting for home or office.

**WB18: Word Text Processors** - This disk contains the best editors that we could find. Includes, WordWright(v6.2) a full featured word processor with mail merge and outlining capacity, Dme(v1.35) a great programmers editor with strong macro features, TexEd(v2.6) an enhanced Emacs type editor, and a spell checker.

**WB20: General Interest** - DiskSalv V1.42 a disk recovery program for all Amiga file system, FixDisk V1.0 another file recovery program with features DiskSalv doesn't have, 3DLook gives a 3D appearance to your WorkBench, Clean V1.01 a program to de-fragment memory. Tracer - trace any part of that image.

**WB23: Graphics and Plotting** - Plot (20b) a three dimensional mathematical function plotter. Can plot any user defined function, BezSurf2 produces awesome pictures of objects one could turn on a lathe. Can also map if image files onto any surface that it can draw. Now compatible with most 3D packages and VScreen makes a virtual screen anywhere, great for DTP.

**WB25:Educational** - On this disk are two programs that can generate maps of differing types, World Data Base uses the CIA's data base to generate detailed maps of any enter user global coordinate. Also Paradox a great demonstration of Albert Einstein General Theory of Relativity.

**WB26: Disk Utilities #2** - MrBackup, KwickBackup, two well done utilities to help with harddisk and floppy disk backups. FileMast - a binary file editor, LabelPrinter - Disk label printer with very powerful features.

**WB27: Nagel** - 26 Patrick Nagel pictures of beautiful women.  
**WB29: Graphics and Sound** - This disk has several different Mandelbrot type programs for generating stunning graphics. Includes, MandelMountains - a realistic terrain generator, Fractgen - generated recursive fractals from user input, Mandelbrot and Triandel - two fast mandelbrot generators, also Mostra - the best IFF display program to date, will display ALL IFF's including Dynamic HAM, and Sound - a great IFF sound player, will play anything. Try this disk, you'll love it!

**WB33:Circuit Board Design** - several terrific routines for the electronic enthusiast, including PCBtool - a circuit board design tool, LogicLab - circuit logic tester, and Mead (1.26) a well done new release of this PD cad program, now comes with predrawn common circuit components for insertion into schematics.

**WB36: Graphics** - On this disk are several programs to create stunning graphical images including, MPPath - creates swirling galaxy images, Roses - produce an unlimited number of variations of images that a symmetrically similar to a rose, SimGen - display those spectacular images as part of your workbench screen, and RayShade - a very good raytracing program, create your own beautiful 3d graphics.

**WB38: Plotting and Graphics** - Plotxy is the most powerful full featured plotting package. Used by many colleges and universities. A welcome addition to our library! Highly recommended. Pnusa - a incredibly well done Computer Aided Drafting program, very full featured. Tessellator - a program that helps generates fantastic looking, recursive M.C. Escher type pictures.

**WB39: Music** - Intuitracker is a german offer of an exquisitely well done program that allows you to play Amiga music as if from a CD like controls. Lets you strip out music from your favorite games or others and include them in your music library.

**WB40: Music** - "CD on a disk", 90 minutes of modern music on this well presented collection.

**WB41: Music** - MED an incredibly well done, full featured music editor. Create your own stunning music directly on your the Amiga. Similar to SoundTracker but better. Very powerful easy to use program.

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**DD49: C Compiler** - contains zc(1.01) fully K&R, zcc(1.0) front end, A68k(1.2) assembler, Blink linker.

**DD51: Circuit Analysis** - Aspic (2.3) A full featured program for electric circuit analysis.

**DD52: Scientific** - This disk contains several great programs and C source routines for the scientist and science student. Includes Elements - an incredibly well done periodic table program with source, Scientific plotting - over 600k of Lattice C source FFT - ft C source.

**DD54: Compression** - This disk is loaded with ALL of the best file compression programs and aids for the Amiga. Many of the programs can be used by the new user. Includes Arc(2.3), Lharc(1.0), Lhwrap(1.03), Pkax(1.0), PowerPacker(2.3a) a must have by all, Zip(1.0), Warp(2.04), and Zoo(2.0). Also IFFCrunch an excellent compression for IFF files.

**DD55: ARP** - On this disk you will find the complete ArpR3.0 release including the full user docs, the full Developers guide, and Conman (1.4). ARP is the official AmigaDOS Resource Project (ARP) release 1.3. ARP makes many improvements to AmigaDOS and makes your system easier to use from the CLI.

