# NJERO 

THEE 6502 JOURNAL


## QUICK CHANGE ARTISTRY



ENGINEERED SPECIFICALLY FOR
THE KIM-1 MICRO COMPUTER

- Protection of Chips and Other Components
- Viewing Angle of Readout Enhanced
- Improved Keyboard Position for Easier Operation
EASILY ASSEMBLED
- Absolutely No Alteration of KIM-1 Required
- All Fasteners Provided
- Goes Together in Minutes with a Small Screwdriver

ATTRACTIVE FUNCTIONAL PACKAGE

- Professional Appearance
- Four Color Combinations
- Improves Man/Machine Interface

MADE OF HIGH IMPACT STRENGTH
THERMOFORMED PLASTIC
-Kydex 100 *

- Durable
- Molded-In Color
- Non-Conductive

AVAILABLE FROM STOCK

- Allow Two to Three Weeks for Processing and Delivery
- No COD's Please
- Dealer Inquiries Invited

TO ORDER: 1. Fill in this Coupon (Print or Type Please)
2. Attach Check or Money Order and Mail to:

NAME $\qquad$
STREET $\qquad$
CITY $\qquad$
STATE $\qquad$ ZIP $\qquad$ SKE 1-1(s)
Please Ship Prepaid $\qquad$
Making Music with the KIM-1 3
by Armand L. Camus - How to write music for a DAC, with the complete score for "Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly"

Writing for MICRO - A Brief Note 7
Mixing Apples and Oranges - An Editorial 8
Meet the PET 9
by Charles Floto - An owner's view of the PET 2001
Digital-Analog and Analog-Digital Conversion Using the KIM-1 11
by Marvin L. DeJong - Experiments with a KIM-1 controlled DAC/ADC
MICRO Reviews: The First Book of KIM 14
The PET Vs. the TRS-80 17
by Bob Wallace - A feature-by-feature comparison
Ludwig von Apple II
by Marc Schwartz - How to write music for the APPLE II
MICROBES - Tiny Bugs in Previous MICRO 22
The Challenge of the OSI Challenger 23 by Joel Henkel - An owner's impressions of the OSI Challenger
Improving Keyboard Reliability ..... 25 by MOS Technology - A hardware modification for your KIM-1

Important Addresses of KIM-1 and Monitor 27 by William Dial - A Programmer's Reference Card for the KIM-1

## Advertisers Index

| CGRS Microtech | 8 | F\&D Associates | 22 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| The COMPUTERIST | 2 | JADE CO | 20,21 |
| Computer Playground | 16 | MICRO Subscription Form | 25 |
| Computer Shop | 26 | Pyramid Data Systems | 8 |
| the enclosures group | IFC | Riverside Electronics | 22 |
| Subscription Rate: | $\$ 6.00$ per year (six issues) in U.S.A. |  |  |
| MICRO is published bimonthly by The COMPUTERIST, 8 Fourth Lane |  |  |  |
| So. Chelmsford, MA 01824. Robert M. Tripp, Editor/Publisher. |  |  |  |
| Controlled circulation postage paid at Chelmsford, Massachusetts. |  |  |  |
| Copyright 1977 by The COMPUTERIST. All Rights Reserved. |  |  |  |
| Deadline for February/March 1978 issue: January 15, 1978. |  |  |  |



Armand L. Camus
P.O. Box 294

Westford, MA 01886

What kind of music can you make with the help of a microcomputer, namely the KIM-1 with its 1.1 K bytes of memory? Well, it certainly will not sound like the Boston Symphony Orchestra, live or on records, but with the right type of music it will give an acceptable rendition of a chosen piece of music. Many elements of good music will be missing, especially the timbre of the different instruments of the orchestra, but on the positive side the notes will be on tune, you will be able to compose in four-part harmony, the tempo will be adjustable, and the whole process will permit some of the artistic creativity which may hide in each of us to emerge to the surface. Last, but not least, it will be a lot of fun.

This elementary article explains the "HOW-TO" rather than the "WHY" in making music with a microcomputer. Many of the hobbyists who may find it too simple may refer to the excellent article by Hal Chamberlin which dwells in detail on the subject.

An easy way for the beginner to start his musical career is to acquire a minimum of equipment besides the KIM-1 and cassette recorder it is assumed are already in his possession.

The DAC unit is a printed circuit board containing a complete audio output system for the KIM-1. This board also comes with a cassette tape, an instruction sheet listing the songs which can be loaded in the KIM, and a reprint of the reference article including the interconnections to be made between the two connectors.

Now that we have described the hardware we will concentrate on what to do in order to get some music out of the system. The simplest way at this time is to load File 1 and File 2 of the tape and to see if the Star Spangled Banner comes out clear and patriotic. The procedure is simple:


J1, J2 connectors: Vector R644, Winchester HKD2250, or equivalent. J2 will be too long, but will work just the same.

Speaker, $2^{1 / 2 "}$, 8 ohm, 0.3 W , from Radio Shack, or equivalent.

DAC Digital-to-analog converter from THE COMPUTERIST, P.O. Box 3 , S. Chelmsford, MA 01824 or MTU, P.O. Box 4596, Manchester, NH 03103.

Start the KIM-1 and press the appropriate keys to get:

| AD | 00 F 1 | DA | 00 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| AD | 17 F 9 | DA | 01 |
| AD | 1873 | Press | GO |

Start the cassette until you get 0000 in the address display, which indicates that the loading was done properly. After stopping the cassette, press the keys to get:

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
\text { AD } & 17 \mathrm{F9} & \text { DA } & 02 \\
\text { AD } & 1873 & \text { Press } & \text { GO }
\end{array}
$$

Start the cassette again until you get 0000 . Stop the cassette. Now you are ready. Press AD 0100 , press GO and the song will be played. As it stops, the program resets the address AD to 0100 , so by pressing GO again, the song will repeat itself.

In the same manner you could load Files 3 and 4 to get a rendition of Exodus. The sound quality may be changed by loading File 5 or File 6. Personally, I prefer File 6 which has a much more mellow timbre.

## Transcribing A Song

Now that we have gone through the above steps, we will learn to code a song. For our purpose, a particular note of music will have two characteristic elements:
its pitch, represented by its position on the staff
its duration, relative to other notes.
What we mean is that a half note lasts twice as long as a quarter note, a quarter note lasts twice as long as an eighth note, etc. . . We are not talking about tempo yet, this will come later.

1. Duration Code:

We will assign a two-digit code to the duration of a note:

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
0=F F & d=80 & d=60 & d=40 \\
d=30 & d^{\prime}=20 & d=10
\end{array}
$$

## 2. Pitch Code:



With the help of this lookup table we can find quickly the code for any note within the limits of C6 and C2, the high and low C's. However, the very low notes may not be reproduced too well with a small speaker and it may not be advisable to go below C3 (Code 1A).

## 3. Coding A Song:

The program given at the end of this article is a coding of the well-known carol "Deck The Halls", which we thought would be appropriate for this issue. [Editor's Note: It inspired this issue's cover!] If you look at this coding, you will observe that it is done line by line. Each line is composed of six elements. For example, the first line is:

0200604 A 443224

- the 0200 is the memory address of the element 60 . The next element, 4 A , would then have an address 0201, and so on.
- the 60 is the duration of the group of four notes which follow. A 60 means a dotted quarter note.
- the 4 A is the note C , for the first voice.
- the 44 is the note A, for the second voice.
- the 32 is the note C , for the third voice.
- the 24 is the note F, for the fourth voice.

This is an F major chord which could be represented as in (1), and it corresponds to the word "DECK" of the song.

Now we will code the first bar of the song. Remember that each line will have the same format:
address ( 4 digits), duration ( 2 digits), 1st voice ( 2 digits), 2 nd voice ( 2 digits), 3rd voice ( 2 digits), and 4th voice ( 2 digits) for a total of fourteen (14) digits. If a voice is quiet, use 00 at the appropriate location.

The first vertical group of notes ( $\mathrm{C}, \mathrm{A}, \mathrm{C}, \mathrm{F}$ ) corresponding to the word "DECK" has already been explained above.

The second vertical group of notes corresponding to the word "THE" is made of B flat, G, C, and E. Looking up the pitch code table, we find the following codes:
$\mathrm{Bb}=46, \mathrm{G}=40, \mathrm{C}=32$, and $\mathrm{E}=22$. Each note is an eighth note so the duration code is 20. The address of the duration code is 0205 so our second line will be:

$$
\begin{array}{lllll}
0205 & 20 & 46 & 40 & 32 \\
22
\end{array}
$$

In the same fashion the two other vertical groups are made of quarter notes (code 40) and we get for the first bar:

| 0200 | 60 | 4 A | 44 | 32 | 24 | (DECK) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0205 | 20 | 46 | 40 | 32 | 22 | (THE) |
| 020 A | 40 | 44 | 3 C | 32 | 24 | (HALLS) |
| 020 F | 40 | 40 | 3 A | 2 E | 1 A (WITH) |  |



Remember that there is a Key Signature in this carol and that all the B's, wherever located on the staff, are flat, unless otherwise indicated, which explains the 46 of the second line and the 2 E of the fourth line.

