

O . U . MOric User Monthly

Issue 15 : November : 1988 : 55p : Edited & distributed by R.Cook

I've been asking for more contributions for a number of months now, but the situation is now worse than ever. There are very little contributions this month, which almost meant that OUM was only 5 or 6 pages long. There has been a recent rise in the readership of OUM and some have sent in contributions but it can't be left to them, the older readers have got to do something too. I know that contributions are hard to come by, but they don't just mean pokes or programs, although they are the majority. Hints are also useful to games players, which just mean that you have found a good way to play a game, they don't have to be infinite lives. Requests are always welcome as they allow Oric owners to help each other. If there are no more contributions over the next couple of months then there will be less pages, you have been warned.

Inside: News . Top-Ten software charts . Chit - Chat .
 C.O.M.P.U.T.E.R. F.I.L.E. Hints & Tips . Book review .
 Reviews of Damsel In Distress and more . More .

NEWS

News is quieter this month, but it's not bad. Capri Marketing is selling quite a few Oric titles for bargain prices, about £ 1.99 - £ 4.99. They hope to get more, and if you want a price list then send a large s.a.e to:

Capri Marketing LTD,
 24A White Lane,
 Flackwell Heath,
 Nr. High Wycombe,
 Bucks,
 HP10,9HR.

If you do send a s.a.e then please ask for Oric software as they sell software for various micros, or if you prefer you can visit them in normal opening hours.

Don't forget the 1st Oric User Show, or the Public Domain, or The Alternative Micro Show which takes place this month. Hopefully you'll read a report next month if you can't make it.

For any of the events just mentioned see one of the last couple of issues of OUM and all will be revealed.

'The Oric Games Guide' : Just £ 1.00 for over 25 games reviews !

'The Quill' : Just £ 4.99 inc. P&P. Contact OUM for details.

ISSUE 15 [NOV]

Issue 16 costs 55p with an A5 s.a.e. or 90p without. *

A 5 month subscription can be bought for £ 2.75 with 5 A5 s.a.e's or £ 4.50 without. *

A years subscription without s.a.e's costs just £ 10.00 ! *

* When P&P is included in the price then OUM will be delivered by 1st class postage.

Subscriptions can be bought for any length of time, just ask for details.

All subscriptions include price increases that may occur with postage.

Back issues: 50p for 1 ; £ 1.00 for 2 ; £ 1.40 for 3. For more than three back issues ask for details.

SOLUTION

Adventure solution: Wizard of Akyrz

Wizard of Akyrz by Channal 8 is one of the best graphic adventures available for the Oric, but is also one of the hardest to complete. Here is part 1 of the way to completing it.

You must first take the specs and examine the painting, take the chain off it then type FIX SPECS or FIX CHAIN, then you can wear them. Next go to the staircase and examine it, then examine the tapestry and take the sword.

Next climb the stairs and take the rug, useful later. Go to the chest and type GO CHEST. It might be already open, if not then type OPEN CHEST. You'll find yourself outside, take the shovel and go North,North,North, then East. Then type either U or CLIMB TREE. You'll see a birds nest. Search it and take the ORB. Then type SAY RAVEN and you'll be in secret room, drop the ORB and type SCORE, you'll be 25 % through.

Then there may be an exit, if so go through it or if not type SAY RAVEN. You'll now have returned to the tree, type GO DOWN then walk south until you find yourself in a cave. If you're not wearing your specs then you'll be in the dark and die, if you listened to me before and put them on then you'll see a goblin. Kill the goblin (you will use the sword) then take the key. Then travel west, then go north until you reach the dead-end.

Now we're getting somewhere. Type DIG twice. Take the item that you dig up (I can't remember what it is !) say RAVEN and drop it, then return in the same way as with the ORB. Now your score is 50 %.

Keep the shovel, you'll need it later. Later being next month.

Win issue 17 with 1st class P&P , free !

