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Oric User Monthly

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This month there is more contributions for the hints & tips section, which is just what I asked for last month. If this keeps up then I won't need to moan again for a while. In fact there isn't room for all the hints & tips this month (it is limited to one page) so if yours isn't printed then it'll be in either next months issue or the one after.

Inside OUM this month is the usual charts, news, reviews, etc. but also you can see how last months opinion questions went. The results are on page 2. There is a book review on page 4, this month it is 'The Companion To The Oric-1' that gets the investigation. Overall, yet another amazing issue.

Robert Cook

·ORIC NEWS·

'The 1st Oric User Show' is off, unfortunately. There were only 25 people who were going or who replied, which wasn't half as many needed to make it viable. Mr Kersey-Smith had tried to organise the show, but for some reason Oric owners didn't realise what they would get out of it.

Dave Dick has informed me of a man who will repair your Orics, should they break down. His name is Phil and his address is:

7 Mandeville Road,
Aylesbury,
Bucks.

When writing to Phil enclose a s.a.e and write down the details of the fault.

The Alternative Micro Show went well. A large proportion of the show was useful to Oric owners. Some Atmos's were sold, but the real interest of the show was the new products. Mick Poat's new drum machine was supposed to be wonderful, and 'Winter Olympics' and 'The Last Warrior' were both demonstrated, and said to be interesting new software titles. Both of these new software titles were on the HGC stand, by Allan Whitaker.

Unfortunately I couldn't make it, but thanks to all the readers who did go and who let me know how it went. The show was a big success, hopefully there will be another event next year.

I know that OUM has printed quite a few errors in the past, but not even we are perfect (not quite). Last month we printed at the bottom of page 4 that the topic for Chit-Chat was based on the Eureka/Oric managers. As the more observant amongst you will have noticed, the actual topic had absolutely nothing to do with it, you'll see it this month, sorry.

If you want to write reviews then contact us.

Issue 17 costs 55p with an A5 s.a.e. or 90p without the s.a.e. *
 A five month subscription is £ 2.75 + 5 A5 s.a.e's or £ 4.50 without *
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 Back issues (when ordering back issues, please state an alternative issue if possible): 50p for 1 ; £ 1.00 for 2 ; £ 1.40 for 3. For more than three back issues please ask for details.

All orders for issue 17 and contributions should be delivered by no later than December the 20th.

// RESULTS //

Here are the results of last months opinion questions, the results also go towards the charts. We had a good response, thanks to all those who made the effort to send them in.

The results

(i) Which is your favourite adventure game ?

Well, not surprisingly 'The Hobbit' by Melbourne House came a very clear winner, with well over 70 % of the votes. Others like House Of Death, Zodiac, and Snowball all got a couple of mentions.

(ii) What is your favourite arcade game ?

The results were a bit varied, here are the main entries: Zorgons Revenge, Xenon III, Ultra, Defence Force, Karate and Lone Raider.

(iii) What is your favourite (overall) game ?

Mainly the same as the answers to question 2, but new entries included: Triathlon, Classic Racing and Operation Gremlin.

(iv) Which is your worst game ?

Not surprising, the all time pathetic efforts included : Killer Caverns, Pole Position, Loki, Dambusters and Missile & Breakout, plus a few others.

(v) Which is the most original Oric game ?

No doubt about this one, nearly every vote gave it 'Don't Press The Letter Q'.

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

This varied almost from every other readers vote, there are too many to list all the votes, but they were mainly Maze Rally and The Ultra.

(vii) Which is your favourite utility/business package ?

Allan Whitaker's 'One key BASIC' scored well here, and 'The Quill' made it's mark. Surprisingly there were only a few votes for Author and Megabase !

Sorry to everyone who had trouble with Capri Marketing LTD's address last month. It should be: Capri Marketing LTD, 24a White Pit Lane, Flackwell Heath, Nr. High Wycombe, Bucks., HP10 9HR. Send a large s.a.e for their price list.

