

ORIC USER MONTHLY

Issue 10 : June 1988 : 55p : Edited by R.Cook

Well here's issue 10, we're now nearly one year old, let's keep it up. Before anything else is said I want to apologise for last months issue, although not lacking in content the printing quality was poor and it was extremely late, sorry. Apart from the usual delights you can read Chit-Chat, and also try to grab issue 12 free with P&P paid. Last months offer for issue 11 free was won by A.Hudson, well done.

Please send up your top 3 games list plus the game you dislike, these compile the charts, tips & pokes, comments, letters, problems, maps, requests, etc. are also vital to keep OUM on the road, let's get them in for next issue.

I asked you about (last issue) the book reviews that have not been in OUM for a few months now, it seemed that most of the readers who replied wanted them to return, so don't be surprised if you see them appear on various occasions. The tips & hints are quite dedicated to Zodiac & Johnny Reb this month, news is limited and bad, except this : for a while now we've been murmuring about expanding OUM, but some readers have not wanted to high the cost, next month we'll try to let you know if we can make OUM 6 pages long at the same cost, OUM doesn't make a profit and we don't intend to and we may even be able to make OUM 8 pages long at only 65p ! We'll let you know.

To win issue 12 (one winner only) answer this question:

' Who wrote the ORIC version of The Quill, by Gilsoft ? '

Please get the answer in by the 20th of June, and that date also goes for ordering OUM (see page 2). The offer of issue 12 free includes P&P.

Arcade Action

Game: Dambusters
Supplier: IJK
Price: £ 8.50 (cass) - £ 12.50 (disk)
Memory: 48K

This is most certainly one of IJK's poorest releases, it was written by Pete Beckett who has also wrote 'Word Search' for CDS. The game doesn't come with full instructions, the map can be obtained and removed by pressing 'M' but that isn't mentioned !

I started off with sound effects that sounded like a constipated wasp, and line graphics. Whilst loading there had been a fairly decent loading screen. The idea is to use your three bombs to destroy three dams without crashing into the ground, mountains, being shot down, losing fuel, etc. The plane dials for speed, height, fuel, etc. are quite well presented but that's the only decent part of the whole game (aprt from from a jingly tune if you blow up a dam, also heard on 'Flight').

The key response is extremely poor and I was hammering away at the space-bar trying to drop a bomb when it worked and two fell due to the constant pressing so I couldn't win (I missed anyway).

The game is hard, un-documented, un-userfriendly, and not worth the asking price.

Graphics: 4 Sound: 3 Addictiveness: 3 Overall: 3

'Chit-chat' : page 5 'Top Ten' : page 3

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 A five month subscription costs £ 2.75 with 5 s.a.e's or £ 4.50 with-(1st class postage)-out.
 A years subscription can be bought for only £ 10.00, normally £ 10.80.
 Back issues cost 60p each : £ 1.00 for 2 : £ 1.40 for 3 : £ 1.85 for 4
 Subs can be bought for any length of time, just ask for details.

News:

Everything is so quiet.....and boring ! The only bit of interesting news is that 'Your Oric' has just sent out it's final issue, issues of Your Oric have been produced now for quite a while by Keith and Clint Thompson, it was a great magazine and a sad loss. Thanks to Your Oric for OUM mentions. Our OUM software is virtually at a stand-still, I want to know if people are going to buy them before I get the programmer to add the finishing touches. The prices will be around £ 1.99 up to £ 3.50, this is to try to sell as many copies as possible.

Has anybody got a copy of Fishy Business that they might want to lend or sell? It is released by Salammander software and is a quality adventure game.

Here, a few more 'quick-guide' reviews give you the quickest way to find the best software that you want.

Game:	Space Shuttle	Olympics	Nessy	Hellion	Bombyx
Graphics:	6	3	2	8	6
Sound:	3	2	1	7	5
Addictiveness:	4	6	4	7	6
Overall:	4	5	3	7	7

Space Shuttle (Microdeal) : A rather poor flight simulator, quite difficult.
 Olympics (Express) : Poor graphics, poor sound, but quite fun. You can play hurdles, javelin, 100m and long jump.

Nessy (FGB) : Poor graphics and hardly any sound, you must control a snake to eat a rat and man, very boring.

Hellion (Orpheus) : Brilliant loading screen and good gameplay. You must battle through 101 levels of insane blasting, quite good sound too.

Bombyx (Dialog) : A much better version of 'Nessy' and 'Snake It'. You must move a growing worm around the screen eating fruit and avoiding walls.