**DD57: Advanced Utilities** - Msh - like Cross-dos, copies files to and from MS-DOS, Pal-NTSC - convert any pal program to NTSC and visa versa, Icond - a new improved icon done, KillAsus - disables 512k of chip ram, Also several utilities that improve your startup-sequence, plus 25 more programs.

**DD62: Basic and Xscheme** - Cursor - a full featured Amiga Basic compiler, basic and text - several wonderful routines to help in basic programmers, and Xscheme - an interpreted object oriented programming language.

**DD65 C Tutorials** - Several well done tutorials on how to program the Amiga. Includes tutorials and working examples on Device drivers, IFF reads and writes, Sound implementation, Arcade game design and implementation, Double Buffering, and others. A must have for Amiga Programmers.

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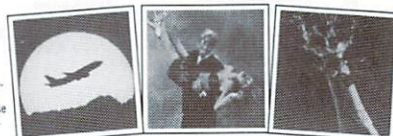
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# LAST LICKS

## Ask Agnus

*The lady with all the answers is back by popular demand...with a little help from Steve Pietrowicz.*

**Q:** I have been thinking of getting a laser printer for my Amiga. My husband says they're dangerous. What do you think?  
*Ima Askin*

High Bloomers, Vermont

**A:** Dear Ima:

Laser printers are pretty safe now, but at first they were risky. In one Florida case, the laser shot out the side of one and vaporized a pink flamingo. The government, seeing great potential in this, gathered these early models together and shot them into space as sort of an unofficial Star Wars program. If the Earth is attacked by flamingos, you can rest assured we're safe.

**Q:** I own a hair salon and have been looking for software to help me out at work. What can you recommend?

*Buffy Nails*

Youresoakinginit, Arizona

**A:** Dear Buffy:

You're in luck! The makers of Scalp-Animate 3-D have just released "Wigs in Space," a program that lets you con-

struct any type of hair style you wish, all in 3D! They even include some well-known faces and various sample hair styles. (An add-on module is planned for complexion textures.) Now you can answer the question on every hairstylist's mind: What does Ron Reagan look like with a beehive hairdo?

**Q:** I've tried to read and write IBM 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch disks in my Amiga drives, but they don't work. I know that there is software available to read and write IBM disks, but why can't the Amiga handle those disks without that software?

*Balou Sultt*

Dongle, New York

**A:** Dear Balou:

That insidious code actually fools your Amiga into thinking that an IBM disk is no different from any standard Amiga-formatted disk. That code is so noxious that if your Amiga were exposed to it without some sort of protection, it would spit the disk out so hard and fast that it would be driven into the wall behind you. (Not to mention what it could do to you.) I heard about one individual who was inadvertently exposed to this media without eye protection for a little too long, and now the only job he can hold



"OH, SURE! LEAVE IT TO THE FORESTRY SERVICE TO START TALKING AMIGAS JUST WHEN I GET THE MAINFRAME UP AND RUNNING."

down is testing the springs on those little metal doors on 3.5" disks.

**Q:** Some of the programs I use flicker like crazy. I know I can buy a special card and a multisync monitor, but before I do, I'd like to know if there is another way to stop this flicker. Please help!

*Dennis Drill*

White Knuckles, Illinois

**A:** Dear Dennis:

I've had an Amiga since it first came out, and I found a quick and easy so-

lution to your problem. I bought four Slinky springs from a toy store and connected them all between my computer chair and the ceiling. Now, when I sit in the chair and bounce, the flicker just seems to go away! Be careful, though. Once when I was playing an exciting arcade game, one of the springs broke, and I was shot through the window.

**Q:** I just wanted to let you and everyone else know that ABCDEFG just came out with a new product for the farm: the EIEIO board. With this new board, I just set up my A3000 in the barn, interface my cow to the milking machine, and let 'er go. The driver software really keeps Bessy humming. Now we're really in sync!

*Lon Mower*

Hamhock, Iowa

**A:** Dear Lon:

Thanks for the information. Here's another tidbit for you: ABCDEFG just announced the SX-1000 tanner, an Amiga-compatible tanning booth. If you liked the EIEIO board, you'll love this! The cost is negligible; they'll just take it out of your hide later.

## Ear to the Wall

**Would You Believe It?** In a previous issue, we stated that Brown-Wagh was offering free upgrades to Pen Pal. This is incorrect. Upgrades (for a fee) may be obtained from Pen Pal's developer, Softwood, who is no longer associated with Brown-Wagh. Any questions regarding Pen Pal may be directed to Softwood, PO Box 50178, Phoenix, AZ 85076.

