O ~ U ~ M ~
Oric User Monthly

This issue is yet another jam-packed issue of OUM, but it has been by no means easy. I thought I asked you for more contributions, well the ammount of contributions we received for this issue is practically zero! If you don't send in material to use, then what do we print ?
I admit that it isn't possible for everyone to write programs but tips & hints arn't hard to find, neither are requests,pokes,problems,etc. I really cannot see OUM making it to 1989 without more help from readers, so get your pens out and get those contributions in.
To compile the charts send in your top 3 arcade games lists plus the name of the game you most dislike.
Last month five readers had the chance to win a free issue of OUM with P&P included (normally 90p) if they answered correctly a riddle, the answer was Dambusters by Pete Beckett. The five lucky readers were R.Hudson, Allan Ball, J.Turner, J.West and G.Elliot. There was a large response to this offer, thanks for all of you who tryed.

Inside: Reviews of Them, Lords Of Time, more. Charts .
        Chit-Chat . News . Tips & Hints . Oldies pursuit (part 2) .
        More.

·NEWS·

News

Good news is that H.G.C. (Mailorder) has recently got off to a good start. Using FGC's old stock and a bit more Allan Whitaker has put together a quite remarkable price list, with amazing prices as low as £ 1.99.
There are also some new titles that have not been too easy to obtain before. These include Bozy Boa and Oric Trek and here are a few example prices:

Gravitor : £ 2.99	Bozy Boa : £ 1.99
Chopper: £ 3.50 (highly recommended)	Invaders (IJK) : £ 1.99
Starfighter : £ 1.99	Ice Giant : £ 1.99
Megabase : £ 4.99	BASIC + : £ 2.99

5 C15 cassettes : £ 1.50   3" discs for £ 2.60 each.

There are well over 100 titles on offer . Unfortunatly many of the new-ish titles only run on the Oric 1, Atmos owners still have good offers though with League Champions for just £ 3.50.
The Oric Games Guide is still selling for just £ 1.00 inc. P&P.
We do soon hope to have some French software to sell but WE (Software) are having trouble obtaining it. More about that next issue. Last month you was asked which French titles you most wanted us to obtain. They were mainly the following: Frelon,Talisman,Formula 1,Insect Insanity and Football Manager. Insect Insanity (a wonderful game) was almost obtained a while back by FGC. They had planned to get copies from Orpheus but they closed down !

Two months ago you was asked how much reviews per month you wanted. The few that did reply said about 2 or 3, except a few who ranged from 1 - 4.

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THE BEST ORIC MAGAZINE !

NO. 12...

News (cont:)

HGC hopes to set up a Public Domain software idea, this has worked on many other micro's and so it should work on the Oric. The idea is that you, the Oric owner, writes software (not brilliant, but not pathetic either) and other Oric owners can get a copy quite cheaply, the author of the program is paid for each copy sold. This will help the current situation of no new software appearing for the Oric, and any type of software will be considered, adventure,arcade,utility,and on disk or cassette, and in any language.
Our software releases are almost completed, and inlay cards, advertising, etc. will then be carried out.
WE. (Software) has let us know that they still repair Oric micros. There is a basic estimate charge of £ 6.50 which is deducted from the final cost if the repair is actually carried out.
There's been alot of news this month, and at last things are beginning to look up for the Oric owner. Let's hope it continues.

Issue 13 costs 55p + an A5 s.a.e or 90p without. *
A five month subscription with 5 A5 s.a.e's costs £ 2.75 or £ 4.50 without. *
A years subscription without s.a.e's costs just £ 10.00! *
* When P&P is included OUM is posted by 1st class.
Subscriptions can be bought for any length of time, just ask for details.
Back issues: One month offer only ! 35p each or 60p for 2 ! Offer ends on August 24th. All OUM orders by August 20th please.
Address: Oric User Monthly, 10 Thomson Ave, Kings Norton, B'ham, B38,8YD.

Chit-Chat   'C-C'

You now know what to do, choose the option that best suits your opinions.
This months topic comes from Allan Ball, on software. Should the software houses release Oric software, or stick to CBM,Amstrad,etc. Write in with your number (1,2 or 3) and if possible, an idea for next months topic.

Option 1: Oric is never going to be as big as Amstrad or the other 'big' micro's, because there is no new software. If software companies simply release one game then a little more interest would lead to the possibility of more interest, with another game being a better seller.
Option 2: Oric is quite capable of producing games equal to many of the other 8-bit micros (Spectrum at least) and so should get equal coverage. How is Oric expected to survive without them ?
Option 3: Oric cannot make enough sales of software to cover the charge of research,cassettes,programming,etc. They should really stay with the computers they're already dealing with, after all they are supposed to be making a profit !

