

TANDY
ELECTRONICS

The biggest name
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MICROCOMPUTER NEWSLETTER

VOLUME No. 2 APRIL 1979

To all our valued TRS-80 customers

It was a little slow getting here, but at last Volume 2 of the Tandy Microcomputer Newsletter sees the light of day!

An overwhelming demand for the TRS-80 caught us unprepared. While we expected the TRS-80 to sell very well, sales have been beyond all expectations and because of them the Newsletter has suffered. This we hope to change in the near future and make the Newsletter a monthly feature.

To do this properly — we need feedback from you, the customers. If you have discovered something interesting, but undocumented, about the TRS-80, please drop us a line so that we can pass it on.

Regards

K.S. ALLEN
Computer Sales



NEW EQUIPMENT:

As you have no doubt heard we are no longer selling the Screen Printer (26-1151). This is because its performance on a disk system is not all it should be.

We will have available a low cost replacement printer as an alternative to the two line printers (26-1150 and 26-1152) is not a matrix, electrostatic printer that prints on sensitised paper, 80 columns wide at 150 lines per minute. No price has been fixed on this as yet but details will be in the next newsletter.

RS-232-C INTERFACE:

We now have ex-stock, an RS-232-C Serial Interface Board. This board fits inside the expansion interface and enables the TRS-80 to be used as an intelligent terminal, software for this purpose is included.

Requires a minimum of 16K Level II and an expansion interface.

RS-232-C 26-1145.....\$139.95

RENUMBERING PROGRAM:

This program renumbers BASIC (Level 11) programs. It allows renumbering with any starting number and any increment. It comes with four versions depending on your memory size and it can be loaded onto diskettes for those people with 1 or more Mini-Disks.

RENUM 26-2004.....\$14.95

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IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE...

If you need any detail on anything to do with the TRS-80 then the New Catalogue RSC-2 is available at all Tandy Stores and Dealers.

NUMERIC KEYPADS:

Anyone who reads U.S. computer journals will have seen advertisements from Radio Shack regarding the numeric keypad for 16K TRS-80's. We will be carrying this item but at this time, price and delivery are not finalised.

NEW SOFTWARE:

Several new items of software for the TRS-80 are now available.

TECHNICAL MANUAL:

We now have in stock the TRS-80 Technical Manual. This is a 108 page manual with circuits and theory of operation. It assumes you are already familiar with electronics. It is a comprehensive manual which is a must if you intend to design your own I/O equipment or if you intend to service your own TRS-80.

Technical Manual 26-2103\$9.95

LEVEL 1 GAMES PACKAGE:

This folder contains 4 separate games for LEVEL 1 4K TRS-80. They include Space Taxi, Draw, Space Pilot and Hammurabi. Details are available from any Tandy Store and we have plenty in stock.

Games Pack 26-1805. . . \$29.95

DOUBLE SIZE LETTERS:

The question has been raised "Can you have double size letters on Level 1 machines?". The answer is NO! At least not in a way that ensures repeatability. You must go to Level 11 for this feature.

We will shortly have the following programs:

GENERAL LEDGER:

26-1552 General Ledger — requires 32K and 2 Mini-Disks. It will perform all ledger functions on up to 100 accounts and 1800 postings per month.

GENERAL LEDGER \$139.00

26-1551 — Mailing List — requires 16K and at least 1 Mini-disk. It will produce a mailing list that allows selective printing of mailing labels and will also sort the names alphabetically.

MAILING LIST \$69.96

Also pending is an Inventory program (disk) and Job Costing (also on disk). Details will be printed when available.

Microchess 1.5 that long awaited machine language program for chess enthusiasts will be available shortly (late April).

Details on price will be in the next newsletter.

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KEY BOUNCE (DOUBLE ENTRY):

Those of you with Level II machines will, at some time, have experienced key-bounce or double entry when using the keyboard. We have now produced a tape which when loaded into your machine will cure all ills, at least as far as your keyboard is concerned.

This tape also contains a routine for a real time clock without using a mini-disk. This does however, require an expansion interface.

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EXPANSION INTERFACE MANUAL:

In this manual the corrections for the two cassette recorders are shown incorrectly.

Looking from the rear of the Interface the correct order of the three cassette leads is (from right hand side).

1. Cassette 1, 2. Cassette 2, 3. C.P.U. (din to din).

16K RAM UPGRADE KITS:

The price of 16K Upgrade kits (26-1101) has been questioned by many customers. They argue that cheaper kits are available.

This is true but you must consider several points.

- a) Tandy takes only the best I.C.'s. We do not accept seconds.
- b) For only \$25 we fit the I.C.'s and test them. This ensures that your warranty is not affected.
- c) The parts fitted are guaranteed. Can the same be said about parts you fit yourself?

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READ PROBLEMS ON LEVEL 11:

Some of early Level CPU's have a problem with the READ statement in that it automatically RESTORES the data after each read. This is caused by some of the RAMS we use. This can be fixed free of charge by returning your machine to the point of purchase. A temporary solution is to POKE 16553,255 before your first READ command.

ANOTHER TYPE OF "READ" PROBLEM:

We have had many complaints regarding loading of tapes on Level II. All machine language tapes (In Memory Information, T-Bug, Conversion, Editor/Assembler and Microchess) must be loaded using the system command. This is explained on page 2/5 of the Level II manual. So please be sure you have read up to page 2/6 of the manual before you report a problem to your Tandy Store.

CASSETTE RECORDERS:

We have had many queries from customers regarding the use of dummy plugs in CTR-41's and CTR-80's. The solution CTR-41's use the dummy plug for recording, it must be plastic **NOT** metal, and on CTR-80's do not use **any** dummy plug supplied is used for erasing tapes only, in fact the best solution is to throw it away!

BUGS AND HINTS:

ADDENDUM — LEVEL 11 — PAGE 6/6

Line 40040 reads:

40040 C(I,J)=C(I,J)+A(I,K)*B(K,I)

Should read:

40040 C(I,J)=C(I,J)+A(I,J)*B(K,J)

The manual states that to perform a line feed on the line printer you should use either:

LPRINT CHR\$(10)

or

LPRINT CHR\$(13)

As you have no doubt found, this will not work. Use instead —

LPRINT CHR\$(138)

or

LPRINT STRING\$(10,138) To space lines.