

mini' app'les

Apple computer user group newsletter

Volume IX No. 5 May 1986

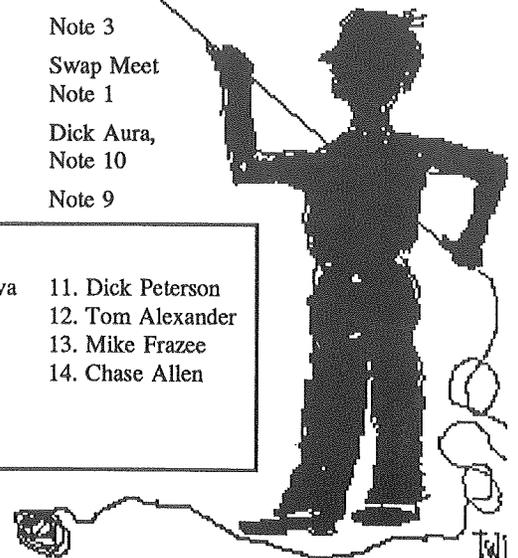
Calendar Of Mini'app'les Meetings And Events

WHO	WHEN	WHERE	WHAT
Mac S.I.G. Nontechnical	Mon. May 5 6:30/7 pm.	Edina Community Center Hwy. 100 & Benton Av., Edina	Dollars and Sense Note 2
Dakota County Branch	Tues. May 13 7:00 pm.	1301 Wilderness Run Dr.	BBS Demo, note 4
Apple ///	Wed. May 14 7:30 pm.	6905 Winsdale St. Golden Valley	<i>Gary Carpentier, 545-3133</i> <i>Dave Rasmussen, 938-1947</i>
Mac Small Talk S.I.G.	Wed. May 14 7:00 pm	250 S. Milton St. St. Paul	Programming in Small Talk Note 3
Languages/ Technical S.I.G.	Wed. May 14 7:30 pm.	1st MN Bank 31 9th Av. S., Hopkins	Note 14
Business S.I.G.	Thur. May 15 7:00 pm.	1st MN Bank Knollwood Mall Hwy 7, St. Louis Park	Word Processing Packages Note 7
St. Cloud Branch	No meeting until Fall		Note 6
Main Mac S.I.G.	Mon. May 19 6:30/7 pm.	Eisenhower Community Center Library, Hwy. 7, Hopkins	Mirror Technology hard disk Note 10
REGULAR MINI'APPLES	Wed. May 21 7:30 pm.	Oak Grove Junior High 106th St., Bloomington	Spreadsheets & Springboard software programs, Note 1
Northwest Branch	Tues. May 27 7:00 pm.	Rockford Road Library 6401 42nd Av. N., Crystal	Note 9
N. E. Area Branch	Wed. May 28 7:00 pm.	Margaret Rivers Rm. Stillwater Public Library	Telecommunications Note 13
Minnetonka Branch	No meeting until Fall		Note 11
Mac S.I.G. Nontechnical	Mon. June 9	Edina Community Center	Note 2
Dakota County Branch	Tues. June 10	1301 Wilderness Run Dr.	Open Topic, note 4
Apple ///	Wed. June 11 7:30 pm.	6905 Winsdale St. Golden Valley	<i>Gary Carpentier, 545-3133</i> <i>Dave Rasmussen, 938-1947</i>
Languages/Tech. S.I.G.	Wed. June 11	1st MN Bank, Hopkins	Note 14
Mac Small Talk S.I.G.	Wed. June 11	250 S. Milton St.	Note 3
REGULAR MINI'APPLES	Wed. June 18 7:30 pm.	Derham Hall High School 540 So. Warwick, St. Paul	Swap Meet Note 1
Main Mac S.I.G.	Mon. June 23	Edina Community Center	Dick Aura, Note 10
Northwest Branch	Tues. June 24	Rockford Road Library	Note 9

Notes: (See page 4 for telephone numbers)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dave Laden 488-6774 | 4. Bob Pfaff | 7. Dick Marchiafava | 11. Dick Peterson |
| 2. David Stovall 474-8015 | 5. Dave Rasmussen | 9. Jere Kauffman | 12. Tom Alexander |
| 3. Martin McClure 227-9348 | 6. John Gammell | 10. Mike Carlson | 13. Mike Frazee |
| | | | 14. Chase Allen |

Coordinators - Please Call Steve Bibus (374-1612) by the 10th in order to have your meeting correctly listed!

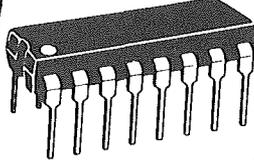


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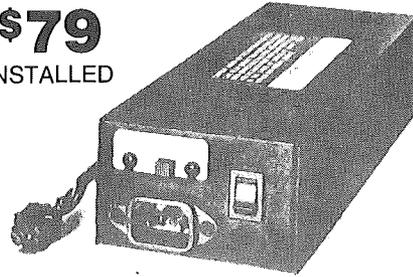
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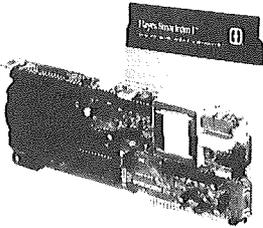
Amdek 300A
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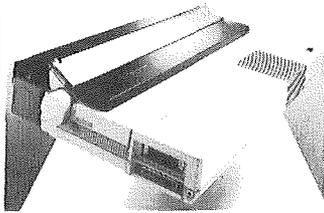


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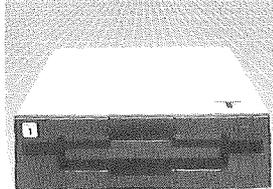
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MULTITECH

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Multimodem PC **289**

Multimodem AH2 **289**

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**This newsletter
was printed on an
Apple LaserWriter
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v1.2**

**Swap Meet
Coming on
June 18!**

**Derham Hall
High School
540 S. Warwick
St Paul**

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Branch Director	Dick Peterson	473-5846

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Ⓜ SIG - Mac Non Tech Users }	Curtis Juliber Dave Stovall	487-2850
Ⓜ SIG - Pascal	John Schoeppner	455-8613
Ⓜ SIG - Smalltalk	Martin McClure	227-9348
Ⓜ Tech. Adviser (hdw)	Roger Flint	771-2868

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Minnetonka	Dick Peterson	473-5846
North West	Jere Kauffman	535-6745
N.E. Branch	Mike Frezee	430-2944
St. Cloud	John Gammell	1-253-9377
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Liaison (†) - Geneology	Bill Decoursey	574-9062
Liaison (†) - Medical	Stewart Haight	644-1838
† To provide contact with non-Mini'app'les SIGS		

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Apple // Software Editor and DOMs	Steve George	935-5775
Assistants:		
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Eamon	Dave Nordvall	724-9174
IAC	Richard Peterson	
MacDOM Editor/Prod	Mark Richards	925-3625
Assistant MacDOM Ed.	Curtis Juliber	487-2850

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Questions

Please direct questions to appropriate board member or officer. Technical questions should be directed to the Technical Director.

Membership

Applications for membership should be directed to the Membership Co-ordinator:

Ann Bell 544-4505
8325 39th Avenue N.
New Hope, Minnesota, 55427

\$12 buys membership for one year. New members and persons renewing after letting membership expire, pay a \$5 administration fee. Members receive a subscription to this newsletter and all club benefits.

DOMs

DOMs (Disk of the Month) are available at meetings for \$5/disk (\$8/MacDOM) or any DOM may be ordered by mail for \$6.00/disk (\$9.00/ MacDOM). Send orders to Mini'app'les at PO Box 796, Hopkins, MN, 55343, attention DOM Sales.

Members may have 5 1/4" DOMs copied to their own media. See classified Ads for details.

Dealers

Mini'app'les does not endorse any specific dealers but promotes distribution of information which may help club members to identify the best buys and service. Consequently, the club does participate in bulk purchases of media, software, hardware and publications on behalf of its members.

Newsletter Contributions

Please send contributions on Mac 3 1/2" disks or via telecommunications directly to the Newsletter Editor. Contributions on 5 1/4" disks should be sent to the club PO Box, and marked: "Newsletter Submission".

Deadline for publication is the 1st Wednesday of the month preceding the month in which the item might be included. An article will be printed when space permits if, in the opinion of the Newsletter Editor, it constitutes suitable material for publication.

Meeting Dates

Please telephone calendar info. to Steve Bibus - 374-1612.

Advertising

Direct Advertising inquiries to our co-ordinator Eric Holterman at:
PO Box 8266
Minneapolis, MN 55408 612-822-8528

E-Mail: CompuServe, 71445,400

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Comp./Layout	Joan Kistner		
Mailing Advertising	Hugh Kurtzman, Eric Holterman	Richard Peterson 822-8528	

Announcements

Interface Group Scrubs Computer and Business Expo

by Tom Edwards

Win some, lose some. That's the way of life, for real and for the business of show business. We had subscribed to participate in the Computer and Business Equipment Expo during mid-May. The show was sponsored by The Interface Group, the same group that does Comdex.

