

6/23/78

ARCADIANS:

Issue No. 3 of this marvelous tome. As requested, dated, and here are the previous issue dates: #1- 4/12; #2- 5/29.

Primary purpose of this one is to whet your appetite . One of our number attended the Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago last week & saw the Tiny BASIC in operation. I have seen a copy of the Instruction Book. So there is hardware, and working. Latest delivery dates are July, hopefully 'early'(says JS&A). Full keyboard February. Note that in order to store the programs that you will write, you need the "Audio Cassette Interface", a \$50 gadget that plugs into controller #4 slot and takes power from the 3-pin connector. This uses Kansas City Standards, and works at a 300 baud figure.(This connector is also for the future light pen.)

The Manual is very sketchy on the Cassette Interface. One page tells you of the controls (Save,etc)and that's it.Iguess that this device is a necessity with the Add-On.

Here is a list of the commands available for the TBASIC:

BOX	draws box	LINE	draws line
CLEAR	blanks screen	LIST	
ERASE	rub out word	PAUSE	
FOR/TO/NEXT/STEP	loop	PRINT	
GO	return	SZ	size of unused memory
GOTO		PX	dot location
GOSUB/RETURN		RND	random number
H	halt,break	RUN	
IF		SPACE	
INPUT	asks for data	WHAT?	computer wants to know
		HOW?	" " " "
		SORRY	out of memory

also control words for colors(background & foreground), cursor control, and music. Yes, the TBASIC will give you 3 octaves, sharps&flats. Say, someone will have to rig up an electronic organ keyboard to interface directly with the computer.

NCE literature also indicates commands: FREEZE,ABSOLUTE,LET,& REMARK that I didn't note in the manual.

Well, all this indicates that we should have some fun once we have the tools.

To answer somequestions; Montgomery Wards have the following in their Spring/Summer Big catalog, P.510(in our area):

60B 95080	Console & 1 set controllers	249.	5lb 4oz
60B 95085	1 set controllers (pr)	29,95	1
Z60B 95081	Math Cartridge -01	20.	4
Z60B 95081	Dodgem Cartridge -02	20.	4
60B 95082	Baseball Cartridge	25.	1

The TV Games Buyer at Wards(Chicago) says that they plan to handle all the Bally stuff as it is available, so there's another outlet.

The game cartridge is just a p.c. board with an IC on it. There are 24 'pins', and it cannot be changed.

A number of us would like to generate lists of one sort or another. How does BASIC work that? if it can. (inventories, addresses, etc.)

I appreciate your support for this effort, which is for our mutual benefit and understanding. Any hints or kinks that you develop as we go along will be of value to us all.

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