

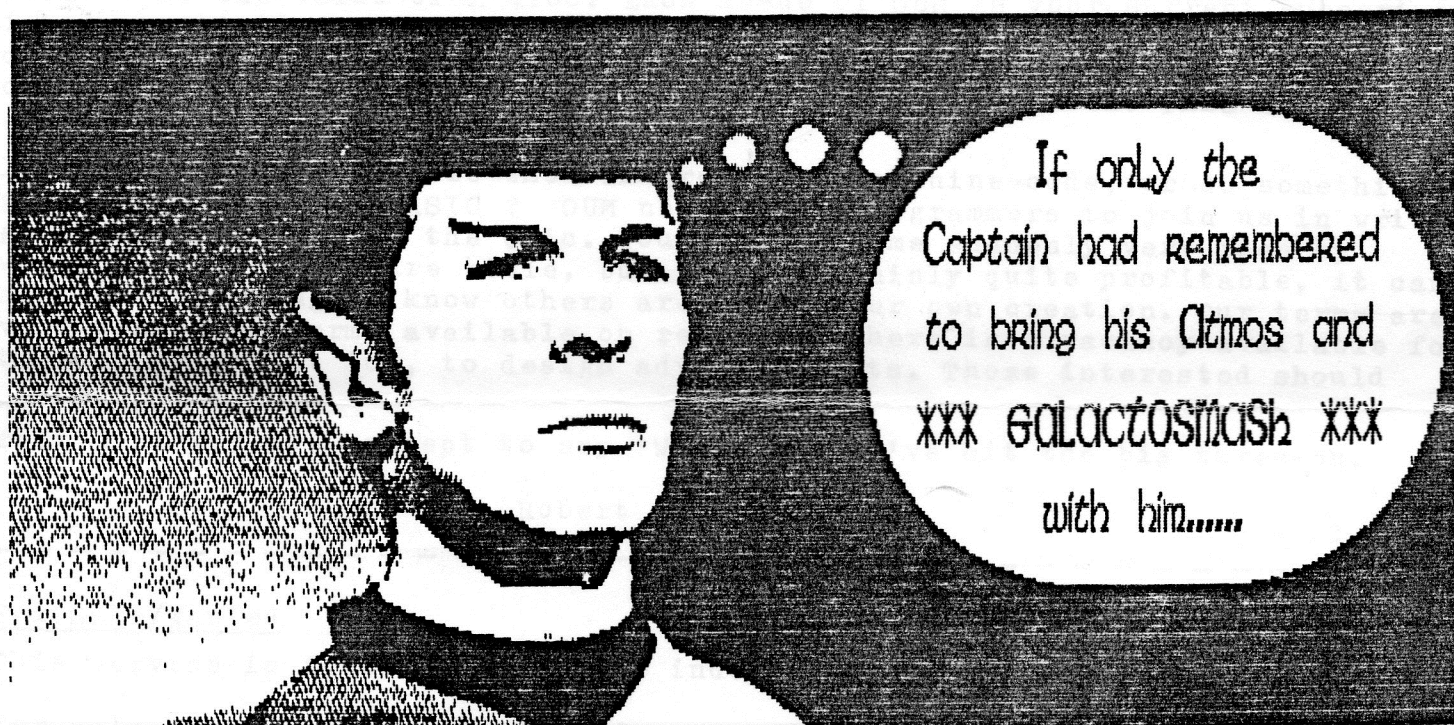
# ORIC

# USER MONTHLY

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Number 30 February 1990

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\*\*\* GALACTOSMASH \*\*\* from  
O.U.M.

Cassette £3.99 Disc £6.30

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Edited and Distributed by Robert Cook, 10 Thomson Ave., King's Norton, Birmingham B38 8YD

# " O • U • M "

Oric • User • Monthly

Issue 30 : February : 1990 : 65p : Edited & distributed by Robert Cook

Just look at this month's front cover !!! You've got Jon Haworth to thank once more for a truly stunning piece of C.A.D. I'm very interested in what we'll have as cover-designs in the future.

