

12-11-78

①

Dear Bob,

First I would like to apologize for not being able to write earlier. Here at UofM its finals week and I have had very little time to work with my bally.

I will answer the questions from your last letter first and then give some other information. Please note that this letter is handwritter ~~and~~ since my homebrewed printer went down and I've not been able to revive it.

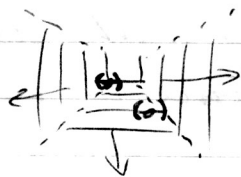
As for the source of game cartridges a friend of mines father is the bally representative for the north east region. The blackjack came out three days before my last letter to you and you should have it in your area by now. Other than Blackjack the only other cartridges expected befor the first of the year are concentration or letter match, Spell 'n' score, and caosswords which are all on the same cartridge (#4002) and are completely different than what was advertised in the Bally brochures, also football which promises to be great, and star wars which is an offshoot to "space Race" which was to be with clowns and brickyard. the fate of Star wars depends on how

(over)

\$150
cash

②

much more research and design must be completed. the prom sample cartridge is more like the trench seen from Star Wars;



the walls move past to give the effect of going down the trench

I'm not sure what the finished cartridge will look like since almost all of the prom ~~cartridges~~ ^{cartridges} changed before the finished games are produced. (for example the prom sample for Brickyard listed the game as "Escape" on the menu and the ball moved in straight lines and did not have the gravity effect.)

I've included a list of all the &() commands I know of and what they do. But I would like to get more information on the 3 notes at once since whenever I do that it comes out a mess of notes and not a tune

the ~~D~~ was a complete shock! But try this:

Put P, Q, R as the variables instead of A, B, C. if your machine is anything like mine the screen color changes, the note time slows, and the cursor moves to the upper right hand

blacks out in color but notes sound as they are played

(turn page)

46
45
44
43
42
41
40
39
38
37
36
35
34
33
32
31
30
29
28
27
26
25
24
23
22
21
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

A=1-256
B=A, B, C
PRINT A, B, C
NEXT A

lavender

part of the screen. from what experiments I tried, the color can be controlled by setting the first two variables, as for the third variable ??????

On the four colors at once, I've now been able to get 6 at once with a 7 color flickering on and off.

you will understand how to get 6 from an example and the sheet with the &() commands. the 5th and 6th colors are just the binary disting of the program which can be displayed on the screen.

Please tell me more about Circle this is also new and I've tried every thing and can't find it!

You should receive at the same time as this letter a box of four tapes, on them you will find:

- Star trek classic style
- Shoot two player cannon war
- Life See Byte this month
- Life for two life war game
- Simon memory test
- Othello just keeps track for two players

All documentation is included with the tapes including ~~and~~ a hard copy listing of each.

Although we have sold these items to bally users in this area we would like to give these as a contribution to the Arcadians

Please Reply as to what condition the ④
tape were received in. and if they had
been erased ~~by~~ by postal services.
if so a friend suggested wrapping in
a sheet steel box. (I hope that this is
not necessary)

In my first letter I explained about
how I was introduced to the bally and
how we chose Radio Shack's TRS-80 instead.

In your last ~~letter~~ news letter you
mentioned video tape recorder control.
that is exactly what we use the TRS-80 for
and I have been trying to adapt the bally
for the same. This is for Sony U-MATIC
machines and we store computer programs
on the left channel while the right carries
a lecture, ~~and~~ video is as normal.
when a tape adapted for our system is
played it starts as a normal video
tape lecture but will stop and
question the student to make sure
that he understands what he is watching.
It works some what like a programmed
learning guide and is highly successful
here at U of M.

Some bad news about newman
computers in ana arbor. they have
stopped pushing the bally until the add on
unit is out. they still carry it but are
now advising people to ~~buy~~ buy
interacts !!

(turn page)

⑤

Can you supply the information about the ~~the~~ the 5x7 character format and data regarding Routines available and the identity of each pin in the 50-pin connector — I assume this is from the service manual? But where did you get information on the routines available???

I would like to comment on the HELP routines for the add on, although they would be nice, would it not be better to put that in a book and save the ROM ~~memory~~ memory for something else.

A note on JS+A's letters. last news letter you ~~had~~ had copies of JS+A letters. the major US corporation whose ~~name~~ name is more recognizable than Ball's is Texas Instrument.

this is not ~~hearsay~~ hearsay. you can get information by calling the ~~nearest~~ nearest TI consumer dept.

their format will be similar to Ball's but their basic unit will include Basic and cost about \$400.

in your last news letter you stated $\&(21) = n$ where $n = 1$ to 16 controls vol.

TRUE but

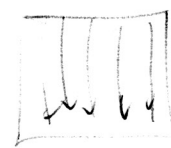
Set $n = 255$ and you have the hiss from the torpedos in SealWolf.
when $\&(20) = 15$

(over)

10 lines

For A=1-1000
&(9)=A
next A

line moves across screen, 4 p at a time
changing color in increments of A=30
~~white~~
fill



Football?

if (9) is bigger no. screen is split + the
action takes place
on the right side of

Something about @ (x)
try with out line numbers
full green screen

&(9)=0; for x=1 to 1000; @ (x)=1; Next x; Print x

This bleeds thru words

X should be
900
runs out
memory

you will see that ~~the~~ program storage
affects the length of @ (x) and depending
on what type of program used to fill @ (x)
you will get different values for x or how
long @ (x) is.

there is a very simple way to store data
on a tape from a program while it
is running.

prints on tape → 10 : print ; print A\$; for x=1 to 30

Reads off tape → 20 : Input ; Input A\$

loop to spread variables on tape

NO loop

For me this has been foolproof in storing
data on tape. experiment and see what you
get.

eg

repeats

BC	FC	border
w	Blair	-
dh qua	lt qua	red
dh qua	lt qua	lt qua
w	blh	blh
dh qua	lt qua	yellow
w	b	b
dh q	lt q	-
w	b	-

(turn page)

⑦

I found that some of the $&(x)=y$ commands ~~to~~ Reset right after you set them and the only way to tell if any thing is happening is to use a loop and keep setting it. in the case of $&(6)=n$ when $&(9)=20$ and $&(6)=n$ is in a loop the left side of the screen flashes.

words flash the colors 1-255

For A = 1-1000
&(A) = A
NEXT A
see both sheet 1
sheet 2

I know that you will have questions on some of this and the programs. ~~and~~ and since I have to get back to studying I will stop here and await your reply. please send some information on the 5x7 characters and the routines available, and any other new news.

Brett Bilbrey
14430 Barclay
Dearborn, Michigan 48126

Enclosed \$5.00
for subscription

Yours
Brett

P.S. I not an english major but I know I made plenty of mistakes please excuse these for lack of time to write properly.
(over)

Just for fun

Right after I finished writing this letter a friend in the dorm showed me a good trick

Given 3 pennies and 2 nickles arranged:

P N P N P

and by moving a penny and nickle combination

try getting this in four moves

P P P N N

You can not rotate the combination
Spaces count too

EXAMPLE START like

1 P N P N P

move to

2 P - - N P N P

move to

3 P P N N - - P

and so on

Solution: P N P N P

P N P - - P N

P - - P N P N

P N P P - - N

P P P N N

the ones underlined are the ones to move

try it on your friends

Now try it backwards
it's HARD