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By R. Cook

Issue 2

ORACLE MONTHLY

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October
1987

Pokes/programs o

Karate

Adventure Helpline o

Fire-flash

Software Charts o

Centipede

Arcade Action o

Time machine

Adventure Reviews o

And More

This issue brings you the old Centipede, the new hit, Karate, and others. And if you notice a big difference in the charts then you'll soon see that they now include French games, W. M. sell some French games and plan to get more, so watch out for them.

Do you want an extra page, but higher the cost of your favourite magazine? You have 3 choices:

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Please tell me either when you order issue 3 or before, the result to be given in issue 4. If you know about any other Q.U.M. owners who you know, please tell them about the Q.U.M.

Reviewers: Centipede , Karate , Fireflash , others , in the great Q.U.M.

Game: Centipede
Supplier: P.S.S.
Price: £ 6.99

Centipede is one of the few original console machine games, along with Pole position and Dig Dug, and doesn't that seem a long time ago? You control a sort of triangle with which you must kill a centipede who is moving down the screen of mushrooms. If you hit it then it splits up into two, and so does every bit when that hits, until eventually there are many small centipedes to kill.

On screen 2 you also meet a spider and on the next screen there is a mushroom laying bug. Screens there onwards have two centipedes to trouble you. The sound is arcade-like but too quiet with no volume control. The graphics are not too bad, but are blocky and undetailed, but there's plenty of colour. Even though the sound and graphics are poor, it's still fun.

Graphics: 4 Sound: 4 Playability: 6 Overall: 6

Game: Karate
Supplier: Gazoline
Price: £ 7.95

is is more like it! Kick, punch to the left and to the right, and move about in this great martial arts game from Gazoline. You can play against a friend or against the computer. You see your men face each other on the screen, fully dressed in karate combat gear. There are triangles at the bottom of the screen which represent the amount of energy you have left, and there is a great graphic background.

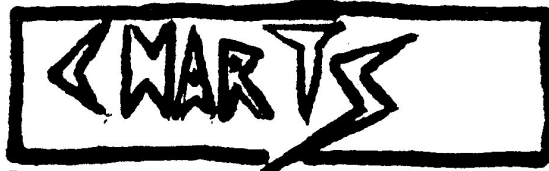
As your men face each other they bow, and the fight begins. When a hit is given the sound effect is great as you hear the kick or punch. If you hit your opponent a lot, he falls down on his back, a great feature.

Two points stop this game getting an overall of ten, the man on the right does'nt fight as fast as the other but he still lays in a hefty fight and can win. The other point is that a couple more attacking or defending moves should be included, a low kick, or a jump, etc. But this is a hit and features great sound and excellent graphics.

Graphics: 10 Sound: 9 Addictiveness: 8 Overall: 9

If you think you've got good taste in games then send up your list of top five games. You can send it up on it's own or with any letter, tip, or order for issue 3.

Charts



- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1) Xenon 3 | I.J.K. | |
| 2) Zorgons Revenge | I.J.K. | |
| 3) Karate | Gazoline | French game |
| 4) Damsell in distress | I.J.K. | |
| 5) Defence force | Tansoft | |
| 6) Fireflash | No Mans Land | |
| 7) Classic racing | Salamander software | |
| 8) The Hellion | Orpheus | |
| 9) Maze rally | F.G.C. | |
| 10) Tendre poulet | Sprites | French game |
| 11) Zebbie | I.J.K. | |
| 12) Frelon | Loriciels | French game |
| 13) Starter 3D | Landscape | French game |
| 14) Snake venom | F.G.C. | |
| 15) Xenon 1 | I.J.K. | |
| 16) Manic minor | Software projects | French game |
| 17) Super jeep | Loriciels | French game |
| 18) Gubbie | I.J.K. | |
| 19) Lone raider | Severn | |
| 20) Hunchback | Ocean | |

Comment: It's good to see the French games making a mark in the charts, but you can also see that the oldies still continue to please, like Manic minor, Zorgs revenge, etc. As I.J.K. are obviously the best British software house, Loriciels and Sprites are the best for France. Lets see how they do next month.

Game: Fireflash
Supplier: Fireflash No mans land
Price: £ 8.50

Fireflash sounds good, looks interesting and is indeed good. To put it simply, it's a slower version of Defence force but with better sound and graphics. You still have the map at the top of the screen, the aliens pinning men but this time they pinch parts of buildings. You can use shields but then you can't shoot, You must fly slowly to attack alien ships and fight them, and if you win over the few waves then you start again.