Unfortunately, they elected to "postpone, indefinitely" this show, citing a pressure of too much to do and too little time to do it in. The bottom line, as the business moguls like to say, is that you will not have to decide about going or not. The nots have it.

So please ignore the ads that Mini'app'les has run. This show will not take place. Look to the schedule posted elsewhere by Steve George for the show participation that remains on the Mini'app'les schedule.

Amateur Fair '86

by Steve George

Amateur Fair is the Upper Midwest's largest exposition and swap meet for the personal electronics user. Commercial exhibitors will be selling personal computers and accessories, electronic components, software, VCRs, video games, and amateur radio equipment. Plus, there is a huge outdoor Swap Market.

Mini'app'les is one of just two computer clubs which have been invited to have a booth in the indoor area. So, we need volunteers to staff the booth and provide (primarily) enthusiasm. Assistance is needed to also set-up the booth either the evening before, or early the first day, or take-down when the fair is over. **YOU CAN HELP** because most people who stop at the booth don't ask highly technical questions -- most simply want to know what some of the benefits are and where/when we meet. This is **YOUR CLUB**, help it to continue to prosper. So, volunteer for a 1/2 day. Some of the best 'help' and information is obtained by those of us who are out

there helping others!

Days June 7 & 8 (Sat & Sun)
Hours 8am to 6pm
Location East Room of Grandstand Bldg.
MN Fairgrounds
Contact Chase Allen 435-2645

Business SIG Announcements

by Dick Marchiafava

May 15: Word processing packages;
BusinessWriter - Erik
Carlson, AppleWriter - Ken
Ruzek, Wordstar - Gene
Kasper, Bank Street Writer
//c - Bob French

You may contact me at 612-572-9305 if you have any questions about this schedule.

MacSIG

by Dan Buchler

On May 19th, the Main MacSIG will meet in the Eisenhower Community Center on Highway 7 in Hopkins. This is the old Hopkins Eisenhower school building and is on the north side of Highway 7, near 12th Avenue. Note that the meeting will be earlier in month than usual. Mirror Technology will show their line of hard drives. Mirror is a local company trying hard to make a big presence as a third party hard disk (and floppy drive) supplier. They make a good product. Their external drive has the SCSI connector to take advantage of the inherently higher performance of that interface. If you don't own a "Plus", you can buy a Mirror or other SCSI adapter.

Future Meetings

by Tom Edwards

The advent of spring has given me a case of Procrastination Fever. My pace of getting meetings lined up has slowed, but thanks to the intervention and volunteering of others in the Club, I can still hold off from hitting the "panic" button.

Please look the calendar over, **totally**. Try to pick some other meetings that may be of interest to you and attend one or two. Give someone on the board feedback about what you saw...

was it a good program, did it interest you, and if not, did it seem to be of interest to others who were there? With a little effort, we should be able to improve the value of the programs to the membership, but we need some thoughtful suggestions on what works and what doesn't.

Here's the meeting schedule through June. Hope that there are things here to pull you into enjoying an evening with other Apple computer enthusiasts.

- May 21st finds us back at the Oak Grove school location in Bloomington. Mini'app'les member *Marc Renner* has suggested a software oriented program, consisting of comparisons of similar programs available from several sources. Spreadsheets and copy programs topped his list of "compares." I plan on having three stations that you can select from to compare word processors. There will be two Apple //s, running Magic Office and AppleWorks, and a Mac with MacWrite. I plan on having each station construct and manipulate similar examples. The demos will be short and repeated twice, so you can select two for comparison. This program will be very similar to a "round robin" program that was done several months back and was enjoyed by many who asked for a repeat... so here it is!
- The **Swap Meet** is scheduled for our June 18 meeting. The cafeteria at Derham Hall High School, 540 South Warwick in St. Paul, is the location. This arrangement was coordinated by Mini'app'les member *Sister Sharon Gondek*, who also teaches at the school. Earlier Swap Meets have been very popular. Shine up those hardware items and blow the dust off of those program disks that you want to sell or trade. Help make this Swap Meet a success too.

Got a special topic that you'd like to suggest for a program? I appreciate the surge in grass-roots program suggestions. Drop me a note, or collar me at a meeting, and let's go over a program idea that you may have! I'm da Veeper...

GOTO 6

Announcements (continued)

**TAWUG,
The AppleWorks User
Group**

TAWUG is a national organization dedicated to the distribution of PUBLIC DOMAIN information and templates about AppleWorks. A coordinator for the Metro Minneapolis/St. Paul area has just been appointed. He is:

Dick Marchiafava

TAWUG has a current public domain library of 28 disk-sides of AppleWorks material. There are no dues to join TAWUG. To obtain a catalog of the available material†, contact Dick. If you are interested in obtaining a specific disk, or all disks, for that matter, all sides are available for a small duplication fee. You may furnish your own media to keep cost REALLY low, and for those who contribute material for TAWUG, even that modest fee may be

waived.

†This catalog, on-disk in ProDOS format, will be available shortly and is anticipated to cost \$3.00.

Election Results

by Dan Buchler

On May 16th, the annual election of officers was held during the main club meeting, according to Mini'app'les bylaws. The candidates listed on the ballot published last month, were elected. The new officers are:

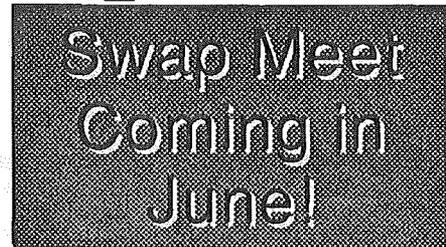
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| <i>Secretary</i> | Janelle Norris |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Tom Alexander |
| <i>Communication Director</i> | Dan Buchler |
| <i>Software Director</i> | Steve George |
| <i>Technical Director</i> | John Hook |
| <i>SIG Director (Technical)</i> | Chase Allen |
| <i>SIG Director (Applications)</i> | Dick Marchiafava |
| <i>Branch Director</i> | Dick Peterson |

Twenty-seven correctly signed ballots were received, and 12 invalid ballots (because they weren't signed).

Of the 39 ballots received, 36 were straight votes for the listed candidates. Of the remaining three, there were write-in votes as follows:

- For President:
 - One vote for Steve George
 - One vote for Dave Laden
- For V.P.:
 - One vote for Tom Edwards
 - One Abstention
- For Sig Director (Applications):
 - One abstention

The listed candidates were therefore elected.

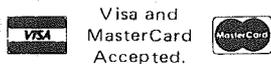


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The AppleWorks Advisor

A Column For Users Of AppleWorks

by Dick Marchiafava

If you missed this column in the April issue, the explanation is that it was lost and that was not realized until the process of assembling the April newsletter was begun.

APPLEWORKS & THE APPLE][+

A frequent question is "How can I run AppleWorks on an Apple][+? Can it be done?"

Yes, it can be done, but within limits. The three methods I know of that allow operation on a][+ give a desktop of only 10K, unless suitable additional memory is installed.

These systems require the use of modifying software, a suitable 80-column board and compatible memory expansion if one wants a desktop larger than 10K. Even then one must work around the fact that the][+ lacks Open & Closed Apple keys and Up/Down cursor keys, which AppleWorks makes heavy use of.

Videx's AppleWorks Modify Plus and Norwich Data Systems Plus-Works and Plus-Works XM are two systems which will run AppleWorks with an expanded desktop. If you are considering a system of this type, you should assure yourself that the 80-column board and memory board that you have, or are considering purchasing, will be compatible.

If you need to purchase some or all of the hardware, in addition to the required software, you should take a sharp pencil to the figures and compare what it would cost to upgrade to a //e, //c or possibly a compatible.

A MultiView board from Checkmate Technology and a joystick will also allow you to run AppleWorks, but only with a 10K desktop. Checkmate says that they will soon release a //e Emulator card which will have up to 512K of memory. We will have to wait and see how well this card works and what the cost will be.

SPELLWORKS for AppleWorks?

Spotted a letter in the March issue of A+ magazine about the Spellworks spelling checker for AppleWorks from

Advanced Logic Systems. It has been advertised as a low cost spelling checker for AppleWorks.

A couple of reviews which I have seen left me with the impression that this spelling checker was not that hot, but I was vague about the reasons. The letter in A+ has clarified the shortcoming to this program. "Spellworks writes all the misspelled words into a separate AppleWorks file. You must then manually compare the words in that file with your original document and correct the misspellings one at a time. Since this method forces you to read through a document word by word anyway you might as well proofread the text and find the misspellings yourself." This letter is signed Charles Rubin.

Reading yourself to find misspelled words is fine if you know how to spell the incorrect words correctly and then spot the errors. That aside, determining the correct spelling or intended usage is much easier when the suspect word is displayed on screen in context. The next and most powerful feature is the ability of the spelling checker to look up and suggest alternative spellings and then allow for immediate replacement of the errors.

Sensible Speller (ProDos) is an excellent spelling checker that will work with AppleWorks, although it is not the "inexpensive" speller that Mr. Rubin sought. I have heard favorable comments about Webster, but have not seen any reviews or the program yet.

