

BITS, BYTESEPIKELS



LIMA 99/4A USERS GROUP YULUME 3 NO 3 MARCH 1987

THE MYARC 9640 COMPUTER MAY APPEAR "ANY DAY NOM"

This is what MYARC has been saying since Nov. 1985 concerning the appearance of their new TI 99/4A compatable computer on a card for the PE box. Recently MYARC has announced (Feb. 87 issue of COMPUTER SHOPPER) that "they began shipping their Geneve 9640 computer to dealers on February 2, 1987". Well folks, as of the date this article is written (Feb 20, 1987) it hasn't yet happened. The 9640 is still not in production.

On February 14 I attended a meeting of the Fort's User Group of Fort Wayne IN where a production 9640 was supposed to be available for inspection. What they had was a pre-production prototype, and I was told that in spite of the above mentioned announcement, production had not started. On Thursday Feb 19 I placed a call to Tunex, a dealer who has listed the 9640 in their catalog since well before Christmas. I was told that no computers had been received and that no money or reservations were being accepted. They did give me some information about what they would sell when they got it. What follows is based on what I saw at the Fort's User Group meeting, and what Tenex told me over the phone.

The computer on display at the Fort's User Group was in a rlamshell case and fit nicely into a PE box slot. Im the back were jacks for video output, joystick, mouse, and an IBM style keyboard. Unfortunately, in the preproduction prototype available the Fort's User Group could get almost nothing to work. Part of the problem was that an analog RGB monitor was needed, and none was available. Analog RGB monitors are used with Amiga computers and not with IBM computers. Ads in Micropendium state that a composite video output is available, but the only thing the Fort's group could obtain was a black and white image of Car Wars and the TI Writer editor in 90 columns with their composite monitor. Both of these programs crashed every now and then. The Basic 3 disk would not load, nor would any of the fancy color demos MYARC sent. All disks that came with the computer were in double density format and required the MYARC disk controler to load them, those that loaded. Microendium ads state that the 9640 is compatable with all disk controlers including the TI controler. However, if the bundled software is going to be delivered in double density format, it will be hard to use with a TI controler.

To give MYARC credit where credit is due, they did spend \$40+ sending their equipment air express to the Fort's User Group at no expense to that group, and the Fort's group did not have the required monitor even though they were told they needed one. That still doesn't completely explain why it was so difficult to get most of the software to run properly or at all. MYARC is a very small company with less than 12 employees, and they are trying to do great things. It took TI 3 years to get extended basic to work properly, and MYARC doesn't have mearly the resources that TI did. Lets hope we don't have to wait another 3 years to see the debut of this potentially significant computer.

When the 9640 appears, and if everything works correctly, you may be able to put away your 99/4A console for good and just use the PE box. Tenex says that a software program will be included that can save II cartridges to disk for use with the 9640. Also, an advenced basic "compatable with II Basic and Extended Basic" will be included. This is apparently an enhanced version of MYARC Extended Basic IL/ which is currently almost compatable with Extended Basic. There are still some bugs in the latest issue of MYARC XBIV according to people at the Fort's User Group. You should be able to lead your current disk based II Basic or Extended Basic programs with your current disk drive and controler into the 9640 and have them work properly using the 9640's fancy keyboard. Let's hope so.

The spokesperson at Tenex said that the 9640 will include a hard bound manual and the following software: cartridge saver, advanced BASIC, Pascal 4.21. II-Writer in 80 columns, Multiplan in 80 columns, and a DOS that is very similar to Microsoft DOS (MS-DOS). I have seen the 80S manual, and it certainly looks similar to what I know of MS-DOS. The computer will have a 6 month parts and labor warranty and an additional 6 month parts warranty. Tenex will sell the 9640 with a "regular" IBM style keyboard for \$449.95 and a version with an "enhanced" keyboard containing separate arrow keys not part of the numeric keypad for \$479.95. These will be available "any day now"!

CHARLES 5000

DOLD



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A BUG IN THE HORIZON RAW DISK OPERATING SYSTEM by Charles Good

The official Horizon Randisk operating system is currently in version 4. While working with the Hel Momina's Checkwriter program I discovered a situation in which version 4 (and apparently earlier versions) does not respond correctly to TI Basic or Extended Basic. I also discovered how to correct the problem from either Basic.

Single record files in VARIABLE format that are written over regularly do not behave properly on the Worizon Ramdisk. The solution is to make each variable file at least 2 records in length. If all that is needed is a one record file, than a dummy record is added at the beginning.