First of all here are quite a few items of interest sent in by Dave Dick from Aylesbury, Bucks. Dave wants to know if any OUM readers have a copy of the following software titles for sale :- Football Manager (Addictive), Insect Insanity (Tansoft), Super Jeep (Loricieles), Tendre Poulet (Loricieles), Star (Loricieles), A.T.M. (Cobrasoft), Honey Kong (Sprites), 3D Munch (Loricieles), or a few other French titles.

Also from Dave : Infinite lives for 'Mushroom Mania'.

DOKE 1259, EAEA : POKE 125B, E4

Here (still with Dave) is the poke for infinite lives on Tansoft's 'Insect Insanity'. This was printed in OUM a while ago, but for new readers.....

DOKE 4B57, EAEA : CALL 5FD to restart the game.

Also from Dave Dick, a few programming tips.

To stop a game from auto-running (must be 100% BASIC) :

- (i) Type : POKE 1280,1: CLOAD ""
- (ii) When game/program has loaded the error message 'Errors found' will be displayed. Now type : LIST
- (iii) To save the program without auto-run, type : POKE 1280,0: CSAVE ""

Here is Dave's tip for speeding up key repeating when typing.

POKE 24E,8: POKE 24F,2

Note:- Replace the 8 and the 2 in the pokes with 1's to create very quick key response, then use the normal 8 and 2 to convert back to normal.

Thanks for those tips Dave, now onto other hints.

Useful Atmos CALL's from Brian Carter, thanks Brian.

CALL 63631 to reset the computer as if just switched on.

CALL 563 to reset the computer as if the reset button (on base) had just been pressed, this will restore any character generation that has been made.

Continuing from last month, we take off with the 'Wizard Of Akyrz' solution.

You are now in the tunnel, move south three times and then east, you should be at an exit. If not, move about in various directions until you find one. But, on your second move south, type DIC and find a crown, then type GET CROWN AND SAY RAVEN THEN DROP CROWN which will take you to the secret room and you'll have completed 75 % of the game, leave this room as in the same way as you were told last month. Now, the next 25 % will be harder to complete than the past 75 % put together, so once at the exit type JUMP. Now take the chicken that you'll find and you can drop the shovel. Now take the directions given until you come to a wooden bridge, here you will find a fox and some corn, and the most original and difficult part of the adventure. Reminder of objects carried : RUG, SWORD, SPECS, CHICKEN, KEY.

Next month you can see how to pass the bridge, which kept me puzzled for about half a year, you can do it in a month.

'The Oric Games Guide' : Just £ 1.00, don't miss it.

Top Ten: Compiled by readers & HGC (Mailorder)

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

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

Comment: Zorgies holds on to it's no. 1 spot, and a high new entry comes from PSS, in the form of The Ultra. Out of our new readers in the last couple of months, about half of you all gave it either no. 1 or no.22 in your top 3 lists. Not much change this month, but The Hellion takes quite a tumble.

BOOK REVIEW

Title: The Companion to the Oric-1
 Author: Ian Adamson
 Supplier: Pan books, for the 'Computer News Library'
 Price: £ 5.95

There are alot of copies around arn't there ? Last month you read the Atmos Programmer book review, which was a copy of 'The Oric Programmer'. Well, this time The Companion to the Oric-1 is a straight word for word copy of the Atmos manual ! So Atmos owners forget it, others read on.....

TCTT01 first takes you through setting up your computer, then into BASIC. It has sections on graphics,sound,memory,I/O,tapes & data,connections, error messages,machine-code,etc.

The book does it's job and will certainly satisfy anybody wanting to learn BASIC up the standard where the Advanced User Guide would continge the lesson. However, having been disapointed with the Atmos manual's chapter on machine code,I would've thought that Ian Adamson could've improved it. The chapter just doesn't explain machine code very well and the beginner has no chance of learning it easily.

Overall, a good book that describes BASIC very well at a cheap price.

Presentation: 7 Friendliness: 7 Overall: 8

All books reviewed in OUM can be obtained from your library, if they don't have a copy in store, ask for one to obtained. They'll get one in for a few pence. Many bookshops also sell Oric books at reasonable prices.

