

November 1987 55p By R. Cook Issue 3  
ORACLE

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ISSUE 3 November 1987

Adventure Helpline, Maze Rally  
Software charts · Star  
Adventure reviews · Trickshot  
Arcade Action · Buccaneer  
Pokes/TIPS · More.....

Star is reviewed this issue, so is Maze Rally. There is also an oldie as usual, this time it's Trickshot from I.J.K! There is the terrible Buccaneer in the adventure section, plus the charts, compiled by readers, and the usual other items. Please keep sending up the tips, pokes, programs, requests, etc.

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 Game: Maze Rally  
 Supplier: F.G.C.  
 Price: £ 6.95

This game shows you a map (used in the game) whilst loading, which lasts about 5 minutes. Once loaded you see how professionally produced the game is, apparently programmed by Danish guys.

The idea of the game is to drive your car around a scrolling maze and collect a number of flags, all the time dodging enemy cars. Some flags give you points, others give you fuel. There are 12 to collect.

The cars can be a little difficult to avoid, not all are intent on killing you, some follow a fixed path, some chase you and some just drive randomly. If you are in danger of being killed by cars you can puff a cloud of smoke behind you (sounds like a Skoda) which will leave them spinning, at the expense of a little fuel.

The majority of the screen is used for the playing area, the rest includes details of your high score, lives remaining, fuel, etc. There is also a radar which shows where you are in comparison to your enemies. Unfortunately you are all represented as a single pixel (dot to the impudent) so it can be awkward to see which pixel is yourself in a quick glance.

There are 12 flags on the righthand side of the screen, each changes colour when you collect a flag, watching these you can see how many you need to find. The graphics are clear and the scrolling is very smooth, the sound is a great jazzed up version of Jopline 'Entertainer' ragtime piece, this is played throughout.

Maze Rally is a great game, and it's not too expensive.

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

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 Game: Star  
 Supplier: Loricieles  
 Price: Various

Star is a new release from France (new being new to Oric owners). You control the skill, volume, etc. at the start and then proceed to the game. A large craft trundles onto the screen and drops your man off. He is very comical, very tall and has a large nose! This starting sequence is great.

You must now defend yourself, by shooting, against several waves of many different types of alien. These range from scissors to bombs.

After each stage you must simply dodge a number of diamond shaped rocks. It looks easy, but it's harder than it seems.

There are over 15 waves to complete, each with colourful and detailed graphics. The sound, however, is just a matter of clicks. Overall, Star is excellent fun and should keep you going for quite a while.

Graphics: 9            Sound: 5            Addictiveness: 8            Overall: 8

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 Want to write a review? Then write a review and send it up, it can be any type of software but not one we've already reviewed. Please use the same grading system as us, although you may prefer to use percentages.

Charts: Compiled by readers

- 1) Xenon 3 IJK
- 2) Zorgons Revenge IJK
- 3) Karate Gazoline
- 4) Damsel In Distress IJK
- 5) The Hellion Orpheus
- 6) Defence Force Tansoft
- 7) Fireflash No Mans Land
- 8) Maze Rally FGC
- 9) Tendre Poulet Sprites
- 10) Classic Racing Salammander
- 11) Xenon1 Loriciciels
- 12) Frelon Loriciciels
- 13) Zebbie IJK
- 14) Snake Venom FGC
- 15) Starter 3D Landscape
- 16) Manic Minor Software Projects
- 17) Doggy Loriciciels
- 18) Gubbie IJK
- 19) Lone Raider Severn
- 20) Hunchback Ocean

Comment: IJK still rule the top positions, but FGC and Loriciciels shouldn't be overlooked. Quite a few people gave them the top spot on their lists, keep them coming.

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 Game: Trickshot  
 Supplier: IJK  
 Price: £ 6.50

The game kicks off with a nice version of the Pot Black music. You then hit the SPACE bar and a snooker table appears with six balls and a cue ball. You must decide the direction the cue ball will move in, select the power and then the shot will be taken. You have three shots in which to pot a ball, if you fail to do so then you lose one of your three balls. The ball collision is quite good, but the game doesn't include screw back, stun, side, etc. Trickshot has fairly good sound, decent graphics, and will not set you back too much. Don't expect much, but you might like this.

Graphics: 6            Sound: 8            Addictiveness: 6            Overall: 6

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 In issue 2 (page 5) we printed a number of 'infinite lives' POKE's. Some missed the hash (#) sign, sorry.