Last month I asked you if you wanted the return of the OUM software charts. I asked for a minimum of ten requests for it's return, but I got just four ! Therefore, the charts will not be coming back (unless, of course, I receive a sudden surge of plea's for it) but I will comment from time-to-time on how well OUM software is selling.

And now for a new idea from OUM: do you wish to use your subscription to buy OUM products ? For example, use £ 4 worth of your current sub. to buy an OUM product to the value of £ 4.00. Each issue of OUM in your current subscription is worth £ 1.00, so you could get 'Cricket' (normal price £ 2.99) for the deduction of three issues from your subscription. This idea allows you to obtain OUM software without having to send money too often. This service is available right now.

Is there anyone out there who can program in machine-code, or do something pretty amazing with BASIC ? OUM needs more programmers to join us in writing games & utilities for the Oric. You won't become suddenly very rich by writing an OUM software title, but it is certainly quite profitable, it can also be rewarding to know others are using your own creation. Our terms are very generous (terms available on request). There is a vacancy available for the job of artist too, to design advertisements. Those interested should apply now to OUM.

That's it for now, except to say 'Whoopee', we've hit the big three-oh.

Robert Cook

## For Sale/Wanted

This service is free-of-charge for independant advertisers.

For sale: 5 years accumulation of Oric and Atmos computer hardware and software, Atmos's, Microdisc, drives, disks, cassettes, books, etc. Best offer/offers secure. Send s.a.e. for full listing to:

Mr G. Heynes, 26 Midway Avenue, Bridlington, YO16, 4NU.

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Wanted: Disk-drive, contact:

Mr I.J.A. Hutchins, 26 Lower Street, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Worcs., DY14, 8AB.

Telephone: (0299)-271051

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For sale: Oric-1 computer manual, just £ 3.00. Contact:

Mr Pat Healy, Ballyrafton, Ballyfoyle, Co. Kilkenny, Eire.

\* HGC (Mailorder) has now got several Oric books available for purchase, so check HGC out at:

HGC (Mailorder), 8 Staley Hall Road, Stalybridge, Cheshire, SK15, 3DT.

\* OUM's fifth software release, 'Grand Prix' is now available - but for the moment it is only available on 3"disk. The reason for the lack of a tape version is because the game features multi-load, and so there is a lot of tape winding forth & back. A tape version will most certainly be following very shortly (probably within two months at the most). Meanwhile, disk-drive owners can get the most of this stunning car-racing game by sending a cheque, postal-order (or cash) payable to Mr D.Dick, to:

Mr Dave Dick (OUM disk-orders), 65 Barnard Cresc., Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21, 9PW.

The disk-cost is £ 6.50 inc. P&P, or £ 8.00 inc. P&P for overseas orders.

\* HGC (Mailorder) has now completed it's collection of the 'Mysterious Adventures' range by obtaining 'Arrow of Death, part II'. This particular adventure has, for some reason, been generally unavailable for many a good year but now it's yours for just £ 3.50 inc. P&P, as are the others in the same range. Don't forget, 'Wizard of Akyrz' is in this range and I consider it to be a sin for an Oric owner not to own a copy !

\* More details are now available for K.O.N.'s software releases, here are the details that I've received:

## 'Chess Madness'

100% machine-code, arcade/strategy. 20 levels, apparently includes good graphics. Now available for both Atmos and Oric-1 48k.

Cost is 55 nkr. inc. P&P to Europe.

## 'O.N. Pack'

Contains three games. First is 'The Way to KING Kung-Fu', 'Moon Buggy', and '3 x 3'. K.O.N. tell me that an extra game will follow, called 'Horse Race' which is for the Atmos only.

'Moon Buggy' is a re-release of the Norwegian game from 1985 by COMPUTER WORLD NORGE (who ?).

Cost is 45 nkr. inc. P&P to Europe.

Money payable to 'Arnt Erik Isaksen' by International money-order/Euro cheque and a 100 nkr. payment is fine for both of them together.

I've yet to see either of these releases in action, so my judgement is reserved.