AppleWorks Version 1.3 & Expanded Memory

Version 1.3 of AppleWorks is now being sold by dealers. I had a client who purchased a large memory expansion to be able to have a large desktop and work with large files. When he tried to expand his working copy of AppleWorks he got the error message "Can't recognize this version of AppleWorks". The only time that message should appear is if one is trying to expand an early version of AppleWorks or a disk that has already been expanded.

The recently released AppleWorks version 1.3 which "supports Apple's UniDisk 3.5 and the Apple Memory

board" will not work with the MultiRam and RAMWORKS boards until their Expand Utility software packages are updated. Updates should be available by the time this is published. AppleWorks version 1.2 will work without needing the updated utilities.

Tip: Have you had difficulty in trying to format a report or other output that was not a normal size 8.5x11 inch sheet or a label? If you have, you may need to setup or change your printer driver. Answer 'NO' to the question "ACCEPTS TOP OF PAGE COMMANDS?". You should now be able to define all the size and margin parameters and have the report print out the way that you want.

Macros For AppleWorks!

Beagle Brothers has announced MacroWorks, a software package to add macro commands to AppleWorks. A "macro" is a simple one or two keystroke command which will invoke or insert a string of keystrokes or commands. This package is said to allow the user to modify and customize AppleWorks. The ads say that you can add or change commands, prompts, replace Help screens with other information, etc.

MacroWorks Gallery program is said to print out wordprocessor files in columns, 2 up, or 3 up! This will be a boon for those who do newsletters, etc.

MacroWorks is \$34.95. It looks so good that I ordered it immediately. I will have more to say about it in future columns.

TAWUG Public Domain Disks

The AppleWorks User Group is a loose association of 400 - 500 AW users across the country. This group has assembled a library of Public Domain disks of useful files for AW. At this time there are 24 sides of software files. I have ordered the entire set of disks, and made some contributions to it also.

I have agreed to be the regional representative for TAWUG. If you are interested in the TAWUG disks and need information on the selections, please contact me. If you have some useful

GOTO 9

AppleWorks Advisor (contd.)

files or templates which you have developed for AppleWorks and would like to contribute them to TAWUG, they would be welcome.

The Software Editor's staff will review this AppleWorks software library and possibly select some of the files to be included in future DOMS.

AppleWorks Book Recommended

Various books on AppleWorks have been mentioned in some exchange newsletters and other publications. I have even recommended one in this column. A reader called me from Los Angeles on a Sunday morning in late March. He called to my attention a recent book **AppleWorks Tips & Techniques** by Robert Ericson from Sybex Publishing. After his comments about this book, I had to check it out.

AppleWorks Tips & Techniques is outstanding! The presentation of the multitude of tips and techniques is clear and understandable. The book is almost 400 pages of useful information, which will clarify operations, tell us how to use undocumented aspects of our favorite program and how to use it more effectively. The author also "tells all" about undocumented problems.

I recommend **AppleWorks Tips & Techniques** in the strongest terms. I think it is more useful than Charles Rubin's book, which is good. **AppleWorks Tips & Techniques** is a book with broad appeal; it has no particular slant. If you can't find it, call me.

Some of the information which I will be able to present here in the future will be gleaned from the pages of Ericson's book.

Did You Know?

The Open Apple and Solid Apple keys work interchangeably in AppleWorks? This is true unless (or until) you are using software to modify AppleWorks, in which case some of the Apple commands may be different.

Making your way through the menus brought up with Apple commands can be speeded up by simply pressing the key for the first letter of the name of the menu choice that you want.

Editing Text In The WP

I had the occasion to load some ASCII text files into AppleWorks recently. These files had been transmitted by modem. If you have ever received a file from a bulletin board, you know these files can use a good deal of editing to print out as a good looking report. I had to use AppleWorks word processor, as it is the only WP I have that can load files larger than 50K. There were two files about 90K each in length.

I spent hours working on the first file to remove excess spaces at the ends of most of the lines of text. In another word processor, this editing job would have taken 5-10 minutes using a "PACK" command to remove excess spaces in paragraphs and a "GLUE" command to append the short lines together in the paragraphs.

For editing the second file, I ended up using an editor in my communications software to do the editing AppleWorks would do well. Paragraph editing capability seems to be lacking in the word processor.

Printer Interface Setup Codes

The following is an assortment of setup codes for various printer interface boards. I cannot assure you that they all work, but they are correct as far as I can tell.

Interface Card Control String	
Apple Super Serial (AppleWorks default string)	Control-I 80N
ADP 2PIC	Control-I 80N
Grappler	Control-I 0N
Microtek RV-611C or possibly	Control-I 255N Control-I 99N
Pkaso	Control-I 0N
Practical Peripher	Control-I N
Tymac	Control-I 99
Wizard IPI, BPO	Control-I J

If your card is not listed, you might try some of the codes shown. Keep in mind that a code which may seem to work in some applications may crash in another. "None" is never correct.

Check your printer card information sheet. The code needed is the one that turns off the screen and does not restrict the printed line length.

Q. How do I set up the Custom Printer Drive for an Okidata printer?

A. Ericson's book described above has a detailed description on installing Okidata printers. Get a copy of **AppleWorks Tips & Techniques** or contact me.

Print to Disk Driver

Member Tom Militello called to express his concern over my suggestion that AppleWorks users suggest to Apple that the driver for the Silentype printer, which is obsolete, be removed to make room for a second Custom Printer driver. His objection is the second which I have received about this.

The Silentype driver has a use which I was not aware of. It can be used as a Print To Disk driver to create files which can be used with mailing programs. Ericson's book explains how to do this on page 312. On page 311 he also explains how to install your standard printer a second time as a Print To Disk driver.

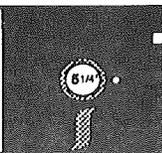
I am retracting my suggestion to remove the Silentype driver. However, a second Custom Printer driver is still needed.

Tom kindly expressed his appreciation of this column and said he wished that the column could be expanded to 4 or 5 pages! I am not sure that I could write that many pages a month, especially considering that the newsletter is printed from Macintosh files with a LaserWriter printer. This packs about 30% more information on a page, which represents 6 to 7 pages on the AppleWorks screen. I do not know if I could slip that many pages by the Editor, either! I thank Tom for his kind remarks and input.

Send your AppleWorks questions and tips to me %Mini'app'les, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343 or call me at 612-572-9305.

**Swap Meet
Coming in
June!
Watch These
Pages**

May Software



by Steve George

IAC 57 (DOS format)

Slim pickin's this month. I have requested several disks from other groups which I thought you might enjoy. A few of them are starting to arrive. However, I have concerns about the origins of several of their offerings and will need some time (and help) checking them out. The net result is that we have only one disk this month (my first solo month), but I think you'll enjoy it.

This double-sided disk was simply titled **Games** when we received it from the IAC. It consists of two versions of **FIREGROUND** by Albert Lesiak. On side one you play the game with keyboard input, i.e., F)orward, B)ack, etc. and take your instructions from a dispatcher whose voice is a little garbled

(to add to the confusion?). Your goal (having memorized the street names and numbering system of 'your' town) is to maneuver the maze of streets until you arrive on the scene with your fire engine. It's easy to get confused, make wrong turns onto streets (and while turning around, back into a building), or other hazards (dead-ends); but your reward for good performance is being able to 'move on' to disk side two.

This **FIREGROUND** is a hires arcade-style game and requires a joystick to be used properly. I liked this side much better, and if you're like me, you'll quickly figure out how to skip the required use of side one!

Besides flames that jump out of the burning building, you'll have to avoid the 'ambulance-chasers' in their cars. Watch out for the other firetrucks passing through the area, too. The 'scene' is only one block (two or three buildings) long, but the action in that one block can overwhelm even the best 'volunteer'. 

Label Setups with AppleWorks

Getting Out of a Sticky Situation

by Tom Edwards

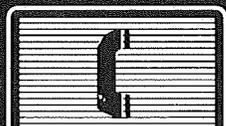
AppleWorks is the program of choice for many Apple // users. Similarly, the standard Apple ImageWriter is often the printer that accompanies the Apple // user working with AppleWorks. One annoying problem with that combination has been working with labels. Apple's infinite wisdom took a hike when it came to setting up this combination to handle labels. The tractor mechanism severely limits your options on where you can place the paper or labels, and AppleWorks is incapable of passing a left-margin code to the printer exactly when you need it. The "trick" of running a set-up program on the printer to create new defaults bombs, too... Each time the printer slot is opened from AppleWorks, the printer is re-initialized, wiping out your special formatting.

You can manage to get some single "standard" labels to work, as long as you don't have any need to use the leftmost portion of the label. The whole problem is aggravated if you try to use 3-across labels, which often come on carrier stock that is 10.5 inches wide instead of the 9.5 inch width of letter-size paper. Now you need to be able to print close to the left margin of the printer, because the print width of the labels is wider, leaving a big chunk of the left part of the sheet inaccessible with the default AppleWorks settings.

I was asked to try to figure out a way around this by a power AppleWorks user, Patrick Plant. I fussed, fumed, tried set-up programs... generally made a monkey of myself with things that didn't work.