Another part of that song is shown in the example (3). The first voice plays two notes (A and $B$ natural), while the other voices play only one. We solve this problem by writing two
lines, one for the A and one for the B natural, repeating the other notes to extend their duration to a quarter note. We get:

```
02D2 20 44 3C 32 24
02D7 20 48 3C 32 24
```

Both A note (code 44) and B natural note (code 48) have only the duration of one eighth note each (code 20), and we have to write two
separate lines for them, but the three other notes will be repeated so that their total duration is a quarter note. Fortunately, the lower notes, even when repeated, will blend together and sound more like a quarter note than two consecutive eighth notes.

Now we should be able to code a song, but as a preliminary exercise, you may want to load "Deck the Halls" and see how it works out. Here is the procedure:

Load Files 01 and 02 of the DAC tape, as explained at the beginning of this article. You may also want to load File 06 to give a more mellow timbre. Then go to address 0200 and start inputting the data. The addresses in the left side give you a check on your progress and catch possible omissions of data. What we are doing here is using the main program and writing over the song already in memory. At any time it is possible to go back to AD 0100, push GO and listen to what is already in memory. Somewhere at about $2 / 3$ of the song, we run out of memory ( 0200 to 02F9), but we have enough left to tell our microcomputer that it is the end of that particular segment (02FA 01), and that we wish to continue at address 0083 ( 02 FB and 02 FC ). At the very end, check address 00DD 00. The data 00 indicates the end of the piece and this will reset the KIM-1 to address 0100 , ready to "GO", so to speak.

After you have loaded the code and pushed the GO key, the carol should start, sounding good if no mistake was made, but perhaps a little bit on the slow side. To change the tempo, either way, go to address 001D and the data will probably show 60 . Change the data to 40 , go back to address 0100 , push GO and the tempo will be much faster. Experiment with the data at AD 001 D and find the tempo you prefer.

I have found out that while I am coding I like to listen to what is already in memory, because a simple mistake at the beginning, especially forgetting one voice or the duration code, will
throw the rest out of whack. Starting the song at the beginning, when it is already correct is a waste of time, but it is possible to start the song at some other point. However, it must always be at one of the duration addresses shown at the end of this article. If not, the KIM-1 would interpret the duration code as a musical note and vice-versa! The starting address is contained in locations 0017 and 0018. To start, for example, at address 0237, go to address 0017 read 00,0018 read 02 . This means that the song normally starts at 0200 . All we have to do is change the data to read:

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
\text { AD } & 0017 & \text { DA } & 37 \\
\text { AD } & 0018 & \text { DA } & 02
\end{array}
$$

Then setting address 0100 and pushing GO will cause the song to start at location 0237 everytime.

## Available Memory

The memory available to the user is divided in two groups, each group not necessarily in consecutive order. First group is associated with the music program, frequency table or the notes, KIM, etc. . . Second group is associated with the song. The actual layout of the memory is as follows:

| 0000 to 001 E | Program variables |
| :--- | :--- |
| 001 F to 0082 | Note frequency table |
| 0083 to 00 EE | Song, second part |
| 00 EF to 00 FF | KIM variables |
| 0100 to 01 AA | Music program |
| 01 AB to $01 \mathrm{F3}$ | Song, third part |
| 01 F 4 to 01 FF | 6502 Stack |
| 0200 to 02 FF | Song, first part |
| 0300 to 03FF | Waveform (voice) table |
| 1780 to 17 E 4 | Song, fourth part |

If your music score extends beyond the first part locations, you have to provide room for continuation. Assuming a score uses all of the available memory space for coding a song, the following locations are important:

| Use of Location | Part 1 | Part 2 | Part 3 | Part 4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Beginning of Part (Song) | 0200 | 0083 | 01 AB | 1780 |
| Beginning of Last Line | $02 \mathrm{F5}$ | 00 E 7 | 01 EC | 17DF |
| Last note of Last Line | $02 \mathrm{F9}$ | 00 EB | 01 F 0 | 17E3 |
| End of Sequence (Song) | 02FA (01) | 00EC (01) | 01F1 (01) | 17E4 (00) |
| Low Address Next Segment | 02FB (83) | 00ED (AB) | 01F2 (80) |  |
| High Address Next Segment | 02FC (00) | 00EE (01) | 01F3 (17) |  |

Reference: Chamberlin, Hal, "A Sampling of Techniques for Computer Performance of Music", BYTE Magazine, Sept. 1977, pp. 62-83.

## Score for "Deck the Halls"

| 0200: |  |  | $4 d$ | 3A | 32 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0205: | 20 | 406 | 40 | 3x | 22 |
| 020A: | 40 | 44 | 3 C | 32 | 24 |
| 020F: | 40 | 40 | 3 A | 2 E | 1 A |
| 0214: | 40 | 3C | 32 | 2 C | 1 E |
| 0219: | 40 | 40 | 3 A | 32 | 1 A |
| 021E: | 40 | 44 | 3C | 32 | 24 |
| 0223: | 40 | 3 C | 32 | 2 C | 24 |
| 0228: | 20 | 40 | 3 A | 32 | 1 A |
| 022D: | 20 | 44 | 3 C | 32 | 1 A |
| 0232: | 20 | 46 | 40 | 32 | 1 A |
| 0237: | 20 | 40 | 3 A | 32 | 1 A |
| 023C: | 60 | 44 | 3 C | 32 | 24 |
| 0241: | 20 | 40 | 36 | 2 E | 16 |
| 0246: | 40 | 3C | 32 | 2 C | 1 A |
| 024B: | 40 | 3A | 32 | 28 | 1 A |
| 0250: | 80 | 3C | 32 | 2 C | 24 |
| 0255: | 60 | 62 | 5 C | 32 | 24 |
| 025A: | 20 | 5 E | 58 | 32 | 22 |
| 025F: | 40 | 5 C | 54 | 32 | 24 |
| 0264: | 40 | 58 | 52 | 2 E | 1 A |
| 0269: | 40 | 54 | 4 E | 2 C | 1 E |
| 026E: | 40 | 58 | 52 | 32 | 1 A |
| 0273: | 40 | 5 C | 54 | 32 | 24 |
| 0278: | 40 | 54 | 4 A | 2 C | 24 |
| 027D: | 20 | 58 | 52 | 32 | 1 A |
| 0282: | 20 | 5 C | 54 | 32 | 1 A |
| 0287: | 20 | 5E | 58 | 32 | 1 A |
| 028C: | 20 | 58 | 52 | 32 | 1 A |
| 0291: | 60 | 5 C | 54 | 32 | 24 |
| 0296: | 20 | 58 | 4 E | 2 E | 16 |
| 029B: | 40 | 54 | 4 A | 20 | 1 A |
| 02A0: | 40 | 52 | 4 A | 28 | 1 A |
| 02A5: | 80 | 54 | 4 A | 20 | 24 |
| 02AA: | 60 | 40 | 3 A | 32 | 1 A |
| 02AF: | 20 | 44 | 3C | 32 | 1 A |
| 02B4: | 40 | 46 | 40 | 32 | 1 A |


| 02B9: | 40 | 40 | $3 A$ | 32 | 1 A |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 02BE: | 60 | 44 | 3 C | 32 | 24 |
| 02C3: | 20 | 46 | 3 C | 28 | 24 |
| 02C8: | 40 | 4 A | 3 C | 2 C | 24 |
| 02CD: | 40 | 40 | 40 | 32 | 22 |
| 02D2: | 20 | 44 | 3 C | 32 | 24 |
| 02D7: | 20 | 48 | 3 C | 32 | 24 |
| 02DC: | 40 | 4 A | 40 | 32 | 22 |
| 02E1: | 20 | 4 E | 44 | 32 | 24 |
| 02E6: | 20 | 52 | 44 | 32 | 24 |
| 02EB: | 40 | 54 | 44 | 32 | 1 E |
| 02F0: | 40 | 52 | 40 | 32 | 28 |
| 02F5: | 40 | $4 E$ | $3 C$ | 30 | 28 |
| 02FA: | 01 |  |  |  |  |
| 02FB: | 83 |  |  |  |  |
| 02FC: | 00 |  |  |  |  |


| 0083: | 80 | 4 A | 3 A | 28 | 1 A |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 0088: | 60 | 4 A | 44 | 32 | 24 |
| 008D: | 20 | 46 | 40 | 32 | 24 |
| 0092: | 40 | 44 | 3 C | 32 | 24 |
| 0097: | 40 | 40 | 3 A | 2 E | 1 A |
| 009C: | 40 | 3 C | 32 | 2 C | 1 E |
| 00A1: | 40 | 40 | 3 A | 2 E | 1 A |
| 00A6: | 40 | 44 | 3 C | 32 | 24 |
| 00AB: | 40 | 3 C | 32 | 2 C | 24 |
| 00B0: | 20 | 4 E | 3 C | 2 E | 16 |
| 00B5: | 20 | 4 E | 3 C | 2 E | 16 |
| 00BA: | 20 | 4 E | 3 C | 2 E | 16 |
| 00BF: | 20 | 4 E | 3 C | 2 E | 16 |
| 00C4: | 60 | 4 A | 3 C | 2 C | 24 |
| 00C $:$ | 25 | 46 | 3 C | 36 | 28 |
| 00CE: | 50 | 44 | 3 C | 32 | 1 A |
| 00D $:$ | 60 | 40 | 3 A | 2 E | 1 A |
| 00D8: | 95 | 3 C | 32 | 2 C | 24 |
| OODD: | 00 |  |  |  |  |

## Writing for MICRO

MICRO is interested in all aspects of microcomputers based on the 6502 microprocessor family. Our primary coverage is aimed at factual, useful information. This may be "How To" articles, useful programs and subroutines, descriptions of working applications, special interest groups such as Hams, reviews of products and literature, technical tutorials, and so forth. Authors will receive a small honorium plus reprints of their article. Help spread the 6502 word.