\* It's possible that the long-awaited OUM adventure 'Krystal Worlds' could be ready for release within the next few months...keep reading.

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OUM is £ 1.00 per issue inc. P&P

Yearly subscriptions cost just:

UK (now including Eire): £ 11.00

Europe: £ 14.00

World: £ 15.75

All prices inc. 1st class P&P.



## D A V E ' S   D A T A

Due to my new 'ALBA' cassette player chewing it up, I.J.K. CHESS (currently top 3 in 'C.E.O.' strategy charts) will not be reviewed until next issue - SORRY! - Alan. Instead a short review and some items which may be of interest.

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GAME: GAMES COMPENDIUM   MACHINE: ORIC 1   PUBLISHER SALAMANDER  
OUTLET: H.G.C.   PRICE: £2.99

A 4 pack consisting of: DERBY, KINGDOM, VIPER & SPACE STATION. Do you remember about 30 years ago (ARCHIMEDES does), when there was a horse racing game called "ESCUADO" - I think. You put model horses on a stretched cloth & turned the handle and they all used to fall down. 'DERBY' reminds me of this - pathetic!! 'KINGDOM' is you as El Lagunda in a little adventure. 'VIPER' is quite fun. A basic, but tricky 'snake' type game. 'SPACE STATION' is a poor docking exercise. If you have got kids, buy it for them, or if you're a big kid!!!

SOUND: 5   GRAPHICS: 5   ADDICTIVENESS: 6   OVERALL: 5

\*\*\*\*\*

### GRAND PRIX

This Atmos version of the arcade racing game (or to see my kids on it; renamed 'Demolition Derby') is available now direct from me on 3" or 3½" disc for £6.30. It is a multiloader and you will find that you have to rewind the cassette version at times. Also it saves Robert time and you Disc-Drivers the hassle of transfer to disc. Come on - own up; who has got 'Galactosmash' from cassette to disc?

\*\*\*\*\*

My ads in the computer press have brought a good response and I hope that some of those new contacts are now reading this. Some of the following items resulted from these people - welcome.

Peter Gibbons of Warrington is selling his ATMOS (with switchable ROMs), many games, books etc. for £65 o.n.o. Many obscure adventures in this package. Ring him on 0925 415481

'THE SOFTWARE CELLAR' of 1a, HIGHTOWN ROAD, LUTON are now stocking "HAUNT", "CRICKET", "GALACTOSMASH", & "WILLY". Send an s.a.e. to John at above address for latest price list.

My old mate Geoff Heynes of Bridlington is taking up the Atari (Ugh!) and selling all his Oric gear. ATMOS's, games, drives, p.s.u.'s, monitor, discs, leads etc. The SALE OF THE CENTURY. Ring Geoff on 0262 672171. A big thanks from me to Geoff for all his help, especially on the translations he has done.

'FORTH' on disc brought much response. H.G.C. (Allan Whitaker) will supply on 'SHAREWARE' soon, and C.E.O. members should contact Jon Haworth regarding the Club's F-83 version.

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## M O R E D A V E ' S D A T A

Richard King of Maida Vale has some interesting ideas to keep the Oric alive as far as utilities are concerned. A TINY-C interpreter, an advanced editor (Mr. Ed), a device-orientated I/O system, a Small-C compiler, and an interactive Machine Code debugger. These are all projects that Richard would like to embark on. He is looking for co-workers to help with debugging and testing. ANYONE out there. Drop me a line and I'll pass it on, or ring Richard on 01 266 2818.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 'WILLY'

And now to something much more serious!! What to expect on the sixth screen of 'Willy'. You start on the ground floor and drop down a trap-door and appear on the top floor, being attacked on all fronts. So you drop down a trap-door and reappear on the ground floor, but next to another trap. So you drop down this trap, to appear on the third floor; where a spider attacks you, so you drop..... Next month - the fourth (not FORTH) screen.

