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Commodore

MAGAZINE

Amiga 500 A-Z

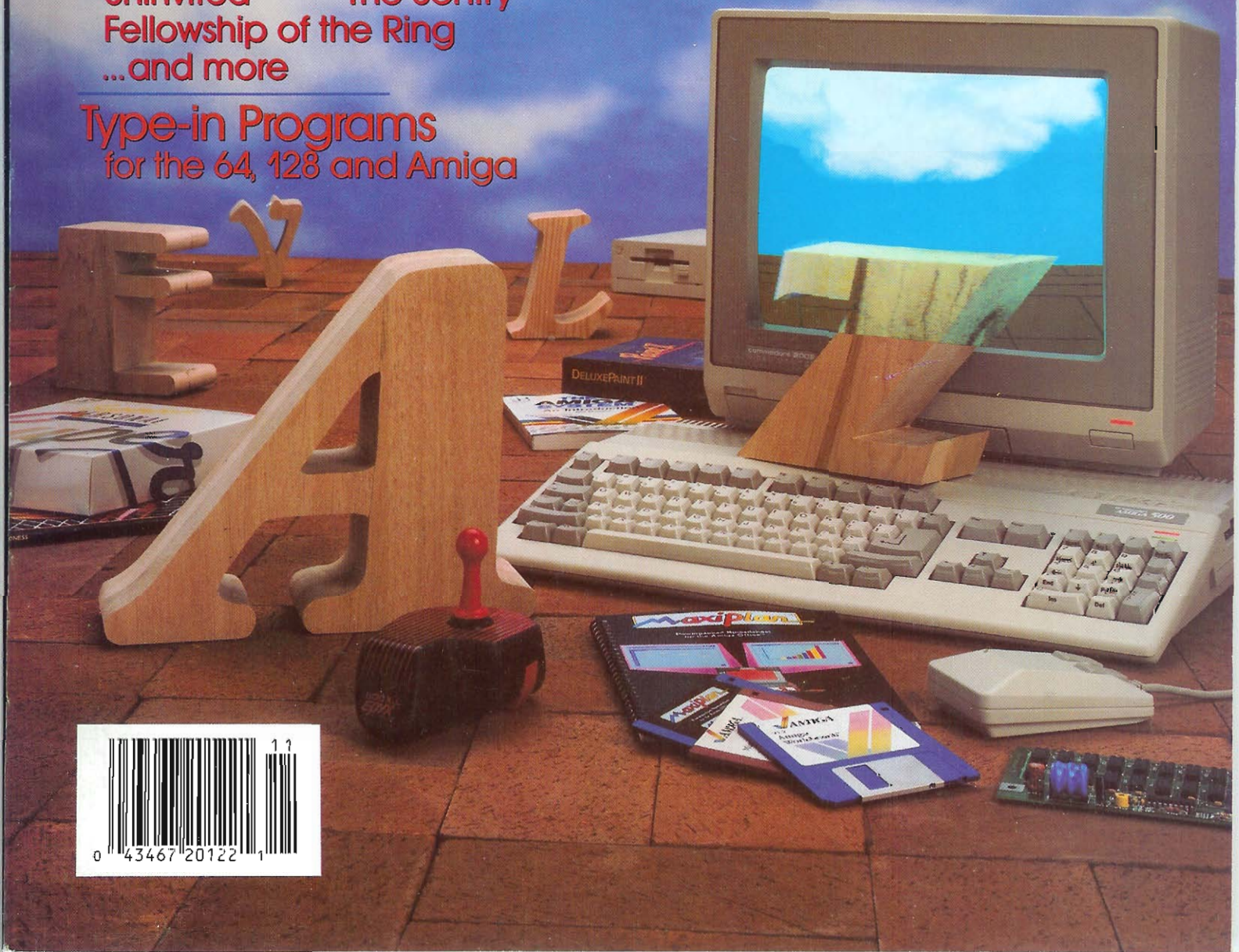
COMING ATTRACTIONS
...64 and Amiga Software