The Oric Games Guide : Just £ 1.00, nearly completed is The Oric Games Guide 2

* GAME * REVIEWS*

Game: Frigate Commander

Supplier: I.J.K.

Price: £ 6.95 (cass) / £ 10.90 (disk)

Frigate Commander puts you in charge of a frigate in hostile waters with countless enemy vessels and other crafts out to sink you. I started the game ready to sink each and every single thing that came into view. I blasted a number of vessels, using my Exocet missiles with very little resistance. However, things became a little more complicated when the enemy became more of a threat. They sent a submarine, when after it had severely damaged my frigate, it was destroyed with satisfaction using my depth charges. The enemy wasn't having it all their own way.

I met up with another enemy vessel, which proceeded to blow my engines up ! In a mixture of panic and anger I launched 6 exocet missiles, and never saw it again ! I had intercepted some of it's missiles using my 'sea wolf' missiles, but I only had a few to start with.

As my engines had been destroyed I became a sitting duck for the enemy, which next came in the form of an enemy aircraft. When it got a little closer I launched a sea-cat missile and hit it, but not enough to destroy it, so it struck back and sunk me, giving me a rating of 'fair', a little mean for all my hard effort but at least I didn't get the 'rubbish' grade.

Frigate Commander has a detailed visual display containing all your data, such as weapons, radar, sonar, etc. There is a wide variety of enemy crafts but they all do more or less the same thing.

You can look up your damage at any time, or look up the map. The map is pretty bleak really, just a blank screen with a blob in the centre, which is supposed to be an island. If you go off the screen or hit the island the game comes to an end.

Graphics are not bad, although they are by no means stunning. Sound is a little limited and could've been used to a greater extent, although the vessels 'ping' is realistic.

Frigate Commander is worth the asking price, but don't expect a classic.

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

Game: 3D Battle Star

Supplier: QuickSilva

Price: £ 7.95 (cass)

If you think back to the film 'Star Wars' and recall the ending battle, then you'll remember that it involved small fighter craft flying down a valley of a large enemy space station, trying to hit a small mark to cause a chain reaction that would destroy the whole station, all the time hindered by the enemy tie-fighters. It doesn't need much explanation as you've all probably seen it a couple of times.

So what ? you ask. Well, 3D Battle Star is much along the same lines. You control something extremely similar to the X-wing fighters in the film and find your self flying down a small valley, you are chasing three roundish enemy craft, who do not strike back but simply avoid you. Mines fly towards you and if you don't blast them quickly they'll explode killing you.

Other enemy craft are the Y-wing fighters and the tie-fighters of course.

Nice graphics & average sound, but a good game.

Graphics: 8 Sound: 6 Addictiveness: 7 Overall: 7

Advertising is free, up to a maximum of 30 words. Please state if you wish to have your address printed, or if you wish, for OUM to pass on enquiries.

C HIT C HAT

Chit-Chat results

Last month we asked you if companies such as HGC and Capri Marketing were really doing the right thing in selling software at budget prices, whereas other Oric owners had paid £ 6 or more. On the other hand, the software wasn't worth £ 6, was it ? So were the budget sellers the hero's ?

- (i) HGC/Capri market are in the wrong ;
- (ii) No they're not !

Option (i) : 12 %
Option (ii): 88 %

Well, budget selling is fine. An overwhelming response gave HGC and Capri Marketing Ltd your support. New topic elsewhere in the mag.

C.O.M.P.U.T.E.R. F.I.L.E.