\*\*\*\*\*

FORD CORTINA for sale. - No, I mustn't upset it. It's now famous. After the mentions in the last issue, Alastair Way (now of Wimbledon) has in his infinite wisdom decided to call one of the cars in his latest game "Dave's Cortina" - thanks Al.

\*\*\*\*\*

As you may remember, I started an A-Z of Oric software. Due to its length and lack of space in O.U.M., it had to be put on ice. However, in conjunction with Vincent Talvas, it will be appearing in the C.E.O. - you lucky people!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

'YAM' and '3D-GRAPH' were 2 of the many pieces of software put out on Club Disc Oric J.E.O.'s. They were translated into English by a friend of mine. Vincent states that there is no copyright held on them and that I can pass these programs on. It will be done for the price of a disc/cassette plus postage. More next issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

A BRITISH ORIC Get together - why not? There is interest. The French can do it, so why not us. More details soon.

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COMING SOON - a look at TETRIS, MIZAR and the new software from Scandinavia. etc.

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And finally.....and finally nothing, it is 1.00a.m.

I'm off to bed.

## Overlay

To recap, in the last two articles we've looked at the system, directory and descriptor sectors on a Sedoric formatted disc. It's worth stressing that all the figures are taken from a default-formatted disc, although of course Sedoric enables you to format a disc in a variety of ways.

To complete the illustrations (all of which are print-outs using Nibble, available etc....) Figure 5 is the first sector of the first program in the directory. So, in Fig. 3 (the directory sector) the first file was MENU.COM, whose descriptor is at Track 5, Sector #0A. This was shown in Fig. 4, from which we can see that it is a Basic program occupying three sectors from Track 5, Sector #0D - the first of which is Fig. 5. Simple, isn't it?!

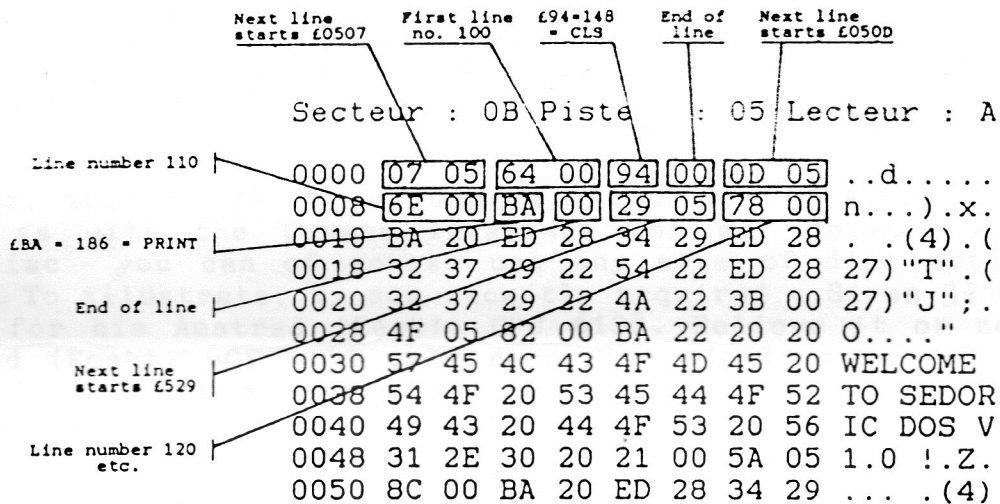


Figure 5

The program itself, being in Basic, is coded in the usual way, as explained in most of the books written on the Oric. If it had been a machine code program, it would simply contain the successive bytes of the program. Similarly, a data file is stored as it is created in memory, byte after byte.

So, a brief look around a Sedoric disc. Slave and Games ('Shortsed') discs vary, of course, in that they use up much less of the early space on the disc. The directory tracks are identical, however, so you should easily find your way around them. Can I finally stress again the value of a good disc editor, and exhort you to acquire 'Nibble' if you don't have a copy already - you will never regret it!

But I use Oric DOS, I hear you cry. If so, get hold of Sedoric as soon as possible! (try H.G.C.). Otherwise, next time I'll take a look at the same sort of information for an Oric DOS disc.