Pat couldn't figure a program solution for it either, so he tried another approach. After calling around to several forms supply houses, he found a firm in New Hope called **CSI Business Forms, Inc.** — 533-2435, contact salesman Gil Hartlage— with new hope

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CompuServe MAUG

(Of interest to Mac and )

Cooperatively submitted by

Tom Edwards, Dave Stovall and Colin Mansfield

Both Colin Mansfield and Dave Stovall latch on to CompuServe's Apple User Group (MAUG) and monitor the Apple activity; Colin from his interest in Apple II, and Dave with his in the Mac. Prodded by the new emphasis from Apple on their restructuring of the relationship with Apple User Groups, the MAUG has established a new section dedicated to the Apple/User Group exchange. Dave provides the following notice about the board from CompuServe:

MAUG™ IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE APPLE USER GROUPS FORUM

If you are a member or an officer of a user group devoted to Apple-brand computers please stop by our new Forum and request membership there. Our sub-topics will allow you to discuss everything from newsletters to how to attract volunteers and membership drives.

MAUG™ is also happy to announce that this new Forum is a joint venture between MAUG™ and Apple Computer Inc. Apple's User Group Evangelist, Ellen Leanse, will be utilizing the board to contact reps from user groups across the country and share with them special info from Apple. The command to get there is GO PCS-95. It will be listed in the menus later this week and there will be a "quickword" to access it as well. But, for now, just type GO PCS-95 to visit the Apple User Groups Forum!

Colin volunteered to "listen in" to the Forum and to summarize the exchanges for awhile, perhaps the same thing being done by others in the Club. The flush of initial messages suggests that this is going to be a very popular mode of exchange between Apple and the user groups. Colin captured pieces of the first "Conference Online" using this forum. What follows are some of the items of more general interest to those in the Club. With the Mac being "the new kid on the block", a lot of the exchange orients toward that computer. How do you 'spose that it will balance out if Apple were to release a new //x?

(The AppleTeam Conference Online was held Tuesday, April 8, 1986. Present from Apple were:

Jean-Louis Gasse - Vice President,
Product Development

Chris Espinosa - Manager, Systems
Software

Scott Knaster - Manager, Tech Support

Dan Cochran - Manager, Languages and
Compilers

Guy Kawasaki - Manager, Software
Product Management

Alain Rossman - Manager, Software
Evangelism

Pete McDonald - Apple II Tech Support

--- and many others who did not speak
directly ---)

• [Electronic distribution of System and Finder for the Mac] has been approved by (Apple's) legal department. (Apple is) waiting for the System Version 3.2 to be completed before beginning electronic distribution.

• (Pete McDonald) I am currently trying to find out the exact answer for half a dozen other folks (to a bug fix for the //c with the 3.5" drive). I understand that there is an upgrade policy, and that new units are including the fix. Until I get a firm answer, I can't say any more. If anyone concerned would send me E-mail, I will let you know when I do. That acct number is 76703,3030 to Pete McDonald.

• (Jon Hardis) Having had the experience with the Lisa do you think that you can successfully market another machine costing more than \$8000? P.S. Having raised the specter of the "Open Mac", when can it be described or demoed?

(Apple Team) Jean-Louis Gasse here. I meant JLG for short. First we have not raised the specter but hope to raise the sceptre. Now, as far as price is concerned you should not worry, just see your accountant before April 15th. Seriously, price is not the issue, it's the value that you want to secure inside any given price envelope. Not being the VP in charge of pre-announcements, I won't speculate on dates. Not in 1986 though.

• (Neil Shapiro/Sysop) Apple, I am looking forward to four things in the coming year: A trip to DisneyWorld, the Open Mac, an introduction to Joan Jett and RAMBO, the Apple //x!!! On that last we have had much activity on APPLE2 (a section of the MAUG). Can you people comment at all on the //x as to what we might look forward to or as to how the upgrade path -- and if there is one -- may be handled????

(Apple Team) ..Let me just say that we will make Apple // users happy... whenever and however that is.

• (Mike Pease) This is a two-fold question. Can you tell us when the Apple //x will be released in 1986 and how will the new computer be different from the Apple //e or //c?

(Apple Team) JLG here: How do I put it nicely? I can't discuss it, you will cuss. Save some money though.

• (MacDunc) I am the Software Librarian for the University of Texas Mac Users Group. My members would like to know when (if ever) we can expect 68020 processors, co-processors, and a full-page screen.

(Apple Team) JLG here: 68020: Levco is selling an interesting 020 board. As far as larger screens are concerned we understand the need and will cater to it some time in the future. Sorry about the trite answer, but we're listening even if we're not pre-announcing.

Colin was disappointed that he was the only Mini'app'ler participating in this initial, history-setting conference. As the mode of communication builds, we should be able to improve the timeliness and content of what can be passed along. The Club is looking forward to being chosen as part of the initial Apple/User Group vanguard. Benefits of this selection may include access to more meaty subjects in the future. Dan Buchler, Communications Director for Mini'app'les, will also be monitoring the Forum, so watch for future newsletter summaries of other exchanges. 

Hardware Project

Write/Protect Switch for Asuka Disk Drives by Dick Marchiafava

The Japanese-made Asuka 5-1/4" 1/2-height disk drive which is compatible with Apple computers has been a popular peripheral in this area for the last year. I have been using a pair of these drives for about a year, and except for the fact that they are so tightly built that disk labels and write protect tabs tend to catch in the drive opening and begin to lift, they have been very satisfactory.

Recently I began to hanker for the ability to manually (Manually? Yes!) select whether I read only from a drive or read and write to it. This would allow me to eliminate the use of write protect tabs, or put these tabs on and not need to remove them to write and to write to the back side of a disk without having to nibble a notch in it.

The Asuka drive does not sense the presence or absence of a write enable

notch with a switch. It uses an optical sender and sensor arrangement. Therefore, I knew that I would have to do a little "engineering" to analyze the read/write circuit. I could not simply substitute a front panel switch for the usual switch.

The necessary parts and circuit information are as follows:

- 1 each miniature toggle switch Single Pole Double Throw
- 1 each resistor, 168 ohms, any wattage is ok
- a bit of wire, solder and simple hand tools

The base of the switch should measure 1/2 X 1/4 inch and have a 1/4 inch mounting bushing. There may not be room inside the front panel for a switch which is larger as it must fit in a cavity in the upper left corner of the front panel.

Remove screws from the bottom of the drive cover and slide it open about 3 or 4 inches. Locate and drill a 1/4" diameter hole in the panel and mount the switch. Be clean and careful when

working on the drive when the cover is open and remove any debris before closing it up.

The optical sensor is on a tiny board which is mounted with a screw on the left side of the chassis. There is a Yellow/Black twisted wire pair running to it from the rear of the drive. Unsolder the yellow wire, extend it with a bit of wire and solder it to the wiper (center terminal) of the switch.

Solder the 168 ohm resistor to one of the side terminals of the switch and to the pad on the sensor board where black wire is soldered. The other terminal of the switch is left open as that is as good as a logic 1 voltage level.

I marked the front panel with W(rite) and P(rotect). The miniature toggle switches usually MAKE the contact which is OPPOSITE the toggle handle. Keep that in mind when placing the markings.

Remember, hereafter the status of the write condition (enabled/protected) is manual and under operator control!

The cost of parts for this project was under \$1.50 per drive. The information here pertains only to the Asuka drive as I have not looked at any other types.

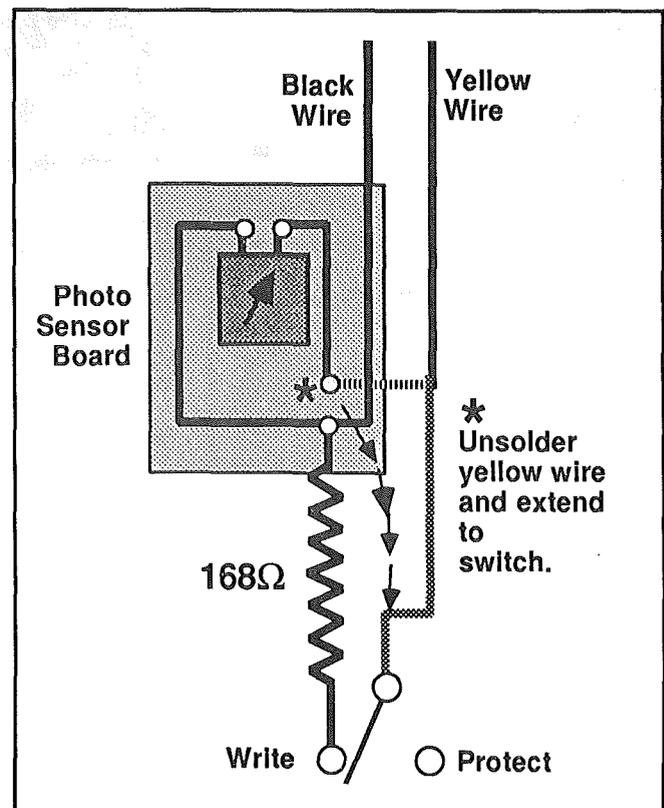
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Write Protect Switch Wiring

DeskTop Publishing

by Tom Edwards

If you think that DeskTop Publishing is for the Mac only, you've got another think coming. Yes, the Mac may be the reason behind this new phenomenon, but other computer manufacturers know a good thing when they see it too. In fact, some of the folks who are now into this, date from a time and technique that barely qualifies as "word processing."