Yes, it's time again for more free issues to be given out. If you haven't entered yet then do this month, you're sure to win sooner or later. Just answer these questions on computing.

- (i) How many bits are in a byte ? (Simple)
- (ii) How many bytes are in 1K ? (So is that)
- (iii) How many bytes are in 1 Megabyte ? (Devious)
- (iv) What type of CPU is in the Oric ? (Either Z80 or 6502) (Average)

Not too bad are they ? If you can't answer them all then answer as many as you can, as it might come to the situation of nobody knowing them all.

Results next issue, answers in by November the 23rd please.

Wanted: Solution to part 2 of 'A View To A Kill'.

Top Ten: Compiled by readers & HGC (Mailorder) Company Last Month

1. Zorgons Revenge	I.J.K.	2
2. Xenon III	I.J.K.	1 *
3. Defence Force	Tansoft	3
4. Karate	Gasoline	5 * (F)
5. The Hellion	Orpheus	4
6. Fireflash	No Mans Land	5 *
7. Maze Rally	FGC	7 *
8. Lone Raider	Severn	9
9. Frelon	Loriciels	8 * (F)
10. Megabase	Orpheus	NE

NE: New entry RE: Re-entry *: Reviewed in OUM (F): French software

Comment: Two things worth noticing this month, first and most importantly Xenon III has been kicked off no. 1 position by Zorgons Revenge, the old favourite. Only twice has Xenon 3 been off the top spot since OUM started! Secondly, the first utility enters the charts at no. 10, and is HGC's best selling software package.

Last months C.O.M.P.U.T.E.R. F.I.L.E. was no. 3, we forgot to print the number

Competition results.

Issue 16 with 1st class P&P (normally 90p) will be going out free to G.Moor, B.Carter & Jason Ale. Last month required a little thought and you were to match up some addresses and companies, the answers were.

WE. Software	=	Worcs.	Your Oric	=	Surrey
OPELCO	=	Wentworth, Surrey			
IJK	=	Blackpool	I.O.U.G.	=	Manchester
HGC (Mailorder)	=	Cheshire			

Book Review

Title: The Atmos Programmer
Authors: Mike James and S.M.Gee
Price: £ 7.75 (hardback)

This is yet another book on the Oric from Granada, and not surprisingly from the two authors who have written so many other books. The Atmos Programmer jumps out at you with a great cover, and it is all well presented. It takes you through the basic stages of programming in BASIC then takes you into better programming, graphics, sound, a bit of machine-code, etc. I have to admit that I didn't find much use for the book, not because of it being boring or a bad book, but I already own The Oric Programmer by the same authors, and they are almost word for word copies. Many chapters are absolutely identical, except for replacing 'Oric' with 'Atmos'. There is though, a chapter on the Atmos microdisk with another on the compatibility of the Oric 1 & Atmos with another small additions. If you've got the original, I really wouldn't recommend it (though the extra chapters aren't bad) but if not, this is an excellent read.

Presentation: 9 Friendliness: 7 Overall: 8

Don't miss The Oric Games Guide in it's revised format, just £ 1.00.

TheOric was a magazine that was an 'off-the-shelf' magazine in France, and was the last surviving magazine of it's kind for the Oric micro. It closed down recently after going for well over a year.

The magazine had tried to reach 4000 readers to make it financially secure, but only reach about 2000, which in itself isn't bad.

Ever since it started it had been selling software they had written, most of them utilities. These are not easily available anywhere now, but there are many copies of them which lie with the editors.

Their utilities released : String, Catalogue, Compactor, Conjugaison, Text Editor, Fromage, Music-Oric, Pengoric, Scat, Tron, Util and Verb-Oric.

Games released : Cavern and Colditz.

TIPS, HINTS

D.Ale is having trouble with Dambusters and wants to know if anybody has tips or pokes for infinite fuel, flak, bombs, etc.