## An Editorial

Often you have heard the injunction against mixing apples and oranges. MICRO proposes that we ignore the warning and mix APPLEs (I and II) with PETs, KIMs, Challengers, CGRS Microtechs, JOLTs, homebrews, and any other 6502 family based microcomputers. The hope is that mixing these devices together will help to show the similarities between them that are inherent by reason of their common microprocessor. This is the passive role of MICRO. The active role of MICRO is to promote commonality among these microcomputers. How about establishing a standard assembler syntax (since the MOS Technology syntax is so horrible)? How about defining some standard subroutines and subroutine calling sequences so that it will be easier to adapt programs from one machine to run on another? Would it be possible to develop some standard cassette tape format which would permit tapes generated by one microcomputer to be read into another? Wouldn't it be nice if the 6502 based BASICs, Disk Operating Systems, and other high level software was compatible across machines? Maybe it is only a dream, but maybe it isn't too late to seriously attempt to maximize the impact of the 6502 based systems by setting some standards so that the various 6502 systems can combine to strengthen our position in the micro world rather than weaken it by producing incompatible hardware and software. 6502 interests of the world unite! You have nothing to lose.

## 2:8 <br> MJGRO

FINALLY:
6502 оптне S 100


CGRS MICROTECH introduce:A GSDE COMPUTER SYSTEM

```
S EIOO ETANOARO BLE COMPATIDLE
- MPU CARD WITH RKRAM-4KROM ONEOARO
T.I.M. (BEBO)EYGTEM I/O CARO
D O.M.A. FAONT CONTROL PANEL
* INTROQUCTORY EYETEM
    MPU CARE: MKRAM
    FRONT PANEL:HEX DIGPLAY $249.95 $299.95
* ETANDARD SYETEM
    MPUCARO: K RAM
    T.I.M. 1/D CARO
    310D MOTHEREOARO:7 &LOT $349.9इ $449.95
    PONER BUPPLY BV:IOA
                                    z1Ev:1A
GENO CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
    CGRS MICROTECH
    p.O. mox 3as
    BOUTMA 3BS
```



## Meet the PET

Charles Floto 267 Willow Street<br>New Haven, CT 06511<br>Copyright 1977 by Charles Floto

This article is based on about a month's experience with PET model 2001-8 serial \#0010081. Commodore indicates the only thing experimental about it is the color of the case, which is metal painted white.

In June I sent Commodore $\$ 595$ for a PET with 4 K of RAM to be delivered in late September. Toward the end of the latter month I was informed that initial production would be limited to the 8 K version and that I could either send an additional $\$ 200$ or get my money back. I sent the $\$ 200$ and my PET was delivered October 25.

It made the trip from Palo Alto to New Haven well cushioned in a carton 21 " x 23 " x 19 " high. Since being unpacked my PET's survived riding on a bus seat to Washington, D.C. and returning by car.

While the case has a maximum width of $171 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ and a maximum depth of $19^{\prime \prime}$ the placement of the feet allows it to stand on anything at least a foot square. Maximum height is $151 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ and the PET weighs about 37 pounds.

A glance at the PET reveals its distinguishing characteristic: everything's in one package -including video display, keyboard, and tape drive. A standard 9 " diagonal black and white TV tube is used. The display field measures about $43 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ high by 6 " wide. This is divided into 25 lines of 40 columns. Each of these 1000 positions can be filled with one of about 300
different characters formed with an 8 x 8 matrix. Character width is about $3 / 4$ of character height. Characters available include those shown on the drawing of the keyboard. Any of these may also be displayed with black and white reversed on an individual basis. Furthermore, by changing the contents of memory location 59468 you can substitute lower case letters and four additional graphics for 30 of the graphics characters. Taking video inversion into account, this gives a total of 316 available characters.

The graphics characters have been chosen to be useful picture elements which give higher effective resolution than the $25 \times 40$ field would suggest. For example, a horizontal bar graph can be displayed with resolution better than $1 / 3$ per cent of full scale.

Characters may be placed on the screen directly from the keyboard, by use of the PRINT command, or by a POKE into the screen memory. This extends from decimal address 32768 to 33767 (i.e., 32 K to $32 \mathrm{~K}+999$ ). If A is a number in this range and C is between 0 and 255 then POKE A, C will place a character on the screen.

The keyboard is the PET's most controversial feature. It takes up an area 9 " by $2^{33 / 4}$ ". Since I'm used to typing with only two fingers and a thumb the small size and rectangular layout don't bother me. Each keytop is about 3/8" square and can be depressed about $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}$. The feel is similar to a standard spring-loaded switch-

closure keyboard. The only trouble I've had with it is that occasionally one of the cursor control keys will insert a character rather than move the cursor. I've been able to rectify this by getting off the line and then coming back to it. Preliminary investigation suggests it should be quite easy to attach a standard keyboard to the PET.

The other prominent external feature of the PET is the tape drive which takes up an area just over 5" square. It has the useful function controls, but the motor is turned on and off under software control in the play and record modes. Prompts for operation of the controls are displayed on the screen as appropriate. The screen also displays status of the tape operation in progress. When attempting to load or verify a file with a specified name it displays the names of other files found. File names may have a maximum of 79 characters.

Short BASIC programs can be loaded from tape at an effective speed of $250-400$ baud, with longer programs having a higher net rate. It should be possible to fill the entire 8 K of RAM in under $2^{1 / 2}$ minutes -- once the proper program has been found.

Sticking out of the lower right side of the PET cabinet is a 40 line (plus 40 ground) printed circuit connection to the internal bus. As it does stick out about $1 / 8^{\prime \prime}$ metallic objects should be kept away from this area. The three groups of PC connectors in the rear present a lesser hazard as they're flush with the cabinet. These are: 1. A connector for the IEEE-488 bus (see MICRO No. One, page 11 for my discussion of this); 2. A parallel port with handshaking; 3. The interface for tape drive \#2. I was able to verify this one by removing drive \#1 from the cabinet and plugging it into the rear as \#2. Commodore has exhibited the PET with a second drive connected, but hasn't offered to sell any yet.

So much for physical externals. How good is the firmware stored in that 14 K of ROM? Since my instruction book hasn't arrived yet I'll limit my comments to the 8 K BASIC interpreter described in the nine-page "temporary version" of the documentation.

My favorite feature of PET BASIC is the ease of editing a line within a program. Just move the cursor to the appropriate spot, make the change, and hit RETURN -- no need to retype the line. It's also handy to be able to turn on the machine, load a partially-written program from tape, work on it for a while, then save the new version on cassette, I'm glad I got the version with 8 K of RAM as I've already written a program that leaves fewer than 5 K bytes free. (The 4 K model is said to use a different circuit card, but since there aren't any yet. . . )

I also appreciate the special variables TI and TI\$. TI is incremented 60 times a second; it makes delays and timing applications easy. TI\$ is a 24 -hour clock whose 6 digits indicate hours, minutes, and seconds. As these suggest, variable names may be two letters -- as long as they're not reserved words such as OR, IF and ON. Variables may be integers, strings, real, or multi-dimensioned arrays of any one of these. Integers are limited to the range $\pm 32767$. Real variables are calculated with 10 -digit precision, although only 9 digits are printed. For example, $\mathrm{p} \mathrm{i}=3.14159265$; twice $\mathrm{pi}=6.28318531$.

Another distinctive feature is the GET statement which reads the keyboard without RETURN having been pressed. Unfortunately the random number function only works with positive arguments. $\mathrm{RND}(0)=.564705882$ always, while $\operatorname{RND}(-1)=2.99196472 \mathrm{E}-08$. The latter is typical of the values returned with negative integer arguments. This is the only bug I've discovered in PET BASIC.

Editor's Notes: In MICRO \#1, Charles Floto discussed the PET's IEEE-488 Bus. Since then Motorola and Intel have both announced new ICs that will make it easy to interface to this otherwise formidable bus structure. For more information on the PET and a comparison with the Radio Shack TRS-80, see "The PET Vs. the TRS-80" by Bob Wallace, MICRO \#2, page 17.