My eyes, in the scope of this new way of doing newsletters and such, were widened by the visit that I paid to the April meeting of this group. It was started by Dale Archibald... you know, the guy who brings you the Computer User each month... and this was their second meeting. The Mini'app'les Communication director, Dan Buchler, came center stage to be the featured speaker for the evening. Dan had created a bunch of overhead transparencies that chronicled the process of "pasting up" an average Mini'app'les newsletter. Dan has used the computer to aid in this process for years, and now is using one of the "hot" programs that runs on the Mac: PageMaker.

After the presentation, Dan fielded a number of questions, and got a few tips as well. There is no question that the Mac is the primary hardware set-up to do DeskTop publishing today. But there were also some well done pieces, turned out on Osbornes, Commodores, Compaq and several others.

Dale Archibald has a highly interested bunch of folks following his lead as the Pied Piper. Even though they are just getting started, some of the program suggestions that came forth sounded very interesting. Reviewing the samples on display from others at the meeting, shows one that it is still the imagination that is the best tool. There were newsletters, of course, but also a lot of other uses that this technique has been put to... art "thumbnails", storyboard layouts, direct mail pieces, brochures and more.

A very interesting meeting, which will repeat on the second Wednesday of each month. The location is Artsign Materials Co. main office, 26th and 25th Ave. So., 7:00 PM.



In the Dog House with Beagle Bros

relayed by Steve George

Number 7: UNCLE LOUIE

Uncle Louie (C)(R)TM(?) loves One- and Two-line programs! Here's a 2-liner (lines 2-6 can be strung together with colons) that's sure to get his name in lights:

```

2 HGR2 : SCALE= 33:
  POKE 232,120:
  POKE 233,64: POKE
  16504,4
4 FOR A = 1 TO 15:
  H PLOT A,50 - A:
  RESTORE
6 READ R: IF R THEN
  ROT= 16 * R:
  XDRAW R / 4: GOTO 6
8 NEXT : DATA
  6,6,5,1,5,4,4,7,6,6,
  1,1,4,4,2,2,5,4,4,1,
  6,6,1,5,3,4,5,3,4,5,
  0
  
```

If you'd care to experiment, here are the

meanings of the values used in the DATA statement:

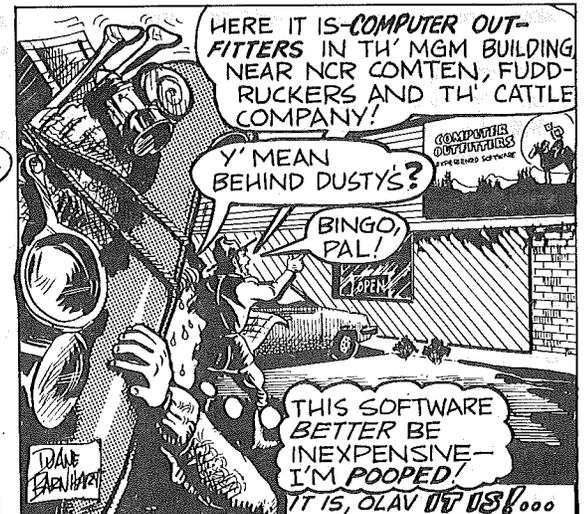
- 0 : Quit
- 1 : Move right, no plot
- 2 : Move down, no plot
- 3 : Move left, no plot

- 4 : Plot up
- 5 : Plot right

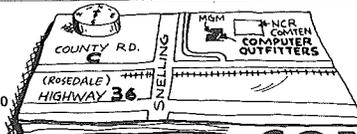


Label Setups (Continued)

P.S. Labels sometimes get "stuck" in the ImageWriter, usually when you try to roll the stock backward when printing is done and you switch back to standard paper. I ran across a tip in one of the Apple magazines recently (sorry, I forget which). The tipster's suggestion was to slip a piece of paper in from behind, pushing it out between the label stock and the printhead before you roll the labels back. Then set the "friction" lever "on" and roll the labels out. The paper will prevent the labels from coming loose and sticking to the paper guide.



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 example..NEWSROOM \$27.50
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 APPLE IIe programs
 example..GATO \$25.00
 MACINTOSH programs
 example..ART ALA MAC \$28.00
 AMIGA programs
 example..ON LINE \$35.00
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Apple Talks!

MacSIG Listens

by Tom Edwards

Once upon a time, Apple had this great idea called the Macintosh Office. One of the key pieces to putting it all together, was a disk server. Welcome to dinner!

The Apple reps from the local office, Rick Rabideau and Doug Lieu, served the information to the attentive ears of the MacSIG'ers at the meeting of February 24th. Not only did they talk about it, they showed us how one system can make life a lot more "together" for an office environment centered around a hard disk with Macs hooked up to AppleTalk. This software, from a Portland, OR, company called Infosphere, brings a network system to the office work space. You can establish "private" or "shared" volumes to better manage the functions within the network. The disk (5 brands are supported) can be partitioned into 16 sections, access can be password protected and a printer buffer lets you get back to facts quickly, while the buffer takes care of printing when the output device is free.

And speaking of quick, it is generally not evident that you are sharing access to the disk with others. Even with a specific effort to create a collision, there was only the slightest of hesitation in loading two programs simultaneously.

This was the special attraction lead-in to the program for the evening: Apple tells all! Rick and Doug were prepared to let us in on the latest news from Apple, particularly what's new with the MacPlus. Responding to questions from the audience and volunteering an utterance or two on their own, here are some of the topics covered:

- Cabling is again a game of chance, as Apple switches the port designs for hook-ups. Doug, and other Apple techies, have listed out a checklist of what ties to what. It's been put into a chart for easier reference. Check elsewhere in this newsletter, or ask a MacSIGer, for a peek at the cable assignments.
- The 8-pin connectors are as scarce as hen's teeth, too. Until a few

months ago, there was no domestic source for these little buggers. Now, Apple's Mac development effort has spurred two wholesalers to lay in supplies. We poor onesies and twosies kind of guys may find parts unobtainable for quite some time.

- The cable lament also zings those developers (read ThunderScan) that have been pulling power from the Mac for their goodies. No more can you tap volts from the Mac's back panel. *Editor's note: ThunderScan now offer an upgrade for Mac Plus which consists of a cable and power supply. Cost is \$29.95.*
- Echoing the computer developers rallying cry of "real soon now", Apple has announced an AppleTalk card for the ImageWriter // printer. This will allow a low-cost office system to link up around a workhorse dot matrix printer, instead of the Laserwriter with its rather lofty ante-up price.
- Want to step up to an 800K drive for your 128K Mac? Forget it. The HFS Finder, the software that makes two sides better than one, is a memory hog that insists on at least a 512K system.
- The new 128K ROMs speed up some operations on the MacPlus. Once again, software developers will be chased back to their code for re-write, however. Programs that have used funny "protection" schemes, some development systems and "bit copiers" will be taking the brunt of this improvement. Even Apple's "Switcher" gets caught in the cracks, especially if you do a lot of "finder" kind of activity or try to make HFS live in your system with it.
- For all of the benefits that HFS brings to the Mac'er — doubling disk storage from 400K to 800K for example — it does take a toll on the system. HFS will nibble off some of that newfound space to keep track of all those new folders and stuff; you don't get to keep all of it for yourself.

- The Mac upgrade path starts out with the 800K drive bump. That seems to be the best "deal" of the lot. The SCSI port should lead to the addition of a lot of fast, reasonably priced add-ons.

There will be a lot more information that comes along as the MacPlus gets wrung out by the MacUsers. As one could anticipate, the question of single vs. double sided disks was raised, too. Although the disk manufacturers will always claim that there is a difference, the suggestion is to go ahead and try your single sided disks in the double sided drive. If they work on the first shot, they will likely work as long as any disk can be expected to perform.

Of course, nothing on the current software scene quite stretches the limits of the 800K disk as of yet, but you are all asked to take a short trip back in history. As each increase in machine memory or storage memory has come available, history shows that not long afterward these new limits were pushed to the max (Mac?). Good grief! Now we are faced with a 1MB machine as "standard" with an 800K storage unit. Imagine! What wonders lay in store as these new frontiers are nudged by the ingenious minds of programmers and computer users? The future is here, now.

There were a few noises from the Mac XL owners present. Apple has offered a trade-in policy which seems to suggest that the XL will not be upgradable by similar route as the 128/512K machines. Neither Doug nor Rick could answer the question of a 128K ROM swap for these machines.

In the wind-down moments of the meeting, AppleLink was mentioned. The Club has made application for approval to be able to tap into this communication link. If we are successful, we will be able to access Apple's electronic "brains" for answers to technical questions, PR updates, market information and more.

All in all, a very exciting time to be part of the Macintosh revolution.