Advertising is now free, up to a maximum of 60 words. All those who paid shall be refunded.

Graphic advertising can be placed by contacting us.

Have you got any comments about OUM ? If so then write up and mark your envelope 'comments'.

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Game: Buccaneer  
Price: £ 6.95  
Supplier: F.G.C.

I can only think of one word to describe this 'game', pathetic ! You must sail to islands, countries, find items, pirates and natives. This all sounds good fun, but.....

The natives do nothing and cannot be used in the adventure; the countries are positioned anywhere (maps are useless) and it's all very bland.

The graphics are boring and blocky and would've looked bad on a Vic-20, there is virtually NO atmosphere, and vocabulary cannot consist of more than 8 verbs.

This is a waste of money, it takes AGES to load, take my word for it, this game is awful.

Graphics: 2                  Vocabulary: 2                  Atmosphere: 1                  Overall: 2

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For Decembers issue send an A5 s.a.e + 55p to:

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

The 55p can be in cash, cheques or postal orders. Please make payable to:  
' Oric User Monthly (R.Cook) '

• Please try to ensure that it arrives by the 21st of November. -----

Please send up any tips you have for Special ops.

John McKay is still offering help on The Hobbit.

Dave Williams needs help on Waxworks. Can you tell him how to find or make a light source, such as a torch or lantern.

News

On page 5 there is more news too.

The Oric Shop which recently opened up in Paris, France is now said to be selling quite well, here are a few example prices. The current currency rates were 9.7f to the £.

Cassette: Atmos/Oric 1 (16k,48k)

Hopper : 40f  
Ultra : 40f  
Centipide: 40f  
Munch : 40f

Another game soon to appear is Tyrant, by Your Oric magazine and it seems to be excellent. Price is £ 7.50.

Disk : Telestrat

Crisp : 150f  
Nibbler:190f  
Telecube:200f  
Mr Mephisto:155f

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OUM plans for future: Expansion of pages, new software and booklets !

The printing should be perfected in a month or two so please hold with us.

Oric User Monthly back issues are available for 53p, but please remember to say which issue you require.

## News

Are you fed up with being stuck with Zodiac or Mr Wimpy ? Or maybe you want a new utility and cannot get one, look no further. The Software Club has made a large investment in Oric software. They deal with the Amiga and Amstrad too, most software is Atmos compatible.

They hire out most programs for the outstanding price of £ 1.30 per program, life membership is £ 5.00 and you get to keep the programs for 14 days. You can hire the oldies like Galaxians and Chess or the newer titles like The Quill or Chuckford, and now the good part: You can hire games like Battle flight, Island of Death, Ringo, Galaxy 5, Painter, and many more.

They occasionally sell cheap games too, like 3D Invaders for £ 1.50. There is also a classic few music synthesizers on the Oric. They are well worth checking out with nearly 200 titles in stock.

The Software Club,  
26 Bechly Drive,  
Cardiff,  
CF5, 3SN.

Honest people beware ! Certain cheats wish to cheat at games, me included. This months cheaters are : John McKing, Shaun Powell, and Michael Bray from Scotland.

Firstly, pokes asked for were the following, but remember that they must be typed in after loading. If you have infinite lives, pokes that others want, please inform us, or if you have poke problems simply write and tell me your problem.

Chopper : POKE #280B, #EAAA : MIN

Zorgans revenge : POKE 836, #EAAA : POKE #836, 234  
 .... 855, #.... : #857, ....  
 .... 98B, #.... : .... #98B, ....

The dots are simply replacing typing out the same word many times, just use the same word as above the dots.

Man's Minor : POKE #683, #EAAA

Others asked for were Scuba dive, Damsel in distress, and Mr Wimpy. Do you have them ?

Here's the tip of the month, and it's from Michael Bray. It allows you to have extra shields on Xenon 3, yippee.

- 1) Load as normal until Genesis B is displayed on the status line, turn the computer off then on again. Type LOAD "" :POKE 7139,48 plus the number of shields wanted.  
LOAD ""
- 2) Play the tape and cheaters everywhere will be happy, up to 78 shields. It will say that there has been a loading error but will play as normal. Thanks Michael.

See you for more next month, with pinball games, french news, more, for 55p.....!!

Sorry, faulty page.