### Disc utilities

Two of the best disc utilities available are French, namely 'Nibble', a full-feature disc sector editor, and BD DISC, a collection of versatile utilities including tape-disc file transfer and disassembly/editing of each sector of the disc or of a particular file. Both were sold in France by 'Informatique & Nature', who have generously permitted Club Europe Oric to distribute them to members free of royalties. So, to members only (which includes anyone taking advantage of the current special offer of JEO No.4 for £3.00 and a 3" disc), they are available for £3.99 each - disc, post and packing included! Originally priced at £19.99 each, it must be the bargain of the year. Each comes with a short English instruction sheet, and both programs are in English. Needless to say, orders to me at 3, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0EE.

### Disc drives

The 3" disc drives we all use as nature and Oric intended are getting difficult to find and buy, and the only remaining source seems to be Steve Hopps at Opelco. Tell Allan Whitaker at H.G.C. if you are interested in an Opelco drive, so that he can impress on Steve the demand that exists. The French, who are now bereft of any disc drive producer for the Oric, are crying out for supplies.

However, what to do if you want a second drive? Always remember that, as with the Cumana interface for all drives, with the Microdisc you can of course use any size of disc drive as a slave. To illustrate, my son recently acquired a Siren 3½" second drive for his Amstrad (Eeek!) CPC 6128. Believe it or not, the Amstrad (Eeek!) DOS will only recognise single-sided 3" format, and duly formats a lovely double-sided 3½" drive with 178k of storage! A new operating system has to be loaded in to take advantage of the much larger storage capacity of the 3½" drive.

It wasn't long, of course, before I plugged the new drive in in place of my Oric 3" slave drive. Boot up Sedoric on drive A, and let's get the most out of formatting drive B:

INIT B,17,56,D

Yep, 56 tracks of 17 sectors on each side of the disc, all accessible in one go. In other words each disc, without flipping it, holds almost 500k of data. That's ten major 48k programs on one disc.

If I sound enthusiastic, I am. The drive, neatly cased, only 1" high, and with power supply costs around £90.00 - not cheap, I grant you, but as a second drive with Sedoric, a joy to use.

### Tail-end (very)....

Which means all Club Europe Oric discs are now available on 3½" disc as well! Which means £1.00 off all orders on 3½" disc!! Now for 5¼".....

See you next month,

Jon Haworth



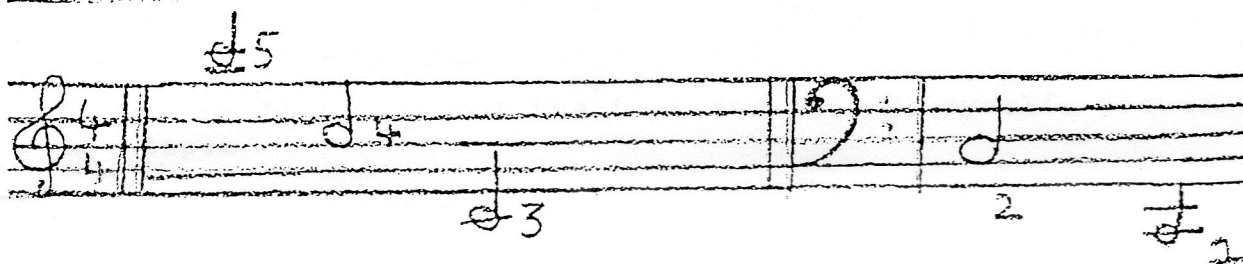
# LET THERE BE MUSIC<sup>4</sup>

8

Welcome back to this feature, which has now been running for four months. Last month we had just seen the program we'll be working with, and gone through it line-by-line. I trust that you now have decided which piece of music you wish to enter into the Oric, and that you have the sheet-music with you (if not go and get it, I'll wait). You will need the previous parts to refer to if you haven't done it before.