# Digital-Analog and Analog-Digital Conversion <br> Using the KIM-1 

Marvin L. De Jong
Department of Math-Physics
The School of the Ozarks
Point Lookout, MO 65726

A Motorola 14088 -bit digital to analog converter is connected as shown in the circuit diagram. (The 1408 is available from James Electronics, 1021 Howard Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070, as are the op amps used in these experiments.) The PAD port of the KIM is used to provide the digital input to the 1408. The analog output of
the 1408 is a current sink at pin 4 , which we converted to a voltage by means of the RCA CA3140 operational amplifier. The feedback resistor $R$ is adjusted to give the desired voltage output. For example, an $R$ of about 500 ohms gives a voltage range from 0 volts when PAD is 00000000 to 1 volt when PAD is 11111111.

Circuit Diagram for
Digital to Analog Converter


## 1. Generation of a Ramp Voltage Waveform

For the first experiment do not connect the second op amp, simply connect the output of
the first op amp to an oscilloscope as shown. Load the following program.

Program to Generate a Ramp Voltage Waveform

| ADDRESS | OPCODE | LABEL | INSTRUCTION | COMMENTS |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0300 | A9 FF | START | LDAIM FF | 255 in Accumulator |  |
| 0302 | 8D 01 17 |  | STA | PADD | Port A is Output Port |
| 0305 | EE 00 17 | BACK | INC | PAD | Increment number in PAD |
| 0308 | 4C 04 03 |  | JMP | BACK | Increment in a Loop |

Running this program should cause a ramp waveform to be observed on the oscilloscope screen. A close examination of the ramp will show that
it consists of $2^{8}=256$ steps rather than a straight line.

## 2. A DAC as an Analog to Digital Converter

The second op amp acts as a comparator. It compares the voltage from the output of the first op amp (which we shall call the digital signal) with a voltage from some source to be applied to pin 3 (which we shall call the analog signal). The output is connected to PB7 on the KIM. If PB7 $=1$, the analog signal is greater than the digital signal. If $\mathrm{PB} 7=0$, the analog signal is less than the digital signal. The digital signal is, of course, produced by the contents of PAD.

A flow chart showing what we intend to do is shown below. Output port PAD is set to zero. If the analog signal is positive the PB7 =1. PAD is now incremented until the comparator indicates that the analog signal is less than the digital signal, i.e. PB7 $=0$. At that instant the digital and analog signals are the same to within one bit, the least significant bit, on PAD. The digital value of PAD is then displayed and the cycle continues.

If the feedback resistor is adjusted so that a value of $\mathrm{PAD}=25510=\mathrm{FF}_{16}$ produces a voltage of 2.55 volts, then we have constructed a simple digital voltmeter with a full scale reading (in hex) of 2.55 volts. The extremely high impedance of the 3140 op amp makes this a rather
good voltmeter. A simple program to convert from hex to base ten would make the meter easier to read.

Analog to Digital Converter


## Program for Analog to Digital Converter (Ramp Approximation)

| ADDRESS | OPCODE | LABEL | INSTRUCTION |  | COMMENTS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0300 | A9 FF | START | LDAIM | FF | 255 in Accumulator |
| 0302 | 8D 0117 |  | STA | PADD | Make Port A Output Port |
| 0305 | A2 00 | AGN | LDXIM | 00 | Start PAD at zero |
| 0307 | 8 E 0017 | RAMP | STX | PAD | Output Value of X register |
| 030A | AD 0217 |  | LDA | PBD | Read Port B |
| 030D | 1004 |  | BPL | DISP | Branch if bit $7=0$ |
| 030F | E8 |  | INX |  | Increment $X$ register |
| 0310 | 4 C 0703 |  | JMP | RAMP | Continue loop |
| 0313 | 86 Fg | DISP | STX | INH | Put X into Display register |
| 0315 | 20 1F 1F |  | JSR | SCANDS | Use KIM Display Subroutine |
| 0318 | 4 C 0503 |  | JMP | AGN | and start again at zero |

## 3. Successive Approximation Analog to Digital Used as a Storage Scope.

The ramp approximation is quite slow and there is a faster technique known as "successive approximation." It works as follows: the most significant bit to the DAC is set to one and all the others are set to zero. If the comparator indicates that the analog signal is greater than the digital signal, the next lower bit is set to 1 and the test is repeated. If the comparator indicates that the analog signal is less than the digital signal, the highest bit is made zero, and the next lower bit is set to 1 and the test is repeated. This iterative process is repeated until all eight bits have been tested, starting with the MSB and ending with the LSB. The flow chart indicates how this will be accomplished.

Flow Chart for Successive Approximation Analog to Digital Conversion


A short description of the behavior of the circuit and program follows. The experimenter chooses the desired trigger level and loads this into location 0306. When the analog signal is greater than this, the comparator makes PB7 go high and the scan begins. The sampling rate and the scan time is determined by the number loaded into the timer and the timer used; locations 0314 and 0316, respectively. It takes at least 200 microseconds to digitize so there is no point in choosing time intervals smaller than this. X is used as an index to identify each of the 256 points on the scan. After the timer is started the analog signal is digitized and the timer is watched until it is finished. X is then incremented and a new point is digitized until all 256 points are finished and stored in TABLE,X.

X is then zero again. This entire process will repeat unless the 1 key is depressed, in which case the program displays the data on the oscilloscope, connected as before to the output of the first op amp. The display will repeat, complete with SYNC signal output from PBO, until the program is halted. In our case we loaded the vector 17 FA and 17 FB with the starting address of the program (0300) so a depression of the ST key caused the entire program to start over.

A listing of the program is shown on the following page. Notice that the data is stored in TABLE, X located in page 2 of memory, PGZZ is at location 0000, the trigger level is in 0306 and the scan time variable is in 0314 and 0316. The scan time should not be shorter than 200 microseconds. As far as display is concerned, we found that a sweep rate of 200 to 500 microseconds per cm gave good results.

Flow Chart for Display


A few other comments may be in order. First, most of the ideas for this project were obtained in a KIM workshop offered by Dr. Robert Tinker. The software implementation is the author's work. There are some obvious improvements, such as a sample and hold device between the analog source and the comparator or a faster approximation routine. These improvements are left for the reader to implement. The author would be glad to be informed if such improvements are made.

## MICRO Reviews: The First Book of KIM

This is one terrific book for anyone who has a KIM-1. It was assembled by Eric Rehnke (Publisher of "KIM-1/6502 User Notes"), Jim Butterfield ("Hypertape" and many other good utilities), and Stan Ockers (a regular "User Notes" contributor). Over half of the book is devoted to "Recreational Programs", games you can play on your basic KIM-1. The section on "Diagnostic \& Utility Programs" is worth the price of the book by itself. The remainder of the book contains tutorial information on getting started with your KIM-1, expanding your system, and interfacing to the outside world. This well produced, 176 page resource is available for $\$ 9.50$ (including postage in USA) from:

ORB
P.O. Box 311

Argonne, IL 60439

| ADDRESS | OPCODE | LABEL | INSTRU | CTION | COMMENTS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0300 | A9 FF | BEGIN | LDAIM | FF | Initialize Port A to Output |
| 0302 | 8D 0117 |  | STA | PADD |  |
| 0305 | A9 10 | START | LDAIM | TSET | Trigger Voltage Set |
| 0307 | 8D 0017 |  | STA | PAD |  |
| 030A | A2 00 |  | LDXIM | 00 | Initialize X register |
| 030C | EA |  | NOP |  |  |
| 030D | EA |  | NOP |  |  |
| 030E | AD 0217 | TRIG | LDA | PBD | Tinput and test PB7 |
| 0311 | 10 FB |  | BPL | TRIG | Wait if PB7 $=0$ |
| 0313 | A9 C0 | STIME | LDAIM | CO | Set Scan Time here |
| 0315 | 8D 0517 |  | STA | TIMER | Select Interval Timer |
| 0318 | A9 80 |  | LDAIM | 80 | Start Digitize Sequence |
| 031A | 8500 |  | STAZ | PGZZ | Store Initial Value |
| 031C | 8D 0017 | TEST | STA | PAD | Output Value |
| 031F | AC 0217 |  | LDY | PBD | Test PB7 |
| 0322 | 3003 |  | BMI | FWRD | Branch if PB7 = 1 |
| 0324 | 38 |  | SEC |  | Clear Borrow Flag |
| 0325 | E5 00 |  | SBCZ | PGZZ | Subtract bit 7 |
| 0327 | 4600 | FWRD | LSRZ | PGZZ | Set PGZZ for Next Lower Bit |
| 0329 | B0 08 |  | BCS | OUT | Out of Digitize Loop if Finished |
| 032B | 6500 |  | ADC | PGZZ | Set Next Lower Bit $=1$ |
| 032D | 4C 1C 03 |  | JMP | TEST | Return to Test all Lower Bits |
| 0330 | 8D 0017 | OUT | STA | PAD | Final Approximation in PAD |
| 0333 | 9D 0002 |  | STAX | TABLE | and in TABLE ( X ) in Page 2 |
| 0336 | E8 |  | INX |  | Bump Table Index |
| 0337 | F0 08 |  | BEQ | DISPLY | Go to Display if Table Complete |
| 0339 | $\begin{array}{llll}\text { AD } & 07 & 17\end{array}$ | CHEK | LDA | TCHEK | Test if Timer is Finished |
| 033C | 10 FB |  | BPL | CHEK | If not, Wait in Loop |
| 033E | 4C 1303 |  | JMP | STIME | Digitize another Point |
| 0341 | 20 6A 1F | DISPLY | JSR | GETKEY | Is Key 1 Depressed? |
| 0344 | C9 01 |  | CMPIM | 01 |  |
| 0346 | F0 03 |  | BEQ | SYNC | Yes. Display the Data |
| 0348 | 4C 0503 |  | JMP | START | No. Return to Start |
| 034B | A9 01 | SYNC | LDAIM | 01 | Set up PBO as Sync |
| 034D | 8D 0317 |  | STA | PBDD | Output Pin |
| 0350 | A2 00 |  | LDXIM | 00 | Init X to Display Table |
| 0352 | AD 0217 | RPT | LDA | PBD | Toggle PBO for Sync |
| 0355 | 4901 |  | EORIM | 01 | Signal to Scope |
| 0357 | 8D 0217 |  | STA | PBD |  |
| 035A | BD 0002 | SCAN | LDAX | TABLE | Output Table(X) for |
| 035D | 8D 0017 |  | STA | PAD | Display on Scope |
| 0360 | E8 |  | INX |  | Increment X register |
| 0361 | D0 F7 |  | BNE | SCAN | Continue until all Points Done |
| 0363 | 4C 5203 |  | JMP | RPT | Then Repeat |