- 100 INPUT "INPUT SOMETHING ":INS
- 110 OPEN #1: "DSK1.TESTFILE"
- 120 PRINT #1: INS
- 130 CLOSE #1
- 140 OPEN #2: "DSK1.TESTFILE"
- 150 INPUT #2:0UT\$
- 160 PRINT "THE SINGLE RECORD IN THE TEST FILE IS "; OUTS

If you run the above program once, it creates a 2 sector file (one file description sector, and one sector to store the record) in DISPLAY, VARIABLE 80 format. If you run the program several times in succession, the file should stay at two sectors, since you are only overwriting the original file with new data each time you run the program. If the file is on a floppy, it stays at 2 sectors. Furthermore, the file contents can be read with II-Writer at any time.

If you run the above program and put TESTFILE on the Horizon Ramdisk, the program seems to work properly from BASIC when run several consecutive times. However, each time the program is run, the length of TESTFILE increases by 1 sector, according to DM1000, although DM1000 does not indicate that total sectors used increases. Furthermore, when the program is run 2 or more times, the contents of TESTFILE cannot be read with TI-Writer. TI-Writer locks up. This seems to be a case in which the ramdisk doesn't act like a floppy. This problem occurs with single record DISPLAY VARIABLE or INTERNAL VARIABLE files of any length. There seems to be no problem with FIXED length single record files.

The above program will run properly on the Horizon Ramdisk, remaining at 2 sectors length and always readable with TI-Writer, if TESTFILE is always 2 records. This can be done by changing lines 130 and 150 and adding lines 135 and 155 as follows:

130 PRINT #1:**

135 PRINT #1: INS

150 IMPUT #2: DUMMY6

155 INPUT #2:0UT\$

This creates a dummy null string as the first file record.

This null string them has to be read out (line 150) before
the program reads the actual data (line 155) for screen
display.

DONE

"ON ERROR" ERROR IN 100

That's right folks, we goofed in the listing of CNECK WRITER published in our February issue. In line 100 the line number referred to immediately after the DN ERROR statement should be line 3090 instead of 2720. The correct line 100 should read 100 ON BREAK NEXT :: ON ERROR 1000

An improved version of CHECK WRITER will be published next month. **DONE**

PRICES & INFO ON THE TRITON TURBO XT

The Lima User Group has received information in the mail from TRITON concerning pricing and cable configurations for their TURBO XT computer that hooks mp to the 99/4a console. The information is dated 1/19, 1/21, and 2/3. What follows is taken from TRITON's mailing.

Other models of the TURBO XT are available with an IBM style keyboard. These models are 512K and do not need to be hooked to the 97/4A console. Prices range from \$549-\$618 depending upon configuration.

The accompanying diagram shows how the model A is backed up to the 99/4A console.

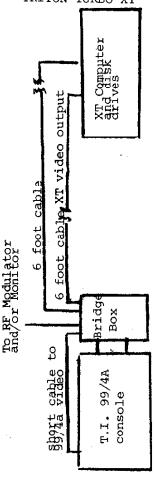
- 1. The Bridge box can be plugged into the 99/4a before or after the Speech Syn. or any other peripherals such as a stand alone 32K memory or RS232.
- The TI peripheral expansion box can be plugged into th side of the bridge box. This allows the 4A owner complete access to all of his current PEB cards and disk drives in 4A MODE (but ONLY in 4A mode).
- 3. Three cables come with the bridge box; I short cable to hook up the 4A video and 2 six foot cables to hook up the XT keyboard and XT video. With these long XT cables it is possible to place the XT computer down alongside your desk (on the floor).

This bit of info isn't from TRITON's mailing, it is based on a phone call to their 800 number. You CAN'T book your printer up to the PE Box and the XT computer at the same time. To do this you have to buy a switch box to switch the printer back and forth between the two computers. TRITON doesn't sell such a box.

next column



CABLE CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN 99/4a AND
TRITON TURBO XT



DONE

A CHEAP ALTERNATIVE TO THE TRITON XT

The recently released Winter/Spring 87 TENEX catalog describes an IBM clone (the "Bondwell X'Press 16") with features that appear very similar to the Triton XT model A. You get a 256K (expandable to 640K) computer with composite and R6B video output, one drive, parallel printer port, and an IBM style keyboard. The TENEX computer is bundled with MS-DOS and BASIC and sells for 4469. This is almost \$100 less than the TRITON XT model A with software, and with the TRITON model A you don't get an IBM keyboard.

JS IC

AT CALVARY

Here is a little music program by two of our own members, Ryan D. and Ryan J Waltz. It plays an old hymn.