All results and other contributions in by August 20th please.

With the Wimbledon tennis just finished there have been numerous requests for a tennis simulation, I can't think of any decent simulations ever released. If I find any I'll let you know next month.

'FRELON'

Game: Frelon
Supplier: Loriciels
Price: £ 7.50 (price varies alot)

The French based company Loriciels (now taken over by Elite Systems LTD) have
released many Oric classics, including Video Flipper,Stanley,Intertron and
3D Munch.
Frelon is a bit like Airwolf on the Spectrum,CBM,etc. You move about a land
split into five screens instead of scrolling. Your mission is this, you are
in need of certain supplies, which will soon arrive by truck. The truck must
pass over a bridge to get to you but the bridge has been knocked out !
There are about 8 blocks scatters around that you must collect and place on
the bridge to fix it. You can only carry one at a time, so the mission takes
a while.
The game is made difficult by the enemy forces, which come in the form of
tanks that shoot up at you and planes that try to crash into you. There are
also some annoying bubbles that move slowly down the screen, fatal if touched.
One of screens no. 4 or 5 has rockets that fly up the screen at you. Screen
5 is quite difficult, the block to be collected is down a hole. There is a
lazer-beam that randomly fires across the exit so it must be timed carefully.
To take this worse, there is a tank down the hole so it's wise to bomb the
tank before going down the hole.
Screen three - the starting screen - has got a fuel pad. You have a fuel
tanks that empties quite quickly so it's not a bad idea to refill when it's
only half empty.
If you re-enter a screen the enemies that you killed will have returned.
The keyboard control is excellent so a joystick is not a real advantage.
The graphics are of very high quality with good use of colour. Loriciels
have eliminated ALL colour clash problems somehow, and added a high-score
table. The sound effects of your movement is great. You are flying a chopper
that turns and twists easily. If you complete the repairing of the bridge
you get the satisfaction of seeing the truck drive over it, with a nice
chugging of the engine.
You have three lives that are needed desperatly, although I admit to cheating
with an 'infinite lives' poke that has already been printed in OUM. (If you
didn't see it then ask for it). The game doesn't feature a volume setting
(permenahtly set on high) but does feature a difficulty level.
Frelon is another great French game from Loriciels and is highly addictive.

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

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Here's another offer for 2 readers to win issue 15 free ! This also includes
P&P, normally 90p. To win it, answer this easy question:

' There were many adventures released in the 'Mysterious Adventures' range,
by Channal 8. Many have been released in Britain and some reviewed in OUM.
One in the range (not reviewed in OUM) has two parts in it, split into two
games. What is it ? '

Answers in by August the 20th please. Results printed next issue.
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FOR SALE : 48K Oric-1, including all leads and power pack. Cassette recorder,
MCP-40 four colour printer + some paper, manuals and other books, software
including Xenon 1, Hunchback and Harrier Attack. Just £ 70.00 !!! vgc.

If interested, write to OUM and we'll pass on all requests.

-REVIEWS-

Game: 'Them'
Supplier: Virgin Games
Price: £ 6.95

I loaded Them with a feeling of dread, not quite knowing what to expect. I
had hated Virgin software ever since I played Killer Caverns, that left me
gibbering and having nightmares about awful games for weeks to come.
When Them loaded I found myself controlling a round circle with a smiling
face on it ! This solves character animation, no moving legs,body,etc.
I found that there was five stages to the game, you could choose difficulty
so I opted for the easily played level, which was hard !
Stage one was one in which I had to move my smiling face around a maze seen
from above, collecting an object which would then show me another object to
collect, until I'd collected a set ammount. To stop me doing this were
various baddies that came in varies shapes and sizes. I also had to avoid
the walls !
Another stage had me rescueing explorers, changing bones to fit each other
by matching parts of bones. This was hard to do but quite good fun.
One stage (I think it was part 4) was excellent fun. I was being dragged
along a machine belt into a killer machine that would turn me into a hamburger
which didn't appeal to me. The belt dragged me further and further in each
time a monster went off the edge of the screen. They came from above and below
me and so I had to blast me before they all killed me !
Them has renewed my hope in Virgin software but not sent it soaring. The
graphics are quite good (it shows you the authors face, with stunning detail)
and detailed. The sound effects are fairly good too. It is not bad for the
price.