NOTE: This material was submitted by the author to the KIM-1 User Notes and has also been distributed by MOS Technology as "KIM

Application Note \#11701." It is printed here with the permission of the KIM-1 User Notes and MOS Technology.

COMPLETE, READY TO USE, APPLE II MICROCOMPUTER WITH BASIC AND SYSTEM MONITOR IN ROM AND 16K BYTES OF RAM.

Apple II with 8 K of RAM $\$ 1391.75$
Additional 8K Memory Expansion When Purchased With System $\$ 106.25$ TOTAL 16K SYSTEM ONLY \$1498.00 - SAVE \$200

## APPLE II PERIPHERAL INTERFACE CARDS:

- S-100 BUS INTERFACE (\$160) ${ }^{\dagger}$
- Connect the Apple II to an S-100 Bus Motherboard
- Will Run Almost All Memory, I/O, and Special Purpose S-100 Boards
- All Interconnecting Cables and Plugs Supplied (S-100 Motherboard and Power Supply Not Included)
- PROGRAMMABLE PRINTER INTERFACE (\$80)
- Onboard EPROM Printer Driver
- Full Handshake Logic
- High Speed Parallel Output Port Capability
- Provision for 256 Byte I/0 Drive in EPROM
- Printer, Driver Programs Available for Centronic, SWTPC-40, and Other Printers
${ }^{\dagger}$ Delivery January, 1978.
- FLOPPY DISC INTERFACE TO PERSCI (\$80)
- Programs Saved and Loaded by Name
- Powerful Firmware DOS File Handling Capability
- Storage Capacity of 252 K Bytes per Disc
- Up to 4 Drives (One Million Bytes)
- File Handling as Easy as Inputing or Printing
- Access Methods: Stream, Punctuated, Relative, Direct
- APPLY POWER CONTROL INTERFACE ${ }^{\dagger}$
- Up to Sixteen Control Channels
- Control Room Lights, Stereo Equipment, Security Systems, Electrical Appliances
- Handle Up to 1000 Watts per Channel Directly From Program Control
- Complete Isolation of the Computer From the AC

Line

- PRICE:
- Apple Power Interface Board and One Power Control Module (\$85)
- Additional Power Control Modules (Controls Four AC Circuits) (\$25)
- Appliance Control Module (Controls One AC Circuit) (\$7.50)

| ADD ON MEMORY FOR APPLE II |  | SOFTWARE FOR APPLE II |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - Set of Eight 4 K RAM CHIPS | \$ 44 | - Home Financial Record Program (Req. 16K Sys) | \$ 20 |
| - Set of Eight 16K RAM CHIPS | \$540 | - Business Inventory (Req. 20K Sys) | \$ 40 |
| - Upgrade of Apple II Memory Using Modified |  | - Bob Bishop's High Resolution Games (Req. 16L Sys) | \$ 40 |
| 4K RAM Memory Expansion |  | - Star Wars | \$ 15 |
| - 4 K to 16K | \$250 | - Rocket Lander | \$ 15 |
| - 8K to 16K | \$160 | - Saucer Invasion | \$ 15 |
| -12 K to 16 K | \$80 | - Apple Music (Threc Octaves) | \$ 20 |
|  |  | - Data Save to Cassette | \$ 20 |
| APPLE II CLASSES |  | BOOKS |  |
| - Introductory Basic (Three-Two Hour Classes) | \$ 20 | - 6502 Programming Manual | \$ 10 |
| - Advanced Basic (Four-Two Hour Classes) | \$ 30 | - 6502 Hardware Manual | \$ 10 |
| -6502 Assembly Language (Five-Two Hour Classes) | \$ 50 |  |  |
| - Apple II Low and High Resolution Graphics and |  |  |  |
| Sound (Two-Two Hour Classes) | \$ 15 |  |  |

## COMPUTER PLAYGROUND <br> 6789 WESTMINSTER AVENUE WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA 92683 <br> (714) 898-8330

Mastercharge, Visa, B of A accepted. No C.O.D. Allow two weeks for personal check to clear. Add $\$ 1.50$ for handling and postage. For computer system. please add $\$ 10.00$ for shipping, handling, and insurance. California residents add $6 \%$ sales tax.

# The PET Vs. the TRS-80 

Bob Wallace<br>P.O. Box 5415<br>Seattle, WA 98105

The $\$ 600$ computer has arrived! The PET (Programmable Educational Terminal) by Commodore, and the TRS-80 by Radio Shack, usher in a new era of personal computing. Both are assembled computers, with video display, keyboard, audio cassette storage, and BASIC; both initially come with 4 K bytes of user memory. There the similarity ends; each has significant advantages and disadvantages. I should mention my bias at the outset; I'm for the PET. Some cynical souls will think it's because the store where I work can carry the PET and not the TRS-80; however, the real reason is the PET's much better BASIC. More on this later.

Let's start with the hardware, which I consider about evenly balanced. The PET uses the 6502 microprocessor; as a matter of fact, Chuck Peddle, who designed the 6502 for Mos Technology, also designed the PET. Clock speed is 1 Mhz so a "load immediate" instruction takes 2 microseconds. The TRS-80 uses the Z-80 microprocessor, with a 1.776 Mhz clock. This gives a "load immediate" time of 3.94 microseconds. In general, the $\mathrm{Z}-80$ has a more advanced instruction set (both manufacturers should have assemblers available in 1978). The actual speed of the BASIC depends more on the BASIC interpreter than the cycle times. If the speed is important to you, wait for the inevitable published benchmarks.

As mentioned, both units come with 4 K of RAM; you can pay $\$ 200$ more for the PET to get 8 K , and $\$ 280$ more for the TRS- 80 to get 16 K . Both could probably be expanded with user-installed memory chips for much less. Additional RAM for both units goes in an expansion box, not yet available. The TRS-80 comes with 4 K of ROM, including BASIC, keyboard scanner, cassette and video handlers, etc. It has provision for a second 4 K of ROM to get Level II BASIC, and a third 4 K ROM to get Level III. The PET comes with 14 K of ROM: 8 K for BASIC, 4 K for the operating system, 1 K for a machine language monitor, and 1 K for a diagnostic to test all the hardware.

The PET video display is 25 lines of 40 characters, or 1000 characters total. An $8 \times 8 \operatorname{dot}$ matrix is used for each character. The character set is 64 ASCII, upper case only. In addition, there are 64 graphics characters, including
various lines for limited vector graphics, the playing card suit symbols, and others. Reverse field video (black on white instead of white on black) is available for all 128 characters by setting the high order bit. The TRS-80 video display is 16 lines of 64 characters, or 1024 characters. $5 \times 7$ dot characters are used in a $6 \times 12$ dot matrix. The character set is also 64 ASCII characters (upper case only), plus 64 graphics characters. For each character position, any of 6 dots may be turned on, giving flexible point graphics in a total field of 48 by 128 dots. The high order bit of a 7 bit byte determines whether a character or six dots is displayed. The PET display is 9 inches (diagonal), integral to the unit; the TRS-80 display is 12 inches, in a separate video monitor.

The TRS-80 keyboard is a straight, 53-key (Teletype) variety. The PET keyboard has 73 keys ( 53 in the center plus a 20 key numeric pad), but the keys are arranged in rows and columns, rather than offset like a typewriter. The PET keyboard is crowded, and is probably the worst feature of the unit.

The TRS-80 cassette interface operates at about 250 baud ( 25 cps ); a 4 K load would take about 160 seconds. It includes a motor on/off relay for reading and writing data files. Only one cassette recorder can be connected, making tape-to-tape copying and editing very difficult. The cassette recorder is a standard model sold by Radio Shack, connected with cables to the computer. The PET cassette interface operates at about 680 baud; a 4 K load takes 60 seconds. One cassette recorder is integral to the unit; it uses a standard deck with special electronics. Another cassette recorder, available as an option in a month (the first option) for about $\$ 50$, allows tape-to-tape work. Both cassette recorders have motor control.