Software Reviews

Uninvited The Sentry
Fellowship of the Ring
...and more

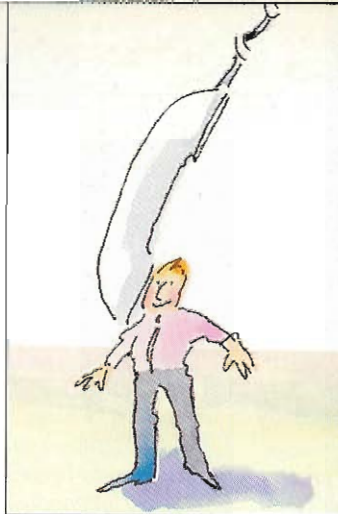
Type-in Programs

for the 64, 128 and Amiga

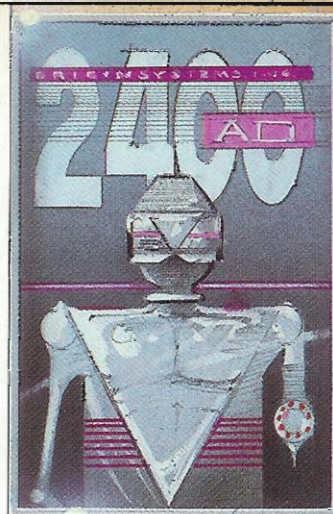


Commodore MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 1987, Volume 8, Number 11



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COMING ATTRACTIONS

... WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR 64 AND AMIGA OWNERS 72

With over a dozen software publishers and almost 100 new packages described, you're sure to find that title you've been looking for. *by John Jermaine*

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU COULD DO THAT WITH A MODEM!

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Electronic BBS's are on a wave of popularity. If you search beyond the pay-subscription services, here is what you'll find lurking below the surface.

by Dan Gutman

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AMIGA 500 A-Z

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Advertised as the "Ultimate Home Computer," here's an A-Z sampling of the features and peripherals that make the Amiga 500 an exciting new entry in the Amiga family of computers.

by Jim Gracely

COVER PHOTO: *Charles Bartholomew*

Computer Graphics: *Richard Payne*

Models: *Jeff Kahn*

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Inside Q-Link

Explore the inner workings of the Q-Link telecommunication service with network pro Bob Baker.

With the holidays just around the corner, there are a number of sections on Q-Link that can help you save time and money during the holiday season and throughout the rest of the year.

CompuStore provides on-line shopping convenience together with discount prices and occasional auctions. You can browse the on-line 'stores' without signing up as a member, so you can get to see what's available. If you find something of interest, then you can sign up as a member on-line and place your order five days later. Membership costs \$26 for 18 months or \$41 for 30 months, but special shorter term trial memberships are offered from time to time.

Travel Info

If you're doing any traveling over the holidays, be sure to check out the "Eaasy Sabre" area for airflights and hotels. You can check flight schedules and fares to find the most convenient or less expensive flights, plus make reservations — all on-line. Hotels are easy to locate, with reference lists by direction and distance from the major airports. Here again, you can make reservations directly while online.

Other services offered via "Eaasy Sabre" include rental car reservations, information on the Admirals Club, plus the ability to check your AAdvantage mileage with American Airlines frequent flyer program. They even have an exclusive Bargain Finder for automatically finding the lowest fares for any flights you may have booked.

Remember that you need to register in advance as an "Eaasy Sabre" user, in order to make reservations online via the "Eaasy Sabre" system.

There's no charge for registering and you can signup online, but it may take some time for approval if you're not already an AAdvantage member.

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Need to send a special flower to a special person in a hurry? Try checking "Long Distance Roses" also in The Mall. Here you can order roses or orchids that



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are carefully packed in wet foam and shipped in special styrofoam boxes. They can be delivered by Federal Express almost anywhere in the U.S. along with an enclosing card with your personal message.

Music

Another area of Q-Link that should be extremely popular around the holidays is the "Music Room" within the Commodore Community in CIN. This is the place for all those interested in making, or even just playing music with your Commodore computer. There are hundreds of arrangements waiting to be downloaded and played, and all the information you need to get started can be found in the handy Articles and Library areas.

SID Files

As I mentioned earlier, there is much information available for newcomers to this exciting part of Commodore computing. Of particular interest is the SID Player Music Files Tutor article which you can read on-line or save to disk and print out later. This article explains all the special file suffixes used within the Music Room download libraries, what they mean, and how to use each of the different file types they represent.