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

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Game: Lords Of Time
Supplier: Level 9
Price: £ 7.95 (cass) / £ 11.90 (disk)

Lords Of Time is quite simply a brilliant adventure that shows what a text
adventure on the Oric can really be like. You start off with nothing in an
ordinary house and very soon you find yourself in a fantasy land to do with
time,clocks,etc.
The lack of graphics is a little disapointing as most other computer versions
have graphics, but who cares? The atmosphere is still very realistic.
The vocabulary is near perfect, accepting many words you'd not normally be
able to use.
Lords Of Time has a save/load feature too, which is vital as it is not going
to be solved quickly.
It is well worth the asking price and no adventurer should be without this.
One gripe, Oric Atmos owners can't use this without the Oric V1.0 BASIC
ROM which is available for £ 22.95.

Graphics: N/A   Vocabulary: 8   Atmosphere: 7   Overall: 8

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Part 2: By R.Cook

Here's the second part of our ever-so-popular series in which we show you just how many of the old arcade machines were ever converted for the Oric, and tell you if they're still around today.

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One of the most famous and playable was of course Asteroids. Unfortunatly it never really made it to the Oric, except one small version by Artic, called (wait for it) Asteroids. This version only runs on the Oric 1, and is almost impossible to buy a new copy now. The Software Club hired this program out.

Centipide was released across nearly all computer formats, and having seen quite a few of them I have to say that the Oric is at least as good as the others, if not better. There is only one version of it, by PSS under the original name. HGC sells this game for just £ 1.99, a bargain.

Donkey Kong is almost as famous as Pac-Man and Space Invaders, and is very enjoyable, if only Oric owners could get to play much of it. It was only a while ago that the mail-order companies started to supply Dinky Kong,which isn't bad. There is an Atmos version but it isn't easy to find at all. There is also ORIC KONG and Donky Kong, both by Hebdogiciel. I can't give judgement on either version as I've never even seen them !
One version I have seen is Singerie, or Monkey. It is a brilliant version with superb large graphics and great sound effects. It has to be the best version I've seen.
Even with those versions, hardly any are available outside France, so I can't see that Brittish Oric owners get much fun out of Donkey Kong.

Missile Command was a game in which you had to stop towns being destroyed by many missiles. It was never really released as a full game for the Oric, but it is in the final part of a game called Delta 4 by the same author as 'Them', reviewed this issue. Missile Command is good.

Snooker NEVER was converted for the Oric. Trickshot by IJK isn't snooker, it's sort of a one player version of pool, and isn't too bad. There was a game called Billiards a while ago, but hardly anyone heard about it.

Fruit machines are good fun on computers because they don't gobble up your cash. Multigames 1 by Tansoft has a game called Bandit in it, which is fun but pays out too much.
Express Software (yes, the awful company) made a pathetic version called Bandit too. It sold for £ 1.99 but was just not worth it, it has to be the worst fruit machine simulator I've ever seen.
There was a version called Las Vegas which I've heard was quite good.

Finally this month, and ending Oldies Pursuit, Pinball Machines. Loriciels released Video Flipper and this was very good. Macadam Bumper by Ere Informatique was excellent, allowing you to design your own machine. Both were reviewed in OUM issue 3.
Cobra Pinball by Cobrasoft is also brilliant. It is a little hard to obtain in Britain but WE. Software say they hope to have it 'soon'. Pinball machines have converted excellently to the Oric, if you can get a copy.

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That's it from 'Oldies Pursuit',although we hoped to make it into a three month feature. There wasn't enough material, but we still gave you a decent feature. If you have any ideas for other features let us know.

C.O.M.P.U.T.E.R._F.I.L.E.   no. 1   LORICIELS

This month we start a new series in OUM, in which you get to read about all
our knowledge of a certain company who have released Oric software. This
month Loriciels gets the slot, so read on.
If_you_have an_idea for a company to_be featured, please_write. _ _ _ _ _ _

Loriciels is a French based company who have only recently made alot of
success in Britain, but not with Oric software, mainly with the Atari ST.
They stopped releasing Oric software only when Elite Systems LTD took over
them, who have never really had an interest in minority machines.
Loriciels have released all sorts of software and it is hoped that soon some
of this software will be easily available in the UK, if WE. Software continue
with their plans.
They have released Aigle D'or, which is a classic adventure. Budget Familial
is a high quality utility and Carn 3 is a fast shoot-em-up, so you see that
they cater for all tastes.
Other titles include:
Caspak,Sail Challenge,Citadel,Course Aux Lettres,Crocky,Diament De L'ile
Maudite,Doggy,Musical editor,Formule 1,Frelon,Gastronom,Gengraph,Godilloric,
Hubert,Intertron,Jackman,Loritel,Lotoriciel,Manoir Du Dr Genius,Return of
Dr Genius,Secret Tomb,Vortex,Video Flipper,Logo V1,Lorigraph,Mentor,Mystery
De Kikenkendi,Orion,Protector,Reversi,Sorvivor,Star,Stanley,Super Jeep,
3D Munch,3D Fungus,Vision,and a few more since our list was compiled.

