

September 1987 55p Written by R. Cook Issue 1

# ORIC USER

MONTHLY

55p  
PER  
ISSUE

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1987

Adventure Helpline . Spooky Mansion  
Software Charts . The Ultra  
Adventure Reviews . Hopper  
Arcade Action . A View to a Kill  
Xenon III . Lost in Space

AND MORE

Game: Spooky Mansion  
Supplier: Lothlorion  
Price: £ 6.95

This game takes you to Dracula's castle, and into a platform game. There are seven screens to complete, each harder than the last. On screen 1 you have to shoot ten bats and dodge a spider, grab the weapon and climb the stairs to screen 2. Each screen has a weapon to collect, including daggers, mallets, and crucifix's. Screen 2 has you jumping up stairs dodging barrals. Screen 3 is completely different, you must run and jump about swinging on a rope, riding on a block and ghost, etc. The graphics are mainly blocky and undetailed, except for the near excelent loading screen. The sound FX are fairly good, but one of the most annoying part of the game is the poor key response, many times my man died because he hadn't jumped when I'd pressed the key. The furthest I got to was screen 5, but that was enough to see that this was a poor game. It could have been alot better but the poor key response and graphics let the game fall flat.

Graphics: 5      Sound: 7      Addictiveness: 5      Overall: 4

Game: The Ultra  
Supplier: P.S.S.  
Price: £ 6.95

The Ultra is a straight-forward shot-em-up. Your craft is at the bottom of the screen and you imposibly face loads of aliens dive bombing you. But first you see an impressive hyper space jump. You can blast the enemy craft, but too many shots or you're guns will overheat, preventing you from shooting for a while, about 4 seconds.

There are 16 waves each with their own aliens. The sound and graphics are slightly better than average, with some blocky screens, but most are decent. The noise in the background is very annoying though.

Your ship, although well drawn, is a little too big so you tend to get hit too often. The game isn't much of a hit, but passes the time.

Graphics: 6      Sound: 6      Addictiveness: 6      Overall: 6

If you think you've got good taste in games then send us your top five list, marked Charts.

Game: Xenon III  
Supplier: I.J.K.  
Price: £ 8.50

This game is the follow up to Zorgons Revenge, which was the follow up to Xenon 1. You are a member of the Xenon Space Academy and your mission is to land on five planets then return to Radon. You land by flying through space whilst keeping your speed at a certain level to enable the hyper space. You've got to do this each time you go to a planet, but it's quite easy.

Some of the planets are Xer, Terra and Rundus. Planet Xer is like Centipede, also available on the Oric. You have five boomerangs to throw at worms, they'll cut up if hit and you can't let them hit the bottom of the screen, there are about four of them to destroy. Planet Terra has you transporting camels, elephants and other animals which is quite good fun but not very easy.

Radon is much like Xer, then you go round again. The animals in this game are great, so are all the graphics. Sound is what you've come to expect from I.J.K., but better. The tunes are brilliant. The price may be higher than most Oric games but it's worth a tenner.

Graphics: 9      Sound: 9      Addictiveness: 8      Overall: 9

Game: Hopper  
Supplier: PSS  
Price: 5.95

Hopper is a frogger clone, you control a frog and must jump and run across a road of traffic and to the river, then you use logs and turtle power to cross it, and land the frog. Then do it four more times. The graphics are not great, but look the part and there's plenty of colour. Sound is good from little classical tunes of old, including Album Blatt from Beethoven, although they're too quiet. The game is not a classic, but is cheap and fun.

Graphics: 6      Sound: 7      Addictiveness: 6      Overall: 6

Game: A View to A Kill  
Supplier: £ Domark  
Price: £ 7.95

This game has two parts to it, first part: City hall escape. You must run about rooms collecting and using items to get Stacey out of a burning liftshaft. The second part is much the same, but you are down a mine shaft and must decode a time bomb, or be blown up. The graphics are good and the music from the Bond films is played well. This is indeed a good game.

Graphics: 7      Sound: 8      Addictiveness: 7      Overall: 7

If you have any comments about the O.U.M. then write to us saying what you're thoughts and ideas are.

If you are stuck in an adventure and don't know what to do then write to us, or if you have a tip then also write, all adventure tips and problems should be sent to:

Oric User Monthly,  
Adventure Helpline,  
10 Thomson Ave,  
Kings Norton,  
B'ham,  
B38,8YD.

When sending up a problems please state your machine and the game.

Game: Lost in Space  
Supplier: Salammander  
Price: £ 9.95

This neatly presented adventure has no graphics but has three boxes, one for your inventory, the items carried. Another box is for your text input and the third is for you to be told what you can see and where you are.

You are on a spacecraft and must explore the strange craft, and hopefully get off, alive. You appear on the ship carrying and knowing nothing. The atmosphere is strangely realistic but the vocabulary is poor without HELP, USE or HINT commands. There is a little beep after each input which is a nice touch. This is the follow up to Franklins tomb and the next and last game in the series is Fishy Buisness. If the price was lower then I'd recommend it, but it's a little steep for what you get.

Graphics : N/A      Vocabulary: 5      Atmosphere: 7      Overall: 6

When sending up your charts do not include any adventure games as they will soon have their own charts. Simulation and strategy games can be sent up for the main charts.

For Octobers issue send an s.a.e of at least A5 size along with 55p to:

Oric User Monthly,  
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The 55p can be in cash or as a postal order, no cheques please.

Subscriptions cost £2.75 or £5.50 outside the U.K. This lasts for 5 issues and also send 5 s.a.e's with it if subscribing.

## Charts.

1)	Xenon III	IJK
2)	Ice Giant	Severn
3)	Loki	Joe the Lion
4)	Defence force	Tansoft
5)	The Hellion	Orpheus
6)	Gubbie	IJK
7)	Maze Rally	FGC
8)	Classic Racing	Salammander
9)	Manic Minor	Software Projects
10)	Ratsplat	Tansoft

If anybody wants a poke for unlimited lives on any game then write to us and we'll get it to you, or try to find it.

If there is a budding programmer out there who has written a game or short program then get it to us and we'll consider printing it.

Advertising costs 2p per word and graphic advertising can be placed by contacting us.

## News...news....

FGC software are due to close down at the end of this year. FGC are having to close down because of low demand for soft/hardware. FGC have brought us Maze rally, Chuckford, Fly for Your life, Goldmine, League champions, Oric-omms and a few others. They were also hoping to get hold of Insect Insanity, a game by Tansoft.

They are now selling software at great prices, example: (Zorgons Revenge for £ 3.50).

It looks like IJK are the only ones left and there it may end too as no sign is coming from them.

Next Month: More pokes, hints, reviews, & more, only 55p for the best mag around, we must be mad!!!