Just as the other download libraries utilize the .arc .sda .lnx .lbr and other suffixes for special download file structures, the Music Room uses its own set of extensions for the available special music files. Here you'll see things like:

.mus	.pil	.sda	
.sal	.pic	.wpl	.wds

Any file ending with '.mus' is a ready-to-use music file. It can be loaded into Sid/Pic v2.5 or any other SID player utility as is and enjoyed immediately.

SID files ending with '.sal' are sing-along files, and actually contain two files combined into one. After being downloaded, the two files need to be recreated by loading and running the downloaded file (just like a self-dissolving arc file). Two files will be created, a music file and a words file. When the music is played with your SID player, the complete lyrics to the song will be displayed.

The words files have the '.wds' extension and contain the words or lyrics for a certain music file. The files will be named exactly alike, except for the extension. Sometimes an author or arranger adds the word file after the music is uploaded and already in use.

You might also find graphics files with the '.pic' extension. These are accompanying pictures for a music file with the same name. Be sure to check for a '.wds' file if you see a '.pic' file, since all three may be available.

A '.pil' file is another type of self-dissolving arc file. This time, the download file contains a music file and a picture file. The files are dissolved the same way, simply load and run the downloaded file to recreate the two individual files.

The '.wpl' or '.sda' files are also file collections, but this time they might contain more than two files. Often a music, words and picture file are all compiled into a single download file. Also, some compression may be used so the file is shorter than the total of the originals. Be sure to leave extra room on your disk for the new files to be written when you load and run the downloaded file.

As the SID Tutor article states... 'Remember, first you need a sid-player utility.' Well, you can find these in the Utilities section of the Music Room Download Library along with documentation on how to use them.

If you get really serious about SID music, you'll also find information on how to write your own arrangements and advice on which music programs to use, etc. For the technically inclined, there's even information on how to add an extra 6582 SID chip to your system. If you follow the instructions you'll be able to generate true stereo sound, with three voices on each

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Adventure Road

Continued from pg. 88

game that's not as intimidating as an *Ultima* or *Bard's Tale*, so anyone can jump right in without reading a 30-page manual. This aspect makes *Legacy* an accessible role-playing game for newcomers and novices, and the graphics are outstanding enough that most hard-core orc-slayers will find this \$29.95 program an excellent value.

Clues of the Month

If you haven't been able to get the master key from the hacker in *Lurking Horror*, keep trying — sooner or later you're bound to cook up something that will work. (Put the bzqsnm in the lhbqnvzd.) Stuck in a pentagram? Guess you just can't cut it. (Bts bhqbkd with jmhed.) There's no collater in *Stationfall*, despite the hints about it. But you can get something from the vending machine if you stick your neck out. Well, make that someone else's neck. Been to the pet shop? Seen Doc Schuster's office? (You need the coin from the strongbox: shoot lock with gun. Examine ozmdkin pet store ceiling to get nrsqhbq mho. Go to the office and nrsqhbq will follow you to the PX. Put mho in gnkd.) To decode these answers, count forward one letter: rstbj = stuck. **C**

Telecommunications/Inside Q-Link

Continued from pg. 90

channel, on your modified 64 or 128. Anyway, I think you get the picture. There are many different areas on Q-Link that might be fun or especially interesting in preparing for the upcoming holiday season. Be sure to watch for special events and other happenings around the system as the holidays draw near.

Before I close, just a quick note about the upcoming trade shows. COMDEX Fall is in early November and Winter CES will be in early January. With the amount of interest in the material I reported on Q-Link from CES last spring, I'm trying to see what I can do for a repeat with the upcoming shows.

Be sure to check the New Product Information section for news on upcoming events and the new products announced at the shows. If I can't make it to both shows, I'll at least try to have someone collecting information for me and everything will be posted as soon as possible.

As usual, comments, questions and suggestions are always welcome via E-Mail and I really do appreciate the feedback. Thanks to all who have responded in the past and please let me know if you have any ideas for future columns. **C**

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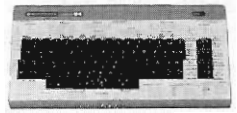
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