MacSIG; March

River City was never like this!

by Tom Edwards

Professor Harold Hill finally did get his band going, to strut its stuff up and down the tree-lined streets of Davenport, Iowa. At the March 24th MacSIG meeting, we found out that, today, one man could be the whole band, if he was equipped with a MIDI interfaced Mac... and a LONG extension cord! This was to be demonstrated by *Chuck Hoffman* for the 70 or so in attendance at the Edina Community Center, but before we could get our ears tweeked, *Mike Carlson*, MacSIG Coordinator, swept the announcements out of the way.

For those with a bent toward volunteerism, Mike asked to have some assistance from others in the MacSIG to aid with scheduling facilities and programs for the group. This is a good way for those that have received benefit and entertainment from the Mini'app'les organization to reciprocate. Contact Mike, or a Board Member, to offer your services.

Curtis Juliber, always up on the latest in software and hardware developments in the Mac strata, warned of the inevitable problems brought forth by any change in hardware specs. The emergence of the MacPlus and new ROM's has spawned a rash of crashes, as folks try to use their "old" software on the "new" hardware. Were I to try to give you a list here, t'would be but futile, for the changes come faster than the mosquitoes during a wet Minnesota spring. Let us just say that, if things don't work, where once they did, take a deep breath and check again for a rev that addresses the problem.

But, "On with the Show!"

Chuck Hoffman, tonight's band leader, had two synthesizers hitched to his 512K Mac. Since there are no "standards" yet established for this growing, yet still infant, aspect of the Mac's capability (MIDI: Music Instrument Digital Interface), even this can be a task, calling for careful selection of parts and pieces that will work together and complement each

other. Chuck's suggestion of synthesizer for the budding musician is a Casio product, which offers a wide range of options and a modest price of about \$500. He relies on *The Performer* and *The Professional Composer* (both from *Mark of the Unicorn*) to address most of his software needs. To this, he adds *Patch Librarian*, software that allows you to manipulate the sounds generated by your synthesizer and hold the instructions on disk for recall whenever needed.

Chuck took us through the basic functions of the software, leading up to a replay of a couple of arrangements from his completed works. The Performer software presents a screen that emulates a studio recorder. Things like "Fast Forward", "Rewind", and overlaying "tracks" are part of the presentation. The Mac's internal sound system, four voices, pales before the possibilities offered with this software. You have the potential of dozens of tracks and the control of MIDI interfaced devices limited mainly by the depth of your pocketbook, rather than the limits of the system.

Building an arrangement can take any one of several different modes, or could combine them to take advantage of a particular feature at any needed moment. Note: entry could be from the keyboard or with the mouse of the Mac, the synthesizer, or you could select something already recorded and modify it. All of the familiar Mac tools are ready to speed your composition. Cut, Paste, Copy, Undo and more. Should you opt to enter the notes from the synthesizer, you can even set a "metronome" to keep you on the beat. If you goof, there are a host of ways to make ammends. The MIDI defines a second into some 400+ "slices", and you can recall and edit each and every event that is cataloged from its record of what has transpired from the start of your recording to the finish.

Chuck makes use of his system primarily to generate arrangements. His instrument is usually the guitar, and though he apologized for his lack of

keyboard skill, it was evident that he was no slouch at that method of making music. The target of his effort is usually a printed score, which means that The Professional Composer sees most of the workout from Chuck. He can "write" music with all of the notations needed to give him quality hardcopy from the *ImageWriter* or *LaserWriter*.

Chuck summarized his presentation with the playback of one of his compositions and the presentation of the score on the 8 foot screen from the *LimeLight* projector. His performance was rewarded by a hearty round of applause from the MacSIG'ers.

Q and A's:

A key part of each meeting is the Question and Answer session. Here are some highlights from this meeting. If you have an answer or comment, present it at one of the meetings, or better yet, write your commentary as a contribution for the newsletter:

- A new addition to the graphics scene is a mechanical drafting program from **Bridgeport Machine Company** (215-659-5055). Now being reviewed (at least by one Mini'app'les member), the **EZ-Draft** package has the potential of creating a very complete Mac drafting station at much less cost than "Brand X", and just a pittance compared to the mini/mainframe-based systems of just a few years ago. At a rather pricey \$1995 intro point, it definitely shows that it is not in the 'Paint/Draw category.
- Anyone know where the print spool file goes? Does anyone know what I'm talking about? Do I know what I'm writing about? Are you reading this? Where's Judge Crater?
- Look for hard disks to soon be available to access the SCSI port of the MacPlus. This will be a topic at a future MacSIG meeting.
- Those treading the UpGrade Path are finding the 8-pin cables in short (read

GO TO 20

Spellswell

A review from Apple Dillo
River City Apple Corps, Austin, Texas

Software: Spellswell
Publisher: Green, Johnson.
Price: \$49.95
Review System: 512 Mac, 2 Drives
Reviewer: Mark Summers
Rating
(scale of 1 to 4): 

At last, a simple, efficient spelling checker for the Macintosh with a large dictionary and good response time. Spellswell is worth twice the price. For those who use their Macintosh primarily for word processing, Spellswell turns a major irritant into a pleasure.

Unlike other Macintosh spelling checkers, Spellswell is neither dumb nor stingy in the size of its dictionary. It checks a MacWrite 4.5, Word, or text document for words that are not in its dictionary. It displays the part of the document where the questioned word is located, and allows the user to skip or replace the questioned word, or to add the word to the

dictionary. Its menu of six short cuts allows the rapid spelling check of a document. It also has a homonym dictionary that will review the (the, thee, for example) word choice used.

Three features merit attention:

- **Short cuts.** One of the short cuts allows you to add a selected word to the Spellswell dictionary without reviewing all of its possible variations. Another short cut replaces the questioned word without reviewing the rest of the document and replacing it throughout. Mercifully, another short cut turns off the time consuming homonym dictionary. (You can also disable it by refusing to locate the homonym dictionary on a disk).
- **Document dictionary.** The words in the document dictionary are read along with words in the main dictionary, and used to check the spelling of words specific to a certain document (like proper names). Unlike Hayden Speller, you do not have to remember to select a document dictionary in order to use it.
- **Multiple documents.** Spellswell reads its dictionary

only once when reviewing multiple documents, which saves considerable time.

The main advantage to this spelling checker is the size of its dictionary. I am currently writing an article which includes the word "fiduciary", which I did not have to add to the dictionary! Anyone who spent six weeks or two months trying to teach Hayden Speller to read English beyond the Sunday Funnies level will know what a great relief that is. Spellswell also allowed me to add abbreviations (such as CBC, for Collier Bankruptcy Cases) and check the spelling of citations, something I would not attempt with any other spelling checker. There is one drawback: Spellswell is so large that it could never be a desk accessory; you must load it as a separate disk in order to use it. If your local store does not carry this excellent program, write for it at Green, Johnson, Inc., 15 Via Chualar, Monterey, California 93940.



ConcertWare+ Note

by Dan Buchler

Great Wave Software is one of those companies which tries hard to please its customers. I reported the fact that ConcertWare+ was unable to find instruments called out in a piece of music when ConcertWare is used with the new Hierarchical File System. A few weeks later, I received the following personal letter:

"This is in response to your concern about using ConcertWare+ with Apple's HD-20. (The HD-20 uses the H.F.S.) Unfortunately, Apple did not give us an opportunity to work with HFS until a few weeks before it shipped. At that time we

were starting to ship version 3. At present we do not have a version that takes full advantage of the HFS filing system. Of course, any future versions will address the problem of finding instrument files.

In order to use ConcertWare+, open a new folder and name it ConcertWare+ Applications or a name of your choice. Put all three applications into the folder: the Music Player, the Music Writer, and the InstrumentMaker. Then open each Instrument folder and place all instruments in that folder directly into the new folder. Do not put the whole Instrument folder into the new folder; rather, place each individual instrument

in the new folder. The programs will now be able to find the instruments. Note that the music files may still be in different folders. I hope these instructions are beneficial.

If you any further question, please feel free to contact me.

Stacey McKee Mitchell





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Call: 291-0567 (300/1200 baud) anytime between now and June 15th.

Interlace™

A review from Apple Dillo
River City Apple Corps, Austin, Texas

by Dennis Collier

Publisher:	Singular Software 5888 Castano Drive San Jose, CA 95129
Tel #:	1-800-626-8392
Type of Program:	Relational database w/spreadsheet features
System	512K Mac (or larger), Requirements: with 2nd disk drive
Copy Protection:	Yes
Price:	\$139, with 60 day money back guarantee
Ratings:	(out of five)
Software	★★★★
Documentation	★★★★

In the past few months I've read that many developers of Macintosh software, particularly those involved with applications for business, have decided to abandon the Macintosh altogether or no longer write exclusively for Apple's "insanely great" machine. The reason given most often is that sales have not been nearly as high as expected when one considers the potential market several hundred thousand Macs represent.

Why should this be so? One might point with some justification at illegal copying of original software. Certainly

pirating has contributed to the sales slump to some extent, but perhaps the accusing finger is being pointed too quickly. Could it be that overly high software prices are actually the problem? How often have we seen a new piece of software that we'd like to own only to be put off by its price tag? We'd love to own an original of the program, together with documentation and vendor support, but the price keeps getting in the way. The manufacturer, on the other hand, argues that his development costs must be offset by what he calls a "reasonable" price.