**Also on the move.** Microbotics reports an expanded operation at a new location: 1251 American Pkwy., Richardson, TX 75061, 214/437-5330.

**Price Slashing.** Micro-Systems Software has lowered prices on all its products by one-third for an undetermined amount of time, according to a company rep-

resentative. Sale items include excellence!, from \$299.95 down to \$199.95; The Works! Platinum, from \$299.95 to \$199.95; Online! Platinum, from \$99.95 to \$69.95; and Scribble! Platinum, from \$149.95 to \$99.95.

**Attention dealers:** The AmigaWorld Marketing Dept. has redesigned and improved the *AW Dealer Report*. If you wish to receive this newsletter, call Wendie Marro or Laura Livingston at 603/924-9471, or fax your request to 603/924-4066.

**To Have and to Hold.** VidTech extended its ScanLock initial-purchase warranty to one year. It includes support via an 800 number in the US.



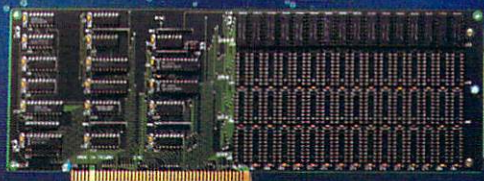
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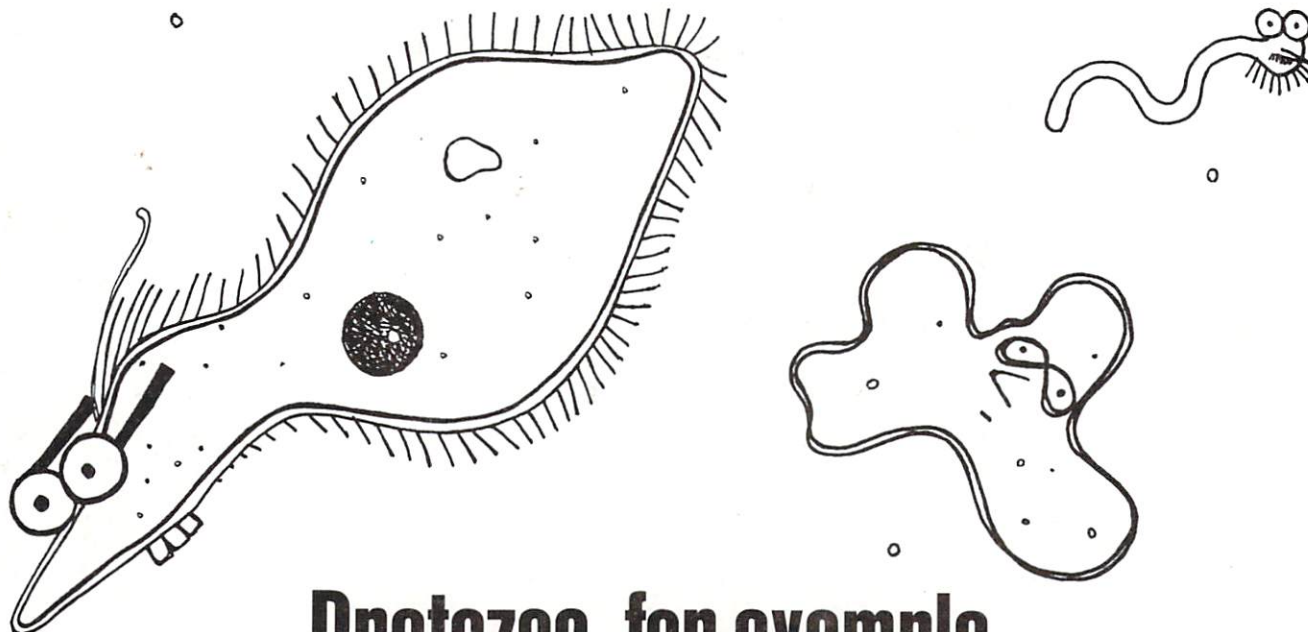
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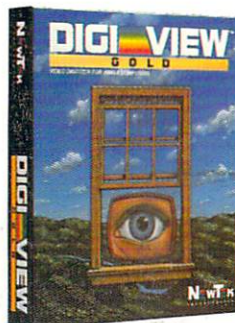
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