

CONTENTS

APPLICATION



BUYERS' GUIDE We outline the crucial questions a prospective buyer should ask about a communications system

941

HARDWARE



TAKING ON BOARDS The Memotech RS128 has all the features of the highly-regarded MTX500 series, with disk drive interfaces as well

949

SOFTWARE



ON EDGE The Human Edge is a suite of four programs that claims to 'increase a user's individual professional skills in such areas as management, sales, negotiations and communications.'

946

COMPUTER BOOKS Two more book reviews: Women and Computing by Rose Deakin and The Micro Revolution Revisited by Peter Large

960

COMPUTER SCIENCE



! Another investigation of LOGO's mathematical abilities. This week we show you how to create programs that calculate factorials

954

JARGON



LANGUAGE CONSTRUCT TO LIFO
A weekly glossary of computing terms

948

PROGRAMMING PROJECTS



SCREEN PLAY This week we show you how to program screen displays for special locations in our adventure game for the Commodore 64

952

MACHINE CODE



THE FX EFFECT We discuss the use of OSBYTE calls to access the functions of the BBC Micro's operating system

957

WORKSHOP



MEASURE FOR MEASURE Our Workshop robot is capable of measuring the length of a straight-sided object. We outline the method and provide the program listings

943

INDEX A complete index to issues 37 to 48

BACK
COVERS

Next Week

- The Music Maker is a music package with a keyboard overlay for the Commodore 64. We try our hand at making music with it.
- Few computers are designed for children, but My Talking Computer is a machine aimed at 3- to 10-year-olds. We consider its educational and entertainment value.
- Continuing our Workshop series, we design a program to allow the robot to scan an area and determine the shape of an object within the area.



QUIZ

- 1) When measuring the length of an object with our Workshop robot, what feature of the sensors will limit the accuracy of the measurement?
- 2) Does the Human Edge package give an objective assessment of a counterpart from data provided?
- 3) What effect does prefixing a BBC command with a * have?
- 4) What is a 'silicon disk'?

Answers To Last Week's Quiz

- 1) A 'software board' is a touch-sensitive peripheral available for the Sharp PC-1500A.
- 2) Tom West was the project leader in the development of the Eagle minicomputer.
- 3) Data has to be detokenised because the target computer may not use the same set of tokens as the host computer.

Editor Mike Wesley; Art Editor Claudia Zeif; Technical Editor Brian Morris; Production Editor Robert Pickering; Designer Julian Dorr; Art Assistant Liz Dixon; Staff Writer Stephen Malone; Consultant Editor Steve Colwill; Contributors Geoff Balins, Harvey Mellor, Joe Pritchard, Steve Malone, Karl Dallas, Surya, Steve Colwill, Andrew Bangham; Software Consultants Pilot Software City; Group Art Director Perry Neville; Managing Director Stephen England; Published by Orbis Publishing Ltd; Editorial Director Brian Jones; Project Development Peter Brooksmith; Executive Editor Maurice Geller; Production Manager Peter Taylor; Medhurst; Subscription Manager Christine Allen; Designed and produced by Bunch Partners Ltd; Editorial Office 14 Rathbone Place, London W1P 1DE; © AFSP Copenhagen 1984; © Orbis Publishing Ltd 1984; Typeset by Universe; Reproduction by Mullis Morgan Ltd; Printed in Great Britain by Heaver Date Printing Ltd, Derby

HOW TO OBTAIN ISSUES AND BINDERS FOR THE HOME COMPUTER ADVANCED COURSE - Issues can be obtained by placing an order with your newsagent or direct from our subscription department. If you have any difficulty obtaining any back issues from your newsagent, please write to us stating the issue(s) required and enclosing a cheque for the cover price of the issue(s). **AUSTRALIA** - please write to: Gordon & Gotch (Aus) Ltd, 114 William Street, PO Box 7676, Melbourne, Victoria 3001. **MALTA, NEW ZEALAND & SOUTH AFRICA** - Back numbers are available at cover price from your newsagent. In case of difficulty, write to the address given for binders. **UK/IRE** - Price: 80p/IR£1; Subscription: 6 months: £23.92, 1 Year: £47.84. Binder: please send £3.95 per binder, or take advantage of our special offer in early issues. **EUROPE** - Price: 80p; Subscription: 6 months air: £43.69; Surface: £34.84; 1 year air: £87.36; Surface: £69.68; Airmail: £5.00; Airmail: £8.25. **MALTA** - Obtain binders from your newsagent or Miller (Malta) Ltd, MA Vassalli Street, Valletta, Malta; Price: £3.95. **MIDDLE-EAST** - Price: 80p; Subscription: 6 months air: £45.76; Surface: £34.84; 1 year air: £91.52; Surface: £69.68; Binder: £5.00; Airmail: £8.25. **AMERICA/ASIA/AFRICA** - Price: US/CAN\$1.95/80p; Subscription: 6 months air: £54.08; Surface: £34.84; 1 year air: £108.16; Surface: £69.68; Binder: £5.00; Airmail: £9.50. **SOUTH AFRICA** - Price: SA R1.95. Obtain binders from any branch of Central News Agency or Intermap, PO Box 57394, Springfield 2137. **SINGAPORE** - Price: Sing \$4.50. Obtain binders from MPH Distributors, 661 Sims Drive, 03-07-21, Singapore. **AUSTRALASIA/FAR EAST** - Price: 80p; Subscription: 6 months air: £58.24; Surface: £34.84; 1 year air: £116.48; Surface: £69.68; Binder: £5.00; Airmail: £9.75. **AUSTRALIA** - Price: Aus\$1.95. Obtain binders from First Post Pty Ltd, 23 Chandos Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065. **NEW ZEALAND** - Price: NZ\$2.25. Obtain binders from your newsagent or Gordon & Gotch (NZ) Ltd, PO Box 1695, Wellington.

ADDRESS FOR BINDERS AND BACK ISSUES - Orbis Publishing Limited, Orbis House, Bedfordbury, London WC2 4BT. Telephone 01-379 5211. Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to Orbis Publishing Limited. Binder prices include postage and packing and prices are in sterling. Back issues are sold at the cover price, and we do not charge carriage in the UK.

NOTE - Binders and back issues are obtainable subject to availability of stocks. Whilst every attempt is made to keep the price of the issues and binders constant, the publishers reserve the right to increase the stated prices at any time when circumstances dictate. Binders depicted in this publication are those produced for the UK and Australian markets only. Binders and issues may be subject to import duty and/or local taxes, which are not included in the above prices unless stated.

ADDRESS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS - Orbis Publishing Limited, Hurst Farm, Baydon Road, Lambourn Woodlands, Newbury Berks, RG16 7TW. Telephone: 0488-72686. All cheques/postal orders should be made payable to Orbis Publishing Limited. Postage and packaging is included in subscription rates, and prices are given in sterling.