If YOU want to review a game then choose the game to review (not a game that we've already reviewed) and write the review, making sure it's not 'too' long. Note the supplier, price, and memory required (if not known, leave it blank). Please also give a grade to graphics, sound, addictiveness & overall, on a rating of 1-10. If you want then you can add a 'Value for money' rating, or rate the game on % marks, instead of 'out of 10'. You can also review hardware, utilities/business packages, adventures (rated on vocabulary, graphics, overall & atmosphere) and please state if you want your name printed or not. This won't be stated in detail again for quite a while due to space limits so please remember that you can send up anytime, all contributions are welcomed.

Top Ten: Compiled by readers

(F) French software

- 1. Xenon 3 IJK
- 2. Zorgons Revenge IJK
- 3. Defence Force Tansoft
- 4. Karate Gazoline (F)
- 5. The Hellion Orpheus
- 6. Xenon 1 IJK
- 7. Fireflash No Mans Land
- 8. Starter 3D Landscape (F)
- 9. Frelon Loriciciels (F)
- 10. Damsel In Distress IJK

Comment: Xenon 1 goes up three places, Damsel In Distress drops 4 ! Xenon 3 regains the top spot, after it's short absence.

Chit-Chat

Last months choices were on Software Piracy. There were the options:

- 1) Piracy is theft and highering the price of software, and all copiers, even on a small scale, should be fined.
- 2) Piracy is fine if on a small scale, games cost too much anyway so the companies deserve what they get.

Results:

- Option 1: 53 %
- Option 2: 47 %

Close wasn't it ? Here is this months topic. When sending in, please say which choice you agree with, or do you have other opinions not included ?

Option 1 : The Oric is a great computer, and magazines such as C+VG and Ace should deal with them, on equal terms as Sinclair, Atari, Amstrad, etc.

Option 2: Oric obviously isn't selling nearly as well as the big 4 companies (Sinclair, CBM, Atari, Amstrad) and so doesn't really have enough subjects or software for an equal devotation. But say, 5 pages, or even 3 would be better than nothing, and would attract more interest in Oric.

Option 3 : What point is their in catering for Oric ? There isn't any interest in it anymore so what? would street magazines get from it ? Oric would just distract readers to other magazines.

Please get the results in by 20th of June at the latest for inclusion in the final results, shown in 'Chit-Chat' next month.

Requests have been made for the following software titles by various readers this month and in the past couple of months, if you have them and would be willing to sell/lend/hire them then please write to OUM.

Insect Insanity, Grid Racers, Frog-Hop (cassette), Formula 1, Frelon, Fishy Business, Karate and 3D Munch.

Game: Word-Search
Supplier: CDS
Price: £ 6.95

In Word-Search you choose a word and then have a set time to find as many words as possible out of it. Example: if you chose 'MACHINE' then you could find Men, Men, Cane, Him, and a few more. There a number of words to choose from and if you cannot find all the sub-words then you will be shown them all. The games doesn't have any graphics, apart from the nice loading screen. The sound FX are simply beeps and nice tunes which are satisfactory. It is educational and is designed for possible use in schools, but I don't know many schools or colleges that actually use an Oric. It would appeal to children and adults so everyone is catered for. This might be a quid or two too expensive but it could've been worse. It is quite good fun but is by no means a classic, simple and enjoyable.

Graphics: N/A Sound: 5 Addictiveness: 6 Overall: 6

OUM releases booklet

OUM is proud to announce a booklet called ' The Oric Games Guide '. It is written to supply Oric owners with all the best views of all the Oric software in the UK, as many as we could fit into a booklet keeping the price low anyway. In it is over 25 UK Oric arcade game reviews, and all for the price of just £ 1.00. Now that is what I call value for money. It is ready right now so when you come to your senses send in £ 1.00 in either cash or a PO with an A5 s.a.e (or have it sent with your OUM order). It includes reviews of new games (Maze Rally not included) and old games such as Harrier Attack, Green X Toad and over 20 more. Plus with every order your next issue of OUM will cost only 50p or 85p without the A5 s.a.e. Send in whenever you like, we've got loads of them ready for sale.

Adventure Helpline: A.Hudson

How can he use the pad in Lost In Space, he cannot get anywhere.
How can he get Stacey out of the lift in A View To A Kill ?
Answer: Use the fire hose.