Expansion from the "BASIC boxes" is planned for both units. Radio Shack is expecting a $\$ 700$ minifloppy and a $\$ 1,500$ dot matrix printer by the end of 1977, and later a serial I/O port and an acoustic coupler. A non-standard 40 pin bus connects peripherals (and the expansion memory) to the TRS-80. Commodore expects to have their second cassette box out in a month, a dot matrix printer in late 1977 or early 1978, a minifloppy in early 1978, and some "fun
peripheral" soon after. The PET comes with an 8 bit I/O port, plus an IEEE-488 interface bus for peripherals. The IEEE-488 bus is used by instrumentation manufacturers, is standardized, and will probably be supported by some other manufacturers. Motorola is working on a onechip controller for IEEE-488, since the interface logic is pretty complicated.

The PET is $16^{1 / 2} \times 181 / 2 \times 14$ inches and weighs 44 pounds. The TRS- 80 consists of a $161 / 2 \times 8 \times$ 3 box with the keyboard and electronics, a $161 / 2 \times 13^{1 / 2} \times 12$ video monitor, the cassette recorder, and a power supply (don't know the total weight).

So far, the differences aren't outstanding. The BASIC's are very different, however. TRS-80 BASIC allows 26 numeric variables (floating point only, 7 digit significance), 2 string variables (A\$ and B\$, each with 16 characters maximum), and one array, A(i). PET BASIC allows 676 each of integer, floating point ( 10 significant digits), and string variables; strings can have a maximum length of 256 characters. PET arrays can have multiple dimensions; also, trig functions are included in PET BASIC but not TRS-80 BASIC. The PET BASIC also has a real time clock. TRS80 BASIC includes commands to set and clear points on the graphic display. Also, more advanced BASIC on the TRS-80 will become available with two additional 4 K ROM's. Both BASIC's include machine language functions, PEEK and POKE, and the ability to read and write data files with the cassette recorder. Neither includes the PRINT USING statement, although both have other line format control functions.

Both the PET and the TRS-80 are in production, and have been shipped to customers. There is a long line for both, however. I'm not sure about the TRS-80, but the PET has a 90 to 120 day waiting period, when ordered direct from the factory. The only currently authorized dealer
for the PET is Mr. Calculator, a chain in California (I haven't found one up here); however, as soon as the back order situation improves, computer stores and large chains will be carrying it. The TRS-80, of course, is available at Radio Shack, and later at Tandy Computer stores (which will also carry the Processor Technology SOL-20, the Apple-II, and other brands). One other thing: manuals for the PET will be available separately, this fall, and I hope to order some of those if you're interested.

For more information, try "A PET for Every Home", Sept. Kilobaud, and "The Radio Shack TRS-80 Microcomputer System", Sept. Interface Age. Also, there's "Radio Shack's $\$ 600$ Home Computer", Sept-Oct Creative Computing, "Birth of the PET Computer", Sept-Oct Personal Computing, and "Radio Shack's New Computer System", Oct Radio Electronics.

Several other new personal computers, in the PET/TRS-80 price range, are coming soon. Texas Instruments looks like the first giant corporation to jump into the ring; their new product announcement is expected this fall. Bally (an arcade game manufacturer) has a mail order unit available through JS\&A. It's a combination video game and computer, with 12 K of RAM/ROM, and a 160 by 100 dot video interface that connects to your TV (no cassette or keyboard) for $\$ 300$. Atari (another video games manufacturer), and a European and Japenese company are also expected to enter the competition. National Semiconductor and Hewlett-Packard have the capability to produce personal computers, but I haven't heard any rumors from them yet. IBM is a rather distant possibility, I suppose. Zilog is announcing the Z-800 this fall, which is also a factor.

NOTE: This material was originally printed in "Northwest Computer Club News", October 1977 and is reprinted with the permission of the author.

Editor's Notes: One additional difference that may be important to some users is the fact that the PET Monitor supports assembly level code while the TRS-80 only supports BASIC. This means that you can write special routines in 6502 code on the PET. These may be called by the PET BASIC. This facility can greatly enhance the power of the computer. For a user's view of the PET, see "Meet the PET" by Charles Floto, MICRO \#2, page 9.

# Ludwig von Apple II 

Marc Schwartz 220 Everit Street<br>New Haven, CT 06511

Owners of the Apple II know from the demonstration tapes that the Apple can make sounds. Not all know that it can make music. Having prepared a horse racing program, I decided that it would be fitting to start out the game with the bugle call heard at the track. The following program does just that!

A few words of explanation are in order. The series of "pokes" in lines 30 to 240 set up a musical tone subroutine that is called in line 460.

Each note is represented by a four digit code in A\$. The first three digits of the code determine the note, and the last digit determines the length of the note. Line 410 decodes the first three digits by converting each digit to ASCII (Apple ASCII), subtracting 176 from each to give three numbers, from zero to nine, and then multiplying the first number by the second and adding the third. This is one of many possible ways of generating all the numbers from zero to a large number (ninety in this case) using single digits.

Line 420 takes the number just generated and subtracts it from forty. This is done because the subroutine as written is a bit confusing if you want to make music, since the tones go up as the numbers go down. This step corrects for that.

Line 440 determines how long each tone will be. AS "ASC(A\$(Z + 3) - 176)" increases, the note lengthens: a " 1 " produces a very short note, and a " 6 " makes a very long note. For some reason, higher tones come out more brief than lower tones.

Line 450 determines the tempo. A larger number speeds up the tune; a smaller one slows it down. Tempo numbers can go from 1 to 255.

When the program reaches line 470, it returns to line 400 to begin decoding the next four digits and playing the next note.

I don't think that Chopin would need to worry about competition from anyone using this program, but it is fun to have a musical computer.

THE APPLE II BUGLE CALL

```
10 REM MAKING MUSIC WITH THE APPLE II
20 DIM A$(255)
30 POKE 2,173
40 POKE 3,48
50 POKE 4,192
60 POKE 5,165
70 POKE 6,0
80 POKE 7,32
90 POKE 8,168
100 POKE 9,252
110 POKE 10,165
120 POKE 11,1
130 POKE 12,208
140 POKE 13,4
150 POKE 14,198
160 POKE 15,24
170 POKE 16,240
180 POKE 17,5
190 POKE 18,198
200 POKE 19,1
210 POKE 20,76
220 POKE 21,2
230 POKE 22,0
240 POKE 23,96
300 A$="001100715211720172017201"
310 A$(25)="5211521152110071521100710012"
400 FOR Z=1 TO LEN(A$)-3 STEP 4
410 Z1=(ASC(A$(Z))-176)(ASC(A$(Z+1))-176)
    +ASC(A$(Z+2))-176
420 Z2=40-Z1
430 POKE 0,Z2
440 POKE 24,ASC(A$(Z+3))-176
450 POKE 1,75
460 CALL 2
470 NEXT Z
480 END
```



|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | 250ns. $\$ 199.95$ <br> 350ns. $\$ 189.95$ <br> 450ns. $\$ 169.95$ |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | JADE $\mathbf{Z 8 O}_{\text {KIT }}$ <br> -with PROVISIONS for <br> \$135 <br> \$135.00 EA. ${ }^{\text {2nHzz }}$ <br> \$149.95 EA. ${ }^{\text {antz }}$ <br> bare board \$35.00 |
|  | $\left\lvert\, \begin{array}{c\|}  \\ \text { JADE 80man } \\ \text { 8080A KIT } \\ \hline \end{array}\right.$ |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \$ 110.00 \mathrm{kIT} \\ \text { BARE BOARD } \\ \$ 35.00 \end{gathered}$ |
|  |  |
| FACE KIT VIDEO INTERFACE <br> $\$ 124.95$ KIT $\$ 89$ |  |

## MICROBES

Tiny Bugs in Previous MICRO
1:13 HYPERTAPE and ULTRATAPE
00E9 3700 Hz Pulse Duration = C3
OOEB 2400 Hz Pulse Duration $=7 E$

## 1:19 COMPUTER CONTROLLED RELAYS

Error in the Circuit Diagram. A single 7404 inverter may not have enough drive for two relays. Remove connection between Pin 2 of Write Mic Relay and Pin 2 of Write Remote Relay. Connect 7404 Pin 9 to 7404 Pin 11 and connect 7404 Pin 10 to Write Mic Relay Pin 2. Add a diode between Pin 2 and Pin 1 of the Write Mic Relay. Each relay is now driven by an independent 7404 inverter.

## 2:22

Mocro

FANCY DATA TERMINAL


We have the KEM KIM-1 Expansion Module the easy way to expand your KIM-1

* Generates S-100 Bus
* Accepts 2708 EPROMs
* ASCII Keyboard port
* Mates the MVM-1024 Video Module

Write for complete info on the KEM and MVM-1024 Video Module

Build this terminal using a CPU-1 a VDB-1 an ASCII keyboard, a TV set or monitor, power supply etc. and a 2704 EPROM, programmed to handle scrolling, data input, output, etc.
FDT-1 documentation includes EPROM program listing, construction and operating hints. Doc. only \$5. ppd, Pre-programmed EPROM available.

