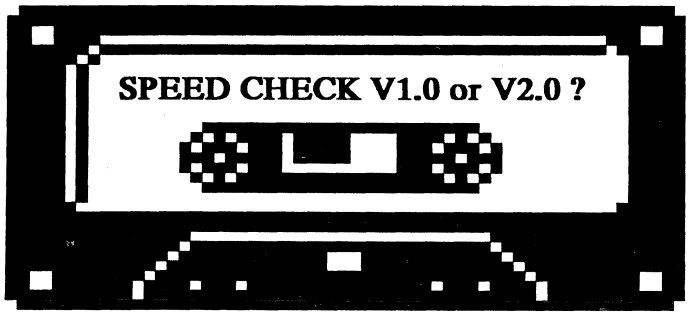

DATA DRIVE SPEED ADJUSTMENT SOFTWARE
by Phil Kosowsky

Ever make a backup copy on one ADAM and for some reason it works on one of your ADAMs, but not on the other? Well, maybe one ADAM has a dirty head or just maybe one data drive speed is a little off? Thanks to data drive speed testing software which leaked out of Coleco and was placed into the Public Domain, this is not a problem!

Coleco made for it's own use two data drive speed adjustment software packages. The first data drive speed checker is self-booting and the screen will show a line indicating what percentage off that the read / write speed is running at. The hand controller is used to stop or start the program at any time. When the software is running, it will prompt you to adjust your drive speed. This can be done by turning the data drive adjustment screw. Turn the speed adjustment screw slowly allowing the software time to run in order to show the new speed. Keep repeating this process until the software shows the speed that you desire. You will note that the speed will vary some with the temperature of the drive.

The speed adjustment screw can be found either on the top or bottom of the data drives. On the USA and early JVC drives, the speed adjustment screw is located on the bottom of the drives. Turn the drive over and look at the center of the bottom. Sometimes you have to move the lead wire for the drive head over a little to see the adjustment screw. On the latest JVC drives, the adjustment screw is on the top lefthand side. This was a really great improvement because now the speed can be adjusted without removing and holding the drive upside down. One quick way to tell if the data drive is the new JVC style is by looking at the motor mounting screws in the front of the drive. On a new JVC, these screws will be lined up vertically.

Coleco revised the speed adjustment software (Speed Check V2.0) because of the change in the way they formatted blank data packs. In doing so, some additional options are added such as: light blue screen, measuring the percentage off on search speed, and percentage number read out. The software itself works the same as the first speed adjustment program (Speed Check V1.0). However, be for-warned, that the data pack that these are copied to HAVE TO HAVE THE RIGHT FORMAT FOR THAT REVISION!!! There are two different formats that Coleco used with their blank data packs. The first blank Coleco data packs had a clear see through label, the speed adjustment tape V1.0 can only be used with these. The second blank Coleco data packs have a light gray label that Speed Check V2.0 can only be used with. This is very important because if the wrong data pack format is used, then the software will give you false readings. The software will seem to be working, but false readings will be given. I know this drove me crazy for a long time since I had V2.0 on an old formatted data pack.

If you get this software and it is not on a Coleco brand data pack or not the right Coleco data pack DO NOT take a chance. This can be corrected by just copying it to the correct type of Coleco data pack.

BLURRY EYED?
by Bob Slopsema

Let's see, you've had your ADAM for a few years, you've purchased a memory expander to access all those neat new programs written lately. Now you're even thinking about buying a dot matrix printer to make all those neat graphics and / or speed up your printing capabilities. BUT, you still have that fuzzy screen on the old television that is hard to read - to say the least! Now you're thinking maybe you don't need that dot matrix printer to print all those neat graphics after all.

What if I told you that all your dreams are possible after all? No, you didn't win the lottery. If you haven't purchased that color monitor just yet, here's the answer to your problem! There is a "fix" for your color TV to make it work as well as a monitor. The best part is that it is a very inexpensive project to tackle! The supplies needed can be purchased at your local Radio Shack store. This is what you'll need:

1 - signal booster #15-1118 - $12.95
1 - 4' coaxial cable #15-1529 - $2.79
1 - 1 1/2' RCA to RCA cable #42-2365 - $1.79

The object is to make 2 cable with an RCA computer plug on one end and a coaxial TV plug on the other. The RCA cable is a similar design to the coaxial TV cable, which helps simplify the process.

First, cut both of the cable in half. Next solder the center wire of one RCA cable and the center wire of one coaxial cable together and then solder the outer casing wires together. Make two cable this way. Now tape up the connections making sure to tape up the center wires first so that they do not touch the outer casing wires as you tape the cable together. Your two cables will now each have a coaxial plug on one end and a computer RCA plug on the other.

Now that you're done making the cables, start disconnecting all the goodies from your ADAM so you can get at the plug in the back. Plug one RCA end into this same port, then plug the coaxial end into the input port of the signal booster. Plug the second coaxial end into the output of the signal booster and the RCA end into the game adapter on the TV.

ALTERNATE CONNECTION - if your TV has coaxial cable input -use only the "adapter" cable to the signal booster and use a regular coaxial cable from the booster to the TV coaxial input. The coaxial input to the TV makes for a slightly better picture on the TV.

Now put your ADAM all back together again - hopefully in the same manner in which you took it apart, and plug the booster into a wall plug.

Now it's time to power up and test it out. Be ready for a pleasant surprise! What we've done is boost the computer signal to the TV so as to overcome most, if not all the line interference between the ADAM and the TV.

If you need help or don't quite understand the process, let me know and I'll help you any way possible. Please include a SASE (Self-Addressed, stam,ped envelop) for a reply.

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