Tansoft

No. 5

Tansoft is usually the first company that springs to mind (also of IJK) when you think of an Oric software company. Tansoft is usually connected with Oric International (the Oric original company), as it was Oric who actually set up Tansoft. Oric International thought that if they had there own software company then nothing could go wrong, but we know better now. When Oric Int. began to look in trouble Tansoft turned a little towards France, and they released the unbelievable game Insect Insanity (this didn't reach Britain in great numbers), Frog-hop, Jackpot, Breakout, etc. to name but a few. One of Tansofts most regular programmers was the infamous G.M. Phillips who produced Road-race(demo)+Driver, the Oric demo cassettes, Oric Munch, House of Death, Zodiac, Flight, Multigames, and others. Mr Phillips wasn't a stunning programmer (most were in BASIC) but he gave Oric alot of support when it began. Tansoft went down at about the same time as Oric International.

Games released (includes utilities): House of Death, Insect Insect Insanity, Zodiac, Linkword (French, German, Italian & Spanish, on seperate cassettes), Author, Oriccalc, Kilburn Encounter, Forth, The Hobbit (with Melbourne House), Land of Illusion, Chess II, Ratsplat, Defence force, Ultima Zone, Nowotnik puzzle, 4 games for children, Super advanced breakout, Munch, Frog-hop, Flight, Frog-hop 2 (never properly released), Jackpot, Breakout, Multigames 1 & 2, and others.

Quill users ! If you need help with any of this superb utility or if you are having any trouble, write to us and clearly state your request/problem. On the other hand, if you don't have The Quill, you can get a brand new copy with manual from Gilsofts NEW ADDRESS, for just £ 4.49 inc. P&P.

For full details phone Gilsoft on : (0446)-732765. They have loads of copies.

Wanted for OUM: Topics for chit-chat, and charts lists to go towards the top ten charts. Just tell us your top 3 favourite games in order of preference and also tell us your least favourite game, each list counts. Of course you can include utilities in this list, they are software too!

Also wanted. Machine-code programmers. Can you write software in machine-code decent enough for budget releases ? If so then contact us now !

Here are the results of last months offer for free issues, and below is a similar offer. You were asked to answer four questions, the results:

- (i) How bits are there in a byte ? 8
- (ii) Bytes in 1K ? 1024
- (iii) Bytes in 1 megabyte ? 1 million
- (iv) What type of CPU is in the Oric ? 6502

PUZZLE!

Easy wasn't they ? Just as easy, is this months puzzle for issue 18 free including 1st class P&P. Just answer this simple question and get us the answer by December the 23rd.

Question: 'Here are some mixed up words to be sorted out, they are in some way connected with computing or Oric, just unmix them.'

MSATO GONZOR TRAELEST
M4P0C RUCROS ABRVAIEL

If you can't solve them all just send in the one's you can, the last one might give you a bit of trouble, but it isn't difficult if you look through your manual and look up various computer terms.

'The Last Warrior': A great graphical adventure game. It is available NOW from HGC (Mailorder), contact them for details. Review soon.

C-C

Here is this months topic for chit-chat. Just look at the option that best suits your opinion and let us know the number, the results will be printed as a percentage next month. Reply by the 21st of December please.

Background: 'Oric International was set up in Britain, the main centre was at Cambridge although there were a number of other smaller branches. When Oric kicked the bucket it went into French hands (not Eureka !). This French company employed new French workers and sacked the British hands. This lasted only a little while and soon they gave up, leaving it to Eureka. It has remained French for the time since then. But should it be in French hands ? Should the British hands have been sacked ? Or is it only fair, as the French did help Oric and brought in Loricels and sold a few more micros' .'

- (i) Oric should be British. It was British to start with, and the British workers got it off the ground, only to be sacked.
- (ii) Oric should be French. The French took it over after it failed to sell in British hands. The French only tried to get it back on the road.

Thanks to Dave Ale for this topic, if you have an idea for 'Chit-Chat' then please send it, it would be very much appreciated. An interesting topic this month, which best suits YOUR opinion ? Or do you have something else to say which the topics options don't cover ? If so write it down.

Next month: Usual tips & hints, reviews, chit-chat + new topic, news, charts, C.O.M.P.U.T.E.R. F.I.L.E., and more. There have been a couple of printing errors this month, hopefully they'll be sorted out next month !

See you in January, merry Christmas and new year !

Is 16
Dec.