•	ŀ	M
100 CALL CLEAR		
100 CALL SCREEN(12)		
260 CALL COLOR(2,7,	7)	
270 PRINT "	""At Calv	
ary"""		
340 PRINT "	******	
**": :		
420 PRINT "	PROGRAM	
500 PRINT "	DV - U	
1	BY::":	
580 PRINT "	*****	٠,
**": : : : :		
590 PRINT "	*****	

600 PRINT "	RYAN D	
&" - 410 mm rum		
610 PRINT "	RYAN J	
620 PRINT "	MALTERIA.	
*	WALTZ":	
630 PRINT "	*****	
**"		
660 FOR 0=1 TO 2000		
740 NEXT Q		
820 CALL CLEAR		
900 CALL SCREEN(6)		
980 CALL COLOR(2,2,2)	
1060 CALL VCHAR (24, 1)	5,42,24)	
*****	3.42.7)	
1220 CALL HCHAR(8,11, 1300 A=440	,42,11)	
1380 B=494		,
1460 C=523		
1540 D=587	*	
1620 E=659		_
1700 F=698	15	7
1780 6=784	، لیے ا	ď
1860 HC=1047		
1940 GS=831		

2020 T=500

2180 HA=880

2340 HB=988

2420 65=831

2500 BF=932

2260 HD=1175

2100 V=5

```
2580 GOSUB 5940
  2660 CALL SOUND (T.G.V.E.V)
  2740 CALL SOUND (T,F,V,HA,V)
  2820 CALL SOUND(T*2,E,V,G,V)
  2900 CALL SOUND (T*1.5, F, V, HB
  , V)
 2980 CALL SOUND (T*.5,F,V,HB,
  V)
 3060 CALL SOUND (T*.75, F, V, HB
  , V)
 3140 CALL SOUND(T*.25,F,V,HA
 3220 CALL SOUND(T*.75,E,V,6,
 V)
 3300 CALL SOUND (T*.25, D, V, F,
 V)
 3380 CALL SOUND (T,C,V,E,V)
 3460 CALL SOUND (T, F, V, HA, V)
 3540 CALL SOUND(T*2,E,V,G,V)
 3620 GOSUB 5940
 3700 CALL SOUND(T,E,V,G,V)
 3780 CALL SOUND(T,F,V,HA,V)
 3860 CALL SOUND (T,E,V,G,V)
 3940 CALL SOUND(T,G,V,HC,V)
 4020 GDSUB 7060
 4100 CALL SOUND (T*4, E, V, HC, V
 4180 GNSUB 4500
 4260 CALL SOUND (T,F,V,A,V)
 4340 CALL SOUND (T,E,V,G,V)
 4420 CALL SOUND (T*2, E, V, 5, V)
4500 CALL SOUND(T*1.5,F,V,D,
4580 CALL SOUND (T*.5, F, V, A, V
4660 CALL SOUND (T*.75, F, V, HB
, V)
4740 CALL SOUND (T*. 25, F, V, A,
4820 CALL SOUND (T*.75, F, V, HB
. V)
4900 CALL SOUND (T*. 25, F, V, A,
V)
4980 CALL SOUND (T.E.V.G.V)
5060 CALL SOUND(T,E,V,HC,V)
5140 CALL SOUND(T,HC,V)
5220 CALL SOUND (T, BF, V)
5300 605UB 6500
5380 CALL SOUND(T,F,V,A,V)
5460 CALL SOUND(T,E,V,G,V)
5540 CALL SOUND (T, E, V, G, V)
5620 CALL SOUND(T,6,V,HC,V)
5700 GOSUB 7060
```

5780 CALL SOUND (T*4, E, V, HC, V 5860 END 5940 CALL SOUND(T*1.5,G,V,E, 6020 CALL SOUND (T*.5, 6, V, E, V 6100 CALL SOUND (T*.75,6, V,E, V) 6180 CALL SOUND (T*.25, D, V, F, 6260 CALL SOUND (T*.75, C, V, E, 6340 CALL SOUND(T*.25, D, V, F, 6420 RETURN 4500 CALL SOUND (T*1.5, A, V, HC 6580 CALL SOUND (T*.5, GS, V, HB , V) 6660 CALL SOUND (T*.75, A, V, HC A740 CALL SOUND (T*.5,55,V,HB , V) 6820 CALL SOUND (T*.75, A, V, HC 6900 CALL SOUND(T*.25,F,V,A, V) 6980 RETURN 7060 CALL SOUND (T*2, F, V, HD, V 7140 CALL SOUND (T#2, F, V, HB, V 7220 RETURN