SS50 BUS PRODUCTS---BUILD YOUR 6502 AROUND A POPULAR BUS STRUCTURE

CPU-1 A CENTRAL PROCESSOR using the MOS TECHNOLOGY 6502 \& 6530-004 TIM MONITOR ROM. Can use crystal or RC clock (on board). Has current-loop or RS232 I/O lines plus 8 general purpose I/O lines and 2 handshake lines. Board has provisions for a $2704 / 8$ or 2716 for program or subroutine storage. EPROM can control startup from reset if desired. Use with SWTPC or equiv. memory or VDB-1 to form a complete system. SS50 Bus compatible. Bare board and documentation \$29. Doc. only $\$ 5$. VDB-1 A 32 character $\times 16$ line video display generator. 2 pages of display possible, Provisions for RF modulator. On board memory, regulation, optional inverters. See Nov. '76 BYTE article by A.I. Anderson for circuit description. Plugs into SWTPC or equiv. SS50 Bus. Bare board and documentation $\$ 29.00$. Documentation only $\$ 5.00$
SPECIAL------CPU-1 \& Doc., VDB-1 \& Doc. , FDT-1 Doc.------ALL FOR \$55. 00 Add $\$ 2.50$ Per Order $S / H$. Ohio residents add $4 \%$. Doc. price refundable with order.

## The Challenge of the OSI Challenger

Joel Henkel<br>Old County Road<br>Hillsborough, NH 03244

One of the factors that a purchaser of a microcomputer system must consider is the degree of "do it yourself" hardware and software effort he will have to exert to get his system doing what he wants. This effort, not evident from manufacturers' literature, can be critical for user satisfaction, as became evident in our experience with the OSI Challenger. These notes evaluating the Challenger may be helpful to prospective purchasers.

In any hobby industry, user skills are assumed. This is emphasized for microcomputer firms that formerly catered to electronic kit builders. OSI is one of these, having supplied special PC board kits to hams. They follow their own packaging philosophy that differs from the "standard" S-100 bus configuration. Their brochure explains that the 100 pin S-100 connectors were rejected because the fingers were subject to poor contact. Instead, OSI uses MOLEX connectors, which make positive contact. The brochure goes on to describe the rejection of on-board voltage regulators in favor of a self contained regulated power supply.

OSI circuit boards are larger than standard S-100 bus boards. This accommodates their design philosophy of packing many optional functions into one foil pattern. For example, their 430B I/O board supports: an eight channel multiplexed eight bit analog to digital converter, two channels of eight bit digital to analog conversion and a UART controlled cassette I/O interface or an RS232/twenty mil loop I/O interface.

Our system came without keyboard or video monitor. Interfacing for these is left to the user. The computer cabinet has two holes in its rear panel for user implemented I/O cabling from individual boards. The keyboard DIP socket and video output RCA connector are available at the edge of the 440 video board. MOLEX connectors on the edge of the 430 board provides access to the various I/O options.

Hardware documentation consists of kit construction manuals for individual boards, even if the boards are purchased assembled. Various options are treated separately. Overall hardware system documentation is completely lacking.

For example, nowhere is there a description of the bus convention and pinout. One must generate these from actual inspection of board foil patterns. This exercise reveals interesting peculiarities, such as bringing the NMI (non-maskable interrupt line) and IRQ (interrupt request line) onto many boards and leaving them unconnected.

The software is sophisticated. One enters the system by resetting. A prompter, D/M, comes up on the video screen. To enter the video monitor, styled after the KIM, enter M and the six hex digits appear near the top of the screen. For DOS (disc operating system), enter D and the DOS is brought up through BASIC by a bootstrap ROM. (Earlier versions required loading a short sequence of memory locations using the video monitor.) From BASIC one can enter the DOS, from which it is possible to go to various modules, such as an extended monitor, back to BASIC, or to activate a few DOS commands, such as loading and recalling disc files, executing programs, or switching floppy disc drives (for dual floppy discs). The EXTENDED BASIC by MICROSOFT has many advanced features, such as string functions, and is apparently much faster than a comparable 8080 BASIC.

Software documentation is poorly organized. Perhaps with so many possible options, the job of creating well organized system documentation was beyond OSI's capability. Our experience with software documentation availability was sobering. The system comes with all OSI software on discette. However, only a BASIC users manual is included, beyond a general system description. One has to order software user manuals separately. We waited a long five months after order for ours.

We have used two versions of the DOS, an original 1.1 version and an updated 2.0 version. One interesting change has to do with copying the DOS itself. The original version could not be copied and an explicit notice to that effect was included. An unfortunate set of circumstances could come about, however, that would wipe out track one, completely disabling any further loads of the DOS. If computer power fails (or one turns off the computer) with the disc in its drive, out goes track one! Apparently a number
of users had this happen (including us). Version 2.0 has complete copying capability. According to instructions the first thing one should do is copy the DOS and store away one copy in case of wipeout.

Another change from the original version is the serial display output rate to the video monitor, which was increased from ten characters per second to several times that rate. A third change in the DOS is an augmented facility to read and write disc files.

The 440 board video display format chosen is twenty four characters per line, which is too small. One can only speculate on the reason for the short line.

Many applications could readily use a real time operating system, (RTOS). OSI does not offer a

RTOS, but has advertised that one, modelled on DEC's RTS11 is in the works. When contacted recently, however, OSI reported that it has indefinitely postponed development of its RTOS in favor of development of a business system. The contemplated RTOS may explain the interrupt lines found in the foil patterns of several boards mentioned earlier, and a foil pattern option on the 470 floppy disc controller board, a real time clock in the form of a divider chain driven by the on-board crystal clock.

In summary, the OSI Challenger offers a lot of computer for the money. The tradeoff is the board orientation rather than system orientation, requiring a larger than average effort on the part of the user to bring his system up. This effort includes I/O interface cabling and "reading between the lines" in the supporting documentation.


# the COMPUTER DOCTORinc. 12 HOWARD STo, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.O2139 [017]001-8702 

# Improving KIM-1 Keyboard Reliability 

KIM Application Note MOS Technology 950 Rittenhouse Road Norristown, PA 19401

The keyboard on some KIM-1's has a "bouncy" key problem and the " 9 ," " $D$," or " C " keys may fail entirely. The problem is due to the use of the outer edge of the snap-action discs to jump over the center contact line on the keyboard pc. Since the discs are only held against the pc board with tape, the contact is poor. There are five of these jump-overs in series for the "C" key (four for the " 9 " key), thereby compounding the problem. To check for the problem, measure the resistance from keyboard pin 3 to pin 15 (numbered from left to right as shown) with the "C" key depressed. It should be less than about 10 ohms.

Fortunately, this problem can be easily corrected. The solution is to solder a thin wire jumper across these poor contacts as follows. Disassemble the keyboard by first removing the four screws on the back of the keyboard at the corners. Then remove the two remaining screws that hold the keyboard to the KIM-1 (note for reassembly that they are longer), being careful not to pull the keyboard pc board away from the KIM-1 board -- it's only attached by the solder at one end. With the KIM-1 upside down, separate the black keyboard panel from the keyboard pc board. You may wish to cover the keyboard with masking tape to hold the keys in place. After cutting four small holes through the clear Mylar at the locations indicated by an X in the figure, the lines from " $C$ " to " 9 ," " $D$ " to " 9 ,"
" A " to " 7 " and the line to " B " are exposed. Connecting these points by soldering a thin wire between them routed as shown is sufficient to bridge the five potentially poor contacts.


2:25

MICRO is published bi-monthly, six issues per year. Subscriptions $\$ 6.00$ (USA). Subscription starts with next issue. Back issues are $\$ 1.50$ each (Nos. $1 \& 2]$
NAME:
ADDR:
CITY: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . STATE: . . . . ZIP:
[] Please include my name and address in mailing lists that you make available to dealers, suppliers, and other legitimate 6502 interests so that I may be kept informed of new products, current developments, and so forth.
[] Please DO NOT include my name and address in mailing lists that are made available to outside sources.

Send your check to: MICRO, P.O. Box 3, S Chelmsford, MA 01824

# COMPUTER SHOP 

## MEMORY 4 K MEMORY BOARDS THAT CAN BE USED FOR YOUR KIM



The VF8 4K memory boards have dual 22 pin . 156 pinouts but with different pin assignments than your KIM. In structions for jumpering between connectors are included.
This board has been used as modified by many KIM owners.
FULLY ASSEMBLED AND TESTED REG. PWR. $\$ 129.00$
LOW POWER RAM ADD.................................... \$ 10.00
KIT.............................................................. \$ 74.50
FULL SET SOCKETS FOR KIT .......................... \$ 10.00
VF8 MOTHERBOARD-BUFFERED FOR 4 BDS. \$ 65.00
CONNECTOR ASSEMBLY- KIM TO VF8........ \$ 20.00

## CS IOOVIDEO TERMINAL BOARD FOR YOUR KIM

The CS100 VIDEO TERMINAL BOARD IS A 16 LINE BY 64 CHARACTER DISPLAY GENERATOR WITH CURSOR CONTROL AND EDITING Connect a 5 V . ASCII Keyboard to it, a Regulated 5 Volt, Unregulat8 Volts, or 8 Volts AC, and your KIM Teletypep ort to it along with a video monitor and away you go with all the convenience of a Video Terminal on your KIM.