We have reviewed in OUM the following: Frelon,Stanley,Star,Video Flipper and
Star.

Available in Britain: Super Jeep.
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Book Review

Book: The Oric Proggrammer
Supplier: Granada Publishing
Author(s): SM Gee & Mike James
Price: £ 6.95

BOOK

This book or more or less a better version of the Oric 1 BASIC manual, wrote
by the two authors who've wrote so many other useful Oric books available
by request from any library and many bookshops. More in the range are :
'The Oric 1 and how to make the most of it','The Oric 1 book of games',and
'The Oric Machine-Code handbook'. On with the review.
TOP has ten chapters slowly bringing you into better BASIC. It describes
loops,strings,variables,graphics & sound,arrays, characters,HIRES,LORES,
and if you don't know what they mean then you'd better get a copy yourself!
It doesn't tell you about machine code though, it briefly mentions CALL,
PEEK,POKE,etc. but doesn't dedicate much space to them.
The book also tells you about the Oric 1 V1.0 BASIC errors in ROM. It has
a handy section on text and numbers that lets you know how to calculate
easily on your Oric.
It also features two games in it, neither is exactly brilliant but fairly
enjoyable and not two long to type in, they are: 'Word Game' that is a
decent version of Hangman, and 'Attack The Saucer', which is a basic and
easy version of Space Invaders.
The book is easy to understand and good value-for-money. It isn't really for
the advanced programmer (they should get 'The Advanced User Guide) but it
is perfect for somebody who wants to learn BASIC and has found,like everyone
else that the manuals think you are a brilliant programmer. If you want to
expand your knoledge of BASIC but are not ready for machine code then get
this book.

Top Ten: Compiled by readers	Company	Last month	
1. Xenon III	I.J.K.	1	*
2. Defence Force	Tansoft	4	
3. Zorgons Revenge	I.J.K.	2	
4. Karate	Gasoline	3	* (F)
5. Frelon	Loriciels	7	* (F)
6. The Hellion	Orpheus	6	
7. FireFlash	No Mans Land	8	*
8. Oric-Trek	Salammander	NE	
9. Starter 3D	Landscape	5	* (F)
10. Bozy Boa	CDS	NE	

Key: * = Reviewed in an issue of OUM : NE = New Entry
    RE= Re-entry   : (F)=French game

Comment: Both A.T.M. and Xenon 1 drop out of the top ten, leaving I.J.K. with just two left, slowing dropping in quantity. Xenon 3 just holds out for yet another month at number 1 but the excellent Defence Force almost took it, Defence Force has only ever had one month at number 1. Starter 3D takes a tumbletoo, droping four places to number 9, nearly out of the top ten. Frelon has a nicr rise, slowly moving up, now in the top five, maybe next month it could make it to no. 3. There are two new entries this month, both sold by H.G.C.(Mailorder) which is most of the reason for the rise. They are Bozy Boa, by CDS Systems & Oric-Trek, by Salammander. Light Cycle and Hopper both came close to being new-entries too. Maybe there will be more of them next month.

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A while ago readers answered a few points which allowed us to see what you wanted in OUM, times are different now and we want you to answer some more questions, if possible the answers will be in next months issue, if not then they'll definatly be in the issue after that.

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1. Is there any part of OUM you find boring, if so what is it ?
2. What software company do you find the best for Oric software ?
3. What type of software do you like the best ?
4. Do you ever use word processors, databases,spreadsheets,etc. ?
5. How often do you buy an Oric game or utility ?
6. What would you like to see in OUM ?
7. What would be the most you'd pay for a single cassette ? (game/utility)
8. Truthfully, give a rating of OUM (%) (i) when you first bought it,
                                         (ii) now.
9. What issue of OUM did you find the most interesting ?

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Next month: OUM is now 1 year old ! Next month there will be the usual reviews,tips (this month there wasn't any, get in some tips !),charts, news,computer file,maybe the results of the questions above,chit-chat results, competition results and probably another offer, more,more,more.

Remember, send in contributions. All 7 pages of O.U.M. this month was our own work, now is that putting you in touch with other readers ?

See you in September, in issue 13,hopefully with another 7 pages, and with more contributions !!!!!