What is the first note? Is there a note at the start? On line 200 of our program (which you should enter now) enter the word DATA which will now be followed by various values. First we'll deal with channel 1, is it a rest? If it is a rest then the first value will be 0 (zero) and of course follow it with a comma (,). As we need to fill the variable N1 in line 60 the next value can be anything you like (it doesn't matter what it is - as a 0 entered for 01, the first variable, will mean that a rest will be carried out, no matter what the N1 - note for channel 1 - is) but I generally choose another zero. So, if it is a rest the first two values will be 0,0. Next channel (chan. 2) is the same if it is also a rest, and the same for channel 3. Remember, two values are needed for every note.

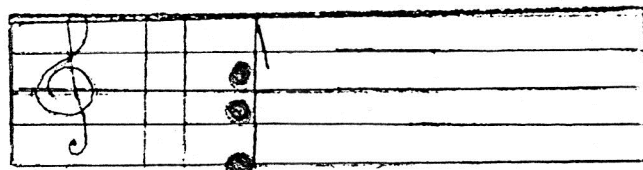
What if it is not a rest? What is the octave of it? Use this diagram (not very good, I know, but it serves it's purpose) to help you. Remember, the C note is the lowest and first of any octave, right up to B of the same octave, then it flips back to C one octave higher. The diagram:



OCTAVE'S 1-5

You'll probably notice that octave 6 isn't shown, well you probably won't need it - but if you do you'll simply know that it is the C above octave 5. All the notes are the first note ('C') of each octave, the number of the octave is next to each C.

So enter the octave of the note into the DATA statement. Now to enter which note it is. Your music section will tell you the number representing each note, a 1 for C, 2 for C sharp, 3 for D, 4 for D sharp, etc. So if, for example, you want to enter the following notes:



You would enter 4,1,3,10,3,5. Let's cut it down to see what each digit means. The 4,1 means that it is a C in octave 4 (1 being the number for C, as shown on page 95 of the Atmos manual), 3,10 means an A in octave 3. (10 meaning A), and 3,5 is an E in octave 3. Simple eh?

As they only represent a length of 1, if each note has a length of four (see section 1 of this series for details of lengths) then you would use CRR-L-A (the copy function) to enter those numbers twice.

We'll continue next month - where we'll explain fully with example bars.

Late news....

\* Here is a complete run-down of the disk-service that Dave Dick is offering:

Cricket = £ 5.50

Galactosmash = £ 6.30

Grand Prix = £ 6.30

Cricket & Galactosmash = £ 9.00

Cricket & Grand Prix = £ 9.00

Galactosmash & Grand Prix = £ 9.80

Galactosmash, Cricket & Grand Prix = £ 12.50

Those are available both on 3" and 3½" disk formats. Prices inc. P&P.  
Orders for disk versions, as always, direct to:

Dave Dick (OUM orders), 65 Barnard Crescent, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21, 9PW.

\* Last month I asked you if you would like to have an audio tape containing several musical pieces that I've entered and performed on the Oric computer. I have had quite a few enquiries so I've decided to put together a full compilation of the best of these. I had a similar tape put together a few months ago (a few readers had copies of it from me) and this is is similar but better with new and longer tracks, and this time is completely Oric dominated. If you are interested send me a blank c60 tape with your name clearly printed on the tape, but don't send the cassettes casing. Please send a large-ish (A5 plenty) s.a.e. for return. Alternatively just send £ 1.00 and I'll sort out the tape and postage myself. Documentation comes with tape.

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For sale/wanted

Wanted: Details of whereto obtain Oric printer pens & paper.

Contact: OUM.

.....

For sale: Oric Atmos with PSU and leads. Complete with manual and three programming books.

30 Games inc. Chess, Word Processing, etc.

£ 30 + postage. Further details or offers:

Mr A.Beales, 1 Friends Field, Bures, Suffolk, CO8, 5LH.

.....

For sale: Original Oric software;

A View To A Kill = £ 3.50

Attack of the Cybermen = £ 2.75

All inc. P&P

Xenon-1 = £ 3.00

Spooky Mansion = £ 2.00

Grail = £ 2.00

Welcome to Oric Atmos = £ 1.50

Contact/Orders to: OUM

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