Dave Cornwell (and daughters) are stuck in Zorgons Revenge. The infinite lives pokes are as follows:

DOKE# 836, # EAEA : DOKE# 855, # EAEA
DOKE# 98B, # EAEA : POKE# 838, 234
POKE# 857, 234 : POKE# 98D, 234

Type in the DOKE's first, then enter the POKE's.

F.Renker wants infinite lives on Stanley and 3D Munch.

3D Munch : DOKE# 68DC, # EAEA : POKE# 68DE, # EA

I don't know the pokes for Stanley (Loricieles) so have you got them ?

CHIT-CHAT

Chit-Chat results

Last month the topic for Chit-Chat was the selling of the Telestrat. The options were as follows:

- (i) Eureka was right not to advertise the Telestrat because the linkage with Oric would've been seen and put off potential buyers.
- (ii) There should have been alot more advertising, nobody (except Oric owners) even knew about it !
- (iii) Advertising was fine, but the £ 414 price tag was much too expensive.

The result:

Option no. 1	:	2 %
Option no. 2	:	73 %
Option no. 3	:	25 %

Quite clearly you thought that advertising was vital, 2 % is the lowest percentage ever reached in Chit-Chat ! Chit-Chat for this month has a topic concerning the rightful managers of Oric, on another page.

REVIEWS

Game: Damsel In Distress
 Supplier: IJK
 Price: £ 8.50

Damsel In Distress is very professionally made and alot, of attention has been used in the sound and graphics department, but the programmers haven't thought that people will look past the fancy graphics and music. Damsel In Distress is very much similar to Manic Minor. You have to move a sort of man around a screen of platforms jumping and collecting keys, when all the keys are collected you'll pass onto the next screen (there are 20 screens to go through but there is a hint that will allow you to start on any screen, just ask if you want it). There are all sorts of weird monsters that'll try to kill you, which happens frequently. The game is very difficult, I only completed a few screens after quite a few hours play. Your final objective is to rescue some stupid damsel who has got herself locked away, you'll see her on screen 20 waving about for you to rescue her. All the Manic Minor favourites are here, holes in the floor that you can't see, lifts, etc. The graphics are really very good, but there is alot of colour clash trouble which is very hard to avoid on the Oric. There is a sound track playing all the way through the game that uses the Oric superb sound facilities to the limit, all three sound channels going at once. The soundtrack just has to be the best music I'd heard at that time, which was only about six months ago. However, even with all this gloss Damsel In Distress does not offer anything new or original. Manic Minor is cheaper and I have to say it's better. You may like to break your piggy bank and grab a copy, but you may find that after ten minutes or so you'll be fed up with doing nothing new, although if you want to hear the great soundtrack, or just liked Manic Minor you might like to get this.

Graphics: 7 Sound: 9 Addictiveness: 6 Overall: 6

Game: Jet Attack
 Supplier: Hebdogiciel
 Price: Usually around £ 7.00 (cass)

I loaded up Jet Attack and was presented with a quite basic title screen and was told to wait, presumably while data was loaded. I had to wait for a number of minutes before starting the game. I started, I died. Jet Attack is hard ! It is a game a little like Skramble, but not too much. You control a spaceship exactly the same as in A.T.M. (see issue 5 for review) and the graphics are much the same, it seems that the games had the same author. You control this spaceship and must shoot the choppers that fly towards you, and also bomb the town you're flying over. There is a fuel limit you have and it's always going down fast, you can regain fuel by bombing fuel dumps. As I said, this game is very hard and there are also ground guns that shoot up at you, making life more difficult. The sound effects are very much like those in ATM, nice jingles and explosions. The graphics are crisp and neat, they are yet again similar to those in ATM. The game never ends, so it could just get a bit boring, but I did like Jet Attack, although A.T.M. was better. Maybe the author should change his style next time, but this is a nice game.

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

Oric Games Guide : Still only £ 1.00.

Game: Circus
 Supplier: Channal 8
 Price: £ 6.95 (cass) / £ 10.50 (disk)

ADVENTURE

Circus is another adventure in the 'Mysterious Adventures' range that we have followed since issue 2. Circus is no better than the rest, but is by no means bad, it just isn't brilliant.

