

by Norman J. Deere

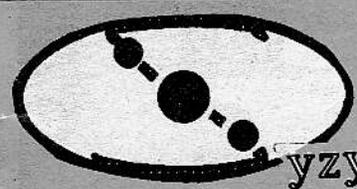
The Adam is the most user-friendly computer that I know of. When you turn it on, you aren't immediately thrown into the world of BASIC. Adam greets you with an Electronic Typewriter.

When you press the Escape key, you are taken to Adam's built-in word processor. It is easy to understand and easy to use. If you're a computer novice, it's the best way to familiarize yourself with the wonderful world of computers.

After you have become acquainted with Adam's SmartWRITER, which is Adam's word-processing mode, you can go on to

BASIC. From there, the sky's the limit. Adam can do just about anything you could want a computer to do. Once in a while, though, something goes awry, and Adam needs a little maintenance. This article is to help you become aware of the little things that might go wrong, before you decide that your Adam needs to a visit to the repair shop.

Presumably, you are using a TV set for a monitor, as most beginning Adam users do. If so, you have a converter box hooked to the VHF terminals of your TV. This box has a slide on it. When it is down, the TV functions normally; when the slide is up, the word "computer" flashes on, meaning you can use the TV as a



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# OTING ADAM

monitor. Make sure the terminals are tight, and that the cable—from the converter box to the computer console—is plugged in securely.

Before going any further, make sure the TV is turned on, and that it's tuned to Channel 3. (Rarely, an Adam might come in on Channel 4, instead. However, you would notice this on the screen.) The important thing to do right now is to make sure that the TV is not the source of your trouble. (Try plugging it separately into another wall outlet.) Always be sure plugs to all units are plugged into a live outlet.

If, by chance, you are using a monitor with your Adam, make sure that it's properly plugged in,

working, and turned on. Now, on the rear of your console, there are two round sockets for the cable to your TV set or monitor. They are side-by-side, near the center, and marked. If you're looking from the front of the console, the one on the left is for a monitor, and the one on the right is for a TV connection. Make sure the cable is plugged into the correct socket. Even if it's not, however, you should still get some indication on your screen if the Adam is working correctly.

Also on the back of the console, to the right of the two round sockets, is a small square opening with a tiny

*(continued on page 734)*

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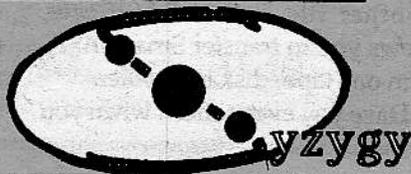
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## ◆ TROUBLESHOOTING ADAM

*(continued from page 718)*  
switch inside. It is deep in the hole so that it won't get moved accidentally. This switch is marked 4 and 3. To the left puts your Adam on Channel 4, and to the right puts it on Channel 3. Whichever one it is set on is probably correct, and your TV should be set on that channel. However, you can check by moving the switch to the other position, and turning your TV to that channel.

So much for that.

### Securing the Keyboard

Make sure that your keyboard is securely plugged into your console. The cable has a plug like a telephone cord on each end. One plugs into the rear left of the keyboard, and the other plugs into the bottom right socket on the console. The power supply for Adam is contained in the rear of your Adam printer.

Therefore, if the printer isn't plugged into the wall, you will not have any operating power. The power-on switch is mounted on the bottom center at the back of your Adam printer; it is between the two cables. Looking from the front of the printer, when the switch is to the right, the power is on. Nothing will work until this is done. If the printer switch is on, and the printer is plugged into a live wall outlet, your Adam will come alive. The small "power on" light on the lower right corner of your keyboard should glow red.

If it doesn't, then your power supply either is not plugged in, not switched on, or is burned out and needs replacing—this rarely happens, however. More often, the printer wears out first, and the power supply remains in good shape.

(Incidentally, you can purchase a separate power supply and use it to run your Adam, thereby saving your printer. This will also enable you to use a dot-matrix printer without burning up your Adam printer. Of course, if you are going to be

If you have checked all of this, your system should be hooked up correctly and the power should be turned on. If the keyboard power light is on, and the TV or monitor checks out OK, then the problem must be in your Adam console.

One more thing. If the printer is plugged in and you turn the power switch on, the printer should initialize. It will make a buzzing noise, and the print head with ribbon cartridge will move to the left, and then bump out slightly to the right. It is then in the print position. If nothing happens, you have a printer problem. This should not affect the power supply to your Adam console, however. Also, if you have a disk drive (or two), make sure there are no disks in the drive, and that the drive doors are open.

If the disk drives are on, the red light at the bottom, by the on-off switch, should be lit. If they are turned off, it won't matter. However, if you intend to use your disk drive(s), always turn them on before you power-up your Adam. If you do not, and you turn them on after Adam is switched on, they won't be recognized by Adam, and you won't be able to use them.

### Plugging In

It is a good idea to buy one of those multi-plug boxes that have six or seven outlet receptacles in them, along with an on-off switch and a cord to plug into your wall outlet. Plug your printer, your TV or monitor, and your disk drive power-supply cords (also, your separate power supply, dot-matrix printer, and a small fan) into the outlet strip, then plug the strip into the wall outlet.

When you want to use Adam, just reach back and switch the outlet strip on, and everything will come on line. You should always unplug the cord from the wall outlet if you won't be using Adam for a while, if you're going away, or if there is a storm in your area—lightning could

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(Incidentally, you can purchase a separate power supply and use it to run your Adam, thereby saving your printer. This will also enable you to use a dot-matrix printer without burning up your Adam printer. Of course, if you are going to be printing your work out on the Adam printer, it has to be connected. Use the separate power supply only when you are doing work that doesn't require immediate printing. You can save it on tape or disk, and connect the printer and bring the work back up and print it out later.)

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When you want to use Adam, just reach back and switch the outlet strip on, and everything will come on line. You should always unplug the cord from the wall outlet if you won't be using Adam for a while, if you're going away, or if there is a storm in your area—lightning could wipe out your computer system. Why the small fan? To keep Adam from overheating and locking up on you. Anything that keeps the air moving across the top of your console will be appreciated by Adam. Remember, it's working just as hard as you are.