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1983

PREMIER ISSUE

VOLUME 1
NUMBER 1

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THE COMPUTER BUYER'S GUIDE: A LOOK AT THE LEADING BRANDS

MEET TOM BALL: TEENAGE GAME MAKER

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FAMILY COMPUTING™

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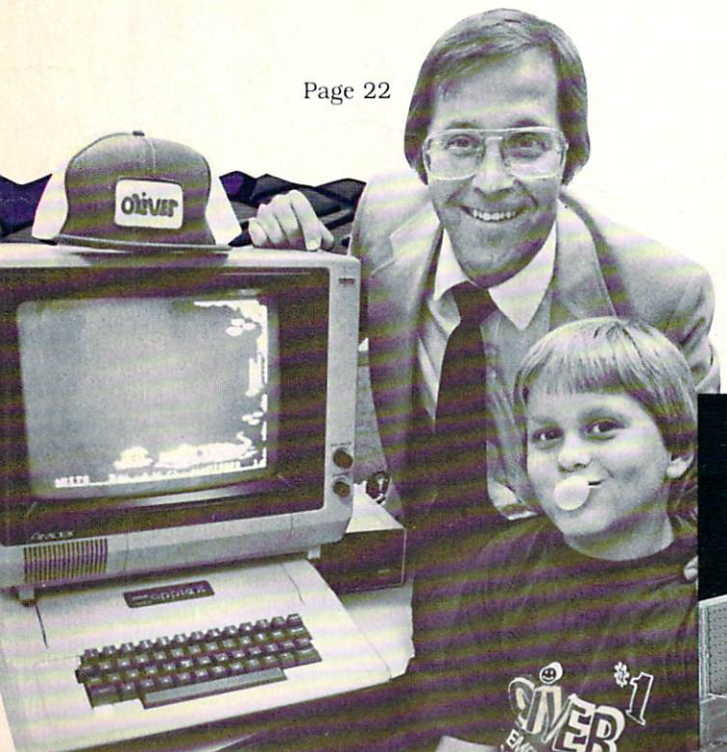

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WHAT'S IN STORE
NEW HARDWARE*

COMPUTERS

Adam

MANUFACTURER: Coleco Industries, Inc., 999 Quaker Lane S., West Hartford, CT 06110; (203) 725-6000
PRICE: $600

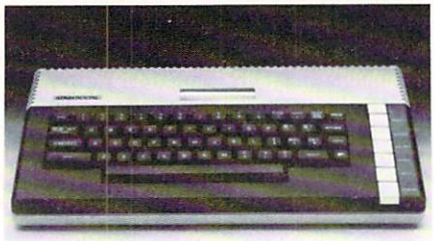
Coleco, the toy manufacturer first known for its swimming pools and then for its ColecoVision game machine, announced two years ago that it would make an expansion module to convert its game machine into a home computer. The company has now made good on that promise and thrown in a surprise—its independent Adam home computer system. The Adam comes complete in one box, with 80K RAM (expandable to 144K), a built-in word-processing program, and a letter-quality printer. Because the Adam's Smart BASIC is compatible with Apple's Applesoft BASIC, the computer will be able to run the many programs written for Apple computers. It will also be able to run CP/M programs, which a means a potentially huge software library will be available.

But most of this software is still in the planning stage. Instead of a cassette-tape or floppy-disk storage system, the Adam employs a "data pack" system. This data pack looks like a cassette tape, but works almost as fast as a floppy disk, according to Coleco. Since the data pack is a completely new type of storage system, virtually no software has been written in that format. However, the Adam has two built-in data-pack units, allowing an amazing 500K of storage space.

Atari 800XL

MANUFACTURER: Atari Inc., 1312 Crossman Ave., P.O. Box 61657, Sunnyvale, CA 94086; (408) 745-2820
PRICE: $299

Atari's 800XL, the second computer of its "new generation" line that will replace the 400, 800, and 1200XL models, maintains the advanced sound (four voices) and high-resolution graphics (256 colors) that Atari computers are known for. The new model has 64K RAM (not expandable) and 62 typewriter-style keys. Included are a HELP key, an international character set, and 29 graphics characters. BASIC is built in to the 800XL, an improvement over the Atari 800, which required a plug-in cartridge. All of the more than 2,000 programs written for other Atari computers will run on the 800XL, in cassette tape, disk, or cartridge format. There are over 1,000 factory-authorized Atari service centers in the U.S.

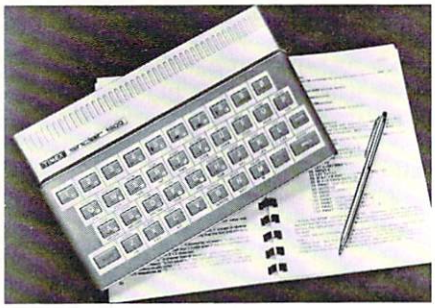


SV-318

MANUFACTURER: Spectravideo Inc., 39 W. 37th St., New York, NY 10018; (212) 869-7911
PRICE: $300

The most innovative feature of the new SV-318 computer, the first market entry from Spectravideo, is its built-in keyboard joystick. The joystick, designed primarily for game playing, can also be used to control cursor movement. Besides its full range of regular typewriter keys, the SV-318 has 10 function keys. You can change the function of these keys so that they implement the most frequently used commands, such as LIST or RUN. The keys, however, are made of flat rubber, and are thus less efficient for extended typing than concave typewriter keys.

The SV-318, with its sizable 32K ROM built-in memory, has solid sound and graphics capabilities, and can run CP/M programs. This gives the user a large library of business-oriented programs to choose from. Coleco video game cartridges also fit into the SV-318's cartridge slot. The computer has ports to accept all types of peripherals, and its 32K RAM is expandable to 256K.



Timex Sinclair 1500

MANUFACTURER: Timex Computer Corp., P.O. Box 2655, Waterbury, CT 06720; (203) 573-5000
PRICE: $79

The little Timex Sinclair 1500 comes equipped with 16K RAM, which can be expanded to 32K. In contrast with the flat-membrane keyboard of the TS1000, the TS1500 has 40 full-movement keys, including 22 graphics characters. The TS1500 also features the "one touch" key-word entry, first introduced on the TS1000. This allows the user to enter commands, such as LIST or RUN, by touching one key, instead of typing out the whole word. The screen display is black and white.

The TS1500 is compatible with the library of several hundred software programs and all the peripherals available for the TS1000, including the TS 2040 printer. The new computer is designed to be used with a TV and a cassette recorder or cartridges, and can be hooked up to a modem for telecommunications. Timex says it will introduce this modem later this year.

continued on page 102

**These products have been announced by manufacturers, but are not necessarily in the stores yet. Some products may still be in the development stage. Call the manufacturer for expected date of delivery.*