

**RD Digital Tracer**

This version for the BBC Micro is simply constructed in lightweight plastic; a strip of non-removable adhesive tape is provided for table-top fixing

**RD Spectrum Interface**

The RD Tracer for the Spectrum is exactly like the BBC version shown in this article, but is connected via its own interface

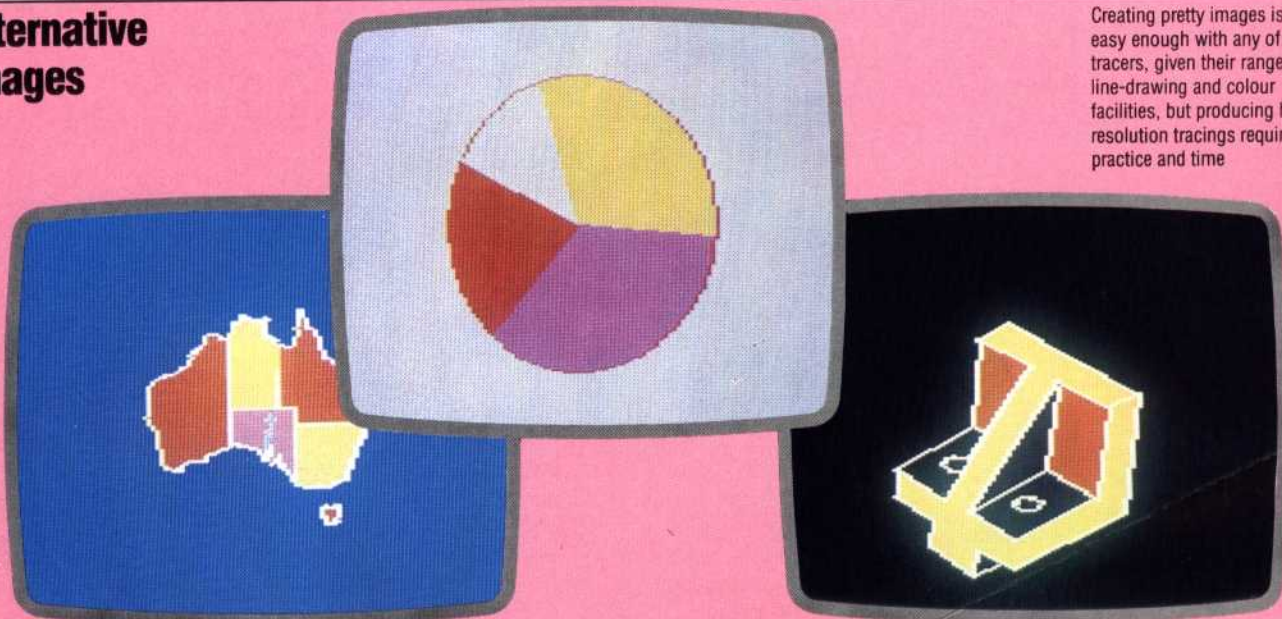


tends to be displayed on the screen as a series of straight lines. But all the other facilities (for drawing circles, rectangles, etc.) are supplied. The software does not produce an error report — unlike normal Spectrum programs — if these commands are used to draw lines that extend beyond the boundaries of the screen.

It is possible to write programs that read positions directly from any of these tracers, which is useful for certain special purposes. However, this is difficult to achieve on the Spectrum, as this computer, unlike the BBC, has no joystick port and lacks the relevant commands in its BASIC.

For Spectrum owners, the choice of tracer is limited to the RD Labs model, but this works well

enough. The BBC user has a wider choice: the RD Labs tracer is the cheapest of the three, but its construction is somewhat flimsy; the Robot Plotter is solidly built and is supported by some clever software, although it is not particularly easy to use; the Digigraph has less sophisticated software but is by far the easiest to use.

**Alternative Images**

Creating pretty images is easy enough with any of the tracers, given their range of line-drawing and colour facilities, but producing high-resolution tracings requires practice and time