The going retail price for a typical hierarchical Mac database is \$195. If we desire the added power of a relational database, toss in another fifty dollars at least! Not many of us can justify that type of expense, especially when we consider the original (that is to say, rather high) outlay for the Macintosh itself. We all too often find ourselves either doing without the software package or resorting to the very bootlegging about which the manufacturers complain. Well, I'm very pleased to write that Singular Software of San Jose, CA, has done something about the problem. Not only has the company produced a well designed and powerful

relational database program in Interlace™, but it retails for only \$139! What's more, Singular is offering Interlace to (Apple Dillo) Club members for only \$95. Although no software package will completely answer every user's need, this one comes close.

The Interlace package comes with a 327-page manual and two disks. One contains the Interlace application, two files to be used when following the tutorial outlined in the manual, and a number of other sample files. The other is labeled *Examples*, containing database and report templates for such uses as Client Billing, Income Taxes, and Checkbook Balancing, as well as the remaining files to be used with the tutorial and a rather large (100K) and particularly useful file for on-line help. No backup disk for the application is included, and unfortunately Interlace is copy-protected, one of the reasons I have downgraded Interlace from a five- to a four-star program. However, "backups" can be made using the Finder, with the slightly troublesome requirement that a backup be validated every 14 days by inserting the original disk. At least this way Interlace can be copied to a hard disk, which is almost a necessity if any large databases are planned.

As for the manual, I found it for the most part to be well written and informative, although I did encounter a few typos. It is divided into four sections: *Single Files*, including reports; *Multiple Files*, depicting methods for linking more than one database together and generating reports; *Details and Techniques*; and *Reference*. The tutorial runs through the first two sections. Throughout the manual are many helpful diagrams of what one should expect to see when using the program. One minor complaint I do have concerns the manual's binding; I'd prefer that the large number of pages be spiral-bound rather than glued. I had trouble keeping the manual open while following the tutorial, short of setting some heavy object down on it, and through prolonged use of the documentation the pages will almost certainly fall out. The index is fairly

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well cross-referenced, although I did learn with a little digging that some items had been left out of the index entirely and had to be located in the reference section.

Interlace receives five Ⓜs for strictly following the standard Macintosh interface. I find it comforting when using a Mac application for the first time that it behaves in the expected way, i.e., the Tab key moves the cursor from field to field, the Return (or Enter) key signifies acceptance, etc. Macintosh users are somewhat spoiled in this respect relative to other machines and operating systems. We know that there is enough new to learn about an application itself without being worried about some oddity in the way the program operates outside the Mac standard, and we don't want to be bothered with extra details. Interlace frees us of this concern.

Certainly with Interlace goes a new learning experience. I doubt anyone trying to use the program for the first time without access to the manual would get very far, even though the program is very user friendly within the context of the interface. There are just too many features unique to the program, but once the user has mastered them he's in business.

I therefore began testing Interlace by following the manual's tutorial and quickly discovered that using the program can be fun, if one can describe using a database as fun. Data entry is very easy and straightforward, but rather than relating the procedure for entering a new database, I think it's more appropriate to focus on Interlace's features. Interlace can do just about anything we might want a database to do. With it we can query records to find information that meets very specific needs, such as how many Texas counties have population totals between 10,000 and 100,000 and at the same time have a mean household income of less than \$20,000 per year. If the database contains information concerning individual incomes, Interlace can count the number, average them, then provide the county average. Interlace allows us to search or sort any of its seven distinct data types: text, number, integer, date, time, logical, and sequence (picture fields are not covered, as in Microsoft File). We could therefore sort these counties according to population or yearly income, for example, then report the findings. In the case of records containing date information, we could

specify, for instance, that Interlace show us only those files from March 10 to April 16.

In many respects Interlace, because of its spreadsheet-like abilities, reminds me of Microsoft's Multiplan. Both programs can calculate user-specified data by employing both mathematical and logical techniques. Key words such as AND, OR, TRUE, FALSE, SUM, AVERAGE, MAX, and MIN are included to allow the user to combine different types of data to his advantage. Interlace doesn't stop here, however.

Perhaps the feature which separates Interlace from its competition (unless one has a lot more money to spend) is its ability to link one database with one or more others. Records in one one database file can be associated with those in another by what the authors call a **collection of links**. First each file is given a new "field" which creates the appropriate link. A line is then literally drawn from one file to the other so that these links are connected to establish the relationship between the files. We can see the link right on the screen. After the link has been completed, we can use the information in each of the files. If we update one of the files, the other can be properly affected at the same time. Not only that, but should we add a new record to a file, its linked file will be accessed immediately to include the change.

As for reports, we can generate them in a variety of ways. A default option can be used to produce a standard tabular report, but we can also design our own format. Interlace uses a setup scheme reminiscent of MacDraw. A grid is used together with boxes of variable size to create the design format. Labels can be entered in any of the available System fonts and sizes and positioned along with the field boxes. Any of Interlace's sort and specification features I mentioned earlier can be used to generate tailor made reports. If the design is not to the user's liking, it can be redone at any time, including where each field is located on the page and its size. My only complaint, and it is minor, is that I wish that a field size could be specified by character length. That way, if I knew the maximum length of a record for a particular field, I could set up the size of the box in the beginning. As it is, Interlace forces me to experiment with field lengths by resizing boxes until I'm satisfied.

Information not in the form of

reports can be imported/exported in one of three ways: via the Clipboard, as a text file, or in a mail merge format. I wondered how easily Interlace would allow data transfer from another database. After all, if we change databases, we don't want to re-enter all of our old files. To test this, I saved to the Clipboard a rather large Overvue file (432 records). I used the Clipboard because I couldn't determine how to save an Overvue file as a text file. After specifying the names of the various fields to Interlace, I was pleasantly surprised to find that all data was transferred perfectly. The user should keep in mind that the space on the Clipboard is limited due to RAM size; if all of a file cannot be transferred at once, divide it into parts and transfer each part one at a time.

All in all I definitely recommend Interlace, especially if the user requires a relational database that also serves as a good report generator. Not only is it a powerful program employing many useful features, but it is worth the purchase price. Not many software packages can make that claim, at least not legitimately. 

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Brandname Floppy Disks

from the Berkeley Macintosh User Group
(Downloaded from CompuServe Apples-On-Line)

Blank disks: Having gone through about 10,000 disks from various manufacturers and distributors we are beginning to get a feel for the quality of the brands we've tried. Almost all the manufactures guarantee their disks, but this does you little good if you've just lost the only copy of your thesis. We believe that if you use your mac for anything serious it isn't worth scrimping on disks, and you should buy the best quality, not the cheapest.

Our subjective, nonscientific rating for quality and reliability (based on mechanical and magnetic media problems that we have experienced with our BMUG distribution disks) goes something like this:

APPLE/SONY

Color:	Mac color from Apple, or blue from Sony
Cost:	\$16-\$28 at discount places
Rating:	The best
Number Evaluated:	5000
Mechanical problems:	None so far
Media problems:	None so far
Approximate problem rate:	1 in 2000

MAXELL

Color:	Blue
Rating:	Good
Number Evaluated:	2900
Mechanical problems:	Some doors sticking or breaking
Media Problems:	None so far
Approximate problem rate:	1 in 1000

BASF

Color:	Mac color or grey
Cost:	Least expensive
Rating:	BAD
Number Evaluated:	1400
Mechanical problems:	Doors stick & break, cracked cases.
Media Problems:	Several failed to format
Approximate problem rate:	1 in 30

MEMOREX

Color:	Black
Cost:	Relatively expensive
Rating:	BAD
Number Evaluated:	300 (so bad we won't touch another)
Mechanical problems:	Good on this count
Media Problems:	Several lost data problems, can't format some
Approximate problem rate:	Up to 1 in 10 ! (we have heard that they may have improved but we're not going to risk it)

We have also received evaluation samples of two other brands: Verbatim Disks (5 received, dark grey) which look nice and well constructed but are relatively more expensive, and Brown Disks (2 received, brown) well constructed, good prices. Of course, these are insufficient quantities for us to say anything more about them. Hewlett-Packard disks 200 used, blue) seem to be about the same quality as Maxell, but they are very expensive, particularly for double sided disks.

(Mini'app'les Editor's note: Not mentioned is an on-going problem (to some people) with Maxells. The plastic case surface is such that Maxell and Sony brands of labels do not stick well. By the way, I have initialized a total of about 40 Sony and Maxell "Single Sided" disks as "Two-sided" and only had two that failed to initialize. One, a Sony, wouldn't initialize single-side either. The Maxell initialized single-sided OK.)

March MacSIG:ntu, Cont.

"non-existent") supply. For the deft of hand, try Acme Electronics to attempt a DIY model.

- A new recruit to the MacPlus said that their disk drive was making "strange noises." Unless you have been feeding it sauerkraut, hie thee down to your nearest Apple Dealer to seeketh remedy with full haste!
- Anyone stumble across an accounting package that handles the needs of a non-profit business?
- A couple within the Club have received a thick mailing from Apple, with promotions and User Group emphasis. We'll try to distill the essence and keep the group informed of the "new" look that Apple is striving to structure for their interface with User Groups.

