

Issue 11 : July 1988 : 55p : Edited by R.Cook

I think that you'll find this issue of Oric User Monthly quite excellent. For a start, it has expanded by 40 % to 7 pages long, from 5. It is also still 55p, thats value-for-money. There is also the brilliant offer of a free issue including P&P, for 5 readers ! Last months free issue goes out to Steve Croft, what other Oric magazine does this ?

But, to keep 7 pages filled every month we do need more contributions. Send in letters, problems, maps, tips, pokes, programs, chart lists (top 3 games & game that you don't like, to compile the top ten charts), or anything else you have hidden away. We will fill 7 pages for as long as there is enough material to print.

Well, get on reading this issue and please notice that all back issues are now 50p each, down 10p. See top of page two for full details.

Inside: Reviews of Pole Position, Talisman, and more.

Quick loading . News . Charts . Free issues offer.

Oldies pursuit . OUM best software list . Tips & Hints .

Much, much more.

News

Same as last month, and the month before, yawn, yawn, yawn. Our software hasn't been finished yet, but will eventually. In case you've actually forgot what the two titles are, they are Dungeon Of Hell and League Soccer, both for the Oric 1 48K or Atmos. Prices £ 1.99 - £ 2.99.

Our 'The Oric Software Guide' booklet has sold out, all copies went out in a week or two. We've just got hold of 50 more copies, it reviews more than 25 arcade games available in the UK, for the bargain price of £ 1.00 ! You can buy 2 copies for £ 1.90 and judging by demand they'll be sold out soon.

We've been very busy on the French software front, as you probably know WE (Software) gave up the idea of buying this software, we are going to try our level best to get hold of three or four copies of a few French titles to find out demand. If we can grab titles from Eureka's stock then we may be able to get more.

Please, let us know which of the following titles you want to obtain as we can only secure a few titles at first, but please note that this doesn't hold you to any purchases at all. Expected prices if they are obtained will be about £ 7 - £ 11, but they're worth it.

List: Star, Talisman, Formula 1, Intertron, Frog-Hop , Insect Insanity, Survivor, Frelon, Doggy, 3D Pongus, Stanley, A.T.M, Football manager, Super Jeep, Galaxy 5, and Citadel.

Wanted: Original copy of fishy business by salamander, up to £ 6 paid.

Oric User Monthly, 10 Thomson Ave, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38,8YD.

Issue 12 costs 55p with an A5 s.a.e or 90p without, 1st class postage.
A five month subscription with five A5 s.a.e's costs £ 2.75, or £ 4.50 without, posted by 1st class.

A years subscription, with P&P paid, 1st class, costs only £ 10.00 !
Back issues are down in price by 10p off each offer : 50p for 1, £ 1.00 for 2, £ 1.40 for three.

Subscriptions can be bought for any length of time, just ask for details.
Subscriptions cover any price rise throughout the year, readers don't have to pay for any rises that may occur. Please let us know if there is a change of address, before the subscription ends.

HINTS & TIPS

There has been a drastic cut back in contributions this month, so please send in programs, tips, problems, etc. to cover for the cutback.

Zodiac tips, by David Jones, cont. from last month!

How to get a fish: Get the key, unlock the prison cell door, go to the french-style house and go to the safe, get the coins and go to the fairground
Now type BUY HOOP then THROW HOOP, and you have won a fish !

How to get a scorpion: Go to the 'sands of tyme' and type LIFT ROCK.
It'll give you a bit of back ache but you will have freed a scorpion, who won't sting you.

OUM has always brought you the facts first, and here's another first:

THE QUILL : £ 3.99 + 50p P&P.

Amazing, isn't it ? The Quill is usually around the £ 16.00 price, now ~~for~~ for £ 12.00 less it's yours! The Quill received 9 out of 10 in issue 5 and is a bargain. For a copy write to:

Gilsoft International,
2 Park Crescent,
Barry,
South Glamorgan,
CF6, HD.

The price is so low to get rid of their old stock, or if you want to secure an order phone: (0446)-732765.