I found myself at the start of Circus outside a big-top tent, not knowing what my full mission was. I decided to investigate the surrounding area so I trotted off in all directions and found a couple of useless items and found an abandoned car, unless it was mine. I couldn't get the car up and running so I walked back to the tent, which I entered. It was dark in there and I didn't have a light source so I fell over, broke my neck and died, hardly a pleasant ending to a rather short attempt.

The game has a nice atmosphere to it, but I found the vocabulary a bit thin so it might restrict the appeal of Circus to beginning adventurers. I didn't get very far through Circus, and knew that there could well be a whole new world beyond the big-top tent, I desperately wanted to get into it. I suppose that that's what makes an adventure addictive.

As I said, the atmospheric feel is fine and makes you feel right in the current location. The graphics are quite good too.

Circus is not really worth the asking price, but is a fair game for the adventurers among you. If somebody does get far into the tent then I'm quite interested, let me know.

Graphics: 7 Vocabulary: 4 Atmosphere: 7 Overall: 6

Recently the charts have been getting a little repetetive as there are not many people sending in charts lists (top 3 games) although HGC (Mailorder) has helped. So, I want all of you to contribute to the charts by answering these questions. Either fill in the form or if you don't want to cut up the worlds best Oric magazine then write them out. Please return answers forms by November the 23rd. Results in December or January issue.

(i) What is your favourite adventure game ? _____

(ii) Name your favourite arcade game. _____

(iii) What is your overall favourite game ? _____

(iv) " " " " worst " ? _____

(v) What, in your opinion, is the most original Oric game ? _____

(vi) What game have you played the most in the last few months ? _____

(vii) What is your favourite utility ? _____

Done that ? Right, get those results in. Remember, you don't have to cut up the magazine.

Wanted: Original copy of Insect Insanity, also issues of either 'TheOric', 'Oric User', or 'Oric Owner'.

Here is a new topic up for discussion in this months 'Chit-Chat', the idea was proposed by StWheeler from Lanes. If you have an idea for 'Chit-Chat' then please let me know.

This month the discussion is on the current pricing of Oric software, which has been vastly decreased by HGC and Capri Marketing LTD. The current price of Oric software ranges from £ 1.99 to £ 4.99, even The Quill costs less than £ 5.00, where it costed £ 17.00 when it first reached the mailorder companies.

Regular readers can jump straight to the options. Readers who don't know how to take part, read on.... There are two options underneath, each puts forward a different view on the same matter. You must decide which option best suits your opinions and let us know which option number it is. We will compile the results and put them into a % result, the results will then be printed next issue. You can then see if you were in the majority.

Option no. 1 : Games should not be sold for less than £ 5 when other Oric owners have bought the software for about £ 7. It is cheating the people who bought them out of money.

Option no. 2: There is no reason why software shouldn't be dropped in price. It was really too expensive for what you got anyway. Companies like HGC and Capri Marketing LTD are just doing what should've been done a long time ago, and they are giving Oric owners full value-for-money.

Get those results in before November the 21st please, and do reply as all the votes count. Chit-Chat has had a great response since it started and let's keep it up.

Wanted: Any French software titles, mainly Loriciciels and Landscape but any will do. Also, Atmos wanted with power pack. A book on Oric machine-code is also wanted, all enquiries to OUM.

Next Month

Hints & Tips (get them in !), reviews, chit-chat, C.O.M.P.U.T.E.R. F.I.L.E., news, chit chat results and maybe the questions results, free issues offer results and maybe more on offer, and hopefully you'll see the result of the Alternative Micro Show with a full report. Be there, HGC software (new games) will be demonstrated, and alot more. Decembers issue must have more contributions to keep 7 pages filled, so let the telling off on page 1 inspire you. See you in December.

Robert Cook.

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

XX NOVEMBER 1988 XX