Please send in your high scores on the following games (and others too):
The scores their are ones sent in before we started a high score section.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Defence Force: 112,300 | Zorgons Revenge: 20,380 |
| Don't press the letter 'Q' : 1342 | Ultima Zone: 6420 |
| Loki: 10,430 | Gubbie: 10,880 |
| Centipide: 8930 | Manic Miner: 115,583 (infinite lives) |

A few months ago we said that Chymesoft had produced 'The Warlock Of Firetop Mountain' adventure game, from the adventure gamebooks series. This was not brought to the UK and Chymesoft now say that they don't plan to either bring it to Britain or release any more, they've been quiet for a long time.

D.Ale asks 'what has happened to Loriciciels, gone bankrupt or gave up ?'
The answer is...neither. They've been bought up by Elite Systems LTD who don't want to release Oric software. I tried to contact Elite to enquire about this but they didn't reply, talk about ignorant.

Hints & Tips

Johnny Reb: From Robert Bray: Enter these lines after loading (auto-run must be missed out). The benefits of these lines are:

- i) The bridge is randomly placed ;
- ii) The flags are randomly placed ;
- iii) You will know when the 'battle calculations' will finish because a number will be printed to let you know.

Many of the lines can use the copy function (CTRL-A) because many are alike.

```

1 BR=INT(RND(1)*34+1): IF BR< 4 OR BR >34 THEN 1
5 CLS: GOTO 100
6 FOR N=0 TO 5 : IF SCRN (AZ+BR,10+N)=32 THEN PLOT AZ+BR,10+N,37
1020 IF C(A,5)=410 THEN X1=BR : Y1=10
1021 IF C(A,5)=420 THEN X1=FE : Y1=FF
1022 IF C(A,5)=425 THEN X1=BR : Y1=16
1024 IF C(A,5)=435 THEN X1=FG : Y1=FH
1090 IF (Y3=FF OR Y3+Y2=FF) AND (X3=FF OR X3+X2=FG) THEN 1095 ELSE 1100
1333 IF C(A,5)=425 AND Y3 > 13 THEN C(A,5)=435: X1=FG: Y1=FF:C(A,8)=0
1530 PLOT AZ+1,26,STR$(AX-A)+" "+Q$(13):GOSUB 9600
2000 CR=0:IF X=BR OR (CP > 0 AND Y < 715) OR (CP < 0 AND Y < 715) THEN CR=-1:
RETURN
8030 Q$=QS$(37): GOSUB 8600: IF CM THEN RUN ELSE STOP
9050 FOR AX=5 TO 20:PLOT AZ+BR,AZ,32: NEXT : GOSUB 6
9055 GOSUB 13000
11630 DATA BATTLE CALCULATIONS
13000 GOSUB 14000:FB=FB+2:GOSUB 15000:PLOT FA+AZ,FB,38
13010 FE=FA:FF=FB
13020 GOSUB 14000:FB=FB+21:GOSUB 15000:PLOT FA+AZ,FB,175
13030 FG=FA:FH=FB:RETURN
14000 FA=INT(RND(1)*30+3):FB=INT(RND(1)*2):RETURN
15000 FOR FC=(FA-1+AZ) TO (FA+1+AZ): FOR FD=FB-1 TO FB+1
15010 PLOT FC,FD,32:NEXT:NEXT:RETURN

```

Enter the next two lines as normal but when you see a _ press SPACE BAR.

```

8805 DEF _ FNB(A) _ =X _ =BR _ AND _ Y > 9 _ AND _ Y < 16
1519 AX=(NP_AND_NP > NT)+(NT_AND_NT >= NP)+1

```

It doesn't really take that long to type them in, and believe me they ARE worth making the effort. Thanks for them Robert and also thanks to David Jones for these tips for Zodiac adventure.

Some of the treasures are: ornament,ruby,onyx,jewels,and others. They must be returned to the starting hut to gain points from them.

Befriend the ram in the forest: go to the 'french-style' house and go east into the kitchen, get the food (in the cupboard) and go to the ram then type FEED RAM, this can then be carried believe it or not. This ram is one of the Zodiac starsigns which must be placed in the secret room in the French-style house, found by moving or taking the ornament. Other zodiac signs are the painting,rug,crab,scorpion and many more.

Cut the grass with the mower in the garden to find some wire cutters. These will continue next month.

Next Month: Reviews,news,chit-chat results & a new topic,issue 12 results, tips & hints,zodiac continued,charts, and hopefully a bit more if we can squeeze anything else in. Get buying our Oric Games Guide booklets or never know what you're missing, just £1.00.OUM is just 55p, don't miss it.