In question to the demand of OUM's software releases I've contacted various companies who've released Oric software within the last 4 years. Gilsoft, FGC, and Domark all say that it isn't really worth it on a large scale. FGC sold about 50 copies of the classic Maze Rally, but of course OPELCO and others sold that software.
But, against all reason, we will try it, so DO grab a copy of our releases, it will be less than 6 months hopefully, we've got to make it worth the cassette charge.

Game reviews

Game: Chess II
 Supplier: Tansoft
 Price: £ 6.95

This game is, quite obviously, a chess simulation. It doesn't give you instructions on how to play chess so if you don't know how to play then learn or give this a miss. There is supposed to be a voice output but my copy didn't have this feature, this could be as my copy is quite an early copy, so the sound grade may be different for other copies. The graphics are neat and accurate, but are a little small. The screen is set out well and it makes a nice addition to any collection. There are only two points that I found were disappointing; (i) there is no two player mode, (ii) on the harder levels of play the computers turn could take over 15 minutes. That aside, Chess II is dated, but still gives a break from blasting aliens.

Graphics: 7 Sound: 3 Addictiveness: 6 Overall: 7

Game: Pole Position
 Supplier: IJK
 Price: £ 6.95

The only good thing about this game is that it isn't available outside France, and is hard to obtain there too. On the Atmos introduction tape there is a game called Road-Race, and Driver is on most Oric-1 introduction cassettes, what has that got to do with Pole Position? Well, what IJK have done is to load this introduction game, save it to one of their tapes and release it! I can't think of any reason why anybody should want to buy this when Oric owners get it free anyway.

Graphics: 3 Sound: 2 Addictiveness: 2 Overall: 2

Game: Zebbie
 Supplier: IJK
 Price: £ 6.95 (cass) / £ 11.90 (disk)

In Zebbie you control a sort of zebbedy from the 'magic roundabout', although I wasn't an avid fan of that program myself. Your screen has many platforms and the screen scrolls horizontally, you have to jump onto each platform to stop yourself falling to the bottom of the screen and dying. You have to decide how high your jump will be, you do this by keeping your finger on the jump button longer for a higher jump, easy with a joystick. You have to collect oil patches for points, or bottles. Five of these bottles puts you into a bonus stage which, if completed, gives you an extra life. The graphics are large and colourful, although the scrolling could've been smoother. The sound effects are nice jumps and there is a quiet tune that plays away in the background, it's the tune that all fairgrounds can be associated with. The game is fun and another good game from I.J.K.

Graphics: 8 Sound: 7 Addictiveness: 7 Overall: 7

'Top Ten':Compiled by readers

Comment: Xenon 3 stays on top, but believe me Zorgons Revenge nearly took it. Xenon 1 decends three places after its rise last month. Frelon rises two places & Damsel In Distress finally falls completely down to number 13. A new entry is at number ten, A.T.M.

* Reviews of games in current or past issue of OUM.

(F) French software

1. Xenon 3	IJK	*	
2. Zorgons Revenge	IJK		
3. Karate	Gasoline	*	(F)
4. Defence Force	Tansoft		
5. Starter 3D	Landscape	*	(F)
6. The Hellion	Orpheus		
7. Frelon	Loriciels		(F)
8. Fireflash	No Mans Land	*	
9. Xenon 1	IJK		
10. A.T.M.	Cobrasoft	*	(F)

CHARTSChit-Chat results**CHIT-CHAT**

Results are all we have this month, we are sorry to say that ideas have run out for a new topic of discussion, so unless you or I come up with a new topic by next month Chit-Chat will not be printed.

In last months Chit-Chat we asked you to number the option that best suited your views on a topic, which was the state of street magazines and how none of them support the Oric micro.

Option 1 was : Oric is a great (magazines include C+VG, Games Machine, Ace, etc) computer and so deserves equal space as Sinclair, Amstrad, Atari, etc.

Option 2 was : Oric doesn't have enough material for equal devotion, but 1 or 2 pages would be better than nothing.

Option 3 was : Oric is clearly a minority and doesn't really deserve any coverage at all.

The results were:

Option number 1:	7 %
"	2: 73 %
"	3: 20 %

We have really had an excelent response to Chit-Chat, but please don't let it end, give us some ideas of new topics.

Last month we said that Your Oric had just sent out it's last issue, at that time it hadn't, sorry.