BAC, VISA,MC NO

SIGNATURE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

The CS $100-\mathrm{KIM}$ is a fully enclosed portable cabinet that has cutouts for the KIM keyboard and hex display. Space is provided for your cassette recorder ASCII Keyboard, power supply, and extr a memory boards. The display shown was generated by our Video Terminal Board connected to the KIM. The cabinet is heavy duty $1 / 8$ inch aluminum finished in a blue spatter with white panels. An S100 low profile e 3 slot motherboard is available that fits under the KIM is available




Detall of Procentor 8tatus Uegteter 2 (0011)
Bit Ho.


017
017
0178
etc.
Fioded so Procens Incerrupts, eave Addrescen, etc.


SUS-gourcyiss -6530-003



William R. Dial<br>438 Roslyn Avenue Akron, OH 44320

| Address | Label | Function |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| OOEF | PCL | Program Counter - Lo Byte |
| 00FO | PCH | Program Counter - Hi Byte |
| 00Fl | P (PREG) | Status Register of Processor Set "00" for Binary |
| 00F2 | SP (SPUSER) | Stack Pointer |
| 00F3 | A (ACC) | Accumulator |
| 00F4 | Y | Y-Register |
| 00F5 | X | X-Register |
| $00 \mathrm{F6}$ | CHKHI | Checksum on Tape, Hi |
| $00 \mathrm{F7}$ | CHKSUM | Checksum on Tape, Lo |
| 00F8 | INL | Input Buffer, Lo - Display Buffer |
| 00F9 | INH | Input Buffer, Hi - Display Buffer |
| 00FA | POINTL | Pointer, Lo - Display |
| 00FB | POINTH | Pointer, Hi - Display |
| OOFC | TEMP | Temporary Storage Byte |
| 00FD | TMPX | Temporary Storage Byte |
| OOFE | CHAR | Current Character for TTY |
| O0FF | MODE | Byte Indicating KYBD or TTY Mode on KIM |

Detail of Processor Status Register P ( 00 Fl )
Bit No.

Break Command
Reserved for Expansion
Overflow
Negative Result

01FF
01FE
$01 F 8$
e... $\}$ stack Needed to Process Interrupts, save Addresses, etc.

I/O Ports, Interval Timers, and 6530 RAM Usage

| Addres |  | Label | Function |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1700 |  | PAD | Port A Data (user 1/0) |
| 1701 |  | PADD | Port A Data Direction ( 1 = Output) |
| 1702 |  | PBD | Port B Data (User 1/0) |
| 1703 |  | PBDD | Port B Data Direction ( $0=$ Input) |
| 1704 | / 1744 | CLKIT | INTERVAL TIMER |
| 1705 | 1745 | CLK81 | 1704 et seq User |
| 1706 | 1746 | CLK64T | 1744 et seq KIM MONITOR |
| 1707 | 1747 | CLK1024T |  |
| 1707 | 1747 | CLKRDI | Read Time Out Bit |
| 1706 | 1746 | CLKRDT | Read Time |
| 170 C | 174C | 17 | TIMER USED when IRQ Interrupt at PB7 needed |
| 170D | 174D | 8T |  |
| 170 E | 174 E | 64 T |  |
| 170F | 174F | 1024 T |  |
| 1740 |  | SAD | Port A Data (KIM Monitor) |
| 1741 |  | PADD (SADD) | Port A Data Direction |
| 1742 |  | SBD | Port B Data (KIM MONITOR) |
| 1743 |  | PBDD (SBDD) | Port B Data Direction |
| 1780 |  |  | Avallable Memory Block (Program PLEASE, etc.) |
| 17 E 7 |  | CHKL | Checksum for Tape Monitor |
| 17E8 |  | CHKH |  |
| $17 \mathrm{E9}$ |  | SAVX | Storage Location |
| 17EA |  |  |  |
| 17EB |  |  | " " |
| 17EC |  | VEB | Volatile Execution Block |
| 17F2 |  | CNTL 30 | TTY Delay |
| 17F3 |  | CNTH 30 | TTY Delay |
| 1754 |  | TIMH |  |
| 17 FS |  | SAL | Starting Address - Lo (Audio and Paper Tape) |
| 17 F 6 |  | SAH | - Hi |
| $17 \mathrm{F7}$ |  | EAL | Ending Address - Lo |
| 17 F 8 |  | EAH | - Hi |
| $17 \mathrm{F9}$ |  | ID | ID Number (Program No. on Tape) |

$\begin{array}{ccc}\text { 17FA/FFFA NMIV (NMIL) Stop Vector }(\text { Stop }=\text { ICOO) } \\ \text { FB/FFFB } & \text { Load } 00 \\ \text { (NMIH) } & & 1 \mathrm{C}\end{array}$ FC/FFFC RSTV (RSTL) RST Vector 00 FD/FFFD (RSTH) IC FE/FFFE IRQV (IRQL) IRQ Vector $(B R K=I C O D) \quad 00$ FF/FFFF (IRQH) 1C

| Address | Label | Function |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1800 | DUMPT | Dump Memory to Tape |
| 1873 | LOADT | Load Memory from Tape |
| 1932 | INTVEB | Inftiate Volatile Execution Block |
| 194C | CHKT | Compute CHKSUM for Tape Load |
| 195E | OUTBTC | Output One Byte |
| 196F | HEXOUT | Convert LSD of A to ASCII and Output to Tape |
| 197A | OUTCHT | Output to Tape One ASCII CHAR (Use Subs ONE \& ZRO) |
| 199E | ONR | Output to Tape $=1$ (9 pulses $138 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ each) |
| $19 \mathrm{C4}$ | 2RO | Output 0 to Tape ( 6 pulses $207 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ each) |
| 19EA | INCVEB | Sub to INC VEB $+1,2$ |
| 19F3 | RDBYT | Sub to read Byte from Tape |
| 1400 | PACKT | Pack $A=$ ASCII into SAVX as Hex Data |
| 1A24 | RDCHT | Get 1 Character from Tape and Return with Character in A (Use SAVX + 1 to ASM Char) |
| 1441 | RDBIT | Gets one bit from Tape and returns it in sign of A |
| 1 A 6 B | plLCAL | Diagnostics: PLL calibrate Output, $166 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ pulse string |
| SUB-ROU | - 6530- |  |
| $1 \mathrm{C00}$ | SAVE | KIM Entry vis STOP (NMI) or BRK (IRQ) Also SST |
| 1 C 22 | RST | KIM Entry via RST (Reset) |
| 1C2A | DETCPS | Count Start Bit |
| 1-4F | START | Make TTY/KB Selection |
| 1 CDC | PCCMD | Display Program Counter by Moving PC to POINT |
| $1 \mathrm{C64}$ | CLEAR | Clear Input Buffer INL, INH |
| 1С6A | READ | Get Character |
| $1 \mathrm{C77}$ | TTYKB | Main Routine for Keyboard and Display |


| Address | Label | Function |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 CE 7 | LOAD | Load Paper Tape from TTY |
| 1 D42 | DUMP | Dump to TTY from Open Cell Address to LIMHL, LIMHH Limit High, H and L |
| 1E1E | PRTPNT | Sub to Print POINTL, POINTH |
| 1E2F | CRLF | Print String of ASCII Characters from TOP $+X$ to TOP |
| 1E3B | PRTBYT | Print 1 Hex Byte as Two ASCII Characters |
| 1E5A | GETCH | Get 1 Character from TTY, Return from Sub with Char in A. $X$ is preserved and $Y$ returned $=\mathrm{FF}$. |
| 1 E88 | INITS | Initialization for SIGMA |
| 1E9E | OUTSP | Print One Character CHAR $=A$. $X$ is preserved, $Y$ returned $=\mathrm{FF}$. OUTSP Prints One Space. |
| 1ED4 | DELAY | This loop simulates DETCPS Section and will delay 1 Bit Time. |
| 1EEB | DEHALF | Delay half Bit Time - Double right shift of Delay Constant for a Div by 2 . |
| 1EFE | AK | Sub to Determine if Key is depressed or Condition of SSW <br> (Key not dep or TTY Mode $A=0$ ) <br> (Key dep or KB Mode $A=$ not zero) |
| 1 F19 | SCAND | Output to 7 Segment Display |
| 1F1F | SCANDS (DISPLA) | Lights 7 Segment Display |
| 1 F48 | CONVD | Convert and Display Hex - Used by SCAND only |
| 1 F 63 | INCPT | Sub to Increment POINT |
| 1F6A | GETKEY | Get Key from Keyboard, Return with $\mathrm{A}=$ Key value. If A GT. than 15 then illegal or no Key. |
| $1 \mathrm{F91}$ | CHK | Sub to Compute Check Sum |
| 1F9D | GETBYT | Get 2 Hex Characters and Pack into INL, INH. X preserved, Y returned $=0$. |
| IFAC | PACK | Shift Character in A into INL, INH |
| 1FD5 | TOP | Table |
| 1 FE 7 | TABLE | Table Hex to 7 Segment |