DONE

ANOTHER CHEAP ALTERNATIVE TO THE TRITON XT--THE TRITON XT-PC



As this newsletter was being prepared (March 6), we received a color advertisment in the mail from TRITON describing their XT IBM clune in the version with an IBM style keyboard instead of a bridge box 99/4A connection. The advertisment says you can get one of these with 512K RAM and otherwise identical to the Model A version for exactly the same price as the Model A (\$499 for the computer and \$69 for support software package). Why buy the Model A with the bridge box when for the same money you can get twice the memory and a nice IBM style keyboard? This pricing structure seems strange. To paraphrase the editors of MICROPENDIUM, if you want an IBM clone (and are willing to pay big bucks for software) than buy an IBM clone! The 99/4A keyboard is not a good substitute for an IBM keyboard. **DONE **

DOUBLE OR QUAD DENSITY WITH A TI DISK CONTROLER

You can pruchase a DOUBLE density Myarc or Cor-Comp disk controler card for the PE Box for about \$150, or you can have Ryte Data modify your existing TI card to double and QUADROUPLE density for much less. According to the Movember 86 issue of the Ryte Data newsletter, they will sell you the necessary chips for \$45(U.S.) , or you can send them your disk controler and they will install the chips \$45 + \$10 (U.S.) labor and postage. You ship your II card to them via parcel post, UPS, or Purolator with your payment, and they will get it back in the mail to you within 48 hours of receipt. This should work with your existing TI or other single sided or double sided drives and allow you to store twice or four times the data on a disk side compared with single sided format. To use quad density, you need high quality disks. This looks like a good deal to me.

> RYTE DATA 210 MOUNTAIN STREET HALIBURTON ONTARIO KOM 150 CANADA 705-457-2774

DONE

FOR SALE: Commodore 64 computer, 1541 disk drive, lots of software, and several books. ALL FOR ONLY \$175 This is a great price! Call Hal Sehnert at 419-991-4521

DVERLAY STRIPS



The following page contains several overlay strips created with OVERLAY STRIP DESIGNER. This is program H215 in the group library. You can cut any of these out (closely) and slip it in the overlay strip holder above the number keys on the console. Or, you can cut out a group of them and use celophane tape to tape them to the console immediately above the overlay strip holder. For example, you could leave the original TI BASIC overlay strip in the holder and cut out the TI-Writer, Multiplam, and E/A strips together as a single unit. These can then be taged to the console above the original BASIC overlay strip.

next page

DELETE INSERT ERASE BREAK BEG:N FROCEED AID 1600 BACK	SACK CHAR BACK SARD HELP RECALL BACKSPACE REFORMAT SCREEN COLOR NEXT PARAGRH DUPE LINE LAST PARAGRH WORD TAB NEW PARAGRH NEW PAGE CHAR INSERT CHAR DELETE LINE FOLL DOWN F NEXT WINDOWS ROLL UP ST TAB INSERT LINE COMMAND/EST	DELETE INSERT UNAR ERASE LINE ROLL UP1 NEXT WINDOW+ ROLL DOWN+ TAB INSERT LINE ESCAPE HOME TAB NXT UNL CELL FORWARD CHAR FORWARD WORD CHASE WINDOW REL/ABS REF	PEAK DUTPUT CANCEL TRANSFER WRAP TOGGLE CASE TOGGLE PAGE *BELL ^H+BACKSPACE ^J+LINEFEED ^L+FORM FEED ^.+ESCAPE ^/+BREAK ^Q+X-DN ^S+X-OFF FI	D+DRAW E+ALPHA N. F+FILL H+H OR V I+INVERT K+K-LINE Q+DISC R+RFYS 5+STORE V+FRAME X+BOX Z+ZOOM	DELETE 1005EF PARITY MODEM PORT PRINTR PARITY PRINTR PORT PRINTR BAUD 40/8	LONER FASTER DRAW TOGGLE ERASE TOGGLE NO HILP ZOOM TOGGLE COLOR MENU LINE MODE CIRCLE MODE	DELETE CHAR INSERT CHAR ERASE LINE FORWARD SCR. TAB + BACK SCR BUFFER IN BUFFER OUT ESCAPE	RESTART CANCEL LOS DN LOG DFF TRANSFER	DELETE EPASE CLEAR BEGIN PROCEED PAUSE BACK		MINDOW C/6/V MOVE FILL PAGE + SEARCH PAGE + COLOR IUMP BACK BIAS
REDI BACKSI RECALL BACKSI RECALL BACKSI RECALL BACKSI RECALL BACKSI	LINE ESCA		730-745°	71 K+X Z+X	BACK COLOR	INE HODE CIRCLE	FER OUT ESCA		BAC		
į			+=+	1_1-1	40/80 PAGE	COPY	imi				8
	MORD WAP LINE NUMBERS GUIT	CANCEL	EXIT ON V-HELETE QUIT	L3LINE MXXIRROR FCTN : *SPEED	40/80 TIGGLE QUIT	HENU HANN HENU	BUIT	TIUG	TIUG	4	DN/OFF ASCII/HEX