We've had quite a few letters asking us whether OUM will close down, following Your Oric, FGC, Phildata, IJK, OJ, and many more. Oric User Monthly almost stopped printing last month, but then I realised that if everyone thought like that then Oric would lose all interest. We've just expanded and made OUM better, released a booklet, made back issues cheaper and gave away lots of free issues in an attempt to halt the declining interest in Oric. It seems to have worked and you can be assured that OUM will be around for a long time yet.

TALISMAN

This game is quite simply the best game we've ever seen on the Oric, or at least one of them. In talisman you control a huge man who must explore an enormous castle of corridors and rooms. When you enter a room you can run across platforms, jump or climb staircases.

It isn't that simple though, many monsters try to kill you. To kill them you have to pick up talismans to throw at them, these look like ninja stars and there is usually about 4 or 5 on each screen.

The monsters are as follows:

Zombies: These humanoid creatures stomp about trying to kill you with a single touch. They usually need 1 or 2 talismans to kill them.

Spiders: These cannot be killed as the talismans fly over them, just watch out that they don't get you !

Bats : These fly about and are hard to hit, but only one hit is needed.

Death mats: These hairy blocks move inside the floors that you walk on, if you happen to step on one you may be lucky enough simply to be pulled down one floor, it may though take you right back to the bottom floor, but if you're really unlucky it might kill you !

Ghosts : These large creatures just move about and try to hit you, two talismans are needed to drop them.

The other monster is the worst, there is only one of them, but that is quite enough for me. It is the main enemy, it is a large, evil creature with many arms. Apart from it's waving arms its only attack/defense is its death stars similar to our talismans, he firesthree at once and takes many, many hits to die, but I didn't manage to do that.

Every monsters features absolutly brilliant graphics and the sound effects are stunning. The computer actually laughs at you when you die ! It also tells you various things but the game is French and I'm not brilliant at French at the best of times. The game shouts out 'Talisman' at the start with some great digitised speech. Detail has been enforced greatly.

As soon as you load Talisman, which is programmed by Infogames, you will immediatly realise that the Oric is capable of excelent software.

As you can see this month I am trying to get hold of various software titles, including Talisman. If I do get them it'll sellquicker than Zorgons Revenge did in it's day, and what a long time ago that seems.....

Graphics: 10

Sound: 9

Addictiveness: 10

Overall: 10

Newsflash: W.E. Software might still be able to obtain French software. These plans had been called off when Eureka were about to close down, now Eureka are still barely surviving and WE. Software say that they may easily get the titles (Tansoft, Durell, Softek, Loricieles, etc) and then sell them cheaply in the UK. They still refuse to sell the Telestrat II though.

For sale (enquiries to OUM): All original copies

Them:	Normal price = £ 6.95	Cheap = £ 3.50
Munch:	£ 4.95	£ 3.95
The Ultra:	£ 6.95	£ 4.50
Drac's revenge:	£ 6.95	£ 3.50
Spooky Mansion:	£ 6.95	£ 3.95

All for just £ 15.95 ! Payment in cash, cheque or Postal order. All tapes are Atmos/Oric 1 compatible and in excelent condition.

OLDIES PURSUIT

Part 1

Let's follow up some of the old classic coin-ops that made people want to spend their hard earned cash on, join us for part 1 of the oldies pursuit....

On the oldies pursuit:part 1

We all know the most famous of coin-ops, Space invaders. But there are quite a few others that began to change the way that games were made. We will now take you on a tour of the oldies and tell you just how many of them were ever converted to the Oric micro, and if they are still around today !

Let us start with Space Invaders. This transferred very successfully on Oric. If ever you visit a local arcade you will almost certainly be able to find a Space Invaders machine tucked away in a quiet, dusty corner. Three versions have all been released under the same name of Invaders, by IJK, Arcadia and PSS. I have not actually played the Arcadia version so I can't judge it, but the other two are good fun. Quark Data released 3D Invaders, the name giving away the style of graphics. This is a little hard to obtain outside France, the Software Club (now not with Oric) used to hire copies out. It is fairly good.

Don't press the letter 'Q' has got a few versions in it, but none are very good. Delta 4 by Emerald (see our games booklet for review) had a Space Invaders version in it, and really is quite excellent. There are a variety of ways in which you can play Space Invaders on your Oric, and none are extremely unplayable.