If the action was a bit faster then I'd say that this was better than defence force, because the game has great sound and graphics. If you've already got Defence Force then forget this, otherwise you might prefer this.

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

Advertising comes at a cost 5p per word, graphic advertising costs 40p per centimetre down. If you wish to review a game or two then write to us and we'll think about your offer. Games reviewed should be sent up with the same keypoints as we use and no more than two reviews each time you send up, as well as that... don't send up games that we've already reviewed.

Adventure

Section

Game: Time machine
Supplier: Channel 8
Price: £ 6.96

Here are Time machine, Golden Baton, and others all in the "Mysterious adventures" range. This is one of the best, the game starts off with you wandering around in fog, you can find a house, get through a window and down to a time machine, the idea of the game is to rescue The Doctor. (Who?). The machine needs various bits and pieces to get it working correct and then you can get onto smashing machines, robots, etc.

The vocabulary is better than those others in the same range. The game isn't very atmospheric but it has good, fast drawn graphics, in two colour. The game is good fun and should keep you off the streets for a while.

Graphics: 7

Vocabulary: 7

Atmosphere: 5

Overall: 7

Have you got a problem in an adventure or arcade game, then send it up to us, along with any tips you may have to:

Adventure Helpline,
Oric user monthly, 10 Thomson Ave,
Kings Norton,
Birmingham,
B38, 8UU.

Also, send up any short programs, pokes, dokes, calls, deeks, etc that you think might interest others.

John McKing is having trouble on Velnor's lair and is hoping that some reader can help him if you have completed the game or have got any tips for the game then please let us know.


John has a bit of good news too, he has offered to help anyone who is having problems with The Hobbit. So if you can help him or if he can help you, just write and we'll let him know.

Can you give any hints on Operation Granlin or Special operations? Because we plan to print solutions to both of these games. If you think that strategy games are important enough to have their own spot then write to us and let us know, saying what your favourite type of games is.

John McKing has converted Johnny Bab to run on the Atmos, so if you want to play it on the Atmos then write to us and ask.

He also has had problems on Zorgon's revenge, when he completes the four basic screens and enters the castle he dies. Has anybody else had similar problems?

If you have anything to say about Oric games, this magazine, or hardware, etc, then write to us marked Mailbag.



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For November's issue send 55p and a stamped addressed envelope to:

Oric User Monthly,
10 Thomson Ave,
Kings Norton,
Birmingham,
B38, 8YD.

The 55p can be paid in cash or as a postal order, not as stamps or a cheque. SAs's should be at least A5 size, subscriptions cost £2.75 or £5.50 outside the U.K. This lasts for 5 issues and you must send 5 SAs's.

J. Preston has sent up a program which allows you to draw a line with two different colour backgrounds. It features a demo-run and certainly looks good. If you want a copy of the program then send us 15p to cover photocopying costs and you will get it with the next order.

P. N. Bragg has informed us that there is a Tandy C.G.P. printer which will fit directly into the Atmos so there is no need to buy an interface. It sells for just under £50.00.

As for pokes on games, the CALLS next to the poke/doke are sometimes needed to start the game, as pokes must be entered after the game has loaded. But often RUN will start the game.

John McKing from Lincoln wants pokes for the following: Dambusters, Chopper, Lone Raider, The Ultra, Scuba Dive and Zorgons Revenge. Here are the ones we could find, have you got the others?

Lone raider	POKE	6A26,99	:	CALL	5FD
The Ultra	POKE	6b4,255	.	CALL	58D

Loricels bring out a few new games, including Star, Video flipper and Super Jeep. Star is a little like Jet-pac on the Spectrum, which was a long time ago. You must control your man to blast the oncoming enemy, in many forms. Graphically great. Video flipper is a pinball machine simulation, it features great sound and yet another great graphics game. Super Jeep has been out for a little while, your jeep is at the bottom of the screen and you drive about, blasting and jumping rocks. If Loricels keep these coming the Oric should have no trouble. Because due to an increase in Oric games being made there are now over 1000 programs out on the Oric. Reviews to come soon.

W.E. held a Nintendo show on the 4th of September, the Nintendo is a great video games machine, from where the Atari console machine left off. The Sega machine looks set to compete though.

High Scores

Send up your high scores, can you topple these?

Defence force	106150	Chuckford	185050
Xenon 1	65090	A.T.M.	67990

Coming soon. Maps to A view to a kill, a full review of The Quill, french software reviewed, charts, high scores, more news, help with Para's and alot more. All for 55p.