Well, that about wipes out my notes once again. The presentations of late have been relying on the darkened room and a projector! I'm going to have to tape a pentorch to my pencil so's I can write more ledgibly. Deciphering the heiroglyphics adds too much time. 'Course some would rather see me take notes with a pencil that had no lead. Off to the yard with you, and finish that raking!!!

Mini'app'les
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High School,
St. Paul, MN

Discount Corner

by Keith Madonna

The following businesses offer discounts to Mini'app'les members in good standing. You may be required to show your membership card in order to receive the discount. I believe we should buy from our local dealers in order to keep them in business and the money in our community. Off list means - off suggested list price, not off discounted priced items.

Mike Carlson at Hagen Office Equipment, Inc.
801 West 77¹/₂ St., Richfield., MN.
Tel 866-3441

Offers: Standard Discount on hardware and software.(Discount from Mike Carlson Only)

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3804 W. Highway 13, Burnsville, MN.
Tel 894-1683

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Tel 332-4866

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New Store Location

Waterborne Environmental Laboratories
DownTown Location, Mpls., MN.
Tel 339-8818
Offers: 10% off list on their Products.

Zim Computer
5717 Xerxes Ave. No., Brooklyn Center, MN.
Tel 560-0336
Offers: 20% off list on Software.

Other dealers who wish to be listed should contact Keith Madonna at 474-3876.

Mini'app'les Income Statement March 1986 by Tom Alexander

	March	Year To Date
Cash - 03/01/86	18,081.79	17,537.34
Add - Income	1,515.31	25,691.69
Sub-Total	19,597.10	43,229.03
Deduct - Expenses	2,151.72	25,783.65
Restricted Cash	17,445.38	17,445.38
Deduct - Printer Reserve	225.00	1,800.00
Unrestricted Cash - 03/31/86		15,645.38

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A reminder that Disks Of the Months (DOMs) are available by mail: DOMs at \$6.00 each; MacDOMs at \$9.00 each.

Send your order to:
MINI'APPLES DOM's
 PO Box 796
 Hopkins
 MN., 55343

Attention DOM Sales. Most DOMs and all the MSDs are available at club meetings. Because of the volume of disks distributed, they are not tested. Club members are asked to make every effort to get the **DOM** or **MSD** running. For example, occasionally the DOS on the disk will be bad, but it will catalog OK and one can run the programs. Master Create on your System master disk will fix-up the DOS. Of course, if you have a disk with bad programs, we will cheerfully replace it!

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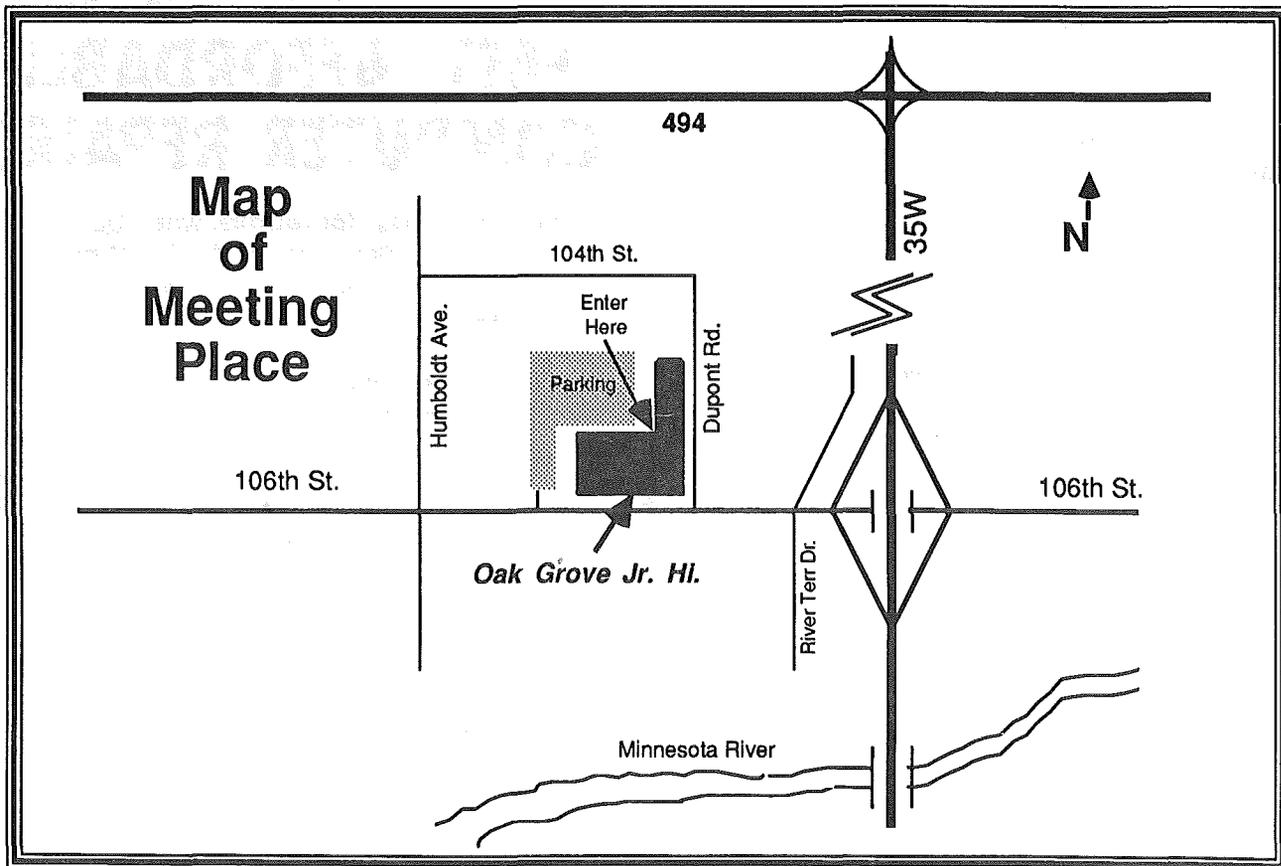
Continuing Service for Mini'app'les Members by Chuck Thiesfeld

Members can order DOMs (not Mini'app'les Software or MacDOMs) using their own diskettes. Here is the procedure:

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 2. Mailer. Diskettes will be returned in same protective device used to send the diskettes, provided such will fit in the mailer.
 3. Send correct postage in stamps - do not send money in lieu of stamps.
 4. Self-addressed return label.
 5. \$1.00 copying fee per DOM or disk.
 6. A note indicating which DOMs are desired.
- Send to:

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 8416 Xerxes Avenue S.
 Bloomington, MN 55431

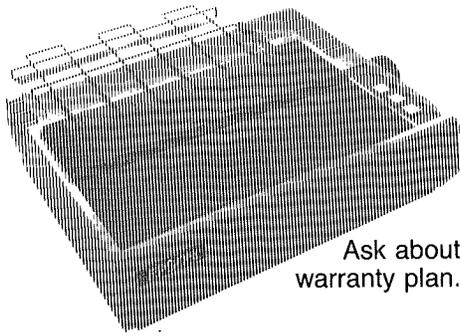
Please allow 60 days for delivery in USA. Incomplete packages will not be returned. DOMs 1 thru 29, except 18, EAMON #3, and 8 Pascal disks are currently available. Mini'app'les Software disks (MSD) are not available! General questions about DOMs should be addressed to Steve George.



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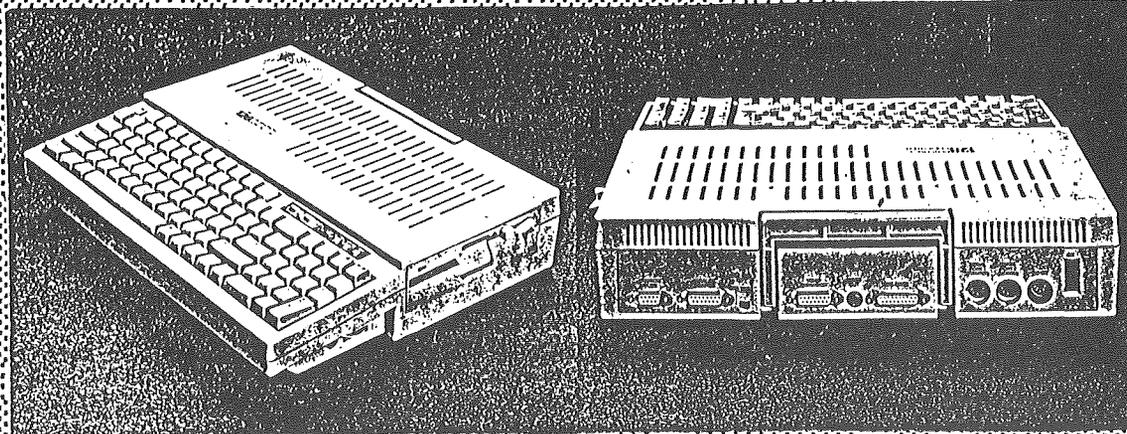
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