One popular coin-op was of course, Frogger. The idea is to guide a family of frogs over (sometimes toads) a busy road then a dangerous river. IJK released Green X Toad which was poor, then they re-released it with better graphics and sound and made a great version of the original. PSS released Hopper which wasn't as good as Green X Toad but still was pretty enjoyable, and cheap at the usual price of £ 5.95. Tansoft released Frog-Hop which is now almost extinct on cassette, which is a shame because it really is very good. Frogger didn't get too many versions for the Oric, but those that did come out were very close to the original.

This 'oldies' report wouldn't be the same without Pac-Man, would it ? Oricmunch by Tansoft sold from OPELCO for just £ 2.95, then it went up to £ 4.95. It was cheap, graphically decent and very, very close to the original. Pac-Oric didn't get very far in France or GB which is a shame because it is good.

IJK released Ghost Gobbler, which is very good, so is Ghostman that was released by Severn. Both games offered value for money and are still available. Don't press the letter 'Q' has got a few versions of Pac-Man in it which are okay, but not brilliant. This was released by IJK too.

Loriciels changed the style of the 'side-on' view of the Pac-Man screen, this was done with 3D Munch, a game that WE. Software want to obtain. It gives you Pac-Man's view and is like a hectic, arcade version of 3D Maze by IJK. It is very good and probably a welcome change from the usual method.

Pac-Man has transferred to the Oric very well.

Next month we'll continue on part 2 of the oldies pursuit, in which we will try to fit in Donkey Kong, Centipede, Missile Command, Fruit machines, snooker, asteroids and more.

This feature will probably stretch out into 3 or 4 parts, please let us know what you think of it.

Part 2 in July

QUICK LOADING ?

Don't you find cassette loading tedious ? Most Oric software takes about 3-6 minutes to load, disk can often take under 15 seconds. Here we are concerned with cassettes and fast speed. Normal fast loading is at a speed of 2400 bauds, the more bauds, the faster the loading is. We are now going to introduce two software utilities to you, called Turbo Tape and Hebdogiciel releases the second, called 4800 Bauds. Turbo Tape is a quality utility that allows you to transfer programs to tape which can then be loaded at half the time. It also has an option to allow you to load software at 7200 bauds, which is three times faster ! Turbo Tape comes with full instructions (but, they are in French !) and the program is very easy to use.

4800 Bauds loads software at twice the normal speed, again it has to be saved straight from the program which doesn't take too long to do. This utility also comes with easy-to-follow instructions, and is used in exactly the same way as Turbo Tape. Both utilities are quite tricky to get hold off outside France but nothing is impossible. These are usually available for under £ 10.00 and in the long run they are certainly worth the effort where games such as Buccaneer & Maze Rally (both by FGC) are concerned, as they take about 6/7 minutes to load. Both can be used on disk, but it is really not worth it when disk software loads quick anyway.

Here is a guide to our views on the best software you can play on your Oric.

<u>UK. Arcade</u>	<u>UK. Adventures</u>	<u>French games</u>
Lone Raider	Wizard Of Akyrz	Talisman
Zorgons Revenge	The Hobbit	Karate
Tyrant	Operation Gremlin	Starter 3D
Insect Insanity	Velnors Lair	L'Aigre D'or
Xehoh III	Waxworks	Le Diamant De L'ile Maudite
Defence Force	Lords Of Time	Tri-athlon
Krillys	Snowball	Star
Gubbie	Operations special	Doggy

5 lucky owners are in with a chance to win issue 13 of O.U.M free, with our previous offers of issues free we have had enormous responses so answer this question and win the issue with P&P included, worth 90p.
The question :

' This game was released by IJK and the author has also wrote a game for CDS. Unscramble the following letters to find it's name: MBSTEBDAUR. '

Please get the results in by July the 21st and the results will be printed next issue. That closing date also goes for ordering issues of OUM.

Next issue: reviews, tips & hints, news, charts, maybe chit-chat, features, competition results, oldies pursuit continued, and much more. Just 55p for the most frequently distributed magazine for the Oric, see you in August where we'll do our best to fill 7 pages.

-----Oric User Monthly-----